

September/October 2020 • www.hereignsmagazine.com • Volume 15 Issue 1

# HE REIGNS

ANNUAL SUMMER/FALL ISSUE **MAGAZINE**



**Cover Story:  
Pastor Jerry  
Wilkerson and  
Friendship Baptist  
Church Making an  
Impact in the Community**

14th Year Anniversary of He Reigns Magazine

Gospel & Jazz Musician Lydia Salett Dudley  
Asks Poignant Question During National  
Upheaval with New Single & Music Video,  
“Whatcha Gonna Say?”

Expression Through Art

The Not So Proud Boys

**\$3.00**



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## Our History

*He Reigns Gospel Magazine* was founded in April 2006 by Tayo Adedeji. He decided to start a magazine after he saw a vision from God the HE wants to use him in the City of Kalamazoo. Mr. Adedeji has been a resident of Kalamazoo for over 10 years and understands a need for a united faith-based Christian magazine. He was inspired by Isaiah 40:31, “*But those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.*”

## Our Goal

Our goal is to provide inspiring stories to people all over the world. We want people to be encouraged when they read our magazine and also live a good and pleasant lifestyle. We strive to present uplifting stories to show our appreciation for the financial support invested in our publication and the trust our readers have in us.

## Mission Statement

Our mission at *He Reigns Gospel Magazine* is to inform people about the good news of our Lord Jesus Christ and that God is glorified through praise and worship.

## He Reigns Gospel Magazine Wants You!

We welcome writers and readers to submit articles about their response to any issue. If you enjoy writing and have sales experience, please contact us at [he.reigns012@gmail.com](mailto:he.reigns012@gmail.com) or call 269-598-2778 or 269-492-0313.

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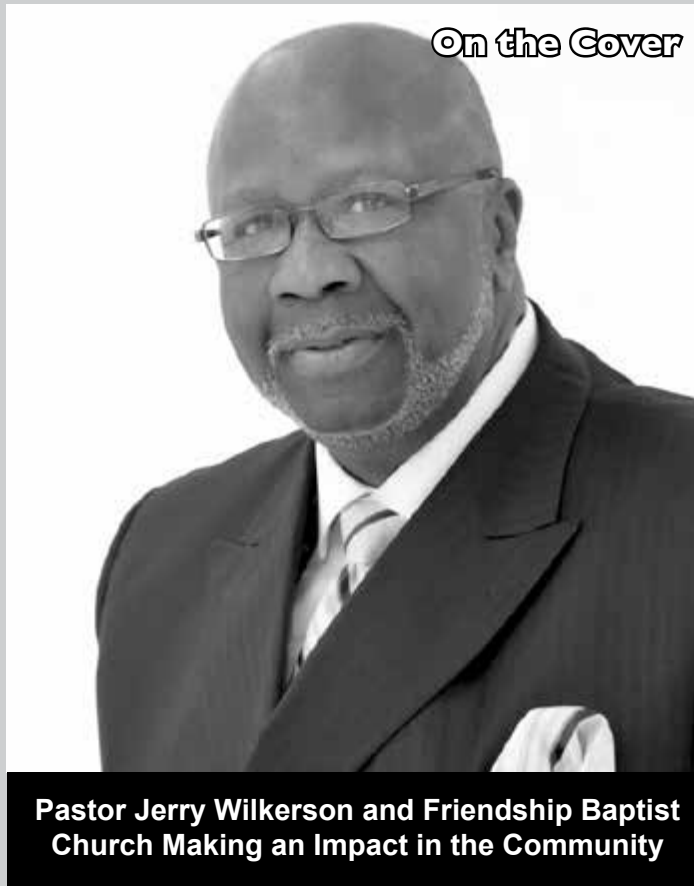
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# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

We welcome, encourage, and ask for your letters and feedback about what you think of our publication. Letters should be no longer than two paragraphs and must have name and address of sender. Letters may be edited to meet space, clarity or style requirements. Please email your letters to *He Reigns Gospel Magazine* at: [he.reigns012@gmail.com](mailto:he.reigns012@gmail.com). We thank you for your letters. God bless.

*I think you have a great magazine because you produce information in the neighborhood about what other people are doing improve their community. Interviewing people such as Commissioner Stephanie Moore is also a way to get information about herself in the community. He Reigns Magazine is doing something positive in the neighborhood that always help other people. We should continue to pray to God to expand the magazine. Continue to do what you are doing. If it is God's sent, continue to do it and He will give you the strength and will to be successful if you continue to believe.*

By Mamie Johnson

*I thought the story that featured my family and I in volume 14 issue 2 of He Reigns Magazine was good and great detail highlighting what was important to us which is our family. The photos used in addition to the information on our family and putting all of it together. The timing of all the things that have happened in our lives including celebrating 50 years of union between my husband in January of 2020 was perfect to feature us on He Reigns Magazine cover page. All of those things helped with everything happening in our lives. You should reach out to other people to receive more subscriptions from the community. God is showing us a new way to do things using the internet. Be open to God and let Him show you a new way to conduct business. We have to prepare for God to show us a new way to survive and be open to change. God is in control and trust God to provide for you. Hold on to your faith.*

By Rev. Doreen Gardner

*I thought volume 14 issue 4 was very informative and brought enlightenment. I thank you for publishing this issue for our community because we are facing challenges in our country. As I read about Pastor Ronnie Coleman and how he started in corporate America and used his talent and skills in the ministry, I could relate to his story because my pastor (Bishop Darryl. K Williams) also used his corporate skills in the ministry. Bishop Williams wants us to be well rounded, be educated in finances, be able to take care of our home, be a good steward and able to be productive citizens*

*in society. I enjoyed reading He Reigns Magazine and have share it with some of my church members. Keep up the good work. You are doing a good work and creating an awareness in the community. You also make people aware of other people's ministries and what they are doing.*

President of Black History Leadership Society Lilly of the Valley Church,  
By Ms. Dorothy Sherrod

*He Reigns Magazine is an amazing publication. This magazine focuses on things going on in our community, the gospel of God and features people's stories. It also provides us with information about upcoming events and investments. This magazine will inspire, encourage and uplifts you. May God continue to bless you as you read. God is good all the time.*

Rukayat Abiolu

*"Thank you" Tayo Adedeji, Founder/Editor of "He Reigns Magazine." I praise God for your vision and endeavor of birthing this awesome magazine available staff. He Reigns Magazine encourages and strengthen the lives of other. Also, the content of He Reigns draws attention because it is diverse and connect communities. The articles are straight to the point, but full of relevant information. It has always been a blessing to read. Inspirational – For sure! Informational – Most definite! Design pleasant to the eyes – To God be the Glory!!*

