

Volume 24, No.10

"And Ye Shall Know The Truth..."

June 19, 2013

## The Third Annual Fatherhood Walk



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## **Fatherless Fathers**

By Rev. Donald L. Perryman, D.Min.

The Truth Contributor



The genius of our black foremothers and forefathers was ... to equip black folk with cultural armor to beat back the demons of hopelessness, meaninglessness, and lovelessness. - Cornel

For Americans, the third Sunday in June falls well short in prestige and popularity to the second Sunday in May. Father's Day is a blue Sunday compared to its fairer, "better half' – Mother's Day. Although for one day per year, I get special perks, including having

my way on every single household decision, I don't really look forward to June's third Sunday.

Likewise, I am sure there are many others, both sons and daughters, whose relationship with their father may be "complicated," estranged or nonexistent for whatever reason, that do not look forward to Father's Day either. For me, the fact that I am a fatherless father often casts a melancholy shadow upon the celebration.

Tragedy, accompanied by poverty, makes it easy to shake your fist at God, curse the world or turn your back to what seems to be an unfair hand dealt from the bottom of life's stacked circumstances. Yet I'm always sure to celebrate Father's Day because being a father is a special gift.

We lament the fragmentation of the black family, the exponential rise in unwed childbearing, widespread child poverty and the pervasiveness of an epidemic of black on

black violence, which may be a consequence of failing to properly process our grief from the tragedy of high unemployment and mass incarceration among black men.

Pathological?

Certainly. But every crisis has one or more precipitating events. The symptoms are all there, especially among young black men. As a teenager, I experienced many of these same indications of the sudden unexpectedness of father-loss. Young people are angry, hostile and depressed. They seem to have deep-rooted feelings of abandonment that they don't understand, and are even uncomfortable at how people look at them.

They often withdraw and repeatedly shout things like "just leave me alone!" Black adolescents and young adults are also likely to displace their aggression on other people. Most notable among their symptoms is irrational thinking and actions, which more mature adults are wont to

exclaim, "That's just plain stupid!"

So, what about the "catastrophic state of black family life?"

First of all, the fact that a positive male presence in the home contributes to greater emotional stability, educational and economic achievement and success in reducing incarceration (among males in particular) is not debatable.

However, the truth is, "You can't eat love!" Men of all races equate masculinity, and in turn fatherhood, with the ability to "locate, obtain, maintain, and identify with employment in the public workforce," (Roy, 2004). Parenting statuses and the place in family life for black males directly correlates with their ability to obtain consistent, full-time work.

With black u n e m p l o y m e n t , particularly among young African-American men, at crisis levels, there is a dire need for both philanthropic and

public investment in worthy interventions that help poor and young workers find meaningful employment, increase their earnings and provide access to work support systems.

Secondly, although black children are more likely than others to have absent or "nonresident" biological fathers, they are also likely to have men in their lives "who play the role of father to the biological children of other men."

But we seldom talk about these important father figures who perform this needed and socially recognized paternal behavior toward children. These men often contribute invaluable economic support, mentoring, nurturing and the male influence that, not only breaks the hold of the contemporary anti-social culture which glorifies violence, sex and drugs, but also supplies young black boys and girls with a healthy image of black masculinity.

So while the community laments lost biological fathers and the disappearance of married fathers in two parent households, let us not forget to honor those social fathers: grandfathers and uncles; pastors and neighborhood mentors.

We celebrate single custodial fathers and "play" fathers. We extol fathers who rear children in violent neighborhoods and those who parent in safe neighborhoods. We trumpet foster daddies and daddies on parole, probation or reentering society after being incarcerated.

Tragedy or loss, from whatever source, is painful. But we commemorate those whose presence provides "beauty for ashes to the grieving, the oil of joy for mourning and the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness."

Contact Rev. Donald Perryman, D.Min, at drdlperryman@ centerofhopebaptist.org

## **Community Calendar**

June 21

St. Paul MBC "Faith Friday:" 7 pm; Guest speaker Min. Colin Adams from World Over-comer Christ Church of Durham, NC: 419-246-2886

June 21-22

Toledo Area Ministries Couples Retreat: A "Keeping It Together" program; Fri – 6-9 pm; Sat – 9 to noon; FRE including dinner, breakfast, child care and transportation; RSV by Mon June 17; topics – communication, conflict management, blended families and keeping the F.I.R.E: 419-242-7401 ext 150

June 23

United Church of God Senior Saints Day: 11 am service 419-729-3819

New Prospect Baptist Church 48th Anniversary: 4 pm; Guest speaker Rev. Taylor of Beulah Baptist

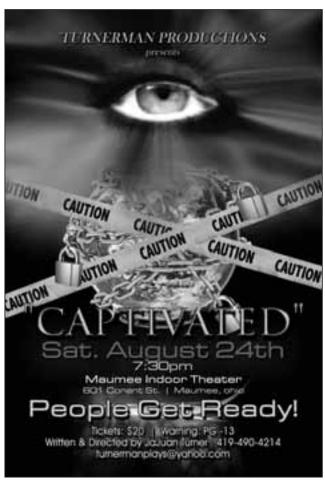
United Church of God Women's Breakfast: 9 am: 419-729-3819

Movement Church "Hidden Treasures:" An outreach for young women; 2 to 4 pm

St. Paul MBC Annual Youth Day: 10:45 am service; Guest speaker Min. Colin Adams of World Over-comer Christ Church of Durham, NC: 419-246-2886

June 30

United Church of God Annual Youth Day: 11 am service: 419-729-3819



## **Dear Secretary Husted,**

Dear Secretary Husted,

On February 13th, the Ohio Legislative Black Caucus presented its action plan at the Statehouse, and comprehensive voting rights were a key component of the plan. As President of the Ohio Legislative Black Caucus and State Representative of the 33rd District in Hamilton County,

I am extremely disappointed with your May 31st vote to investigate 39 lawful voters in Hamilton County. Ohioans expect leadership from their statewide elected

officials, especially from one tasked with overseeing the fundamental American right to vote.

Ohioans have had to fight

to have their provisional ballots counted and have faced voter suppression tactics, including limited early voting hours and voter intimidation billboards that were strategically placed in African American neighborhoods. Many in our country have fought for, and in some cases even died for, the right to vote. Yet, it is unfortunate that during the past few years, the focus has been on voter suppression instead of voter access and education. Many of these voters come from African American and low income neighborhoods, and they would benefit from comprehensive voter education program.

Your vote to investigate these voters that clearly followed Ohio revised code chapter 3509.09 should have been nonpartisan, but it clearly was not.

Make no mistake, the ballots that these 39 Hamilton County residents casted are indeed lawful. You should know, perhaps better than local election officials, that Ohio Revised Code chapter 3509.09 section (B) (2) clearly defines the precise situation with which the Hamilton County Board of Elections was faced. It states:

"If a registered elector appears to vote in that precinct and that elector has requested an absent voter's ballot for that election and the director has received a sealed identification envelope purporting to contain that elector's voted

absent voter's ballots for that election, the elector shall be permitted to cast a provisional ballot under section 3505.181 of the Revised Code in that precinct on the day of that election."

I implore you to do the right thing for Ohio voters and use your power to stop these absurd investigations of voters who obviously cast ballots in compliance with Ohio law.

I would like to meet with you to resolve this matter quickly.

Sincerely,

Alicia Reece

Ohio Legislative Black Caucus President State Representative

State Representative, Ohio's 33rd House District

### NAACP to Host 104th Annual National Convention in Orlando July 13-17 Convention to Reflect on 50 Years of Civil Rights History and Highlight the Current Struggles for Voting Rights, Criminal Justice Reform, and Education Equality & More

Special to The Truth

The NAACP announced it will be hosting its 104th Annual Convention in Orlando, Florida from July 13 – 17. This year's convention theme is "We Shall Not Be Moved" and will focus on the modern day attempts to roll back the progress of the civil rights era and our efforts to combat them.

