

SEPTEMBER 2013
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Body of Christ News

COLORADO

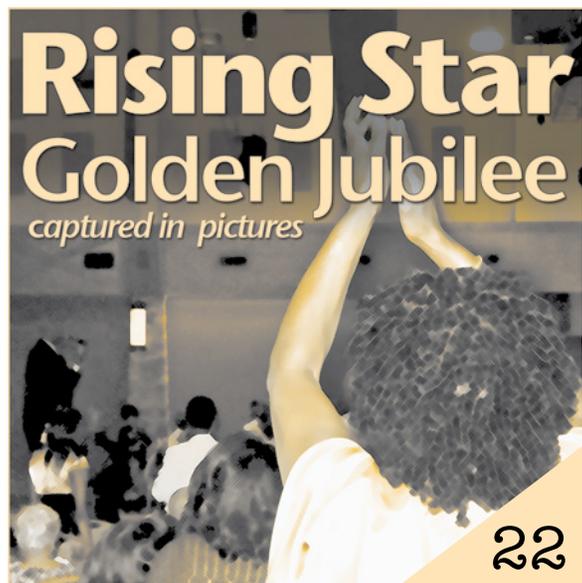
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**Marriage an
Antidote to
Child Poverty**

A REPORT FROM THE HERITAGE FOUNDATION

**The Most Right
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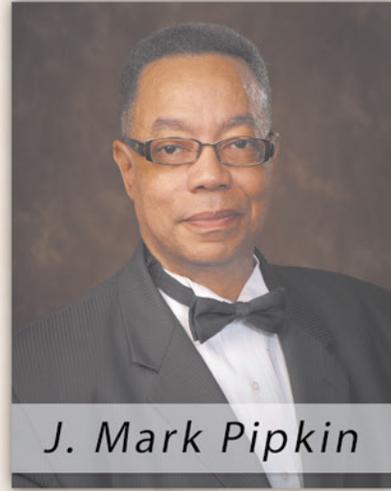
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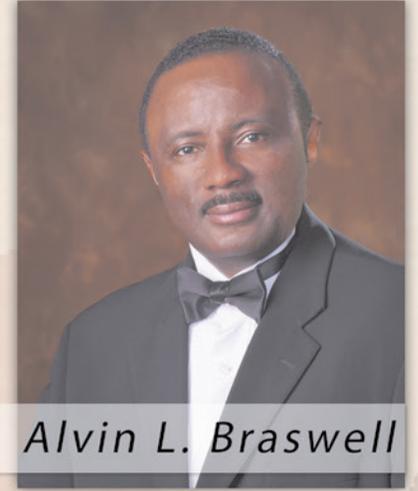


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THE DENVER POST
COMMUNITY

Hidden Heart Disease

"Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits: Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases."

- Psalms 103: 2 & 3

By Byron E. Conner, M.D.



Dr. Conner

There are some medical conditions which may be present, but unknown and not recognized, and yet may be the future cause of much preventable suffering and even premature death. That is because such conditions may not cause symptoms for many years, until a catastrophic illness happens or a gradual and serious decline in health is noted. Believe it or not, one such condition is high blood pressure or hypertension.

In America today, hypertension is commonplace affecting more than 76 million people over the age of twenty. In the African American community, high blood pressure is particularly prominent. African Americans develop hypertension at a younger age than other groups, and it may not be as well controlled. We are more likely to develop complications due to high blood pressure such as stroke, heart disease, blindness, dementia and kidney disease. Needless to say these are indeed devastating conditions. The tragedy is that as a group, these ailments produce a significant amount of preventable suffering.

One fact that makes hypertension challenging is that it may occur for many years, before it is obvious that it has wreaked havoc on the body. A lot of research has been done on hypertension. I would like to share with you now information about hidden heart disease that may develop in Blacks, especially those that may live in the inner city and obviously in other places.

In 2012 an article was published in a medical journal called the Annals of Emergency Medicine. This article described a study that was done in the emergency room of a large hospital in Detroit, Michigan. 85% of the patient population was black. The purpose of the study was to examine the hearts of people who came to the emergency room, but not necessarily for hypertension. These people were age 35 or older, and had when measured, high blood pressure with readings greater than 140/90 and almost 52% were men. After enrolling people in the study 161 people who had no symptoms received a special test called an echocardiogram which is an imaging test to look at the structure and function of the heart. Although those examined had no symptoms, it was found that 91% of those examined had

significant heart dysfunction manifested by impairment in the pumping action of the heart. Even though they had no symptoms, hypertension had already produced damage to the heart. The inadequate control of high blood pressure was the problem. What this tells us is that those in the study were at risk to go on to develop, heart failure, and other heart problems. They were unaware of the heart problem they had.

We can extrapolate from this study that nationwide there may be many in the African American community who may already have heart disease related to uncontrolled hypertension, but unaware of their situation. This is a tragedy as hypertension once it is detected, is a highly treatable condition. The problem is that high blood pressure must be detected, and treated properly.

If you have not had your blood pressure checked in the past year or so, it is time to do this. We can start checking people at age 18, and perhaps even younger. Do not assume that because you have no symptoms like dizziness, headache or other symptoms that you do not have high blood pressure. To be sure you need to have your blood pressure measured enough times that your medical provider makes the determination that you do or do not have high blood pressure. Please do not ignore the need to get checked.

If you know you have, or have had high blood pressure, do the right thing and get it treated! If you take medication, take it properly, do not run out of it, and do not stop it suddenly. Report any side effects as needed. Do not be surprised if you have to take more than one medication, as this may save your life.

Remember that controlling blood pressure also includes lifestyle measures such as reducing your salt intake, using alcohol in moderation, controlling your weight, exercising about 30 minutes daily most days of the week, learning to deal with stress, and getting enough rest. Another helpful thing to do is to purchase a blood pressure machine to monitor your blood pressure at home. If we do these things, we can lessen the impact hypertension has on our community. In a future article we will give more detailed information as to how one can control blood pressure and live longer and better. Please don't be a victim of hidden heart disease. ✚

Do not assume that because you have no symptoms... that you do not have high blood pressure.

LOCAL EVENTS

The Black Church & HIV

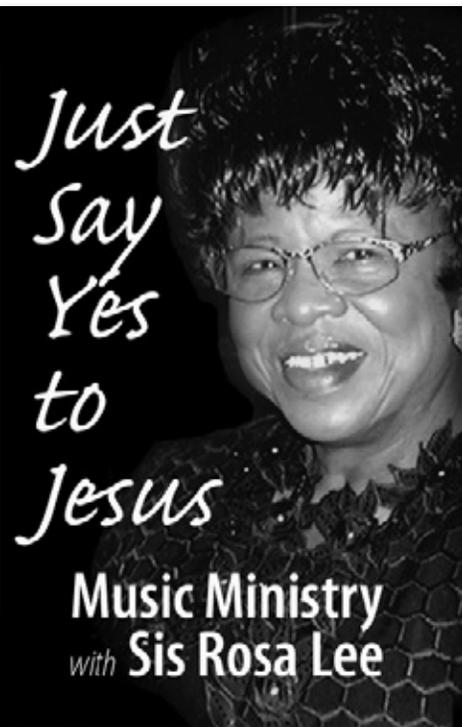
SEPT 20 — NAACP Denver Branch present "The Black Church & HIV: The Social Justice Imperative." Facilitated by Rev. Keron Sadler NAACP National Health Manager September 20th, 2013. 9:00 - 1:00 p.m at True Light Baptist Church 14333 Bolling Drive Denver, CO 80239 for more information call Rev. Ronald Wooding (720) 319 - 1491 or email rwooding1@yahoo.com

Spirit of Dance & Praise

SEPT 29 — Spirit of Unity Dance / Praise Team announces their 1st Annual Celebration! Theme "Under Construction" Jeremiah 31:3-4 September 27th, 6:30 pm. September 28th, 5:00 pm. September 29th, 4:00 pm. Location: Church in the City 1580 Gaylord ST. Denver. CO

FREE Prostate Cancer Screenings

SEPT 28 — September is National Prostate Cancer Awareness Month. The center for African American Health invites you to a FREE Prostate Cancer Screening Saturday, September 28, 2013 8:00 am - 1:00 pm Inner City Health Center 3800 York Street, Denver. CO (303) 355 - 3423 Walk - ins welcome