By Catherine Taylor

*He Reigns continues to inspire especially in this unprecedented time of our lives. We need this magazine to take our minds off negativity and embrace positivity. We will get through this together by God's Grace. Thanks for reading and stay safe.*

By He Reigns Magazine Advisor, Hannah Adedeji



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# DISTRIBUTION INFORMATION

*He Reigns Gospel Magazine is sold at:*

THE KALAMAZOO NEWS AGENCY  
308 West Michigan Ave. • Kalamazoo, MI

MT. ZION BAPTIST CHURCH  
120 Roberson St. • Kalamazoo, MI

PRINTED BY RJ'S PRINTING, INC  
1001 Second Street • Kalamazoo, MI

REBORN HAIR SALON  
1342 Portage St., Ste. 2 • Kalamazoo, MI

AFRICANA  
2307 Gull Road • Kalamazoo, MI 49048

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# UPCOMING EVENTS

### **October 1 - 31st "31 Days of Praise"**

The Men's Ministry will lead the 6AM  
Early Morning Prayer Call  
Dial 1-857-216-6700 Access 959907

### **Bishop Darryl K. Williams Appreciation Day**

October 18, 2020 at 11:00am  
Lily of the Valley Church  
30600 M-140, Covert, MI 49043  
For more information, contact the church at 269-764-8111

### **Ushers and Nurses Guild Annual Day**

October 25, 2020 at 3:00pm  
Galilee Baptist Church  
1216 N. Westnedge Avenue  
Kalamazoo, MI 49007  
For more information, contact the  
church at 269-349-5597

### **Pastor's Appreciation 2020**

**Friday, October 9th Community Outdoor Movie Night at 6PM** (Admission: Free)  
Sponsored by the Young Adult Ministry, Youth Ministry, and Kingdom Couples Ministry.

**Saturday, October 10th Appreciation Motorcade for Leading Lady Tamara T. Scott**  
in the GBC Parking Lot from 10AM to 12 Noon sponsored by the Women's Ministry. For more info contact  
Deacon Lenise Vaughan Williams.

**Sunday, October 11th 7:30AM Anniversary Preacher: Minister Patricia Daniel, 10:00AM**  
Anniversary Preacher: Reverend Brian Johnson of American Baptist Churches of Michigan  
(Lansing). All who have been blessed by the ministry of the Scott Family feel free to be a blessing.

### **Celebrating Authors!**

Conversing with current authors  
from Mt. Zion Baptist Church  
at 11:00am

120 Roberson St, Kalamazoo, MI 49007  
For more information, contact the  
church at 269-388-3111

# PRAYER REQUEST

These are some prayer requests from the community:

- 1) Cancer 2) Diabetes 3) Tuberculosis 4) Depression 5) Malaria 6) Strep Throat 7) Typhoid 8) Stroke 9) Aneurysm 10) Financial Stress

*He Reigns Gospel Magazine keeps you in our prayers and prays that God will heal your body (Amen).*

We also remember our brothers and sisters in Haiti and families of people who have committed suicide. We pray that God would give them strength to hold on, trust and have faith in God.

 <p style="text-align: center;">KENEISHA DARDEN — DANYALL DARDEN OWNER CO-OWNER</p> <p>328 KALAMAZOO MALL DRIVE KALAMAZOO, MICHIGAN 49007</p> <p style="text-align: right; color: red;"><b>269.220.5664</b></p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: small;">@LUSOCHIC @LUSOCHICBOUTIQUE</p>	 <p style="text-align: center; color: red;"><b>Give Yourself A Rest Ride With The Best</b></p> <p>124 Lake Street • Kalamazoo, MI 49001 phone: (269) 343-3000 • fax (269) 343-3309</p>	 <p>Nathaniel Priest G Master Barber</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: small;">A great look! In great time!</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">priest45@yahoo.com 1801 suite B Portage Street Kalamazoo MI 2695986528</p>
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# EDITOR'S NOTE: SURVIVING TRIALS AND TRIBULATIONS

*Note From The Founder/Editor: Tayo Adedeji*



*Tayo Adedeji - Founder/Editor*

As Christians, we are all familiar with biblical passages regarding trials and tribulations. For example, Matthew 19:26 refers to trials

and tribulations: “Do not fear the trials of this world, for with God, all things are possible.” James 1:12 declares, “Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, for when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love Him.” When the COVID-19 pandemic first hit the US, it felt as if the world was coming to an end – through mere breathing, a silent and unseen killer. God is telling us that when we trust Him, nothing that happens in this world should bother us

Although 2019 was a great year for businesses, entrepreneurs, and investors, it was a bad year for individuals and families. Some people lost their jobs or their homes; others became ill or hospitalized and unable to pay their medical bills. On a personal level, I was excited that 2019 was over and that we entered this new decade. Every new year has its peculiar ups and downs, and 2020 has been unprecedented. We are all experiencing new and unusual lifestyles and must find alternative ways to cope in the wake of COVID-19.

Usually, families are planning vacations or taking trips during summer and fall, but the pandemic has caused many to find different ways to vacation and spend time with each other. Prior to the pandemic, it seemed as if there was not enough time to do things and spend time with each other. The pandemic has forced people to stay together and search for other ways to have fun: camp out in the backyard, turn the basement into a gym, or create a new family hangout place.

While the pandemic has brought economic turmoil and exposed systemic racism, there is yet hope for tomorrow. If you trust God and don't quit, everything will work out for your good. According to Hebrews 11:1, “...faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.” Faith is one character some people choose to ignore because they want their needs fulfilled now, but COVID-19 is teaching us to slow down, spend time with our families, and have faith that God will take care of our needs.

Some people who attend a growing mega church may look down on smaller churches. However, in the wake of coronavirus, all churches have had to employ creative social media technologies such as YouTube, Facebook, Twitter or Zoom to continue worship services and survive as a congregation. For years, people worshipped the pastor and the big buildings, but God, who is a jealous God, is teaching us to focus on Him. Now that the big buildings are empty, the smaller churches are reaching people in other states and countries. God is using technology to teach us that we should not worship the buildings, but to exalt Him and Him alone. God is also prompting us to spend more time with each other.

