

THE CONDUCTOR

The Official Newspaper of The Overground RR!!®

VOLUME 8 No. 1

2nd Qtr. 2012

The ORR WORSHIP CENTERS

- Anointed Word Evangelistic Tabernacle
- Anointed Vision of Hope
- Ariel Bowen UMC
- The Ark of Salvation
- Believers' Bible Christian Church
- Ben Hill Christian Church
- Ben Hill UMC
- Bethesda Cathedral of the Apostolic Faith, Inc.
- Beulah Missionary Baptist Church
- Big Bethel AME
- Big Miller Grove Missionary Baptist Church
- Boat Rock Baptist Church
- Butler Street Christian Methodist Episcopal
- Calvary United Methodist Church
- Cascade United Methodist Church
- Christian Fellowship Baptist Church
- Clarkston First Baptist Church
- Columbia Drive United Methodist Church
- Community Church of God
- Covenant Ministries
- Day Spring International Ministries, Inc.
- Dodd-Sterling UMC
- Ebenezer Baptist Church
- Elizabeth Baptist Church
- Emmaus Road Missionary Baptist Church
- Emmanuel Tabernacle
- Enon Church
- Evangelistic New Life Worship Center
- First AME Church
- First Iconium Baptist Church
- First Victory Baptist Church
- Friendship Baptist Church
- Friendship Community Church
- Grace Community Fellowship Church
- Greater Heights Christian Church
- Greater Mount Carmel AME
- Greater Mountain Baptist Church
- Greater New Life Baptist Church
- Greater New Light Missionary Baptist Church
- The Greater Piney Grove Baptist Church
- Greenforest Community Baptist Church
- Headland Heights UMC
- Highly Favored Ministries
- Hillside International Truth Center, Inc.
- B.J. Holland Institute of Ministry
- Hopewell MBC
- Impact! Doing Church Differently
- International Christian Fellowship
- Jackson Memorial Baptist Church
- Journey of Faith Church
- Kingdom of God Evangelistic Outreach Ministry
- Kingdom Reality
- Liberty International Ministries
- Life Changing Ministries
- Light of the World Christian Tabernacle
- Lindsay Street Baptist Church
- Love Circle and Truth Center
- Love Life Christian Fellowship Church
- Midway Missionary Church
- Miracles, Miracles and More Miracles
- Mission On The Move
- Mt. Calvary Baptist Church
- Mt. Carmel Baptist Church
- Mt. Olive Missionary Baptist Church
- Muhammed's Mosque No. 15
- New Beginnings Ministries
- New Fountain Worldwide Ministries
- New Jerusalem Baptist Church
- Omega Holiness Church
- Poplar Springs Baptist Church
- Powerhouse of Deliverance Cathedral
- Power of Faith Deliverance Ministry
- Providence Missionary Baptist Church
- Ray Of Hope Christian Church
- Redemptive Life Christian Fellowship Church
- Salem Bible Church
- Solomon Temple Missionary Baptist Church
- St James Missionary Baptist Church
- St. John Missionary Baptist Church
- St. Mark AME Church
- St. Mark Lutheran Church
- St. Philip AME Church
- St. Timothy's Episcopal Church
- The True Light Baptist Church
- Trinity Tabernacle Baptist Church
- West End Seventh-Day Adventist
- Wheat Street Baptist Church
- Woods Memorial Baptist Church
- Word of God Ministries
- World Covenant Christian Center
- Zion Hill Baptist Church

The Call and the Response

ABOVE ALL THINGS MINISTRY

"Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth." - III John 1:2

1ST Annual Black Business Month

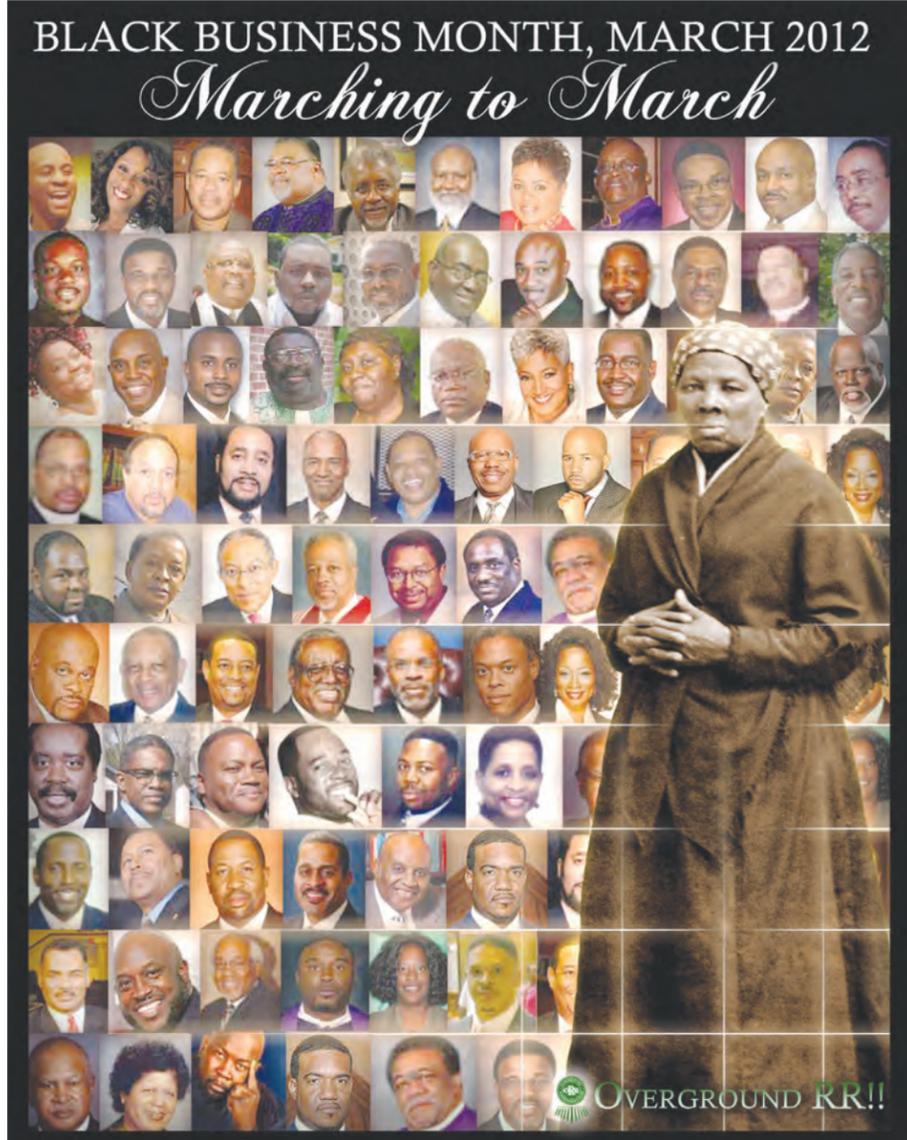
"ORR Pastors Answer MLK's Final Call"

Few people realized that on April 3, 1968, mere hours before he would lose his life, Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., called for all of us to practice a concept we now refer to as, "Kitchen Table Affirmative Action." The speech that contained this profound call for action is most famous for the contents of the final stanza wherein he proclaims, "I've Been To The Mountaintop!"

Of course, that part of the speech is climactically moving and inspiring. However, apparently we have failed to pay attention to the very explicit instructions he also gave to us as a people in that speech. Specifically, he directed us to change the economic landscape of the Black community. Over the years, we have indulged in the emotional inspiration of the message - and rightfully so. But in the midst of our indulgence, it appears that we have overlooked the life-changing directive he gave regarding the essential need to build up and support our own businesses.

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

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



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

We have gone around the "Mountaintop" inspiration of this speech for forty years, while missing the essence of the call to action by

our beloved Martin. Getting off the back of the buses and gaining access to the segregated businesses and educational institutions were only to be preliminary steps to gaining real freedom from the chained and Jim Crow phases of the enslavement oppressed upon us. Martin Luther King, Jr. told us that for us to be truly free we must become economically empowered. Let's listen some more:

... But not only that, we've got to strengthen black institutions. I call upon you to take your money out of the banks downtown and deposit your money in Tri-State Bank. We want a "bank-in" movement in Memphis. Go

Continued on pg. 2

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

Community Income Spending Comparison

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

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. - Americolor Opera Alliance
- 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 - FACCIA - Fulton County Workforce Development
- Georgia Black Chamber of Commerce - GABEO - Ga. Coalition of Black Women, Inc. - Girl Scout Troop 9216 - Greater Atlanta Economic Alliance
- Habesha Inc. - Heart 2 Heart Kids Foundation - Investment Atlanta, Inc. - Jehovah Jireh Edutainment 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.
- Sadie G. Mays Health & Rehabilitation Center - 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 Michelle Davis Show - The Owens Center For Excellence - The Spirit of Sweet Auburn - Truly Living Well Center for Natural Urban Agriculture - Tupac Amaru Shakur Foundation
- United Negro College Fund - WCLK Jazz 91.9 FM



Letter From the Chairman



WHO IS HIRING BLACKS?

I just received another phone call involving yet another project which is perceived to be "Black-controlled." Despite the perception, the reality is that the only Blacks working on this project are sweeping the floor. Admittedly, I have not checked the hard facts on this premise. Nevertheless, I have heard the exact same story so often that I just believe it to be true. The project I am referencing is taking place in a Black neighborhood on land owned by a Black organization.

Finally, a Black contractor has been selected to build this project. However, the vast majority of the subcontractors are non-Black! And at the end of the day, all of the employees are non-Black, except the guys sweeping the floor, again. Let's say the facts are off by 10-20 percent. Does this change the issue? Even if the federal, state or local governments are involved, there is no improvement. Sorry, there is no place to hide on this issue!

The Overground RR!!'s Marching 2 March campaign, in support of March being Black Business Month urges Black churches and institutions to review: their inventory of projects; their purchasing practices; and the availability of Black-owned businesses within their particular church as well as Black entrepreneurs in other churches. Additionally, they are being asked to monitor their systems, because there is enough power and money in the Black community to resolve most of our economic problems.

Black corporate and government executives are being asked to not only review their own fair purchasing policies and systems, but also to look at the results of such policies and systems. By this we start to solve our problems.

by the savings and loan association. I'm not asking you something that we don't do ourselves at SCLC. Judge Hooks and others will tell you that we have an account here in the savings and loan association from the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. We are telling you to follow what we are doing. Put your money there. You have six or seven black insurance companies here in the city of Memphis. Take out your insurance there. We want to have an "insurance-in."

Now these are some practical things that we can do. We begin the process of building a greater economic base...

Supra.

The OvergroundRR!!® ("ORR") Pastors of Atlanta stopped going 'round and 'round the mountaintop. They brushed the dust off of Dr. King's last speech and his words rang through the chambers of their hearts. They were inspired to pick up where Dr. King left off. They are now determined that they will not stop until the freedom march of the Underground Railroad, led by Harriett Tubman and others of her day, and then continued by Dr. King and others during his day; reaches its true destination of real freedom - economic freedom for our people through the OvergroundRR!!®.

In an effort to gather our people together to focus our energies on starting this next phase of the freedom journey, the Black churches and the OvergroundRR!!® have established *Black Business Month*. But they did not stop there. They also wanted to incorporate a continuous year-long campaign that would keep us focused on practicing Kitchen Table Affirmative Action throughout the entire year leading up to *Black Business Month*. So, they expanded

the idea and created *Black Business Month/ Marching2March*.

What is BBM/M2M?

Black Business Month ("BBM") *Marching-2March* ("M2M") is a continuous campaign effort grounded within the foundations of the OvergroundRR!!® Movement. Pastors of the ORR decided that, in order to economically empower our people, we must channel the focus of our community towards actively celebrating and supporting our businesses. In that regard, they chose March of each year to be *Black Business Month*.

The month of March was chosen because one of the primary objectives of the OvergroundRR!!® is to serve as a continuation of the Underground Railroad. Since the lead conductor of the Underground Railroad was Harriet Tubman; who was born on March 10th, The ORR Pastors decided that March would be the perfect month within which to celebrate Black businesses - *Black Business Month*.

For a Movement to achieve any degree of true economic freedom requires continuous and long-term commitment. Not only are we to support and celebrate Black businesses for an entire month during each year, but we must do so all the time - 12 months a year, 365 days a year. In that regard, we have selected *Black Business Month* (March) to be the month for the annual re-focusing of our unified efforts throughout the preceding year.

During *Black Business Month*, we will evaluate and celebrate the progress we made during the preceding year in practicing *Kitchen Table Affirmative Action*; and we will also announce our plans for achieving even greater progress as we march forward to the month of March in the upcoming year.



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

Therefore, we will always be Marching To March, hence the name *Black Business Month/ Marching2March* - BBM/M2M.

What is the mission of ORR and how does BBM/M2M relate to that mission?

The general mission of the Overground RR!!® is the economic freedom of the Black community. BBM/M2M is one of the signature campaigns of the ORR targeted towards fulfilling that mission. More specifically, the mission of the ORR is to empower the Black community by increasing the share of the Black economy controlled by the Black community. As of 2008, according to the Selig Center of the University of Georgia, Blacks spent approximately \$910 billion in capital expenditures, but the total gross revenues for Black businesses approximated only 15% of that amount. [See "*Community Income Spending Comparison 2010 Census table*"].

As shown by its name, the mission is a continuation of the Underground Railroad's - deliver Black people to freedom. This leg of the journey is aimed at economic freedom, instead of physical freedom. It is overground because

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The ORR welcomes new members

Alliances	Businesses	Churches
Sadie G. Mays Health & Rehabilitation Center	Affordable Furniture & Appliances National Council on Domestic Violence New Source Technologies, Inc. Overall Construction & Inspection, Inc. Safe Haven Learning Center, Inc. Stewart Unlimited, Inc. Wilson Wood Flooring	Community Church of God Day Spring International Ministries, Inc. Ebenezer Baptist Church Greater Mountain Baptist Church B.J. Holland Institute of Ministry Journey of Faith Church Kingdom of God Evangelistic Outreach Ministry Kingdom Reality Liberty International Ministries Love Circle and Truth Center Mt. Olive Missionary Baptist Church Power of Faith Deliverance Ministry St. Timothy's Episcopal Church Trinity Tabernacle Baptist Church West End Seventh-Day Adventist Word of God Ministries

Thanks, for getting aboard ...

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www.OvergroundRR.com

www.Marching2March.com

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Overground RR!!® Pulpit



Host Pastor
Senior Pastor, Providence MBC
Pastor Gerald Durley

Not many are more fit to be the Guest Pastor featured in this Black Business Month issue than Rev. Dr. William Flippin, Senior Pastor of The Greater Piney Grove Baptist Church. He and Greater Piney Grove have long been leaders in celebrating and supporting Black owned businesses. I've enjoyed learning about how he got started with this important initiative in his church. I'm sure you will also...

