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*Third Episcopal District A.M.E. Church*



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## PUBLISHER'S PAGE



Welcome to the 109<sup>th</sup> monthly edition of *The Columbus & Dayton African American*. The news journal was founded on January 10, 2011. I am honored to be the Founder and sole proprietor of the publication; however, let me hasten to add that if it were not for our brilliant and dedicated contributing writers, staff, subscribers, advertisers, and readers--we would not be around to celebrate our many successes.

Please join me in welcoming Dr. Cheryl Y. Wood to our team as a new contributing writer. Her article, celebrating the life of a true giant in the field of journalism within the City of Dayton is a very significant work. Don Black, Publisher of the *Dayton Weekly News*, and the subject of her article was a very gracious and humble man who poured out his life for the uplift of people of African descent.....individually and collectively. He leaves a void in the heart of the City that will not be easily filled. Thankfully, we have his son, Donerik, who has the knowledge, commitment, and vision to carry on his father's good work.

What does it mean to be a Publisher of an African American newspaper? First, it is not an easy profession and you cannot do it alone. These are the component parts--advertising and sales, layout and design, subscriptions, accounting, business management, distribution, photography, marketing, communications, historian, social media, digital technology, policy analyst, community leader, power broker, reposer of information, writer, and visionary. I just exhausted myself. I need sleep! If you have an interest in co-piloting this plane, please let me know!

Allow me to share with you why I am in the newspaper business. I love to read. My Dad, Inus Ray Miller, Sr., drilled me on reading at a very young age. At five years old, I was reading and explaining articles in *Life*, *Look*, and *Ebony* magazines to my Dad's friends, officers, and enlisted men on the base at Langley Field in Hampton, Virginia. Later in life (13 years old), I began going to Raleigh Randolph's newsstand on Mt. Vernon Ave. in Columbus, Ohio where I spent hours reading every major Black newspaper in America. My favorites were the *Pittsburg Courier*, *Chicago Defender*, and the *New York Amsterdam News*. Spelling Bees, reciting poetry, and reading prepared me well for my chosen career path--politics, communications, and utilizing the power of the written and spoken word.

Why did virtually every great African American leader publish a Black newspaper? Here's a partial list for your edification: Frederick Douglass--*North Star*, T. Thomas Fortune--*New York Age*, William Monroe Trotter--*Boston Guardian*, George Washington Williams--*Commoner*, W.E.B. Dubois--*Crisis Magazine*, Marcus Garvey--*Negro World*, James Weldon Johnson--*The Daily American*, A. Philip Randolph--*The Messenger*, Malcolm X--*Muhammad Speaks* (one of several founders), Adam Clayton Powell--*The People's Voice*, Ida B. Wells-Barnett--*The Chicago Conservator*, Martin R. Delany--*The Mystery and North Star*, Peter Humphries Clark--*Cincinnati Afro-American*, Henry McNeal Turner--*Voice of Missions*.

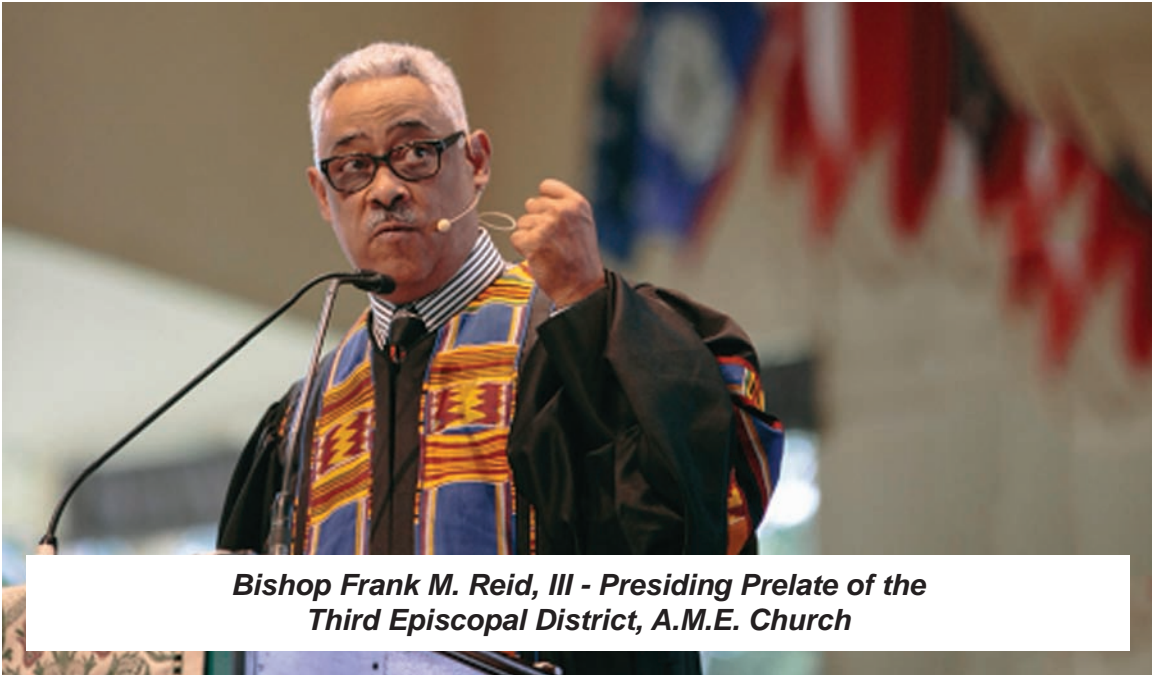
Fast forward to today. Newspapers still are our primary means of communicating information. African Americans own (205) Black newspapers (168) radio stations and only six (6) television stations in the United States. The digital space is ripe with opportunity.

Finally, there are those who would question why I would be so complimentary of the late Mr. Don Black and his enterprise. In fact, in a most disgusting, Machiavellian way, they would encourage me to "seize the day" and capitalize on his absence. These would be the same small-minded people who stoke the flames of discontent under the ruse of racial harmony or economic depravity. Their culturally deficient and warped reasoning would play out thusly--"We can't afford to sustain two Black newspapers!" Ignoring the fact that Dayton has more than 30 White-owned newspapers. Our problem is that we have too many people who live their lives on the deficit side of the equation--constantly playing defense. Their every move is guided by subtraction and division, rather than addition and multiplication. We have to *relearn* how to share and help one another.

With Appreciation and Respect,

Ray Miller  
Founder & Publisher

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# IN MEMORY OF BLACK BISHOPS, PASTORS, AND LEADERS KILLED BY COVID-19



By Rev. Dr. Tim Ahrens

COVID-19 has devastated African-American congregations nationwide. Well over 1000 years of pastoral leadership has been swept away with the death of many bishops, pastors, and religious leaders in the past eight weeks. Here are many of their stories. This is tribute to my colleagues who dedicated their lives to Jesus Christ and ministry in his name.

**In Chicago, The Rev. Keith Burgess**, of Old Friends Missionary Baptist, was a beloved pastor from the southside. He died in March after contracting COVID-19. In Facebook posts in mid-March, he was shown powerfully preaching to his congregation about COVID-19. Pastor Burgess was described as a great church man and a wonderful pastor. Tending to the growing needs of his congregation during this pandemic, Pastor Burgess dismissed his symptoms until he could not any longer. Four days after his symptoms began, he was admitted to community hospital in Munster, Illinois and put on a ventilator. He died less than a week later along with 80% of those who go on ventilators from COVID-19. He leaves behind his wife, a 17-year-old son and two stepchildren and a grieving, beloved congregation.

**In New York City**, on March 25<sup>th</sup>, **Rev. Isaac Graham**, the longtime pastor of Macedonia Baptist Church in Harlem, died after battling COVID-19. Pastor Graham, 66, had led the church, which is affiliated with the National Baptist Convention USA, for more than 40 years. Graham's wife, Cheryl, took him to the hospital on March 16, where he was diagnosed with coronavirus and placed on a ventilator. He died six days later, with his wife unable to visit him. "His last words to me were, 'I love you,'" Cheryl told the local PIX11 News as she noted it wasn't in person. "I was quarantined away from him. I couldn't even go to the morgue after he passed to see him because of the effects of the coronavirus," she added.

**In Baton Rouge, Louisiana**, the first person to die from COVID-19 was **Rev. Leon Franklin**, the 60-year-old pastor of St. Luke Baptist Church. Pastor Franklin had pastored the small church on the Mississippi River for 14 years. Franklin, who also worked at a Monsanto chemical plant, passed away March 18 after more than a week of feeling ill. He wasn't initially tested for coronavirus, but was instead given an antibiotic and other medicine after a doctor's visit. Still sick several days later, he didn't lead church services on March 15 and went to a hospital the next day, where he was put on oxygen and finally tested. He died two days later.

**In Shreveport, Louisiana, The Rev. Ronnie Hampton**, a minister known for his local outreach ministry died March 25<sup>th</sup>. Rev. Hampton, pastor of New Vision Community Church was known for his "Takin' it to the Streets" ministry and its service to the inner-



city neighborhoods. Hampton posted a video from his hospital bed three days before his death, saying he was admitted with abdominal pains and a persistent cough. He was diagnosed with pneumonia in both lungs so he was tested for COVID-19.

In his last word to his congregation via video, Rev. Hampton said, "I'm not fearful. I feel blessed. I'm optimistic about all of this." He thanked his church members who participated in recent weekend feeding programs even while he was sidelined. Hampton remained upbeat and offered encouragement to those who watched. "I'm not trying to worry about this. I'm just going to continue to be prayerful, be faithful. ... This may be his way to sit me down," said Hampton, who added, "All is well and it is well with my soul. I keep a praise handy in my heart. I keep a word and I just continue to try to do the Lord's will from a hospital bed. ... We're going to be fine. We're going to be all-right. I believe in that." He then led in a prayer thanking God for "his blessings." It was the last prayer he ever offered for his beloved members at New Vision Community Church.

Just as the national statistics are clear about the horribly disproportionate death-rate in the African-American community nationwide, the number of deaths among Black church leaders from COVID-19 keeps growing at an alarming rate.

In an in-depth article on April 19 in The Washington Post, religion writer Michelle Boorstein reported, "The Church of God in Christ, the country's biggest African American Pentecostal denomination, has taken a deep and painful leadership hit with reports of at least a dozen to up to 30 bishops and prominent clergy dying of covid-19, the disease caused by the COVID-19."

Among those who died after reportedly contracting the virus were: **First Assistant Presiding Bishop Phillip A. Brooks**, a legendary preacher and leader from Detroit who was No. 2 in the denomination and whose death was reported by the Detroit

News; **Bishop Timothy Scott**, a leader for nearly 50 years of the denomination in Mississippi whose death was reported by WREG-Memphis; and two Michigan bishops, **Robert E. Smith Sr.** and **Robert L. Harris**, whose deaths were reported by the Los Angeles Sentinel.

Boorstein continues, "The devastating impact of coronavirus pandemic transcends all boundaries and the faith community is no exception." Since the end of March, several religious leaders in Los Angeles and across the nation have passed away due to COVID-19, the disease caused by the virus.

In Los Angeles, **Bishop Anthony Pigeo, Sr.**, the 49-year-old founder and senior pastor of Life of Faith Community Center, died April 8, of complications from coronavirus. Known throughout the U.S. for his powerful preaching, Pigeo was also lauded by his family and colleagues for his charitable and generous spirit towards others in need. In a statement, his family said, "We bow our heads in humble submission to the perfect will of God as He has seen fit to transition Bishop Anthony Pigeo, Sr... a giant of a husband, father, son, brother, pastor and preacher across this country and a blessing to so many."

The Church of God in Christ (COGIC) denomination has been especially hard hit by COVID-19, with a number of bishops and superintendents dying from the disease in the last month.

**In Michigan, The First Jurisdiction of the COGIC** alone lost seven leaders including **Bishops Robert E. Smith, Sr.** and **Robert L. Harris**, and **Superintendents John D. Beverly, Paul E. Hester, Sr., Kevelin B. Jones, Myron E. Lett** and **Leon R. McPherson, Sr.**

**In Flint, Michigan - Bishop Smith, Pastor Kevelin Jones, 72**, of Bountiful Love Ministries, and Elder Freddie Brown Jr., of

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Jackson Memorial Temple, died after testing positive for COVID-19, joining the growing ranks of losses. “Pastor Kevelin Jones and Bishop Robert Smith were both fathers to me,” Pastor Chris Martin, of Cathedral of Faith Ministries, told a Flint news station. “I had the chance to serve at Bountiful Love Church of God in Christ under pastor Kevelin Jones for years.”

**Bishop Smith**, remembered as a bold witness of the gospel of Jesus, would hold a bullhorn and preach on the sidewalk, Martin added. He said both Brown and Jones had underlying health conditions. “I never wanted to know the earth without him, but I’m going to make it because I have all these kids,” Jones’ wife of 48 years, Iola Jones, told Fox News. “I would describe him as a hero to many... a father to many,” added Kevelin B. Jones Jr. “I haven’t seen him since the Sunday he was sitting in the back with his mask on.”

**In Detroit, Michigan**, the passing of **Bishop Phillip A. Brooks**, a legendary preacher, statesman and social activist in the area, similarly distressed residents in Detroit, Michigan. He passed away on April 9, at the age of 88. In an April 10 story in The Detroit News, the Op-Ed piece about Bishop Brooks’ loss, begins, “Detroit without Bishop PA Brooks is a city without a spiritual father.”

The Presiding Bishop Charles E. Blake, Sr., described Brooks as an “intellectual giant” for writing the manual for the training of COGIC leaders. The story goes on to say, Brooks, who was also selected by Blake to serve as the denomination’s vice president, was known as a confidant to Coleman Young, Detroit’s first Black mayor, and the late recording artist, Aretha Franklin.

Knowing the deadliness of COVID-19, Blake has been providing clear directives for the members of the church since March 20, said COGIC spokesman Robert Coleman.

“These directives have included the shutting down of the national headquarters and publishing house locations in Memphis, mandating that all other locations comply with local and state orders, cancelling all international events, establishing an informational call with the White House for pastors and leaders and canceling of four of the church’s upcoming major conferences and meetings,” explained Coleman.

In addition, Blake recently released a video to COGIC members where the presiding bishop stated, “I would like to take this opportunity to, once again, unequivocally state that all Church of God in Christ local, district, state, national and international gatherings should cease.... Saints of God, let us please continue to do all we can to contribute to the flattening of this pandemic’s curve. I cannot stress the vital importance of doing so for the safety and well-being of all.”

**In Mississippi** and throughout the south - the passing of COGIC **Bishop Timothy T. Scott**, who died on April 3, especially saddened communities who he guided.



Bishop Gerald Glenn of Virginia

Scott, the pastor of St. James Temple Church of God in Christ in Clarksdale, was the presiding prelate of the Northern Mississippi Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction. He was also the longest serving jurisdictional prelate in the Church of God in Christ, according to The Christian Post. “Bishop T. T. Scott is an icon of fatherly leadership, humble servitude, and unwavering faith,” said Bishop Robert G. Rudolph, Jr., adjutant general in the Church of God in Christ, in a statement.

**In Virginia, Bishop Gerald O. Glenn**, founder and pastor of New Deliverance Evangelistic Church in Chesterfield, Virginia died from COVID-19 on April 11. Initially, Glenn resisted his state’s social distancing recommendations and continued to hold in-person worship services despite the pandemic. In his last known in-person sermon on March 22, the New York Post reported that Glenn boasted about being “controversial” and “in violation” of state social distancing recommendations. “I firmly believe that God is larger than this dreaded virus. You can quote me on that,” he declared.

However, on the very next day, March 23, after Virginia Gov. Ralph Northam prohibited gathering on more than 10 people, Glenn announced an indefinite suspension of services. He even reminded members to “be mindful” of the heightened risk that large gatherings could pose in the spread of the coronavirus, reported the HuffPost.

Glenn’s daughter, also advised people to adhere to social distancing recommendations. She told WTVR-TV, “I just beg people to understand the severity and the seriousness of this, because people are saying it’s not just about us, it’s about everyone around us.” Bishop Gerald Glenn speaks during a rally at New Deliverance Evangelistic Church in Chesterfield, Va., in 2002. (Clement Britt/Richmond Times-Dispatch)

In The Washington Post article of April 19, Dr. Anthea Butler, a University of Pennsylvania religious studies scholar who wrote a book on the Church of God in Christ, says, “This is a moment of real crisis for

them. It will upend the axis of leadership in a way they may need to think about, including how do we put in younger people.”

“This will change the ecosystem of black church life,” Butler said. “It’s showing the inequities of health disparities and economic disparities in the black community.” She said through media accounts and hearing from members she has counted 25 to 30 COGIC leaders who contracted the coronavirus and died.

Sandy Brown, wife of **Elder Freddie Brown Jr.**, of Jackson Memorial Temple in Flint lost the love of her life, to whom she was married for 36 years, when Freddie died. Sandy Brown summed up the immensity of loss when speaking of COVID19.

She said, “This thing is real, it’s an unruly evil.”

Thanks be to God for all the love, pastoral care, preaching, and witnessing which each of these powerful men of God have given through their love of Jesus Christ and His church. May their memories be a blessing now and forever. May their families and faith communities be comforted and may they continue to spread the light, life and love of Christ which each of these pastors brought to this world.

Michelle Boorstein’s April 19, Washington Post article, “Covid-19 has killed multiple bishops and pastors within the nation’s largest black Pentecostal denomination,” was quoted and drawn from significantly in the writing of this article. Other news sources are drawn from across the country.

Rev. Dr. Tim Ahrens is the Senior Minister of First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ in downtown Columbus. A church known for its witness to social justice since its birth as an abolitionist congregation in 1852. Rev. Ahrens is the fifth consecutive senior minister from Yale Divinity School and is a lifelong member of the United Church of Christ.

# FINDING PEACE IN THE PANDEMIC STORM



By Lisa Benton, MD, MPH

What will it take for you to go back outside and into a crowd, a concert, sports arena, casino or just sit down in a restaurant rather than order take out? Would your decision to venture out change if you choose to wear a mask, wear gloves, carry hand sanitizer, have a thermometer, goggles or stand behind plexiglass 6 feet away?

Carefully, consider the cost to yourself and to others.

Now that we're learning more about how the coronavirus, Covid-19, spreads farther than 6 feet from a cough, lingers in closed spaces longer than scientists thought, and shows up earlier and stays later without causing symptoms, you want to be more sensible and show wisdom in how you interact with others.

An ironic but very appropriate analogy to ponder is the virus in this pandemic to sin. I've heard many preachers teach us that sin takes you farther than you want to go, keeps you longer than you want to stay and the price you pay is higher and much greater than you ever thought.

No, I'm not going to preach a sermon about the virus as sin, because there are enough teachers and leaders out there who can draw parallels to plagues, pestilence and destruction throughout history and provide the scholarly data to support these theories. It's just one of those light bulbs that go off in your head and make you go Hmmm.

Even Bill Gates of Microsoft says that reopening will not be that simple. He's one of the world's richest men, with probably unlimited tools and access to some of the world's best laboratories and think tanks. He also has an international foundation that has focused for years on fighting other less infectious diseases in Africa and other parts of the world.

And he's even saying it'll take a reliable medication and a vaccine that is safe to use in enough of us healthy people to make going about our days close to what they were before coronavirus was on the scene.

In order to keep people more at risk from coronavirus safe large number of younger and middle-aged people will need vaccination. As we get older, our immune systems get weaker and vaccines may not give us as much protection.

Being unwell with conditions related to stress, diabetes, obesity, high blood pressure, heart disease, kidney disease, lung problems like asthma and COPD, that you can prevent and/or control how serious they become, can also weaken your immunity. The immune system of people with cancer and other



Photo by Ben Dorger - Standard Examiner

Weber State University dance professor Joseph Blake teaches his modern dance class from his living room.

illnesses are also not as strong and will not be able to build as many antibodies to fight off an invasion by coronavirus either.

I know I constantly beat the drum about the importance of getting exercise, enough sleep, reducing stress and eating right, making healthier choice, I know it's even harder when you are confined, quarantined or on lockdown and may not be getting a paycheck or may not have a job to go back to.

It's hard to take care of yourself when you may not be clear on how to access the help you need. I've had to mail paper towels, masks, gloves, vitamin C, D and Zinc to family member and friends in other parts of the country.

When looking for assistance start local. I know your local television and radio stations list numbers to call and places to contact for help. Local houses of worship, community centers, United Way, and even your local city halls and health departments can direct you to resources and services. Be sure to go to: [www.coronavirus.ohio.gov](http://www.coronavirus.ohio.gov) where a lot of the contact information for service organizations has been compiled with links for quicker access.

Stay alert and on the lookout for scams and people trying to take advantage of the misfortunes of others during this pandemic crisis. If it sounds too good to be true, it is. For legitimate help in searching for your checks, tax returns and business loans start at [www.IRS.gov](http://www.IRS.gov).

As painful as it is, do not run from creditors, landlords and bill collectors. Be proactive since the first of each month will keep on coming. Ask for payment plans and send at least something if you can. This is not the time to stay silent. Keeping the stress of all that is going on inside will only make you sick in more ways than one.

I recommend Crown.Org's website [www.crown.org/coronavirus/](http://www.crown.org/coronavirus/) for tips on stretching your pennies during this time and rebuilding after the worst of the pandemic storm has passed. Since it will take a long time to recover from the setbacks of coronavirus, it will help to get started now. Having a financial vision with concrete steps and a plan of action will lower your stress and help you sleep better.