Actions you can take to survive these current trials and tribulations are: strengthen your faith, spend more time with family, write down your financial goals and dreams, engage in activities that bring peace of mind, stay positive about what is going on in the country, remain prayerful, and stay away from negative people. Turning these suggestions into consistent action can help you experience peace far beyond the hardships of the coronavirus pandemic.

Be blessed; God will see us through in Jesus name. Amen.

# EXPRESSION THROUGH ART

By: Oakley Gleason

Recently, downtown Kalamazoo has become the scene for gatherings of people from all backgrounds united for one cause: the end of racial inequality in the United States. Across the country, peaceful protests have emerged, telling our government and the powers that be that Americans will no longer tolerate racial hate and injustice. Kalamazoo is just one of many cities where citizens frustrated with police brutality and systemic racism are demanding radical reform and change.



*A new street mural in Kalamazoo reads "Black Lives Matter" on Rose Street on Friday, June 19, 2020 - Photo by Neil Blake, MLive.com*

Sunday, June 7, 2020, followed the previous Friday and Saturday protests by giving people the opportunity to talk about some of the changes needed in our society. Hundreds of people marched peacefully while engaging in meaningful discussions about conditions plaguing the black community. However, one major difference was the presence of beautiful, handcrafted chalk murals on various concrete structures and walkways. All across Bronson Park, art expressed lives lost due to police brutality and racism, as well as messages showing support of the black community. I spoke with the organizer of the chalk art exhibitions, who was happy to talk about how these artists came together.

"I am an art student with a whole network of amazing talents who feel strongly about making a difference," said Zaina Awad, the woman who organized the construction of the art. She continued, "With human help and chalk donated by a good friend, I personally messaged a bunch of artists who showed up the next morning to decorate the park with me." Many different artists came to support the black community and express the horrors of our country through art.

Zaina continued, "I have been a human rights activist for a while, and I planned to attend the protest happening directly afterwards,

but I was recovering from surgery and couldn't march. I just knew I wanted to do something more to bring attention to the movement though. Art is what I'm good at and like any form of effective communication, art can bring change." Zaina brings up an important point when referring to how art can bring change. Supporting the black community is not just about marching in protests or posting on social media. It is about using your abilities, status, or influence to make the changes we want to see.

As a writer, I find myself wanting to use my talents to help fight the racist agenda in our country, and more specifically, in our community. It is important that we realize that as citizens, we can use our talents to help better society. However, it is vitally important to talk about America's racist system. When asked if art could be a better way of expressing emotions and ideas to those who don't understand society's problems, Zaina stated, "Art is a form of communication, neither better nor worse than any other way people communicate. I contributed to the platform that I know best. If we do what we know best, then we can make a real difference. The point is to talk about it, to make noise, to explain to the people closest to you why these issues are prevalent in our society."

The protest on Sunday culminated in a march towards the main police station of Kalamazoo, with protestors kneeling in silence for eight minutes and forty-six seconds, the length of time it took for a police officer to snuff out George Floyd's life. The power felt throughout the air was clearly seen and felt by the officers who watched us. Together as a group, through peaceful protest of various forms, we made our voices heard. A combination of words, art, imagery and action are what is needed to bring down the systems of oppression in this country. Our voices will be heard, even in the silence of peaceful protest. After the moment of silence, protestors peacefully marched back to Bronson Park to listen to speakers from the community close out the night.

I asked Zaina for any final words on the protest that Sunday. She responded, "The protest used the platform of art to protest police brutality, racial profiling, and fear of black people. We also wanted to explain why it is important to recognize white privilege. White privilege is acknowledging that your life was not made more difficult because of the color of your skin. That is it. It is time to express to the world that light skin is not 'the norm.' All other skin colors and cultures are normative, as well. There will be more events like this." Today, peaceful protests in the United States and abroad have morphed into the largest civil rights movement in the world. There is no doubt that reform is coming to the racist systems that have plagued generations of Black Americans.

# GOSPEL & JAZZ MUSICIAN LYDIA SALETT DUDLEY ASKS POIGNANT QUESTION DURING NATIONAL UPHEAVAL WITH NEW SINGLE & MUSIC VIDEO, “WHATCHA GONNA SAY?”



## Artist's Art Center Provides Musical Education for Underserved Youth

(Raleigh, NC) – August 27, 2020 – Many Americans would agree that our nation is in turmoil. With a pandemic that’s worsening, racial injustice that’s crippling minorities and a high-stakes election that will determine the country’s future, it’s a pivotal time. Recording Artist Lydia Salett Dudley, a gifted jazz musician with a Master’s Degree in Jazz Composition from North Carolina Central University, felt compelled to share her heart about current events in a brand new song called “Whatcha Gonna Say?” Featuring the sounds of Dudley and her band, and the rap of K Hill, the new, up-tempo single is available now on all digital music outlets including Apple Music, Amazon and Spotify.

Although penned by Dudley last year, prior to the intrusion of COVID-19, the track accurately reflects the unrest that Americans are feeling everywhere. The complementary music video to “Whatcha Gonna Say?” showcases scenes from some of today’s most troubling events while asking the viewer what their response will be. Flaunting a catchy hook, a memorable groove and a riveting band, “Whatcha Gonna Say?” could easily become an inspirational anthem. The song came to Lydia while riding in her car listening to the news, which she found so disheartening. Knowing that any change must start from within, she wants to leave the listener with the realization that they can no longer sit on the fence; they must make a choice.

“Whatcha Gonna Say?” is a slight departure from the talented

musician’s repertoire. Not one to normally tap into messaging about the political climate, most of the Raleigh-based artist’s tunes highlight her Gospel and Jazz influences. Growing up at Lexington Avenue Baptist Church in Cleveland, Ohio, her mother was the church pianist, her father was a deacon and song leader and she and her brothers were ushers. Gospel music was an important part of her life and it was there that she began singing. Fine tuning her piano and her songwriting skills as well, later, she became a consummate performer, playing in lounges and churches alike. While a student, she was honored to become the Director of the Liberty University Gospel Choir.

Her success as a choir director helped her to realize she had a gift of teaching music. That realization inspired her to launch The Salett Art Center, Inc., a nonprofit organization whose mission is to provide music enrichment for underserved and at-risk youth. Lydia started the non-profit because she saw a need for children in urban communities to be exposed to the history of jazz, blues, and Negro spirituals. Providing a variety of educational music programs, the Salett Art Center aims to offer a culture of learning, inspiring creativity, and personal development through after school programs and summer camps teaching jazz appreciation sessions. Kids also learn about live music, jazz history, jazz songs and the blues. The Salett Art Center provides an online program entitled “Let Your Voice Be Heard”, specifically designed to uplift the spirit and inspire creative writing. For more information on the Salett Art Center, log on to [www.salettartcenter.org](http://www.salettartcenter.org).