"We are excited to hold this year's convention in Orlando," stated NAACP Chairman Roslyn M. Brock. "We have so much to celebrate, and so much work to prepare for. Last year the NAACP broke our own records for voter registration and mobilization ahead of the 2012 election. This year we will continue to build on our strength hundreds of thousands of individuals connected by family, neighborhood, community and principle. Our grassroots work across the nation will create a national movement for justice. In Orlando, we will reconnect, rejuvenate and revive our excitement for the work ahead."

This convention occurs in a year of critical civil rights including anniversaries, the 50th Anniversary of the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom, 50th the Anniversary the assassination of Medgar Evers, and 150th Anniversary Emancipation ofthe Proclamation. Τt occurs on the heels of three Supreme Court decisions impacting civil rights and during the trial of Trayvon Martin's killer.

"The civil rights anniversaries this past year remind us how far we have come, and how far we still have to go. As we honored the contributions of heroes like Medgar Evers, W.E.B. Bu Bois and Bayard Rustin. we also fought the new Jim Crow of mass incarceration and the old Jim Crow of voter suppression. We broke records for voter diversity, but faced new attacks on equal access to education, health care and economic opportunity.

This convention is a chance for NAACP activists to celebrate our victories and prepare for the year ahead. We have never been content to just memorialize past icons; we need to be the heroes of our present and future."

This year's convention speakers include actors, established and emerging civil rights leaders, elected officials, and faith-based leaders.

"The NAACP is still the most influential and relevant voice in the fight for social justice," stated NAACP Vice Chairman Leon Russell. "Even after a banner year for the NAACP still face several challenges and we must continue to set the tone for a greater nation and push for civic engagement. We thank the Orlando Branch, Florida State conference, and Visit Orlando for graciously hosting our 104th Annual Convention. Our mission is to define the civil rights agenda for this century, just as we have done since our founding."

"While the future of voting rights and equal access to education hang in the balance, our national and state conferences must hold strong" said NAACP Florida State Conference President Adora Obi Nweze. "This year's convention is essential as we map out strategies to continue to fight attacks on our civil rights. We will join with others across the country to protect rights most sacred in our democracy. As one nation, we shall not be moved."

"We in the Orange County Branch NAACP are pleased to welcome and privileged to host the 104th NAACP National Convention," Kran Riley, NAACP Orange County Branch President. "As we continue the fight for equality and social justice for all Americans, our Branch and Orlando-Orange County community extend every hospitality and want to help assure your convention experience is positive and meaningful. As our Branch membership, local governments, businesses, volunteers, and supporters continue to partner with us in the advocacy we bid you successful, productive, and celebratory meeting. And please enjoy your stay with us."

# Rep. Ashford Supports Bill to Establish Rape Crisis Center Funding

## Proposal includes \$2 million over next two years, trust fund and victim advocates

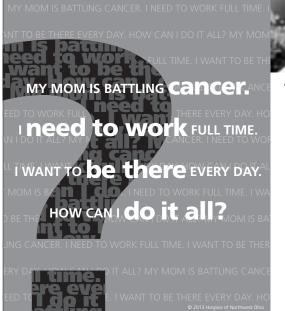
Special to The Truth

The Ohio House unanimously approved Substitute House Bill 108 last week, legislation to provide first-time funding to some 27 rape crisis programs throughout the state by appropriating \$2 million from the General Revenue Fund. HB 108 also establishes a Rape Crisis Program Trust Fund administered by the Attorney General and funded through registration fees of sex offenders, new fines for sexually oriented offenses and donations.

"This legislation is past due," said Rep. Michael Ashford. "Although I would have liked to see more funding dedicated to these meaningful programs and services for victims of sexual assault, I think this is a step in the right direction. I am hopeful that this won't be the last you hear from the Ohio House on adequate funding for rape crisis programs."

The State Victims Assistance Advisory Council, which provides recommendations and advocacy for victim services and polices, would gain two new members under HB 108.

If the bill becomes law, Ohio would be more in line with neighboring states that provide dedicated state funding for similar rape crisis programs and services. Currently, Ohio's network of rape crisis programs provides coverage to 37 counties and receives no state funding.



"I could never have done it on my own without Hospice of Northwest Ohio."

"I wasn't familiar with watching somebody you love pass away.

I felt a weight had been lifted off my shoulders when Hospice of
Northwest Ohio got involved because I had no idea what I was
doing, and they explained everything to me."

- April, daughter of a Hospice of Northwest Ohio patient

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## Fleetwood Takes over the Helm of Local 500

By Fletcher Word

Sojourner's Truth Editor

"We need a full-time business manager; the members are saying we need someone out there," said David Fleetwood at the end of March when he decided to challenge Local 500 of the Laborers' International Union Business Manager Phil Copeland for the leadership of the union.

On June 9, union members got what they had been clamoring for, a full-time leader in Fleetwood who took over the top post in an election that brought him a victory over the now former business manager, Copeland. Fleetwood received 132 votes to Copeland's 94. A total of 315 of Local 500's 978 members voted.

The victory was sweet vindication for Fleetwood, who, when he earlier informed Copeland of his intention to challenge him in the next election, was promptly fired from his field agent/vice president's post.

Copeland, who was elected Lucas County Recorder in November, had announced in December that he would be relinquishing his business manager post, but later changed his mind. Until his election loss this

month, Copeland was being paid \$126,127 as Local 500's business manager and \$71,286 as County Recorder.

Fleetwood and his allies within the union felt that they weren't getting their money's worth.

On March 30, Fleetwood relates, he had an evening's conversation with Copeland, who had been asking him for several weeks, if he intended to run against him.

"I said I want to run for business manager," Fleetwood told his boss. "I can take us in another direction. We are leaking money and it's my turn to step up."

Copeland's reaction was unanticipated.

"I thought he would ask, 'what the problem is and



can we work it out?" said Fleetwood. "But at the end of the conversation, he said 'you know, I'm gonna need your keys and your car."

A subsequent union meeting showed widespread disgruntlement amongst the membership over the perception of Copeland's split loyalties in balancing two posts. Copeland himself was unapologetic about how he handled the impending challenge from one of his underlings.

"I'm not going to pay a guy for running against me," he told the members in attendance.

"I was terminated because I exercised my democratic right to run for office," said Fleetwood when he later explained exactly why he was running.

"We pay our business manager a full-time salary," he said. "We need a fulltime rep all day long. We need someone on call ready to serve his members."



"I laid him off because of trust and loyalty," said Copeland some weeks after the incident. "I election. "I felt that he should have let him keep his position. [Fleetwood] did his job, he was up front; he beginning of our season. Phil Copeland fired the most experienced agent we have, leaving only one agent to oversee. Without enough agents in the field, contractors get to do whatever they want.

"We are tired and sick of it and we are going to come out and have our voices heard at election time," continued Washington.

One of Fleetwood's first decisions immediately after election was, in fact, to try to increase the number of field agents in the six county area (Lucas, Wood, Fulton, Henry, Defiance and Williams) managed by Local 500 from two (officially) to four to better provide the oversight mentioned by Washington.

"It's going to be members first," said the new business manager.

Fleetwood has been elected to serve a three-year term of office.

## "We need a full-time rep all day long. We need someone on call ready to serve his members."



couldn't keep a guy around campaigning against me. I asked him three times if he was planning on running, each time he said no. Finally when it got close to April, he told me the truth. He didn't have the decency enough to let me know before that.

The decision to fire Fleetwood was clearly not well received by the membership as the June 9 election indicated.

"I thought it was very poor in character on Copeland's part," said long-time Local 500 member Kathy Jackson several weeks before the livelihood away from him. Fleetwood was the best [field] agent we had; he was fighting for the people – a very knowledgeable, very fair person."

Another long-time

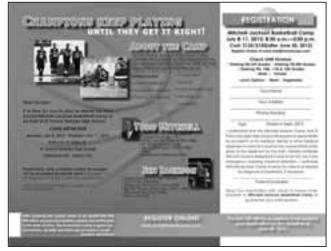
didn't do anything behind

Phil's back. Phil took his

member, Carlos Washington, echoed Jackson's concerns about the way the dismissal was handled.

