Iowa clergy unite on marriage with prayer rally,
Iowa Marriage Amendment and grassroots
information campaign at Maple Street Baptist

Iowa clergy announced Thursday, at Maple street Missionary Baptist Church in Des Moines, their initial steps to defend marriage: holding a prayer rally, supporting the Iowa Marriage Amendment, and participating in an information campaign on the larger agenda to undermine marriage and silence the church.

“We have been fervently praying and we will continue to pray, as we work together. We will rally in prayer October 28th,” said Reverend Keith Ratliff of Maple Street Missionary Baptist Church.

“We will work together toward passing the Iowa Marriage Amendment, which defines marriage as only between one man and one woman,” said Pastor Dan Berry of Cornerstone Family Church.

“We will also prepare our people to address the larger agenda, which includes so-called ‘hate crimes’ legislation,” said Ratliff. “we plan to distribute Censoring the church’ DVDs across Iowa because our ability to preach from the Bible is now being threatened.”

“In each of the efforts, we will unite to confront this attempt to redefine family and silence the church,” said Pastor Phil Winfield of Grace Church. “Bottom line, we are calling on people to pray, speak the truth in love and participate in defending marriage.”

Iowa Family Policy Center Christian Alliance and Concerned Women for America of Iowa stands in support of these pastors and will be available to assist in their efforts.

“A lot of people are waiting for Martin Luther King or Mahatma Gandhi to come back — but they are gone. We are it. It is up to us. It is up to you.”

Marian Wright Edelman, founder of the Children’s Defense Fund

Mercy Medical Center is pleased to partner with the Iowa Bystander in reaching a diverse audience in our community. We walk the talk everyday as reflected by our multicultural employee population and by responding to the unique and diverse needs of our patients, families, and visitors.

Jacquie Easley Director of Diversity Services, Mercy Medical Center
Losing one grocery store wasn’t enough?

After the closing of Top Value foods, having only been open for one year and some months, the community is on the brink of losing another. The Hy-Vee at Harding hills is scheduled to close, and a new Hy-Vee is planned for construction in the Beaverdale neighborhood.

Did the city of Des Moines let the community down? Or is this punishment for wanting to have a choice in our shopping options? I ask these questions because the vacant building is going to be converted into something other than a grocery store, and there hasn’t been a clear discussion about replacing the loss of the Harding hills Hy-Vee, or Top Value Foods.

So over the next few weeks we here at the Bystander will be looking into this issue. We need to know what the future holds for the central city of Des Moines, and how the basic needs of the people will be met.

The lack of interest in re-planting grocery stores that have existed, and profited in the community is very blatant showing of un-concern for the area. So I will make it a point to find out why, we are not getting any information on a plan for our community. And the plan for economic growth is of major interest to the community. With this information we can begin to plan for our own growth.

The amount of dollars, city, state, and federal, that have been awarded based on the data collected using the central city residents has to now be accounted for. We have the right to ask the Des Moines city council to give a full accounting of the use of those funds, and what are the measurable outcomes that have been reported.

This information is vital to the growth of our communities, and we have the right to view it, and use it. The hard questions and interviews are coming, and the responses to the questions will be analyzed for there effect and usefulness to the agenda.

Mary McLeod Bethune

“We have a powerful potential in our youth, and we must have the courage to change old ideas and practices so that we may direct their power toward good ends.”

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Parents, both fathers and mothers, should be more careful in the rearing of their children; they should be taught while young, nay while a babe on their mother’s knee, the evils of wrongs and its results, the evils of disobedient children, and where it would lead to, the evils of bad company and the troubles that follow. Show them the right and wrong way.

John Lay Thompson, Publisher • Iowa Bystander 1896

What’s Going On?

By Robert V. Morris

For the last three weeks, I have been ripping the construction, corporate and employment industries for their continuous discrimination against our black community that has led to our 15-15% unemployment rate.

In order to deflect my journalistic image as a negative (realistic) person, I will devote this column to one of my favorite activities... Friday night lights! Football is the foremost American sport and certainly the most popular in the black community just ahead of basketball.

I had the fortune to be on the great 1974 North High School team that went to the final four 4-A playoffs although a broken jaw curtailed most of my junior season. Bruce Smith, Leon Townsell, Roderick Bradley and Kevin Carroll were among the outstanding black players on that squad.

My new football passions are my sons Robert and Brandon and nephew Stephen who all play for Roosevelt as a senior cornerback and freshman linebacker and safety. Although both squads have struggled, the Friday night experience is being lost on many of the black parents who don’t support their kids with their mere presence.