Being creative at seeking help in these times works too. Look for your neighbors, communities, groups, and tribe on Facebook. I know people who have set up GoFundMe pages, virtual gatherings and meet ups, and drive and drop offs using SignUp Genius and MealTrain.com to meet one another's needs.

Keep your mind and body active and refresh your spirit. Whatever is your passion and gives you joy, use this time to reconnect with it or take it to a new level. For example, the dance school where I volunteer and teach can't meet in person, but we've set up Zoom classes. Facebook live, Instagram TV, Google Hangout, TikTok, WhatsApp and FaceTime are other free tools for sharing and caring.

I was delighted to find that world famous dance companies such as Alvin Ailey and Dance Theater of Harlem live stream fitness and dance classes and performances which are free, a nominal charge or for your donation.

Even though your Bible study, prayer group or youth group now happen on a screen, and you tune into church services in your pajamas or sweats, the messages and the exchanges have just as much meaning if not more. The fight against coronavirus has removed things

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we thought were necessary and couldn't live without. Our focus for living a richer and fuller life was made clearer. If you're like me, you now better see front and center who and what in our lives really matters.

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## BUILDING LOCAL CONNECTIONS COULD HELP REDUCE VIOLENT ENCOUNTERS BETWEEN POLICE AND BLACK MEN

By Kim Krisberg

Finding common ground and building trust between local stakeholders could help prevent violent encounters between police and young black men, new research finds.

In the U.S., young black men face a disproportionately high risk of being injured or killed in violent encounters with law enforcement, with police killings a leading cause of death among black men. To help determine underlying factors that contribute to the inequity as well as areas of possible intervention, public health researchers at the University of Minnesota School of Public Health surveyed nearly 50 people across stakeholder groups on the relationship between police and young black men.

A key takeaway was that many believed that a lack of connection between police and the communities they served was a major contributor to violent encounters.

“We heard a lot of talk about distrust and fear,” lead author Collin Calvert, MPH, a PhD student at the school, told *The Nation’s Health*. “And when people talked about positive interactions (with police), it was consistently about officers that they knew well.”

To conduct the study, published in January in the *Journal of Urban Health*, Calvert and co-authors surveyed 48 stakeholders in Minneapolis and St. Paul, including young black men ages 14 to 24, parents,

educators, police officers and staff working at organizations that served youth.

Participants were asked to identify causes of violent encounters between police and young black men, describe police officers who serve in their communities and describe interactions between police and young black men. Calvert noted that while previous qualitative studies on police violence have captured the perspectives of youth and police, few have collected input from other stakeholder groups such as teachers and youth service providers.

The study found that with the exception of police, all stakeholder groups felt that violent encounters between police and young black men were caused by the officers’ lack of connection with the community. Youth respondents feared police after having seen or heard about violent encounters, while officers said they feared youth due to the availability of guns and previous assaults on police. Many stakeholders said that racism among police and the over-policing of black neighborhoods contributed to violent encounters.

For example, one parent said that some police were rude and did not “see” them.

“They see me, but they really don’t see who (I am) because...to them, I’m nobody,” said the parent, who was quoted in the study.

Positive experiences with police were usually described in the context of police-hosted community events and interactions that occurred during times of less aggressive

policing. Such encounters were often associated with officers who had developed relationships with residents and who focused on de-escalation during policing encounters.

“We have cops that have worked the north side for years, and people know who they are, and they respect these officers,” one officer told researchers. “They know how to work with people and calm the situation down.”

Overall, Calvert said, the study highlighted the importance of building trust and identifying areas of consensus when developing programs to successfully close the police violence disparity.

“For any prevention effort out there working on this issue, I hope this study shows why it’s important to involve lots of different stakeholder groups and not just keep it in-house,” he said. “Getting that community input is so important for designing something that’s effective and that people actually want to engage with.”

*Kim Krisberg is a freelance public health reporter and editor living and writing in Austin, Texas. She has been reporting on public health issues for more than a decade, mostly notably for The Nation’s Health at the American Public Health Association and The Pump Handle over at ScienceBlogs.com. She studied journalism at the University of Missouri-Columbia.*

Article from [www.thenationshealth.org](http://www.thenationshealth.org)



## POLITICS AND FAITH: REMEMBERING THE FUTURE COMPLEXITIES, CONCERNS AND COMMITMENTS



By Eric Johnson, PhD

The uncertainty currently challenging the human family is in many ways a quintessential aspect of what it means to be alive. There are none among us who can claim governance over the future, but that does not prevent anyone of us from trying to do exactly that. The doubt and insecurity produced by the jarring affects of the recent pandemic have confronted life as we know it in ways that few among us could have imagined. For many people the anchoring of their faith grounds what they believe to be truth and guides them in times of spiritual vagueness. Forcing the asking of deeply complicated questions like: Will God protect people who choose to attend public religious worship ceremonies during a pandemic? Even more important should the choice to attend be interrupted by a government that by its own claim is without spiritual intent. The politics of making collective decisions in times of crises are no stranger to controversy and strife. When something must be done, who is doing it, why and in whose interests are not irrelevant concerns. There is a saying “there is nothing new under the sun,” meaning every thing that has happened has in some way happened before. Interestingly inviting each of us to interpret the lessons of faith and politics in real time so as to identify the truths to which we are willing to commit.

The idea that faith is a belief evidenced by things unseen and often times not understood is a cornerstone of spiritual conviction. When a global pandemic threatens millions of lives around the world, there can be no time more relevant to “God’s will” or our faith in it. It is exactly now that most people find faith comforting and reassuring that good prevails in all circumstance. However,

that is confronted by the reality that believers and non-believers alike succumb to the virus with little discernable distinction. While our faith often requires us to have certainty that the creator is ever present and shapes all that we see, we are also left with helplessness of defending our friends and families from an invisible enemy. Faith in times like these compel us to remember the power of grace and mercy, with an understanding that each new challenge is simply a repackaged old one. COVID 19 is not the first global pandemic and it is unlikely to be that last. No one can live your faith for you and only you know what is truly in your heart. However, uncertainty is not a new test. Every night each of us goes to sleep with no assurance that we will wake up in the morning. In that way the latest pandemic should be a testimony not about our fear but in our ability to remember the future promised by our trust in the Most-High. Faith generally offers few answers and those that we find tend to be complicated but that should have little bearing on the truths to which we commit.

Central to the idea of politics is the notion of individual responsibility and the expression of our collective will. This global pandemic has left no aspect of our existence untouched and that includes our responsibility to have our voices heard. Albert Einstein once said “We can not solve a problem with the same thinking that created it.” This notion has never been more relevant than it is today. The pandemic has not reduced our responsibility to act, in fact it has escalated it. The most vulnerable in our community as always are the most disrupted and ill-affected by the economic and social distresses of the global health crisis. So, the upcoming primary election requires another expression of courage and acknowledgement of the dangers connected to our health and safety. The Judges, county officials, and state

legislators on the ballot have real impact on our lives and the lives of the people we care about. Be sure to have your voice heard with the conviction of your truth.

It is rarely a good idea to mix faith and politics, however it is difficult to conceive of a circumstance where that is not the case. Remember the future is an understanding that there is no circumstance in which we find ourselves that we have not been in before. A constant complexity is that the circumstances are always somewhat different and the players constantly change but hardly ever is the game modified. Our concerns are many. Spiritually how do we serve our creator and respond to worldly concerns simultaneously? Are our understandings of spiritual truths and political realities in conflict? These questions and others like them force us to confront our spiritual development and political objectives. The notion of faith as a political force is a complication and concern because political terrain rarely adheres to anything resembling a spiritual framework. Too often true commitment to one is a liability in the other. Nonetheless we find ourselves living during a time that requires us to operate with a faith that compels us to act in the best interest of good and goodness, while operating in political environment that is deeply rooted in self-interest. While we are obliged to use politics as a tool to leave our children a world better than we found, we are never absolved of the spiritual commitments born out our faith. However, when has that ever not been the case which is why we are duty bound to remember our future. Stay safe! Stay healthy and stay prayed up!

*Dr. Eric L. Johnson currently serves as the Chief Consultant with Strategies to Succeed and is on the faculty at Virginia International University. He is the former Chief of Research Publications for the United States Air Force Academy.*

# COVID-19: THE CLASH BETWEEN POLITICS, PUBLIC HEALTH & RELIGION



By William McCoy, MPA

America is witnessing a horrific, if not historic, collision between politics, the right-wing religion, and common-sense science. This crash, at the intersection of truth or consequences, has claimed thousands of victims. Chaos and confusion rule the day, as clarity and compassion are lost in a cacophony of competing voices. The victims include thousands, perhaps tens of thousands, of people who have lost their lives following the advice of a relatively few angry, ignorant, and arrogant religious and political leaders. The situation is getting worse by the day.

COVID-19 or the Coronavirus is a calamity of biblical proportions. The number of infections and deaths related to COVID-19 are increasing at an exponential rate. On April 15, 2020, a then-record 2,569 Americans died from COVID-19. Twenty-four hours later, that single-day record was eclipsed, as 4,591 people died from the Coronavirus.

By April 16, 2020, COVID-19 had infected an estimated 2.2 million people and killed over 50,000 worldwide. The “America First” slogan has become reality, as the USA now leads all nations with roughly 775,000 infections and 42,000 deaths. That same day, a Washington Post reported, “COVID-19 is rapidly becoming America’s leading cause of death.” Sadly, the infections and deaths continue to increase.

Did you know then-President Barack Obama warned the nation of a coming, flu-like virus in 2014? That’s right. President Obama told the nation a pandemic could strike over five years ago! An Indy100 Independent article (Greg Evans, April 9, 2020) focused on then-President Obama’s September 2014 speech to the National Institutes of Health. The forward-thinking president talked about the need for Senate funding to put an infrastructure in place within the USA and around the world “that allows us to isolate (a new airborne, flu-like virus) quickly, see it quickly, respond to it quickly. So that when a new strain of flu, like the Spanish flu, crops up five years from now or a decade from now, we’ve made the investment and we’re further along to be able to catch it.” You can view his speech online at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pBVAnaHxHbM>. Obama warned America to be vigilant and prepared for a coming pandemic of the kind we now face.

President Obama established a National Security Council (NSC) directorate in the White House charged with preparing for when, not if, another pandemic (like Ebola) would strike. This was one of several steps he took toward creating an early warning



Photo courtesy of the Post & Carrier

system and infrastructure to combat future pandemics. Donald Trump closed this NSC office in 2018, over the objections of public health experts, who knew its value.

President George W. Bush warned of a pandemic in 2005! He said, “If we wait for a pandemic to appear, it will be too late to prepare. This was 14 years before the appearance of COVID-19. Bush’s warning can be viewed online at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=spcj6KUr4aA>.

On January 13, 2017, a three-hour meeting was held to brief in-coming Trump administration officials about a potential pandemic and what to do about it. POLICO called it the “most concrete and visible exercise dealing with pandemics.” The Trump team was told it could face specific challenges, such as shortages of ventilators, anti-viral drugs and other medical essentials, and that having a coordinated, unified national response was “paramount”-warnings that seem eerily prescient (i.e., prophetic) given the ongoing Coronavirus crisis. Some incoming Trump administration officials did not take the briefing seriously. For example, in-coming Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross reportedly “kept dozing off during the briefing” (see this AP News article online at <https://apnews.com/ce014d94b64e98b7203b873e56f80e9a>).

From the outset, Donald Trump denied, diminished, and deflected the dangers of the COVID-19 virus. Trump’s White evangelical followers embraced his narrative without question or complaint. Many Republican politicians and religious leaders minimized and made fun of the COVID-19 scourge. A few dismissed the Coronavirus as “anti-Trump hysteria” and a product of a left-wing media attempt to make Trump look bad. Trump called it a “Democrat Hoax.”

Unfortunately, some of these right-leaning conservatives convinced their followers to ignore the warnings and advice of public health experts and continue with their lives as if everything were normal. Evangelist Landon Spradlin died from the Coronavirus,

after calling negative media coverage of the pandemic a “political attack on President Trump.” Bishop Gerald Glenn, pastor of the New Deliverance Evangelistic Church in Virginia, died the day before Easter Sunday from the COVID-19 virus.

Trump told people to ignore public health warnings and “pack churches for Easter services.” Armed with Trump’s blessing, numerous pastors disregarded state and local “stay-at-home orders” and held Easter services in violation of public health guidelines. One news headline read, “Controversial Louisiana pastor (Tony Spell) brazenly flouts COVID-19 lockdown rules to hold Easter services.” Spell claimed 1,300 people attended that service. Other pastors also followed Trump’s marching orders and held in-person Easter services.

Trump has called on “stay-at-home” protestors in Michigan, Minnesota, and Virginia (all with Democrat governors) to “liberate” their states. An April 17, 2020 headline said, “Trump breaks with his own guidelines to back conservative anti-quarantine protestors.” Taking their cue from Trump, the Republican mayor of Jacksonville (FL) and governor of South Carolina ordered the re-opening of beaches and parks- even though infections and deaths in both places were and are still rising.

The only question that remains is: Who are you going to listen to- public health experts, religious leaders, or Donald Trump? It’s your life, your choice.

*William McCoy is founder of and principal consultant with The McCoy Company- a personal services consulting firm specializing in strategic planning, economic development, and training that helps its clients articulate and achieve their visions, solve problems and make decisions, and capitalize on their opportunities. He has served every level of government, foundations, nonprofit and for-profit enterprise, and others. Mr. McCoy is an award-winner, profiled in Who’s Who in the World and elsewhere. You can reach William McCoy at (614) 785-8497 or via e-mail at [wmccoy2@themccoycompany.com](mailto:wmccoy2@themccoycompany.com). You can also visit his website at <https://wmccoy29.wixsite.com/mysite>.*



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## COVID-19 Stay-Home Order Ohio's Response to COVID-19

Essential businesses will remain open during the Stay-Home Order to provide services that are vital to the lives of Franklin County residents, some examples include:



# COVID-19

The Franklin County Commissioners office is coordinating efforts on a county level to respond to and limit the spread of Covid-19/coronavirus. For current updates on county agencies, please visit <https://commissioners.franklincountyohio.gov/coronavirus-updates>

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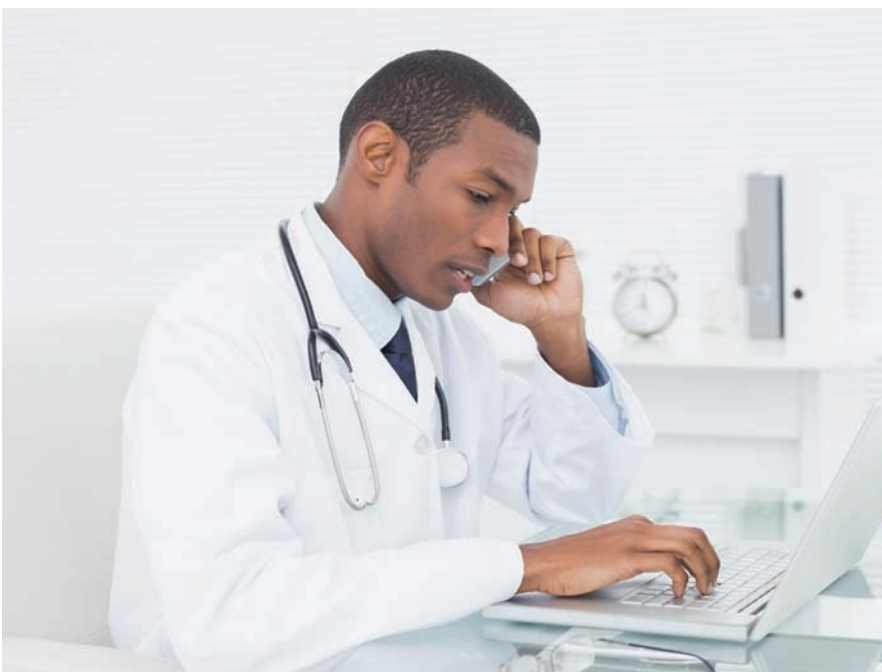
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# HEALTH

## RAINBOW PUSH COALITION & NATIONAL MEDICAL ASSOCIATION JOINT STATEMENT ON COVID-19 PANDEMIC



By Santita Jackson

Just as the sun rises in the East and sets in the West, COVID-19 has emerged as a global threat. In the United States the effects of the disease have disproportionately impacted African Americans and other communities of color. According to state data currently available (and that includes demographic information), rates of infection and death amongst the African American population far exceeds the representation of African Americans in the overall population (in some instances by a multiple of more than 5). This global pandemic has amplified the effects of pre-existing health disparities, structural impediments, and the ongoing harm done by inadequate strategies to address the dangers of COVID-19 in the African American community specifically, and communities of color overall.

This joint public health strategy proposed by the Rainbow PUSH Coalition and the National Medical Association addresses these concerns, and proposes viable, actionable steps that can be immediately implemented to reduce the possibility of irreparable harm due to COVID-19 on these at-risk communities.

### THE JOINT PUBLIC HEALTH STRATEGY:

**1. PREVENTION:** Shelter-in-Place (at home) and Worship-in-Place (at home). Houses of worship and community organizations are encouraged to employ alternative, safe strategies for socialization and worship. As human interaction is essential for overall health, we encourage everyone to practice physical distancing (i.e., stay at least 6 feet from other people, avoid mass gatherings, wear cloth facial covering in public, and do not host gatherings at home). Engage in virtual internet meetings/gatherings, use phone/email/text capabilities for communicating, and ensure that regular handwashing and surface cleaning are employed. Additionally, prevention messages and up-to-date information about the status of the pandemic must be communicated in culturally relevant and effective ways, consistent with the communication practices and languages of African American and other racial/ethnic communities.

**2. DATA:** State and local health departments and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) must be required to

collect and publicly report COVID-19 testing, emergency department visits, hospitalizations, and outcomes data, stratified by demographics (including race, ethnicity, gender, and 9-digit ZIP codes).

**3. SCREENING:** When screening questions are used to determine who will undergo diagnostic testing, high-risk groups including persons who are African American, Latinx, American Indian/Alaskan Native should be assigned a high priority risk score to enable testing.

**4. ACCESS:** To date, less than one percent (1%) of the population has been tested for COVID-19, and the numbers are skewed based on race and socioeconomic status (SES). Access to testing must be expanded, to ensure timely access to COVID-19 testing stations, and prioritize testing in medically underserved areas, and with populations and neighborhoods impacted by limited/restricted access to public transportation. The expanded use of mobile testing units and providing for “walk-up” testing at drive-up testing stations must be immediately employed to help ensure equitable access to testing for underserved populations. The walk-up capabilities must meet the following requirements:

a. Testing stations should be no more than one quarter mile (5-minute walk) from nearest operating bus stop, train, or subway station.

b. Information concerning walk-up and drive-up testing stations must be widely disseminated, and must include multilingual, culturally sensitive, public service announcements within African American, Latinx, and American Indian/Alaskan Native communities.

Consider the use of public health emergency dollars received by Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) as a funding source for this community outreach. However, if these dollars are utilized for COVID-19 outreach, the expenditures must be immediately reimbursed to the FQHC to ensure ongoing liquidity for ongoing and future public health emergencies.

**5. PROTECTION FOR CARE PROVIDERS:** Require Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for people at risk for COVID-19 that are performing duties in support of hospitals and nursing homes including (but not limited to) patient transport, environmental services, food service and maintenance staff, patient care assistants, nurses’ aides, and pharmacy technicians.

Provide cloth facial coverings, handwashing soap and water or hand sanitizer for persons in homeless shelters and staff.

**6. DO NOT RESUSCITATE (DNR) ORDERS:** Do Not Resuscitate (DNR) orders enable patients to pre-determine care decisions concerning the use of life sustaining/life maintaining therapies. Public health emergency provisions allow for involuntary DNR protocols whereby a clinician or staff member (without prior consent of patient, family, or health advocate) makes the decision to withhold Basic Life Support (BLS), Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS) or other extraordinary measures for acute, life-threatening, or deteriorating health. When a public health emergency has been declared, it is to be required that state and local health departments collect and report all involuntary DNR orders, including data according to race, ethnicity, gender, and age. This data will be monitored by an appointed Community Advisory Board, the responsibility of which will include evaluation for any trends in the data, especially related to race or ethnicity.

**7. PROTECTION OF VULNERABLE POPULATIONS:** Do not include persons who are a) incarcerated, b) reside in a mental institution, or c) institutionalized with intellectual or physical disabilities as human subjects for clinical trials and experiments involving off-label use of medications and vaccines.

**8. PROTECTION OF INCARCERATED PERSONS:** Due to the emerging and ongoing challenge of rising numbers of confirmed cases of COVID-19 in jails and prisons, and a recently confirmed death of at least one inmate from COVID-19, every effort to depopulate jails and prisons of non-violent detainees and persons convicted of non-violent offences must be employed to eliminate close contact, and to ensure the ability to quarantine persons requiring separation from other inmate populations. This includes the use of personal recognizance, appropriate home monitoring, community release, and enhanced follow-up with offices of parole and probation to the maximum extent possible. Additionally, all inmates and staff should be provided cloth facial coverings, handwashing soap and water or hand sanitizer.\*

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Photo by Beбето Matthews, AP

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**9. CARECOSTS:** Ensure full implementation of the provisions of the CARES Act, to include no cost for screening and treatment for COVID-19 and related conditions. This should include medical follow-up for related worsening or unmasking of underlying disease, and aftercare (i.e. skilled nursing facility).

