

July and August 2020 • www.hereignsmagazine.com • Volume 14 Issue 4

HE REIGNS

GOSPEL MAGAZINE

Diversity Issue

Cover Story:

The Difference

**Rev. Ronnie L. Coleman is
Making at Emmanuel COGIC
in Decatur, MI and
Surrounding Communities**

**Coronavirus / COVID-19 Pandemic
Crisis and Keeping Your Faith in God**

Racial Injustice & Police Brutality

A Hero in KDPS

Invisible Wings

\$3.00

ISBN 978-1-2345678-9-7



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He Reigns

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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 or call 269-598-2778 or 269-492-0313.

Contact Us!

For more information about advertising, subscriptions, purchasing copies, purchasing previous issues or submitting stories, please contact us at our website at www.hereignsmagazine.com, email: hereigns06292006@gmail.com or call 269-598-2778 or 269-492-0313

HE REIGNS

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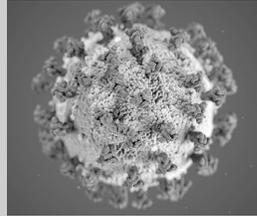
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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. We thank you for your letters. God bless.

I think He Reigns Magazine is very informative, especially for people who believe in God. I like the articles about special people you highlight. Reading someone's story allows me to know the person better. The story about Pastor Plair, Sr. was informative. It is also good to see some advertisement in your magazine. When you publish an article, you should write the article as Question and Answer. Put God first and everything else second. What you are doing for the community to keep them informed will last. Keep pushing forward.

By Mary Bank

Tayo has a really good perspective and I appreciate his fire as a writer and publisher. The first thing that comes to mind here is that the "Tag Team" article was very impressive. I have been out of church life for some time now, and it is encouraging to see that people are still coming together to worship God. Thank you so much for asking me to be a part of this; it has been an inspiration to me. I hope to continue to submit comments. Being featured in your magazine makes me feel like I am part of something bigger than myself and my own needs. God bless you and all who are involved.

By Earl Roberts

I recommend He Reigns Magazine to all citizens in the Kalamazoo area. The wonderful news that one reads is inspirational. The people featured provide information about their involvement in the

community. They also serve as role models in our community.

By Ms. Dorothy Young

He Reigns Magazine publishes articles about everyday people. It covers a lot of subjects and categories. It shows that many Black people are doing well and are influential. The current situation in the U.S.A. about racial injustice and police brutality is a good time for other ethnic groups to read about African Americans as prosperous, successful people. I pray that He Reigns reaches all over the world because you are a religious person and it shows where God has stepped in. This world we live in today has brought us a lot of bad situations and we are dealing with the consequences not being close to God. Your magazine introduces those things to us. I am also glad to see pastors and other people doing good in the world featured in your magazine. I would like to see the magazine more online. I asked God to bless you in a financial way, so you can get more staff to help take the pressure off you.

By James Colquiette

He Reigns Magazine has come a long way. The articles featured in the magazine publication continues to inspire the community. Consider being on time with the magazine. May God continue to bless you.

By Hannah Adedeji

Thinking about staying close to home this fall? Not sure what you want to study? Looking to keep your educational costs affordable?

In these uncertain times, Kalamazoo Valley is the answer to your questions. We've added additional degree, certificate and transfer classes on-line just for you!

Fall registration now in progress.

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He Reigns Gospel Magazine is currently seeking individuals with backgrounds in Sales and Writing. The most important position we are currently seeking is a sales manager or marketing director and four sales representatives to grow with us and earn money. For more information, you can contact Tayo Adedeji, Founder/Editor of He Reigns Gospel Magazine at (269) 598-2778 or Michael Wilder at (269) 861-8319. Email: hereigns06292006@gmail.com Visit our website at www.hereignsmagazine.com

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

MARTHA'S INTERNATIONAL MARKET
2915 Eastern Ave. SE • Grand Rapids, MI

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

AFRICANA
2307 Gull Road • Kalamazoo, MI 49048

STONES CHURCH
1225 W. Paterson • Kalamazoo, MI

PARK STREET MARKET
512 North Park St. • Kalamazoo, MI

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ADVERTISING INFORMATION

Business Quote inside magazine and online

Business card size	\$70.00
Quarter page size (Black and White)	\$150.00
Quarter page size (Color)	\$250.00
Half page size (Black and White)	\$260.00
Half page size (Color)	\$400.00
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Full page size (Color)	\$750.00
One Year subscription	\$20.00
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Three Year subscription	\$55.00
Four Year subscription	\$73.00
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UPCOMING EVENTS

Early Morning Intercessory Prayer

6:00am - 6:30am July 15, 22, & 29, 2020
Hosted by Pastor Michael T. Leading & Lady Tamara Scott
Phone: 1-857-216-6700
Access Code: 959907
For more information about the prayer line, visit Galilee Baptist Church www.gbckazoo.org or call 269-349-5597

Women's Weekend - All Day

July 24 - 25 No Registration (Virtual Edition)
Galilee Baptist Church
1216 N. Westnedge, Kalamazoo, MI

Online Spiritual Enrichment Hour

Two Virtual Spiritual Enrichment Hour Classes
Saturday Evenings 6:00pm - 7:00pm
Two ways to access the Virtual Rooms:
Talking only (no video) 1-415-762-9988 or 1-646-568-7788 using access code 6476141292 for Dr. Tamara Scott/Minister Keoshi Gardner's classroom; use access code 7841478372 for Elder's Edwards and Roland's classroom. For those who wish to join by video, download Zoom app.
Zoom ID # for Elder Edwards/Roland: 7841478372
Zoom ID # for Dr. Tamara Scott/Gardner: 6476141292

July 18, 25 August 01, 08, 15, 22, 29, 2020
Teleconference at 6:00pm

New Disciples Fast Track

August 01, 2020 at 10:00am
Counting to One Building
For more information about the prayer line, visit Galilee Baptist Church at www.gbckazoo.org or call 269-349-5597

Back to School Services

August 23, 2020 at 7:30pm
Galilee Baptist Church
1216 North Westnedge Avenue
Kalamazoo, MI 49007
For more information, call the church at (269) 349-5597

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).