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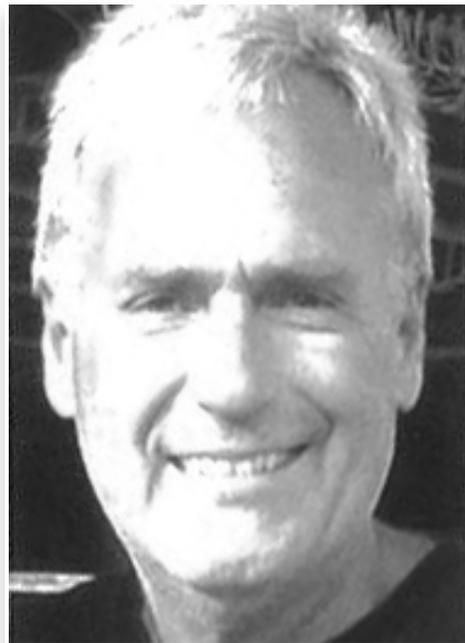
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The Restraining Force of Evil

By Michael Forti



Michael Forti

As we continue to see the major signs of the times increasing on a global scale, we can clearly see that the coming of our Lord is near. The Bible teaches that All Mighty God will soon judge the world but He will not allow His faithful to suffer His wrath. "Be always on the WATCH, and pray that you may be able-and accounted worthy to ESCAPE ALL that is ABOUT to happen, and that you may be able to stand before the Son of Man" (Luke 21:34-36, 1 Thess 1:9-10 NIV-KJ).

According to the Word, when the wrath of God is poured out like it was in the days of Noah and Lot, He will not have His faithful build an ark and there will be nowhere to hide. How will the Lord rescue His bride? "For the Lord Himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still ALIVE and are LEFT will be CAUGHT UP together with them in the CLOUDS to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore ENCOURAGE each other with these words" (1Thess 4:16-NIV).

After the Lord rescues His faithful church, the anti-Christ will come into the global spot light. Daniel 9:27 teaches that the anti-Christ will confirm a covenant with Israel for a period of 7 years. In the middle of these seven years, he will break his covenant with them which is commonly known as the abomination that causes desolation. That's when the anti-Christ sets in the temple in Israel claiming to be god (Matt 24:15, 2 Thess 2:4).

2Thessalonians 2:1 starts out by saying, "Concerning the COMING of our Lord Jesus Christ and OUR being GATHERED to Him" (NIV). The NIV translation goes on to explain that the DAY of the LORD will not happen until the REBELLION occurs and

the man of lawlessness is revealed. The word "REBELLION" in the KJ and NKJ translates to "FALLING AWAY." Other translations use the word "APOSTASY" (Amplified, NAS). Between the different translations, this Bible verse needs to be interpreted 3 ways, for there is a reason why the different Bible translations use different wording which reflects these different interpretations.

The word REBELLION is referring to the days of Noah and Lot where all of the people around the world were living in absolute defiance against the authority of God. The word FALLING AWAY for sure refers to the back sliding, early New Testament churches of Revelation chapters 2 and 3, and a prophetic reflection of many within the modern day church of today. The word APSOTASY through various sources not only translates to "falling away" but it also translates to TAKEN AWAY or, AWAY FROM (American Heritage Dictionary-Webster's). Could it be that this reflects a 3 fold inter-

pretation?

So, THREE major Biblical prophesies will be taking place at the same time just before the anti-Christ can come forth. The unsaved world will be living in absolute rebellion against God and His Word (Luke 17:26-35, 2 Pet 2:4-9). Many within the last day's church will be falling into the same backsliding footsteps as the church of Laodicea (Rev Ch's 2-3, 1 Tim 6:3-14, 2 Tim 4:3-8). And, there WILL BE the great CATCHING AWAY of those who are truly saved. Remember, Paul starts off 2 Thessalonians chapter 2 with, "Concerning the COMING of our Lord Jesus Christ and OUR BEING GATHERED to Him" (NIV).

2 Thessalonians chapter 2 continues on by explaining that the spirit of anti-Christ is already at work and that the physical anti-Christ cannot come forth until the RESTRAINER is TAKEN OUT of the way. Who could this restrainer be? Again, Paul starts off 2 Thessalonians 2:1 by saying, "And our being GATHERED to Him." So, could it be that the faithful church is the restraining force that is preventing the anti-Christ from coming forth, and, could it be that the faith-

ful church must be TAKEN OUT of the WAY before the anti-Christ can be revealed?

If Daniel 9:27 teaches that the anti-Christ comes at the BEGINNING of the seven year tribulation period, could this mean that the RAPTURE takes place at the very BEGINNING of that period, that is, if the church is restraining him from coming forth and if he cannot come forth until the faithful are raptured?

Yes friends, after the RAPTURE of the restraining force, the four horse-men of the apocalypse will ride out at the BEGINNING of the great 7 year tribulation period and the whole world will be shaken. The white horse which is the anti-Christ will claim to be Israel's long awaited savior while offering them a false peace for the first 3½ years. At the same time, he will begin to conquer and rule the Middle East and eventually the whole world. While the red and pale horses are starting wars and PERSECUTING the new believers in Jesus Christ who were LEFT BEHIND, the societies around the world will be devastated

Continued on Page 9

While the red and pale horses are starting wars and PERSECUTING the new believers in Jesus Christ who were LEFT BEHIND, the societies around the world will be devastated by the black horse as people will be working for a full day to get a cup of wheat.



ORDER of WORSHIP

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 Morning Prayer7:30 am
 Morning Worship8:00 am
 Sunday School9:30 am
 Morning Worship10:45 am
 Youth Church/Nursery10:45 am
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 Noon Day Prayer12:00 pm
 Evening Prayer6:30 pm
 Bible Study7:00 pm
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Marriage Best Defense Against Child Poverty

The Heritage Foundation

A dramatic rise in unwed births and the accompanying decline in marriage are the most important cause of child poverty in the Colorado. As of 2009, 33.6 percent of single-parent families with children in Colorado were poor. In the same year, only 6.9 percent of married couples with children in the state were poor. Single-parent families were nearly five times more likely to be poor than were married families.

The overwhelming majority of poor families with children in Colorado are not married. Overall, about 29 percent of all families with children at all income levels in the state are not married. But a staggering 63 percent of all poor families with children in the state are unmarried. By contrast, married couples comprise only around 37 percent of poor families with children in the state.

The higher poverty rate among single-mother families is caused by two factors: (1) the lower income

caused by the absence of the father from the home, and (2) the lower average education levels among single mothers.

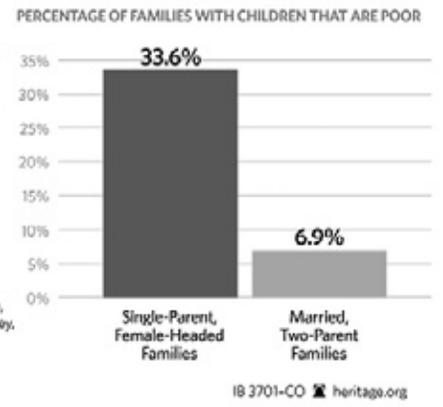
Marriage, Education, and Poverty

Births outside marriage in Colorado occur predominantly among less-educated women. In Colorado, 57 percent of births among women who are high school dropouts are out of wedlock. Among women who are college graduates, only 5 percent of births are out of wedlock. Ironically, the women most likely to have children without being married are those who have the least ability to support children on their own.

Colorado is splitting into two separate castes. In the top half of the population, children are raised by married couples with a college education. In the bottom economic third of the population, children are raised by single mothers with a high school degree or less.

Policymakers clearly recognize that education reduces poverty, but they are largely unaware that marriage is an equally strong anti-poverty weapon. In Colorado, married couples with children are about 75 percent less likely to be poor than non-married families with the same level of education. In fact,

In Colorado, Marriage Drops the Probability of Child Poverty by 79 Percent



a married family headed by a high school dropout in Colorado is actually less likely to be poor than a non-married family headed by an individual with a few years of college.

Marriage, Poverty, and Race

Marriage substantially reduces the probability

Continued on Page 11



Celebration of Families-Students Inc. takes a trip to South Dakota

Celebration of Families-Students Marks 15 Years

For the past fifteen years Celebration of Families-Students Inc. has honored many families and students within the Denver community. On Saturday, September 21, 2013 at 1:00 pm the organization will be celebrating its 15th year anniversary with a close out reunion event. The event will feature local talent that includes the Colorado Mormon Chorale and Excel Institute Choir. The event will be held at New Hope Baptist Church located at 3701 Colorado Boulevard. Celebration of Families is cordially inviting the Denver Community to attend this worth-while celebration and to invite others to come celebrate as well. A special invitation is extended to the families and students that have been honored by the organization.