Not many are more fit to be the Guest Pastor featured in this Black Business Month issue than Rev. Dr. William Flippin, Senior Pastor of The Greater Piney Grove Baptist Church. He and Greater Piney Grove have long been leaders in celebrating and supporting Black owned businesses. I've enjoyed learning about how he got started with this important initiative in his church. I'm sure you will also...



Guest Pastor
Senior Pastor, Greater Piney Grove BC
Rev. Dr. William E. Flippin

I am pleased to be the Guest Pastor for this issues of The ORR Pulpit. I pray that the words shared will inspire you to practice Kitchen Table Affirmative Action. Together, we can and will change the financial landscape of our community.

THE CRUCIAL ROLE OF THE BLACK CHURCH

By Dr. William E. Flippin, Sr

The Greater Piney Grove Baptist Church, Atlanta

It was a beautiful day when several community church leaders, elected officials and the media gathered at our church (Greater Piney Grove Baptist Church, Atlanta) to celebrate the genesis of yet another ministry effort to add to the fifty-something ministries already successfully operating within our organization. One of the elected officials, that I previously supported politically; and would consider a dear colleague, caringly whispered to me, "Pastor, you have maximized, beyond imagination, social community development; but now it is time for you focus on economic community development." My great pride and excitement was immediately deflated, because it was so disturbing for me to ponder the notion that with all our church had achieved, there was still more to be done.

A few weeks later, our paths crossed again and I asked him with almost an attitude, "What did you mean?" He patiently explained that I, and many churches, develop and impact a community with social programs (i.e. food programs, clothes drives, back to school programs, tutorials, Alcoholics Anonymous, etc.); but he questioned who really gets awarded the jobs from those efforts. He went on to ask, "How can people in the church

and community be empowered with employment, training, safety issues, and solid stability?" Wow!! What an eye opener. Sure, we had a plan to build senior housing facilities, community day care centers, summer camps and other "typical" and "safe" church ministry programs. But because they were generally high priced items, they were not placed high on the priority list.

We realized minimal success with our "Church Business Connection" where we encouraged members to utilize the persons in our church that were in business for themselves. However, this bridge often remained broken or was not broad enough. Thus, we began to preach and teach that a practical action plan for nurturing and growing an accountable Black business community was needed. Further, we had to look beyond the walls of our local church. Many of us were challenged to start using the businesses in our community (too few were Black-Owned) as a means of recirculating the dollar in the local community. We then sent letters to businesses in the community informing them that we wanted to partner with them in our community efforts. In that regard, it was important that I was visible at the local service stations, restaurants, and barbershops.

Amazingly, when it was time to get rezoning for our 35 acres for church campus expansion, these businesses and neighbors were the most vocal to support our community economic initiatives. The neighbors and community partners could envision employment opportunities being created with the construction projects and Senior and Children's programs; and also opportunities with the expansion of social efforts through grants and other funding mechanisms.

William Holmes Borders, the late great pastor of The Historic Wheat Street Baptist Church located on Atlanta's Auburn Avenue, was believed to say, "It is nothing wrong with being a copycat, just learn to copy off of the right cat." One sure way to expand business in our communities, as Dr. Borders did almost fifty years ago, is to explore, examine, and "copy" some success stories in our communities by: spending an evening browsing the web sites of churches known to have successful community and economic programs; seeking to interview the Pastors and Community Development Members of those churches as quickly as possible; and develop a Non Profit Community Development 501(c)(3) that clearly distinguishes and protects the church efforts from the economic efforts.

Let me admit here that along the way, some frustrations have been realized, such as, when so few were in attendance at workshops and "free" sessions held to enhance small businesses. Additionally, each Sunday, I featured a "Business of the Week" at the Church; and many of them gave discounts to a worshiper who utilized their services. Yet, unfortunately, some of the business owners were clear that they could not stay for the multiple services held at our church. FREE ADVERTISEMENT...and they could not remain and promote their services.

Consequently, we will not give up, we will develop at least one Sunday per month that we will feature a business in the church or community but also preach a sermon with scriptural authority that provides the biblical foundation that good business practices and support of these businesses is what Jesus and Martin King referred to as "The Kingdom of God" or "The Beloved Community."

In closing, being a key player in the community and including them in the church community, social, and economic programs will broaden the understanding of Church and Community Development.

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

Heroes and Sheroes of the Church



ORR Church Coordinator

Ms. Charlene Thompson has been a faithful member of *Clarkston First Baptist Church* for almost 30 years!!! Her valuable service to the church includes fulfilling the roles and responsibilities of: Associate Minister, Trustee, Bible Institute Instructor and Sunday School Teacher. She is also employed by the church as its Business Administrator; and is the first African American to be selected to fill this position for the church. Ms. Thompson as she serves as Church Coordinator to The OvergroundRR!!® for Clarkston First Baptist Church. Ms. Thompson says "Hats off to The OvergroundRR!!® for planting this seed, and spearheading this project!"



Deacon

Deacon Eugene Alford has been described as one who strives to be "steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, for he realizes that his work is not in vain in the Lord". He is an active member of the *Wheat Street Baptist Church*, where he serves as a Sunday school teacher for the Dora Strong Class. He is a team captain for the "Men Who Usher"; and he holds the office of Treasurer for the Senior Deacon's Ministry. Mr. Alford was also honored as "Man of the Year" for Wheat Street Baptist Church in 2007.



Mother's Board

Mother Annie Johnson-Sinkfield has been a member of *Poplar Springs Baptist Church* since she was 11 years old. She is a dedicated church member. She has been a faithful member of the various choirs featured at the church for over 53 years and is presently a member of the Poplar Springs Baptist Church Senior Choir. She is also primarily responsible for organizing the Poplar Springs Seniors Program. This program brings seniors together for informational and educational sessions; lunch and Bible study each week. They also travel on vacations together. "This has been a good program for our church" says Mrs. Johnson-Sinkfield.



Usher

Judge Patsy Y. Porter of Chapel of Christian Love, says that, "Ushering is one of the cornerstones and foundations of church life." She believes Psalm 84:10 says it best: For a day in thy courts is better than a thousand elsewhere. I had rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God, than to dwell in the tents of wickedness. She says that, "As an usher, I am mindful that I am representing God when I meet, greet and assist those entering His house. I strive to show a humble and kind spirit in a way that lifts up the name of Jesus through my service as an usher."



First Lady

Mrs. Linda S. Brown is the First Lady of *Mt. Olive Missionary Baptist Church* ("Mt. Olive"). She supports her husband, Reverend Frank Cornelius Brown, at all times in his role as Pastor of Mt. Olive. She has a love for children and a large part of her ministry efforts at Mt. Olive are a direct reflection of that love. She teaches a youth bible study class on Wednesdays; coordinates Youth Church on 3rd and 4th Sundays; and assists with the leadership and coordination of the vacation bible school as well. She also leads the Women's Mission group at the church.



Auxiliary

Minister Cherry Robinson of Liberty International Ministries Church is often referred to by the pastor as the "backbone of the church". She is one of the Charter Members of the church and has earned this title by being known for her tireless efforts in overseeing every auxiliary. Her responsibilities in the church include directing the activities of the following organizations: The Mother Board; Building Fund; Usher Board; Bible Study; Angel Team; and Sunday School. She is also the youth choir director for the church and takes care to ensure that the church remains clean at all times.

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





A.G.E.S. Arts Gospel Entertainment Sports

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

NEW!!! Twanda Black of KISS 104.1 FM Radio Boards the ORR!!

Twanda Black is the Host of "Good News Gospel" which airs on KISS 104.1 FM Radio every weekday morning from 4:00 a.m. to 5:30 a.m., immediately before the "Tom Joyner Morning Show"; and also every Sunday morning from 7:00 a.m. to 12:00 Noon. The OvergroundRR!!® and The Conductor Newspaper are proud to announce that Twanda will be authoring a new column in The Conductor called *Business in the Black*. The focus of this fresh, new column will be the same as that of her public affairs radio talk show which also carries the same name.



Twanda is the Public Affairs Director, Producer and Host of her current radio show on KISS 104.1. She also has over 20 years of experience in the radio industry; which includes previously hosting a number of other radio and talk shows; such as, *Middays* which aired on WTMP and WRXB in the Tampa, Florida/ St. Pete area; and *WJZZ - Jazz Flavors* and *Good News Gospel* for Cox Broadcasting located here in Atlanta, Georgia. Twanda has been with Cox Broadcasting for at total of 18 years. She also spent 6 years working as an evening host on AURN's syndicated show entitled *The Light*.

effective contributor to the community. She is a strong advocate for the rights and welfare of women and children; and she has a special heart for issues affecting the elderly, such as, long term care, nursing home conditions and quality of life. She is a member of the Board of Directors of Proverbial Peace Revived Ministries, an organization that helps women who have been broken by life's experiences to heal and transition into their God given destiny. She is also a member of See Your Kid, Inc. which concentrates on the needs of military families.

Twanda was named one of the "Top 100 Black Women" by the Atlanta Business League in 2010 and 2011; and she was the recipient of The 2010 Gospel Choice "Best in Media" award.

Not only does Twanda have a high level of experience working in the radio industry, but she also has experience working in television as well. She previously hosted a cable television show called *People for People*; and a live morning show called *The Harvest Center Business Show*.

Twanda has a dynamic personality with a very special knack for producing very effective and interesting interviews. Welcome aboard Twanda!

Twanda is an ordained minister; and with God first, she is seriously committed to being an

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Arts

Guess Who's Coming to Dinner by Todd Kreidler

Following a life-altering romance, Joey Drayton brings her fiancé, Dr. John Prentice, home to San Francisco to meet her affluent parents. Their liberal persuasions are put to the test when they find out their daughter's fiancé, while an ideal choice – a handsome, wealthy, brilliant, internationally-renown doctor from a respectable family – is also African-American.

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Gospel

When it comes to gospel music, inspirational speeches and community involvement, as well as, gospel concerts you will hear his name in the conversation. Who is he? Bobby Hurd. *The Bobby Hurd Show* reaches an astonishing 50 million television viewers throughout the world on a weekly basis. In 2009 he was awarded *The Spiritual Enlightenment Award* from *The Trumpet Awards*. He is a faithful and dedicated member of Pilgrim Baptist Church, led by Pastor Willie Bolden. You can watch *The Bobby Hurd Show* on Tuesday evenings at 10:00 p.m. on channel 57 WATC; and listen to him on WYZE 1480 AM on Friday mornings from 9:00 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.



Entertainment

Trumpeteer/Producer Joey Sommerville has performed and recorded with a wide range of artists from hip-hop producer Jazze Pha to mega-rock group Phish. Joey has received numerous awards and accolades throughout his career and he currently serves on the Board of Governors of The Atlanta Chapter of *The Recording Academy*. We are pleased to announce that Joey will be performing in Atlanta on the following dates:

- July 14th - Atlanta GA | Grown & Saxy Show | Mable House Barnes Amphitheater
- July 21st - Atlanta GA | Ray's Summer Concert Series - Benefit for Chatahoochee River Keepers | Ray's On The River
- July 28th - Atlanta GA | Barbara Lewis King Scholarship Foundation Fundraiser at The Marriott Buckhead | Atlanta Marriott Buckhead

Sports

NBA All-Star Dikembe Mutombo, Chairman and President of The Dikembe Mutombo Foundation (DMF) and star of the Houston Rockets, has long been dedicated to improving the health, education and quality of life for the people in his birthplace, the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Created in Atlanta in 1997, DMF is attempting to eradicate many childhood diseases that have virtually disappeared in developed countries, while still threatening the lives of children in the Congo everyday. DMF is dedicated to improving the health, education and quality of life for the people of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. DMF strives to accomplish this goal through an emphasis on primary health care and disease prevention, the promotion of health policy, health research and increased access to health care education for the people of the Congo.





NEW!!!

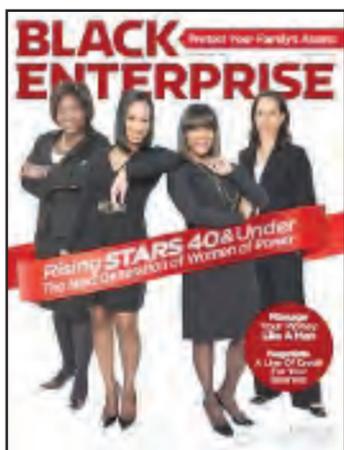
Black Business Month/Marching2March (A New Website Also: *Marching2March.com*)

The Conductor Newspaper is proud to introduce this, its newest, section entitled Black Business Month/Marching2March. The central focus of this new and exciting section of The Conductor is to track and highlight what are certain to be monumental milestones that the Conductors (i.e. Pastors of the Church Stations) of the OvergroundRR!!® ("The ORR") will be making throughout each year while marching to each forthcoming Black Business Month. Each Black Business Month will bring us closer to reaching the ultimate goal of economic freedom for our Community.

As stated in the Call and Response, (the front page article), the economic infrastructure is the natural means by which members of a community find and access resources (products and services) within its own community. The Black community is the only community in the United States without an economic infrastructure. The ORR Business Directory is an instrument that is essential to this process of building an economic infrastructure for our community. It is the central business directory broadly supported and endorsed by the Atlanta Black community for finding Black-owned businesses.

Additionally, you can call the ORR's office for live, personal assistance in locating businesses which can meet your needs.

Marching2March's purpose is the implementation and promulgation of "Kitchen Table Affirmative Action" ("KTAA") continuously each year. For more on KTAA, visit The ORR's Marching2March website at www.Marching2March.com. Additionally, visit Marching2March.com to get your Black Enterprise annual subscription at the special rate arranged by the ORR and the ORR Pastors so that each household can have this very important magazine.



BBM/M2M - From Concept to Reality

The ORR's strategy has always been for Churches to serve as the primary catalyst for: 1) identifying Black Owned Businesses; 2) educating them on the importance of economic self-development and empowerment; 3) attaining their support for The ORR movement; 4) encouraging and obtaining their participation in the activities of The ORR; and 5) getting them on board as active members of The ORR. In that regard, Churches are referred to as "ORR Church Stations" and Pastors as ORR "Church Station Conductors".

Although The ORR has been comprised of many Station Conductors since its inception, it still took quite a bit of time for people to truly gain a comprehensive grasp of its vision. That is until, February, 2011, when it finally happened!! The birth of an idea that is certain to create unprecedented momentum in The ORR's quest for economic development and empowerment in the Black Community. That idea is now known as Black Business Month.

On February 15, 2011, Aaron Turpeau, Chairman of The ORR, convened a meeting with Reverend Timothy McDonald, III, Senior Pastor of the First Iconium Baptist Church; Dr. Gerald Durley, Senior Pastor of the historic Providence Missionary Baptist Church ("Providence MBC"); Minister Cheri Hicks, a



Some attendees of "The Great Paschal's Meeting" on May 10, 2011.

member of the Ministerial Staff of Providence MBC; and H.J.A. Alexander. The meeting was held at Providence MBC. Its purpose was to discuss the mission of The ORR and further outline related strategies, goals and objectives.