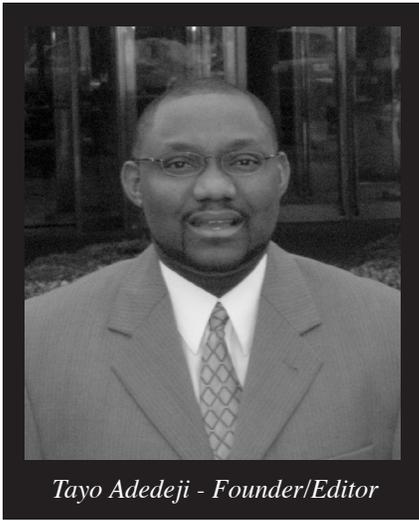
We also remember our brothers and sisters in Haiti and families of people who have committed suicide. We pray that God would give them strength to hold on, trust and have faith in God.

 <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;">269.220.5664</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: small;">f @LUSSOCHIC t @LUSSOCHICBOUTIQUE</p>	 <p style="text-align: center; color: red;">BRONCO EXPRESS</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Give Yourself A Rest Ride With The Best</p> <p style="text-align: center;">124 Lake Street Kalamazoo, MI 49001</p>	 <p style="text-align: center;">Nathaniel Priest G Master Barber</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: small;">A great look! In great time!</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: small;">priest49@yahoo.com 2695986528</p>
 <p style="text-align: center; font-size: small;">1601 suite D Portage Street Kalamazoo MI</p>		

EDITOR'S NOTE:

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF UNDERSTANDING

Note From The Founder/Editor: Tayo Adedeji



Tayo Adedeji - Founder/Editor

Diversity can sometimes be tough to accept because Americans have different cultures and languages. Diversity, or diverse, just means *different*. We can speak of ethnic, cultural, linguistic, or

religious diversity, for example. America is a melting pot of different cultures from around the world. One of the good things about diversity is that one learns to understand different ways of life from other countries. Understanding is crucial in a diverse society.

A degree in International Studies that includes a foreign language can prepare you for a job overseas. A few years ago, my younger sister was attending Michigan State University. Originally, she was going to school to become a doctor, but as she progressed in her studies, she also took French classes. She earned high grades in French, and her interests shifted from medicine to teaching. After earning her degree from MSU and a teaching degree from Western Michigan University, she followed her dream and became a French teacher in England.

When a sheep hears the voice of their shepherd, they obey him/her because they have established a relationship. For example, a pastor and the congregation: if that pastor does not establish his/her position as the shepherd who follows Christ, the sheep or congregation will not recognize the voice or follow his/her teachings.

One famous Bible story talks about David as a young boy taking care of his father's sheep. As a shepherd, he was responsible for watching over the sheep every day, and he was able to build a relationship with them. The Bible teaches that God was preparing David to be king of Israel. He learned different ways to listen, understand, and lead. David took such great care of the sheep that by the time he became King, he knew how to lead people. David became Israel's greatest king.

According to 1 Samuel 17:34-36, "34 I work as a shepherd for my father. Whenever a lion or a bear has come and attacked one of my lambs, 35 I have gone after it and struck it down

to rescue the lamb from the predator's mouth; if it turned to attack me, I would take it by the chin, beat it, and kill it. 36 I have killed both a lion and a bear; and as your servant I will kill this uncircumcised Philistine, too, since he has dared to taunt the armies of the living God."

David was protecting his father's sheep from the attack of a lion or bear. As a pastor or other leader, you will need to protect your people and their interests if you want to see your ministry grow. It takes a while for the sheep to recognize you because you have not established yourself as their trusted leader. After a time, they will begin to recognize your voice and respond to you as their leader. Once the sheep recognize your voice, the relationship between shepherd and sheep will flow smoothly.

As a substitute math teacher, I found the first week challenging because I was not their regular teacher. However, when my students realized that I was going to be their long-term teacher and that their grades would be dependent on work they turned in to me, they began to respect me more. A relationship based on understanding was established and now their classwork and behavior are getting better.

While God became a man on earth, He recruited different disciples to continue His work until His return. According to the Bible, it was not easy for Jesus to convince fishermen Peter, James, or John to leave their livelihoods and follow Him. It took time, effort, and understanding before they decided to follow Jesus Christ.

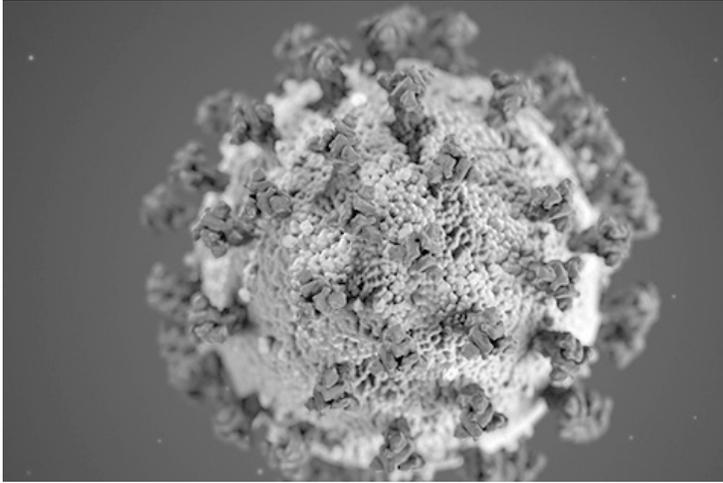
Understanding each other is one key to a successful marriage. When couples have issues with each other, the first thing to investigate is whether they are listening to and understanding each other. Open and sincere communication leads to understanding, and understanding can rebuild your relationship.

If you are having issues with family members, think back to how your relationships were before you had issues. Once you establish better relationships through understanding and caring for each other, you will have a better life.

Continue to build a better relationship with God, your family, church members, work associates, friends and people generally.

CORONAVIRUS / COVID-19 PANDEMIC CRISIS AND KEEPING YOUR FAITH IN GOD

By: Tayo Adedeji



Coronavirus/Covid-19 has been the worst pandemic that has swept the entire world. Usually, experts can determine what may happen and how they can quickly solve the problem, this silent virus has caused more damage health, economic and social lifestyle.

As a Christian, we know that God is on the throne and knows everything that is going on in the world. Just as God explained to us in Revelation that Jesus will come back soon, but before His return, there will be false prophets, wars against countries, unexpected global tribulations that will occur. When this tribulation occurs, we need to continue to have faith in God and not lose hope.

In the wake of Coronavirus/Covid-19 in January of 2020 which began in Wuhan, China, it has caused the entire globe to shut down for the first time ever. Sometimes, when God wants to get our attention, HE allows some adversity to occur in our lives and stabilizes the problems in order to show us that HE is still on the throne, "a jealous God that don't like competition".