Under the leadership of Dr. Robbie Bean, Founder and President, Celebration of Families-Students Inc. has honored and celebrated families that reflected the diversity of Denver and surrounding areas. The organization's values were to encourage and reflect inclusion and diversity of all families who have been examples of outstanding families units. The families recognized have come from various races, national origins, socio-economic status, educational levels, political views and religious affiliations. Families were honored for variety reasons which included but are not limited to: supporting their children's educational and extra curricular activities; providing emotional and moral support to each other; overcoming family crises; striving to eliminate the myth of dysfunctional families; but most of all for their expression of agape love within their family and the community at large.

For the last several years the Celebration of Families-Students Inc. also conducted a creative writing and art contest for children ages (4) four to



14. Students from many schools within Denver and surrounding areas competed for first, second and third place. The theme of the contest was always "Families". Contest submissions included essays, short stories, poetry, murals, drawings, photography, and computer graphics. The students' creative work reflected expressions about their family; a famous person's family; traveling with family; fun with family; the differences in families or holiday celebrations with families. All children participants received recognition for their participation, gift bags or trinkets and a pizza party.

The last endeavor that was taken on by Celebration of Families-Students Inc. was several intergenerational trips to South Dakota. The travelers of approximately 80 people each trip were of all ages ranging from six to 92. The travelers of various genders, occupation, special needs and religious denominations traveled on the Ramblin' Express bus and

vans to Lead South Dakota. The trip included visiting historical sites such as Mount Rushmore, Crazy Horse Memorial, and fellowshiping with Trinity United Methodist Church in Lead South Dakota. Educational seminars were held daily to see how well the travelers were studying the information packets that had been given to them for the trip. At the end of each trip the organization sponsored a community sharing program at St. Luke CME Church where students that participated reported on what they learned. By combining families, seniors, and youth as part of the traveling group, the organization not only showed how they supported education but also encouraged a diverse group of travelers to develop on-going positive relationships.

Throughout the years not only has Celebration of Families honored families and students, but the organization has also honored Sororities, Fraternities, Churches, Educators, Religious Organizations and "Missing Links," those individuals who were supportive of the community but have since transitioned. Many individuals and organizations have supported the organizational financially. Without their contributions none of the events could have been accomplished. The organization extends and a heartfelt thanks to all those volunteers, and contributors that have made the program a success for 15 years.

Dr. Robbie Bean and Celebration of Families-Students Inc. are inviting The Denver Community, all families, students, churches, organizations, and individuals who have participated in any manner to come out and celebrate our 15th Anniversary Reunion. Come one, come all and let's CELEBRATE!

Caregiving: A Holy Privilege

By Peggy Mitchell Norwood, Ph.D.

The CDC Family Caregiving fact sheet reports that there are more than 34 million unpaid caregivers providing care to someone age 18 and older who is ill or has a disability and that an estimated 21% of households in the United States are impacted by caregiving responsibilities (www.cdc.gov). In one study done by the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), caregivers reported that their challenges included finding time for themselves and taking care of their own health. Furthermore, the majority of caregivers in this study tended to feel unappreciated and unacknowledged for the help they give.

I recently spoke with Pastor Joy Davidson, owner of Joyful Transitions, LLC about her work coaching caregivers. Pastor Joy stated that she personally saw caregiving as a "holy privilege." But what do you do and how can you cope when caregiving feels more like hell on earth? What if the person you are caring for is mean or ungrateful?

The bible describes caregivers as blessed and having an inheritance: "...[T]he King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.'

"Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?' "The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'" (Matthew 25: 34- 40).

If we keep our focus on our love for

If they are difficult, mean, unappreciative, or challenging, we can still care for them as the Lord cares for us and comfort them with the same comfort He has shown us.



Peggy Norwood

God, caregiving becomes an expression of that love - regardless of the other person's behavior. If they are difficult, mean, unappreciative, or challenging, we can still care for them as the Lord cares for us and comfort them with the same comfort He has shown us. Pastor Joy's experience of caregiving as a holy privilege makes sense when seen in this light; it is always a privilege to express our love for God and we can express our love for Him through caring for others.

The truth of the matter is that caregiving is tough, even under the best of circumstances. If you are a caregiver, you must be intentional about self-care so that you don't burnout or become bitter and resentful. A flight attendant will tell you to FIRST place the oxygen over your own nose and mouth and THEN assist those you are traveling with. Similarly, in order to effectively care for others, you must first take care of yourself. ("Love your neighbor as yourself"). Here are several tips you can follow to take better care of yourself:

Engage in mild to moderate exercise or other physical activity on a regular basis.

Eat well-balanced meals and avoid energy-draining junk foods.

Get plenty of rest (If needed, analyze how you actually spend your time and find creative ways to carve out more sleep or nap time).

Get social support by spending time with friends or joining a support group like the African American Caregivers Support Group that is sponsored by Lutheran Family Services.

Learn to see yourself as a multifaceted person with varied interests and a balanced life. Your identity is not solely "caregiver."

Engage in regular prayer, bible study, and worship services. (Numerous studies show that regular spiritual practice contributes to good mental health and wellbeing). ✚

Dr. Peggy Mitchell Norwood is an ordained minister and former psychology professor who specializes in personal transformation. For more info, visit DrPegOnline.com or call 303-745-4944.

Are You Surprised?

"But rejoice insofar as you are sharing Christ's sufferings..."

- 1 Peter 4:13a (ESV)

By Rev. Dr. Henry L. Armington, Sr.

I remember when I was a child that I would sometimes attend a surprise birthday party. We would attempt to hide from the guest of honor. Soon the guest of honor would show up and we would jump out from behind things and yell, "Surprise!" The guest of honor would look surprised, whether surprised or not. In this case, surprise was a very good thing. The surprised one gets something valuable and desired.

However, sometimes we are surprised by something we do not want. You may have experienced that phone call from a relative relaying information about a bad accident. Maybe you have heard the doctor tell you that you or a loved one would die. Here is a surprise, but pain comes as a result. In both cases, the surprised one does not know or expect the awaiting event.

Surprise can take someone totally off guard and cause them to hyperventilate. Surprise can cause us to make very poor decisions. Surprise can weaken our tenacity to do what is right. It can be good and it can be bad.

The writer of First Peter seeks to make sure that we are not caught by surprise. He understands that the Christian will go through some hard times in this world. And yet, there are many who think that a Christian has no need to worry about pain and hurt. There are certain false gospels that teach that as soon as you become a Christian you do not have to worry about problems any longer.

For example, I turned on the television and saw a television preacher with some holy water. Supposedly, the source of the water was from the river "Jordan." The preacher also added to the holiness of the water by praying over it. The water could be used internally or externally. One person put the holy water on her head and her hair stopped falling out. One person rubbed the holy water on their tumor and the next day it just fell off. Amazingly, another man put the holy water on his wallet. Imagine his surprise when he found a check in the mail for a large sum of money.

This is an illustration of what many think Christianity is. Once you become a Christian, God is about to hook you up. You have lost all of your problems. So just believe and

it will all be given to you. Is it any wonder that many of us are set up for a surprise? Whether you believe it or not, you will have troubles and heartaches in this world.

Biblical writers are reminding us to not be surprised at the fiery ordeal. What is the fiery ordeal? It is not the nice living some of us would like to think it would be. No, it is a rough time. It is pain, it is struggle and it is whatever we have to go through in this life. It is the loss of a job that we did not foresee. It is the cancer that bankrupts us and



Henry L. Armington

kills our hopes. It is the divorce that our spouse wants. What is the fiery ordeal? It is the tribulation that some believe that God would save us from.

Why do we have trouble when God is all powerful? Since God owns the cattle on a thousand hills, why do my creditors want to evict me? God has healing in his wings and yet I can't be healed of my afflictions. Why?

We find examples in the scripture of people asking this question of "Why." But the answer to why does not come readily. Some argue that the devil and his angels are running around on the earth causing problems for God's people as Revelation 12 teaches. I agree with this position, but it still doesn't answer the question of why the devil is allowed to hurt God's people and God not stop it.