**10. AFFIRMATIVE ACTION:** Rescind, effective immediately, the U.S. Department of Labor suspension of certain Affirmative Action guidelines, as provided for in the March 17, 2020 memorandum from the director of the Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs. By carving out exceptions to essential equal opportunity policies as related to federal contracting during the COVID-19 response, some will be denied opportunities at the very time when everyone should be allowed to fully engage in addressing the current public health emergency. There can be no “whole of America” response if ALL of America cannot equally participate in the response.

**11. AID TO AFRICAN COUNTRIES FOR COVID-19 RESPONSE:** An aggressive deployment of essential medical

resources, to include testing kits, PPE, ventilators, and the like be activated to mitigate further global spread and deaths in African countries due to novel coronavirus, as well as the potential for re-emergence in African immigrant communities in the United States where persons may return to their homes of origin, and then return to the United States. This includes needed CDC resources and consultation, additional budget appropriation for funding support for public health infrastructure and nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), including reinstatement of World Health Organization (WHO) funding, in order to mitigate impact of COVID-19 on indigenous populations on the African continent.

**12. ADDRESS THE CRITICAL SHORTAGE OF AFRICAN AMERICAN MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS:** The effects of the COVID-19 pandemic in the United States has revealed a severe shortage of highly trained, culturally competent medical professionals in communities of color and rural communities across the country. There must be funding, and resources made available to support the recruitment, training, and deployment of African American medical professionals in the United States. This includes partnering

and supporting African American schools of medicine, nursing, and health sciences, reducing the debt burden on students of color attending medical/nursing schools, and beginning earlier in the K-12 educational process to expose students of color to the medical profession, and the opportunities available within the profession.

For more information about this agenda, please contact:

*National Medical Association President Oliver Brooks, MD - olibro@aol.com*

*National Medical Association President-elect Leon McDougle, MD, MPH - Leon.McDougle@osumc.edu*

*Rev. Dr. Janette Wilson, Esq., Special Asst. to Rev. Jesse Jackson, Rainbow PUSH Coalition - revjwilson@rainbowpush.org*

*Rev. S. Todd Yeary, JD, PhD, Senior Vice President & Chief of Global Policy, Rainbow PUSH Coalition - styear@rainbowpush.org*

*Santita Jackson is the Executive Producer and Co-Host of The Sanita Jackson Show WCPT 820 Chicago.*



**Rev. Jesse Jackson**  
Founder/President  
Rainbow PUSH Coalition



**Dr. Oliver Brooks**  
President  
National Medical Association



**Dr. Leon McDougle**  
President-Elect  
National Medical Association



**Dr. Debra Furr-Holden**  
Assoc. Dean for Public Health  
Michigan State University

*Not pictured: Rev. Dr. S. Todd Yeary, Dr. Adam Milam, Rev. Dr. Janette Wilson*



## STAYING HEALTHY AND CONNECTED



By Charleta B. Tavares

May is National Mental Health Awareness Month. The U.S. Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) indicates that about one in eight emergency department (ED) visits in the United States are for treatment of mental health or substance use disorders. The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) and other national, state and local mental health advocates use this month to bring awareness, education, support and hope in understanding mental illness.

PrimaryOne Health is working with our sister mental health and substance use disorder providers with the ADAMH system of care to raise awareness, offer services, educate, partner and bring hope and recovery to our Franklin County residents and families with mental illness. As a family member of one who lost his hope and died by suicide, this is an area of health that I am particularly passionate and focused on in order to save lives and provide culturally and linguistically appropriate services.

The COVID-19 Pandemic has unfortunately provided a necessary point in time to not only focus on our physical health but our emotional, mental and spiritual health. This focus is important to our staying healthy and connected during this pandemic period. COVID-19 prevents us from physically connecting with our healthcare practitioners and spiritual leaders due to federal, state and local Emergency Health Orders. You may be questioning, how are we going to stay healthy and connected while staying safe?

The answer is technology and Telehealth. The technology is our phones (landlines, cell and smartphones), computers (desktops, laptops, iPads and other tablets) and/or applications and platforms like FaceTime, Skype, WebEx, Zoom etc. Telehealth was illuminated in the April 2020 edition of the Columbus/Dayton African American however as a refresher:

### What is Telehealth and Telemedicine?

The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services defines telehealth as the use of electronic information and telecommunications technologies to support and promote long-distance clinical health care, patient and professional health-related education, public health and health administration. Technologies include videoconferencing, the internet, store-and-forward imaging, streaming media, and terrestrial and wireless communications.



Telemedicine (also referred to as “telehealth” or “e-health”) allows health care professionals to evaluate, diagnose and treat patients in remote locations using telecommunications technology. Telemedicine allows patients in remote locations to access medical expertise quickly, efficiently and without travel.

The use of technology to provide Telehealth is particularly important now that we are encouraged to practice social distancing, stay home and are being closed out of our routines to connect, educate, work recreate, worship, socialize and be entertained. Human beings are communal and need social interaction and touch. COVID-19 has changed our lives with social isolation, economic pressures, stress and anxieties with many unknowns. African American and communities of color are especially impacted with isolation and disconnection from family and friends, as we are generally family-focused and operate as a collective.

In addition, identifying trusted sources of information, rumors, data and news overload can cause sadness, loneliness and fear, which can exacerbate anxiety, depression, and other mental health conditions, as well as increase in substance use.

According to the Mayo Clinic, self-care strategies can get the care you need in order to help you cope. Self-care strategies can assist in taking care of your mind, body and spirit and increase endorphins to maintain happiness or a sense of well-being.

What are endorphins? “Endorphins are morphine-like chemicals produced by the body that help diminish pain while triggering positive feelings. They’re sometimes referred to as the brain’s “feel-good” chemicals, and are the body’s natural painkillers. Endorphin is a combination of the words “endogenous” (produced within the body) and “morphine. They’re released from the pituitary gland of the brain during periods of strenuous

exercise, emotional stress, pain, and orgasm. Endorphins help relieve pain and induce feelings of pleasure or euphoria. They play an important role in the brain’s reward system, which includes activities such as eating, drinking, sex, and maternal behavior.”

The following are some of the Mayo Clinic’s Self-care Strategies to stay healthy and connected:

### Take care of your body

*Be mindful about your physical health:*

- *Get enough sleep. Go to bed and get up at the same times each day. Stick close to your typical schedule, even if you’re staying at home.*
- *Participate in regular physical activity. Regular physical activity and exercise can help reduce anxiety and improve mood. Find an activity that includes movement, such as dance or exercise apps. Get outside in an area that makes it easy to maintain distance from people — as recommended by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the World Health Organization (WHO) or your government — such as a nature trail or your own backyard.*
- *Eat healthy. Choose a well-balanced diet. Avoid loading up on junk food and refined sugar. Limit caffeine as it can aggravate stress and anxiety.*
- *Avoid tobacco, alcohol and drugs. If you smoke tobacco or if you vape, you’re already at higher risk of lung disease. Because COVID-19 affects the lungs, your risk increases even more. Using alcohol to try to cope can make matters worse and reduce your coping skills. Avoid taking drugs to cope, unless your doctor prescribed medications for you.*
- *Limit screen time. Turn off electronic devices for some time each day, including 30 minutes before bedtime. Make a conscious*

*Continued on Page 18*

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effort to spend less time in front of a screen — television, tablet, computer and phone.

- *Relax and recharge. Set aside time for yourself. Even a few minutes of quiet time can be refreshing and help to quiet your mind and reduce anxiety. Many people benefit from practices such as deep breathing, tai chi, yoga or meditation. Soak in a bubble bath, listen to music, or read or listen to a book — whatever helps you relax. Select a technique that works for you and practice it regularly.*

#### **Connect with others. Build support and strengthen relationships:**

- *Make connections. If you need to stay at home and distance yourself from others, avoid social isolation. Find time each day to make virtual connections by email, texts, phone, or FaceTime or similar apps. If you are working remotely from home, ask your co-workers how they are doing and share coping tips. Enjoy virtual socializing and talking to those in your home.*
- *Do something for others. Find purpose in helping the people around you. For example, email, text or call to check on your friends, family members and neighbors — especially those who are elderly. If you know someone who cannot get out, ask if there is something needed, such as groceries or a prescription picked up, for instance. But be sure to follow CDC, WHO and your government recommendations on social distancing and group meetings.*

- *Support a family member or friend. If a family member or friend needs to be isolated for safety reasons or gets sick and needs to be quarantined at home or in the hospital, come up with ways to stay in contact. This could be through electronic devices or the telephone or by sending a note to brighten the day.*

#### **Get help when you need it**

Hoping mental health problems such as anxiety or depression will go away on their own can lead to worsening symptoms. If you have concerns or if you experience worsening of mental health symptoms, ask for help when you need it, and be upfront about how you're doing. To get help you may want to:

- *Call or use social media to contact a close friend or loved one — even though it may be hard to talk about your feelings.*
- *Contact a minister, spiritual leader or someone in your faith community.*
- *Contact your employee assistance program, if your employer has one, and get counseling or ask for a referral to a mental health professional.*
- *Call your primary care provider or mental health professional to ask about appointment options to talk about your anxiety or depression and get advice and guidance. Some may provide the option of phone, video or online appointments.*
- *Contact organizations such as the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) or the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) for help and guidance.*

Technology and Telehealth provide a new avenue to protect the health, connectivity and safety of our patients, practitioners, staff and community during this period where social distancing is mandated and face-to-face contacts are limited. As healthcare providers, including mental health, PrimaryOne Health is focusing on keeping our patients engaged, healthy and connected to their practitioners through technology and Telehealth. If you are in need of health care services, we are providing services to our existing patients and accepting new patients. Please call 614.859.1851 or visit our website at [www.primaryonehealth.org](http://www.primaryonehealth.org)

**We are all in this – together. We (PrimaryOne Health) are One.**

*Footnotes:*

<sup>1</sup>*By Lindsey Konkel Medically Reviewed by Rosalyn Carson-DeWitt, MD, EVERYDAY HEALTH Last Updated: 10/16/2015*

<sup>2</sup>*Mayo Clinic, COVID-19 and your mental health*

*Charleta B. Tavares is the Chief Executive Officer at PrimaryOne Health, a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) system providing comprehensive primary care, OB-GYN, pediatric, vision, dental, behavioral health and specialty care at 10 locations in Central Ohio. The mission is to provide access to services that improve the health status of families including people experiencing financial, social, or cultural barriers to health care. [www.primaryonehealth.org](http://www.primaryonehealth.org).*

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May is National Foster Care Month and a time to highlight the continued need for foster homes in Franklin county. COVID-19 pandemic has created a burden on the already overwhelmed foster care system. The pandemic coupled with the existing opioid crisis continues to put children further at risk. Franklin County Children Services (FCCS) is encouraging more adults to become foster parents.

Foster parents provide temporary care for children who have come under Children Services' care because of abuse, neglect, or unstable family conditions. FCCS currently has hundreds of children who need safe and loving homes especially teens, siblings and children with emotional or behavioral challenges. Training and support are provided to those individuals and couples who decide to open their hearts and homes to become foster parents.

Those interested in fostering are encouraged to visit Children Services' website: [www.fostercare.fccs.us](http://www.fostercare.fccs.us)

or call (614) 275-2711 to learn more about qualifications, the process and how to connect with a local foster care agency. FCCS partners with various foster care agencies to provide homes for Franklin County's children. Every child deserves a safe and loving home in which they can grow and flourish.

*Franklin County Children Services is the public agency mandated by federal and state law to ensure that our community's children are safe and well cared for. We provide protection, care and permanency for children who are abused, neglected or dependent. With the help of more than 100 organizations, 800 employees, 500 kinship families, 200 adoptive families, 500 volunteers and mentors and hundreds of foster parents, FCCS is committed to making sure that every child has a safe and stable home.*

*For more information contact Bruce Cadwallader at 614-341-6085 or Valancia Turner at 614-275-2520*

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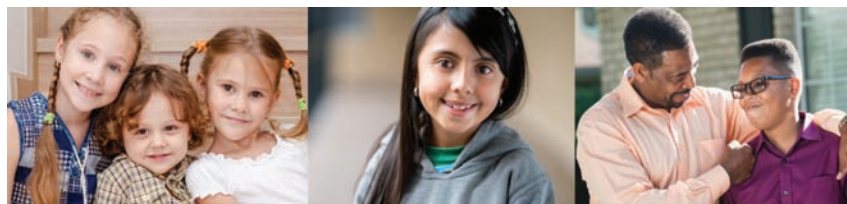
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Program subject to change with or without notice. Other restrictions may apply. Please see lender for complete details. Subject to credit approval.

<sup>1</sup>As updated annually by the FFIEC (Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council).

<sup>2</sup>Property must be located in a census tract within the following counties: Allen Ohio, Allen Indiana, Defiance, Delaware, Franklin, Hancock, Lucas, Madison, Union, Williams, and Wood. Actual amount applied at closing.



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# COVER STORY

## BISHOP FRANK M. REID III: CLERGYMAN, HISTORIAN, ACTIVIST



By Ray Miller, MPA

It is a special honor and a privilege to have the opportunity to interview a leader who contextualizes complex issues with historical underpinnings, theological analysis, and common sense advocacy. It is also gratifying when the interviewee seeks out opportunities to lay a foundation of knowledge enabling a fundamental understanding of pressing issues that cry out for immediate action in the most comprehensive manner. Bishop Frank M. Reid III possesses that rare combination of learning, vision, and intolerance necessary to bring about real and lasting change, particularly for those who have been marginalized and denied justice, equality, and dignity.

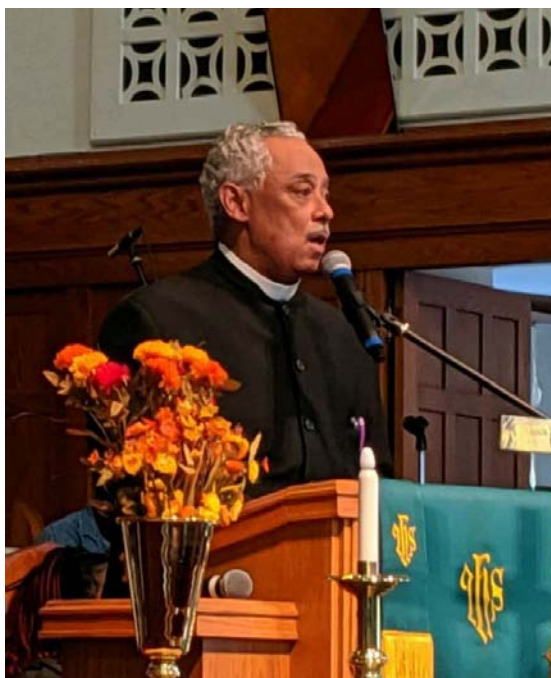
Bishop Reid is not only a powerful and learned religious leader, but he is also a historian and social justice advocate as well. During the course of this interview, Bishop Reid talked extensively about Richard Allen, Absalom Jones, Daniel Payne, Daniel Coker, Nat Turner, Denmark Vesey, Ida B. Wells-Barnett, Henry McNeil Turner, Toussaint L'Ouverture, Napoleon Bonaparte, Howard Thurman, Clarence Mitchell, Congressman Blanche Kelso Bruce, Congressman Parren Mitchell, Congressman Kweisi Mfume, John H. Murphy, Bishop Richard Bryant, Hon. Thurgood Marshall, Congresswoman Maxine Waters, Congressman Elijah Cummings, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Honorable Elijah Muhammad, Minister Louis Farrakhan, Dr. Naim Akbar, Wesley Snipes, the Shrine of the Black Madonna, Dr. James Cone, Black Liberation Theology and "Little Willie" the chief numbers runner in Baltimore.

Bishop Reid was born in Chicago, Illinois in 1951. He is a 5th generation AME minister whose father (1972-89) and Grandfather (1940-62) served the African Methodist Church as Bishops. Reid was raised in a family that treasured distinguished educational achievement and excellence. His father and mother surrounded him with books, read to him daily, and continually reminded him that "readers become leaders."

Educationally equipped in the public school system in St. Louis, Missouri, Dr. Reid graduated from Central High School in 1969, attended the Rockefeller Foundation Yale Transitional Year Program in 1970, graduated from Yale University with a BA in 1974, Harvard Divinity School, M.Div., in 1978 and was a member of the distinguished Samuel Dewitt Proctor Fellows at United Theological Seminary, DMin., 1990.



*Bishop Frank M. Reid, III (Photo by Lloyd Fox, Baltimore Sun)*



**1. Bishop Reid speaks at the A.M.E. Ohio-South Ohio Conference,**  
**2. Bishop Reid and his wife, First Lady Marlaa Hall-Reid**



Reid's commitment to educational empowerment led the Governor of the State of Maryland to appoint him to a second term on the 17 member Board of Regents, which "oversees the system's academic, administrative, and financial operations; formulates policy, and appoints the USM Chancellor and the Presidents of the system's 12 institutions."

Dr. Reid preached his trial sermon in 1971 while his father was the Pastor of the Metropolitan AME Church in Washington, DC (1968-72). His first ministerial experience was as a missionary pastor in Monrovia,

Liberia West Africa at the Eliza Turner AME Church (1975-76).

After graduating from seminary, Dr. Reid was appointed to his first pastorate in the U.S., Greater Bethel AME Church in Charlotte, NC (1978-80). From 1980-88 he was the servant leader of Ward AME Church in Los Angeles and was sent by the late Bishop H. Hartford Brookins to the historic pulpit of Bethel AME Church in Baltimore, MD where he served as Senior Pastor from October 1988 - August 2016.

*Continued on Page 21*

*Continued from Page 20*

All of the congregations that Dr. Reid served, achieved tremendous spiritual, intellectual, economic, political, and numerical growth and empowerment.

While pastoring in Charlotte, NC, students would walk from Johnson C. Smith University to worship, witness, and work at Greater Bethel AME Church.

In Los Angeles Ward AME Church was the center for the Free South Africa Movement on the West Coast and was extremely active in Rev. Jesse Jackson's historic 1984 and 1988 presidential campaigns. Because of Ward's leadership in spiritual and social transformation, Reid received an NAACP Image Award for outstanding social engagement and for partnerships in writing plays that addressed relevant social issues.

As Senior Pastor of Bethel Baltimore, Dr. Reid led the congregation to become one church in two locations. Bethel maintained the main sanctuary in Baltimore City and expanded to a thriving location in Baltimore County. For 27 years Bethel led the way in encouraging, equipping and empowering people to make a difference and change the world.

A "thought leader on issues of culture"; Dr. Reid served as a consultant on the 1980's NBC comedy AMEN. Bishop Reid's outstanding leadership and preaching has been recognized with numerous awards, in publications and on national platforms including The H. Beecher Hicks Outstanding Preacher's Award, Cover Story for Charisma Magazine, Senior Statesman of the Hampton Minister's Conference (2016), Father of The Year by the National Diabetes Organization, The Harlow Fulwood Community Championship Award, and The Baltimore Chapter of the NAACP Leadership Award.

In the 1990s the legendary Outreach of Love TV Ministry featuring the messages of Dr. Reid reached millions on BET, The Armed Services, and the Word Networks. The Outreach of Love impacted an entire generation of preachers and teachers of the gospel.

From 2002 - 2008 Bethel and Dr. Reid played an important part in the HBO series, "The Wire." Bethel and Dr. Reid were mentioned positively and regularly throughout the series; a worship service was filmed at Bethel of Dr. Reid preaching and The Outreach of Love Choir singing.

Dr. Reid authored two influential and best-selling books, "The Nehemiah Plan and Restoring the House of God." The Nehemiah Plan is an excellent book on rebuilding

broken lives and communities. He co-authored with Dr. Jeremiah Wright, "When Black Men Stand up for God: Reflections on the Million Man March."

Bishop Reid believes in the power of ecumenism. He works tirelessly to create a dialogue that will benefit both faith and secular communities.

Positive, Prophetic, Powerful, Proactive, and Passionate are words often used to describe Dr. Reid's global and radical Christ-centered ministry.

His greatest legacy is his faith and family. He has been married to the woman he calls Lady Marlaa' Reid since March 15, 1980. Together they are the proud parents of three gifted children: Shane Alexander, FranShon Mariee' and Faith Mirachelle.

Bishop Reid was elected as the 138th Bishop of the AME Church in July of 2016. He is a third-generation Bishop in the Reid family. His election was historic for the AME Church. For the first time in AME history, three generations of the Reid men were elevated to the Episcopacy. Now, in the sage/mentor stage of his life and ministry, Dr. Reid is spending most of his time equipping future generations to glorify God in faith, family, fitness and finance.

When asked specific questions relative to the critical issues the nation is facing today Bishop Reid offered practical recommendations to respond to urgent needs as well as longer-term structural recommendations.

**RM Question:**

The Congress of the United States has enacted legislation providing 2.2 trillion dollars to address the economic challenges emanating from COVID-19. If you were a major decision-maker on the expenditure of those funds what would be your priorities?

**FR Answer:**

Restore certain aspects of the safety net which has been substantially weakened by the existing administration. For example, those who are in the greatest need have had income maintenance reduced, healthcare benefits slashed, and SNAP Food Stamp benefits cut. I would first take care of those who are in the greatest need. Then I would ensure that we had health insurance for everybody, provide support to Black-owned businesses, develop food cooperatives, and invest in Black farmers with a focus on urban farming. In addition, we need to increase access to broadband and computer technology, particularly for our children. Finally, we need to strengthen our HBCU's and public education.

**RM Question:**

You mentioned some awesome elected officials earlier in your comments. What kind of elected officials do we need today?