The Great Paschal's Meeting - Bishop Quincy Lavelle Carswell, Senior Pastor of Covenant Ministries Cathedral makes an important point

The momentous idea for Black Business Month was birthed in that meeting on February 11th. It originated from Reverend McDonald who became inspired with the concept as he was beholding a pictorial gallery of Pastors featured in a previous edition of The Conductor Newspaper. The visual effect of those photographs communicated something internally to Rev. McDonald that caused him to grasp the vision of The ORR like never before. As he looked at the photographs, he reflected on a time in days gone by when Pastors were much more actively involved in and supported black businesses and banks. Rev. McDonald then expressed his beliefs that today's Pastors should follow that same model; and that The ORR was capable of providing the means that could effectively be used to help them accomplish that end.

Reverend McDonald then shared his idea that we should set aside a specific period of time each year within which the economic empowerment of the Black Community and Black Owned Businesses within the Community would be our primary focus and our primary cause for celebration. He stated that setting aside only one (1) day out of each year for this



The Great Paschal's Meeting - Elder Ralph Peay, Retired President of The South Atlantic Conference of SDA guides the Movement

purpose would be insufficient. Rather, in order to be effective, an entire month should be dedicated to this cause. The month-long celebration would be called "Black Business Month" ("BBM").

Reverend McDonald further opined that BBM should be observed each year in the month of March because March is the month within which Harriet Tubman's Birthday falls (March 10th); and the month that immediately follows Black History Month. Black Business Month activities would be dedicated to highlighting and supporting Black Owned Businesses within the Metropolitan Atlanta Community. The remaining months of the year will be dedicated to taking the steps necessary ("Marching") to prepare for the BBM in the month of March in the following year. The activities conducted in the remaining months of the year will be collectively referred to as "Marching to March" ("M2M").



Rev Darrell D. Elligan, Pastor of True Light Baptist and former President of the Concerned Black Clergy, addresses attendees at the December, 2011 planning meeting.

The meeting at Providence MBC was described by Mr. Alexander to be, "[A] very 'Spiritual', 'Mountain Top' experience. The presence of the Holy Spirit was very strong."

Marching to March – Preparing for the First Annual BBM/M2M Celebration, 2012

Now, the BBM/M2M vision was really starting to take hold. Momentum had begun and there was no room for slowing down the locomotive. The ORR decided that the next step would be to begin actively "Marching2March". There were numerous meetings and conference calls utilized to set the wheels in motion.

The Great Paschal Meeting

On May 10, 2011, a meeting comprised of ministers and members of the Black-Owned Business Community in the city of Atlanta was held at the historic Paschal's Restaurant located in Southwest Atlanta. That meeting is now affectionately referred to by The ORR as "The Great Paschal's Meeting." This was the very

first meeting held by The ORR for the purposes of educating the Black Community on the idea of BBM/M2M and solidifying the BBM/M2M concept. Fifty-six people were in attendance at The Great Paschal's Meeting, all or whom were notable figures in the Black Community; and all of whom "got onboard" and endorsed the idea of Black Business Month that day. At the conclusion of that meeting, the March to March 2012 had officially begun.

Concerned Black Clergy's December, 2011 Meeting

Concerned Black Clergy of Metropolitan Atlanta, Inc. ("CBC"), a founding organizational member of The ORR; and of which Reverend McDonald and Dr. Durley are both prior presidents, joined in leading the BBM/M2M campaign with its then President and outspoken advocate, Rev. Dr. Richard Cobble. .



Sen. Gail Davenport and colleagues present the ORR with resolution supporting Black Business Month/Marching2March.

The CBC invited The ORR to attend one of their monthly meetings, as special guests, to share the vision of The ORR Movement and the activities involved in marching toward Black Business Month, 2012. On December 13, 2011 the meeting was held at First Iconium Baptist Church.

The primary purpose for this meeting was to outline the strategic components of the BBM/M2M that would be carried out by each of the Church Stations. The Pastor Conductors all agreed to sponsor activities that would assist the ORR in:

1. identifying Black Owned Businesses within their congregations;
2. highlighting and awarding Black Owned Businesses for outstanding community and business achievement; and
3. sponsoring Black Business Expositions.

This meeting produced favorable results and was a strong catalyst for mobilizing churches



Rev. McDonald addresses Georgia State Senate regarding Black Business Month/Marching2March.

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A Message from The Chief Convener

There will NEVER be true Freedom in the African American Community until we are ECONOMICALLY INDEPENDENT. Isn't it rather strange that all other ethnic groups are able to work together, pool their resources, empower their people and pave a way for their future? The time is now for us, the members of the African American Community, to claim our rightful place in this economic arena as well.

It is said that the spending power in the African American community is more than \$900 Billion annually. This would make us the 9th largest nation in the world in Gross National Product. If this is true, then we have to ask ourselves: What do we have to show for it? Unfortunately, the answer is, "not very much." The problem is that we do not allow this huge amount of money to circulate within our community long enough to make a significant difference. The fact of the matter is that we do not support ourselves as we should.

The Black Church has always played a significant historical role in the development of our people. Many colleges, universities and businesses had their genes in the basements and fellowship halls of Black churches. There was a partnership that existed between the church and business that was natural and productive. Somewhere, somehow this partnership disappeared after we entered into an era of integration. Black people left our communities, our schools, our banks, and our businesses and now we are reaping the worldwind of that exodus. Our children are being raised in poverty and being robbed of the future that they deserve.

Strong Black churches and Black businesses have decided that the time has come for our partnership to be reestablished; and through the efforts of The OvergroundRR!!®, we have launched Black Business Month/March2March. Building upon the foundation of the founder of the Underground Railroad, Harriett Tubman who was born in the month of March, we focused on how we could strengthen Black economic ties. Almost 100 churches joined in this effort and formed partnerships with the OvergroundRR!!, the Atlanta Business League, Capitol City Bank, Citizen Trust Bank, the Georgia African American Chamber of Commerce and numerous Black Businesses in a campaign to: TEACH OUR DOLLARS SOME \$CENTS.

We have now embarked upon a campaign to increase the circulation of the dollar within our own communities. Through this effort, churches used their marquees to announce supporting Black Business Month. Coordinators were identified within our churches and we produced business directories encouraging our members to support the businesses within our own congregations. Members were encouraged to open up accounts with Black banks and credit unions. Several churches held Business Expos and highlighted the strength of collective buying. BBM/M2M yard signs were placed around churches and businesses reminding our people of the importance to Buy Black. Businesses were recognized during worship services by Pastors and their church congregations. Clearly, the



Timothy McDonald

energy is there and the plan has been laid.

We have always been clear that we did not get in this economic mess overnight and we will not get out of it in one month or one year. We are in this for the long haul. We just completed our first BBM/M2M Campaign and we are now continuing our work preparing for the Second Annual BBM/M2M.

One of the key elements of our movement as we move forward will be our Youth Banking Initiative. We will teach hundreds of young people the principles of banking, finance, savings, investments, business development and wealth building. We will strengthen the Black family by strengthening our financial position.

We know that the partnership of Black churches and Black businesses can change the future of Black people. It has been said that, "There is no stronger force than an idea whose time has come." Well, the time has come for the economic empowerment of our people. The time has come to "Teach Our Dollars Some \$CENTS." The time has come to raise up a generation of young, gifted, financially informed Black youth and BBM/M2M will accomplish this goal.

The Black Church is the foundation of the Black Community. It is in the Black Church that we come together and strategize about our future as a People. The Black Church is taking responsibility for empowering our businesses and our communities. We graciously accept this role and responsibility. We recognize that God has ALWAYS taken care of His people economically. God does not intend for us to linger in poverty and despair. It is our time and our season to be blessed.

Join us in our BBM/M2M Campaign, as we redirect our dollars, support Black businesses, strengthen Black banks, and create that Beloved Community that Dr. King spoke of so eloquently when he said, "If not YOU, who? If not NOW, when? If not HERE, where? RISE UP YE MIGHTY PEOPLE OF GOD!!!"

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

M2M Continued from pg. 5



One of the church signs proclaiming Black Business Month

to join in the BBM/M2M movement.

On January 23, 2012, the CBC held its Annual State of the Community Meeting. During that meeting Reverend Frank Brown was sworn in as the organization's new President. Representatives of The ORR were invited to attend that meeting because one of Reverend Brown's initiatives as the new President of the CBC was related to The ORR's goal of sustaining Black Businesses. The synergy between the CBC and The ORR has continuously fostered a reliable and effective partnership between the two organizations as they work together tirelessly to support and advance the growth of Black Owned Businesses.



Black Business Month/Marching2March yard signs were posted throughout the city.

ABL's 5th Annual Congress on the State of Black Business in Metro Atlanta

The Atlanta Business League ("ABL") is an organization that seeks to provide economic empowerment and business development opportunities in metropolitan Atlanta area with specific emphasis on the development of African-American businesses. On January 24, 2012, the ABL held its 5th Annual Congress on the State of Black Business in Metro Atlanta ("The Congress") event at the Morehouse College Leadership Center. The Congress is designed to provide a venue for attendees to discuss and make recommendations on how



Nash Alexander, III coordinated the 1st BBM/M2M Golf Tournament

Black businesses and consumers can effect a greater contribution to the economic impact on the metro area by increasing business transactions with black consumers and each other.

Aaron Turpeau, Rev. McDonald and Dave Walters of The ORR were invited to speak at the ABL Congress. They held a 2 hour session wherein they informed the attendees on The ORR Movement and the BBM/M2M initiative. The Conductor newspaper, as well as the BBM/M2M initiative implement resolutions of the ABL Congress. The presentation was a tremendous success and many attendees at



Sidney Wood's WAOK 1380 radio program was the first to announce Black Business Month/Marching2March

The Congress anxiously looked forward to the inaugural Black Business Month.

INAUGURAL BLACK BUSINESS MONTH

With a burst of enthusiasm, the first Black Business Month was launched. Churches announced BBM on their signs and throughout the city BBM yard signs were posted. State Rep. Gail Davenport, excited about the Movement, on her own initiated a Georgia Senate Resolution saluting the ORR and its ORR Pastors for beginning the process of true economic self determination. The 1st Annual BBM/M2M Golf Tournament headed up by Nash Alexander, III was a great success. Insert Golf flyer, 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners. And no one was more proud of her trophy than JoAnn Hill and Dr. Durley of Providence Missionary Baptist Church who won the Women's Long



Providence MBC's Dr. Durley congratulated JoAnn's longest drive win during the golf tournament.

Distance competition.

Don't get left out for next year's tournament. Registration has already started. Register your church, business or individual teams on Marching2March.com or e-mail the ORR at golf@OvergroundRR.com or call 404-346-0808.

WAOK 1380

On March 9, 2012 Mr. Alexander and Rev. McDonald, Dr. Gerald-Burley and Aaron Turpeau were featured on WAOK radio station's Sidney Woods Talk Show. During the show they strongly encouraged the listening community to support Black Owned Businesses and strongly encouraged Churches to get onboard with The ORR Movement. The ORR received a great response from the listeners. Telephone lines remained busy at the radio station throughout the broadcast and when the listeners were unable to contact the radio station telephonically, they called The ORR office directly for additional information.

Continued on pg. 12



Business



System 5 Electronics

Systematic Motivation, Systematic Determination, Systematic God Given Success

In 1985, Mr. Maceo Brown, who had then been working in the electrical industry for over 10 years, heard a famous African American leader delivering a powerful speech at Clark Atlanta University. During his speech, this powerful leader said something that changed Mr. Brown's life forever. It was a simple but impactful statement, at least for Mr. Brown. The leader opined that, "If God is to change the world, then African Americans will be the ones He uses to change the world because African Americans are a people in bondage." It was that small but powerful statement that motivated Mr. Brown to immediately take action to start his own business. He believed that having something of his own would allow him to best do his part to help change the world.



Maceo Brown

Mr. Brown decided to start small and work out of his home. So, he sold his Cadillac in order to buy a truck. Then, he turned his house into a business location - his den became his executive office; his two bedrooms became his home offices; and his garage became a training room. He then recruited four (4) teams from the High School he attended; and taught them what he knew best - the electrical trade. This business, initially referred to as Brown Electric, provided electrical wiring services to homes primarily located in the Southwest Atlanta area.

transition into the security alarm business; and thereby formed System 5 Electronics. He sold Brown Electric and all of its assets to System 5 Electronics and soon after, this successful business venture was born.

Mr. Brown selected the name System 5 Electronics because they offered more than just security alarm systems to their customer base. At the time of its inception, the company offered a total of 5 electronic security related solutions to its customers. In addition to security alarms, they offered: cable system electronic services, phone system electronic services, intercom products; and CCTV camera monitoring products.

Now, after over 20 years in business, the company offers a wide range of Home Security, Commercial Security and Neighborhood Watch Services to its vast customer base. Among other things, they install security systems; provide 24 hour alarm monitoring service, install camera systems, install intercoms, install phone lines; and install cable and home theatres. According to Mr. Brown, System 5 Electronics is the largest African American owned security alarm company in the state of Georgia.

Mr. Brown maintains a strong focus on Customer Service. He says that, "With any business you start, you must build a strong Customer Service Department to ensure that your customers are satisfied." He exemplifies that by doing what very few companies will do - provide all of his customers with the ability to contact him and speak with him directly if they wish or have a need to do so.

Mr. Brown wants to ensure the customers of System 5 Electronics that they can count on System 5 Electronics to provide them with the best and most innovative products and services available in the industry. Green Technology Products are amongst the most popular products.

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This electronic product offering can hold 2 gigs of information and allows the customer to control their security products through an android phone/application. Through this application you can:

- Receive alerts on your phone if someone is in your driveway;
- View a picture of someone who walks through the path of your camera
- Show incidents of when your alarm system is armed/disarmed by someone
- Notify you if you forgot to arm your security system if you are within a ¼ mile radius of your home.
- Turn on certain lights inside the home once you arrive home and disarm the alarm.
- Turn your lights on or off or lower your thermostat from anywhere in the world. When you return home it brings temp back to desired level. This feature pays for itself because by utilizing it, the customer will save 30-35% on their energy bill.

community is linked together electronically and they are also provided with a monthly report of the crime status within the area. The premise is that having this type of electronic system will lower the crime incident in the area. The Neighborhood Watch Electronic service can also be utilized for major medical and fire incidents as well.

System 5 Electronics also has a long term plan, to build the first security call center with video capabilities. When a security alarm goes off, the monitoring station will be able to tap into the customer's camera on site and send a snapshot to the police while they are in route to the location.

Not only is System 5 a cutting edge product and service provider in the security industry, but they provide these products and services at an economical rate. According to Mr. Brown, System 5 has the lowest pricing rates in the market for monitoring services. The rate for phone line monitoring is \$16.50 per month. The rate for wireless monitoring is \$26.50 per month. He says that the closest competitor's monitoring rate is \$32.00 per month.