"It was handled very

"It was handled very poorly for several reasons," said Washington. "First, and speaking on behalf of the 978 members, this is a seasonal job and this is the



# 100 Black Men of America Focus on Health and Wellness Issues and Solutions at 27th Annual Conference

Special to The Truth

The 100 Black Men of America (100 BMOA) focused on the awareness and solutions for a number of health and wellness issues impacting African Americans at its 27th Annual Conference held June 5-9, 2013 in New Orleans. Under the theme: Optimizing Health & Wellness: Body, Mind and Spirit, over 2,100 attendees, including many youth, heard experts on panels and in workshops, learned about new mentoring and education techniques, and recognized best practices to improve health personally and in their communities.

"Health and wellness is crucial to the youth we serve through our 'Mentoring the 100 Way Across a Lifetime'. Our efforts, that also include education and economic empowerment, are not nearly as effective if the youth we mentor are not healthy and well," said Curley M. Dossman, Jr., chairman of 100 Black Men of America, Inc. "So we are intensifying our efforts to raise the consciousness of the state of health in the African American community, and enhancing our programs' impact in this area."

The health state of African Americans was put in the spotlight since there is greater incidence of prostate cancer, diabetes, hypertension, and HIV/AIDS for them versus the general population. Further, African Americans are more likely to die from heart disease, lung cancer, and stroke than Caucasians. Obesity and high blood pressure are also significant issues that are affecting black youth.

In his conference keynote address, Dr. John E. Maupin, Jr., president of Morehouse School of Medicine, challenged the audience to help change the health and wellness culture of the African-American community saying, "We are out of balance, out of order, and almost out of time."

In response to the growing risks for prostate cancer – the incidence rate is 60 percent higher for African Americans and the death rate is 2  $\frac{1}{2}$  times that of Caucasian men – the 100 BMOA reaffirmed its 2012 Prostate Cancer Statement that the current standard medical guidelines for prostate cancer screening are insufficient for African-American males, putting them at greater risk.

As stated by Dr. Adewale Troutman, Health & Wellness Committee chairman of 100 Black Men of America, Inc. and president of the American Public Health Association (APHA), "The problem before us today is there are no definitive guidelines for African-American men at highest risk of prostate cancer. Therefore, 100 BMOA stands by our 2012 statement and urges the AUA (American Urological Association), the National Comprehensive Cancer Network, and other appropriate organizations to convene a panel for the specific purpose of developing guidelines applicable to high risk men."

The 2013 Education Issues Summit was titled, "Reclaiming Our Black Males and Public Schools through Advocacy, Public Policy, and Community Engagement." Chairman Dossman moderated a panel which consisted of: David Johns, White House Initiative on Education Excellence for African Americans; J. Delano Ford, Louisiana Recovery School District; Dr. Amy T. Wilkins, The College Board; John Jenkins, University of Houston; Dr. Bryant Marks, Morehouse College; Ken Campbell, BAEO; and Henry Hipps, The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. In addressing a condition that results in only 50 percent of black males graduating from high school, the panel offered solutions for both our communities and school systems.

100 BMOA conducted its traditional Community Empowerment Project (CEP) by providing a health and wellness fair for Central New Orleans residents in partnership with the 100 Black Men of Metro New Orleans. The CEP was held at the Ashe' Cultural Arts Center. More than 1,200 residents received health education that included: disease prevention strategies, diet and exercise, disaster preparedness, spiritual health, financial health, and affordable health care access. In addition, health screenings for HIV/AIDS, prostate cancer, breast cancer, dental issues, and stroke were conducted, as were body mass index and blood pressure checks. Exhibits and demonstrations on health-promoting subjects, such as how to cook nutritious meals, were also given in a festive atmosphere of healthy food, fun, and games that engaged the entire family.

At this year's conference, 100 BMOA announced the following partnership investments: Wells Fargo \$400,000 (Impact Expansion in Mentoring & Education), UPS \$125,000 (Leadership Development & Scholarships), Anheuser-Busch \$175,000 (Mentoring & Water Conservation), Aetna \$50,000 (Health Power 2013 / Youth Movement), and General Motors \$35,000 (Impact Expansion for Mentoring & Education).

"These partners reflect our collaboration with likeminded organizations and individuals who share our common cause of mentoring youth in at-risk situations," Chairman Dossman said. "As part of our "100 as One" platform, we are deepening our One Cause and broadening our One Network. These partners are part of that network which extends internationally through our 110 chapters."

## **African Art Has Arrived!!**

Hundreds of wood carvings from Ghana have recently arrived at The Truth Gallery – masks, statues, village scenes!

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"Homegoings," an Inspiring Portrait of a Legendary Harlem Undertaker And African-American Funeral Traditions, Premieres Monday, June 24, 2013 on WGTE

## Isaiah Owens Always Knew He Had a Calling: To Send the Dearly Departed "Home"—

Special to The Truth

"When it comes to death and funerals, African-American people, we have our own way," Isaiah Owens states in the new documentary Homegoings. "It has worked for us throughout the ages; it has kept us balanced, sane. And everybody know[s] that it's going to be a sad, good time."

A thumbnail biographical sketch of Owens might sound a little odd: A South Carolina boy obsessed with funerals grows up to be a renowned funeral director in New York City's historic Harlem neighborhood. The bigger picture, as captured in Homegoings, shows an exceptionally warm-hearted. philosophical man who pursues his business with equal care for the living and for the dead. He combines instinctive sympathy for those who grieve with a deep knowledge of African-American funeral customs that aim to turn sorrow into an affirmation of faith that loved ones are going

Christine Turner's debut feature documentary, Homegoings has its national broadcast premiere on Monday, June 24, 2013, at 10:00 p.m. on PBS stations



nationwide, including WGTE Public Television in Toledo, kicking off the 26th season of the awardwinning PBS series POV (Point of View). American television's longestrunning independent documentary series, POV was recently honored with a 25-year retrospective at The Museum of Modern Art's 2013 Documentary (where Fortnight Homegoings had its world premiere) and a MacArthur Award for Creative and Effective Institutions.

Isaiah Owens is the quintessential self-

made man. The son of a sharecropper, he grew up among people who made their living picking cotton. When a loved one died, he says, relatives "would sign a promissory note that when the cotton is ready this year, that they would come back and pay. The black funeral director wound up being a friend, somebody in the community that was stable, appeared to have means."

But neither Owens nor his mother, Willie Mae, who today works as a receptionist at his other funeral parlor in Branchville, S.C., can completely account for the

Owens' fascination with burials, even as a boy. When Owens was five, he buried a matchstick and put flowers on top of the soil. After that he progressed to burying "frogs . . . chickens; I buried the mule that died. I buried the neighbor's dog, and the dog's name was Snowball." Willie Mae says with a smile, "Anything that he find dead, he buried. Can't even think where he got it from. . . . But that was his calling.

In 1968, this calling took 17-vear-old Owens to New York City, where he learned his craft. A few years later. he opened what would become one of Harlem's most popular funeral homes, with a largely Baptist clientele. Today, Owens' wife, Lillie, works with him, but Owens remains the most constant presence. When he is dressing and beautifying the dead, he shows a dedication to craft and attention to detail that exemplifies Owens Funeral Home's motto: "Where Beauty Softens Your Grief.'

Homegoings introduces some of Owens' customers, who express a mix of grief, humor and celebration. Linda "Redd" Williams-Miller, for instance, jovially plans her own funeral down to the last detail, including the exact shade of her namesake color to be used for her nails and hair. The children of Queen Petra are unsure how to honor their mother's multicultural legacy, until Owens suggests there's no reason they can't have a parade, led by a white horse and carriage, down the very block where their mother was a street vendor.

Williams-Miller describes the African-American funeral this way: "Homegoing. A happy occasion. . . . going home to be at peace. . . . You're going home to meet the ones that went on before you and they're there waiting for you." Throughout Homegoings, Owens relates the culture and history of death and mourning in the black community, harkening back to slavery and segregation.

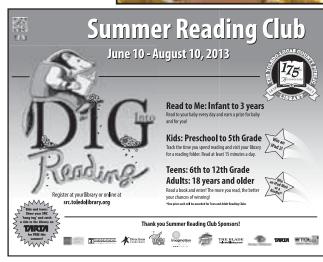
Homegoings is a coproduction of Peralta Pictures, ITVS and POV's Diverse Voices Project, with funding provided by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. It is a co-presentation with the National Black Programming Consortium.