A teacher as well as a recording artist, Lydia released her debut single entitled “Green”, an original composition written in the style of a jazz standard and in collaboration with her piano mentor. Stepping into the role of band leader as well, she formed the group, Lydia Salett Dudley & Friends in 2008. In 2019, after starting Jazz Xpressions, an ensemble of gifted musicians, who perform throughout the Raleigh/Durham region, she recorded projects like Jazz Standards (a collaboration with professors from the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill), *Jazz Xpressions* (her jazz playing and singing debut) and *This Is Christmas*. In addition, she performed at the childhood home of Nina Simone, declared a National Treasure in 2018, in Tryon, NC. For more information on Lydia Salett Dudley, log on to [www.lydiasalettddudley.com](http://www.lydiasalettddudley.com). Connect with her on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube.

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Photo of Lydia Salett Dudley's Cover of "Whatcha Gonna Say?": <http://www.andrearenewilliamsmusicministries.com/LydiaSalettDudley/WhatchaGonnaSay.jpg>



# I REFUSE

By: Oakley Gleason



*Oakley Gleason*

Today's world is troubled. Every state in the USA is erupting with protests. People are speaking out against a government blatantly thrusting violence onto its citizens in the name of racism and inequality.

Police officers are encouraged to harm and maim peaceful citizens. Most importantly, the abuse and neglect of African Americans is a systemic evil they have endured for generations. This fight has been in the making since the founding of this nation and my heart goes out to every person of color who has seen loved ones cut by the knife of ignorance. As a white man, I can never know the pain that a Black person feels. What I can do though, is refuse to stand by and let racism continue to run rampant. I refuse to be my ancestors.

I am not proud of my ancestry. I am descended from southern plantation owners who owned massive cotton fields before the Civil War. I am also descended from Confederate soldiers. Racism is part of my heritage; it is inherently entwined in the culture of many white Americans like myself. I have family members who to this day are proud that they had ancestors who fought for the Confederacy. I am not proud. I am disgusted and appalled that someone of my own genetic relation could think that fighting on the side of hate and racism was right.

As history shows, things did not end well for my ancestors once the Civil War ended. They lost their slaves; they lost their cotton plantations, and they lost much of their wealth. Due to this, they moved north to Michigan to find work and new land to settle. I can imagine they also felt shame in their home state after losing the war. They should have felt shame starting it in the first place.

I refuse to let my ancestry define the man I will be today. I refuse to let my ancestry define the man I will be tomorrow. I don't want to speak up just because it's the right thing to do now. I'm doing it because, as a white man with the ancestral past that I have, I need to make it right. For all the damage my past ancestors have caused, I need to stand up for Black Americans. The biggest step in healing and fixing our system is for white men and women to take responsibility for the sins of our ancestors.

I beg anyone who is reading this to look at himself or herself and their heritage. Think about what your ancestors would have done in today's world. As individuals, we can't control what our family members think or do, or what our ancestors have done in the past. However, this does not excuse us. If we don't do anything to help in this struggle, if we refuse to acknowledge the racism that is still running rampant in our local and federal government, then we are still the problem. It's up to us to fight for the things our ancestors refused to fight for. It's up to us to break the cycle of a racist nation.

# **PASTOR JERRY WILKERSON AND FRIENDSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH MAKING AN IMPACT IN THE COMMUNITY**

*By: Tayo Adedeji*



*Pastor Jerry Wilkerson, Friendship Baptist Church*



*Pastor Jerry Wilkerson preaching at Friendship Baptist Church*

Pastor Jerry Wilkerson began his journey to ministry at a young age while attending Mt. Zion Baptist Church with his family in Kalamazoo, Michigan. In 2000, while Wilkerson was at Mt. Zion, he received a call

from God to preach the Gospel. He was ordained to the Gospel ministry by his pastor and Spiritual Father, Dr. Addis Moore. Rev. Wilkerson served as associate minister before accepting the call to pastor Friendship Baptist Church, also in Kalamazoo.

While God was preparing Pastor Wilkerson for the pastorate, God also gave him another gift—the gift of song! According to Pastor Wilkerson, “I began to sing at the age of 12. I’ve had opportunities to sing with famous gospel singers, such as Kirk Franklin.” Wilkerson also sang with a gospel group that included Minister Calvin Moore of Kalamazoo. Together, they produced a gospel album.

During the season that Friendship was in search of a new pastor, Dr. Moore sent Pastor Wilkerson there as a guest preacher. “After I preached at Friendship the second time, the church requested me to become their pastor,” Pastor Wilkerson said.

As soon as Pastor Wilkerson acknowledged that God called him in 2000, he shared his calling with Pastor Moore. He remained under his guidance until his installation as pastor of Friendship Baptist Church.

“I never knew that I would be a shepherd of a church prior to 2000, attending Mt. Zion, singing with my gospel group and producing a gospel CD,” Pastor Wilkerson said. “Under Pastor Moore’s mentorship, I received teaching and training that prepared me for the pastorate. I was then able to transition smoothly from associate minister to Pastor. With the leading of God and the acknowledgement of Pastor Moore, I accepted the Pastorate of Friendship Baptist Church.”

According to Pastor Wilkerson, “Pastor Moore was relentless in the training of the Bible and always taught the word.” He added, “Everything I am today as a Pastor, I learned from Pastor Moore, my Spiritual Father in the Ministry.”

Since arriving at Friendship, Pastor Wilkerson and the congregation have made major improvements. They have grown in membership, added new souls, fed the homeless at Dr. Martin Luther King Park in Kalamazoo, and visited



*Pastor Jerry Wilkerson and his wife, First Lady Gloria Wilkerson*

the juvenile home and a nursing home. They also have other ministries at their church including Men, Women, Couple. In addition to being active in the community, Pastor Wilkerson and his congregation spent seven years remodeling the sanctuary, roof, pews, windows and lighting.

“My wife, Gloria Wilkerson, is instrumental in ministry at the church with the youth, technology and supporting me as the

Elect Lady (First Lady) of Friendship Baptist Church,” Pastor Wilkerson said. Being given a tough or hard task is not hard because your gift and purpose is not a strain or cumbersome and my wife and I are in our set place.