Mr. Brown believes that, "God is bringing African Americans into power." He says, "We can see evidence of that in the successes of Oprah Winfrey and President Barack Obama."



System 5 Electronics' previous 3200 sq. ft. location

After a period of 4 years owning and operating Brown Electric, Mr. Brown did a bit of research and discovered that there were no African Americans business owners operating in the security alarm business. He first became intimately interested in the security alarm industry because it had proven itself over the years to be recession proof and residual based. In 1990, after further careful and detailed research, Mr. Brown made a business decision to



System 5 Electronics' current 30,000 sq. ft. location

It is his faith in God and what God is doing by bringing more and more African Americans into power that has been his inspiration and motivation. He says he has been blessed since he started his venture with System 5; and he believes it is also his responsibility to give back, just as he has received.

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

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Cynthia N. Day A New Leader and a New Direction for Citizens Trust Bank



Cynthia N. Day, Chief Executive Officer of Citizens Bancshares Corporation and President of Citizens Trust Bank since

Citizens Trust Bank, a subsidiary of Citizens Bancshares Corporation, has been a long lasting leader in the financial services industry since 1921. Ms. Cynthia N. Day, CPA, has recently been named and has served as Chief Executive Officer of Citizens Bancshares Corporation and President of Citizens Trust Bank since February 27, 2012. Throughout her career, Ms. Day has proven herself to be a knowledgeable and successful businesswoman in the banking industry; and although she is newly positioned in her current roles as they relate to Citizens Trust Bank, she is a seasoned and experienced bank executive with firsthand knowledge of the specialized business philosophies and foundational principals that have enabled Citizens Trust Bank to remain a stabilized constant within the banking industry for over 90 years.

Ms. Day's tenure with Citizens Trust Bank began in February 2003, when she served as Executive Vice President of the bank's Management Services division. Prior to that, she served as Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of Citizens Federal Savings Bank located in Birmingham, AL. On February 28, 2003, Citizens Trust Bank acquired CFS Bancshares, the holding company for Citizens Federal Savings Bank; and Citizens Federal Savings Bank of Birmingham then also became Citizens Trust Bank, the first acquisition by Citizens Trust Bank of a bank located outside the state of Georgia.

Ms. Day has been named one of "Atlanta's Top 100 Black Women of Influence" by the Atlanta Business League and one of Atlanta Tribune's "Wonder Women". She currently serves on the board of The National Banker's Association and Aarons, Inc. and is an active member of a number of educational and community organizations as well.

What Makes Citizens Trust Bank the Better Choice - Community

Citizens Trust Bank has been a staple in the African American Banking industry for over 90 years. Ms. Day says that CTB is the better choice for the target market customer because it is a "Community Bank". In that regard, CTB and its staff take the time and care required to know customers and their family members by name; and provide an opportunity for customers to "bank where they live." Additionally, CTB is sensitive to the very specific needs of its customers, as opposed to larger banks who have become so large that they have lost touch with their customer base. Because the objective is never to grow so large as to lose that connection with its customer base and their needs, CTB has processes in place that enable them to move much more quickly when it comes to responding to customer requests and making decisions as they relate to customer service and financing needs.

"We care about our customers. We are not just a bank located within the community, we are a bank that is a part of the community and we offer a variety of services for the total community," says Day. Being a part of the community means more to CTB than simply offering banking services. Ms. Day has challenged each member of her staff to identify a community related "cause" that the staff members and CTB can individually and corporately become involved in and champion. Ms. Day says that, "It is important that we let the community know that we care about what affects and impacts the community."

Strategic Emphasis – Technology and Tradition

Ms. Day is a very progressive thinker and energetic leader. Her strategies for the next level of success of CTB stems from a foundational

understanding of the fact that our society has become more global in its methods of thinking, communicating and interacting on a day to day basis. In that regard, she is placing strategic business building emphasis on identifying and implementing ways within which the bank can remain relevant to the community; and creating an effective brand that will capture and maintain the interest of the changing banking market. This includes utilizing the technological advancements of various social media outlets to establish a widely recognized presence in the community.

Although Ms. Day's strategy is innovative and progressive, she is also wise to recognize the importance of tradition and consistency. Citizens Trust Bank has been providing banking services to the community for over 90 years. That is over four (4) generations of customers, many of whom have been tremendously loyal and committed to the Bank over the span of all four (4) generations. These long-time customers are vitally important to CTB's success; and CTB takes neither that customer base nor its banking needs and interests lightly.

There is a certain segment within the bank's long-time customer base whose banking interests center around the need for consistency and reliability. They are not looking for a tremendous amount of variety. Rather, they prefer a less complicated line of service offerings. The traditional banking services that CTB continues to offer satisfies the needs of those customers quite nicely. In that regard, one of CTB's primary objectives is to ensure that the more traditional, long-time banking customer remains aware that as the bank becomes more progressive, it will continue to provide those same traditional banking services upon which they have come to rely.

Strategic Emphasis – Solutions for the "Under-banked" Customer – Ms. Day says that everyone needs a banking relationship. They are necessary to progressively move you forward in life and to help people more

effectively manage major life events such as purchasing a house or a car. Although bank accounts are now considered to be one of society's fundamental necessities, many people within the African American community fall into the "under-banked" category. If an individual is categorized as "under-banked", they do not have bank accounts (regardless of the reason – possibly by choice because they prefer not to have banking fees; or because they have a personal preference for electronic based online transactions; or because of credit issues) and are thereby using expensive, alternative banking solutions, such as, check cashing, pay day lending and pre-paid cards. Regardless of the customers' reasons for not having bank accounts, Ms. Day and Citizens Trust Bank are currently in the process of developing a suite of products specifically designed to reach the progressive needs of the "under-banked".

CTB will provide the under-banked market with a solution allowing them to open an account that is attached to a debit card with no check-related transactions. By design the account allows the customer to accept direct deposits, ACH transactions and unlimited cash deposits (similar to a pre-paid card). Other beneficial features provide them with access to their money through an ATM and the ability to use the account like a credit and or debit card to make purchases either in-person or online worldwide.

This solution allows the customer to establish a banking relationship and most importantly, receive the benefits of having such a relationship. It is a win-win situation for all parties involved.

Solutions for New Accounts

CTB currently has approximately five-percent (5%) of the customer base in its target market. Ms. Day has established the goal of reaching a much larger customer base while the bank is under her leadership. Although CTB already has a solid presence in the community, her de-

sire is to deepen the relationship the bank has with the community and offer financial services to those that are not currently utilizing banks. The ultimate goal would be for them to open more checking accounts and view

Citizens Trust Bank as a viable solution for loans for small business endeavors and everyday life events such as buying a home or a car.

Overcoming Challenges – Economic Empowerment

A great deal of the community has suffered tremendously as a result of the economic downturn. Ms. Day wants CTB to take an active role in helping to restore and revitalize the community. She says that one of the obstacles within the African American community that often prevents restoration and revitalization is the community depositing its money into financial institutions that do not reinvest back into the community. CTB's emphasis on "community" will allow it to stay intimately acquainted with the African American businesses operating within the community. Ms. Day leads her team under the philosophy that "knowledge is power". She believes that with a working and more intimate knowledge of the businesses and individual customer base within the community, we all can make an impact and realize the benefits of doing business together. We have to get people to "buy into the solution", says Day. She says that, this type of "doing business within our community" will generate the type of economic support and pooling of resources that will certainly be "a catalyst for restoring our communities."

Overcoming Challenges – Educational Empowerment

Ms. Day believes that banking institutions have an affirmative responsibility to ensure its customer base is financially informed. One of the greatest problems she has observed in her years of experience as a bank executive has been the fact that many consumers are attracted to financing options that require no down payment and or interest-only payments. While these options may be appealing, they may not be the practical solution according to an individual's personal situation.

Ms. Day believes one of the reasons for not making the right choices is due to the consumer being less financially informed. In an effort to address this recurring problem, CTB will be partnering with various community groups to empower people with information and knowledge on financial processes; as well as educating them on what makes the best sense for their specific situations financially. Ms. Day refers to this as, "empowering people with information."

CTB Onboard with the ORR Philosophy

When asked about her thoughts in the Overground RR!!© Movement, Ms. Day stated she definitely sees synergy between the philosophies of both CTB and The ORR. She encouraged The ORR to, "[k]eep doing what you are doing."

As Citizens Trust Bank continues to optimistically "seize every opportunity to partner with community organizations like the ORR to get the message [of economic empowerment and development of the African American community] out consistently," she recognized consistency as being an essential key to success in the fine tuning of financial empowerment for all.

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



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AFFORDABLE FURNITURE

A Business Idea Inspired by the Excitement of Customers

Ms. Kwania Newman, owner of Affordable Furniture, can admit that life's pathways to career destinations can often be unpredictable. Prior to starting her own furniture business, Ms. Newman worked in the banking industry for approximately 20 years. Subsequently, she managed a funeral home, and then worked as a sales associate for a furniture store.

After all the years she faithfully endured working in other business industries, Ms. Newman's work in furniture sales proved itself to be an inspirational spark for her. It was inspirational because she loved the way people became so excited whenever they purchased furniture and she loved being an integral part of that process. She developed a well-deserved sense of pride in her work because she realized that her customers were relying very heavily on her expertise in the furniture industry to assist them in making a major purchase.

Heavily influenced by her success as a furniture sales person, Ms. Newman decided to become a subject matter expert in the business of furniture. This was no simple task. In order to become a subject matter expert, she had to master the different types of furniture fabrics, woods, leathers, and possible color coordina-

tions. She also had to learn the different methods of cleaning and caring for the various constructs of furniture. Ms. Newman's professional opinion matters to her customers, and she has worked endlessly to ensure that she is vastly knowledgeable of all options available as they relate to furniture choices and furniture care.

Approximately two years ago Ms. Newman branched out on her own and founded Affordable Furniture, where she is now able to set the parameters that are representative of what she believes to be integral to the concept of excellence in furniture selection, sales and quality. Now, she can spend valuable time focusing on creative ways to offer her customers more personalized services and high quality furniture products at an affordable price.

Ms. Newman can gladly say that she is no longer governed or limited by specific man-



Kwanzia Newman

agement codes or management relation issues because she is now the owner/operator of Affordable Furniture. She is the one who sets the parameters, codes and boundaries for her business. This is of tremendous benefit to her customers because Ms. Newman genuinely cares about her customers. She wants to see them satisfied and returning for additional business year after year. She can "do the deal" and do it creatively for you.

Ms. Newman would like to provide you, our readers, with some helpful hints on how to care for your furniture. If you follow these tips you will enjoy the beauty of your quality furniture for a very long time:

- Do not over-polish or over-clean your furniture. Polish/clean your furniture once a month in order to keep its luster.
- Don't put polish directly onto the wood before cleaning. Instead, spray polish onto the cleaning cloth and then polish the furniture with the coated cloth.
- When you polish/clean your furniture, use the same cloth or feather duster each time.
- Keep moisture in the air to prevent dust from gathering on furniture over time.
- Always scotch guard cloth furniture. Try to prevent oils, and colored liquids from making contact with cloth furniture.

These substances are sometimes impossible to remove from certain fabrics.

- Believe it or not, hair spray is often a secret weapon when it comes to cleaning cloth furniture.

Affordable Furniture will be holding Customer Appreciation Day on August 5, 2012 from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. They will be offering furniture purchase specials and furniture "give-aways"...



This is one of the ways in which Ms. Newman can thank those who have made furniture purchases from Affordable Furniture and those who have referred customers to her store.

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



Alice White Bussey

Bussey Florist *Using Floristry as Form of Education and Expression*

Ms. Alice White Bussey and her husband, Mr. James L. Bussey, II are co-owners of Bussey Florist, located in Decatur, Georgia. The Busseys have been successfully operating Bussey Florist for over 50 years. The business was started by Mr. Bussey after having been influenced when he was a student in college serving as an apprentice to a florist located in the Buckhead area. After college, Mr. Bussey branched out on his own to open his own floristry shop. He was the 1st African American to start a business operation in the flower nook in located in the downtown Atlanta Sweet Auburn Avenue curb market.

Mr. Bussey was already operating in the Floristry business when he married Mrs. Bussey. Once they married, they both had the foresight to recognize floristry as a global business opportunity for them, as opposed to just a local one. It would be global because they understood that people and businesses in the United States and abroad all appreciate the beauty of flowers; and if they learned the nature of the business in excellence, then their business would provide them with the opportunity to impact and influence the future of their lives and the lives of others in all geographical arenas. Inspired by these possibilities, they decided to set their sights on a developing business base that would provide them with opportunities to do business locally and globally; and to give back by training, advising and developing more people to become florists, especially African American florists. They have been successful in these endeavors for over 50 years.

Ms. Bussey says that the success of Bussey Florist is primarily attributable to their early recognition of the important concept that being an excellent florist, as opposed to simply be-

ing a good florist, requires much more than just having pretty flowers for sale and, maintaining the floral shop. Rather, it requires putting in the time and effort necessary to develop a reputation for consistently providing excellent customer service, with an emphasis on personalized relationships; demonstrating a strong sense of community values; having extensive knowledge of the various species of flowers and the intimate workings of floristry industry (they traveled extensively to gain this knowledge); and of course, the ability to create absolutely gorgeous floral arrangements. Bussey Florist consistently makes those characteristics a priority business deliverable to their customers on a day to day basis.

Mr. and Mrs. Bussey have lived their entire lives "giving back" to the community through personal and business endeavors. Over the 50 years they have been in business, the Busseys have seen first-hand the manner in which the African American community has: been challenged; changed; and progressed. Finally, after so many ups and downs in our community, they began to notice the wonderful trend of more and more African Americans moving into the professional arena.

Always seeking out opportunities to "give back", they viewed this as one such opportunity. They started providing training and support to African Americans that were interested in Floristry. They started training students at Spelman College, located in Atlanta, Georgia, in the knowledge, culture and proper usage of flowers. Additionally, they started regularly attend-

ing Career Day events held in local schools located across the Metropolitan Atlanta area; where they spoke directly to the students and informed them of the excellent opportunities available to them in the area of Floristry.

While it is true that excellent business practices are essential for the success of a Floristry business, it simply cannot be denied that, "floristry is an art", as Ms. Bussey says. A Florist must have a creative eye and an ability to perform the art of arranging flowers in a very special manner that is just right for each individual customer. Each customer is different and each has different needs and different levels of satisfaction. An excellent Florist, like Bussey, is not only able to fulfill the requests of the customer, but is also able to assess a need and fulfill it, even when the customer is unsure or unable to decide which flowers or flower arrangements best communicate or express their feelings. Ms. Bussey says that, "The flower arrangement should speak the unspoken words of the customer."