Someone else may argue that the free will of humanity explains this problem. One might say that we have problems and pain in the world because humanity has to make its own decision on who to follow and who not to. Thus the pain in the world is as a result of that fact, but the answer keeps coming back to a God who has the power and does not seem to be using it.

While I think there is truth in the above arguments, I really cannot answer why God allows some suffering and stops others. I wish I did. I wish God would let me know, but there is a key in understanding God even if we can't always understand his actions. While I do not know why I have to suffer, I can be comforted in knowing that Christ walked this way before me and voluntarily suffered, "But rejoice insofar as you are sharing Christ's sufferings." As an addition to awareness, feel free to purchase a copy of my latest book "You Can't Have My Song" from your nearest major bookstore or online at Amazon.com to enhance your learning. ✚

Rev. Dr. Henry L. Armington, Sr. visit Central Baptist Church this Sunday morning for a dynamite worship experience at 10:45 a.m. located 2400 California Street, Denver, CO. or cbcdDenver.org

International Christian Leader is Keynote Speaker for Bishop & Mrs. Porter's 50th Anniversary Celebration

The Most Right Reverend Charles E. Blake, International Presiding Bishop for the CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST, INC., will be the Keynote speaker for the kick-off services honoring Bishop and Mrs. Phillip H. Porter, Thursday evening, September 12, 2013, 6:30 pm.

The gracious pastor, Dr. Chris Hill and congregation of THE POTTER'S HOUSE OF DENVER, 9495 E. Florida Ave., Denver, Colorado will be the host and site of this auspicious occasion.

Bishop and Mrs. Porters' name has become synonymous, with their beloved Denver in many circles, whenever you are speaking nationally and internationally, over the past 30 - 50 years. These joyful servants are grateful at the privilege to labor in this vineyard as part of their calling from God.

The evening will experience heart-warming videos, testimonials and great music as well as a God-inspired message from the Bishop Blake.

All Nations Church has been the

birth place and home for thousands of the saints, and was, among other outreaches, the site of our first modern day Denver area, African-American Christian School (K - 8) 1981-1988.

Many will remember Bishop Porter as the founder and voice of, "It's Prayer Time", beginning 1973, "This is Prayer Time, how may I share with you today", was a welcome voice to many hurting, hungry and seeking souls.

The Bishop Porter is also now an official candidate to serve on the

International Church of God in Christ, JUDICIARY BOARD. Those elections will be held in St. Louis, Missouri at their annual November Convocation.

Again, dates for the 50th Anniversary Celebration of Bishop and Mother Porter are as follows:

■ Thursday, September 12th at 6:30pm at The Potter's House of Denver

■ Saturday, October 26th at 6:30pm at The Doubletree in Stapleton

For more information and to purchase tickets visit www.BishopPHPorter.com



Colorado Association of Black Journalists

Colorado Association of Black Journalists, held their annual banquet on Friday, August 9, 2013, where they presented their 2013, scholarships to students; and awards, to Colorado's Black Journalist in all media formats. However, the highlight of the evening was when Rose Andom delivered her keynote address.

Andom shared how she isn't just McDonald's franchiser, but also domestic violence survivor. She told about when she met Mayor Hancock, they found they have a mutual goal and vision for a domestic violence center in Denver. This center would be a place where victims can be heard and believed, find needed safety, support and services and a path to rebuild their lives and heal their families.

Andom stated that she has donated a \$1 million of her own money to see this project to completion and encourages us all to donate to this cause. At some point, all of us have known someone — family, a neighbor, or friend — who has been a victim of domestic violence.

Pictured above, from left, is Ms. Rose Andom, Mr. Moses Brewer and Dr. Sly Morgan Smith, who was the first black journalist to have her own radio and television show in Colorado. ✚

KING ... from page 6

by the black horse as people will be working for a full day to get a cup of wheat.

We can clearly see that the technology of the mark of the beast is increasing and it is carefully being introduced to societies around the world today (Rev 6:1-17, 7: 9-15, 13:16-1). "He also FORCED EVERYONE, small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to RECEIVE a mark on his right hand or on his forehead, so that no one could buy or sell unless he had the MARK, which is the name of the beast or the number of his name" (Rev 13:16-18). The Holy Spirit is working in a powerful way through the faithful church to restrain the forces of evil.

The faithful and true believers in

Jesus Christ will be rewarded! "They tell how you turned to God from idols, to serve the living and true God, and to WAIT for His Son from heaven whom He raised from the dead-Jesus who rescues us from the WRATH to come" (1Thess 1:9-10, Rev 6:16-17 NIV-KJ-NKJ).

The Day of the Lord will end with the destruction of the anti-Christ and the final ruling authority of Jesus Christ. "And then the lawless one will be revealed whom the Lord Jesus Christ will OVERTHROW with the breath of His mouth and destroy by the splendor of His coming" (2 Thess 2:8, Rev 19:11-21, 1 Cor 15:20-28). Until next time, Jesus is coming soon. Are you going to be READY? ✚

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New Covenant Christian Returns to Denver in Merger with Alpha Omega Ministries

On August 18, 2013, New Covenant Christian Church (under the leadership of Pastor Reginald C. Holmes) merged with Alpha Omega Ministries (under the leadership of Pastor Terrence Hughes) to form a ministry of hope, healing, and health. The ministry will seek to address the spiritual needs, social ills, and the social injustices that plague so many in the Denver inner-city. New Covenant has been in the Aurora/Greenwood Village area for the last 3 years, but was always looking for the opportunity to move back into the city. The church was founded and resided in the Denver community for over 60 years.

The opportunity to move back into the city came after long and fruitful conversations between these two pastors and the Cleo Parker Robinson Dance Ensemble. "The staff at Cleo's played an important and integral role in making this merger possible. Without their desire to make this happen and their willingness to be a part of the ministry that will go forth the collaboration would not have been achieved" said Pastor Holmes. The church and ministry will be housed at the Cleo Parker Robinson building at 119 Park Avenue.

"What we want to do is to 'be the church'. So much of the prevailing attitude and goal of the body of Christ is to just 'have church'. Our aim is to be the church," said Pastor Holmes. He went on to say, "Alpha Omega Ministries, under the direction of Pastor Hughes, has been doing the kind of ministry that most of us have only preached about. I have been so impressed with

his ministry's work and the difference he has made in the lives of the least, the last, the lost, and the left out. He has battled so many obstacles to his ministry, including the recent decision by the city to close the Triangle Area downtown, an area that is the last haven for help and healing for the thousands of homeless folk in Denver. Pastor Hughes has remained steadfast and focused on this segment of the population, a population that few in our community are focused on reaching. The congregation of New Covenant embraced, unanimously, the opportunity to team up with Alpha Omega and Cleo's in this merger."

Pastor Hughes is excited about the opportunity and the human resources that New Covenant brings to this union. "What a lot of people may not realize is that Cleo's has been doing ministry and serving people in the community in a very direct and meaningful way for quite some time. They do more than just dance and put on shows. The community would be surprised if they knew just how much they do for needy folk. Alpha & Omega ministries have enjoyed a long and fruitful partnership with the Cleo Parker Robinson Ensemble and we are pleased to have the New Covenant congregation join us in helping to meet those needs."

Pastor Hughes went on to say, "Pastor Holmes and I have had extensive conversations around our work and there has been a merger of our spirits long before we decided to merge our minis-

Continued on Page 17



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of poverty within all racial groups. For example, in Colorado, non-married Hispanic families are three times more likely to be poor than married Hispanic families. Non-married black families are four times more likely to be poor than married black families, while non-married white families are seven times more likely to be poor than married white families.

Marital Collapse: Not the Same as Teen Pregnancy

Unwed childbearing is often erroneously confused with teen pregnancy. In reality, only 11 percent of non-marital births in Colorado occur to girls under age 18. Most non-marital births occur to young adult women in their early 20s. Lack of access to birth control is not a significant cause of non-marital births.

The Importance of Fathers

The positive effects of married fathers are not limited to income alone. Children raised by married parents have substantially better life outcomes compared to similar children raised in single-parent homes. When compared to children in intact married homes, children raised by single parents are more likely to have emotional and behavioral problems; be physically abused; smoke, drink, and use drugs; be aggressive; engage in violent, delinquent, and criminal behavior; have poor school performance; be expelled from school; and drop out of high school.[1] Many of these negative outcomes are associated with the higher poverty rates of single mothers. In many cases, however, the improvements in child well-being that are associated with marriage persist even after adjusting for differences in family

income. This indicates that the father brings more to his home than just a paycheck.