According to Psalm 84:11, “For the Lord God is a sun and shield; the Lord will give grace and glory; no good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly.”



*Inside Friendship Baptist Church at 324 W. Paterson, Kalamazoo, MI*

This psalm motivates Pastor Wilkerson and his wife to eliminate the blame of others and gives them the purpose of God in their life.

In the wake of the coronavirus, or COVID-19 pandemic, “There are no more mega churches. We are all using social media. God has leveled every church and brought every believer to the same level,” Pastor Wilkerson echoed. Through the virtual outreach of social media, Friendship has met more new people during Bible study and Sunday worship than if they were still gathering on Sunday’s and Wednesday.

Pastoring a growing church can be challenging at times; but it is important to remain faithful to the teaching and training the Word of God. When Pastor and First Lady Wilkerson take a break from ministry, Pastor Wilkerson enjoys listening to gospel music, fishing, whenever possible, while First Lady Wilkerson likes reading and spending time with her godchildren. Both Pastor and First Lady Wilkerson are from Kalamazoo and have been married for nearly 20 years with four children.

Future goals, according to Pastor Wilkerson, include expanding the church, seek God’s face, God’s peace and heal broken relationships. “I remain humble and give God the glory and honor,” Pastor Wilkerson said.

According to Minister Alexander William one of the associate ministers, “Pastor Wilkerson saw something in me that I didn’t see, and God brought us together. He has always been transparent. He always teaches the word of God.” A lot of people may not like how candid and straightforward he is, but he speaks the truth. I attended minister-in-training classes suggested by Pastor Wilkerson before I became a minister. My calling was always there but was recognized only after meeting with

Pastor Wilkerson. When God prepares a person, He will prepare the other person to receive and help you succeed in life.”

“There has been extensive spiritual growth through teaching since Pastor Wilkerson arrived at Friendship. He doesn’t associate personal life with ministry. Stick with your Pastor and be supportive of your church,” said Sis. Ida Buchanan, trustee and treasurer at Friendship.

According to First Lady Gloria Wilkerson, she does a lot in the background the way her husband does besides the Preaching and Teaching. I help set up new ministries as well as work with the women’s ministries, including everything else that needs to be done at Friendship.

It was a struggle for me at first, says First Lady Wilkerson, not seeing my husband at home because his Pastoral ship at the church required a lot of this time, but with God, He has giving me understanding about Matthew 6:33, “But seek ye first the Kingdom of God and all these things will be added unto you.” I am thankful to God that He has revealed His purpose and plans through prayer and understanding about our serving here at Friendship.



*Pastor Jerry Wilkerson preaching at Sunday Service at Friendship Baptist Church*

When He Reigns Magazine asked Pastor Wilkerson how he manages to balance personal and ministry life, he responded, “During this pandemic and systemic racial and injustice, God has sustained the church as well as me and my family. No matter what life brings, I trust God.

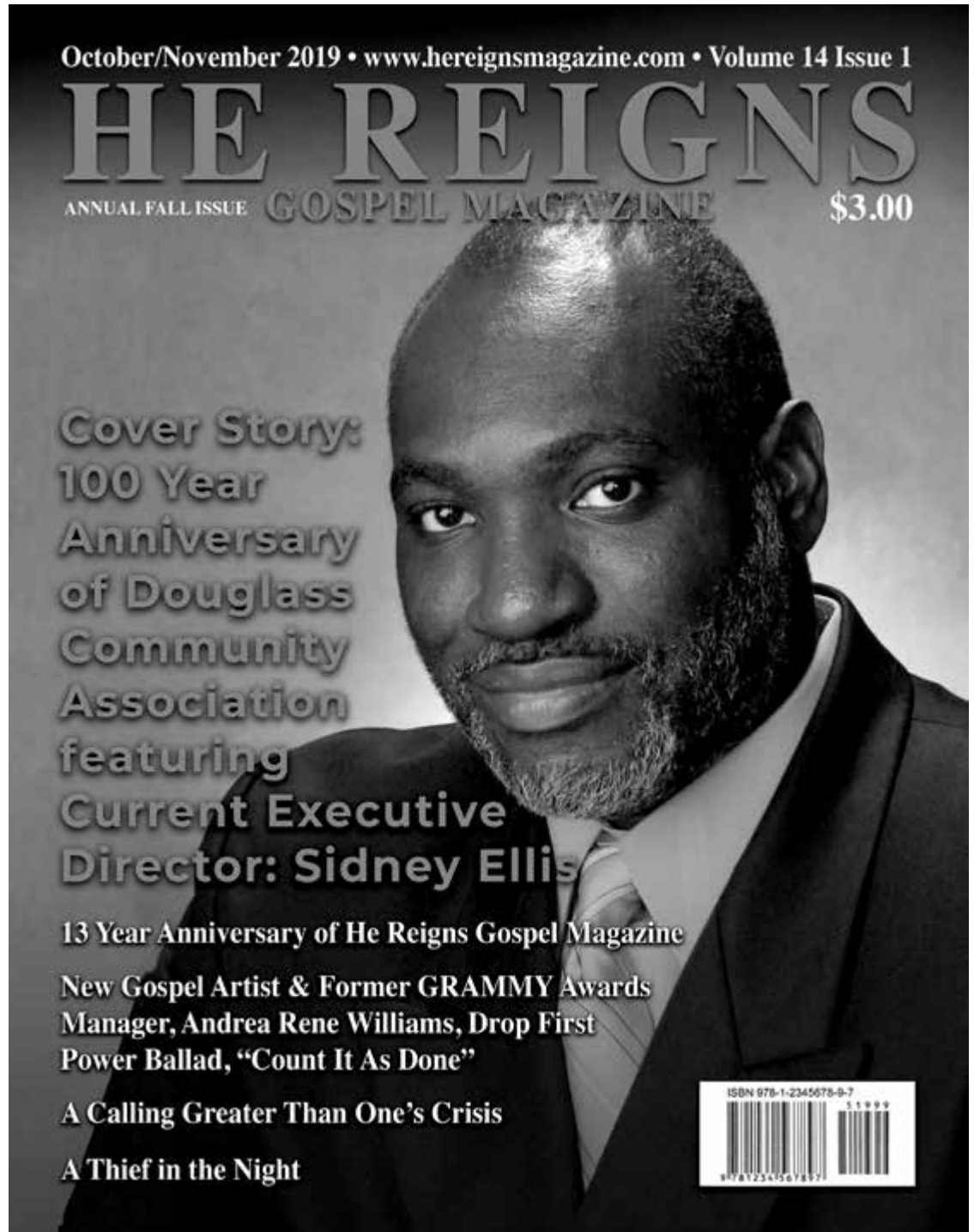
There is a balance to everything, and I use Godly time management to accomplish everything.”