The customers of Bussey Florist take their flowers very seriously. Because Bussey Florist has such a vast knowledge of flowers and an excellent ability to send or suggest the right variety of flowers for the

right occasion, they have the privilege of being able to say that they receive repeat business opportunities to service many prestigious customers such as:

- The King Center: When International visitors

come to the King Center, they often contact Bussey Florist to create a wreath for display. One example is when the President of Zambia came to King Center. A part of selecting the perfect wreath involved conducting detailed research to become knowledgeable on the culture in Zambia as well as the flowers in that geographical area. They did the same when the Brazilian Consulate visited The King Center as well.

- The National Minority Purchasing Council: The Council held an event at the Georgia World Conference Center and Bussey Florist prepared a presentation of plants for the vendors; and flowers for display at all breakfasts and dinners held during the event. There were over 1000 vendors in attendance.

- National Black MBA Assoc. Annual Convention: Bussey Florist prepared the floral arrangements displayed at the Convention which was held at the World Congress Center. There were over 15,000 individuals in attendance at the Conventions.

- National Minority Supplier Development Convention: Bussey Florist has provided floral arrangements for Meeting Rooms, Dining Areas and Bathrooms used by attendees at the Convention.

- National Black Legislators Convention: During this event, legislators from across the country convene and attend a week-long legislative meeting. Bussey Florist provided Floristry services at the Lowes Hotel for this week long event when it was held in Atlanta.

Not only do the Busseys have an eye for Business, but they are also trend setters in the Floristry industry. Ms. Bussey informs us that they were the 1st African American floristry service to utilize a wire service (e.g. FTD)

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Safe Haven Learning Center A safe haven for our Future

Safe Haven Learning Center (Safe Haven™) is a Daycare Center for infants and children up to 13 years of age. The School is owned by Ms. Akira Eiland-Sharp and has been successfully operating for over 11 years.

Throughout its years of operation, Safe Haven has grown in scope and now services clientele in two locations - Riverdale Road and Tara Boulevard. Ms. Eiland-Sharp strives to ensure that Safe Haven provides its 150 students with quality educational services; and a loving, kind and caring staff. She has a staff of approximately 28 employees that services the children.

Ms. Eiland-Sharp recognizes that quality childcare at Safe Haven must begin with quality educational programming. For this reason, they provide the students with two distinct methods of curriculum instruction: 1) Creative Curriculum for Infants and Toddlers; and 2) Pinnacle Curriculum for Pre-school and School-Aged Children. According to *Teaching Strategies for Early Childhood*, the Creative Curriculum creates a high-quality learning environment that enables every child to become a creative, confident thinker. It is an award-winning curriculum system designed for preschool success.



Akira Eiland-Sharp

It features research-based content and daily resources that are fully aligned with the Head Start Child Development and Early Learning Framework and state early learning standards. Using exploration and discovery as a way of learning, The Creative Curriculum System for Preschool enables children to develop confidence, creativity, and lifelong critical thinking skills and:

- is based on 38 objectives for development and learning, which are fully aligned with the Head Start Child Development and Early Learning Framework as well as early learning standards for every state;
- presents knowledge-building volumes and daily practice resources in tandem, giving every educator the “what,” “why” and “how” of early childhood education;
- offers daily opportunities to individualize instruction, helping teachers meet the needs of every type of learner;
- addresses all the important areas of learning, from social-emotional and math to technology and the arts, and incorporates them throughout every part of every day;
- offers daily, built-in opportunities for observation, helping teachers and administrators clearly see the strong relationship between curriculum and assessment;
- offers complete support for working with English- and dual-language learners, including detailed guidance that helps to build teachers’ knowledge about best practices; and
- contains guidance for working with all

learners, including advanced learners and children with disabilities.

According to the *Child Care Education Institute*, the Pinnacle Curriculum Pinnacle provides teachers with lessons that engage children in developmentally appropriate activities. Comprehensive programs are offered for children based on age. The activities conducted in the program include:

- Developmentally appropriate activities that adhere to industry standards;
- Clearly stated learning objectives to help facilitate learning in all domains;
- Flexible programming to accommodate varied learning styles;
- Carefully selected themes that capture children’s interest;
- Long-range goals linked to Key Standards;
- Suggestions to enrich developmental milestones based on research; and
- Interactive activities that help children develop a love for learning while they are growing, playing, and having fun.

Although, Ms. Eiland-Sharp works tirelessly to provide excellence in her program offerings to her clients, she is seriously concerned about the future of some of the children she is servicing. She acknowledges that as an African American business owner, approximately, 99% of her customer base is also African American. She advises parents to take the time necessary to understand how vitally important effective parenting is for the welfare of our children and ultimately our culture and community.

She is concerned that the behavior of some of the children she services in her learning facility is evidence of the fact that their parents are not immersing themselves in the activities required to adequately fulfill their responsibilities as parents. No matter how busy they are, parents must not neglect the precious gift they have in their children or the responsibilities that come along with caring for that gift. Neglect will ultimately result in the suffering of the children, their future and our future as well.

Ms. Eiland-Sharp is concerned because some of the children that come into her daycare arrive exhibiting behavioral patterns that cause her to question whether or not proper morals, values and ethical behavioral dimensions are being taught in the home. In that regard, she has observed more and more children engaged in activities that are hurtful and unhealthy; and showing no remorse. Being a parent is a sacred gift that should be cherished. The value that each parent places on that gift is often evident in the behavior of the children. Although Safe Haven takes special care to provide instruction to the children as it relates to age appropriate behavioral dimensions, in order for it to be effective and benefit the children, it must begin and end at home.

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

Overall Construction and Inspection, Inc. With Every Nail Hammered and Every Plank Hoisted, They Aim to Please

From a young age, Frederick Reid was a hard working and very industrious person. During the time he was earning a college education at Payne College in Augusta, Georgia, he also earned extra money working with his uncle who owned and operated a construction company, Reliable Construction Company. Young Mr. Reid quickly recognized that he greatly enjoyed working in the construction industry. The enjoyment he experienced influenced his excellent work ethic; and his excellent work ethic produced an excellent work product. It did not take long for young Mr. Reid to advance on the job at his uncle’s company to become the youngest person on-site to manage crews and oversee various aspects of construction operations.

After her completed his college coursework, Mr. Reid joined forces with his uncle as a partner. Reliable Construction Company was thereby dissolved and they formed a new business entity called Alpha and Omega Complete Maintenance Service. Then, after 10 years of working in partnership with his uncle, Mr. Reid decided to venture out in a slightly different direction.

In 2001 he and his brother-in-law, Damond Reynolds, who already had a home inspection license, formed a new company called Overall Construction and Inspection, Inc. (“Overall Construction”). They decided on the name “Overall” because together, they were capable of providing a wide variety of construction and inspection services to their customers without sacrificing quality. To this day, they pride themselves in being “quality among the best”.

Mr. Reid says that offering a wide variety of services in the construction industry is a tremendous asset for the customer. Most contractors specialize in specific target areas, and as a result, are only able to offer a limited amount of services to the customer. Therefore, a customer who has a variety of construction related needs may have to contact a number of different contractors to accomplish their goals. Conversely, Overall Construction provides their customers with a wide array of construction and repair solutions.

The professionals at Overall Construction have expertise in all types of home repairs, including but not limited to: painting; roofing; carpentry; plumbing; HVACs; electrical; home renovations; additions; remodeling; insurance damage loss; modifications; storm damage; and light commercial build-outs such as interior build-out of commercial buildings and church additions. Overall Construction can build church facilities as well. They are capable of handling construction and repair tasks of any size.

Overall Construction provides customers with specialized assistance relating to Insurance repairs. Many customers find it unpleasant, difficult and often confusing when it comes to dealing with Insurance companies. This is especially so when combined with the strain created by the issue that caused them to have to contact the insurance company in the first place.

Overall Construction can help take the pressure off of the customer when it comes to dealing with insurance companies and their “red tape” challenges. Their professionals understand the manner in which insurance companies evaluate claims and communicate. Using



Xactimate Software, a software application widely recognized in the insurance industry for creating quotes, they make the claim process easier for the customer to comprehend.

Overall Construction has the capability of utilizing 203K or FHA Loan products for the convenience of their customers. These products allow individuals purchasing homes to include the cost of construction or repairs made on their homes as a part of the customer’s home loan package. Mr. Reid states that only licensed contractors are authorized to perform the work that is allowed under the purview of these Mortgage Loan products.

Overall Construction is licensed by the state of Georgia to provide residential and light commercial services to its customers. Although many contractors provide some of the same services as Overall Construction, they do not necessarily carry state licensure. In those instances, customers often do not have any form of redress or recourse outside of litigation in a court of law, which can be very expensive. Licensed contractors are mandated to have certain procedures and processes in place for the protection of the customer, including, but not limited to: state mandated insurance, a required knowledge base as demonstrated by passing an examination administered by the state of Georgia.

Having a licensed contractor perform the work, provides the customer with security in knowing that if a problems occurs relating to the services provided by the licensed contractor, the customer may contact the state of Georgia for assistance, redress or regulatory and standards enforcement. A list of state licensed contractors can be found on the Georgia Secretary of State website at www.sos.ga.gov/plb/contractors.

Overall Construction takes care to assure its customers that with every nail hammered and with every plank hoisted, they aim to please. Their services are priced fairly and competitively; they provide their service offerings in a timely and efficient matter; and they understand that effective communication and subsequent follow-up is essential for the ultimate satisfaction of the customer.

As an African American business owner, Mr. Reid wants to emphasize the importance of businesses in the African American community working more closely together and utilizing each other’s products and services to facilitate our growth as well as maintain what we have already accomplished. If we fail to do these fundamental things, we will lose our business community as a whole. The only people who suffer when we don’t do business with “us” is “us”.

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Bussey Florist - Continued from pg. 10

to enhance their business opportunities. They were able to capitalize off of the excellent relationships they have developed over the years with other florists, as well as the wire service technology, by convincing Coca Cola that their bottom line would increase if they used Bussey Florist whenever they needed to boost their minority business efforts and needed floristry services. More specifically, if Coca Cola needed floristry services to be provided to their businesses located in other countries or other cities, they contacted Bussey Florist who, through the use of wire service and their own excellent relationship-building skills, had a network of inter-city and internationally based florist contacts. Bussey Florist thereby served as a minority supplier in the area of floristry for Coca Cola; and was able to greatly assist Coca Cola in meeting their minority business development and diversity goals.

Bussey Florist is a staple in our community. They have spent their entire business career making a difference in the lives of others through the beauty of flowers. They want you to always remember . . .

**DON'T GET FUSSY,
CALL BUSSEY!!**

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The Call And Response Continued from pg. 2

we no longer have to meet in the dead of night, down by the riverside, speaking and singing in secret codes.

The Black church has been, is, and always will, be important in protecting and advancing the interests of our people. And so obviously it has been central to the ORR movement. Indeed, BBM/M2M was initiated by the Rev. Timothy McDonald one of Atlanta's leading pastors. He is the Senior Pastor of one of the founding ORR churches, First Iconium Baptist Church.

BBM/M2M as a signature campaign of the ORR unifies the community for economic freedom by focusing the community on the importance of celebrating and supporting Black-owned businesses.

Additionally, Community Organizations have played an integral part in building the ORR. Indeed, the Atlanta Business League is a founding member of the ORR. The ORR and BBM/M2M implement resolutions adopted by the ABL's Congress on the State of Black Business in Metro Atlanta calling for action to change the dismal share of the Black economy controlled by the Black community.

Indeed, the ORR consists of 90 churches, 140 businesses and 40 community organizations. It connects the entire Black community. To learn more about the ORR's mission, strategy and tactics, see the formal Mission Statement on Marching2March.com and OvergroundRR.com.

There's a place for everyone on the OvergroundRR!!®, but no one can fill the special place that God has for you in this Movement. We welcome you onto the OvergroundRR!!®. Get on board!!!

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M2M Continued from pg. 6



From left to right, Mrs. Durley, 1st Lady, Ma-ceo Brown, JoAnn Hill and Michael Tyler at Providence's Black Business Expo

Church Activities

Additionally, some churches produced local church business directories, recognized business owners during church services and some held business expos.

On March 22, 2012 The ORR sponsored a second meeting at First Iconium Church. This was a Luncheon Meeting held specifically for The ORR Clergy. It provided a platform for them to share their progress in highlighting

and celebrating Black Businesses in the community. Each Pastor Conductor reported on successfully held activities and events such as: Black Business Expositions; Black Business Receptions; special Black Owned Business Recognitions and Awards Ceremonies; the formation of a Black Chamber of Commerce; and Business Acknowledgements made within their congregations.

Marching2March 2013

We are now well into Marching2March 2013. This M2M promises to be a period during which long strides will be made toward de-



One of the business exhibitors at Providence's Black Business Expo

living our people to economic freedom. We began our activities with the announcement of The ORR's launch of an additional new website located at www.Marching2March.com. The website is specifically intended to highlight M2M activities that take place throughout the year.

On June 2, 2012 we held the first meeting of The ORR Church Coordinators located at Cascade United Methodist Church where Reverend Marvin Anthony Moss, a long time promoter of The ORR, is Senior Pastor.

On June 20, 2012 we held the 1st Annual City-wide Meeting of Black Community organizations at The headquarters of H.J. Russell & Company.

Stay Tuned for More Exciting Updates on our activities as we march forward to March 2013.

Onward to the Next Black Business Month – All Aboard!!!!

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ORR BUSINESS DIRECTORY

The following businesses are members of the Overground RR!!® The ORR Business Directory is your community guide to utilizing members of the Black community who are dedicated to recycling the Black dollar back into our communities. Each business listed has agreed to legally binding arbitration should there be a problem with their product or service. Binding arbitration does not apply to torts or banking members.

Accounting

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

David M. Walker Esq., Law
Office of
201 17th St., NW, Suite 300
Atlanta GA 30363
404-541-6551
www.davidwalker.esq.com

Advertising

Lighthouse Promotions, LLC
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Fayetteville GA 30214
770-461-9345
www.lighthouse-promo.com

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

Southwest Atlanta Home
& U Magazine
5055 Montcalm Drive, SW
Atlanta GA 30331
404-349-1959

Martin Law Group, LLC, The
1935 Cliff Valley Way, Suite 117
Atlanta, GA 30329
404-248-4898
www.themartinlawgroup.com

Architectural Design

Washington Design Group
3225 Shallowford Rd, Suite 410
Marietta GA 30062
404-432-1818

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

Auto Body

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

Attorneys

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

Auto Sales

Legacy Chevrolet
Emanuel D. Jones
3615 N. Manchester Expressway
Columbus, GA 31909
706-322-8888
emanj@mindspring.com

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

Auto Services

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

E. C. London & Associates
101 Marietta Street, NW
Suite 3310
Atlanta GA 30303
404-688-6607
eclondon.com

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

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

1 Crown
1895 Phoenix Blvd.
Suite 110
Atlanta GA 30349
404-559-8325
www.thefosterfirmwins.com

Fantastic Tire & Auto Service Inc
4879 Redan Rd.
Stone Mountain GA 30088
404-299-7643

Miracle Auto Glass Repair &
Installations
PO Box 669
Ellenwood, GA 30294
678-886-7837

Banking

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

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

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

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How to Join

To become a member of The Overground RR!!®

- The appropriate application for membership must be made and is subject to approval by the Board of Directors of The Overground RR!!®.
- An organization must verify that individuals of African-American descent hold a majority of the company's ownership
- Membership may be declined for any reason deemed appropriate by the Board and the decision is not subject to review.
- Members agree to binding arbitration and pre-paid annual membership dues (\$360).