**FR Answer:**

We need our Black elected officials to not be for sale to the highest bidder. We need them to speak truth to the people and equip the people for power, encourage them and equip them to know how to fight for their rights, justice, and equity within a colonized, apartheid system. Our elected officials need to refocus on what it means to be servants of the people. The Black Caucus needs to build an African American agenda, and finally, we need an exorcism from white supremacy. Many of our people have internalized their own oppression. We need to encourage, equip, and empower our people, and go back to the root of Black Radicalism.

Relatedly, Bishop Reid had a reminder for our African American intellectuals and executives--we need to be unashamedly Black and unapologetically Christian. Reflecting on a conversation he observed between Dr. Cornell West and Dr. J. Wadley, Dr. Wadley presented this line of questions to Brother West--What Black Church do you attend? What Black Church are you teaching Sunday School? What Black Church do you pay your tithes? What Black College are you investing in and finally, what black educational institution are you volunteering your time to teach? The point is good rhetoric will not suffice. We need our "best" to be more accountable and give back to our institutions.

Finally, Bishop Reid reflected upon the attempts that were made to bring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and The Honorable Elijah Muhammad together to seriously address the critical issues of the day. Bishop Reid put forth the question: "How do we develop a Black Male United Front?" Obviously, there is more to come! Let's welcome Bishop Reid into our City, State, and Region of the Country. To say that he has much to offer would be a gross understatement.

*Ray Miller is the Publisher of The Columbus & Dayton African American which he founded in 2011. Prior to establishing the news journal Miller served as a Member of the Ohio Senate and the Ohio House of Representatives for a combined 24 years. In addition, Miller served on The White House staff of President Jimmy Carter as a Deputy Special Assistant. Miller is a graduate of The Ohio State University and holds a B.A. in Political Science and a M.A. in Public Administration.*

# WHY WE NEED REPARATIONS FOR BLACK AMERICANS

By Rashawn Ray & Andre M. Perry

Central to the idea of the American Dream lies an assumption that we all have an equal opportunity to generate the kind of wealth that brings meaning to the words “life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness,” boldly penned in the Declaration of Independence. The American Dream portends that with hard work, a person can own a home, start a business, and grow a nest egg for generations to draw upon. This belief, however, has been defied repeatedly by the United States government’s own decrees that denied wealth-building opportunities to Black Americans.

Today, the average white family has roughly 10 times the amount of wealth as the average Black family. White college graduates have over seven times more wealth than Black college graduates. Making the American Dream an equitable reality demands the same U.S. government that denied wealth to Blacks restore that deferred wealth through reparations to their descendants in the form of individual cash payments in the amount that will close the Black-white racial wealth divide. Additionally, reparations should come in the form of wealth-building opportunities that address racial disparities in education, housing, and business ownership.

In 1860, over \$3 billion was the value assigned to the physical bodies of enslaved Black Americans to be used as free labor and production. This was more money than was invested in factories and railroads combined. In 1861, the value placed on cotton produced by enslaved Blacks was \$250 million. Slavery enriched white slave owners and their descendants, and it fueled the country’s economy while suppressing wealth building for the enslaved. The United States has yet to compensate descendants of enslaved Black Americans for their labor. Nor has the federal government atoned for the lost equity from anti-Black housing, transportation, and business policy. Slavery, Jim Crow segregation, anti-Black practices like redlining, and other discriminatory public policies in criminal justice and education have robbed Black Americans of the opportunities to build wealth (defined as assets minus debt) afforded to their white peers.

Bootstrapping isn’t going to erase racial wealth divides. As economists William “Sandy” Darity and Darrick Hamilton point out in their 2018 report, *What We Get Wrong About Closing the Wealth Gap*, “Blacks cannot close the racial wealth gap by changing their individual behavior –i.e. by assuming more ‘personal responsibility’ or acquiring the portfolio management insights associated with [financial] literacy.” In fact, white high school dropouts have more wealth than Black college graduates. Moreover, the racial wealth gap did not result from a lack of labor. Rather, it came from a lack of financial capital.

Not only do racial wealth disparities reveal fallacies in the American Dream, the financial and social consequences are significant and wide-ranging. Wealth is positively correlated with better health, educational, and economic outcomes. Furthermore, assets from homes,

stocks, bonds, and retirement savings provide a financial safety net for the inevitable shocks to the economy and personal finances that happen throughout a person’s lifespan.

Recessions impact everyone, but wealth is distributed quite unevenly in the U.S. The woeful inadequacy of a government-sponsored safety net was made apparent in the wake of economic disasters like the 2008 housing crisis and natural ones like Hurricane Katrina in 2005. Those who can draw upon the equity in a home, savings, and securities are able to recover faster after economic downturns than those without wealth. The lack of a social safety net and the racial wealth divide are currently on display amid the COVID-19 crisis. Disparities in access to health care along with inequities in economic policies combine to make Black people more vulnerable to negative consequences than white individuals.

Below, we provide a history of reparations in the United States, missed opportunities to redress the racial wealth gap, and specific details of a viable reparations package for Black Americans.

History of reparations in the United States  
Reparations—a system of redress for egregious injustices—are not foreign to the United States. Native Americans have received land and billions of dollars for various benefits and programs for being forcibly exiled from their native lands. For Japanese Americans, \$1.5 billion was paid to those who were interned during World War II. Additionally, the United States, via the Marshall Plan, helped to ensure that Jews received reparations for the Holocaust, including making various investments over time. In 1952, West Germany agreed to pay 3.45 billion Deutsche Marks to Holocaust survivors.

Black Americans are the only group that has not received reparations for state-sanctioned racial discrimination, while slavery afforded some white families the ability to accrue tremendous wealth. And, we must note that American slavery was particularly brutal. About 15 percent of the enslaved shipped from Western Africa died during transport. The enslaved were regularly beaten and lynched for frivolous infractions. Slavery also disrupted families as one in three marriages were split up and one in five children were separated from their parents. The case for reparations can be made on economic, social, and moral grounds. The United States had multiple opportunities to atone for slavery—each a missed chance to make the American Dream a reality—but has yet to undertake significant action.

Missed policy opportunities to atone for slavery with reparations  
*40 Acres and a Mule*

The first major opportunity that the United States had and where it should have atoned for slavery was right after the Civil War. Union leaders including General William Sherman concluded that each Black family should receive 40 acres. Sherman signed Field Order 15 and allocated 400,000 acres of confiscated Confederate land to Black

families. Additionally, some families were to receive mules left over from the war, hence 40 acres and a mule.

Yet, after President Abraham Lincoln’s assassination, President Andrew Johnson reversed Field Order 15 and returned land back to former slave owners. Instead of giving Blacks the means to support themselves, the federal government empowered former enslavers. For example, in Washington D.C., slave owners were actually paid reparations for lost property—the formally enslaved. This practice was also common in nearby states. Many Black Americans with limited work options returned as sharecroppers to till the same land for the very slave owners to whom they were once enslaved. Slave owners not only made money off the chattel enslavement of Black Americans, but they then made money multiple times over off the land that the formerly enslaved had no choice but to work.

The New Deal

There’s never a bad time to do what’s morally right, but the United States has had prime opportunities to atone for slavery. In the 1930s, the United States was reeling from the 1929 stock market crash and was firmly engulfed in the Great Depression. The Franklin Roosevelt administration implemented a series of policies as part of his New Deal legislation, estimated to cost roughly \$50 billion then, to catapult the country out of depression. Current estimates price the New Deal at about \$50 trillion.

Two particular policies of the New Deal fell short in redressing American’s racial wrongs—the G.I. Bill and Social Security. Though white and Black Americans fought in WWII, Black veterans could not redeem their post-war benefits like their white peers. While the G.I. Bill was mandated federally, it was implemented locally. The presence of racial housing covenants and redlining among local municipalities prohibited Blacks from utilizing federal benefits. White soldiers were afforded the opportunity to build wealth by sending themselves and their children to college and by obtaining housing and small business grants.

Regarding Social Security, two key professions that would have improved equity in America were excluded from the legislation—domestic and farm workers. These omissions effectively excluded 60 percent of Blacks across the U.S. and 75 percent in southern states who worked in these occupations. Roosevelt bargained these exclusionary provisions in the legislation on the backs of Black veterans and workers in order to propel mostly white America out of the Great Depression.

There are other policies and practices that contributed to racial wealth gap. Government-sanctioned discrimination related to the 1862 Homestead Act, redlining, restrictive covenants, and convict leasing blocked Blacks from the ability to gain wealth at similar rates as whites. Separate from slavery, damages should be awarded to Black people

*Continued on Page 35*

## STIMULUS PACKAGE OR WIDENING THE WEALTH GAP?



By Darren Lundy, MBA

The World Health Organization has declared the rapidly spreading coronavirus (COVID-19) a pandemic. This virus began in China and quickly spread to the United States creating not only a healthcare crisis, but a financial crisis. Non-essential businesses have been forced to close, unemployment skyrocketed, and the stock market went into free-fall. The death rate is mounting. The market continued to plunge after the federal reserve cut interest rates to zero. Due to the rapid spread and uncertainty surrounding transmission, major sporting events have been cancelled, universities, libraries and schools closed, and stay-in-place orders imposed. The U.S. is now in a recession. We all remember the financial crisis of 2008; it was the worst economic disaster since the Great Depression on all Americans. However, no group felt its sting more severely than African-Americans who were already the most economically and financially vulnerable. The biggest winners during these deep recessions are **the federal reserve, the federal government, and corporations.**

### ECONOMIC CYCLE

The economic cycle follows four distinct stages: Expansion, Peak, **Contraction**, and Trough. A contraction also referred to as a recession is a general decline in economic activity, usually identified by a fall in the gross domestic product. No one was surprised by this recession, it's the next stage in the economic cycle. The average economic expansion last 4.5 years and the U.S. economy has been expanding since 2009. Commonly referred to as a bull market when stock prices rise by 20%, usually after a drop of 20% and before a second 20% market decline.

Many Americans have forgotten the devastation of the 2008 recession. It started with the collapse of the housing market, unemployment spiked, and stocks fell into a bear market. A bear market describes a condition when securities prices fall 20% or more from recent highs amid widespread pessimism and negative investor sentiment. The Standard & Poor's 500 Index lost approximately 50% of its value but only lasted from 2007-2009 due to extraordinary interventions by the federal reserve and the federal government.

### THE EMERGENCY ECONOMIC STABILIZATION ACT OF 2008

The Emergency Economic Stabilization Act created the Troubled Asset Relief Program known as (TARP); \$700 billion dollars was authorized under this program.<sup>1</sup> The U.S. Treasury only disbursed \$441.8 billion because President Obama limited the companies who could participate in the government bailout.<sup>2</sup> By 2018, \$442.7 billion had been paid back into the fund, making the government **\$900 million dollars** of profit. The (TARP) program returned a total of



**\$30.7 billion** to the federal government.<sup>2</sup> The Treasury negotiate a government equity stake in companies that received bailout assistance. Investing billions of dollars in depressed assets at the bottom of the economic cycle will drastically increase wealth as markets appreciate in value. Ingenious!

### FINANCIAL IMPACT ON AFRICAN AMERICANS

A decade later, many African Americans still have not fully recovered and remain in a vulnerable financial position.

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the unemployment rate peaked at 10 percent in 2009 for all Americans. African-Americans exceeded 16% compared to just under 9% for whites. African-American family income also suffered more than whites. The average household earned \$50,654 in 2010, which was 61 percent of a white family.

African American incomes have somewhat recovered. However, African-Americans are still making only 63% of what whites earn. More importantly, net-worth and homeownership has not recovered. It has regressed since the recession ended, making blacks even more vulnerable to another economic downturn. This can be better understood by looking at the sharp difference in the rate of homeownership – one of the key pathways to long-term financial stability. Homeownership for African-Americans is just 42 percent – down from a high of 48 percent in 2004 – compared to 73 percent for whites.<sup>3</sup>

The federal government has actually forced us into a recession. To slow this pandemic, the government is ordering Americans to stop supplying labor for the production of goods and services. People are being told to stop going to stores, restaurants, and the work place. Our country is in dire straits. Help is on the way! Another government bailout.

### STIMULUS PACKAGE

1. The Federal Reserve dropped interest rates to zero and agreed to buy at least \$500 billion

in government Treasuries and \$200 billion in government and mortgage-related bonds to protect the economy.

2. The senate approved and President Trump signed into law an \$8 billion emergency spending package to combat the growing coronavirus cases.

3. A \$6 Trillion fiscal stimulus package is on the way, 4 Trillion represents Federal Reserve lending power and 2 Trillion was passed in the senate. This proposal will inject trillions of dollars into the economy to help workers, families, small business and large corporations.

This package will provide direct payments to most Americans, expand unemployment benefits and provide a \$367 Billion program for small businesses.

It's time for African Americans to stop watching and waiting and get in the financial game. We must realize each recession puts us further behind financially, while others profit. For example, the federal reserve profits by buying up corporate debt or equity before infusing dollars into a struggling economy. Corporate owners' profit by using the cash injection to buy back low-priced stock and profiting as the economy recovers and using bailout money to pay dividends to corporate shareholders. Small businesses profit from government loans as well as receiving money consumers spend from their stimulus checks. Who is really benefiting from a financial crisis?

If you want to build personal wealth, let's stop just consuming and follow our governments lead and own undervalued assets. Now is the time!

If you have questions or want to learn more, please give us a call, at 614-468-1660 for a complimentary consultation.

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*Darren, a Columbus, Ohio native has earned degrees in Business, Accounting, and an MBA. He has over twenty-five (25) years' experience in financial services. The Ohio Company, First Union Securities, and Merrill Lynch were instrumental in his career prior to starting his own Wealth Management Firm, Wealth Conscious LLC, (614) 468-1660, www.wealth-conscious.com. He holds his Series 65 and Life and Health licenses. Investment advisory services are offered through Foundations Advisors, LLC an SEC registered investment advisor.*

## TECHNOLOGY AND THE GOSPEL



By Cecil Jones, MBA

I am proud of the adoption of technology that I have seen in Black churches over the last few years. We are all called to be disciples. Technology allows us to reach out to others to share the Good News. It allows us to display images, video and talk/view each other to emphasize the Word. Many churches are broadcasting their digital church services using online tools like Facebook, GoToMeeting, Zoom, WebEx, Google Hangouts, etc. Good job and flexibility are being shown by church leaders and church members!

For our friends who have not physically been to church in months and years, this period of 'sheltering in place' can allow them to have more opportunities join online church services. If they were uncomfortable coming back to face-to-face services right now, this online media may be a good stepping-stone to their coming back into regular worship and prayer-

### Not Just for the Megachurch

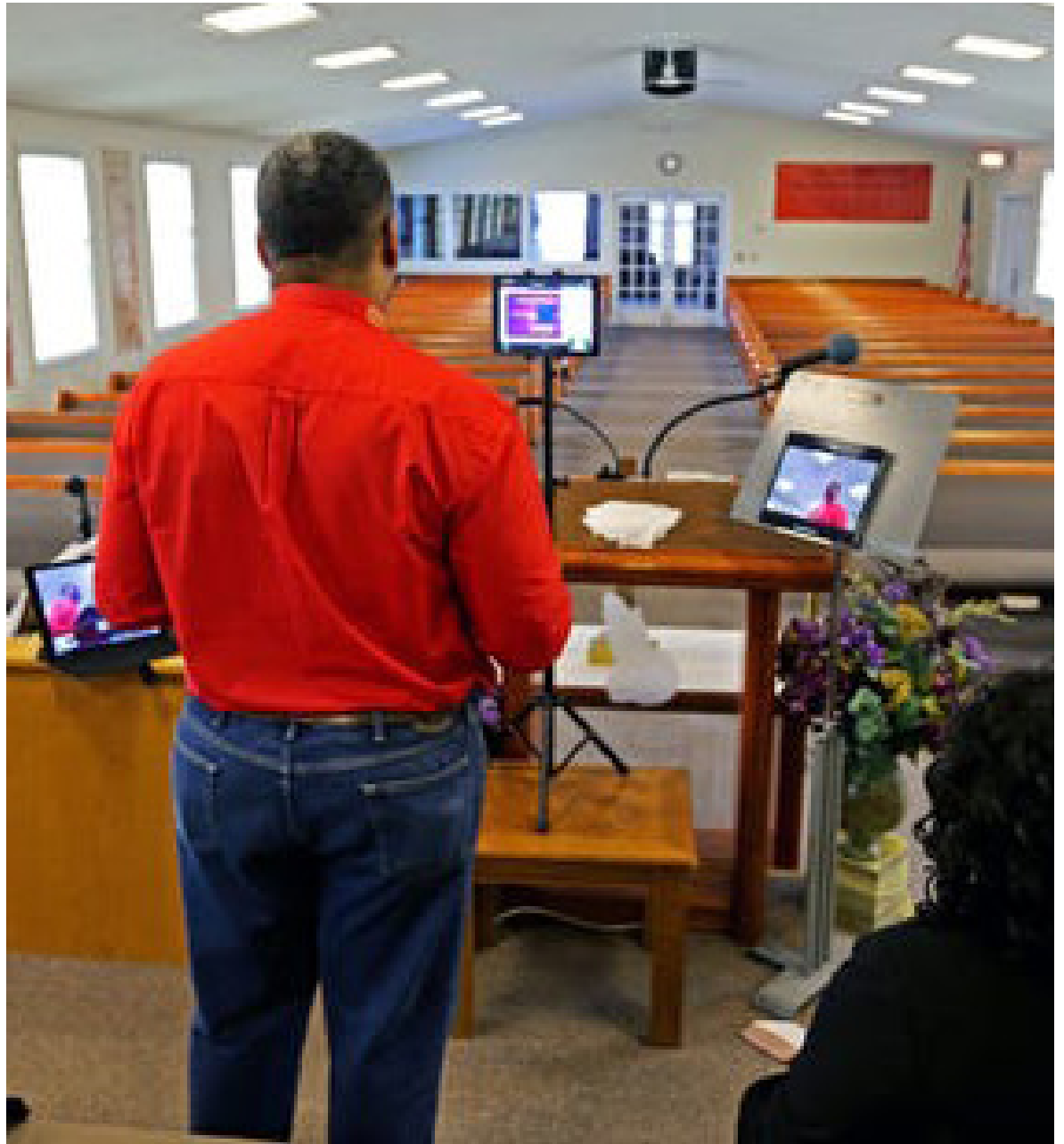
Small churches, medium sized church and large churches are taking advantage of free and inexpensive technology for spreading the Gospel. Blogs, websites, Facebook, Instagram, WordPress and other tools are being used to share the Word.

### Technology Tools for Churches

Google Docs, Dropbox and other tools are available for sharing documents. Church Info at <https://www.capterra.com/p/89754/ChurchInfo/> is a free, open source database that helps your church manage and track members, groups, donations, and payments. Take a look at <https://blog.capterra.com/top-7-free-open-source-church-management-software-solutions/> to see other church focused technology tools. There are several other free or inexpensive software packages also available.

### Churches and Others are Contributing

When we look at social media, news on TV and other sources, we see that churches are on the front line. They are collecting and providing food and other resources and giving them to families in need. Organizations like IMPACT Community Action at 700 Bryden Road are still open providing emergency and other services. Businesses (banks, insurance companies and others) are providing refunds and/or lower rates to customers. Some of those employers that are hiring are putting



extra resources and advertising on social media, print media and television. There was a sign at an entrance to a retail store that mentioned that if you are a laid off restaurant worker come to the back of the store. At the back of the store, that store was having on-the-spot interviews. Many organizations are helping those in need. People are helping others.

### After this 'Night', Will We Worship in the 'Morning'?

With the COVID-19 difficulty, with the closing of many businesses and venues, as elections are postponed and layers of process are added to exercise our right to vote, will we worship afterwards? How short will our memories be? We call on God during difficult times, but will you call on God and worship afterwards?

### Remember:

The banking fiascos of 2008 and beyond that were disastrous. *We are still here.* The real estate market shrinking of 2006 and

beyond scared many.

*We are still here.*

Previous health pandemics took its toll on us.

*We are still here.*

Do you remember when you almost had a life threatening situation (accidental fall, spun out in our car on ice, could have been killed)?

*We are still here.*

Are our minds programmed for us to quickly forget these situations? What do we learn from these situations? Do we understand that miracles happen every day?

**Contact someone that needs to hear from you. Your words will mean a lot.**

*Are you looking for a technology networking group to help you get smarter? What new technology or process have you learned this month? Need advice on how to look for that technology position? Are you considering technology education (courses, certificates or degrees) and need information? Do you have a business, process, project management, personnel or technology question? Please let me know. [admin@accelerationservices.net](mailto:admin@accelerationservices.net) Cecil Jones MBA, ABD, PMP, CCP, SCPM, FLMI, Lean Professional, 614-726-1925.*



## IMPACT COMMUNITY ACTION CEO, CALLS ON COMMUNITY LEADERS TO RAISE A VOICE AGAINST TRUMP ADMINISTRATION PROPOSED NEW CRA REFORM



By Robert 'Bo' Chilton, M.Ed

IMPACT Community Action CEO, Robert 'Bo' Chilton Calls on Community Leaders to Raise a Voice Against Trump Administration Proposed New CRA Reform

The letter from Robert 'Bo' Chilton:

While we agree The Community Reinvestment Act (CRA) needs a renovation, the solution is not the Trump administration's proposed partial demolition.