For more information about Pastor Jerry Wilkerson and Friendship Baptist Church, please contact them at (269)381-4189.

# 14TH YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF HE REIGNS GOSPEL MAGAZINE

By: Tayo Adedeji

**VOLUME 14 ISSUE 1**  
**OCTOBER / NOVEMBER 2019**



**Volume 14 Issue 1** The cover story of Volume 14, Issue 1, featured Sidney Ellis and the Douglass Community Association celebrating 100 years of service. Other articles were "Peace During War," the "13th Year Anniversary of He Reigns Magazine," "Following Good Leadership," "A Calling Greater than One's Crisis," and "Togetherness." We sold copies of He Reigns and showcased issues published between July 2018 and June 2019. Although we did not increase subscriptions, we reached many people through our existing subscribers, the Douglass Community Association, and the Kalamazoo Public Library.

# 14TH YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF HE REIGNS GOSPEL MAGAZINE

By: Tayo Adedeji

**VOLUME 14 ISSUE 2**  
**DECEMBER 2019 / JANUARY 2020**



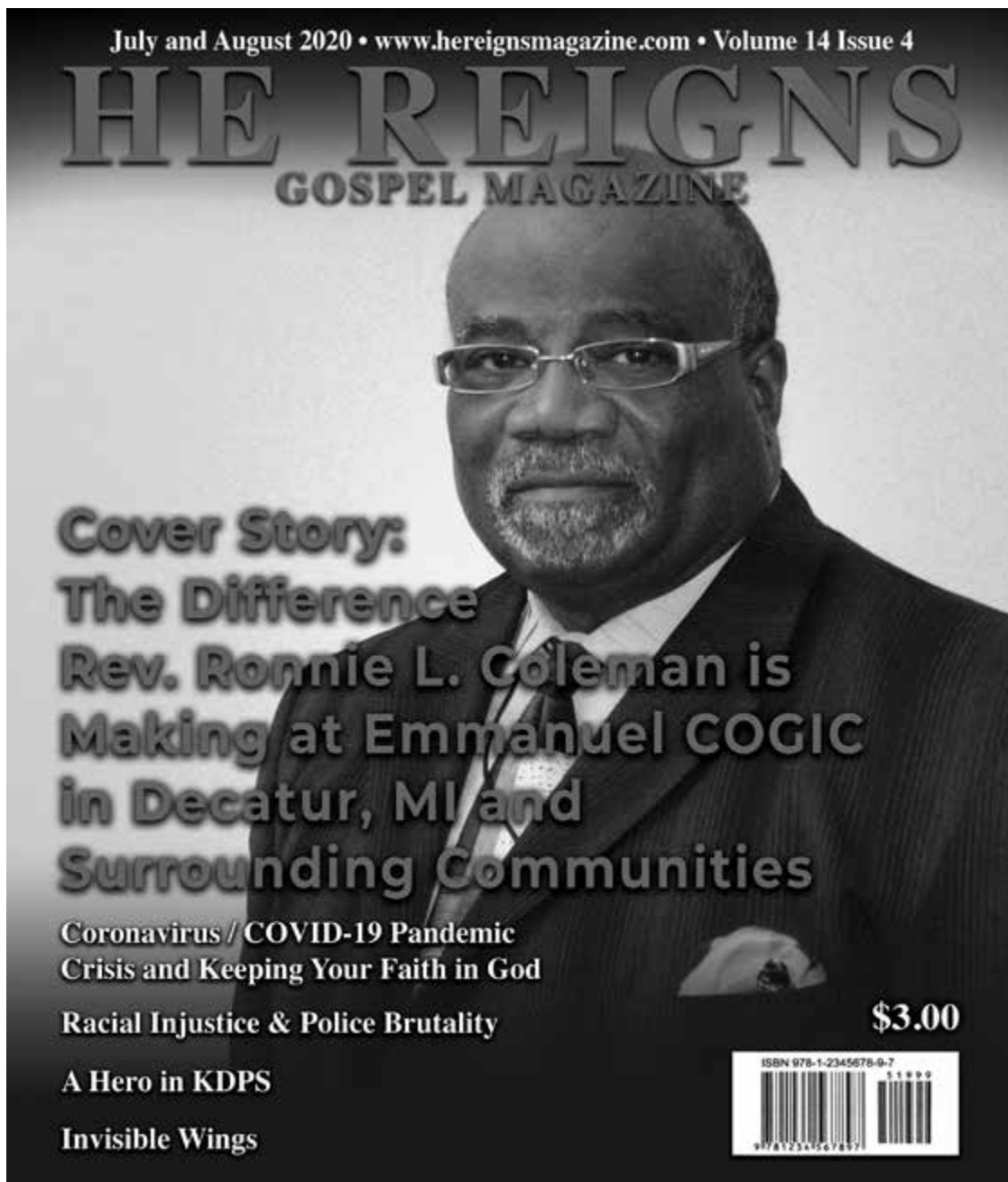
**Volume 14 Issue 2** the cover featured Clarence and Elder Doreen Gardner and family. Other articles included, "A New Gospel CD by R.E.I.G.N." titled, "Leanin," "Computer Security," "Daily Spiritual Vitamin," "The Work of Repentance," and "Financial Planning for 2020." In this issue, He Reigns Magazine created an online forum in which the community can begin or join a discussion at [www.hereignsmagazine.com](http://www.hereignsmagazine.com). Currently, He Reigns Magazine has created a blog to discuss with others, what is on your mind. We are working on the digital magazine, which will be available for subscription at \$6.00 a year. Through our Website, we transmitted articles to other sites so that the Gardner's cover picture was seen throughout the world. Although we did not increase our subscriptions, we invited many people to view the wonderful additions to our site.