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For your annual investment of only \$360 you will receive:

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- Business Spotlight in The Conductor
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- Exclusive advertising rights in The Conductor, Sparks on www.OvergroundRR.com for a small additional fee (see Marketing Rates & Specifications for more details).
- A \$1435 direct marketing package for a small investment of \$360; over \$1000 savings

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Childcare	Safe Haven Learning Center Akira Eiland 5595 Riverdale Rd, Ste A College Park, GA 30349 404-427-0560	The Institute of Financial Freedom & Investment Solutions 6455 Arborgate Dr. Mableton GA 30126 678-508-9782 www.jeanrahman.organogold.com	Clip Appeal 736 Ponce De Leon Ave., Ste. I Atlanta GA 30306 404-892-6209	Heating & Air
Stewart Unlimited, Inc. Yolanda Stewart 5300 Memorial Dr., Ste 224-F Stone Mountain, GA 30083 404-549-2501	Dance	The Wealth Engineer 3043 Riverstone Tr., Ste. 100 Atlanta GA 30339 770-395-3737 www.wealthengineer.com	Hair A La Parisienne 1862 Washington Rd. East Point GA 30344 404-559-1511	A.D. Heating & Air 230 Standing Oak Pl. Fairburn GA 30214 678-887-6787
Cleaning Services	Ballethnic Dance Company, Inc. 2587 Cheney St East Point GA 30344 404-762-1416 www.ballethnic.org	Florist	Hair Effects 2375 Wesley Chapel Rd., Ste. 5 Decatur GA 30035 770-987-2106	Home Health Care
Total Approach Cleaning Service P.O. Box 89108 Atlanta GA 30312 404-688-0239 www.tacclean.com	Dentists	Bussey Florists 2358 Candler Rd, Decatur GA 30032 404-659-2968	Prestige Beauty Salon 5970 Fairington Rd. Lithonia GA 30038 404-617-4816	Bridges Personal Care Home Group 233 Mitchell St Suite 250 Atlanta GA 30303 770-774-9128 www.bridgespchgrou.com
Commercial Leasing	BE Orthodontics Highland Grove Office Condominiums 3614 Highlands Parkway Smyrna GA 30082 770-432-6070 www.beorthodontics.com	Willis' Florist and Memoirs, Inc. 770-991-6460 willisflowers.com	Quintessence Hair Design 1130 Concord Rd. Smyrna GA 30080 770-438-0085 www.quintessencehair.com	Exodus, Inc. P.O. Box 487 Union City GA 30291 770-774-9128
Odd Fellows Buildings 236 Auburn Avenue, Ste. 103 Atlanta GA 30303 404-525-5027 theoddfellowsbldings.com	Family & Childrens Dentistry 2440 Fairburn Rd Ste. 301 Atlanta GA 30331 404-349-7777	Funeral Services	Roni Artistic Hands 6319 Memorial Dr. Stone Mountain GA 30083 770-469-8101 ronisartisticahands.webs.com	Health Companions Inc 2364 Candler Rd Decatur GA 30034 404-284-1768 www.healthcompanions.com
Construction	Alfred Wyatt DMD,P.C. 6230 Old National Hwy College Park GA 30349 770-994-7811	Alfonso Dawson Mortuary, Inc. 3000 M. L. King Jr. Dr. Atlanta GA 30311 Phone: 404-691-3810 www.dawsonmortuary.com	Royal Crown Barbershop 889 Ralph D. Abernathy Blvd. Atlanta GA 30310 404-758-4283	Right at Home 448 Ralph D. Abernathy, Ste. 2 Atlanta GA 30312 404-522-0029 www.rightathome.net/atlanta
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Consultants	Dove Mailing, Inc. 5601 Fulton Industrial Blvd. Atlanta GA 30336 404-629-0122 www.dovemailing.com	Willie A. Watkins Funeral Home 1003 Ralph D. Abernathy Blvd. Atlanta GA 30310 Phone: 404-758-1731 www.williewatkins.com	Totally U Hair Salon/ Style and Beyond 1514 East Cleveland Ave., Ste. 111 East Point GA 30034 404-768-0936	A & A Home & Stucco Inspection 2638 Kings Way Lawrenceville GA 30044 678-231-7479
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Bishop Stewart Reese, Jr., founder and Senior Pastor of Bethesda Cathedral of the Apostolic Faith, Inc. received his priceless and "match-perfect" Father's Day gift on May 15 from his daughter Bernita – a kidney. This was the gift of gifts; and it cannot be stored away for special occasions. It is for everyday, all day. A selfless gift of sacrifice beyond words, yet speaking volumes of "Daddy, I Love You."

The mantra of giving back resonated in her love for a man who has been most inspirational and influential in her life. He built their family on faith and values that material things mean nothing in comparison to a relationship with God and family.

The father-daughter relationship between Bishop Reese and Bernita is something to behold. Even if it's only watching basketball highlights on TV, Bernita loves spending time with her father. Her fondest childhood memories involve the rare times her dad, then a busy pastor, would take her and her siblings on special trips. "We thought we were going somewhere big and he took us to Anniston, Alabama to a little motel, but it was the highlight of my life. That was a good vacation for us because it was just our time with him alone," said Bernita.

Children receive half of their genetic makeup from their fathers. Study after study shows that a child's relationship with their father plays a huge part of who they become. A father is the model of a man for his children. The image of this father permeated in his daughter.

Both of their lives changed with a trip to the doctor where Bernita had asked to tag along. "I didn't think anything of it, because we're a close family. All of us are very close and I thought she was just concerned about me as her daddy," said Bishop Reese. During the visit, they were given the news of his failing kidneys. "Wow, this is serious. This is a life or death situation; and if there's anything I can do to help him out" Bernita said, "I'll do it".



Bernita Reese and her father Bishop Stewart Reese, Jr.,

There were only two options. Either he would have to go on dialysis or he would need a kidney transplant. If he were to go on a waiting list, it could have been a three to five year wait. Bernita didn't hesitate to offer one of hers. In roughly two to three days she was found to be "a perfect match".

The transplant went off without a hitch and both are doing fine and back to talking basketball. With the new kidney, Bishop Reese is

getting better by the day. He continues to be active in the church and is spending more time with his family.

In the Atlanta community, Bishop Reese is known for his unique biblical knowledge and his commitment to bringing souls to Christ. He acknowledged his call to the ministry at the age of eighteen and God has blessed his ministry according to his faithfulness.

He moved to Atlanta in 1968, earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Church History from Beulah Heights Bible College and went on to get a Masters of Divinity from the Interdenominational Theological Center in Atlanta. He most recently earned a Doctorate level Degree in Ministry from Luther Rice Seminary in Lithonia, Georgia.

Bishop Reese married Navoria I. Jackson in 1956 and credits his achievements in life to her steadfast encouragement and deep appreciation for the ministry. He is the father of five children, two sons (deceased), and the proud grandfather of six.

This beloved man of God has stood the test of time for many years by being determined, committed and most of all persistent. He is to be saluted for his outstanding and dynamic style of leadership. His favorite saying is, "I will bless the Lord at all times and His praise shall continually be in my mouth." He is worthy of all God's blessings.

Bishop Reese stood steadfast to his unwavering, undaunted and unshakable faith in God and the life he gave, saved his life.

Emory Kidney Transplant Program

The Emory Kidney Transplant Program provides state-of-the-art evaluation, treatment and follow-up care for patients approaching or at end stage renal disease (ESRD). Although not considered a cure for patients with ESRD, kidney transplantation offers preferable alternatives to dialysis for many patients.

The Atlanta Kidney Transplant Center ranks as one of the most prestigious transplant programs in the country. Their "Living Donor" program physicians, clinicians and staff worked with Bishop Reese and Bernita to ensure superior care and service.

Bethesda continued on pg. 20

NEW!!! ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

Reverend Timothy McDonald, III, one of our own Conveners of the OvergroundRR!!® and Senior Pastor of the First Iconium Baptist Church, celebrated his 28th Pastoral Anniversary, May 15-20, 2012. God has blessed Rev. McDonald to be successful in ministry for 28 years. In honor of Rev. McDonald's many accomplishments in ministry, The First Iconium Baptist Church hosted a five (5) day, 5-star, event-filled celebration. This special occasion began the evening of Tuesday, May 15, 2012 with a 3-Night Worship Service event. The Special guest Ministers for the worship services were:

Tuesday, May 15, 2012 -- Rev. Dr. Raphael Warnock, Senior Pastor of The Historic Ebenezer Baptist; and the Martin Luther King, Senior Choir;

Wednesday, May 16, 2012 -- Rev. Dr. Darrell D. Elligan, Senior Pastor of True Light Baptist Church;

Thursday, May 17, 2012 -- Rev. Dr. Aaron Parker, Senior Pastor of Zion Hill Baptist Church; and the Zion Hill Male Choir;

On Friday May 18, 2012, the celebration continued with a "Dinner and Roast of Rev. McDonald". This was a fun-filled event where Rev. McDonald was lovingly roasted by members of the First Iconium congregation, family, friends, members of the clergy and other prominent members of the Metropolitan Atlanta Community. This wonderful Anniversary celebration was concluded on Sunday, May 20, 2012 with two Worship services. The Guest Minister at the 7:45 a.m. service was Rev. E.C. Cochran, Sr., Senior Pastor of Floyd Chapel Baptist Church located in Stockbridge GA. The Guest Minister at the 10:45 a.m. service was Rev. Joseph Lowery, Retired Pastor and Civil Rights Leader.

CONGRATULATIONS REVEREND MCDONALD!!!

SEND US YOUR ANNIVERSARY ANNOUNCEMENTS - The OvergroundRR!!® and The Conductor Newspaper want to celebrate milestones with you!!!! Send us information and announcements. We would love to feature them in our publications - The Conductor Newspaper, SPARKS Newsletter, and on our website at www.OvergroundRR.com



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The Living Donor Program

Kidney transplantation can improve the length and quality of the recipient's life and strengthen the bond between the recipient and the donor. Donation is an important decision which involves serious consideration of the potential benefits and risks.

Emory encourages living donor transplants for the following reasons:

- While most kidneys from deceased donors function well, a kidney from a living donor provides the greatest chance for long-term success.
- Because patients who receive a kidney from a living donor do not need to wait for a kidney from a deceased organ donor, they can undergo transplantation earlier. Early transplantation improves the survival of the transplanted kidney.
- Kidneys from living donors have an excellent chance of immediately regaining function after transplantation.

Family members, spouses or friends are eligible for kidney donation. The minimum age for donation is 18 years old. Certain medical conditions, such as high blood pressure, diabetes, obesity, or a history of cancer may affect a person's ability to donate. The Emory transplant team will evaluate each potential donor very carefully.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact an Emory transplant coordinator at 404-727-3250 or toll free 1-866-727-3250.

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7:00 pm - Dinner	10:45 am - Morning Worship
7:30 pm - Bible Study	

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Community



Georgia Association of Black Elected Officials (GABEO)

LYNCHING REENACTMENT

NO JUSTICE, NO PEACE!!

On Saturday, April 7, 2012 The Georgia Association of Black Elected Officials (“GABEO”) made its annual pilgrimage to Moore’s Ford Bridge in Monroe, Walton County, Georgia demanding arrest and prosecution of the participants in the lynchings at the Moore’s Ford Bridge which took place on July 25, 1946.

Anyone who knows Tyrone Brooks, President of GABEO and a Georgia State Representative, knows that he is extraordinarily passionate about obtaining justice for our sisters and brothers massacred on that bridge. He urges us all to save the date on April 6, 2013 to join GABEO in completing this unfinished work of Martin Luther King, Jr.

weeks at the Walton County jail in Monroe, Georgia, following an altercation at Barney Hester’s farmhouse. Hester had done something inappropriate to Roger’s wife and after a confrontation with Hester that resulted in Roger stabbing Hester, he was taken to jail. Roger was released 11 days later when Loy Harrison, a farmer and known Klansman, paid his \$600 bond and picked him up. Waiting in Harrison’s car were Roger’s wife Dorothy (who was 7 months pregnant), and the couples friends, George and Mae Murray Dorsey.

As the five traveled along rural Walton County roads, the farmer talked with the couples about their destination. “It’s hot for you in Walton County.”, the farmer said. “I’m gonna take you over to Oconee County to this friend of mine

who needs some sharecropping work done. That should keep you safe for awhile.”



Scene from previous lynching reenactment - photo from <http://www.southernspaces.org>

To learn more of this crime against our people, read Amanda Smith’s account of this infamous lynching . . .

Reenactment Brings To Life 1946 Massacre At Moore’s Ford Bridge

By Amanda Smith

“Man! I sure am glad to get outta that jail.”, said Roger Malcom, after spending nearly two

Believing that they were on their way to safety, the car approached the Moore’s Ford Bridge that marks the county line between Walton and Oconee Counties. Upon arrival at the bridge, the farmer slowed the car to a crawl. Puzzled, the two African American couples looked around. The car stopped completely when an unmasked white man ran in front of the car and banged the hood. “Get outta the car, Malcom!!!”, yelled the man. Dorothy was confused. “What’s goin’ on?” she kept repeating.

As if from nowhere, approximately two dozen white men (known KKK members) emerged from the surrounding woods, opened the car door and began dragging Roger from the back

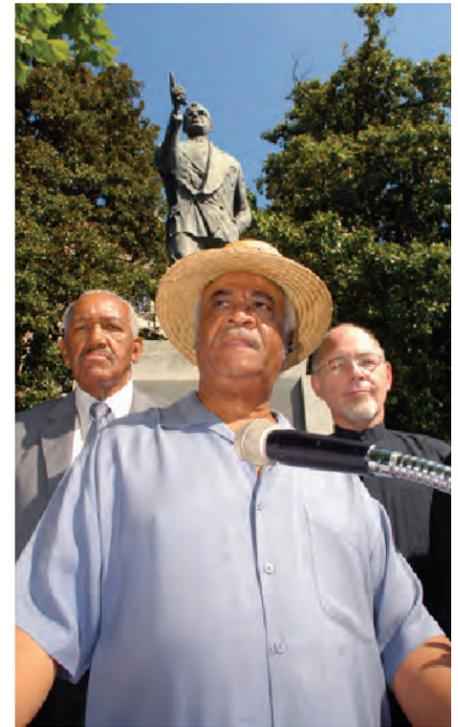
seat. The women began screaming, terrified for Roger’s safety. Mae looked around, eyes wide, and recognized several of the men. “I know you; I know who you are.”, she said. The hood banger suddenly yelled, “Get them n*gg*r bitches outta the car!!!” All four were pulled from the car and dragged into the woods.