Faulty Policies

Ignoring the positive impact of marriage on children leads to faulty government policies. Today, billions are properly spent on the education of low-income youth. Billions more are spent each year on means-tested welfare aid for single mothers. But at present, Colorado does little or nothing to discourage unwed births and nothing to encourage and strengthen healthy marriages.

Tragically, the critical facts about the importance of marriage in combating poverty are never communicated to youths at risk for future non-marital births. Similarly, the state welfare system ignores and disdains the institution of marriage: In fact, most welfare programs actively penalize low-income couples who do marry.

Colorado will continue to have high levels of child poverty, inequality, and welfare dependence as long as this governmental indifference and hostility to marriage persists.

Ironically, research shows that most unwed parents look favorably on the institution of marriage.[2] New policies should be developed that build on these attitudes. Government should provide factual information to at-risk youth about the value of marriage. It should also connect low-income couples with community resources that will help them relearn the skills needed to develop and sustain healthy marriages before bringing children into the world. Finally, the state welfare system should be reformed to encourage rather than discourage marriage. ✚



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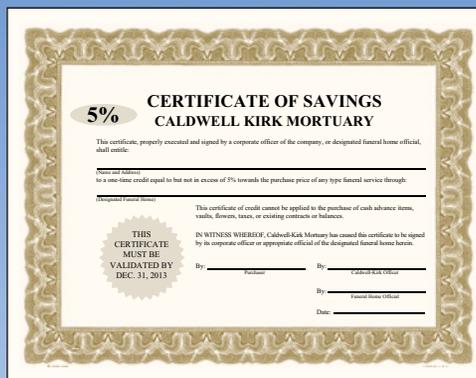
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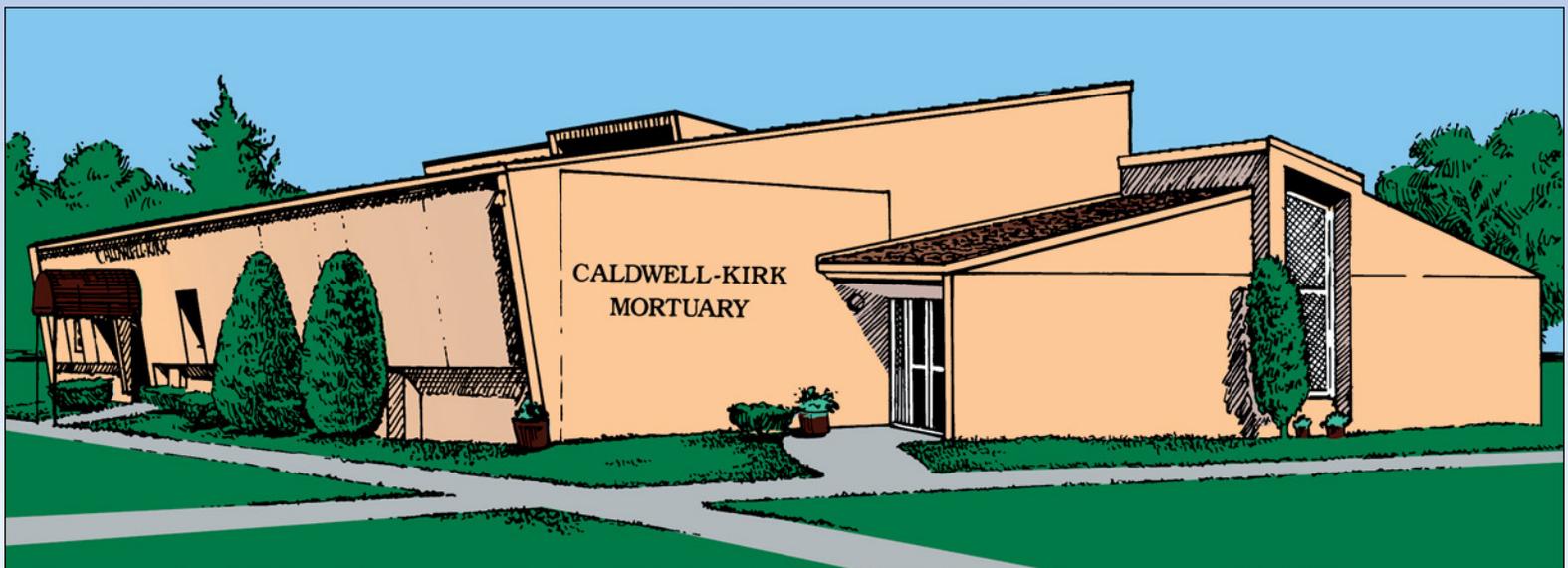
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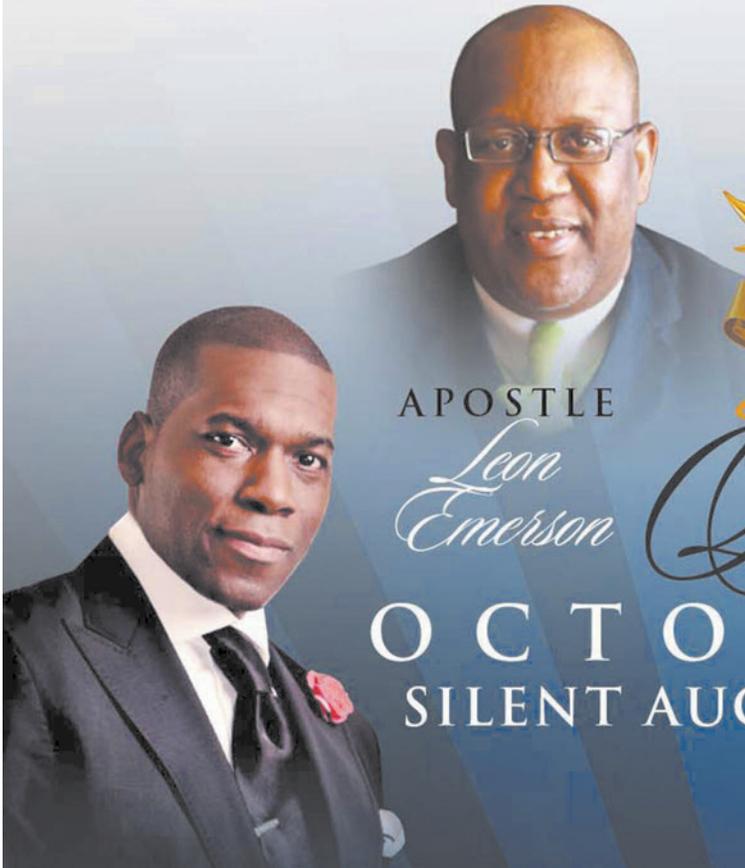


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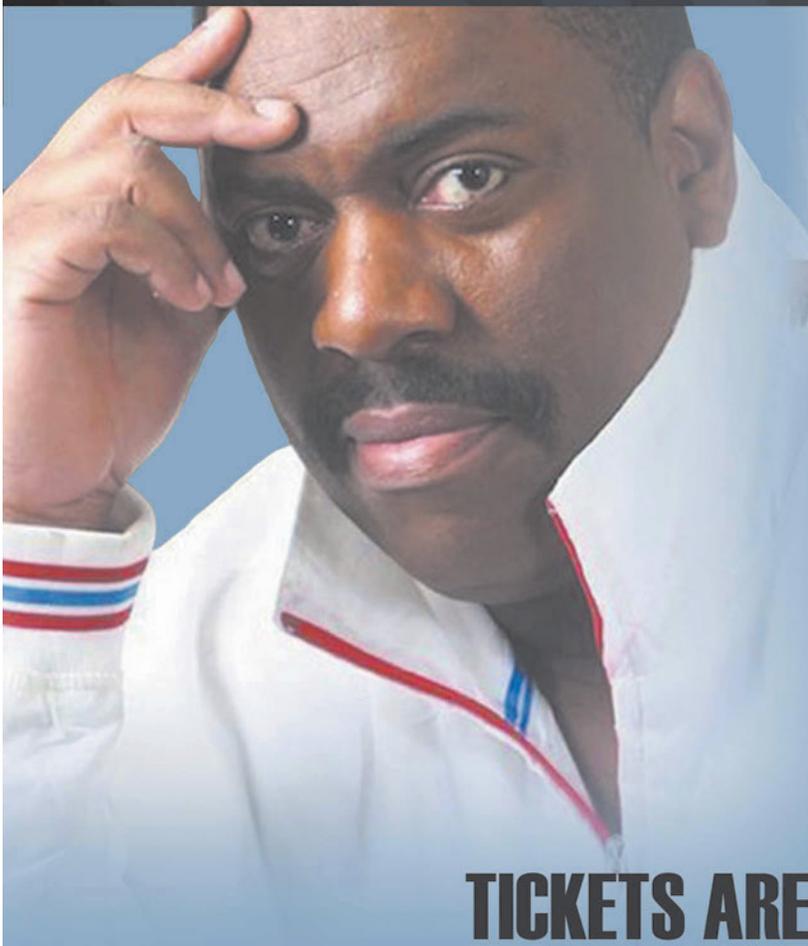
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Fasting The Prescription for Closed Doors