# 14TH YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF HE REIGNS GOSPEL MAGAZINE

By: Tayo Adedeji

**Volume 14 Issue 3** As we began to organize Volume 14, Issue 3, between February and March, COVID-19 forced us to shut down our publication, the first time in 14 years. During this same period, He Reigns Magazine's founder and editor experienced personal situations that caused him to shut down that issue. The pandemic caused local businesses to shut down, while He Reigns Magazine continued to promote its digital version at [www.hereignsmagazine.com](http://www.hereignsmagazine.com). We published Volume 14, Issue 4, the final issue before we transitioned to Volume 15, which continued the successful online blog discussion. Now many people are excited to visit our site.

**VOLUME 14 ISSUE 4**  
**JULY AND AUGUST 2020**



**Volume 14 Issue 4** This issue featured Pastor Ronnie Coleman of Emmanuel Church of God in Christ in Decatur, Michigan. Other articles included: "Coronavirus/COVID-19 Pandemic Crisis" and "Keeping Your Faith In God," "There Is No Greater Investment for Our Boys," "Why God Makes People," "Racial Injustice and Police Brutality," "The Poet's Perspective," "Vicente Gallardo-Expanding New Era Cleaning Supply," and "A Hero in KDPS." We were able to sell many copies of this issue; Pastor Coleman promoted our magazine and encouraged us to establish a digital version for downloading from our Website.

# THE NOT SO PROUD BOYS

By: Oakley Gleason

Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary defines proud as "feeling or showing pride," "displaying excessive self-esteem" and "having proper self-respect" (1). Proud describes a feeling of righteousness in one's actions and instills a sense of honor in one's work. As people, we should strive to find things in life that we can be proud of, such as a career, educational accomplishments, and family, among countless others. However, it is unfortunate that people will also find a sense of pride in heinous acts. A group of individuals gathered under the name the Proud Boys, but many would agree that the beliefs and values they stand for are not a source of pride. The group has made it clear on multiple occasions that it stands for hate and white supremacy, using fear mongering tactics in the name of their alleged "pride."

To understand the group's beliefs and values, one need only look towards its founder.

Gavin McInnes, founder of the Proud Boys, said on his media show, "We will kill you. That's the Proud Boys in a nutshell. We will kill you" (2). Mr. McInnes has earned a reputation as not being one to censor nor tone down his political talk, often adding expletives and racial or homophobic slurs in his statements. This blatant racism and white supremacy shown by the founder is clearly on display in the voices of its members. McInnes' calls for violence as "a really effective way to solve problems," which, when combined with racist ideals, has created a truly dangerous and oppressive force (3). This aggression is not only encouraged throughout the Proud Boys' leadership, it is actively encouraged through social media. At a Portland, Oregon, rally for the group on June 30, 2018, one of the group's members assaulted a counter-protester, resulting in the assaulted protester's being knocked unconscious. The Proud Boys take pride in acts such as this. Not long after the assault occurred, a video of the incident was quickly spread and praised by the Proud Boys. Then leader Gavin McInnes stated, "I honestly think that knockout is a pivot in the movement, it marks the beginning of the end of antifa, and the beginning of being safe and proud to be Trump" in response to the assault (2).



Photo Source: ADL

The influence that Mr. McInnes has on the group can also be felt in his rhetoric about white supremacy. While he protests the idea that his writing states white men and women are superior, McInnes' work is filled with statements that support the idea of racial inequality. McInnes stated in a piece he wrote for Takimag in 2017, "We brought roads and infrastructure to India and they are still using them as toilets. Our criminals built nice roads in Australia, but Aboriginals keep using them as a bed." He goes on to state that, "Asians are smarter than us, but they can't seem to invent shit" (4). Blatant racism from his own statements has bled into the mind-set of the Proud Boys. Rallies often include the participation of neo-Nazi and other white supremacist groups, with marches led by racist chants and calls for white power. The Southern Poverty Law Center wrote that, "Their disavowals of bigotry are belied by their actions," while also declaring the Proud Boys a hate group (3).

Since its founding in mid-2016, the Proud Boys have descended upon a number of cities in large numbers to incite violence and start racist/political riots. In 2018, the Proud Boys escorted their leader, Mr. McInnes, to a New York club where he presented and talked about his various ideals, waving around a fake sword and inciting violent thought. While it was claimed that these members were there for "security," the Proud Boys took the opportunity to cause chaos (3). They followed counter-protestors down various streets away from the club and began to attack them verbally and physically. When the night was over, the police had pressed charges on various members of the group and the incident led to the FBI to investigate the group for hate crimes. As the year would continue, this event would lead to the resignation of Gavin McInnes. He has since distanced himself from the group, but his racist words and cries for white power still ring true in the hearts of its members. Recently, the Proud Boys made a visit to Kalamazoo, Michigan, to protest. On August 15, various members of the group traveled to the city and gathered to spread fear onto the streets. A counter-protest hosted by First Congregational Church was held as

well, with many counter-protestors gathering at downtown Arcadia Park. Proud Boys marched to the park, waving flags and chanting slurs. Once at the park, confrontation was almost immediate. Physical fights broke out between the two groups. Reports have come out that the Proud Boys began to target homeless residents of the city and that's when counter-protestors got physical as well. The Proud Boys brought melee weapons, guns and pepper spray, the latter of which was used on counter-protestors.

After the confrontation, the Proud Boys began to march back to their vehicles in the parking garage of the Radisson Hotel. While they were allowed to march back to their cars with no interference from police, this was not the case for the counter-protestors. Almost as soon as the Proud Boys left, riot police began to patrol the streets of Kalamazoo. While they protected the streets that led to the Radisson Hotel's parking lot, other officers marched towards the counter-protestors and started making arrests. No Proud Boys were arrested during the riot, yet the police arrested multiple Kalamazoo residents and an mlive news reporter.

It is extremely disheartening that the Kalamazoo Department of Public Safety not only allowed a violent, racist group to cause chaos in the city, the department also actively protected that group and went after peaceful protestors who were trying to keep the city safe. This led to multiple protestors blocking city streets later in the night, with the protestors demanding a response from Kalamazoo's leadership and its police. Kalamazoo Assistant Chief Vernon Coakley stated, "Law enforcement was not seen or present until a fight occurred;

people were fighting and we then moved in to establish peace," when asked why the police didn't respond to the Proud Boys at first (7). The community has been vocal about demanding answers for why the police seemed to protect The Proud Boys rather than Kalamazoo citizens.

The Proud Boys clearly take immense pride in who they are and what they do, even if their values are considered heinous. They see themselves as a force to spread hate speech and racist ideology in the name of political freedom. Their values of white power and Western dominance have been displayed time and time again. There can be no defending a group so determined to strike fear into the country. The Proud Boys have shown that they are not something of which our country should be proud.