“Tie them up.”, said the ringleader. A noose was forcefully placed over Roger’s head and a long rope was wrapped around the four frightened people. Huddled together, the four friends begged for their lives, tears flowing freely as fifteen unmasked white men circled the captives. Suddenly, shotguns and rifles went off as all four victims were gunned down, their pleas for mercy ignored. Seeing their victims lying together on the ground covered with blood wasn’t enough for the merciless killers. They weren’t done until they had cut Dorothy Malcom’s unborn baby from her stomach and tossed the infant down beside her mother.

Thus concluded the very vivid, graphic, and disturbing reenactment of the Moore’s Ford Bridge lynching, held at the site of the massacre on July 25, 2008. That day marked the 62nd anniversary of the lynching and the 4th anniversary of the reenactment as GABEO members and hundreds of others looked on, still horrified and still asking for justice for the killers.

The reenactment began at the First African Baptist Church in Monroe, where meditation and prayers for justice were held. At 2:00 p.m., a pre-reenactment rally was held, led by state representative and President of GABEO Tyrone Brooks and included speakers such as State Representative Randal Mangham, who asked that fear not stop those who know who the killers are from coming forward with information.

At 4:30 p.m., hundreds left the church and drove to Barney Hester’s farm, where the altercation that led to the five deaths occurred. The large group then went to the site of the



Tyrone Brooks, President of GABEO, attending a previous lynching reenactment

former Walton County jail and followed the unfolding scene as Roger was released and hugged by his wife and friends, and then all four victims were taken by car to their gruesome deaths.

Many shed tears as the murder reenactment showed the horror of the crime. Actors cried and hugged each other after it was over, as did many in the crowd of onlookers. Just after the massacre in 1946, the FBI was dispatched to Walton County and 55 suspects were questioned. Agents were met by a wall of silence, but it is believed that at least 5 of the killers are still alive and have remained in Monroe ever since.

Since the reenactments began four years ago, more pertinent information has been coming in, after decades of silence. Former Governor Roy Barnes had reopened the case about 8 years ago and the Justice Department renewed



Charles Robinson, Jr., President & CEO

PRESTIGIOUS HONORS AWARDED TO SADIE G. MAYS HEALTH AND REHABILITATION CENTER AND ITS CEO

possible through the National Quality Award program, presented by the American Health Care Association and National Center for Assisted Living (AHCA/NCAL). The program honors facilities across the nation that have demonstrated their commitment to the quality improvement journey. “Each one of the award recipients has proven its dedication to improving lives through quality care, and it is a privilege to honor them with this year’s award,” said Gov. Mark Parkinson, President and CEO of AHCA/NCAL. “We congratulate Sadie G Mays on this achievement.”

Additionally, Charles Robinson, Jr. is the recipient of the 2012 American College of

Health Care Administrators (ACHCA) Facility Leadership Award. Mr. Robinson is the President/CEO and Administrator of Sadie G. Mays Health & Rehabilitation Center in Atlanta, GA. The ACHCA believes that the excellence of a facility is a reflection of the excellence of its leadership. The award is based on three years of skilled nursing facility survey data. The ACHCA is the only professional association solely devoted to meeting the professional needs of today’s long-term care administrators and executives by providing professional education and certification to its diverse membership.

Celebrating its 65th anniversary, Sadie G.

Mays Health & Rehabilitation Center is a 206-bed, nonprofit, skilled nursing facility which is rated 5 Stars by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. It is also listed on the list of “Best Nursing Homes 2012” by U.S. News & World Report.



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MACEO'S KIDS

EMPOWERING TOMORROW'S CEO'S TODAY

Approximately 5 yrs ago Maceo Brown, President of System 5 Electronics founded an organization called MACEO's Kids. Although, Maceo is Mr. Brown's first name, the MACEO in MACEO's Kids stands for Mentoring Aspiring CEOs. This 501(c) (3) non-profit organization was created to bring intelligent, compassionate and dedicated members of the business community together in pursuit of providing youth with the opportunities and tools to grow as successful members of society. This mission is critical to the stabilization and growth of our communities.

The MACEO's Kids Foundation seeks to pair African American youth with mentors in an effort to foster an entrepreneurial spirit. Through the programs sponsored by this organization, young men and women learn the importance of economic empowerment, community development and enrichment; all of which are the foundational concepts that the kids will learn and utilize to start, maintain and grow their own businesses.

Mr. Brown believes that kids need to exceed the accomplishments of those who came before them to create a cycle of economic wealth and social growth that detaches them from the negative stigmatism and destructive cycles that have historically plagued our communities. As African Americans we must remember that together we stand.

The kids in MACEO's Kids are 6th, 7th and 8th grade students that are carefully selected by the organization for participation. Once selected, the kids will be taught to effectively understand basic business principles; and per-

form very basic business related skills that are fundamental to our societal functions. They



Maceo Brown with a group of participants in the MACEO's Kids program.

will learn practical business trade skill sets such as: electrical wiring; plumbing installation and repair; carpet installation; heating and air repair; and landscaping.

MACEO's kids are not just taught these trades for generalized use in the future, they are also taught basic corporate business management and personal business management skills as well, with the hope that they will be inspired to start their own businesses in the future.

Mr. Brown operates MACEO's Kids out of a new 30,000 square foot facility located on

Cambleton Road in Atlanta, Georgia – also the location of his System 5 Electronics business.

The building is still in the construction phase, but 1000 square-feet of the building has been specifically set aside for use as classrooms for MACEO's Kids.

In addition to the trade skills mentioned earlier, MACEO's Kids will also teach the kids in the program how to apply math and science skills to ever-day life situations. Mr. Brown has found that students perform much better in their math and science classes as a result of learning techniques such as those taught by MACEO's Kids because the techniques they use help them understand the manner in which



mathematic and scientific principles apply to real life scenarios. Mr. Brown says he believes, "That is where the schools are missing it. With this program students are motivated to learn because they get to experience firsthand what it takes to survive in the real world."

This coming Fall 2012, MACEO's Kids will be interviewing 25 boys and 25 girls for selection into the program. The program will provide them with very practical instruction on how to own and operate a landscaping company. Once the kids have been enrolled in the program, they will be required to remain and actively participate in the program for a total of 3 years in order to receive the full benefit. They will start an actual landscaping business and the kids will actually own 48% of the landscaping business. After 3 years, the kids will matriculate out with a business and a business skill set in hand and the program will begin again for a new set of kids.

Mr. Brown says that, "African Americans are no longer recognizing their true earning potential in the landscaping industry." He wants to open up that opportunity to our children for their future. He continues to look for other similar trade based opportunities to provide for the kids; and he says that, "We must get a handle on the small businesses in our communities, because missing out on business opportunities leads to a high level of incarcerations as an undesirable and unacceptable alternative."

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THE GEORGIA AFRICAN AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE MAKING A MEASURABLE DIFFERENCE

The Georgia African American Chamber of Commerce ("GAACC") is an affiliate of the National Black Chamber of Commerce, Inc., a trade organization made up of 190 affiliates representing more than 100,000 African-American owned businesses nationwide. Initially referred to as the Georgia Black Chamber of Commerce, the GAACC has been existence for over 16 years. It is a 501(c)(3) non-partisan organization with a mission that is dedicated to promoting and advancing public policy issues and programs that will serve to strengthen and enhance the economic climate in which Black businesses operate statewide. Ms. Anna Anderson is the current President of the GAACC.

GAACC is taking affirmative steps to bridge the gap between African American and other minority owned businesses; and national and international business opportunities. One of their primary objectives is to sponsor activities that will measurably add value to the quest for economic development in the African American community.

Ms. Anderson and the GAACC have taken affirmative steps to contact a number of governmental officials to seek assistance and information on behalf of African American owned businesses. They spoke with those governmental officials about the possibility of identifying business opportunities within their governmental agencies that could be

particularly beneficial to African American-owned businesses.

They contacted Eldrin Bell, Chairman of Clayton County Government, and requested that he provide them with detailed information on business opportunities within Clayton County and Clayton County Government. Chairman Bell provided them with helpful information on the procedural steps required to do business with Clayton County. He also provided contact information for the individuals within Clayton County responsible for facilitating that process.

On the international level, GAACC has also been in contact with the Prime Minister of the Republic of Botswana, located in Southern Africa, who has agreed to provide GAACC with information on the procedural process that must be followed in order to do business with Botswana. Ms. Anderson refers to the GAACC's activities in this regard as, "opening the door and making a difference".

GAACC and the National Black Chamber of Commerce Conference

The National Black Chamber of Commerce has chosen Atlanta, Georgia as the location for its 2012 National Conference. This is a MAJOR event and will be a tremendous benefit to all businesses and business owners in attendance. The Conference will be held July 19th,

20th and 21st at the Four Seasons Hotel. Not only will the Conference provide wonderful opportunities for networking and education, but there will also be tangible business opportunities available for attendees to explore.

Ms. Anderson says that a vital part of the success of any business community is the concept of "connectivity". Businesses must learn the importance of connecting with one another, not only in providing financial and resourceful support, but also in advocating for favorable change and a bigger piece of the proverbial pie.

In an effort to implement "connectivity" within its organizational and operational strategies, The National Black Chamber of Commerce is in the process of forming a National Transportation Committee, the subject of which will be a significant point of discussion at the National Conference. The Committee will be comprised of one individual from each state.

The members of the Committee will be charged with the task of traveling to Washington, D.C. to advocate for greater business opportunities for African American businesses. This project has been targeted by the NBCC as a priority project, because of the wide-growing concern that historically, minority-owned businesses have been awarded very few business opportunities by the government in the area of construction.



Anna Henderson

The Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History and Culture is expected to open on the National Mall located in Washington, D.C. in 2015. Groundbreaking and construction began in February of this year. According to Ms. Anderson, the project is a joint venture project with a bottom line value of approximately \$5 Million Dollars. The primary contractors for the project are Clark,

Smoot and Russell. Ms. Anderson strongly recommends that business owners and representatives attend the National Conference this year because information will be provided at the Conference that will enable them to become certified to do business on this major project.

Ms. Anderson says that businesses must be well-rounded in their service offerings; and as such they must educate themselves on how to do business with the federal government. In order to provide business owners with that information, Ms. Anderson has worked with the National Black Chamber of Commerce to ensure that the following individuals, all of whom are Barack Obama appointees, are in attendance at that National Conference: Cassius Butts, Regional Administrator for the Small Business Administration; Shyam Reddy, Regional Administrator for General Services Administration; Ed Jennings, Regional Administrator for Housing and Urban Development;

Gwen Keyes Fleming, former District Attorney for DeKalb County; and Anton J. Gunn, Director of Internal Affairs for Health and Human Services. Not only did Ms. Anderson work closely with the National Black Chamber of Commerce to assure these individuals would be in attendance at the Conference, but she will be facilitating the session of the conference wherein they will be featured.

GAACC and Neighborhood Stabilization

According to www.hud.gov, "The Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act of 2010 provided an additional \$1 billion for the Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP) that was originally established under the Housing and Economic Recovery Act of 2008. HUD will award grants to 270 states and selected local governments to mitigate the negative impact of the nation's economic decline and housing market collapse and to stabilize and revitalize communities/areas hit the hardest."

DeKalb County, Georgia has an initiative specifically targeted at informing the community about the NSP initiative. DeKalb County is receiving NSP Section 3 funding (as are many counties throughout the state of Georgia) and some of the money has been earmarked to bring additional business into DeKalb.

One such endeavor is where GAACC has partnered with DeKalb County Community Development organization and identified businesses in the Hidden Hills subdivision area located in Stone Mountain, DeKalb County, Georgia. The mission is to use the products and services provided by those businesses to stabilize the neighborhood in accordance with the stabilization plan. Specifically, they identify homes that have been foreclosed, and then they buy those homes, renovate them and sell them in an effort to increase the overall market value of homes in the geographical area.

Some of the new initiatives that the GAACC will be undertaking will focus on business

referral services, grant writing, business planning, bonding seminars and ongoing assistance to Black policy makers throughout the state in the areas of community research, planning and development. The GAACC will be publishing a bi-monthly newsletter in the near future which will feature members throughout the region and state and provide businesses with a list of current requests for funding proposals, invitations to bid, and potential contract opportunities for minority companies around the State. They will also soon be forming a micro-business incubator.