Historically banks have been hesitant and, in many cases, completely unwilling to lend money to residents in lower-income neighborhoods, although they have no issues with profiting from deposits taken from these same communities. Since 1977, the Community Reinvestment Act has shone a light on the issue, and required banks to provide mortgages, small-business loans and other services in all communities where they operate.

Under the current system, regulators evaluate the amount of money a bank invests into the community, and separately evaluates the services it provides, such as bank branches, financial education and low-cost checking accounts. The current rules also define eligible areas narrowly, and emphasize the volume of lending in terms of both number and size of loans; currently banks cannot meet the standards by investing large sums in a few projects.

The current federal banking regulators, picked by President Trump, have proposed CRA reform that enables banks to put less money into lower-income communities, while still allowing them to claim credit for lending that does not benefit those who actually live in the affected communities.

Joseph Otting, the Comptroller of the Currency, is pushing the proposed changes, and it appears he has the support of the F.D.I.C. Mr. Otting's proposal will provide each bank with a simple dollar target for community investment and give greater flexibility in the kinds of investments that count toward the target.

For example: Banks could count loans for improvements to development projects

that happen to sit in poor neighborhoods. Case in point; under the proposal, it might be possible for the banks that financed the new Behavioral Health Center or the Crew Stadium, to claim credit for investing in low-income communities. This type of investing contributes to gentrification and displacement of low-income people, not at all what the Act was intended to do.

The proposed changes amount to a betrayal of the public interest for the benefit of the banking industry. An industry that has historically discriminated against low-income and minority communities via red lining and subprime lending.

These proposed changes decrease accountability and diminishes the community-based focus of the Act. As an organization that provides Financial Capability training, we have forged strong partnerships with our local banks. We call on our partners to raise a voice against these harmful proposals that undermine our community goal of becoming One Columbus with prosperity for all.

*Please feel free to contact me at (614) 453-1698 or by email at [bc Hilton@impactca.org](mailto:bc Hilton@impactca.org) if you have any questions.*

## COVID STIMULUS WATCH REVEALS LOW-WAGE EMPLOYERS IN THE PAYCHECK PROTECTION PROGRAM

Washington, DC,--Among the limited number of corporations known to have been awarded federal loans under the Paycheck Protection Program, at least 16 pay their workers less than the national median household income level. Five pay wages so low they fall below the poverty line for a family of four.

Those findings emerge from data contained in Covid Stimulus Watch, a website launched last week by the non-profit organization Good Jobs First. It is freely available for all to use at <https://covidstimuluswatch.org/>

"The public has rightly been up in arms over large companies getting PPP loans intended for small business, but it is also troubling to see the funds going to low-wage and even poverty-wage employers," said Good Jobs First research director Phillip Mattera, who leads the work on Covid Stimulus Watch.

Good Jobs First collected the pay data from Securities and Exchange Commission filings called Form DEF 14A (or proxy statements) issued by publicly traded companies that have reported receiving PPP loans. Firms provide a figure for the median total compensation of their workforce as part of the calculation of the ratio of the compensation of their chief executive to that of a typical worker. Smaller

public companies may choose not to disclose the worker pay amount and the ratio, though they still report CEO compensation.

Of the roughly 330 companies that have reported receiving PPP loans, 43 disclosed their median worker pay; seven of these are among the firms that are returning their loans because of public pressure.

The companies reporting median annual worker compensation below the current federal poverty line for a family of four (\$26,200) include three with active loans: Drive Shack (\$13,902), Applied Opto-Electronics (\$15,620) and Trans World Entertainment Corporation (\$17,346). Two more in that category are refunding their loans: Fiesta Restaurant Group (\$14,241) and Shake Shack (\$17,032). The pay rates are from 2019, except Drive Shack (2018) and Trans World (2017), which are the latest available.

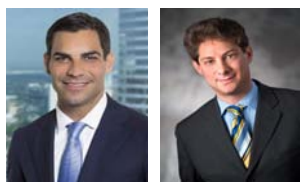
The restaurant employers emphasize that their pay figures include part-timers, and Applied Opto-Electronics notes that its pay calculation includes employees in China and Taiwan. It provides a separate figure for U.S. workers only - \$43,427 - which is still below the national median income level.

The other PPP recipients with pay rates below the national median income level (\$60,293) are: Culp, Inc. (\$29,269), Retractable Technologies, Inc. (\$37,440), DMC Global Inc. (\$40,661), Dawson Geophysical Company (\$41,367), Enzo Biochem, Inc. (\$43,512), National Holdings Corporation (\$48,906), ZAGG Inc. (\$52,458) and RealNetworks, Inc. (\$57,383). Those in that category that have returned their loans are Limoneira Company (\$33,197), Ruth's Chris Steak House (\$33,330) and AutoNation (\$49,568).

"The PPP enables employers to keep workers paid, but we all know that low-wage workers find it necessary to rely on Medicaid, SNAP and other safety-net programs," said Good Jobs First executive director Greg LeRoy. "Long ago, many states started attaching wage and benefit standards to economic development incentives - and raising their minimum wage to \$15 an hour or better. Why should these forgivable loans - grants, in essence - from Uncle Sam require anything less?"

*For more information, contact Phillip Mattera, Research Director, at [pmattera@goodjobsfirst.org](mailto:pmattera@goodjobsfirst.org).*

# STIMULUS CHECKS NEED TO ARRIVE FASTER SO AMERICANS CAN GET ALL THE CORONAVIRUS MONEY WASHINGTON HAS PROMISED



By Francis X. Suarez, Bibi Hidalgo & Aaron Klein

In battling the coronavirus crisis and its effects, every second counts. Technology and the speed with which it can be deployed determines financial survival, quality of life, and access to critical care.

So while we applaud the delivery of \$1,200 stimulus payments from the CARES Act to Americans adjusting to the COVID-19 crisis, 70 million or more Americans are still waiting for their check to arrive in the mail.

This unnecessary delay has revealed an uncomfortable truth: The less money you have, the more it costs to access it. Without that relief check, many Americans are living on the edge: missing rent payments; skipping utility bills; cutting the grocery list, among other painful choices no one should ever have to make.

Those waiting for stimulus checks to arrive face a difficult decision. You can deposit it into your bank account and wait for it to clear, but this process can take days. If you deposit your check on a Friday afternoon, for instance, your money likely won't be available until the following Tuesday at best. Or, like many people are forced to do, you can pay a check-cashing service to get your own money faster.

Speeding delivery of the stimulus checks would help those Americans in desperate need following the loss of a job or the closure of a business. Swift action from leaders in Washington is needed now to fix this problem.

## OVERDRAFT CHARGES TAKE A TOLL

Americans pre-COVID incurred \$50 billion a year in bank overdraft fees, payday loans, and check cashing. Bank overdraft fees are now a staggering \$35 billion a year profit source for banks; —close to 10 million people spend more than \$300 a year on overdrafts (each

one is \$35). Bank executives know how lucrative this is, one bank CEO in Minnesota even named his yacht Overdraft. How many families recently got hit with a \$35 fee or more over the Easter and Passover holiday weekend waiting for their relief payment, which Treasury sent on Good Friday?

Many try to avoid bank overdrafts by going to a check casher: that's why one out of every 16 Americans uses them. The allure is getting your money immediately, but the price is high. In Florida, check casher businesses can charge up to 3% to cash a Treasury Department check, which would eat up more than \$100 of a COVID-19 relief payment for a married couple with two kids.

To provide some context, if one out of every 16 residents in Miami used a check casher to get the money from their stimulus payment, these businesses would pocket \$1.4 million from this transaction alone. On a national level, more than \$250 million of emergency CARES Act funds would go to check cashers. Moreover, the use of check-cashing outlets will likely increase as word gets out that the Treasury Department is allowing debt collectors to seize stimulus checks before they reach people's bank accounts.

## GOVERNMENT AND BANKS MUST LEAD

There are immediate solutions to reduce further delays, boost economic activity, and secure national recovery:

1. The Treasury should protect COVID-19 payments from debt collectors, as is the case with other government benefits.
2. The Federal Reserve should require all Treasury COVID payments to be available immediately upon deposit. The Fed has the legal authority to do this. If they fail to act, U.S. banks can voluntarily make all Treasury checks available immediately upon deposit. Some have done so; and we challenge others to follow suit by altering their policies and protecting their customers.

3. Federal regulators should require a temporary suspension of overdraft fees as a condition for banks participating in many of the "special" COVID and non-COVID related programs the federal government provides them free of charge. If federal regulators won't act, then states and cities must step in. New York Governor Andrew Cuomo, for example, has issued an executive order restricting bank fees during this crisis; governors of other states should do the same.

Leadership means putting people first — especially those most vulnerable and most critically in need. We must be bold in leveraging technology to ensure a swift U.S. economic recovery and serve the many in urgent need. Speed — from receiving a COVID payment to assembling a mobile testing unit — is critical in making the right decisions at the right time to save lives, stabilize communities, and secure a path toward recovery.

In Miami, for example, implementing economically sustainable policies and practices is how the city's leaders have responded to hurricanes and other natural disasters. COVID-19 is no different. Americans need a speedy response from government officials and bankers to ensure their security and financial sustainability in this COVID-19 world. Make sure people get all the money Washington has promised, without precious dollars being siphoned off. Americans can't afford to wait.

*Francis X. Suarez is the Mayor of Miami. Bibi Hidalgo advises companies on community development and previously served as a White House Senior Policy Advisor. Aaron Klein is a Fellow in Economic Studies at the Brookings Institution and previously served as Deputy Assistant Secretary of the U.S. Treasury Department. The authors did not receive financial support from any firm or person for this article or from any firm or person with a financial or political interest in this article. None of the authors are currently an officer, director, or board member of any organization with a financial or political interest in this article.*

Article from [www.brookings.edu](http://www.brookings.edu)

## HELEN JENKINS DAVIS 2020 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

COLUMBUS, Ohio--On Sunday, April 19, 2020 the scholarship committee of the Helen Jenkins Davis Scholarship Fund Lunch Bunch announced the names of five Columbus City Schools high achieving students they had selected as recipients of the organization's 2020 Helen Jenkins Davis scholarship award. The scholarship is awarded annually to African American students who are graduating seniors. This year's winners and their selected colleges and planned course of studies are listed below. *(In no particular order.)*

"This year's spate of Helen Jenkins Davis Scholarship Fund Lunch Bunch awardees exemplify an amazing "yes we can" spirit and truly merit being designated as "more than conquerors!" Lunch Bunch president Gwen Williams remarked. "Each candidate had a heartwarming and often heart wrenching story that truly impressed and touched us all," commented scholarship committee member Ruth Paige.

One recipient shared an inspirational look back on how she grew up with a single mother who worked many jobs, and as the candidate described "working herself to the bone and working through exhaustion, health problems and pain." At times, this student said that she thought she'd always be

stuck living in poverty. "But," she said, "my mom always told me that God had bigger plans for me and that God gave her the privilege of raising a genius." And with added determination she said, "I'll be so successful, I'll take care of my mom and she'll never had to work again!"

Another recipient said one obstacle he had to overcome was choosing not to belong-- of being the odd one out or to go where he was supposed to be. "The oddball path had potential to yield to success and the other path was normal. I chose the odd one because I knew that later in life it would pay off."

Yet another recipient told of coming to the United State as an immigrant, being homeless, living in poverty and of her fierce determination to overcome these massive hardships to obtain and excel in her education.

Scholarship recipient Lashawn Samuel's story received WCMH NBC 4i news coverage which profiled the obstacles he overcame. The news feature highlighted how for five years Lashawn walked three miles round trip from his home to the Franklinton Branch of the Columbus Metropolitan Library to get help with his homework. Lashawn achieved his goals despite

many challenges to his health, his personal safety and his financial security. Samuel says his story is a testament of what can happen when you work hard and persevere and lean on you community to get help when you need it. Samuels says he has always been inspired by the words of late tennis champion Arthur Ashe... "Start where you are. Use what you have. Do what you can."

To qualify for the Helen Jenkins Davis Scholarship a student must have maintained a minimum 3.0 cumulative grade point average and present an official high school transcript, two letters of recommendation from a school counselor, teacher or administrator. and. Scholarship candidates must provide, a college acceptance letter, a personal essay and demonstrate financial need. Students also need to demonstrate a level of school and community involvement and complete a personal interview with the Lunch Bunch Scholarship committee.

For additional information about or to make contributions to the Helen Jenkins Davis Scholarship Fund Lunch Bunch, please contact Gwen Wade, gcwwade820@gmail.com or mail contributions to:

*Helen Jenkins Davis Lunch Bunch  
P.O. Box 360941 - Columbus, OH 43236*



**Joy Jesujaare Ayinde**

Centennial High School

The Ohio State University, Pre-Medicine and Biomedical Sciences

"I have thought about how different my life would have been if I had given up when I wanted to. My story would have been something like this: "I used to think I was supposed to be a high school graduate and pursue my college education without loans, but I gave it a shot and things didn't work out". I have had to wrestle with different challenges in my life especially when most of my scholarship applications failed my expectations, and I felt like there was no way to go to college debt-free. However, one major thing I learned during my time of difficulties is that giving up should not be an option. When you face difficulties, it is natural to reconsider your life and think of altering decisions. You are at a crucial time, and it's time to decide: should I stay or should I walk away? Am I choosing to give up because it's the right thing or because walking away from it would be easier? Often times, the best and most rewarding decision you can make is to stay even when it would be simpler to turn and walk away. Now, I just look back and thank God that I decided to stay when it would have been easier to walk away. It is important to remember that God made you in His image and that He is the author and finisher of your story. You are not a quitter. You are a finisher. I will forever be grateful to Helen Jenkins Davis's opportunities mostly because it reminded me of desire, diligence, and determination as keys to unlock a great future."



**Naa Dromo Korley**

Centennial High School

The Ohio State University or University of Cincinnati - Medical Anthropology or Sciences

My name is Naa Dromo Korley, a mouthful, however, my name has a powerful meaning to it. [There was] a specific time in my life where I had to overcome an obstacle [of being] ashamed of the culture that came with being a Ghanaian-American. Naa in Ghanaian means Queen and Cromo means Grace. I hated being Ghanaian and hated my traditional Ghanaian name so much that throughout elementary school I told my friends to call me Grace and [I] abandoned my cultural name. I felt that ... Grace was more of an American name. This embarrassment for my culture affected my school lunch as well. I would cry and tell my mom to pack me the "regular" lunch (hotdogs, hamburgers, a PB&J sandwich etc.) I was too embarrassed to eat my rice and beans. If my mom didn't pack me my "Americanized" lunch, I would eat my lunch in the library to avoid everyone asking me "what's that smell? Or "why does it look like that?" I was willing to give up such a beautiful culture just to be recognized as American. My teacher told my mom that I changed my name to Grace and that she would find me in the library eating my lunch alone; my mom was heartbroken. My mom told me the meaning and power behind my name and told me the importance of being proud of who I am because of my heritage. It took time for me to be more accepting of my culture, however, by sharing my culture with my friends. I overcame this fear of embarrassment.. I now serve as the leader of the Dancing Stars. [We perform] across the USA in my church denomination. I attend youth leadership development camps that bring together first and second generations of immigrants to celebrate our heritage. I'm also in charge of the Columbus City Schools' Multicultural Festival... [which has] allowed me to advocate for the celebration and recognition of diversity..



**Ravionna Simone Johnson**

East High School

Denison University, Psychology & Education

I grew up with a single mother. She worked many jobs to make ends meet. I never saw what it looked like up close to see someone that graduated from college. At times I thought that I'd always be stuck where I am now. living in poverty, my mother working herself to the bone and working through exhaustion, health problems, and pain. I was scared to take a risk on myself. But my mom always told me that God had bigger plans than the situation I was in for me. She told me God gave her the privilege of raising a genius. So, that's been my motivation to reach for the stars and be successful. And one day I'll be so successful I'll take care of my mom and she'll never have to work again!



**Maurice Lemons**

Centennial High School

University of Dayton for Engineering or University of Cincinnati for Medical Science

One obstacle I have overcome is choosing not to belong. I've always had the choice of either being the odd one out, or to go to where I was supposed to be. The oddball path had potential to yield to success, and the other path was normal. I chose to be the odd one because I knew that later in life it would pay off, and dealing with my choice may have made me a little crazy, but that runs in the family.!



**Lashawn David Samuel**

West High School

The Ohio State University or Capital University Accounting

Scholarship recipient Lashawn Samuel's story received WCMH NBC 4i news coverage which profiled the obstacles he overcame. The news feature highlighted how for five years Lashawn walked three miles round trip from his home to the Franklinton Branch of the Columbus Metropolitan Library to get help with his homework. Lashawn achieved his goals despite many challenges to his health, his personal safety and his financial security. "I never would have achieved it without God, my family, my friends and this environment I have around me," he said. "There's always going to be a challenge or an obstacle that you're going to have to overcome or grow out of, but as long as you keep true to yourself and have faith and persevere so that you can overcome it, then you will". Samuel says his story is a testament of what can happen when you work hard and persevere and lean on you community to get help when you need it. Samuels says he has always been inspired by the words of late tennis champion Arthur Ashe... "Start where you are. Use what you have. Do what you can."

# DON BLACK: BEHIND THE SCENES OF A LEGACY



By Cheryl Y. Wood, PhD

The cold weather doesn't bother you too much when the cause is greater than how you feel at that moment. The temperatures were below freezing in the city of Dayton, Ohio when I met patriarch, publisher, and pioneer, Mr. Don Black. It was during the annual (MLK) Martin Luther King walk when we were all marching in tribute to those who paid the cost for our liberties. I didn't know I was talking to a man who made history in our city. I didn't know he was Coordinator of this event for 10 years, that is until I talked to his son, Donerick Black. I want to know more about the man who left an indelible fingerprint in newsprint media for Dayton, Ohio and his son has all the answers!

## Family Values

Don Black was Publisher and editor of Dayton Black Weekly. Dayton Weekly's website. He was a family man, church man, and business man with a name above reproach. A well-respected neighbor, he was married 53 years to his high school sweetheart, Glenda Camp. They have two adult children, Donerick Black and Sharonda Smith, and two grandchildren, Taylor Renee Black and Carlos Karrington Smith. Don passed away April 6, 2020. He left an honorable legacy in Dayton, Ohio.

Don made decisions early in his life to define his destiny. His unique family history contributed to his entrepreneurship. If you've heard of The Vice Lords, and other gangs in Chicago they were started by his family, his cousins drank, and did prison time too, so early on Don decided he wanted no part of that. He came from a broken home; he lived with his dad the first years of his life in Chicago. One day his mother decided to move to Dayton, Ohio. When his mom moved to Dayton he chose to move here with her. At age 12 he made that decision wanting a better life. Dayton was growing with factories and a different job market. He lived here with his mother, and his Grandma & aunt raised him. Signoria Franklin, his grandmother was his Rock! Don became independent early on - nobody told him how to do things. He came from the school of hard knocks and standing at 5'6" tall, he walked with that little man complex demanding he be respected by all.

## The Entrepreneur

The work history of an entrepreneur is often a series of jobs that leads to a plunge into a passion that can't be denied. Don was educated and graduated from high school in Dayton. The day he graduated from high school he moved out and was on his own. He was literally one of the first employees of Kettering Medical Center in the 60's, and soon he realized it wasn't for him. He also worked at Monsanto. He loved photography. "I was a baby when he started," Donerick recalls, "he had a studio while working for another organization." A public relations company was born out of the studio. He closed the studio down and opened up Multi-



1. (L-R) Glenda Black, Donerick Black, Sharonda Smith, Don Black (seated) and family at a relative's wedding, 2. (L-R) Taylor Black (Grandaughter) Donerick Black, Glenda Black, Congressman Mike Turner, Don Black and Angela Black (Donerick's wife), 3. Don at his desk, 4. Don speaking at the 20th Anniversary Celebration of the Dayton Weekly News

Western Public Relations, Inc. He took wedding pictures, family portraits, pics for groups and organizations and had a dark room in his home. In the early 70's he was relentless about getting into business for himself. Having something that's YOURS, a self-made opportunity was his Motivation. "When no one is directing you - you figure it out on your own," Donerick adds, and he quotes his dad, "I control this - this is mine. I control all this. If I go - it goes."

Although Don hired assistants, a secretary, and artists on a temporary basis or contracted their work over the years, it was hard for him to give up control. Donerick declares, "Many entrepreneurs are like that too. It's hard to trust people, especially with money. It's hard to invest in people. By holding your business so close to your chest, sometimes you can squeeze it so much that you squeeze the life right out of it." When Donerick came home from college, he wanted to be someone his father could depend on. "Dad was a Micromanager. We've had knock down drag outs." And I'd say, "Dad, we're on the same team." Dad would say "I gave you that team." Donerick continued, "He tried to fire me three times, but my mom came in to mediate. My mother supported my father unconditionally in his pursuit of his business goals for 53 years."

"Dad had this quirky wisdom." He was an interesting character who loved his Family, loved his church, and loved people. He was the Muhammad Ali of Business; Ali is known as a strong man who could take a punch and would declare it before entering a boxing ring

to fight. Don was very self-made, he lived a purpose-filled life and put these values in his family. "He was determined I wouldn't make the same mistakes, and that those mistakes would not be generational. Those conversations I now pass on to my daughter."