Remember the story about Job in the bible according to Job 1:13-22; he was one of the richest man in the bible. The devil went to God to ask for permission to test Job as a child of God. God told the devil that he can test Job, but not take his life. Initially, the devil thought that Job being a rich and righteous person will curse God after losing his family and possession, but little did he know that Job's faith was so strong in God that he said God giveth and God taketh away.

In addition to losing everything, Job also experienced some wounds on his body to the point his wife told him to curse God for allowing this to happen to him. Eventually when the devil realized that Job didn't lose his faith in God, he left Job alone

and God restored more than three times what he had because he continued to trust and believe God during his hardship.

During this pandemic, so many surprises have occurred such as the stay-at-home order, shutting part of the economy down for over two months, challenges with keeping up with hospital medical visits with patients who contracted or died from Covid-19, not able to work as a result of the pandemic, unemployment rising to 20%, churches not able to open their doors to the congregation.

There is no doubt that God is trying to get our attention the way the entire world have been living their lives. We have shielded away from believing that God is in control and we have to put Him first in anything we do. We have become content with what we have or do and feel like we don't need God for anything anymore. Some of us worship other things such as money, houses, cars, investments, a person a television show and we ignore worshipping or praying to God in the midst of our busy schedule.

I will have to admit that when the Stay-Home-Order was established March 29, 2020, I was worried about my job as a teacher and how I was going to survive not having money in the bank. Being a man of faith, God began to minister to me not to worry about anything because He was going to take care of me. Since March, God has even provided more money to pay my bills more than before the pandemic happened. As long as you put all your faith in God and not yourself, God will provide everything you need to survive.

Although, stay-at-home and social distancing has helped to reduce the virus cases, we should still continue to practice cleanliness and standing 6 feet from each other, wash your hands for 20 seconds, spray disinfectants spray around your surrounding and wipe down your furniture daily.

With the way the pandemic has been happening, people in March lost about 40 to 70% of the stocks and bonds, lost businesses, jobs, social and way of life, but I thank God that everything is getting back to a new normal. As long as you have faith in God, He will take care of everything.

I personally thank God now that the economy is getting back to normal even though we are partially in recession. I will advice that you continue to keep your faith in God as it says in Hebrews 11:1, "Now faith is the [a]substance of things hoped for, the [b]evidence of things not seen."

THERE IS NO GREATER INVESTMENT FOR OUR BOYS

By: William R. Atkinson III, M.Ed.

Men of Purpose is an organization with deep roots in Kalamazoo. The focus of the organization is to remove barriers and empower people. All our activities have a youth centered approach. Consider it an organization that is planting the seeds of change and empowerment for black culture and community.

We are happy to report that over the 2019 holiday school break we were able to engage more than 30 youth for more than 160 hours at the Maple Street YMCA. Those were 160 hours of exercise, relationship building, and in-action mentoring from late December 2019 until school started in 2020. These hours also included some leadership training for our 8 active youth. Those trainings revolved around topics such as "leading by example," "being fearless," and "having a sense of oneness in your community."

As we go forward with our work that directly impacts young black



Community members of Men of Purpose Event in Kalamazoo, MI



The Founder of Men of Purpose, William R. Atkinson and its members



The Founder of Men of Purpose, William R. Atkinson and its members



Chestin Grays from Men of Purpose & Community Member

males, it is important to share our progress. We are, in fact, making a difference. Not only do we engage young men at the YMCA, we have been able to help 3 of them obtain employment and get 1 signed up for trade classes at KVCC in his junior year in high school.

Just imagine the impact we will have once we get funding for our five programs, themed for:

1. An ongoing mentoring system,
2. Generational health and wealth building
3. Legal system barrier removal
4. Formal history and identity development classes, and
5. Trauma wraparound therapy and social services.

There is no limit to what we will accomplish.

William R. Atkinson III, M.Ed.
Office Cell: 269-267-1030

WHY GOD MAKES PEOPLE

By: Oakley Gleason



Oakley Gleason

I need to start this article by stating that I don't classify myself as a Christian. I don't belong to any one religion, as I believe in various aspects of world religions. That doesn't mean I don't believe in God. I

have great respect for the Christian religion because of its teachings on love, forgiveness, and compassion. These are what fuel the souls of every human being; they are key essentials for how to live.

As I'm sure many people do, I struggle with God and the faith I have in him on occasion. The world we see can be overbearing to the mind and senses. The violence allowed in this world is something that as a kid, I was told was in the past. But, as the years have shown, racism, hate, violence, and inequality are sewn deep in the underbelly of our nation. I struggle with my faith in God every time I see the injustices faced by so many. I wonder how a caring and loving God can allow these acts to occur. I am angered by his creation of such horrible monsters. I sit and ponder, but eventually realize the truth: God doesn't create bad people. Heck, God doesn't even create good people. God simply makes people. The second God allows a life to be created on this earth, it is up

to that person to decide who he or she will be in life. The one thing God cannot control is the decisions of a person. He may definitely have intentions for the person; he may definitely know what path he or she should tread, but God is not in control of every individual's personal actions.

God clearly has a lot of love for humanity. I would say that as humans, our greatest attribute is hope. I think that when God looks upon this earth, he doesn't see good or bad. All God sees is a world of hope, hope that one day, we can realize the true ways in which every man, woman and child must love and care for one another.

When I think about how many of us are coming together right now, I think about how powerful it is in the face of evil. It is infinite kindness and generosity that will bring down the wicked, it is peaceful conversation and understanding that will propel us into the future. The task to bring together our nation, let alone the world, is monumental. There is no denying that every day I feel scared for what our country has become and whether our voices will be heard. Yet, every day, I get a little more hopeful, hopeful that faith and love will prevail.

**THE DIFFERENCE REV. RONNIE L. COLEMAN IS MAKING AT EMMANUEL
COGIC IN DECATUR, MI AND SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES**

By: Tayo Adedeji



Pastor Ronnie L. Colmen from Emmanuel Church of God in Christ



Emmanuel Church of God in Christ in Decatur, MI

Pastor Ronnie L. Coleman has always been an ambitious, successful person who grew up with talented family members in music, ministry, and business. With a strong upbringing, he did not shy away from success or what he wanted to accomplish in life.

Originally from Saginaw, MI, Pastor Coleman started his lifelong journey at Coleman Temple Church of God in Christ located in Saginaw, Michigan, and was eventually called to ministry in 1981. Prior to working in ministry, he worked at Consumers Energy and later became Corporate Electric Operations Manager where he retired after 40 years of service.