<http://www.gaachamber.org/>

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| 4 Corners Market | Church Of Christ Bouldercrest | GABEO | Midway Missionary | S & S Cafeteria |
| A & A Market | Clayton State University | G B's Barber Shop | Mini Mart Grocery Store | Star's Laundry |
| A New You Beauty Supply | Clean & Brite Laundry | God's Acre Missionary Baptist | Mission on The Move | St. James Missionary Baptist |
| A Taste Of The Islands | Cleveland Ave. Library | Golden Kitchen | Mt. Calvary Baptist | St. John Baptist |
| Adams Park Branch Library | Clover Cleaners | Gold Crust | Mt. Carmel Church | St. Mark AME |
| African American Book Store | Cloud Nine Store | Good Phellaz Barber Shop | Mt. Olive Church | St. Paul Lutheran |
| Abdullahs Restaurant | Clifton UMC | Gospel Of Faith Ministries | Mt. Zion Methodist | St. Phillip AME |
| Abundant Life Church | Club 665 barber Shop | Grace Community Fellowship | Mt. Zion Second Baptist | St. Mark Lutheran |
| Aicha Hair Braiding | Christ Our Hope | Greater Ephesus MBC | Muhammed's Mosque | Styles By Delores |
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| Alibaba Grill | Columbia Drive UMC | Greater Leavy MBC | NAACP | Sweet Auburn Festival 3 days |
| Allen Temple AME | Community Church Of God | Greater Mt. Zion Baptist | Nail Love | Tabernacle Of Faith |
| All Risk Insurance | Corrective Skin Care | Greater New Life Baptist | National Action Network | Tania's Gallery |
| All Stars Barber Shop | Covenant Ministries | Greenforest Community Baptist | New Beginning Full Gospel | Tes Laundry Mat |
| Ameri Bistro | Concerned Black Clergy | Green Sprout Vegan Restaurant | New Beginning Worship Center | The Aloe Man Health |
| American Deli (2) | Creel Road Park | Haby Hair braiding | New Covenant Metro | The Amazing Cakes Bakery |
| Ana's Dominican Salon | Crossroads Church | Hallelujah Church | New Covenant Missionary Baptist | The Beautiful Restaurant |
| Angie's Beauty Supply | Crusade Dominion | Han's Express | New Hope Seventh Day Adventist | The Bizaar |
| Anointed Word COGIC | Crystal Clear Emissions | Hapeville Branch Library | New Jerusalem Church | The Faith Church Of Believers |
| Antioch AME | Da Vido's Pizza | Happy Market | New Life & Faith Christian | The Grounds |
| APEX Museum | Dawg Country | Hair Express Dominican Salon | New Life AME Zion | The OG Nappy Cutz |
| Arden's Garden (4) | Decatur Seventh Day Adventist | Hair Prescription | New Life Community Center | The Original Jamaican Restaurant |
| Ariel Bowen | Deeper Life in Christ | Hair To Dye For | New Life Presbyterian Church | Tital Wave Car Wash |
| Atlanta's Best Wings | DeKalb Public Library | Harriet Darnell Multi Purpose | New Life Baptist Church | Total Esteem Barber Shop |
| Atlanta Family Church | Destinee Soul Food | Headland Heights UMC | New Life Tabernacle Cogie | Trancending Glory Ministries |
| ATL Fulton Public Library (5) | Dirty South BBQ | Heatherwood Baptist | New Piney Grove Church | Tranquil AME Anneewakee |
| Atlanta Detailer | DIVAS Thrift Store | Heaven Bound | New Unity Mission | True Light Baptist |
| A Nu-U Barber & Salon | Divine Deliverance | Hemlock Church | New Westside Baptist | True Word and Praise |
| B-Aware Foundation | Dodson Christian Church | High Praise Baptist | Old Land Mark Church | Trully Blessed Salon |
| Barbershop (The) | Dodd-Sterling UMC | Higher Hope Church | Omega Holiness Church | Tupac Amaru Shakur Foundation |
| Barlow's Restaurant | Dollar King | Hillside International Truth Ctr. | One on One Hair Salon | T & C Barber /Beauty Salon |
| Beauty & Beyond | DFACS Stone Wall Tell | Holy Temple Deliverance Church | Paradise Caribbean Cuisine | T-Shirt Spot |
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| Ben Hill Package Center | Druid Hills Church | Hope Of Glory Church | Peachtree Branch Library | Union City UMC |
| Ben Hill Recreation Ctr. | Earth Runnings Food Market | Housing Authority Fulton | Pinetree Park Baptist | Urban League |
| Ben Hill UMC | East Atlanta Branch Library | House Of Faith | Planet Smoothie | Unity In Faith |
| Bethel Baptist Church | East Point Library | Humsang Foods | Pleasant Grove MBC | Vibez Barber Shop |
| Beulah Baptist Church | East Point Mallalieu UMC | Ida's Kitchen | Pleasant Hill AME | Victory Baptist Church |
| Berean Church | Ebenezer Baptist | Ideal Biz Center | Pleasant Hill Baptist Church | Victory Cathedral Church of God in Christ |
| Best Cleaners | Ephesus Missionary Bap | IHOP (Greenbriar Mall) | Prestige Car Care Center | Victory Praise Cathedral |
| Besteda House of Faith | Elizabeth Baptist | International Christian Fellowship | Providence MBC | VIP Nails |
| Big A Food Mart | Emmanuel Lutheran Church | J.J. cleaners | Prince Hall | Vision Of Faith Church |
| Big G Grocery | Emmanuel Tabernacle | Jackson Memorial Bapt. Church | Publix (3) | V's Customs |
| Big Daddy's (3) | Emmaus Road MBC | J&M Beauty Supply | Ragarama | Wachovia |
| Big Bethel AME | Emiaca's Laundry | J.R. Crickets | Rainbow Park Baptist Church | Waffle & Chicken |
| Big Momma Rosa Grocery | Enon Church | Just Jerk Café | Ray Of Hope Christian Church | Wal' Mart Gas Station |
| Big Miller Grove Church | Enon Baptist Fellowship Church | Kaiser Health Center (Panola Rd.) | Resurrection House | Wang's (China) Restaurant |
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| Blessed Beauty Supply | Exotic Nails | Kirkwood Branch | Rick's Barber | Washington Food Mart |
| Bobby Hurd Ent. | First Baptist | Kroger (7) | Riverdale Christian | Washington Park Branch library |
| Bouldercrest Baptist | First Baptist Church of Red Oak | L & B Tax Service | Rose Nails | Wash & Spin |
| Burnadett Park | First Wesley Center | L.A. Nails | Royal Crown | Wayfield (2) |
| Bussey Florist | FACAA | Laundry Mat | Ruch Da Wings | Wheat Street Baptist |
| Butler Street CME | Factory Shoals Zion View | Laundro Max (2) | Salem Bible Church | Welcome All Park |
| Canaan Baptist | Fantastic Tires (3) | LavaDoria Laundry | Salem Bible Church on Baker St. | Wesley Chapel Library |
| Cascade Auto Service | Fairburn UMC | Leisure Locks | Salon National | Wesley Chapel UMC |
| Cascade Club | Fairview Public Library | Leonardo Hair | San Juan | West End Branch Library |
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| Capitol City Bank (2) | Fluff-n-Fold | Light of Life Church | Shop-N-Go Store | Will's Flowers |
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Stephanie D. Banks, Esq.

I have to begin by saying that I am very excited about being the new Assistant Editor of The Conductor Newspaper. My excitement is not simply because this gives me the opportunity to meet so many very interesting people; learn more about my community; and actively participate in a movement that is taking effective, affirmative steps towards the achievement of economic development and financial freedom for the African American community – although, those are certainly contributing factors. My excitement is most centered around something even more dear to my heart – my personal family history and background. More specifically, my excitement is due and my efforts in this new endeavor as Assistant Editor of the Conductor are dedicated to my father, Reverend L. Paul Banks, Sr.

You may be asking the question of why I feel it necessary to make this the subject of my first writing in this the new section of The Conductor called *The Editor's Station*. If so, then I consider that to be a valid question and my response is grounded in my father's story.

Reverend L. Paul Banks is a former member of The Alabama Christian Movement of Human Rights. In the early years of his career, he lived in Birmingham and worked as a Business Management Consultant. He also owned and operated a small bail bonding company where he and a number of his colleagues were responsible for meeting the bail bond requirements for, among others, members of the Birmingham community that had been arrested and jailed because of their involvement in The Civil Rights Movement. On weekends, Reverend Banks also hosted a local children's television show that broadcasted on Saturday mornings.

The combined efforts of the SCLC, started by Dr. Martin Luther King, and The Alabama

NEW!!! THE EDITOR'S STATION

Christian Movement of Human Rights worked to begin a movement that effectively utilized the methods of demonstrating, protesting and marching in the streets of Birmingham to combat the problems of racism in a more organized and direct, but still non-violent manner. Hundreds and hundreds of the citizens of the City of Birmingham marched tirelessly in the streets and parks of Birmingham in support of those efforts. Walking hand in hand, chanting for change and professing their Faith in God by singing old Negro Spirituals; they marched and marched until the soles of their shoes were worn.

Their organized demonstrations and sit-ins were powerful and effective. They provided the community with a voice that could no longer be ignored by their oppressors. The local law enforcement officials were forced to sit up and take notice of their efforts because their response, although non-violent, was from a position of offense as opposed to one of defense. Birmingham Police Chief, Bull Connor, spearheaded the efforts of using violence and harmful resistance to confront the non-violent efforts of those peaceful organizations.

Under Bull Connor's direction, the Birmingham Police hauled the demonstrators off to jail. They were battered and torn from beatings and the dog attacks. The Birmingham Police Department placed them under steep bail bond requirements and refused to release them if they did not or could not meet those requirements. Reverend Banks was one of the individuals who bonded the demonstrators out of jail over and over again.

Bomb threats were repeatedly lodged against Reverend Banks' home because he was instrumental in bonding the demonstrators out of jail. Additionally, one Saturday morning, as he was about to begin hosting the children's live television show, a phone call came into the television station. That phone call was yet another bomb threat. The caller stated that the television station would be bombed on that same Saturday morning and that all of the children and Rev. Banks would be killed if the show were allowed to broadcast.

Rev. Banks' only son was one of the children in attendance at the television studio for that broadcasting.

Despite the threats, Reverend Banks continued to walk in prayer and in faith doing what he

felt was right in the name of the Movement. He continued to post bond for the demonstrators and he continued hosting the children's television show on that day and on on a regular basis. Although God ensured that Reverend Banks, his son and his family were spared, the daughter of one of his close friends was killed in the bombing that occurred at the 16th Street Baptist Church.

In April, 1963, Dr. Martin Luther King was placed under arrest and jailed in the Birmingham City Jail. He remained there for 11 days. This time, it was Dr. King that was faced with the dilemma of meeting the bond requirements for his own release from jail. Reverend Banks worked tirelessly to secure Dr. King's release; and he was the individual that posted the bond amount necessary to bail Dr. King out of the Birmingham City Jail.

During the time he spent in the jail, Dr. King received word from one of his colleagues that



a number of clergymen in the city had strongly criticized and were vigorously opposed to his Civil Rights efforts. Disregarding the marked progress that Dr. King had been making in the movement, they referred to his efforts as unwise and untimely. Still confined in the Birmingham City Jail, Dr. King drafted and submitted a written reply to the clergymen. He didn't have any writing paper so he used newspaper and toilet paper to write the letter. That written reply is now commonly referred to as the "Letter from the Birmingham Jail". The letter detailed Dr. King's mission in Birmingham - "My work", as he called it.

After he posted bail for Dr. King, Reverend Banks walked along with Dr. King and the Reverend Ralph David Abernathy as they exited the Birmingham City Jail. The jailhouse door clicked closed with a loud sound as they exited. Dr. King, of course, had a number of things to say that day, but the most telling, in Rev. Banks' opinion, was the last statement he made to the jailers as he exited the jail. After all he had been through, Dr. King turned back towards the jailers, and in a moment of peace he looked them in the eye with dignity and graciously said, "Thank-you." Despite it all, he said, "Thank you." This peaceful response gave Reverend Banks additional courage to

continue in his quest despite the bomb threats and despite the brutality, to make a difference in the Civil Rights Movement.

Fast forward to 1979, after a number of years working as a Business Consultant to African American business owners, Reverend Banks started another business endeavor called General Services, Incorporated ("GSI"). GSI was the parent corporation of its only subsidiary called Banks Security. At that time, Reverend Banks was the only African American in the United States to own and operate an Armored Car/Security Guard Company. He started off with a fleet of only two (2) vehicles and a handful of guards and grew to a fleet of over 20 armored vehicles and as many as 200 employees located in Alabama and North Carolina.

Many attempts were lodged against Reverend Banks and his business to try to force him to close down this business that, by the way, was effectively competing with its majority owned competitors. Such attempts included bank officials from majority owned banks coming into his office (not knowing that Reverend Banks was African American) and immediately, before turning around and leaving the office, saying to him, "You expect us to trust you, a black man, with our money?" Brinks Security, a majority owned competitor in the Armored Car Business, having filed a lawsuit against Reverend Banks in a effort to thwart his business efforts because his company's name "Banks Security" was too similar to theirs. This case had to be appealed all the way to the Alabama Supreme Court before a ruling was made in Reverend Banks' favor to allow him to keep his business name. Despite the challenges and obstacles, GSI/Banks Security operated for over 29 years before Reverend Banks decided to close the operation and retire.

I share this venture with my father, Reverend L. Paul Banks, now almost 90 years of age. He is my inspiration. He is the "WHY" behind my excitement and enthusiasm about being a part of the OvergroundRR!® movement and serving as Assistant Editor of The Conductor Newspaper. It's now my turn to do my part to make a difference in our community.

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their investigation last year. But this investigation remained under wraps until recently. During the week prior to the reenactment, federal and state authorities excavated the backyard of a local house after receiving recent information about the slaughter, but will not disclose any findings at this time. Many hope that this recent investigation will bring about a close to a very dark chapter of Georgia's history.

There is a \$35,000 reward for information that leads to the arrest and prosecution of these merciless killers. If you have information about the lynchings, you can remain anonymous. Please Contact: The GBI at 404-244-2600 or the FBI at 404-679-9000. For More Information Contact: Rep. Tyrone Brooks, President, 404-656-6372 or 404-372-1894, or visit our Web site: www.gabeo.org.

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Email: info@hillsidechapel.org

Web Site: www.hillsidechapel.org

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Rev., Darrell D. Elligan

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47 Anderson Ave. N.W.
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Sunday Worship Service
11:00 a.m.

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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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Wednesday Prayer 6:30 PM
Wednesday Worship Service 7 PM

Phone: 404.241.1499
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Cascade

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Cascade Service Times

SUNDAY
Worship Services - 8:00 a.m., and 11:00 a.m.
Sanctuary
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Children's Church - 8:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.
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Service Times
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Service-10:30 am Service

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Monday Young Adult Bible Study 7:00 PM
Tuesday Noon Day Prayer - 12:00 PM
Wednesday Night Adult & Youth Bible Study - 7:00 PM

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Sun. Worship - 10:45 AM
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Matt: 11:28

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East Point, Georgia 30344
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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, adultery. Indeed David, God's chosen servant, committed adultery. (2 Samuel 11th and 12th chapters).
9. However, there is no movement afoot to stop the Church from preaching the Biblical teachings against adultery. A very large percentage of people who have committed adultery claim to be driven by biological urges which they cannot resist. This is similar to the claims of those who advocate homosexual marriages.
10. We have all fallen and come short of the glory of God. (Romans 3:23 - "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.") This includes heterosexuals as well as homosexuals. But it is not God or the Bible that must change. We must change.
11. The fundamental message of the Christian faith as stated by Jesus is "Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again." (John 3:7). And, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." (John 3:16).
12. As much as I love my homosexual relatives and friends, I cannot go against God and the Bible to endorse homosexual marriage. I respect their choice to not follow the Bible in their personal lives, just as I respect the right of persons to commit adultery.
13. But my respect for a person's right to make a private choice does not justify my endorsement of that which the Bible clearly states is wrong. It would be a violation of my conscience and my relationship with God, as well as an encouragement for others to do wrong, for which I would be responsible to my family, society in general and GOD.
14. Likewise I stand strongly opposed to any violence against those involved in homosexual behavior. Any act of violence against a person because of homosexual behavior is a sin in and of itself, as well as a crime which should and must be prosecuted.
15. It must be clearly understood that the Church must preach the gospel which includes the loving teaching to repent for all sin including homosexual behavior. (Matthew 28: 19-20 - "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen).

It is imperative that a clear statement of the position of Christians regarding this issue be put forth.

"For if the trumpet give an uncertain sound, who shall prepare himself to the battle?" (1 Corinthians 14:8).

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

This is not homophobia, which those who seek to silence dialogue quickly label anyone who disagrees with them. This is homolove.

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." (John 3:16).

THIS DECLARATION IS BY THE BIBLE BELIEVING CHRISTIANS ALLIANCE

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