#### About the Filmmaker: Christine Turner, Director/Producer

Christine Turner is an independent filmmaker based in New York. As a researcher and producer, she has contributed to numerous documentaries for PBS. HBO and OWN, working with Bill Moyers, Lisa Ling, Stanley Nelson and others. Her short fiction films have screened at the Tribeca Film Festival, San Francisco International Film Festival and on PBS. She was born and raised in San Francisco and received a bachelor of fine arts degree in film and television from the Tisch School of the Arts, part of New York University, in New York.







## Start Your Own Home Business After 50 by Robert W. Bly

c.2013, Quill Driver Books \$18.95 Canada 204 pages \$16.95 /

Start Your Own

Home Business

AFTER 50

How to survive, theive, and earn the income you deserve!

Robert W. Bly

By Terri Schlichenmeyer The Truth Contributor

Retirement is too far away.

You can see it from your work desk. It's tantalizingly close, filled with sun and sand, golf and travel, but it's oh-so-unreachable. Yes, you have a job you're happy to have. No, you don't want it forever.

So how would you feel being your own boss? Making good money, doing something you love, having flexibility to travel, learning new things? If you think you're too old for that, you're not — and Start Your Own Home Business After 50 by Robert W. Bly explains why.

One of these days, you'd love to be able to throw the alarm clock away and forget work. You hope to retire sooner, rather than later - which means, of course, that money (and lack thereof) is a definite concern.

And you're not alone.

Robert Bly says that the number of workers age 55 and older is projected to grow by nearly 50 percent in the next three years. Stretching retirement dollars has never been more important - which is where this book comes in.

The first step, Bly says, is to decide which of your former jobs you enjoyed and were good at. If nothing in particular sticks out, what hobbies would you like to develop into "an expert-level gig"? Can you freelance, or do consulting? Would a former employer make a good client? Use your experience (an advantage you've got over younger workers) to winnow through the possibilities.

Next, decide if the business is for you. Do your strengths mesh with what's needed to run things properly? Do you have stick-to-itiveness enough to stay focused and work solo? Are you prepared to do your billing, tech support, and other necessary tasks, or would you hire someone to do them? Can you market yourself and promote your new business? Do you need financing (the availability of which is another advantage)?

Once you've figured out the details, then it's time for launch, but Bly says there's one thing to remember first: "Make yourself happy. When you do," he says, "those who care about you will eventually be happy for you."

Someday, you'll retire and you'll get to do the things you love. So why not make money doing them, with the help of Start Your Own Home Business After 50.

Beginning with a handful of home business opportunity ideas, author Robert W. Bly offers plenty of sound advice here, including food for thought to determine if the endeavor is viable. His words are encouraging, but cautious, and he doesn't forget to warn his readers of the pitfalls in becoming an entrepreneur. That kind of balance is great to see, particularly if you're on the fence about business-ownership or are just starting to think about self-employment.



There's a little bit of annoying repetition in this book but, overall, it's a valuable tool for anyone who needs to plan for the future or just wants a good change of pace.

If that's you, then Start Your Own Home Business After 50 is a book you won't want too far away.

## Tips for Small Business Owners to Face Today's New Challenges

Special to The Truth

These days, it can be an uphill battle for small business owners. Even with all the makings of success -- a great product or service, the right location, good equipment and a loyal staff -- gaining customers in today's world spells new technical challenges and new costs.

#### Get Online

Small businesses always have and always will be tasked with gaining recognition and standing out from the competition. But with everyone's eyes forever on their gadgets and smartphones, a simple billboard won't cut it anymore.

American small business owners are showing up on the Internet in droves to market themselves, according to a recent report from online business community Manta. Because the competition is already there, building a website and participating in social media via Facebook, Twitter, Pinterest and other social media tools is crucial. But an Internet presence is just the first step.

#### Maximize the Effort

From creating web text and social media activity to the development of interactive graphics, audio and video, turning your website visitors into true customers and sales requires expertise. Whether you are hirring a qualified tech specialist to work for you full-time or outsourcing your efforts to an agency or freelancer, maximizing your online presence is an expenditure for which you may not have accounted for when you first drew up your business plan.

(Continued on Page 11)



## Taking Your Leadership Skills to the Next Level

By Tiffany Reynolds



Let me start by sharing with you this wonderful quote: "Leadership is influence - nothing more nothing less."

#### This is John Maxwell's definition of leadership.

As a certified trainer, speaker and coach with the John Maxwell Team my role is to assist you in taking your leadership skills to the next level.

I have a question for you. What do you really want out of life? I know you want a job. And, I know you want to be financially secure. And, I know you might have a job/career already but still not completely satisfied with your life.

Here's my challenge for you, have you created a visual story board? A visual story board depicts all the things you

want to accomplish. Here's an example, do you want to go back to school, obtain a job in accounting?

Grab an old magazine, flip through the pages and cut out a picture of someone graduating with a cap and gown. Also, find a picture of an accountant. Paste these images to your story board and include your photo and the date you plan to obtain your degree and your job as well.

Don't stop there. Whatever it is you want to accomplish place it on the board. Once the board is complete post it in a location and reference it every day to have a clear visual in your mind. This practice helps you remain focus on things you wish to accomplish.

Be a leader! Write the vision and make it plain. Get started today.

I would also like to personally invite you to join me on a F.R.E.E. Mastermind Group study on June 25 and June 27.

Have a fantastic rest of the week!

With Love

Tiffany Reynolds

Success Coach and Published Author

Independent Certified Coach, Speaker & Trainer with the John Maxwell Team

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# Will You Be Able to Afford a Comfortable Retirement?

Special to The Truth

If you're like many Americans, you have concerns about funding your retirement. According to a recent survey conducted by Ally Bank, retirement planning tops Americans' financial anxieties.

Rather than take a head-in-the-sand approach to your future, be proactive. Wise investments can offer advantages like tax-free, aggressive growth. And experts say the best time to get started is now, as the IRS announced in October 2012 that the limit on contributions to Traditional and Roth IRAs would rise for the first time since 2008, from \$5,000 to \$5,500.

"The increased contribution limit for 2013 makes now a prime opportunity for people of all ages to contribute meaningfully to their retirement savings," advises Diane Morais, Ally Bank Product & Innovation executive.

Looking to boost your retirement readiness securely? Here are some important things to consider:

- The most common IRA plans are Traditional, Roth and Simplified Employee Pension IRAs. Depending on age and taxable income, you could have more than one IRA plan to choose from to help you meet your goals.
- Once you choose an IRA plan, you can typically select from a variety of products, from lower risk savings accounts and certificates of deposit (CD) to higher risk stocks, bonds and mutual funds.
- For secure growth, consider CDs and online savings accounts. Such products are less risky than stocks. Or roll over existing IRAs, 401(k) or 403(b)s into one IRA with great, stable rates.
- Look beyond branch banks. For example, a bank with no physical locations, such as Ally Bank, can offer competitive rates, low fees, and round-the-clock customer support.
- Be advised, there are restrictions as to how you can add money to IRAs based on age and when you can use the money you've saved. Your tax professional can help you determine the best plan for your needs. Above all, look for straightforward retirement products that will help you get closer to your retirement savings goals.
- Don't be afraid to move around your retirement money to make the most of it. A direct roll over is fairly easy and avoids the tax withholding and associated reporting requirements of a personal withdrawal transaction.
- You can convert your Traditional IRA to a Roth IRA. Beginning in 2010, eligibility requirements based on income and marital status have been eliminated.

More information about retirement savings plans can be found at http://www.ally.com/bank/ira/.

Every day you wait is another day your retirement money isn't actively growing. Whether you're just getting started or building on your current savings, there's no time like the present to make a contribution to your retirement account.



#### **Social Security Column**

## Off to the Park? So Is Social Security!

Social Security Manager in Toledo, Oh

Now, in the heart of summertime, is time to think about spending some fun time with family and friends. So it is fitting that July is both National Vacation Month and National Park and Recreation Month, Going on vacation - whether to visit some of the nation's great national and state parks or traveling to other fun destinations - doesn't mean you need to disconnect completely. In fact, our new mobile website makes it easy for you to get the Social

Security information you need when you're on the go. As long as you have an Internet connection, you're connected to Social Security.