While Pastor Coleman was working at Consumers Energy, he was also a minister which involved a few community events and community activities including: Chairman Kalamazoo Regional Chamber of Commerce, President - Michigan Parent Teacher Association (2 years), Board Member - Michigan Parent Teacher Association (served 18 years), Board member - Michigan Foundation for Educational Leadership (represented Consumers Energy Corporation). He later became the first African American to serve as Chairman for Kalamazoo Chambers.

“My corporate world guided me to volunteer opportunities such as education, ministry, and also where our time went,” Pastor Coleman said.

When asked by He Reigns Magazine how he balanced his time as a child of God, family man, corporate worker, preacher, businessman, community activist, and leader, he replied that he has learned how to say no to some things and agree only to be involved in events and associations as it relates to the ministry and the community.

Pastor Coleman earned his BA in Public Administration and MBA from Central Michigan University while he was working at Consumers Energy. In addition to graduating from CMU, he also attended Saginaw Valley State University, Harvard Business Language School, and Delta College-Saginaw Michigan and Professional Engineering Management Courses through Consumers Energy - Michigan State University.

In addition to ministry, Pastor Coleman’s strong family upbringing

also motivated him to always stay busy and involve himself in opportunities that helped to make him successful today. “Mentors such as Pastor Coleman’s father, Dr. Charles Warfield, and Larry Leuth saw a talent and tasked him to take on larger roles in the corporate world,” Pastor Coleman said.

Pastor Coleman decided to continue his work as a fulltime pastor after retiring as an Executive Corporate Operations Manager for Consumer Energy. Currently and for the past 10 years, he has been the third pastor for Emmanuel Church of God in Christ, which opened in 1974 in Decatur, Michigan. Since Pastor Coleman’s involvement, Emmanuel has expanded from an African American congregation to one that is more diverse and one that attracts other races. He is using the skills he has acquired as an executive, businessman, community leader and activist in the following areas including: Western District Platform, Chairman, Canadian/Michigan Jurisdiction Ordination Board, Member of the Decatur Pastor’s Association, Member of the Kalamazoo Northside Ministerial Alliance, Chair Pastors and Elders Conference Canadian/ Michigan Jurisdiction, Member of the Executive Committee of the National Pastors and Elders Council of the Churches of God In Christ Inc (Memphis, TN), Elevated to Superintendent of the Liberty District in Michigan Western 2nd Jurisdiction (January 2020) and President of the Decatur Ministerial Association (2018-) to help improve Emmanuel COGIC to expand Emmanuel Church and his community.



Christopher Ron Coleman

“As a congregation, we are showing the community that we are a friendly multicultural church,” Pastor Coleman said. Some of the ministries and community events Emmanuel is involved in includes: POPS (Pastors On Patrol with Kalamazoo Public Safety Departments, Host of Charter for the Scout Program in the Village of Decatur and services for the Bronson Commons Center in Mattawan and the White Oak Center in Lawton, Michigan.

While Pastor Coleman was ministering and working at Consumer Energy, he also decided to start a partnership business with other associates, and together they created “Vision Packaging and Logistics

Inc. He also established “Coleman Consulting Services.”



Christie Lee Coleman

According to Pastor Coleman, one of his motivations to start his Logistics Inc. and Consulting business was to use the opportunity to take years of business from the corporate world to create his own company and also to give minorities and incarcerated individuals an avenue to get a job.

“I’m truly thankful for my father. His courage, persistence, and kindness inspire me daily. His life is definitely a blueprint. I appreciate his friendship, wisdom, and constant push,” Pastor Coleman’s daughter, Christie Lee Coleman said.

Pastors, sometimes, get tired and overwhelmed from doing ministry work and must take time out to relax their minds and rejuvenate themselves. Some of the bible scriptures that Pastor Coleman use to stay focused in his ministry and other commitments in his life are Psalms 46:1-3, “God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble, 2 Therefore will not we fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea, 3 Though the waters thereof roar and be troubled, though the mountains shake with the swelling thereof; Hebrews 11:1,6, “Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen, vs 6-But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that him.”

According to Pastor Coleman’s son, Ronnie Coleman Jr., “What I can say about my father is that he’s been my rock for 40 years. I thank God for having a loving parent that cared for my sister and I and I cannot thank God enough for such Godfearing parents. His desire and relentless ability to serve is the most powerful aspect for me. I suggest to all whom reads this to get to know him, personally, and see for yourself the kind of person he is. That is just one of the top qualities, amid his “Super-Human” like (inner) drive; he’s also 100% approachable, and advises me not to curse, and to do things respectfully.”

As his twin brother, we grew up in a loving family environment that is full of compassion and leadership. He is exemplifying those family qualities as a musician and family man to have good work ethics and to always be ambitious. What he has accomplished in his career at Consumer Energy, other activities, businesses, and in multicultural settings is great. As twin brothers, we are very close; our parents provided us with a foundation for reaching out to each other, our other siblings around the country, as well as those with whom we serve and work. What he has shown throughout his relationships with family, congregation, and colleagues is consistency,” Pastor Coleman’s twin brother, Ritchie Coleman, Public safety Community Coordinator of Pittsfield Township in Ann Arbor, MI said.

“My husband of 42 years has been the love of my life and the father of our two children, Christopher Ron (41) and Christie Lee (33), and our grandson Tyson Christopher (9) who lives in Minnesota. He has

worn many hats over these 42 years, but the one that I am most honored with is being a wonderful husband, father, and provider. He has always looked for the next challenge and I always share with him “this is another fine mess you’ve gotten me into” and we have a good laugh about it. He is the 3rd of 4 sons that is now Pastoring, and I always knew that this might happen; he has taken on this Godly assignment with great passion and energy. He loves the Lord’s people and you can see it in his eyes and hear it when he sings and preaches,” wife of Pastor Coleman, Mrs. Lottie. V. Coleman said.



Pastor Ronnie L. Coleman and wife...

One of the things that motivates Pastor Coleman to stay in business and be involved in a lot of activities is enjoying seeing the “lightbulb in people go on” and passing on information he knows. He also explained to The Reigns Magazine that other people and information that have helped to motivate him to be successful include Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Mahatma Gandhi, and reading business magazines. Pastor Coleman added, “God has blessed me, as a preacher, to be able to pastor a multi-cultural church that doesn’t see the color of your skin and to believe that they are better together. Also, being involved in the community, being a family man, watching my son become one of the world’s best drummers, and running my business have been some of my accomplishments the last few years.”