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# NEW YOUTH CENTER ON KALAMAZOO'S EASTSIDE



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Please direct inquiries to: **Scott McCloughan**, Executive Director, Kalamazoo Youth For Christ  
(269)388-3888 [scott@kalamazooyfc.org](mailto:scott@kalamazooyfc.org)

### ANNOUNCEMENT FOR NEW YOUTH CENTER ON KALAMAZOO'S EAST SIDE THURSDAY AT NOON

Plans for a new youth center, scheduled to open in January 2021 on Kalamazoo's East side, will be announced **Thursday, September 3<sup>rd</sup> at 12:00 noon**. A gathering of government officials, community leaders, and young people from the neighborhood will make the formal announcement at **2528 E. Main**, the construction site of the new City Life Teen Center (the former location of East Main Church of Christ). **Anticipated in attendance include US Representative Fred Upton, Kalamazoo Mayor David Anderson, and various Kalamazoo Township officials.**

Demolition and construction began in February, with an 8-week pause to observe the Governor's Executive Order due to COVID-19. Resuming in mid-May, the project (led by CD Barnes Construction) is scheduled to be completed by the end of the year.

Kalamazoo Youth For Christ (the youth organization behind this initiative) is celebrating its 75<sup>th</sup> year of serving middle and high school students in SW Michigan. This new facility is strategically being built in a neighborhood that city leaders recognize has been often neglected in terms of services and intentional investment, especially in the lives of teenagers. The hope is that this center will be a catalyst for change in our community, providing a vibrant center of activity for all young people. Planned services include:

- Mentoring
- Financial skills training
- Art classes
- Music classes/lessons
- Job skills training
- Tutoring
- Dance classes
- Outreach events
- Cooking classes
- Bible studies

For more information, please contact: **Scott McCloughan**,  
Executive Director, Kalamazoo Youth For Christ  
(269)388-3888 [scott@kalamazooyfc.org](mailto:scott@kalamazooyfc.org)

### MEDIA – PLEASE NOTE

- Masks and closed toe shoes are required
- The majority of the activities are scheduled to be outside to respect the Governor's requests
- Parking is available on surrounding streets in the neighborhood
- Press kits will be available onsite
- Accommodations will be made for TV trucks at the construction site

# A TRIP TO ANN ARBOR

By: Oakley Gleason

Being in touch with your local community is an important aspect of life. It aids in connecting with the world and the environment. Wherever you may live or whatever community you may inhabit, it is essential to understand the different people and cultures that enrich and make up the communities we live in. Connecting with the world around us starts by understanding the communities we live in.

Just as important as knowing one's own community is visiting places outside your community. This is essential to gaining a new or even proper perspective of the world. As citizens of the world, we should remember that not every place is the same as the communities we come from. Even within the borders of the same county, state, or country, communities can have vast differences.

Recently, I took a trip with my girlfriend to Ann Arbor, Michigan. We decided to spend a day visiting friends who live in the city while taking a day to relax. Ann Arbor is not too far from Kalamazoo, and we made it there in a little under two hours. Our friends took us on a brief tour of the city. I was very excited to be able to visit a neighboring Michigan community, as I got to see how different and similar Ann Arbor was to my own community of Kalamazoo.



Photo from CBS Detroit, Creator: David Liu

At first, Ann Arbor seemed very similar to Kalamazoo. The roads and traffic were comparable, though there were fewer one way streets. Aesthetically, it reminded me a lot of downtown Kalamazoo, with a myriad of quaint sidewalk shops and restaurants. Around every corner, it seemed that there was a new and interesting place to see and experience. One alleyway struck me as powerful and inspiring. Located on East Liberty Street, this graffiti alley was decorated in beautiful art by local artists. Seeing the city accord respect to

the artists who live within its borders lit my soul ablaze. I stared in amazement at each covered wall. The alley art is consistently updated by new artists, allowing anyone the opportunity for free expression through art.

It was also uplifting to see the city of Ann Arbor supporting the Black Lives Matter movement. Local shops and restaurants hung signs in their windows affirming support for the peaceful protests occurring in our nation. The graffiti-covered alley was also home to a massive mural containing the names of known victims of police brutality since 2014. Seeing this support firsthand is encouraging and makes me hopeful for positive change in America's racist police system.

In the current state of the world, coronavirus is a deadly reality. As such, my companions and I wore masks as we traveled through the city. Most of the people we saw walking the streets were also wearing masks, and everyone who entered a store immediately put one on. As the US is still struggling to control the virus, it is important for communities

across the country to band together to protect ourselves and our environment. Wearing masks helps stop the virus from spreading.

The people we met in Ann Arbor were extremely kind. It is clear to me that there is love and care in the community; it can clearly be seen across the city. Back in Kalamazoo, I can't help but miss the city. More than anything, Ann Arbor was alive with the spark of artistic creativity. As an artistic person myself, the city spoke to me and made me feel energized, ready to see what else was new to discover. What I love most about visiting new communities is experiencing the unique building blocks that make up each community.

## SET YOUR FINANCIAL GOALS

By: Tayo Adedeji

Setting financial goals can be a huge challenge during this coronavirus, or COVID-19, pandemic. Saving for retirement and planning for the future may not seem as important when you may be facing loss of employment and economic recession. However, putting a financial plan in place now can motivate you to save when you return to work. Of course, not everyone is struggling. While some people are barely getting by, other people have extra money either to invest or save in emergency fund for the future.

When the 2008 recession occurred, some people in the housing market lost everything they had, and took a while to recover. Other businesses, such as Netflix, DoorDash, Airbnb, Asana, and Zoom began, and investors were able to take advantage. Had you invested in Amazon, Facebook, Apple, Netflix, or most recently, Zoom, you would have made a fortune and would not fear the financial impact

of the COVID-19 crisis. The record of recessions and financial crises in the US shows that the economy has generally recovered after a few years. Individuals who save money or invest in the global market can earn money for retirement.

Though you may not have enough money for all your current needs, you should still plan your financial future. Write down your goals and dreams, get a part time job, or learn a new trade that will provide income for emergencies. If you are not a risktaker, mutual funds are the best way to invest. Work with a financial advisor to establish a plan that works best for you.

I pray that this year will be prosperous for everyone. Keep your faith in God. No matter what happens in 2020, everything will be all right if you don't quit. Stay safe and God bless.

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*Jeremiah 31:3*