You might not take your laptop with you to a national park, but you'll probably have your phone. You may be wondering: just how much Social Security business can I do on a smartphone? You may be surprised. We recently released Social Security Mobile to allow for a smoother and more enjoyable online experience access www.socialsecurity. gov using a smartphone. Most people who want to access Social Security by smartphone are interested in getting the information they need quickly and efficiently. To accommodate this "grab it on the go" frame of mind, we've designed a mobile site that is as easy on the eye as it is to navigate.

Social Security Mobile features 10 items of interest, easily accessible by touching the tiles on your smartphone's

for people who want to screen. These items include popular topics from our standard website, such as frequently asked questions, Social Security card and number, and publications. For example, you can either read or listen to our entire library of publications on your smartphone. The quick summaries will make it easy to make sure you access the publication you want. As you relax beneath a tree, you may want to use the mobile site's "decision tree" to help identify documents you need

for a new or replacement smartphone and you will Social Security card.

Will everything on our website be included in the mobile website? No. Instead, our mobile site is designed to bring you the content you're most likely to want on the go. Keep in mind that this is not an app you have to download. The website is conveniently designed to run on your smartphone's browser. You don't have to download anything from an app store; just visit www. socialsecurity.gov on your

automatically visit mobile website. And if you decide you need to browse the full website, you can do that easily. Remember, Social Security is happy to help you even when you're enjoying a day at the park. We are always working for you, even when you are relaxing. Visit our mobile website at www.socialsecurity.gov from your smartphone today.

## Tips to Plan a Family Vacation Close to Home

Special to The Truth

Families are always looking for their next great vacation. And recent studies show that more than three out of four dads wish their family could take more vacations together.

The cost of travel needn't dissuade your family from hitting the road to explore someplace new. There are many affordable options close to home, and ways to make your journey meet your budget.

Many families are opting to take shorter trips to save on expenses.

Forty-three percent of dads want to spend less than \$300 per day on travel, accommodations and entertainment while on a vacation, according to a new Research Now survey commissioned by Great Wolf Lodge.

And 55 percent of dads prefer traveling by car, with 45 percent wanting to travel a distance that is 2-5 hours away, according to the

"When looking for our next affordable summer travel destination, I like to begin with places that are within driving distance," said Dave Parfitt, founder of AdventuresbyDaddy.com, a nationally known family travel website. "It is often easy to forget how many great destinations, like Great Wolf Lodge, are within a two to three hour drive from home. Plus, without the cost of airfare, families can stretch their vacation budget a little further.'

Here are some tips for easy travel close to home:

#### Plan Ahead

While hopping in the car and taking off on a whim might sound exciting, this often ends up costing more. Many resorts and hotels offer their best pricing when booked in advance. In addition, you will have a wider range of room or suite styles to pick from.

#### Pick the Right Place

When taking a family vacation, kids are dad's top priority. The best way to make a family vacation great is to visit a destination that includes activities children find fun and entertaining. Eighty-nine percent of dads say this is extremely or very important, according to the

One type of destination that fits this bill is an indoor water park resort, like Great Wolf Lodge, which has 11 locations throughout North America. Each resort features fun activities for kids and adults, including waterslides and attractions, interactive experiences like MagiQuest, the Scoops Kid Spa and more. Even better, parents can avoid the high cost of airfare.

And since the resorts' water parks are indoors, families don't have to worry that a rain shower or cold

snap will ruin their travel plans. To learn more about planning a family vacation to an indoor water park resort, visit www.greatwolf.

#### Pack the Car

For extended car rides.

it's important to make the journey as enjoyable as the destination. Be sure to bring healthy snacks and drinks. Pack travel games to help pass the time - the car ride is a great time for family bonding.

So start planning! Your next great family vacation

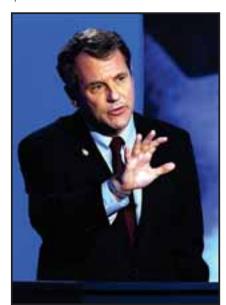




## Page 10 The Sojourner's Truth June 19, 2013 The Economy...Tackling Tough Times • The Economy...Tackling Tough Times • The Economy...

## **Hunger Doesn't Take a Summer Vacation**

Special to The Truth



For too many Ohio children, summer break doesn't just mean a break from homework; it also means a break from a dependable source of nutritious food. That's

because for more than 800,000 Ohio children, hunger isn't something that happens in another country. Many of these children come from families that are food insecure-meaning

they don't always know when they'll get their next meal. These children know how difficult it is to focus on learning while trying to ignore the pangs of an empty stomach.

Thankfully, qualifying children can receive nutrition assistance through free or reduced-price lunches during the academic year. However, when the school cafeterias close for the summer, these children are still in dire need of a nutritious meal or snack.

That's why the Summer Food Service Program which provides breakfast, lunch, or a snack for children under 18 - is so important. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) work together to ensure that children have access to the food they need to keep growing and learning during the summer months.

However, too many Ohio families still don't know about this critical program.

In 2011, only 66,000 Ohio children per day utilized the Summer Food Service though Program—even hundreds of thousands need and receive nutrition assistance during the school

Summer break shouldn't mean a break from good nutrition. That's why I'm working to raise awareness and increase access to the program for all Ohio children in low-income families-regardless of where they live.

There are about 1,200 sites across 79 counties that can help. At approved schools, summer camps, churches and synagogues, community centers, and pools and recreation centers, volunteers and organizers are ensuring our children have the healthy food they need to succeed.

And although nine

Ohio counties currently lack summer food service program sites, it's not too late for potential sponsors to set up a program in their town. Interested sponsors and volunteers can still work with the Ohio Department of Education to establish new centers for children to get meals.

But while this is a good start, we can do even more to help. That's why, a few years ago, I co-hosted a first-of-its-kind hunger summit at the Mid-Ohio Foodbank with leading anti-hunger advocates from across Ohio. Rather than lament a growing problem, we discussed how Ohio stakeholders can work together to increase the number of community leaders. sponsors, volunteers, and sites that can provide children with nutritious meals during both the school year and summer

The single biggest thing we can do is to make sure more people know about this program. Outreach and public awareness are critical components to ensure that the end of the school year doesn't mean an end to healthy meals.

For the most up-todate list of summer food service program sites, Ohioans should visit the ODE website athttps:// oh.cnpcares.com/summer/ SfspFoodServByCnty. asp, or call the National Hunger Hotline 1-866-3-HUNGRY 1 - 8 7 7 - 8 - H A M B R E . Ohioans can also visit my website atwww.brown. for more senate.gov information and a complete list of county-by-county

## The Black Family: Five **Decades after the Moynihan Report**

Daniel Patrick Moynihan's 1965 report for the U.S. Department of Labor, "The Negro Family: The Case for National Action," provoked a firestorm of debate in its probing of the roots of black poverty and the decline of the black nuclear family.

Nearly five decades later, "The Moynihan Report Revisited," from the Urban Institute and Fathers Incorporated, gauges how the circumstances of black families have changed and how they compare with other racial and ethnic groups; documents how blacks still suffer from intersecting disadvantages that Moynihan referred to as a "tangle of pathologies"; and suggests ways to improve the circumstances of black families and reduce racial disparities.

Among the findings in "The Moynihan Report Revisited":

The statistics that so alarmed Moynihan have only grown worse, not only for blacks, but for whites and Hispanics as well. Today, the share of white children born outside of marriage is about the same as the share was for black children in Moynihan's day. Meanwhile, the percentage of black children born to unmarried mothers has tripled, remaining far higher than the percentage of white children born to unmarried mothers.

In 1960, 20 percent of black children lived with their mothers but not their fathers; by 2010, 53 percent of all black children lived in such families. The share of white children living with their mothers but not their fathers climbed to 20 percent in 2010, up from 6

There has been a marked retreat from marriage. In 1960, just over one-half of all black women were married and living with their husbands, compared with over two-thirds of white and Hispanic women. By 2010, only one-quarter of black women, two-fifths of Hispanic women, and one-half of white women lived with their spouses.