Previously, as a community activist, Pastor Coleman has represented and still represents some of the following organizations including: Board member - Saginaw County United Way, Saginaw Michigan, Board member - Saginaw County Urban Boy and Girl Scouts of America, Secretary/Treasurer – Trustee Board, Coleman Temple Church of God In Christ, Saginaw, Michigan and Secretary/Treasurer - Trustee Board, Tabernacle Church of God in Christ, Kalamazoo, Michigan, Member Board of Directors of the Enterprise Group of Jackson and North side Ministerial Alliance.

Pastor Coleman is presently serving as Chairman of the JDI Community Center- (Progressive Deliverance Ministry- Primary focus Pre-School program and Kalamazoo Public Schools Mentoring Program- 5 – 4th graders at the Martin Luther King Elementary School, Chair Jennings Community Center (JDI) of Kalamazoo and Chair (PMN) Public Media Network Organization.

“It is important to prioritize all of your efforts. You want everything you do to be a benefit to ministry from the educational angle. Churches can also guide people naturally and spiritually. I believe this is a life mission to be able to hear and listen to the people God has put in our path so we can better serve God’s people,” Pastor Coleman said.

For more information about Pastor Ronnie L. Coleman, Emmanuel Church of God in Christ, or some of the events he is involved in either Kalamazoo or Decatur, Michigan, you can contact them at (269)423-8796. You can also visit them at 106 E. St. Mary’s Street Decatur, Michigan 49045.

RACIAL INJUSTICE AND POLICE BRUTALITY

By: Tayo Adedeji

Fighting racial injustice and police brutality have been happening in America since the 1600s. Although Black Americans were originally stolen from the African continent and enslaved in America, they are citizens with the rights and privileges of every other citizen. In 1619, “some 20 and odd Negroes” officially landed at Point Comfort. Originally, they were captured and forced into Portuguese slave ships to be taken to the New World. The New World, the United States, began trading Africans for gold, food and possessions. Black Americans realized that, though they were brought to America against their will, they are entitled to equal rights, not unequal treatment because of the color of their skin.



Photo Sourced from NY Times - George Floyd

When George Floyd died at the hands of a white police officer on May 25, 2020, that sad situation took some of us back to the days of slavery. Across the nation, people from all walks of life are protesting racism and police brutality. While watching NBC news, I discovered that Mr. Floyd was killed while in police custody. After seeing that video, I was upset and frustrated at how the police handled his arrest. At the start of June, I felt a conviction from God to make my voice heard about police brutality. I decided to drive to Northside of Kalamazoo, and as I drove by the courthouse, I saw people protesting about “Black Lives Matter.” I have since protested seven straight days. I felt good after protesting and was especially grateful for the chance to speak on News Channel 3 and at Bronson Park.



Rayshard Brooks - Atlanta, Georgia

Sometimes when you are engaged in a protest for justice, you meet people who have a common goal: justice. It felt good to be able to walk with people of other ethnic groups: white, African American, Asian, and more. I was able to conduct

Facebook Live and explain to the Kalamazoo community that we were protesting systemic racism and standing up for justice.

According to Galatians 3:27, “There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.” Even though much of the wealth in America is controlled by whites, we are all equal in the eyes of God.

If you know of someone who has experienced police brutality, it is your responsibility to speak out about it. In such a case, being silent is not the right thing. In the summer of 2019, I attended the Chain Lake District meeting at Mt. Zion Baptist Church. Driving down Burdick Street, I noticed that a white police officer was following me. When I realized what she was doing, I drove into the Mt. Zion parking lot. Then I saw the officer drive by where I parked my car. Though I was furious as to why she was following me, I had to compose myself in order to attend Bible class. By the grace of God, I felt good that I did not encounter her, and praised God for protecting me from a potentially bad situation.

If you encounter a situation with a police officer, take it easy. You can still speak your mind about why you are being detained or arrested, but use common sense to judge the situation. Don’t get shot.

"THE POET'S PERSPECTIVE"

By: Deacon Charles Edward Peterson, Sr., CEO & President, Poetry Plus Publishing

Greetings, first giving honor to God, I'm Deacon Charles E. Peterson Sr., and I am "The Poet," creator of rhyme and rime through fantasy and reality, from modern day past and future times.

Today, as we once again face another major obstacle on our more often marred journey, I'd like to offer a bit of encouragement, to remind many of us that, "God is still in control." I know that it may sound like rhetoric, but it's our foundation that allows us to stand in the midst of the storm. It's like that "old tribal mentality," that bounded a Family and People together. It's now time to look out for our neighbor with that same mentality. For as we face a common enemy (the Coronavirus), we need to practice social distancing, not congregating in large gatherings, and come to terms with the reality of the day, we are all in the same boat, taking on water. With that in mind, and prayers:

"I WISH YOU WELL"

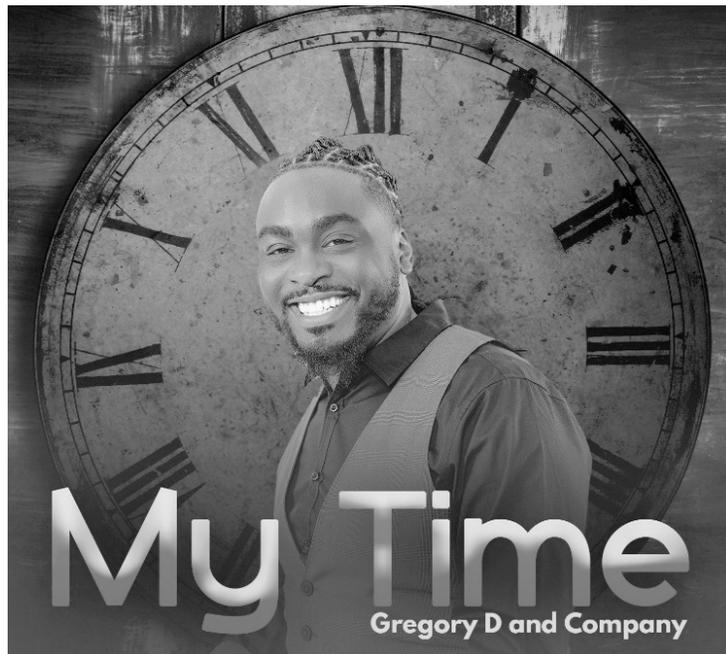
MAY the blessing of the day be within your reach
THE knowledge to learn as well as to teach
SADDEST moments on do not dwell
DAY will come in which you shall prevail
OF all the things that your heart desire
YOUR dreams will help to take you higher
FUTURE accomplishments that you will achieve
BE Through the avenue of faith if you will just believe
NO one is exempt from the trials of time
WORSE come to worse caught up in a bind
THEN when it's clearly out of your control
THE Spirit helps you to achieve your goal
HAPPIEST is the one who finds peace of mind
DAYS of pleasure lived by design
OF all the things you can possess
YOUR happiness and peace of mind is among the best
PAST, present, and future intertwine to manage the process of time

As always, "I come as one crying in the wilderness, trying to open the eyes, of the children of man, before they are harvested by minds of destruction."