By *Evang. Dr. P.M. Wynn Grove*

Fasting is a means of diligently seeking God and prevailing with Him. It should be accompanied by prayer and repentance, as one humbles himself before God by denying the flesh of its lusts and pleasures. Fasting isn't a hunger strike to force God's hand and get our own way. Rather, it's a weapon in spiritual warfare against the principalities and powers of darkness.

The subject of fasting is well described in Isaiah 58. It is called "afflicting one's soul" and (Isaiah 58:3)

We're told the benefits of God's chosen fast, as well as given a warning against fasting for the wrong reason or with the wrong attitudes.

No man knows how fasting works, but we do know that it's necessary for both our own benefit, as well as for victory in certain areas. Somehow, heaven is ready to bend its ear and to listen when prayer is accompanied with fasting. Perhaps it demonstrates our "wholeheartedness." When we're willing to deny our flesh and concentrate on praying, we demonstrate our earnest desire to seek God and not to let go until He answers. This can be true for individuals or for groups. God wants us to return to Him with all our heart, and with fasting (Joel 2:12)



Wynn Grove

Fasting is a key ingredient in the prescription along with Waiting on God, Trusting in God, Praying to God and Obeying God. Lately our schedules have been so full that only an act of God seems able to force an adjustment.

Zechariah discussed fasting for people who were prospering materially (Zech. 7:5) largely because their community was in the middle of a building boom, they were moving up the ladder economically. In today's terms they might be called upwardly mobile. It is interesting that Zechariah challenged these people with fasting in the context of community development and social justice (Zech 7:6-10)

This leads to at least three reasons why fasting can be a valuable practice

for people who are recovering economically and moving up in the world. 1) Fasting can help us remember what it was like to be hungry and to do without. 2) Fasting can help us remember the spiritual resources of God that sustained us when we didn't have much, and it can also enable us to focus on the Lord. 3) Fasting can help us remember and identify with those around us who are poor and hungry.

We need to remember, right now in each of our lives no matter what is going on or what we are waiting on God for, there is always someone much worse off than you. Fasting is a means toward spiritual focus by concentrating on God rather than on food and other personal needs. Here are some examples of fasting from the Bible that might encourage you in this discipline:

*David fasted to show his repentance after learning that he would lose the child conceived by adultery with Bathsheba (2Sam. 12:15-16).

Ahab fasted to show his repentance after Elijah warned him of judgment because of the murder of Naboth (1 Kin. 21:27) the Lord decided to delay punishment until his son assumed the throne (1 King 21:29)

Ezra fasted before journeying from Babylon to Jerusalem in order to ask God's blessing, guidance, and safety (Ezra 8:21-23) the trip was without incident.

Daniel fasted and repented on behalf of the Jews in order to entreat God to restore them from exile in Babylon (Dan. 9:3-4) God allowed His people to return to their land.

Jesus fasted for forty days in the wilderness after being baptized by John at the start of His ministry (Matt 4:2) Satan came to tempt Him into sin, but He withstood the test.

Paul & Barnabas were fasting and praying when God called them for a journey to take the gospel to Asia Minor (Acts 13:1-5) several new churches were planted as many people came to faith.

How often do you "Fast" after repentance of a sin? Or how often do you "Fast" before taking action on a major decision? Are you waiting on God for an answer about something? Fasting often practiced to demonstrate the sincerity of our prayers. Christians should fast when facing a national crisis (2 Chr 20:3; Ezra 8:21; Esth. 4:16; for individual needs (Matt. 17:21) during periods of distress (2 Sam 3:35; Ps 35:13), when facing spiritual decisions (Matt 4:2; Acts 13:2 and in anticipation of Christ's return (Luke 5:35) Many people have found that heavy burdens are relieved through fasting (chapter 58). Wisdom is obtained through fasting (Dan. 10) revival comes from fasting. God's protection from danger is secured by fasting (1 King 21:27-29) recovery of a sick loved one may come after fasting (Ps. 35:13), and the inauguration of a great ministry may follow fasting (Matt. 4:2).

How many more doors will close on you....before you focus and take the main prescription of "Fasting" When was the last time you Fasted while Waiting, Trusting, Praying and Obeying God? When.....could it be the answer to your break through? Please note: When a Christian fasts, he/she should begin with a short fast-one day from sundown to sundown- and attempt to spend time alone with God during the fast. Watch God move and see the break through in your life or whatever your "Fasting" for. ✝

Happy Birthday!

with love... My friend & husband
Pastor Lee Grove Jr.

Evang. Dr. P.M. Wynn Grove & Pastor Lee Grove Jr., are Associate Pastors at the Potter House of Denver and the founders of Heavenly Sent Ministries.



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By Beverly A. Canaday

As the elderly population continues to grow, long term Nursing facilities are in need of your help by way of volunteering. Being a volunteer in reality means being a friend, someone to chase away the loneliness and make a person feel loved. Making a positive impact on someones life gives you a feeling of well-being knowing that you made someones life a little easier and a little brighter.

Did you know that volunteering is also an important part of your resume? Yes, a history of volunteering demonstrates your commitment to the community and a willingness to work for the betterment of others. Spending a small amount of time with seniors has a very large effect, take it from someone who has had first hand experience as a volunteer, myself. It was an emotionally uplifting experience that could never be matched by money or fame.

We are asking our wonderful community and others to come and be a part of Forest Street Compassionate Care Center's wonderful activity program. Our residents are in need of your help so that they can get that one on one personal time that most of us crave. Our activity program has various activities such as reading books to the residents who often lack the manual dexterity and eyesight to read for themselves anymore. Other fun activities are polishing fingernails, participating in various table games, trivia, exercise, dancing, or just sitting and listening to the residents reminisce about "The good old days". Our residents favorite activi-



Beverly Canaday

ties are the three B's, (Bible, Bingo & Birthday Parties), and they need your help in making these activities fun for them. As a volunteer you could be that much needed friend, that ear to listen to and that shoulder to cry on.

If you are looking for ways to reach out an touch someone's life and interested in giving a handful of your time, a great place to start is by volunteering at Forest Street Compassionate Care Center Activity Department. Call: 303.393.7600 and ask for Beverly A. Canaday, Activity Director, and you will be on your way to touching the life of a senior.