Last year, Roosevelt had a serious spiritual presence with three pastor sons/grandsons on the varsity team. WR Vincent Hannah (Rev. Alex Hannah), LB James Conley (Pastor H.I Thomas) and DB Tristan Maxey (Pastor Maxsey) all blessed our efforts to a 6-3 season.

This season, quarterback Eric Hall, son of J.D. Hall, has led the offense through the first four games with losses to Ames, Ankeny and Lincoln and a 37-7 victory against my beloved North High. Although Lincoln’s RB Adam Robinson and LB Larry Gamblin are the greats of this year’s senior CIML class, there is a “huge” star on the horizon.

His name is Brandon Henlon and he is a 5-10, 190 pound junior running back for Roosevelt. Brandon is the greatest talent I have seen in the CML since I started following the conference five years ago and, barring personal or academic setbacks, he will be first team all-state next year and the best Division-1 recruit since Lincoln’s Jordan Bernstein who is a great kid and will be a huge star at the University of Iowa. Henlon practices full speed like he plays and if he gets blocking against Ottumwa, Newton, East and Hoover, he will rack up BIG numbers. Trust me on this one! My favorite politician ever, former Governor Robert Ray (I liked Gov. Hughes too) was a great friend of my grandfather and father and attends the Roosevelt freshman games where he has two grandsons on the field who are both good players.

I have a picture of my father playing with the racially integrated 1934 North High football team with no helmets or face masks. In contrast to racial the discrimination of the day, football provided a socio-economic “level playing field” that we (blacks) still seek today.

Today is also the 31st anniversary of my father James “Braddie” Morris, Jr.’s (1919-1976) death and although the years have passed, the wound has never healed and probably never will.

Emmett Till group wants truth

TUPELO, Miss. (AP) - Sumner needs healing. The Emmett Till Memorial Commission is calling for a dialogue between blacks and whites in the Mississippi Delta town of 407 people, and it’s opening up an old wound to begin the conversation.

The commission originally was formed to help lead restoration of the courthouse in Sumner where the trial was held to bring Till’s killers to justice. But J.W. Milam and his half-brother, Roy Bryant, were acquitted by a jury in September 1955.

Several years later they admitted to the crime in an interview for Look magazine.

On Wednesday, Aug. 24, 1955, 14-year-old Till went into Bryant Grocery & Meat Market operated by Bryant’s wife, Carolyn Bryant-Donham, to buy some bubble gum. Bryant-Donham later claimed the Chicago youth made a pass at her in the store.

Other black youths present at the time said Till whistled at the woman as she left the store - a crime in the old days of strict segregationist rules. Three days later, Roy Bryant, Milam and others took Till from his uncle’s house in the middle of the night. Another day later, Till’s body was fished out of the section of the Tallahatchie River that borders Tallahatchie and LeFlore counties.

An FBI report that documents the events is available publicly on the Department of Justice’s Web site at www.foia.fbi.gov. In the report, almost 500 pages long, the names of living people are marked out.

Reading the report Susan Glisson, director of the William Winter Institute of Racial Reconciliation at the University of Mississippi, has helped coordinate efforts of the commission to examine the FBI synopsis and trial transcript of the Till incident. The goal is to discuss and learn from the 52-year-old event that drew the world’s attention to the Delta.

“What we’re hoping is by dealing with the past, we will be able to avoid having terrible things like this happen in the future,” Glisson said.

On Oct. 2, the commission and supporters are expected to unveil a historical marker at the courthouse that tells the story of Till. It is the first of several such markers expected to mark the murder.

Betty Pearson, a resident of Sumner and member of the commission’s board of directors, attended the trial. She was 33 years old and secured a couple of press passes from her husband’s uncle who owned the weekly Sumner Sentinel.

Pearson, now 85, said she knew the defense attorneys in town who represented Milam and Bryant. That all the defense attorneys in town would join together to represent these two men “burned me up,” she said, because it seemed to present to the world that Sumner condoned the action.

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Emmett Till: Continued on page 8

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“Put it before them briefly so they will read it, clearly so they will appreciate it, picturesquely so they will remember it and, above all, accurately so they will be guided by it’s light.”

~ Joseph Pulitzer

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*After The Brokenness*

**Scripture Reading:** Isaiah 60:1-2

**Verse of Concentration Isaiah 60:2 (LB)**

“Darkness as black as night shall cover all the peoples of the earth, but the glory of the Lord will shine from you.”