For I am "The Poet," and this is "The Poet's Perspective."

Deacon, Charles E. Peterson, Sr. "The Poet"

AWARD-WINNING GOSPEL ENSEMBLE GREGORY D AND COMPANY RELEASES BILLBOARD TOP 50 CHARTING SINGLE, “MY TIME”, ON JUNE 5



Lansing, MI) – June 5, 2020 – Gospel Artist Gregory D and Company have been inspiring audiences for years with their soul-shaking songs. The Michigan-based ensemble has been singing God’s praises since 2012, ministering behind Gospel artists such as Bryan Poppin and sharing the stage with Vanessa Bell Armstrong, Lee Williams, Wess Morgan, Alexis Spight, Clifton Ross, III and Willie Moore, Jr. Now the dynamic group is not only wowing audiences but radio as well with their brand new single entitled, “My Time”. A collaborative effort between the artist’s company, Gregory D Productions, LLC, and Indie Blu Music, “My Time”, an up-tempo, praise and worship song, will officially release to digital and streaming platforms on June 5, 2020.

The six-time Rhythm of Gospel Award Nominees and two-time Voices of Gospel Music Award Nominees have been soaring up the Billboard Top Gospel Songs Chart, recently breaking into the Top 50. The new track is much-needed, musical encouragement for those in the process of waiting on their change to come. A spirited song, “My Time” reminds the believer to hold on to the promises of God while merging the exciting sounds of Gospel and the power of praise and worship. Penned and vocal-produced by the artist himself with Larry Trice, III, sitting in the producer’s chair, the song showcases the exceptional talents of the dynamic leader and his group.

In sharing his thoughts about “My Time”, Gregory D says, “I wrote this song at a time when I was discouraged, and I felt there was no room for me in this industry. Many of us have been waiting and believing God for something. My assignment is to encourage you and let you know that even with things the way they are in this world, it’s STILL your time.”

An ordained elder, Gregory D, has been surrounded by Gospel music his entire life. Influenced by parents who were gifted in music, he honed his skills and as a vocalist, starting at the age of five, and as an instrumentalist, learning the keyboard, drums, organ and bass. By the age of 17, he began writing songs. In his role as church choir director, he started penning songs for his choir. But it wasn’t until the passing of his mother that his music ministry truly began.

“When my mother died on Mother’s Day in 2012, I believe my ministry was birthed at that moment,” recalls Gregory. “At the time of her death, I was a part of a Gospel rap group named ‘L.I.V. Music Group’ where I was a lyricist, hook/chorus writer, singer and leader. The anointing was on us and each time we ministered God was there.” Even with their success, he knew the Lord had something else for him. That was the moment that Gregory D and Company was born.

Since the ensemble’s first release in 2014, a song entitled “He’s Good”, other releases followed including tracks like “More Than a Conqueror” in 2016, “I Am a Praiser” in 2017 and their first EP entitled “The Worship Trio”, also in 2017. Their next full project is slated to drop at the end of 2020. They have been celebrated with nominations including Rhythm of Gospel Awards for Contemporary CD of the Year, Praise and Worship CD of the Year and Rhythm of Gospel CD of the Year and a nomination for a Kingdom Image Award for Best Group Performance. In addition, Gregory D and Company have been nominated for Voices of Gospel Music Award Nominations for VOGMA Artist of the Year and Contemporary Artist of the Year. They have also made an appearance on The Dorinda Show with the legendary Clark Sister, Dorinda Clark-Cole, and on Rejoice Musical Soulfood with Cedric Bailey.

To connect with Gregory D and Company, log on to Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. For more information about the group, check out their website at www.GregoryDMusic.com.

Cover Art for “My Time”:

<http://www.andrearenewilliams.com/GregoryDAndCompany/MyTimeSingleCover.jpg>

Gregory D photo: <http://www.andrearenewilliams.com/GregoryDAndCompany/GregoryDeMyers.jpg>

“My Time” Single: <http://www.andrearenewilliams.com/GregoryDAndCompany/MyTime.mp3>

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INVISIBLE WINGS

By: Michael Wilder



Michael Wilder

This is a story about an angel with invisible wings. My name is Michael Wilder and I was what is known as a career criminal. I have a very checkered past. I've been to prison three times for dealing drugs, with a few other hard knocks thrown in. Life had given up on me; however, I had not given up on myself. I met an awesome young lady named Domonique, who first became my girlfriend and later my wife. But before she became my wife, she told me she

liked me, but that she did not like drug dealers. That was a first; I had never been told that before. I really wanted something different for myself; I was ready for a change and I took her statement as a sign that it was time to do something different with my life. So, I enrolled in Kalamazoo Valley Community College.

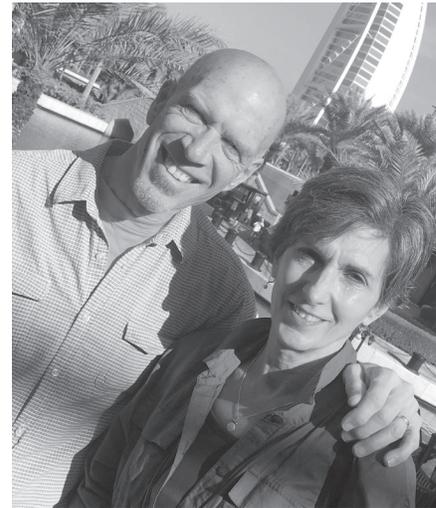
I wanted to be around positive people doing positive things, which is how I met my future business partner, Yafinceio Harris. We started a nonprofit organization called Peace During War. We mentor teenagers and young adults to keep them from becoming gang members and or drug dealers. Our program has been somewhat successful. We have mentored over the state of Michigan and throughout the United states. The Fetzer Institute noticed our good work and granted us funds to continue mentoring and traveling. We then needed a fiduciary, and were introduced to William Reed, who helped us navigate grant funds. As he helped us, he got to know us, and we all became friends.