For more information about Forest Street Compassionate Care Center please visit <http://www.forestst.org>, or call (303) 393.7600, or stop by and visit us at 3345 Forest Street, Denver, CO 80207. ✚

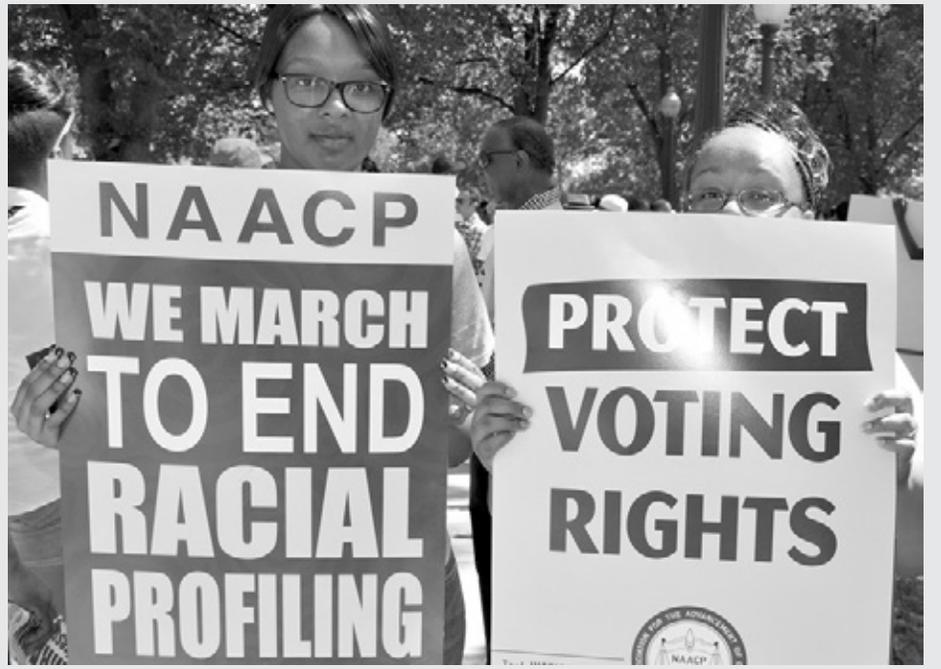


photo / Vern L. Howard

Thousands Gather in DC for 50th Anniversary of March

On Saturday, August 24, 2013, in Washington, DC, at the feet of the Lincoln Monument; tens of thousands, from around the world gathered to hear speakers such as Myrlie Evers-Williams the widow of slain Civil Rights Activist Medgar Wiley Evers, Representative and Civil Rights Activist John Lewis, the eldest son of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Martin Luther King III among others as we celebrated the 50th anniversary of the famed March on DC lead by the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., as he delivered the "I Have A Dream" speech.

Colorado was well represented by Peggy Wortham, and her two daughters Michelle and Jill, Brother Jeff, and yours truly Vern L. Howard to name a few. The recurring theme of for what many believe is the unfinished business of the civil rights battle.

With a blue sky and shinning sun perking through; those in attendance which reached all over the mall clear back to the WWII memorial the distances of eight tenths of a mile pay attention as speaker after speaker implore them to become active participants, not bystanders, in the quest of racial equality and harmony too stand up and be counted.

There was a number of signs referring the Trayvon Martin verdict as well as to the voting rights of all people.

There was laughter after the words "Daddy is smiling up above, knowing that by your presence, you will keep his dream alive," Martin Luther King III said from the top step of the Lincoln Memorial, where his father's memorable speech capped the 1963 march. "I stand here today in this sacred place, in my father's footsteps. I, like you, continue to feel his presence. This is not the time for self-congratulations. We can and must do more."

March for Jobs and Justice: This march, on the actual anniversary of the March on Washington, Wednesday, August 28th, 2013, will begin at 8 a.m. at 600 New Jersey Avenue, N.W. and stop at the Department of Justice (10th and Constitution Avenue N.W.) for a rally. The 1.6 mile march will conclude at the Lincoln Memorial where President Obama will speak. ✚

Did you know that volunteering is also an important part of your resume? Yes, a history of volunteering demonstrates your commitment to the community and a willingness to work for the betterment of others.

NEW COVENANT ... from page 10

tries. Pastor Holmes has been on the cutting edge of social issues in this community for 25 years. He has been a voice for so many voiceless people. We have no doubt that many will be blessed by the ministry we do on God's behalf."

New Covenant Christian Church/Alpha Omega Ministries will have a Friends and Family Day, Sunday, September 15th. That day is also National Back to Church Sunday. The church is asking all who attend that day to wear your favorite sports team's jersey and come willing to be a part of our worship. There will be food served

immediately following the service. All are invited.

Church services begin every Sunday at 10:00am. The address of the church is 119 Park Ave, Denver, Colorado (at the corner of Park Avenue & Washington Street). In a time of so much struggle and separation in our nation and in the church, it is so good to see this witness of unity among brothers and sisters in the faith. To God be the glory for all God has done and all that God will do through this merger! ✚

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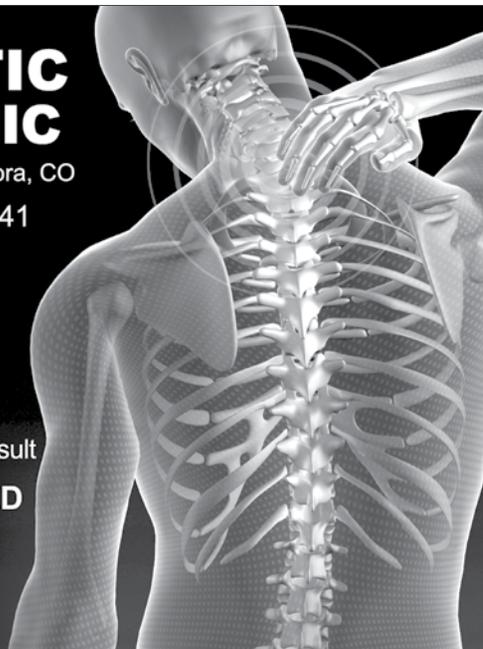
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Ministry Agenda

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'Soul' School - 10am
Family Worship Celebration - 11:30am

Tuesday Evening - Community Computer Classes (9 wk. intervals)

Wednesday

Morning - Prayer & Deliverance Teaching - 11:30am-1pm
Evening - Intercessory Prayer - 6:30pm
Evening - Bible Institute & Academy of Ministry - 7:30pm

Thursday Evening - Choir Rehearsal - 6:30pm

Friday Evening - Jubilee Service - 7:30pm

Saturday

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soulcarefullgospelcentercolorado.com

Church Directory



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Cleaves Memorial Christian Methodist Episcopal Church

Rebuilding the Village



2222 Marion Street
Denver, CO 80205
303.839.5683



Rev. Mark Hill

Sunday School ... 9 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship ... 10:15 a.m.
Prayer Hour ... Noon
Food Ministry - Sat. ... 3 - 4 p.m.
Monday Women's Bible Study ... 7 p.m.
Tuesday Men's Bible Study ... 7 p.m.

Lowry Community Christian Church

855 Yosemite Street
Denver, CO 80220
www.lowrychurch.org
303.364.7146



Sunday Worship Services
8:00 AM and 10:45 AM
Sunday School
9:30 AM
Prayer Meeting & Bible Study
Wednesdays at 6:30 PM

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Service begins at 9:45a.m.



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(BTU) - 6 PM
Bible Study - 7 PM
Prayer Meeting - 8 PM



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Sun 3PM - Radio Show - KLVZ 810AM Sun 11AM - Worship Experience
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303.355.8747

Sunday
Sunday School 9:30am
Services 11am

Wednesday
Sunday School Review 5:30pm
Prayer & Bible Study 6:30pm



Pastor Rudy
& Willie Dews

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- Matthew 6:33

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Thursday Pastoral Teaching..... 7:00p.m.

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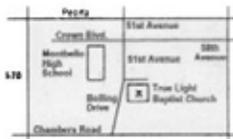
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Denver, CO 80239
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(303) 371-4280 FAX



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Golson Jr. and Mrs.
Melvia Golson

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9:30 a.m. Sunday School for all ages
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Sunday School 9am
Morning Worship 10:45am

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Office (303) 322-5983
Study (303) 322-4814
Fax (303) 393-6614
www.shmbc.com

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Sunday early Morning Worship..... 8:00 a.m.
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Sunday Morning Worship..... 11:00 a.m.
Sunday Children's Church..... 11:00 a.m.
Wednesday Prayer & Bible Study Meeting..... 7:00 - 8:00 p.m.
Friday Day of Prayer..... 7:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Church Directory



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& First Lady Renee

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1300 Iola Street
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Phone 343-2815



Scheduled Services:

Sunday Worship Service 11:00 AM
Tuesday Prayer & Bible Study 6:30 PM
Chancel Choir Wednesday at 6:30 PM
Men's Chorus Thursday at 6:00 PM

All Other Services Are Announced

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Wednesday Bible Study 7:00 p.m.
Friday Minister's Night 7:00 p.m.

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Noon Wisdom and Revelation Bible Study
7 PM Spiritual Disciplines Bible Study

1st Friday

6:30 PM Youth & Young Adult Worship
6:30 PM Jesus and Me Children's Worship

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E-MAIL: fbcc@aol.com

Pastor Paul & Evangelist Dallas Burleson



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Wednesday
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Thursday
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Saturday
Hungry For God Prayer (1st, 3rd & 5th) 12:00 PM

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Rev. Dr. John Tellis, Jr.
PASTOR

SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:30 am
MORNING WORSHIP 11 am
CHILDREN'S CHURCH 11 am
WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY 7 pm

Christ's Church Apostolic, Inc.