Our life experiences teach us so many lessons. Some of those experiences may have been hard too handle and have pushed us to a state of brokenness. A place where we feel we can’t go forward in our journey; a place where we feel life has literally stopped, like we’ve fallen and can’t get up. Psalm 37:24 says “If they fall it isn’t fatal, for the Lord holds them with his hand.” Yes, we may fall, but God does not expect us to stay down. He expects us to seek Him for direction and guidance. The Comforter, whom we know is the Holy Spirit, was sent to guide and direct us in such times as these. But we have to be willing to take the Holy Spirit by the hand and let Him guide us. Yes, this is a vulnerable time in our lives, but God can use us after the brokenness, but we have to be willing vessels, willing to be used for His ultimate glory.

Because we have gone through a thing, we have an understanding and wisdom about that thing, thus there is a testimony to share with others. Because we have been tested, a testimony is born and we can share the good news with others as to how God brought us out of our brokenness and now we have been made whole. Hallelujah!

Focus: Even though some experiences may break you down, go through them with God so that your testimony can be used to help someone along the way, and understand it is truly worth it all to bring God glory.

Elpis Fellowship Michelle Harris

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**AGING SERVICE FUNDS AVAILABLE**

Aging Resources of Central Iowa is seeking agencies to apply for funding to provide services to people (60+ and older) in Boone, Dallas, Jasper, Madison, Marion, Polk, Story and Warren Counties. Currently adult day care, advocacy, chore, congregate meals, counseling, home-delivered meals, homemaker, home repair, legal assistance, mental health outreach, personal care, preventative health/promotion, and transportation services are funded in the area.

Funding is available under Title III of the Older Americans Act (Federal), Iowa Elderly Services (State), and Senior Living Program (State). Funding is for two years beginning July 1, 2008.

To request an application form, contact Margaret DeSio, Contracted Services Director, a Aging Resources of Central Iowa, 5835 Grand Avenue, Suite 106, Des Moines, Iowa 50312, (515) 255-6142 ext 318. Completed applications are due to Aging Resources by November 21, 2007.

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**Governor says DA won’t challenge ruling that sent ‘Jena 6’ teen’s case to juvenile court**

BATON ROUGE, La. (AP) - The prosecutor in the “Jena 6” cases has decided not to challenge a ruling that sent 17-year-old Mychal Bell’s case to juvenile court.

LaSalle Parish District Attorney Reed Walters had earlier said he would appeal the state appeals court’s decision to set aside Bell’s second-degree battery conviction on the grounds that Bell should not have been tried as an adult.

Gov. Kathleen Blanco, with Martin Luther King III and the Rev. Al Sharpton at her side, announced Wednesday that she had spoken with Walters and asked him to reconsider pushing to keep the case in the adult system. She said Walters told her he had decided not to appeal the ruling.

“I want to thank him for this decision he has made,” Blanco said.

Bell, who remains behind bars, was one of six black Jena High School teens arrested after a December attack on a white student, Justin Barker. Five of the six initially were charged with attempted second-degree murder, though charges against four of them, including Bell, were later reduced. One teen has yet to be arraigned, another was handled as a juvenile and records are sealed.

Sharpton said he hopes bond will be set low enough to allow for Bell’s release, and he thanked Blanco for getting involved.

“I want to congratulate her for showing leadership,” Sharpton said. “And I want to congratulate the district attorney for good judgment.”

Blanco said Walters gave her permission to announce his decision and said he planned to discuss his decision publicly Thursday.

The case brought more than 20,000 protesters to the central Louisiana town of Jena last week in a March that hardened back to the demonstrations of the 1960s.

Critics accuse local officials of prosecuting blacks more harshly than whites. They note that no charges were filed against three white teens who were later jailed and beaten critics.

He spoke on condition of anonymity out of fear of reprisal.

Lawmakers approve legislation to seize control of white businesses in Zimbabwe

HARARE, Zimbabwe (AP) - Whites in Zimbabwe found themselves a step closer Thursday to losing control of their businesses to blacks under new government legislation.

The ruling ZANU-PF party in the Parliament in Harare approved the Indigenization and Economic Empowerment Bill on Wednesday night.

The proposed law calls for whites to hand over 51 percent of their business interests to blacks.

Opposition lawmakers walked out of the late parliament sitting during acrimonious debate, saying the bill was racist, unconstitutional and against accepted principles of equality.

The legislation has yet to be approved by the ruling party dominated upper house, or Senate, and signed into law by President Robert Mugabe, its main architect. Those formalities are expected to be completed within a month, parliament officials said. Legal formalities afterward could take months.

The step recalled the government’s order in 2000 that more than 5,000 white-owned commercial farms be seized - in some cases, amid violence - and handed over to blacks. The agriculture-based economy of the former regional breadbasket went into free fall after land redistribution began. The nation is now facing chronic shortages of food, basic goods and gasoline.