About a year later, I found myself in a bit of a pickle. I had married Domonique and we had moved in together. The apartment complex found out about my felonies and threatened us with eviction and fraud prosecution. I was overwhelmed; I thought it was a test from God to see if I would sell drugs again. I prayed and I told God that I would never sell drugs again, not even to put a roof over my family's heads. I was preparing to live in a homeless shelter so that God would know that I was serious about never selling drugs again.

Mr. Reed, whom we now call "Bill," called and asked me if I needed help with my situation. I replied that I was a grown man and that I had to figure this thing out. Bill said, "Friends don't let friends fall." He offered to pay the security deposit and first month's rent any place we found. Wow! That was an awesome gesture of friendship. We drove around for days and ran into snag after snag. Finally, it was obvious that we were not going to find housing before the eviction.

I thanked Bill and went home feeling beaten and broken, but not destroyed. I told God that I still believed he would make a way for my family. A few days later, Bill called and asked a question that would change my life forever. He asked, "How would you like to be a homeowner? I did not understand the question.

Bill and his beautiful wife Leslie had taken their own money and purchased a big beautiful house for my family. Bill rented a U-Haul and said he was NOT going to help me move furniture. I got my friends together and we moved our things into the new house. We were in our new homo weeks before the eviction deadline, so there was



Bill and his wife, Leslie

no eviction. As I walked around my new home that first night, looking at the new roof and the freshly remodeled interior, I was flabbergasted.

I called Bill and I asked him how I was supposed to pay him back. He told me that he had watched me transition from drug dealer to college student to husband, and good father. He reminded me

that I was scheduled to graduate from college in two months. He said if I had been evicted, I might have gone back to the streets. He said we would talk about payback later. He said, "All I want you to do is keep doing Peace During War and keep your passion for the health of our community. Keep doing what you are doing, that's how you will pay me for now!" Bill had not known my prayers to God, and in fact, Bill is not even a Christian.

Since then, he has done so much for my family. But the most important thing he did was take a chance on a "seven-time-felon-three-trips-to-prison" repeat offender. He believed in me! He gave me the opportunity to be a real grown man. I am so thankful to Bill and Leslie Reed for all they have done. To show my appreciation, I have worked especially hard. I now am a teacher's aide at Kalamazoo Covenant Academy, a high school where I have my own classroom with a "Mr. Wilder" nameplate outside my door. I am also Group Violence Coordinator for the City of Kalamazoo. I could go on and on, but I will end with this: Even though Bill is not a Christian, I tell him that he is. He just doesn't know it. He is my Angel with Invisible Wings...

SIX WAYS TO SUPPORT DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION IN THE WORKPLACE

Written By: Michael Renner-Lewis

1. Be aware of unconscious bias

Building awareness is a first step towards real change. Educate employees by helping them to understand how individuals are impacted by unconscious bias, and what actions continue to reinforce unconscious bias. One way to build awareness and address unconscious bias is to encourage every employee to review, question and analyze their own personal potential biases and assumptions. To learn more about unconscious biases and to assess your own, you can visit Project Implicit to complete an Implicit Association Test.

2. Communicate the importance of managing bias

While awareness is a first step, employees need tools and training that provide guidance on actions for moving forward. Joelle Emerson in Harvard Business Review suggests that a concern with diversity or unconscious bias training and teaching is that people can become defensive. "Training can be designed to reduce defensiveness by explaining that we don't have unconscious biases because we're bad people – we have them because we are people," she explains. The article adds that internal bias training is an effective way to inspire change and higher understanding amongst employees, citing Google's internal training findings as one example.

3. Offer diversity and inclusion training

Diversity training helps employees understand how cultural differences can impact how people work, and interact at work. It can cover anything from concepts of time and communication styles to self-identity and dealing with conflict. Diversity training which is offered as optional tends to be more effective than that which is made mandatory.

Related: How does your company stack up when it comes to diversity and inclusion?

4. Acknowledge holidays of all cultures

One way to build awareness of diversity and foster greater inclusivity is to be aware of and acknowledge a variety of upcoming religious and cultural holidays. When closing out a team call or meeting, if the audience isn't too large, ask how people plan to celebrate the holiday. Use your company's intranet to help employees be aware of and keep track of multicultural religious or holiday celebrations. Be respectful of these days when scheduling meetings and understand that employees may have different needs and require flexibility.

5. Make it easy for your people to participate in employee resource groups

In a recent Wall Street Journal article, LinkedIn's Rosanna Durruthy discussed leveraging employee resource groups (ERGs) as an opportunity to grow and develop talent, and help managers learn from these groups in a safe space. Building on this, in addition to leveraging ERGs, make it easy for all employees to participate, whether it be creating a differing pay code for easy time tracking, or asking the employee to share initiatives or projects the ERG is focused on. Provide a toolkit or guidelines that employees can follow to encourage them to set up a new ERG.

Further, get senior leaders on board. An executive and/or leadership sponsor can not only help to increase visibility, innovation and awareness, but can also help align ERG activities with business goals. Additionally, commitments from senior leaders signal a wider, organizational commitment to improving diversity and inclusion practices.

Related: How employers can support diversity and inclusion at work

6. Mix up your teams

A diverse cross-section of talent allows enhanced perspective, which will spur creativity on teams. If your team is homogeneous, invite a guest with a different gender, cultural background, or age, to weigh in on the initiative.

Much has been written about how diversity in teams positively impacts creativity and innovation. There's value in experiences with multiple perspectives, which inspires novel thinking, connecting thoughts in new ways, and different approaches to problem solving. (Here's a TED talk from John Cary, shared by our VP People Academy Lisa Bull, in which Cary discusses that diversity is essential in designing for the public good.)

Danielle Ng-See-Quan

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VICENTE GALLARDO - EXPANDING NEW ERA CLEANING SUPPLY

By: Tayo Adedeji



Vicente Gallardo - Owner of New Era Cleaning Supplies

Being a Mexican-American worker, Vicente Gallardo from Weslaco, Texas, is used to hard work in the field. Gallardo began his journey working in farms and factories. After graduating from PSJA Memorial Early College High School and working for over 30 years, Gallardo began to be creative in expanding his business aspirations.



While Gallardo continued to explore different business ideas, he and his wife, Marisa, decided to establish New Era

Cleaning Supplies. They started out small in 2016 to see how people liked their cleaning supplies. Eventually they increased the supply based on demand for their goods. They have expanded their client base with a facility as of January 2020.