There was a time when Donerick made a pivotal decision that changed the course of his life just as Don did in his early years. I questioned Donerick, I'm sure there were many sacrifices, share some of them - Was it worth it to you? "Absolutely!" he replied. "I attended Washington Adventist University in Takoma Park, Maryland. I graduated from college with good grades, had an internship awaiting me upon graduation and a boss willing to pay for grad school. My boss believed in me. I would have been all set in the DC, Maryland, Virginia region of this country, making good money. My dad came to me after graduation with an offer to manage the Dayton office of the Dayton Communicator. I thought about it. If I'm going to bust my butt for someone, it should be for someone that I love." I said, "Yes!" This meant returning to Dayton. "Moving back home and right back into the room I grew up in, even sleeping in the same bed! I had to work the program. I worked part-time to make ends meet," he said. In 2016 Donerick had a heart transplant, in 2006 he donated his kidney to his father. He declares, "I wouldn't have done anything different, except to study Algebra more," we both laughed.

Don Black could have worked for anybody at any time, but that wasn't his plan! He was

*Continued on Page 29*

a beast about controlling the narrative to do it his own way. When you have a vision it's part of the program. That comes from learning without anyone showing you how to do it. There were some struggles and difficulties he encountered publishing the newspaper, but he learned from it. "The biggest challenge was old school versus 5 years college. He was old school, slow, methodical, and not an early adopter of things. I had 5 years of college, and ready to run things. He made changes because he had to, and it stunted His growth.' He had to do it his way.

"The cusp of minority publications is to get the ad buys. You have to prove your own worth. You have a black paper in a black neighborhood, a neighborhood that doesn't have a good view of itself - the black paper history is not that great. Early on ad agencies were sporadic and plentiful. It seemed like every 10 miles there was a boutique ad agency popping up. And when the crown prince of the ad game is a good newspaper guy but not reliable. . . we all struggle because they group us together. When one doesn't follow through they think we're all the same." The newspaper grew in spite of the struggle imposed by others.

### **The Vision**

"My dad's vision is to bring value to the African American community. We want the community to get a better view of itself, that's the reason the paper started. There is a void. Invest in our market. Advertisers value the black dollar, they target advertising to the black market but won't spend the money there." They say, "You're worth my money." I say, "Put some money behind it. I'll know you're serious when you spend your money with me. I've experienced advertisers spending big money to advertise in the big local newspaper, but want to place a PSA (Public Service Announcement) in our paper. They won't support us."

Donerik is following through on his dad's vision to build equity & value, that's what Don Black stood for. Every single day he strives to build equity & value by getting into as many offices as he can with this proposal, "invest in us, who is telling the story? Business Development is what I do. What if all the churches, beauty salons, and barber shops put all their money in one bank in their community? That would be real economic development," he said. "So place your money in your own market."

Social justice was important to his father and he accomplished it in the paper. There is surely injustice in our society and Don wanted to address injustice on all levels, health, education, workforce development, and access to capital. Talk about those inequities. "I'm not on their payroll," he'd say. At the end of the day he had self-respect. He asked the hard questions, on his DATV program, to share the "**News from a Different View.**" He did this for his community, to be right there in the middle of the action. He was there.

Did he encounter any problems printing the truth? When people don't know where to go, they need truth. "If you don't tell it nobody will

know. I'm supposed to tell it." Don Black's attitude was, "if you win - I win!" It has nothing to do with money. Donerik declares, "I have to keep it 100. Some people are scared to say anything. My dad would say, 'I'm not on the payroll... I can speak as I want.' He was just that passionate about what he did."

### **The Legacy - He had to get that paper out!**

Going to the office was in Don Black's blood. "I can remember us having so much to do, deadlines to meet, and someone would come into the office wanting to see dad to chat about a story and would show up without an appointment. Dad would agree to see them. I'd leave and he'd still be talking to that individual a couple hours later when I returned to the office. Addressing their needs and listening. He dropped everything to help someone. He said, 'That's what we're supposed to do.' He was a man of the people, this was his passion. He moved mountains for people. Because of his rapport with people he often printed stories before the local papers could."

Success is defined differently for everybody and comes in many forms. Don Black wasn't a rich man, but he was a wealthy man. His business office is decorated with photos he took with celebrities and famous people. Every side of the office displays the people he met and the experiences he had. He was well-respected and he refused to tarnish his name.

In 26 years publishing Don was most proud to say - they never missed an issue. "We did it - we got another one in," he often said in relief. Even when Don had complications with his kidney and with his health, he never missed a date. There was a time when they waited on a check to come in and four checks came in. Donerik recalls when he made that pivotal decision to join his father in the business, "Dad hands me a check for \$25," and said, 'Here's for a little gas in your car.' He promised things would get better... and they did. He was also a man of prayer. 'Worry about it or pray about it, but you can't do both. put in the hands of the LORD.' Sometimes checks didn't clear but the staff stayed. Coming from a place of love, that staff still exists today.

Don's legacy isn't about money. He told Donerik, "I want to be able to pass this on to you." And Donerik has taken on the paper knowing it won't be easy. He talked to his father daily keeping it in the family along with his Uncle Terrence, who recently passed away the day before Thanksgiving. He will miss him dearly.

### **Words of Wisdom**

Donerik reflects on his character and work ethic, "I learned from a guy who so many people admire. He did it! Tough as nails, he had leather skin and could take a punch. He had nobody watching his back, he did it all on his own. Lived a life of purpose and did it on his terms. I'm Super Proud of my dad!"

### **Glimpses of the Future**

"This paper is a labor of love. All the money goes directly back into the paper. I'm doing this for dad and it's not easy. I have implemented changes with technology,

increased readership, & advertising. I want The Dayton Weekly News to continue to be a trusted source in the community. Many communities had their own weekly newspapers: Centerville, Oakwood, Trotwood, West Milton, Waynesville, etc. The members of that community support it. If we don't value us, who will? How can we expect anybody else to? We have a commitment to excellence. We have to look out for one another. After being out of the newspaper day-to-day business, in August 2019 I re-introduced myself to current advertisers and community partners. I created ad packages and encouraged organizations within our community to use the paper to get its information out. We want business from our community."

### **How can African Americans in leadership positions be of greater assistance to black people in business? Particularly those in news media, those who own media?**

"If you see something - say something. If I know, it's my job to teach someone else. I can't sit on information. When I'm in a meeting, I have to think, who do I know who can benefit from the information. Be strategic and get the right pieces in place. Use a digital platform. The more we grow, the more of a fingerprint we have in the community. We have to pay people, we have to build a solid foundation for continuation. We need the support in the community that believe in the mission."

### **And what can be done to insure the survival of the black press?**

"Just support it. Buy the paper, read the paper, pass it on. It's 12-pages with a 7-day shelf life. Support with ads, subscriptions, news, and pick up the phone. The African American community should look at this as their newspaper. We create good quality content to celebrate who you are."

It is obvious the Legacy of patriarch, publisher, and pioneer, Mr. Don Black will live on in the hearts of Dayton residents and those who continue to support the newspaper. It is heartwarming to hear of the family bond that exists in this Family. His son Donerik shares words only a loving father gives, "I don't call you son because you shine, I call you son because you're mine."

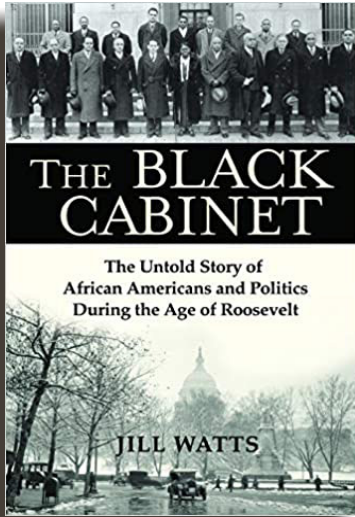
In view of the pandemic, the family of Don Black are planning a memorial & Celebration of Life on Don's birthday in September 2020.

**Editor's Note** – We were in the middle of planning the 25th Anniversary Celebration when he suffered a stroke. We decided to cancel the event.

*Evangelist Cheryl Y. Wood, PhD. An innovative, self-motivated, detail-oriented Talk Show Host of Walking in Victory for 15+ years, is an ordained minister, teacher, preacher, and author. A native of Dayton, Ohio, she has a B.A. from the University of Dayton in Communications, and a Doctorate in Divinity from Int'l. Apostolic University. A member of Greater Love Christian Church 14 years. She prays, sings, writes, and Inspires others to recognize their unique value to Self, to God, to Family, & Community.*

# BOOK BAGS & READERS

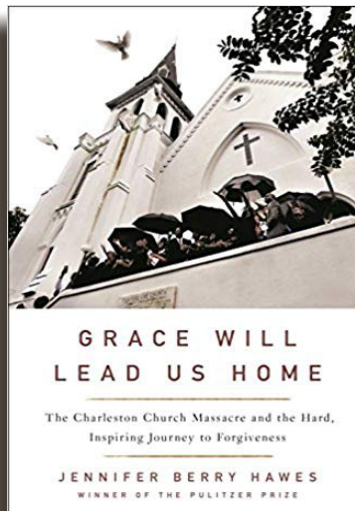
By Ray Miller



**The Black Cabinet - The Untold Story of African American and Politics During the Age of Roosevelt**  
By Jill Watts

In 1932 amid the Great Depression, Franklin Delano Roosevelt won the presidency with the help of key African American defectors from the Republican Party. At the time, most African Americans lived in poverty, denied citizenship rights, and terrorized by white violence. As the New Deal began, a “black Brain Trust” joined the administration and began documenting and addressing the economic hardship and systemic inequalities African

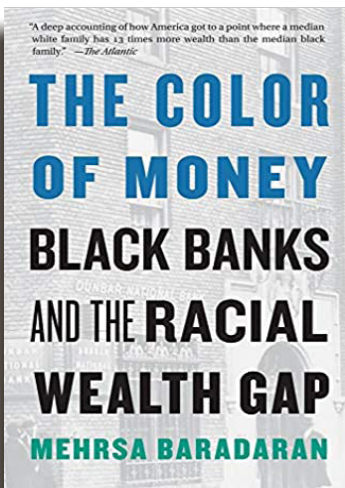
Americans faced. They became known as the Black Cabinet, but the environment they faced was reluctant, often hostile, to change. The Black Cabinet never won official recognition from the president, and with his death, it disappeared from view. But it had changed history.



**Grace Will Lead Us Home - The Charleston Church Massacre and The Hard, Inspiring Journey to Forgiveness**  
By Jennifer Berry Hawes

On June 17, 2015, twelve members of the historically black Emanuel AME Church in Charleston, South Carolina welcomed a young white man to their evening Bible study. He arrived with a pistol, 88 bullets, and hopes of starting a race war. Dylann Roof’s massacre of nine innocents during their closing prayer horrified the nation. Two days later, some relatives of the

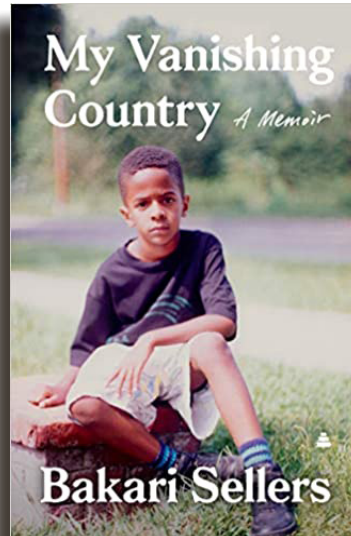
dead stood at Roof’s hearing and said, “I forgive you.” That grace offered the country a hopeful ending to an awful story. But for the survivors and victims’ families, the journey had just begun.



**The Color of Money: Black Banks and the Racial Wealth Gap**  
By Mehrsa Baradaran

When the Emancipation Proclamation was signed in 1863, the black community owned less than one percent of the United States’ total wealth. More than 150 years later, that number has barely budged. The Color of Money pursues the persistence of this racial wealth gap by focusing on the generators of wealth in the black community: black banks. Studying these institutions over time, Mehrsa Baradaran challenges the myth

that black communities could ever accumulate wealth in a segregated economy. Instead, housing segregation, racism, and Jim Crow credit policies created an inescapable, but hard to detect, economic trap for black communities and their banks. Examining the fruits of past policies and the operation of banking in a segregated economy, she makes clear that only bolder, more realistic views of banking’s relation to black communities will end the cycle of poverty and promote black wealth.

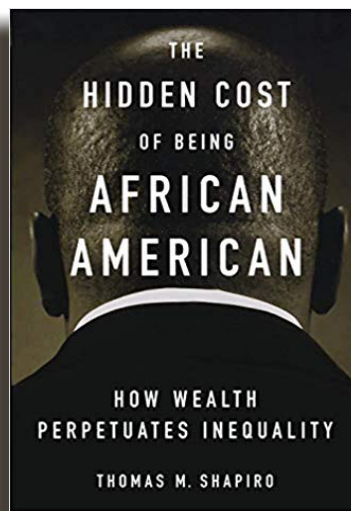


**My Vanishing Country - A Memoir**  
By Bakari Sellers

Part memoir, part historical and cultural analysis, My Vanishing Country is an eye-opening journey through the South’s past, present, and future.

Anchored in in Bakari Seller’s hometown of Denmark, South Carolina, Country illuminates the pride and pain that continues to fertilize the soil of one of the poorest states in the nation. He traces his father’s rise to become, friend of Stokely Carmichael and Martin Luther King, a civil rights hero, and member of the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), to explore the plight of the South’s dwindling rural, black working class—many of whom can trace their ancestry back for seven generations.

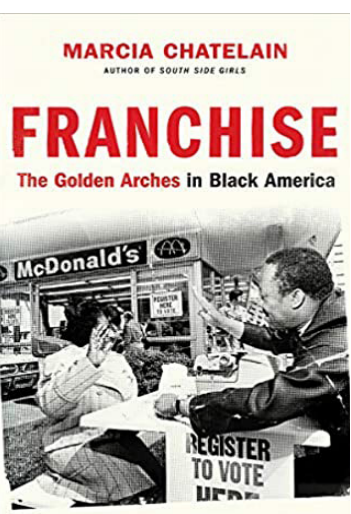
He humanizes the struggles that shape their lives: to gain access to healthcare as rural hospitals disappear; to make ends meet as the factories they have relied on shut down and move overseas; to hold on to precious traditions as their towns erode; to forge a path forward without succumbing to despair.



**The Hidden Cost of Being African American: How Wealth Perpetuates Inequality**  
By Thomas N. Shapiro

Over the past three decades, racial prejudice in America has declined significantly and many African American families have seen a steady rise in employment and annual income. But alongside these encouraging signs, Thomas Shapiro argues in *The Hidden Cost of Being African American*, fundamental levels of racial inequality persist, particularly in the area of asset accumulation--inheritance, savings accounts, stocks, bonds, home equity, and other investments-.

Shapiro reveals how the lack of these family assets along with continuing racial discrimination in crucial areas like homeownership dramatically impact the everyday lives of many black families, reversing gains earned in schools and on jobs, and perpetuating the cycle of poverty in which far too many find themselves trapped.



**Franchise - The Golden Arches in Black America**  
By Marcia Chatelain

From civil rights to Ferguson, Franchise reveals the untold history of how fast food became one of the greatest generators of black wealth in America. Often blamed for the rising rates of obesity and diabetes among black Americans, fast food restaurants like McDonald’s have long symbolized capitalism’s villainous effects on our nation’s most vulnerable communities. But how did fast food restaurants so thoroughly saturate black neighborhoods in the first place? In Franchise, acclaimed historian Marcia Chatelain uncovers a surprising history of cooperation

among fast food companies, black capitalists, and civil rights leaders, who—in the troubled years after King’s assassination—believed they found an economic answer to the problem of racial inequality. Synthesizing years of research, Franchise tells a troubling success story of an industry that blossomed the very moment a freedom movement began to wither.

# LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

## NATURAL HAIR IN A PANDEMIC AND BEYOND



By Senator Charleta B. Tavares (Ret.)

State Reps. Juanita Brent\* (D-Cleveland) and Paula Hicks-Hudson\* (D-Toledo) jointly introduced legislation recently which would ban discriminatory policies in Ohio schools that penalize students, especially students of color, for wearing natural hairstyles that embrace their cultural identities. The legislation, House Bill 535 is labeled the Creating A Respectful and Open World for Natural Hair (CROWN). The bill was introduced with twelve members of the Ohio Legislative Black Caucus who serve in the Ohio House of Representatives.

“We want our schools to be welcoming places that embrace diversity - not discriminate against it. And yet, we continue to hear of instances of discrimination against black and brown kids who wear their hair naturally. The CROWN Act would end that,” Rep. Brent said. “This commonsense bill protects our kids and ensures they have the same opportunity to fulfill their promise as any other child in our state.”

“The CROWN Act is a good first step to help eliminate the unconscious biases that too often hold people of color back in Ohio,” said Rep. Hicks-Hudson. “We work for you—and that means taking on discrimination whenever it happens, especially in our schools. At the end of the day, the way you wear your hair should not limit your pursuit of the American Dream.”

Under the CROWN Act, Ohio schools would be prohibited from discriminating against anyone who wears a natural hairstyle or protective article that embraces their cultural identity. This would extend not only to class time, but to athletics and other school-related functions.

Under the bill, those who allege discrimination would be able to file a civil action in any court of competent jurisdiction.



Rep. Juanita Brent (D-Cleveland)

This legislation is particularly important during the COVID-19 Pandemic as barbershops and hair salons are closed due to the need for social distancing in order to prevent the community spread of the virus. As African Americans, the barbershops and hair salons are a special place to connect, socialize, receive important information and even health screenings. These are small businesses who are generally owner-operated and provide rental booth space for other entrepreneurs and solo-practitioners.

Many people of African descent including children and youth have embraced their cultural identities and ethnic hairstyles. The virus has prevented many from getting their haircut and styled in what some consider acceptable or conforming to their perception of beauty or standard. Unfortunately, there are racist school and employment policies and individuals within businesses, schools, government and other employers who have taken it upon their selves to determine how hair should be styled and who must succumb to their decision about what is acceptable or will be tolerated.

House Bill 535 has not been passed as of this date and the businesses closed due to COVID-19 rules, which may be relaxed in the near future including barbershops and hair salons may reopen. However, this bill is still important to who we are, personal freedoms and the promotion of African identity and beauty. For additional information, contact



Rep. Paula Hicks-Hudson (D-Toledo)

either Rep. Juanita Brent at 614.466.1408 or Rep. Paula Hicks-Hudson at 614.466.1401.

\*OLBC member

There are currently eighteen (18) members including one Asian American member participating in OLBC. For additional information on the Ohio Legislative Black Caucus, contact [info@ohiolegislativeblackcaucus.org](mailto:info@ohiolegislativeblackcaucus.org) or visit [ohiolegislativeblackcaucus.org](http://ohiolegislativeblackcaucus.org).

*If you are interested in testifying on any of the bills introduced in either the House or Senate, please contact the chair of the committee who can be found at [www.ohiosenate.gov](http://www.ohiosenate.gov) or [www.ohr.gov](http://www.ohr.gov).*

### Additional Contacts

**UPDATE: The Ohio General Assembly sessions and the House and Senate Committees are televised live on WOSU/ WPBO and replays can be viewed at [www.ohiochannel.org](http://www.ohiochannel.org) (specific House and Senate sessions and committee hearings can be searched in the video archives).**

*Former Sen. Charleta B. Tavares, D-Columbus, is the 1st Democrat and African American woman to serve in the Ohio House of Representatives and the Ohio Senate from Franklin County. She is also the first African American woman to serve in leadership in the history of Ohio and the 1st Democrat woman to serve in leadership in both the Ohio House of Representatives and the Ohio Senate (House Minority Whip and Senate Assistant Minority Leader).*



## TRUMP OWES STATE-OWNED CHINESE BANK A WHOLE LOTTA BREAD AND THAT LOAN PAYMENT IS COMING UP SOON



By Stephen A. Crockett, Jr.

Well, what do you know: Turns out that President Trump, aka “Let me get money out of the country because my name is no good here,” owes a shit ton of cash to a state-owned Chinese bank, and that chicken is coming home to get its bread.

According to financial records obtained by Politico, the loan would be due around the middle of former Vice President Joe Biden’s first term as president or Trump’s second term should white women betray the country and vote to re-elect this ass-bag again. And I know, not all white women, but 53 percent of y’all did, so I rounded up because I’m not good at math but I do know that’s more than half of y’all.

Because Trump uses his accusations about others to project the shit going on in his life, the president of people who live off their inheritance has claimed that if Biden were to win the presidency, “China will own the United States,” but look who China already has on a layaway plan.

I can’t lie; it looks like Biden’s son Hunter’s only job was to stay on someone’s board. Remember when he got into all this shit for serving on the board of Burisma Holdings, a major Ukrainian natural gas producer, and he was forced to resign?

Well, the young Biden also served on the board of a Chinese private equity company that Trump claimed was linked to a \$1.5 billion investment plan from a Chinese bank, and wouldn’t you know that’s the same bank that holds Trump’s loan?

According to Salon, “Trump’s debt stems from his 30% ownership stake in a 43-story New York skyscraper at 1290 Avenue of the Americas, the documents show. Trump has bragged that he ‘got’ the building from China in a ‘war.’”

“I beat China all the time,” he said when announcing his run for president in 2015. “I own a big chunk of the Bank of America building [in San Francisco] and 1290 Avenue of the Americas that I got from China in a war. Very valuable. I love China.”

From Salon:

The New York Times reported in 2016 that Trump only owned 30% of both buildings. And Trump’s financial ties to the country do not end with his ownership stake in the building. Chinese state-owned companies are developing two luxury Trump buildings in Indonesia and the United Arab Emirates. The president and his daughter, Ivanka, have also been granted numerous trademarks by the Chinese government since he took office. His son-in-law, Jared Kushner, has sought Chinese investment in at least one real estate deal.