That the decline of traditional families occurred across racial and ethnic groups indicates that factors driving the decline do not lie solely within the black community but in the larger social and economic context. Nevertheless, the consequences may be felt disproportionately among blacks as black children are far more likely to be born into and raised in father-absent families than are white children.

"Reducing the structural barriers to black economic progress, enhancing the incentives to work in the mainstream economy, and improving family dynamics are all important components for reducing racial and ethnic disparities. Addressing those diverse barriers will require concerted governmental, community, and family engagement," said Gregory Acs, the lead author of "The Moynihan Report Revisited" and director of the Urban Institute's Income and Benefits Policy Center.

"It's such a timely moment to consider in greater depth the economic conditions of black families. These families have always been on the lower rungs of the social and economic ladders. Hopefully, this report will set a new foundation for addressing the circumstances of these and other families in America," said Kenneth Braswell, executive director of Fathers

As a collaborator, Braswell contributed to the paper along with the Urban Institute's Margery Austin Turner and former Urban Institute researcher Elaine Sorensen

"The Moynihan Report Revisited" was funded by the Open Society Foundations? Campaign for Black Male Achievement.



Explore the fascinating natural world of Australia at Wild Walkabout, presented by Mercy. Your adventure starts with a walk among the wallabies and continues with dingoes, cassowaries and more - including the huge saltwater crocodile brought here by Block Communications, Inc.



## **SCIENCE** DAY

Science + summer = fun! Come to Nature's Neighborhood on Saturday, June 15 for an all-day science celebration; it's free with regular Zoo admission. Explore the fun side of science!



Learn more at toledozoo.org

## **Toledo Regional Chamber of Commerce Approved for** \$428,571 Grant to Help College Students Obtain High-**Tech Internships**

Special to The Truth

Chamber of Commerce was degrees in high-tech fields. recently recommended to receive a grant of \$428,571 by the Ohio Third Frontier Commission to operate the Third Frontier Internship Program in Northwest Ohio. This program provides reimbursements of up to \$3,000 per intern to businesses that employ

The Toledo Regional college students pursuing

The grant will be used to place and compensate approximately 128 interns in high-tech positions across Northwest Ohio through a partnership with the Toledo Regional Chamber of Commerce, other chambers of commerce and higher education institutions.

committed to creating new technology-based products, companies, industries and jobs in Ohio. The Ohio Third Frontier Internship program furthers this commitment by developing a pool of talented workers for Ohio companies. This is done by exposing students to the strategies and processes

The Ohio Third Frontier is of business environments, and by creating potential employment opportunities following graduation.

> The Toledo Regional Chamber of Commerce was previously involved with the Third Frontier Internship Program from 2004 to 2007 as a liaison between businesses in Northwest Ohio and a Dayton-based

program administrator. In registering July 2011, the Chamber was awarded the program and took on the administrative role in this region. Since July 2011, a total of 236 interns have been placed and over \$710,000 has been reimbursed to 34 companies in Northwest Ohio.

Businesses interested

program should visithttp:// thirdfrontierintern.ohio. gov/3fip/index.php.

For information regarding the program, contact Charlene Page, SBDC Program Manager at the Toledo Regional Chamber of Commerce, atcharlene. page@toledochamber.com or at 419.243.8191.

## **NAACP Pleased with SCOTUS Ruling Regarding** the National Voter **Registration Act**



In a 7-2 split, SCOTUS Upheld the NVRA in the Arizona v. ITCA Decision

On Monday, the NAACP released the following statement in response to the Supreme Court ruling that Arizona's proof of citizenship requirement is preempted by the federal law requiring states use the federal voter registration form:

"State government should encourage voting, not discourage it," stated NAACP President and CEO Benjamin Todd Jealous. "The Supreme Court made the right decision to strike down Arizona's proof-of-citizenship law. We need to find innovative ways to make voting easier and more accessible for Americans, rather than coming up with new ways to suppress it."

"Any victory for the National Voter Registration Act is a victory for our voters," said Jotaka Eaddy, senior director, Voting Rights. "Today's decision reaffirms the importance of the National Voter Registration Act. It is a victory for voters and our Democracv."

Read the opinion of the case here: http://www.supremecourt.gov/opinions/12pdf/12-71 7148.pdf

## **Tips for Small Business** Owners

(Continued from Page 7)

It's all about spending the time and money to design an easy-to-use website and to continually communicate new information via social media. Once you start a dialogue with your customers via Facebook or Twitter, you need to keep it up. You can't start and stop, and use social media sporadically. Online marketing needs to be a continual process, say experts

#### New Expenditures

While the economy may be taking a turn for the better, traditional lenders have not made funds more easily accessible. As a result, direct access to capital remains tight for many small business owners, making it harder to fund the marketing projects necessary for

#### Experts say that exploring your options is critical to avoid going dark.

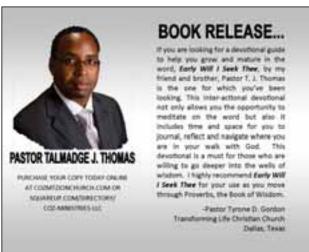
"Alternative financing rescues many small businesses facing tough times because these options are often easier to qualify for than their conventional counterparts," says Stephen Sheinbaum, CEO of Merchant Cash and Capital, an organization that provides funding to

If you're short on capital, consider an alternative with more relaxed restrictions on credit history and fewer paperwork requirements. For example, a Merchant Cash Advance (MCA) is gaining popularity as a financing option. MCAs have no collateral requirements and are extraordinarily flexible because borrowers don't have to spell out what the money is being used for and repayment can be based off credit card sales, monthly gross revenue or through several other measurements.

More information about alternative financing can be found at www. MerchantCashAndCapital.com.

Small business owners can look to their forebears for guidance in many ways. But when it comes to overcoming today's new technical and financial challenges, the successful entrepreneurs will be the trail blazers.





## **Northwest Ohio Students to Experience Medical School** at CampMed

Special to The Truth

Teenagers today and potential physicians tomorrow will learn the tools of the trade and practice their clinical skills at the 16th annual CampMed program at The University of Toledo.

The 36 students who will be freshmen next year in high schools across northwest Ohio will get a taste of medical school for two days participating in handson lessons making wrist casts and suturing wounds, as well as taking tours of Life Flight helicopters and Mobile ICU vehicles. (see list of participants attached)

CampMed is a scholarship program at no cost to the students, most of whom are first generation-college, minority, rural and other underrepresented groups.

"It's imperative to reach out to young people early to nurture their interests in science and discovery. Their dreams for the future, which for some might include becoming a doctor, are attainable and we want to show them there are people who want to help," said Kathy Vasquez, director of the UT and Ohio Area Health Education Center (AHEC) programs and UT's associate vice president for government relations.

"CampMed gives students the opportunity to learn first-hand what it's like to be in the medical field before they even start high school. The participants really enjoy learning from current students in the UT College of Medicine and Life Sciences.'

The two-day CampMed program will be held Thursday, June 20 and Friday, June 21 on the UT Health Science Campus.

The camp is sponsored



Participants in the Camp Med program learn about nurse anesthesia and numerous other health care careers.

by the UT AHEC program, which along with other programs throughout the

country, strives to improve the health of individuals and communities by developing

the healthcare workforce. UT medical students serve as camp counselors and the students also will interact with physicians and professors.

The students begin Thursday morning after the welcoming ceremonies with a "Tools of the Trade" session where they learn to use medical instruments like blood pressure cuffs and stethoscopes. Lessons continue for two days learning CSI-style forensic science, experiencing what its like to suit up in surgical gear, touring a gross anatomy lab and more.

CampMed, which works to spark interest in the medical field for the students entering high school, began in 1998. The competitive program requires students to submit a letter of recommendation. a nomination from a science or math teacher or counselor. and a personal essay to be chosen to participate.

## **Keep Kids Healthy And Active While School Is Out**

Parents like you know kids should eat healthy and be active every day, but summer break can often make that hard. With some fun, simple tips, you can ensure summer break doesn't mean a break in your family's healthy habits.