"I noticed there is no store like this cleaning supply in Kalamazoo, MI. When people know they can get better cleaning supplies, they come back and purchase more," Gallardo said.

According to Gallardo's daughter, Emily, "Our parents always told us that they will run a store in the future selling cleaning supplies. That goal came to existence when they opened a store right here in Kalamazoo at 1601 Portage Street." As demand for their cleaning

supply was growing, the motivation grew to open their store.

One of the mentors and motivators that helped them step up in their desire to open a cleaning store according to The Gallardo Family was his wife, Marisa Gallardo. He added, "Things may be hard, but put it in God's hands and He will lead you in everything you do."

One of their goals is to become a bigger company and have many employees. In addition, the Bible verses they use to stay encouraged about their business plans is Matthew 4:1-2 which says, "Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil; And when he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was afterward an hungred."

"My parents have good motivation to help me learn the real world and make our cleaning supply store a more successful business," Gallardo's son, Aaron said. (The Spanish translation to the previous quote says, "His Papas son bien motivados me ayudan para aprender en este mundo real, y aser nuestra tienda en el future mas grande, el hijo de Gallardo Aaron dijo.")



Vicente Gallardo Family

"It's with the help of the family and we help each other grow as a family and business

"Don't be afraid; you need to have faith in God. If you believe in something, go for it

and follow your dream. As a Christian, you have to think positive and have faith," Gallardo said.

For more information about The Gallardo Family and New Era Cleaning Supplies, you can visit them at 1601 Portage Street, Kalamazoo, MI 49001 or call them (269)329-8852.

INVESTING YOUR TAX REFUND AND SAVING FOR EMERGENCIES

By: Tayo Adedeji

People file their annual Income Tax Return between January 1 and April 15 knowing whether they will receive a tax refund. You can expect a refund when you pay more in local, state, or federal taxes than you owe. In other words, you have overpaid the government. In order to get back the amount you over-paid, you file an income tax return. By the time the holidays are over, people often find themselves broke and out of cash. They look forward to using their tax refund to pay bills, save for emergencies, or take vacations.

Financial experts explain that when you claim zero dependents instead of claiming yourself as a single person, you lose money in the long term. This is money that could have been invested in an Individual Retirement Account (IRA), to earn average dividends between 9%-12%, depending on the stock you choose.

If you receive a tax refund, consult a financial representative such as a Primerica Life Insurance agent to help you properly invest your money. These representatives can help you set up funds according to the length of the investment, the level of risk, or the plan for withdrawal. These representatives can also explain how money grows using the "Rule of 72" and the funds you will need at retirement using your Financial Independence Number (FIN).

According to Proverbs 13:11, "Wealth gained hastily will dwindle, but whoever gathers little by little will increase it." This verse teaches that we as the community should save for uncertainties that may arise: the 1987 stock market crash, the 2008 housing market crash, and the current coronavirus pandemic (COVID-19). The COVID-19 pandemic has slowed the global economy to a halt. Saving for the future can support your needs in crises such as these.

Roy Matlock Jr., former Primerica representative and radio host of the "The Money Game," says that to win the money game, you must have defense and offense. The defense is four basic concepts: 1) The Spending Plan (Credit Budget): allows you to stay on budget; 2) Emergency Fund: allows you to pay for emergencies such as job loss, hospital stays, home improvement or car repair; 3) Control and Eliminate Debt: a written plan to eliminate your debt; 4) Adequate Insurance: helps pay for funeral costs, hospital bills, damage to your home. The offense is 1.) A plan for retirement and how to benefit from a tax advantage plan such as IRAs, 401k's, 403b's and annuities; 2.) Fund your children's college education; 3.) Get totally debt-free, pay off your mortgage and establish a legacy of financial freedom.

According to Dave Ramsey, a popular financial expert and radio show host, these are the 7 Baby Steps to financial freedom:

- Baby Step 1 – \$1,000 to start an Emergency Fund.
- Baby Step 2 – Pay off all debt using the Debt Snowball.
- Baby Step 3 – Save 3 to 6 months of expenses in savings.
- Baby Step 4 – Invest 15% of household income into Roth IRAs and pre-tax retirement.
- Baby Step 5 – College funding for children.
- Baby Step 6 – Pay off mortgage early.
- Baby Step 7 – Build wealth and give.

If you follow these steps, you will become financially free and independent. You won't have to worry about money when you sleep at night.

A HERO IN KDPS

By: Oakley Gleason

Like many places around the world, Kalamazoo is seeing history in the making. Every day, protestors of the Black Lives Matter and other pro-equality initiatives have gathered in and around the city to peacefully express their desire to see change in a racist system. Many people are finally standing up to the systemic oppression thrust onto African Americans and other ethnic populations. Unfortunately, the police system in our country is in need of massive reform. Thankfully, not just average citizens are realizing the problems of the system. Kalamazoo Department of Public Safety (KDPS) Assistant Chief Vernon Coakley Jr. is on their side.

Holding a bachelor's degree in General Studies and a master's degree in Criminal Justice, Chief Coakley has served on the force for many years in both Detroit and KDPS. On November 1, 2017, Coakley was promoted from captain to assistant chief. He is obviously an intelligent man who has a lot of experience with policing, in particular, in the city of Kalamazoo.

On June 2, 2020, a curfew of 7 P.M. was implemented in Kalamazoo. Protestors who had already gathered downtown were upset at this, refusing to go home after 7 P.M. It was at this time that the national guard began to gather. Assistant Chief Coakley could clearly see the handwriting on the wall: the peaceful protestors were in danger and he knew that violence would be used against them. In an act to save lives and stop innocent people from getting hurt, Coakley approached the protestors, making it clear that he stood with them.

He voiced "I stand with community on the atrocity of the loss of life of Mr. Floyd in Minnesota" (3), kneeling with the crowd as a sign of respect. Vernon Coakley was trying the best he could to keep people safe. He knew that if people didn't go home, that officers were going to use force to enforce the curfew. Some took this as the end of the night's protest, but others stayed despite the looming presence of authorities.

Eventually, the police fired tear gas and pepper bullets at the peaceful crowds in an effort to disperse them. Unfortunately for the protestors still in Kalamazoo, there was another incoming threat. Coakley confirmed later, "We did have credible intel, intelligence, that we had agitators that were coming from out of this state" (1). He went on to explain, "The agitators became louder, boisterous... and began to throw rocks and things of that nature" (1). The city of Kalamazoo was under siege by out-of-state rioters, who had the unfortunate advantage of looking like the peaceful protestors.

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