“We actually explored all these foreign enterprises and how once he became president he’d be seen differently by foreign leaders who would have leverage over this president, because he had investments in their countries and/or financial dealings with business enterprises and financial institutions and investors in their countries,” Rep. Gerry Connolly, D-Va., who sits on the House Oversight Committee, told Politico. “He is highly conflicted with respect to China.”

Trump continuously denies any conflicts of interest, but he has also refused to divest from his company because then he wouldn’t be needed by the Draya Michele of his life, Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Trump is reportedly on the hook for tens of millions after the “Vornado Realty Trust, the building’s primary owner, refinanced the building for \$950 million in 2012. The debt included a \$211 million loan from the Bank of China, the first loan of its kind in the U.S.,” Salon reports.

“While Trump is talking about the former vice president’s son financial dealings, in Trump’s case, it is the president himself who has a company he still owns and profits from that has financial relationships with the countries that he is supposed to be negotiating with on behalf of the American people,” Robert Maguire of the watchdog group Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington, told Politico.

“There are definitely legitimate questions that are raised by Hunter Biden’s actions. They are not even in the same ballpark as the conflict of interest questions raised by President Trump’s continued relationship with his own company.”

The Trump campaign obviously distanced its dealings with the Chinese bank from Hunter Biden’s dealings.

“There is an obvious difference between Donald Trump working as a successful businessman as a private citizen and Hunter Biden using his name to cash in with a \$1.5 billion investment from a state-controlled Chinese bank while his father was vice president,” campaign spokesman Tim Murtaugh told Politico.

George Mesires, a lawyer for Hunter Biden said Biden’s business partners received \$4.2 million from a group of investors in China in a private equity deal—not the \$1.5 billion the investment firm hoped to net in total after several investing rounds.

Colin Kahl, a former aide to President Barack Obama and Joe Biden, summed the whole thing up in a tweet: “The next time Trump breathes one word about Biden and China, remember this,” he tweeted. “Trump is up to his eyeballs in debt to the Bank of China...and the loan is due soon.”

*Stephen A. Crockett, Jr. is a senior editor with The Root.*

*Article from [www.theroot.com](http://www.theroot.com)*



# OHIO'S CHILDREN NEED EMERGENCY FOOD ASSISTANCE NOW



By Will Petrik

We all want the best for our children. Ohioans are doing our part to flatten the curve and we need our government to make sure everyone – especially children -- gets through the pandemic and the economic downturn it is causing.

The public health crisis has upended Ohioans' lives and slowed down our economy. In order to slow the spread of COVID-19 and keep Ohioans safe, Gov. Mike DeWine ordered the closure of restaurants, bars, movie theatres, gyms, salons, child care centers, and K-12 schools. This has created instability and economic hardship for thousands of children and families. Over 1 million Ohioans have filed for unemployment since March 15. Foodbanks across Ohio are providing emergency assistance to a record number of people.

Gov. DeWine made the tough choice to close schools, which has caused setbacks in learning. School closures also mean more Ohio children are going hungry. Many of Ohio's children rely on free- and reduced-price school breakfast and lunch as a source of food and nutrition.

The second federal stimulus package, the Families First Coronavirus Response Act, created a program that allows states to make sure that kids who received free or reduced-price meals at school wouldn't go hungry: Pandemic-EBT (P-EBT). Eligible families will receive benefits on an electronic benefit transfer (EBT) card, which they can use

like a debit card to buy food. It's the same system used by people who participate in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), formerly known as food stamps. All children eligible for free and reduced-price meals are eligible for these benefits. P-EBT will provide families \$5.70 for each day a school is closed due to COVID-19. At an estimated benefit of \$300 per child, P-EBT could bring roughly \$215 million in federal aid for Ohio students and families.

The Ohio Department of Education and school districts across Ohio acted quickly to provide students with food through school meal sites and other meal distribution efforts. While these efforts are critical, they aren't reaching enough children. For instance, Cleveland.com reported that only one in 10 children in the Cleveland school district are accessing school meals. That's why it's so important that Ohio takes advantage of the opportunity to launch a P-EBT program.

The outbreak has highlighted deep racial inequities in Ohio and across the nation. Now, even though Black people make up 12% of Ohio's population, they account for 22% of the state's known COVID-19 cases.

Long before this crisis, policies choices, such as red-lining, systematically excluded many Black Ohioans from opportunities to build wealth and get a high-quality education. Today, those decisions have led to major inequities in term of educational outcomes and economic opportunity for students of color. It also means more Black families need help putting food on the table. Sixty-five percent of students in Dayton City Schools and 54% of students in Columbus City

Schools are Black. Every student attending Columbus and Dayton City Schools is eligible for free and reduced school meals, regardless of race or zip code. Ohio's leaders can use policy levers now, like P-EBT, to get critical resources to underserved communities.

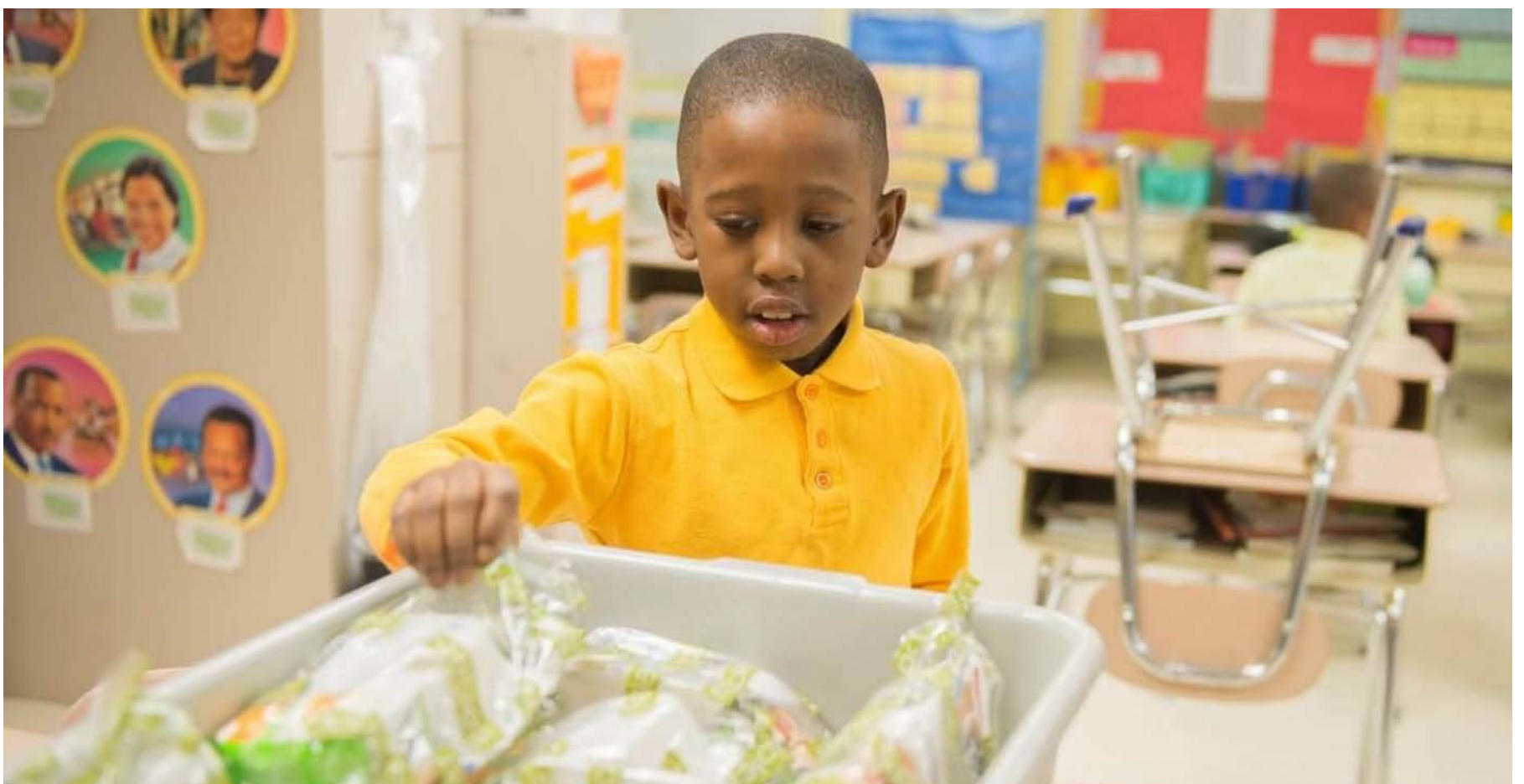
The Ohio Department of Education and the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services have submitted a P-EBT plan to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Food and Nutrition Service and are awaiting approval. Fifteen states have been approved by the USDA to launch and operate P-EBT programs.

We hope Ohio is next, so children and families can access food and nutrition. This is an urgent policy decision that will bring federal resources to help parents feed the most vulnerable children in our state.

*Will Petrik is the Budget Researcher at Policy Matters Ohio. He believes that all people have the right to safety, security and quality education. As State Director of Advocates for Ohio's Future, he helped expand Medicaid in Ohio. Because of this work, over 650,000 people now have access to healthcare coverage. In his role as Budget Researcher, Will works to advance budget and policy solutions that support the well-being of children and families in Ohio.*

*Policy Matters Ohio is a non-profit policy research institute. They create a more vibrant, equitable, sustainable and inclusive Ohio through research, strategic communications, coalition building and policy advocacy.*

[www.policymattersohio.org](http://www.policymattersohio.org)

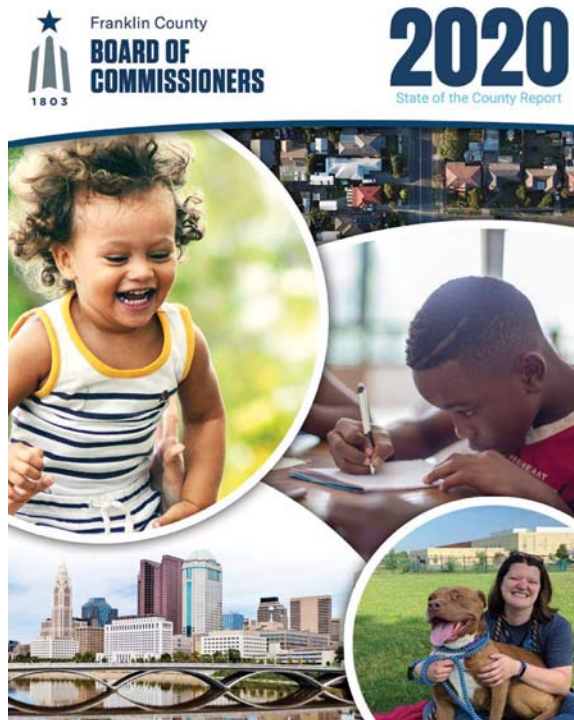


## COMMISSIONERS REPORT STATE OF FRANKLIN COUNTY REMAINS STRONG

The Franklin County Commissioners released their fifth annual State of the County report, acknowledging the challenges that 2020 has already brought, and highlighting many of their accomplishments from last year. Broken down into sections according to the commissioners' core principles of Community Safety and Security, Job Creation and Economic Development, Health and Human Services, Environmental Sustainability, and Fiscally Responsible Government, the report lists accomplishments and statistics, and highlights particular commissioner initiatives.

“Even in these very difficult times, we know that Franklin County is strong because its people are strong, and because we’ve prepared for challenges like the ones we’re facing now,” said Board of Commissioners President John O’Grady. “I’m proud of the work that our team does year-round, and today’s report highlights just some of the ways that we work every day for each of our Franklin County residents.”

Among the highlighted programs were the commissioners’ Rise Together blueprint to address poverty, the Step Up To Quality childcare initiative, smart justice initiatives, a community pet food pantry at the dog shelter, new grants to community partners, a new program to provide social services clients with training to become truck drivers, and historic new investments in affordable housing. Once again last year, Franklin was also able to achieve the greatest “leverage” of any county in the nation for Housing and Urban Development HOME Partnership



funds. The commissioners’ Office on Aging reports delivering more than 700,000 meals to seniors, the dog shelter had a 92.2% live release rate, and county fleet vehicles were driven more than 6.3 million miles. Also, for the first time last year, Franklin County was named as the healthiest large employer in Central Ohio.

“Many of the programs we highlight in the State of the County report have helped our residents to get their own families into a better financial state,” said Commissioner Marilyn Brown. “We know that our neighbors will rely on that assistance more than ever to get through this disruption and continue building

a prosperous community for every resident. We’re here for them and will be for the long-term.”

For the first time this year, the commissioners’ report includes updates from county partners, the Emergency Management Agency (EMA), Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC), and the Solid Waste Authority of Central Ohio (SWACO). The commissioners’ Department of Homeland Security and Regional Communications was dissolved last year, and its responsibilities divided into the Office of Justice Policy and Programs and EMA. Both SWACO and MORPC reported on their extensive environmental initiatives.

At their weekly General Session meeting this morning, the commissioners acknowledged that the 2020 State of the County report reflects their office’s work in 2019 prior to the coronavirus outbreak. They thanked Board of Commissioners’ staff for all of their hard work in helping to keep county government moving forward smoothly even in a public health crisis, and promised further reporting later in the year that will reflect the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on county residents and the county budget.

*To read and download the full 2020 State of the County Report, visit [report.franklincountyohio.gov](http://report.franklincountyohio.gov).*

*For more information on the Franklin County Board of Commissioners, call the Office of Public Affairs at (614) 525-3322 or visit [commissioners.franklincountyohio.gov](http://commissioners.franklincountyohio.gov).*

## COLUMBUS STATE NARROWS EQUITY GAP WITH PURCHASE OF 600 CHROMEBOOKS FOR STUDENTS

When Columbus State Community College transitioned Spring Semester to virtual learning due to the coronavirus pandemic, a key concern upon students’ return on March 23 was the ability for all to access the technology needed to continue their college education.

“As an open-access college, we have a larger population of low-income students than most institutions,” said Allen Kraus, vice president of Enrollment Services and Marketing and Communications. “We need to make sure our most vulnerable students aren’t lost to a digital divide.”

The College immediately purchased 600 Chromebooks from a distributor to get them into the hands of students who did not have direct access to personal computers in their homes.

“That was just the start,” said Desiree Polk-Bland, executive dean of Advising & Student Support. “For many of those students, they

also did not have high-speed Internet access. Working with our IT team, we helped them connect to Internet providers in their homes.”

Current Columbus State student Andrew Harris, a business management major, said he is grateful for the College’s investment to loan out technology to students like him who need it to succeed.

“I had an older computer that wasn’t working well with my online classes,” Harris said. Even though he had taken advantage of Spectrum’s free Internet access offer for student households to get connected, his technology wasn’t keeping up with online instruction demands. After outreach from the College, Harris found he was eligible to receive a loaned Chromebook to support his studies.

“Columbus State really cares about their students,” Harris said. “I always respected the College, but now I have even more respect for what they do to make sure that students

are okay and can still prevail in life with this pandemic going on.”

Columbus State also purchased 200 older iPhone models to be used as mobile Internet hot spots, allowing students without reliable home Internet service to connect Chromebooks to access online lessons and assignments. The College has pre-paid for access to data and hotspot functionality on each phone.

“While this circumstance has been challenging for faculty and staff, we’ve been determined to find creative solutions that will allow students to continue progressing toward college completion while also managing work, family, and more. We want to provide them with the tools they need to succeed,” said Kraus.

*For more information contact David Wayne, Communications Coordinator at 614-203-4956 or visit their website at [CSCC.edu](http://CSCC.edu).*

# EDUCATION

## IN GARY B. VS SNYDER, A FEDERAL COURT RULES GIVING CHILDREN A CHANCE AT LITERACY IS A CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT



By Christopher Peak & Emily Hanford

**A federal court says underfunded schools in Detroit violated students' right to a basic education. Advocates hope the case is the beginning of a trend.**

At his Detroit high school, Jamarria Hall loved the classes where students could share textbooks, passing six torn and outdated hardcovers among 35 students to take turns reading.

Hall loved those, he said, because in most classes at Osborn High School he had no books. Instead, students copied down whatever the teacher wrote on the board. Or maybe they had a printout from the school's copy machine.

"How can you learn in that type of environment?" asked Hall, who's trying to finish his freshman credits at Tallahassee (Fla.) Community College, three years after graduating from Osborn. "It's setting you up to fail."

A federal appellate court last week agreed and in a historic ruling determined that the students' constitutional rights were violated by that level of deprivation.

In a 2-1 decision last week in the case, Gary B. v. Snyder, judges from the Sixth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that students have a right to "a basic minimum education," which the court defined as giving students the opportunity to learn to read.

The ruling doesn't address the vast inequities between rich schools and poor schools, but it does set a minimum standard that states must meet in public education: providing kids with "a chance at foundational literacy."

It's the first time that a federal court has asserted that right. Advocates say the ruling could match Brown v. Board of Education in importance and hope it triggers a broader crusade against unequal education.

The ruling applies to the four states in the Sixth Circuit — Michigan, Ohio, Kentucky and Tennessee — and it could guide similar federal lawsuits in other states.

It doesn't mean anything will change immediately in Detroit's classrooms. It simply gives students a chance to argue their case in federal district court, to try to prove they've been deprived of those newly established rights and to ask the judge to order a fix.

Students from five Detroit public schools, including Osborn High, brought the case,



**African American students are entitled to the same quality education as their white peers.**

Gary B. v. Snyder, against Michigan's governor and other state officials in 2016. They argued that "decades of state disinvestment and deliberate indifference" had left students struggling to read and attending "schools in name only."

At one elementary school, third-graders had only picture books to look at until their teacher bought books to read. And at Osborn High, one student had to ask her classmate how to spell the word "the," according to the lawsuit.

A district court judge threw the case out in 2018 without hearing evidence, saying the students' rights weren't being violated, even if the conditions in the five Detroit schools were "nothing short of devastating."

The U.S. Supreme Court has rejected the idea that there is a general right to an education. But it has left open the possibility that students have the right to an education that is at least minimally adequate. In a 1973 case challenging Texas's starkly unequal school financing, the justices said an education could theoretically be so bad, such an "absolute denial" of opportunity, that it might be unconstitutional.

In its Gary B. v. Snyder decision, the Sixth Circuit, for the first time, said that's just what seemed to be happening in Detroit's lowest-performing schools. Judge Eric Clay, a Clinton appointee who wrote the majority opinion, said teacher vacancies, building hazards and empty bookshelves likely deprived students of the opportunity to learn

to read.

He wrote that was a right they were entitled to, pointing to the long history of reading "as a key to political power," dating to the antebellum codes prohibiting slaves from learning to read and the Klan's attacks on teachers who taught black children.

It's unclear, however, whether the Gary B. v. Snyder decision will stand. Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer could decide to appeal, either to the entire Sixth Circuit or to the U.S. Supreme Court. Or the state could decide to argue its case in district court, contending that the schools had met the Sixth Circuit's standard. The state could also settle, as Detroit's school superintendent and many local activists are urging Whitmer to do. A spokesperson said the state is reviewing the decision.

Helen Moore, an 83-year-old activist in Detroit, is calling for Whitmer to make a deal. She said the ruling was "some of the best news I have heard" in a half-century of organizing. She called it "better" than Brown v. Board of Education.

"Listen, here's the secret: If you can't read, you can't do anything else. It's the doorway to education," she said. "Reading is the basis of freedom."

While the Detroit case continues, the lawyers who brought the litigation say they hope the Sixth Circuit ruling inspires "a social movement" nationwide to demand better reading instruction in schools.

Evan Caminker, a law professor and former dean at the University of Michigan law school who worked on the case, said that Gary B. v. Snyder was "surgically precise" in seeking remedies for kids in "the worst of the worst schools."

"This lawsuit is not designed to cure all evil, so to speak. This lawsuit is designed to show that there are particular pockets, where we would say it's not just that the kids are not becoming literate; it's that they don't have the opportunity to become literate," he said.

"The right we are seeking and was vindicated by the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals is not a right to a particular outcome. It is not a right to be literate. That's not something our Constitution can plausibly support. It is the right to have the opportunity to become literate."

*This story about Gary B. v. Snyder was produced by APM Reports and reprinted with permission by The Hechinger Report, a nonprofit, independent news organization focused on inequality and innovation in education. Sign up for Hechinger's newsletter.*

who were harmed by these policies and practices.

#### Reparations for slavery and anti-Black policies

We know the monetary value that was placed on enslaved Blacks and the productivity of their labor, as well as the amount of the racial wealth gap. We've seen other groups receive restitutions while the federal government pulled back reparations for Black Americans. Accordingly, if we want to close the racial wealth gap and live up to our moral creed to protect "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness," a federal reparations package for Black Americans is in order. This package should include individual and collective public benefits that simultaneously builds wealth and eliminates debt among Black citizens. We assert that it should be similar to the Harriet Tubman Community Investment Act, which was recently heard before the Maryland General Assembly where Ray testified on its behalf. The Harriet Tubman Community Investment Act aims to atone for slavery and its legacy by addressing education, homeownership, and business ownership barriers.

#### Individual payments for descendants of enslaved Black Americans

The U.S. government owes lost wages as well as damages to the people it helped enslave. In addition to the lost wages, the accumulative amount of restitution for individuals should eliminate the racial wealth gap that currently exists. According to the Federal Reserve's most recent numbers in 2016, based on the Survey of Consumer Finances, white families had the highest median family wealth at \$171,000, compared to Black and Hispanic families, which had \$17,600 and \$20,700, respectively.