#### The Problem

Without the benefit of scheduled meals, snacks and recess provided during the school day, some kids fall into a "summer slump" of unhealthy behaviors, such as spending more time indoors watching TV, playing video games, and snacking on less-healthy foods.

Childhood obesity is at its height in the summer months. In fact, studies show that kids gain weight more than twice as fast in the summer as they do during the regular school

This makes summer an important time for families to pledge to be active and eat healthy together.

Fun, Simple Solutions







The Network for a Healthy California (Network) is on the front lines of the battle against obesity and works to empower everyone to lead healthier, active lives. The Network has partnered with summer activity programs to launch the "Power Up Your Summer!" Challenge. The Challenge encourages kids and their families to get at least 60 minutes of active play every day and to fill half of each plate with fruits and vegetables.

#### What You Can Do

Try these simple ideas to help your kids beat the summer

- · Find safe outdoor places for kids to play, such as parks, recreation centers and pools.
- · Don't let the heat slow you down. Dancing and hideand-seek are great indoor activities.
- · Limit TV and computer time to less than two hours per
- · Involve the whole family in reaching a goal of 60

minutes of play every day.

- · Fill half your plate with summer fruits and vegetables at every meal. Choose in-season fruits and vegetables, which often cost less
- · Rethink your drink and choose water instead of sugary drinks.
- · Be a good role model. Your kids are more likely to make healthy choices-if you do, too.

We all want to raise our kids to be the best they can be. Healthy habits, such as eating fruits and vegetables, drinking water and being active every day, are the building blocks to success. You can help kids see that healthy choices can be fun choices.

You can find resources, tips and healthy recipes at www. CaChampionsForChange.net or www.Facebook.com/ NetworkForAHealthyCalifornia.

## The Sojourner's Truth

## **Black Music Month ... A Celebration**

By Michael Hayes Minister of Culture



I made a facebook status recently saying that I think Muhammad Ali should be regarded as one of hip-hop's founding fathers. I was completely serious.

He free-styled off the dome in the middle of a crowd, before there were freestyle ciphers.

He had battle rhymes for his opponents before there was a such thing as 'rap heef'

He was the polarizing figure of his day. He was in a battle with the powers that

His stance on issues became so influential that he had to be neutralized.

If Nas stood on the shoulders of Grandmaster Flash, surely those early 80s rappers were in some way standing on Ali's shoulders... although he was a sports icon instead of a musician. What is a black musician? What is black music?

Before Negro spirituals, before Negro's were even taught to speak English... what was black music?

In Africa we had the drum. It was a way to keep time and communicate messages.

Seriously, do you think it's just coincidence that we have the rhythm we do or that we like deep bass as much as we do? No, this has been with us for centuries. It's native to us.

Able to be heard across great distances, various drums and other percussion instruments allowed us to talk to each other while out in the elements. Like Morse code.

Once the Europeans captured, transported and enslaved us we found ourselves here in "America" separated from our language and customs.

Simple communication through sound or words became an impossible barrier

On top of the horror of being bought, sold, beaten, raped and forced into hard labor.

We eventually pieced together scraps of the English language, obviously broken English but enough to put thought into word. During the time in the fields, slaves sang work songs. Some came from us, some were taught to us by our masters as a way to make us more agreeable to our captivity. That's right, even back then we couldn't control our own creative output entirely without someone stepping in to capitalize.

As slaves found religion, Negro spirituals became our primary music.

From gospel to blues, then jazz to rock & roll.

Black people in America birthed the musical milestones in this country.

Not out of a need to entertain, but a need to express what we weren't allowed to say.

Not out of a need to gain, but a need to communicate with each other as if each call and response song was an actual conversation.

Music has been vital to us from the very start.

It's a proven fact that Elvis Pressley based his sound and style off of black southern musicians. The man who became the biggest music artist on the planet, was just doing what he saw black folks do. Slavery may have been over, but the mid 20th Century

saw countless incidents of African Americans robbed of their ability to earn off of their own creations. Rock & roll was literally stolen from us. Research it. It's true.

This is why hip-hop is so important.

It really was "The CNN for the hood."

But bigger than us having our ability to communicate with each other and express what life is like to each other, we now had the ability to control aspects of our creative process and business that we never had before. Rap music was a blessing. Still is.

The golden era of hiphop (1986 to 1992) didn't just save rap, it saved black music overall. Hard edged street lyrics continued the legacy started by Marvin Gaye's "What's Going On" album.

House party anthems picked up where disco died by providing younger people with an outlet for all that energy. Hip-hop needed to be raw, honest, and hopeful because that is exactly what the conditions the people were living in

made them feel like. Hiphop became a giant mirror held up to Uncle Sam's face, so he could see what his policies and neglect had created. We had no story, no narrative.

Even though R&B and soul music dominated the charts, there wasn't a precedent established for black artists to express their literal reality via song until hip-hop.

Now here we are decades

There's still important music being made but the fans are so exhausted by the bull they won't even buy or support the artists actually informing them.

We have a jaded fan mentality that expects the worse when years ago, music listeners depended on artists the same way patients do doctors.

If I could challenge you to do anything this Black Music Month of June, it would be to find some black music that you feel lucky listening to.

Go Youtube some X Clan. Go through your Nas collection.

Listen to that "New Slaves" by Kanye that I wrote about.

Some Dead Prez, Mos Def, Erykah Badu.

Some Ice T, Public Enemy, Ice Cube.

Some Kendrick Lamar, Stalley, Jay Z.

I could go on and on (to da break of dawn) about your options, you should know them.

But remembering you have options is the point.

Remembering to balance out your diet of radio-ready music with some nutritious music.

And most of all, remembering that music is expression and for black people it carries a heavy message. Even the silliest, most ratchet club banger out this year could possibly give you some insight on where we've been and what we've been through as a people.

That drum is still talking to us, we just have to learn how to listen to what's really being said.

> mercuryspeak@ gmail.com









WHEN: Friday, June 21, 2013
TIME: 10:00 AM TO 12:00 PM
LOCATION: The Source, 1301 Monroe Street

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#### **Bus to Convocation**

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To Sweetie Pies St Louis Departs 8-31-2013 & Returns 9-2-2013. Cost of the trip is \$195.00 per person based on double occupancy includes Transportation, Hotel, and meals for all 3 days. Call Chris at 419-322-1194 to secure seat. Don't delay the first trip sold out in 2 weeks.

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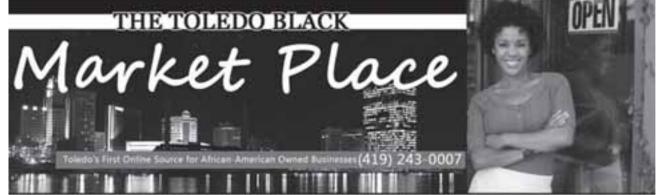
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### Child Care

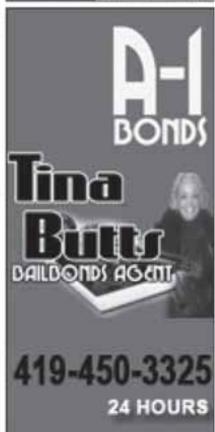
Footpeints Day Care and Pre-School, 3215 Lagrange Street, Toledo, OH 43608,

419-242-9110









## **CLASSIFIEDS**

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June 19, 2013

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northwestern Ohio Coordinator / Case Manager

Agency seeks experienced full-time case manager for grant funded program. Responsibilities include the implementation of an alcohol and drug prevention project. Good written/oral communications, work independent, manage multiple priorities, travel and weekend required. Work with volunteers, families, committees, diverse populations, and do recruitment. Prevention Certified required. Must be LSW or licensed eligible. Send cover letter and resume to:

Big Brothers Big Sisters of NWO Attn: Human Resources Four SeaGate, Suite 660 Toledo, OH 43604

EOE

Preferred Properties, Inc. has closed the wait list for Accessible Country Trails I and II.

Ottawa River Estates and John H. McKissick Senior Apartments

as of 3:00 pm on 06/11/2013.