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(303) 340-3520

Bishop Al R Combs
Founder/Pastor

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Sacred Worship - 10:15 a.m.
Wednesday: Prayer - 6:30 p.m.
Bible Study - 7:00 p.m.

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Founder & Pastor
Elder Albert L. Anderson
1st Lady Evangelist
Miss'y Lillie Anderson

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"KING"dom Kids 2nd & 4th Sundays

WEDNESDAY

Family Prayer & Bible Study 7:00

Who's Going to Care for Your Loved Ones?

By Jereme Baker, Esq.

I think if anyone was asked the question - "Do you want to take care of your loved ones after you're gone?" - the response would be a met with a resounding "Yes". We all want to take care of our loved ones. The memories and time together are cherished. Everyone wants to secure the financial stability of their family but, often, there are fears and perceived obstacles, often financial, that make such planning difficult - here's a secret, estate planning doesn't have to be expensive and it's an investment in your family's future. This is completely normal. Once these fears are put aside, it is paramount to start thinking about the next generation to guarantee that your family and financial goals are met. An effective and well-executed estate plan can ensure a prosperous and bright future for all of your loved ones, or at least provide them with a little help along their way.



For many, a will or an estate plan is something planned for the distant future. Some never plan to make a will; a good number of people think they don't need a will or to plan their estate. This belief and lack of planning invites unfortunate consequences, including the extra and unanticipated costs of administering your estate without a will.

Why make a will? Why develop an estate plan? There are many reasons. But it is important to realize that, although individual circumstances vary, one of the most vital is to have your individual wishes carried out upon your death. It's a simple proposition: an estate plan directs your assets to the beneficiaries who you choose.

Wills. Everyone should have at least a basic one. Everyone. Most people think that it is unnecessary because they have minimal assets. That assumption is incorrect. A will informs the world to whom you want your assets distributed after your death. If you have young children, a will is the perfect place to name guardians for them. Dying intestate - without a will - may result in significantly higher administrative costs; the administrative expenses will be passed on to your heirs. Remember, your wishes and desires about who receives assets are irrelevant should you not draft a will or execute a proper estate plan. Once you pass on, you will have no say about what happens to your personal items, family heirlooms, and family home. Who will receive the assets in your estate? Generally, if you die and your spouse survives, your spouse will inherit your property. However, there are many factors that may affect and alter this distribution. Here are a few of these factors: 1) if either spouse had children from a prior marriage or out of wedlock; 2) the manner in which

property, both real (e.g. a house) and personal (e.g. an heirloom or a car), is titled; 3) which relatives survive you or predecease you. Like most things in life, the situation becomes more complicated depending on your individual circumstance. What happens if you don't have a spouse or children that survive you? Again, estate planning is all about your directive: where you want assets to go. And remember, should you change your mind about where the assets should go, a will can be amended at any time, so - at least where a will is concerned - your desires are not set in stone.

The elements of an estate plan may seem complex. At some level, they are. Not only does it involve drafting a will, but it may also include the deeding and transferring of property to an heir or to a trust, creating powers of attorney, drafting of a living will, or creating a trust. Regardless of the instrument, when considering the proper method to distribute an estate, you have to take an inventory of what, specifically, you want to bequeath to future generations. For example, do you want to create an educational trust a grandchild? Do you have a special needs family member that needs additional assistance? Would you prefer to leave your real estate or business interests with a daughter? If you don't have children, ask yourself some critical questions about who inherits your estate. It may not even be a family member, but a cherished and close friend, religious organization or charity.

I'd like to mention a key estate-planning device that many people avoid. Trusts. There is a perception that trusts are only for the wealthy. This is unfortunate. A trust is quite useful in the estate planning process, particularly if you have assets in real estate, or family members with special needs. Basically, a trust puts conditions on how assets will be distributed after death. For example, you may want to leave an heir something that is not directly payable after death; this situation could arise if you desire a grandchild to graduate college and receive

an asset after finishing their degree. Trusts are highly effective at reducing certain types of taxes and avoiding the cost of probate. In some situations, it may even protect your heirs from creditors.

Did you know that Medicaid can recover the costs of benefits paid on behalf of a Medicaid client from their estate? If this situation arises, the assets you've wanted to distribute may be significantly smaller than anticipated. The creation of a trust under a certain circumstances could avoid this troubling scenario. Of course, a properly drafted trust is only one potential instrument useful in protecting your assets from creditors.

I've mentioned trusts and wills. These are only a few tools in the estate planning toolbox. The proper instrument depends on what your goals are, the size of your estate, and the types of assets in your estate. As I stated at the beginning of this article, estate planning doesn't have to be expensive; in certain situations it may be as simple as changing the way that your property is deeded. This can be done without losing control of your property. But, please seek professional advice. Estate planning is not one size fits all: you may want to leave heirlooms to a granddaughter, and divide the house among your children. With proper planning, the decision is up to you.

Proper estate planning is complex and time consuming. A trusted estate-planning attorney is crucial: it is vitally important that your plan is executed professionally and competently to avoid unforeseen difficulties down the road. I have many clients who come to me after they've done a little self-help and the estate is a costly mess and not at all what the decedent wished for.

An attorney will give you advice, stay informed of any changes in the law, and help you protect what you have earned. Of course, there are cheaper alternatives but, as the saying goes, you get what you pay for, and you will likely pay for it in the long run. ✚

Jereme Baker, founder and CEO of Baker Law Group, LLC, earned his J.D. degree from the University of Colorado. He is the current Chairman-Elect of the Young Lawyer's Division of the Sam Cary Bar Association - Colorado's African-American legal professional association. Baker Law Group, LLC's practice areas is focused on Elder Law, Estate Planning, Probate, and Guardian/Conservatorship. Please visit us at jbakerlawgroup.com

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Church Directory

Come Worship with us... Visitors always welcome

King Baptist Church
3370 Ivy Street
Denver, CO 80207




Rev. Hendricks, Pastor: 303-355-1543
Church Secretary: 303-388-3248
Fax: 303-393-8660
Toll Free: 800-353-3304
Email: kingbc69@aol.com

| | |
|------------------|--|
| Sunday | Early Worship 8:00 a.m |
| | Sunday School 9:30 a.m |
| | Morning Worship 10:45 a.m |
| Wednesday | Bible Study & Prayer 6:45 p.m |

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JOHN 15:13, KJV




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Sunday Morning Worship 11:15 am

LOCAL EVENTS

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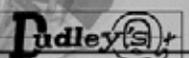


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Rising Star

Missionary Baptist Church

50th

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Rising Star Missionary Baptist Church
50th Church Anniversary
 August 1963 - August 2013 "Celebrating Jubilee"

Dear Rising Star Family and Friends: Over the past 50 years, Rising Star has endeavored to embrace the vision of the late Rev. George T. Brinkley. God continued to show himself as awesome and mighty, when that vision became a reality in August 2007, with the completion of Phase III. We celebrated with a ribbon-cutting and dedication ceremony. After 50 years of Kingdom-building, the Lord continues to bless us in significant ways. With our more than thirty active ministries, there is work that only your hands can fulfill. The industrious Events Team Ministry markets our facilities to our church family and the community, we have enjoyed the opportunity to host local, regional, state and national gatherings featuring world-renowned artists.

Now, we must grasp an understanding of the times that present great and new challenges. With the help of God, we will remain steadfast and rooted in His word. We must keep on pressing forward in God's name for 'the race is not given to the swift or the strong, but to them that endureth; (Ecclesiastes 9:11) I thank our members that have remained steadfast, Deaconess Ruthie Bray who has been here 49 years and seven months, Deacon Bray, Deaconess Gladys Burnett, Lethia Perkins and Beatrice Redd whom have served more than 30 Years.

Longevity has its privileges. However, if you joined Rising Star one week ago, or with me 27 years ago, I want you to know I appreciate and thank you for your support. I thank all of you for your sacrifices of monetary gifts, time and prayers. Let us remain faithful and keep on serving the Lord.

Yours in Christ,

Reverend Dr. Jules E. Smith, SENIOR PASTOR



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