#### College tuition to 4-year or 2-year colleges and universities for descendants of enslaved Black Americans

People should be able to use the tuition remission to obtain a bachelor's degree or an associate's/vocational or technical degree. Tuition should be available for public or private universities. Considering the racial gap in the ability to obtain degrees at private schools, this part of the package will further help to reduce racial disparities by affording more social network access and opportunity structures.

#### Student loan forgiveness for descendants of enslaved Black Americans

Student loan debt continues to be a significant barrier to wealth creation for Black college graduates. Among 25-55 year olds, about 40 percent of Blacks compared to 30 percent of whites have student loan debt. Blacks also have nearly \$45,000 of student loan debt compared to about \$30,000 for whites. Recent research finds that Blacks are more likely to be allocated unsubsidized loans. Furthermore, graduates of Historically Black Colleges and Universities, compared to Predominately White Institutions, are more likely to receive subprime loans with higher interest rates.

Universities including Georgetown and Princeton are aiming to atone for the fact that the sale of slaves helped to fortify their

university endowments and establish them as elite institutions of higher education on a global scale. Descendants of the slaves sold by Georgetown and Princeton are now entitled to full rights and benefits bestowed by those universities to obtain degrees across the higher education pipeline. Other universities, along with the federal government, should follow suit.

#### Down payment grants and housing revitalization grants for descendants of enslaved Black Americans

Down payment grants will provide Black Americans with some initial equity in their homes relative to mortgage insurance loans. Housing revitalization grants will help Black Americans to refurbish existing homes in neighborhoods that have been neglected due to a lack of government and corporate investments in predominately Black communities. Given recent settlements for predatory lending, low and fixed interest rates as well as property tax caps in areas in which housing prices are significantly devalued should be part of the package. After accounting for factors such as housing quality, neighborhood quality, education, and crime, owner-occupied homes in Black neighborhoods are undervalued by \$48,000 per home on average, amounting to a whopping \$156 billion that homeowners would have received if their homes were priced at market rates, according to Brookings research.

As gentrification occurs, Blacks are typically priced out of neighborhoods they helped to maintain, while the historical and current remnants of redlining and restrictive covenants inhibited investments. Some Black Americans are being forced from their family home of decades because of tax increases as neighborhoods are gentrified. This is an important point because some 2020 Democratic presidential candidates aimed to redress the racial wealth gap by focusing on historically redlined districts. Perry's research shows that these policies fall short of capturing a large segment of Black Americans.

Business grants for business starting up, business expansion to hire more employees, or purchasing property for descendants of enslaved Black Americans

Black-owned businesses are more likely to be located in predominately Black neighborhoods that need the infrastructure and businesses. However, Black business owners are still less likely to obtain capital from banks to make their businesses successful.

This reparations package for Black Americans is about restoring the wealth that has been extracted from Black people and communities. Still, reparations are all for naught without enforcement of anti-discrimination policies that remove barriers to economic mobility and wealth building. The architecture of the economy must change in order to create an equitable society. The racial wealth gap was created by racist policies. Federal intervention is needed to remove the racism that undergirds those policies. In some respects, the question of who should receive reparations is more controversial than what or how much people should be awarded.

Who should receive reparations?

One key question after deciding what a reparations package should include is who should qualify. In short, a Black person who can trace their heritage to people enslaved in U.S. states and territories should be eligible for financial compensation for slavery. Meanwhile, Black people who can show how they were excluded from various policies after emancipation should seek separate damages. For instance, a person like Senator Cory Booker whose parents are descendants of slaves would qualify for slavery reparations whereas Senator Kamala Harris (Jamaican immigrant father and Indian immigrant mother) and President Barack Obama (Kenyan immigrant father and white mother) may seek redress for housing and/or education segregation. Sasha and Malia Obama (whose mother is Michelle Robinson Obama, a descendant of enslaved Africans) would qualify.

To determine qualification, birth records can initially be used to determine if a person was classified as Black American. Economist Sandy Darity asserts that people should show a consistent pattern of identification. Census records can then be used to determine if a person has consistently identified as Black American. Finally, DNA testing can be used as a supplement to determine lineage. This is how Senator Booker, who first introduced a reparations bill in the Senate, learned that his lineage stemmed from Sierra Leone.

#### Conclusion

For the descendants of the 12.5 million Blacks who were shipped in chains from Western Africa, "America has a genetic birth defect when it comes to the question of race," as stated recently by U.S. Representative Hakeem Jeffries. If America is to atone for this defect, reparations for Black Americans is part of the healing and reconciliation process.

With April 4 marking the fifty-second year since Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was assassinated in Memphis, we think it is appropriate to end with an oft-forgotten quote from Dr. King's "I Have a Dream Speech" that he gave in 1963 in Washington, D.C. This statement is still one of the unfulfilled aspects of this policy-related speech:

We have come to our nation's capital to cash a check. When the architects of our republic wrote the magnificent words of the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence, they were signing a promissory note to which every American was to fall heir. ... It is obvious today that America has defaulted on this promissory note insofar as her citizens of color are concerned. Instead of honoring this sacred obligation, America has given the Negro people a bad check, a check which has come back marked "insufficient funds." But we refuse to believe that the bank of justice is bankrupt.

Given the lingering legacy of slavery on the racial wealth gap, the monetary value we know that was placed on enslaved Blacks, the fact that other groups have received reparations, and the fact that Blacks were originally awarded reparations only to have them rescinded provide overwhelming evidence that it is time to pay reparations to the descendants of enslaved Blacks.

Article from [www.brookings.edu](http://www.brookings.edu)

# HISTORY

## REV. DR. JOSEPH LOWERY: THE DEAN OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT



By Rodney Blount, Jr., MA

The coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic has rapidly spread throughout the world in record numbers. Beginning in China (according to most sources), the virus landed on nearly every continent and in most countries. Seniors and people with low immune systems are particularly at risk of becoming ill or even succumbing to COVID-19. This pandemic has dramatically affected the United States and much of the rest of the world, especially with its daily operating procedures. COVID-19 delayed Ohio's primary election to April 28. We have seen the political, medical, business, religious and other communities come together to help with prevention and figuring out our next steps. These communities, especially the political and religious communities, have always played a crucial role in American life. One luminary whose story should be better known and whose life work intersected with all of the aforementioned communities is the late Rev. Joseph Lowery. Rev. Lowery was a religious and civic leader whose life work was dedicated to civil rights.

Joseph Echols Lowery was born in Huntsville, Alabama, on October 6, 1921, to Dora and LeRoy Lowery, a teacher and a small businessman, respectively. He encountered racism at an early age and a singular incident in the summer of 1933 would change his life's destiny forever. A white police officer approached Joseph Lowery, only 11 at the time, as he was walking out of his father's candy store in Huntsville, Alabama. "He hit me in the belly and said, 'Get back, (N-word). Don't you see a white man coming in?'" the Rev. Lowery recalled. "I went home and looked for my father's pearl-handled .32. I got it and was gonna look for that cop." But as he got to the porch, his father, LeRoy Lowery, appeared and asked why he was crying. His father took the gun and gave him a lecture. Lowery said that fateful day in 1933 was his introduction to civil rights.

Lowery spent his middle school years in Chicago before returning to Huntsville to complete high school, graduating in 1939. He was educated at several colleges, including Knoxville College in Tennessee, Wayne State University in Michigan, and Paine College, a Methodist institution in Augusta, Georgia, where he earned his BA degree in 1943. While at Knoxville College, he was briefly married to Agnes Moore and had two sons, LeRoy Lowery III and Joseph Lowery II. He also attended the Chicago Ecumenical Institute and Payne Theological Seminary in Wilberforce, Ohio. In 1947, Lowery and a Clark College student named Evelyn Gibson, the daughter of the Rev. H.B. Gibson Sr., were set up on a blind date by Evelyn Gibson's younger sister. They dated for a



Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. (left), Dr. Joseph Lowery and Rev. Wyatt T. Walker (right). AP Photo - 1963

year and married on April 5, 1948. They had three daughters, Yvonne, Karen and Cheryl. Lowery and 12 grandchildren.

After graduating from seminary in 1950, he was ordained as a Methodist minister following in the footsteps of his great grandfather, Rev. Green Echols founder of the Lakeside Methodist Church, footsteps. He received his first assignment, which took him to Mobile, Alabama. From 1952 to 1961 Lowery was pastor of Warren Street United Methodist Church (UMC) in Mobile. In the early 1950s in Mobile, Alabama, Lowery commenced his decades long leadership in the Civil Rights movement, heading the Alabama Civic Affairs Association, an organization devoted to the desegregation of buses and public places. An early supporter of the Montgomery bus boycott that King organized in 1955, Lowery organized one in Mobile that achieved quicker success and attracted the attention of Dr. King. In 1957, Lowery and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., formed the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) and Lowery was named vice president. In 1959 Lowery, Ralph David Abernathy, Fred Shuttlesworth, and Solomon Seay were sued for libel by the state of Alabama. Despite their innocence, the four ministers were found guilty and ordered to pay \$3 million. A significant amount of Lowery's personal property was seized. The Supreme Court reversed the lower courts' ruling in favor of the ministers, and Lowery's apprehended property was returned.

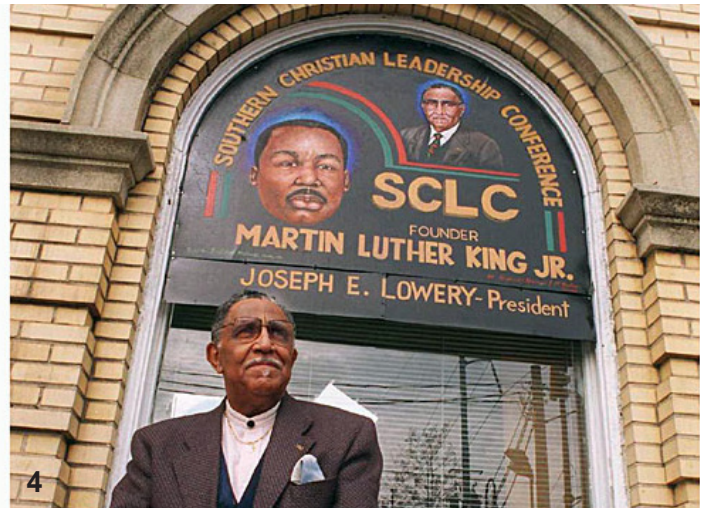
In 1961 Lowery moved to Nashville, Tennessee, where he led marches and sit-ins against segregation in public facilities and maintained leadership roles in the SCLC. In 1964, Lowery returned to Alabama, where he served as pastor at St. Paul United Methodist

Church in Birmingham until 1968. Rev. Lowery supported the movement and Dr. King in times of personal calamity, such as when the Federal Bureau of Investigation sent Dr. King an anonymous letter in 1964 urging him to commit suicide. He also assisted Dr. King while King was jailed in Selma, Alabama, in February 1965. In 1964, Lowery returned to Alabama, where he served as pastor at St. Paul United Methodist Church in Birmingham until 1968. Following King's assassination, Lowery spoke in tribute at his memorial service in Atlanta.

In 1968, Lowery moved to Atlanta to pastor Central United Methodist Church and work with Rev. Dr. Ralph Abernathy, the new president of SCLC. In 1977, after Abernathy resigned, Lowery became president. During his 20-year leadership of the SCLC, he concentrated not only on civil rights in the South, but also on human rights issues in the Middle East and South Africa. On May 26, 1979, Lowery led a march in Decatur, Ala., in support of Tommy Lee Hines, a mentally impaired black man who was accused of raping three white women and convicted by an all-white jury. In 1982, Lowery and Jesse Jackson led a march from Tuskegee, Alabama, to Washington, D.C., to promote the extension of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. "He, more than anybody ... kept the SCLC together throughout the '70s and '80s, said King and SCLC biographer David Garrow.

From 1986 until his retirement in 1992, Lowery was pastor of Cascade United Methodist Church in Atlanta. During his pastorate Cascade gained 1,000 new members, church funds expanded to \$1

*Continued on Page 38*



1 - Rev. Joseph Lowery, Rev. Ralph Abernathy and Rev. Andrew Young; 2 - Rev. Lowery and Coretta Scott King; 3 - Rev. Lowery and President Jimmy Carter; 4 - Rev. Lowery in front of the SCLC headquarters.



Dr. Lowery receives the Presidential Medal of Freedom from President Barack Obama 2009

Continued from Page 37

million, and the church procured land and began constructing a new facility. He also co-chaired the 1990 visit to Atlanta of Nelson Mandela, leader of the anti-apartheid movement in South Africa; spearheaded the construction of 240 low- and moderate-income housing units; and served as a board member of MARTA, Atlanta's public transportation system, for more than two decades.

Lowery remained active in civic affairs after he retired. As the MARTA board's chairman during the 1996 Olympic Games, he was

influential in securing millions of dollars of funding. As a leader of the Coalition to Change the Georgia Flag, he played a crucial role in efforts to modify the design of Georgia's state flag, which prominently featured the Confederate battle flag. Lowery was co-founder and former president of the Black Leadership Forum, a consortium of black advocacy groups. Rev. Lowery received numerous awards, including an NAACP Lifetime Achievement Award, and the Martin Luther King Center Peace Award. *Essence* twice named Lowery as one of the Fifteen Greatest Black Preachers. He also was a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.

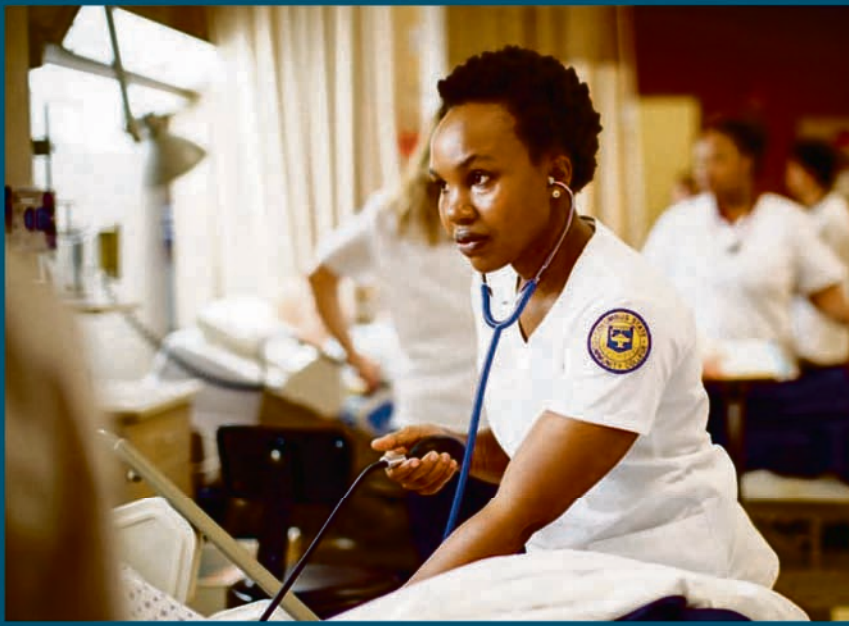
Rev. Joseph E. Lowery passed away on March 27, 2020. He was preceded in death by his wife of over 65 years, Evelyn, on September 26, 2013. She was a civil rights activist in her own right and founded SCLC/ Women's Organizational Movement for Equality Now, Inc. (W.O.M.E.N.). Growing up in the segregated South, Rev. Lowery defied the odds that were stacked against him and rallied for rights not just for himself, but for everyone. He combined a unique blend of his civic activism and religious pedagogy to enhance the lives of those around him. In 2001, he said: "The characteristics of the kingdom are the goals of justice, peace, fellowship and ending hunger and homelessness. I can't see leading people to make heaven their homes without their homes on Earth being heavenly." His legacy of making earth more heavenly through civil rights and religious conviction is secure and will continue to be displayed in the lives he touched.

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*Rodney Blount is an Educator and Historian. He received two Bachelor of Arts degrees from Ball State University and a Masters of Arts degree from The Ohio State University. His work has been featured in several publications. Rodney is a native of Columbus, Ohio and is a member of several organizations.*

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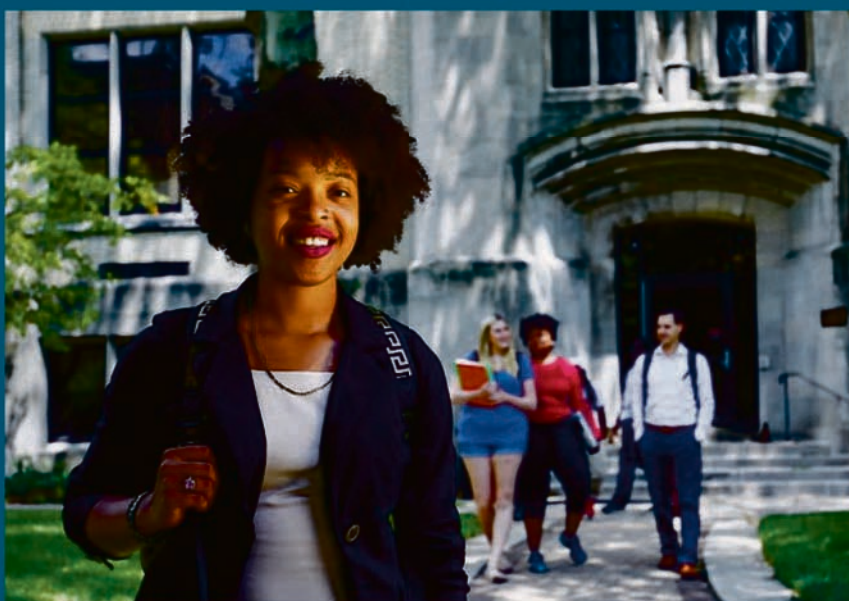
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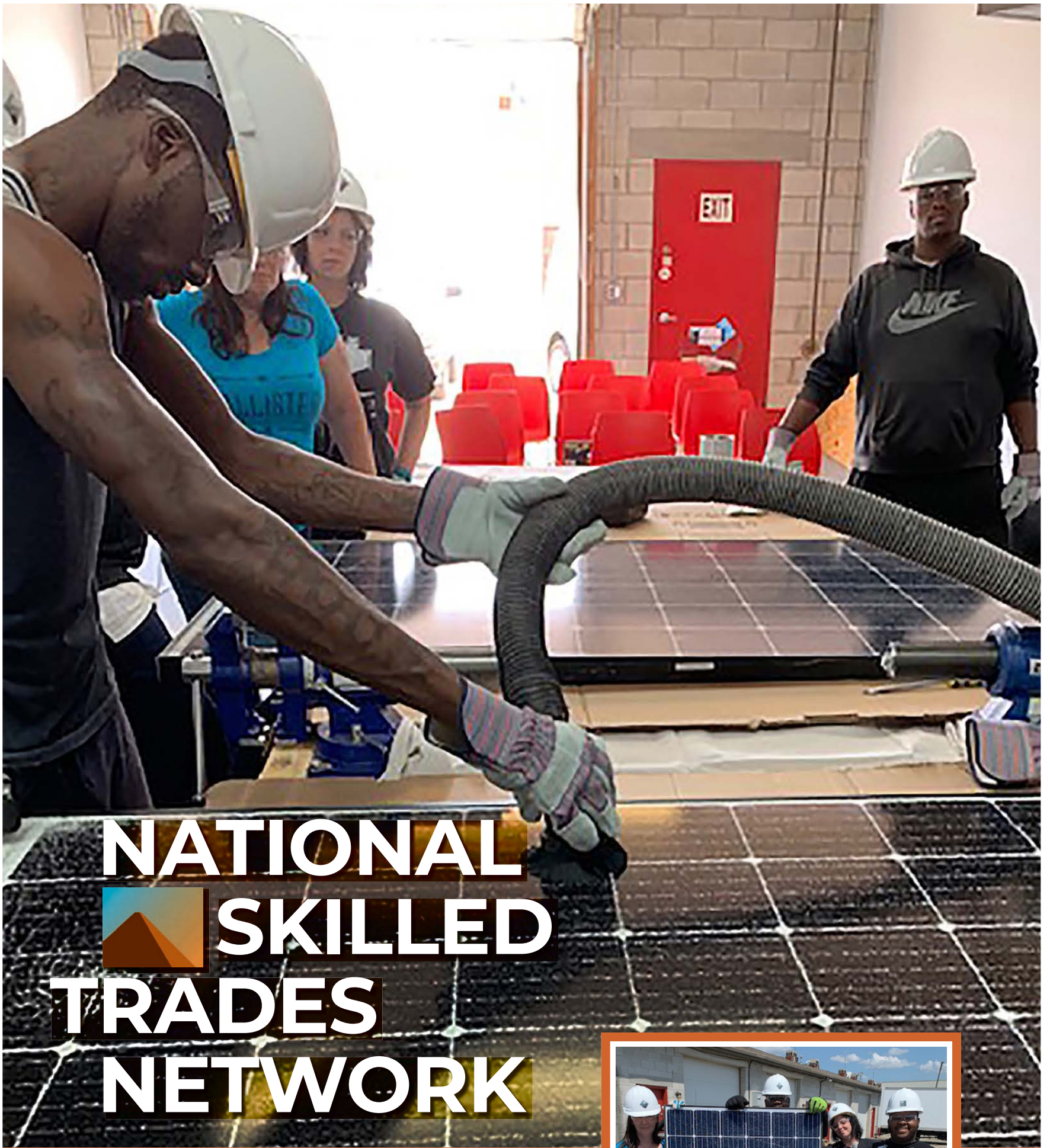


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