Notice to Bidders: Inquiry # FY13-74, (Project #1020-13-850) for Maumee Bay State Park-Wetland/Wolf Creek-Upland Sedimentation for the University of Toledo. Sealed bids for this project must be clearly marked with the project number on all inner and outer envelopes and/or shipping containers. Bids must be addressed and delivered to the University of Toledo, Facilities and Construction, Plant Operations, Room 1100, 2925 E. Rocket Drive, MS 216, Toledo, Ohio 43606 before 2:00 p.m., Tuesday, July 2, 2013. Bids will be publicly opened that same day at 2:05 p.m. in the Plant Operations Building, Room 1000. Copies of Plans, Specifications, and Bid Forms may be obtained from Becker Impressions, 4646 Angola Road, Toledo, Ohio 43615. Call 419-385-5303 for an appointment to pick up bid package. A cost of \$100.00 will be charged per set. Any further information may be obtained from Shawn McGee of Hull & Associates, Inc. at419-385-2018. One Pre-Bid Conference will be held on Tuesday, June 25, 2013 at 10:00 a.m. in the Plant Operations Building, Room 1000, at the University of Toledo, 2925 E. Rocket Drive, Toledo, OH 43606. Total Bid Guaranty and Contract Bond are required per section 153.54 of the Ohio Revised Code. EDGE Participation Goal: 10%. Project Estimate: \$870,000.00; Breakdown: General Const: \$843.600.00: Electrical: \$26.400.00.

ADS POSTED ONLINE AT: www.TheTruthToledo.com



#### **Legal Notice**

Bid packets will be received by Lucas County Job & Family Services (LCDJFS) until 3:00 p.m., July 18, 2013 for the selection of a Provider to provide Home-based Chore Services for eligible participants. Submitted bid packets must be completed according to the specifications and provisions outlined in the Request for Proposals (RFP). The contract period will be from approximately October 1, 2013 through September 30, 2014.

No bids will be accepted after 3:00 p.m. on July 18, 2013; bids that are submitted via any method other than that described in the RFP will not be accepted.

The Request for Proposals will be available on **June 12, 2013.** It will be available for potential bidders to download by going to the site: <a href="http://www.co.lucas.oh.us/bids.aspx">http://www.co.lucas.oh.us/bids.aspx</a>.

An Electronic Question & Answer (Q&A) process will be from June 12, 2013 at 8:00 a.m. to June 26, 2013 at 12:00 p.m. **PARTICIPATION IS OPTIONAL, BUT IS HIGHLY ENCOURAGED.** Questions for the Q&A must be submitted in writing and received via email, by Michelle Niedermier at <a href="mailto:niedem@odifs.state.oh.us">niedem@odifs.state.oh.us</a> by June 26, 2013 at 12:00 p.m.; the posting of the Q&A will be on July 3, 2013. If any changes are made to the RFP as a result of the Q&A, an addendum to the RFP will be posted on the website address (noted above).

This notice is posted, as of June 12, 2013, at http://www.co.lucas.oh.us/bids.aspx.

The right is reserved to reject any and all bids.

By order of the Board of County Commissioners, Lucas County, Ohio.

Carol Contrada - President Tina Skeldon Wozniak - Commissioner Pete Gerken - Commissioner

Bid: 48-14-RFP-01

#### NOTICE TO BIDDERS

SEALED PROPOSALS for bidding on Manor House Window & Roof Replacement, Wildwood Preserve Metropark, Toledo, Ohio will be received; opened; and read aloud at the Metropolitan Park District of the Toledo Area, Fallen Timbers Field Office, 6101 Fallen Timbers Lane, Maumee, Ohio 43537 Friday, June 21, at 3:00 p.m. local time.

THE SCOPE OF WORK consists of window & roof replacement for a 50 room mansion. General construction includes select demolition and disposal including asbestos shingle abatement, slate roof, copper flashings, replacement windows, associated prep & repair, finish carpentry and paint. Bidders may obtain copies of plans, specifications, contract documents and plan-holder's list through Newfax Corporation, 333 West Woodruff, Toledo, Ohio 43604 between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday (check made payable to Newfax Corporation) or via the Newfax Digital Plan Room at www.newfaxcorp.com. Newfax can be contacted at 419-241-5157 or 800-877-5157. A non-refundable fee of \$30 is required for each set of documents obtained. For additional information, please contact 419-360-9184, Zvanovec @ jon.zvanovec@metroparkstoledo.com.

EACH BIDDER MUST FURNISH either (1) a bond for the full amount of the bid or (2) a certified check, cashier's check or irrevocable letter of credit in an amount equal to ten percent (10%) of the bid with its bid. The successful bidder must furnish a 100 percent (100%) Performance Bond and a 100 percent (100%) Labor and Materials Bond.

No bidder may withdraw its bid within thirty (30) days after the actual date of the opening thereof.

THE BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS OF THE METROPOLITAN PARK DISTRICT OF THE TOLEDO AREA reserves the right to reject any or all bids, and to waive any informality in bidding.

By order of the Board of Park Commissioners METROPOLITAN PARK DISTRICT OF THE OLEDO AREA

Stephen W. Madewell, Director

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#### MAINTENANCE MECHANIC III

Lucas Metropolitan Housing Authority (LMHA), located in Toledo, OH is seeking experienced applicants for a Maintenance Mechanic III position. For complete details of the position and to apply, visit our website at www.lucasmha.org. Only online applications received at the above website by Friday, June 28, 2013, will be accepted. This is a Section 3 covered position and HUD recipients are encouraged to apply. Please note on your submittal if you are a LMHA Public Housing resident or Housing Choice Voucher Program participant. Persons with disabilities are encouraged to apply. NO PHONE CALLS. Equal employment opportunity shall be afforded to all qualified persons without regard to

age, race, color, religion, religious creed, sex, military status, ancestry, disability, handicap, sexual orientation, genetic information or national origin



Notice to Bidders: Inquiry #FY13-79, (Project# 5004-11-1622) for University Medical Center 5th Floor Patient Room Renovations for the University of Toledo Health Science Campus. Sealed bids for this project must be clearly marked with the project number on all inner and outer envelopes and/or shipping containers. Bids must be addressed and delivered to the University of Toledo, Main Campus, Facilities and Construction, Plant Operations Room 1100, 2925 E. Rocket Drive, MS 216, Toledo, Ohio 43606 before 2:00 p.m., Tuesday, July 9, 2013 Bids will be publicly opened that same day at 2:05 p.m. in the Plant Operations Building, Room 1000. Copies of Plans, Specifications, and Bid Forms may be obtained from Becker Impressions, 4646 Angola Rd., Toledo, Ohio 43615. Call 419-385-5303 for an appointment to pick up bid package. A cost of \$50.00 will be charged per set. Any further information may be obtained from Walter Hales of Hales Architecture + Planning at 419-469-3400. One Pre-Bid Conference will be held on Tuesday, July 2, 2013 at 10:00 a.m. in the Collier Building, Room 1030, at the University of Toledo, Health Science Campus, 3000 Arlington Avenue, Toledo, Ohio 43614. Total Bid Guaranty and Contract Bond are required per section 153.54 of the Ohio Revised Code. EDGE Participation Goal: 10%. Project Estimate: \$1,160,000.00; Breakdown: General Const: \$500,000.00; Plumbing/HVAC: \$245,000.00; Fire Protection: \$25,000.00; & Electrical: \$390,000.00.

The City of Toledo's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report is available at <a href="http://toledo.oh.gov/Departments/Finance">http://toledo.oh.gov/Departments/Finance</a>

## R.E.S.T.O.R.E. Hosts Third Annual Fatherhood Walk

Over 200 people - fathers, families, children - gathered on June 15 at Central Catholic High School to participate in the third annual Fatherhood Walk

The annual event, organized by Mark Robinson of R.E.S.T.O.R.E., featured Bill Harris, founder and president of Rapture Ministries as the keynote speaker. Kevin Butler entertained the crowd with spoken word.

The walkers chanted their way through two mile trek through the neighborhood surrounding Central Catholic with the now-familiar refrain - "What do you need?" "Fathers!" "When do you need them?" "Now!

Robinson, as always, was joined by his family, wife Catherine, son Marquel, daughter Moriah.