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New sessions of Trim Kids

Trim Kids is a twelve-week plan that gives parents and children a foundation for lifetime weight and activity management. Professionals meet each week with parents and children. During the meetings we learn how to:

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• select nutritious meals and snacks
• manage daily challenges
• develop new healthy habits
Children participate in fun physical activity and learn new ways to play.
The family will enjoy learning and practicing healthy eating with menu plans for eating at home, including grocery shopping on a budget. We also learn how to handle fast food, peer pressure and eating out.

This program is designed with busy families in mind. Parents learn positive and rewarding ways to coach children to make healthy lifestyle choices.

Requirements
• Children with weight or BMI over the 85th percentile
• Parents must attend meetings
• Active family involvement
• Participate in weekly assignments

Due to the overwhelming demand from physicians and parents, Trim Kids is adding more sites and sessions. Trim Kids has already started at the South Suburban YMCA, two more sessions started Tuesday, September 25th at both the Riverfront and the John R. Grubb sites, a session at the Waukee Family branch will start on Thursday, October 4th and another session will begin later this fall in Ankeny. The hours at each site are 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm.

The fee for this program is only $30 due to the generosity of funding from the YMCA Activate America program, The Children’s Center at Mercy, Polk County and the Wellmark Foundation.

To receive an application or for more information, please contact Pam Gerleman, Trim Kids Coordinator at 515-471-8545.

Editor/Wordsmith Wanted

We are currently looking for an editor/wordsmith to work on our various publications. The successful applicant must be able to meet deadline, work effectively in pressure situations and be a skilled wordsmith. If you are interested in this job call Jon at 515-471-5092.

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“Wake-Up-Everybody”
Racial Disparity in Iowa Prison Incarceration, How Come, & Why?

By Chas. “Allen” Spencer

In 1989 Mark Mauer of The Sentencing Project, a Washington, D.C. think tank agency that tracks Criminal Justice participation and incarceration trends by all ethnic participants issued a searching report. That report stated that African American participation was one in four under the auspice of the Criminal Justice System, incarcerated, on probation, or parole. The astonishing number also compared, that there were more African Americans imprisoned that in our nation’s colleges.

Locally at that time, WHO Channel 13 TV did an award winning program called “Crackdown on Crime”. Here again was a reaction to the prevalence of crack cocaine, its destruction on families, neighborhoods and the community at large. At that time we had only approximately (3,400) inmates in our prison system. The onslaught of the rising number of crimes being committed and incarceration under the Governorship of Terry Branstad was to build more prisons. Des Moines and Polk County enacted a Plan called Zero tolerance. We went about adjudicating youth to adult courts and giving them probation when they pleaded guilty but not knowing they were being predisposed to enter the ever growing prison population as soon as they merely spit on the sidewalk for any minor violation. The hidden agenda was, we build them and they will come. Private investors in the private jail industry began licking their chops at the anticipation of the returns they could make on building private jails that they would in conjunction with lawmakers in a frenzy to please their constituency with knee jerk solutions handed them.

Consequently, those same prisons built in rural areas could rightfully be questioned as to what keeps them in operation. Therefore in most cases they don’t have the best defense for the crimes they’ve been accused of and are found guilty on a higher degree than the majority population. Let us also be very frank and candid in the respect of the facts, Blacks and their criminal justice involvement are more apt as the statistics show to be found guilty of crimes more often than whites. On the other hand we as parents, aunts, uncles, grandparents and whole community have an obligation to strive always to become more effective parents to offset the subliminal influences of the society we live in that often leads our children down a path of involvement with the criminal justice system. African Americans understandably are appalled concerning the charges leveled against the black students at a Jena, Louisiana high school. Here are excerpts from The Omaha Sunday World Herald Editorial page, “Criticism of how the local prosecutor handled the charges against black youths who assaulted a white student is part of the larger, national debate over how race is factored into the workings of the legal system. These issues spur passions that are both honest and deeply felt. Passion can sometimes serve worthy purposes, as with the civil rights marches of the 1950s and 60s. But passion on sensitive issues also has the potential to spill over into negative emotion. Tempers can flare. Rancor takes charge of the policy debate. People shift the direction of their words, aiming them away from the societal issue itself and toward the personal integrity of others. Rather than trying to understand each other, people lock themselves into rigid stances from which they refuse to budge. Misunderstandings accumulate. And people begin to fixate on their resentments rather than working to tackle the actual societal problems. Differences of opinions among Americans are unavoidable. But the need to strive for national unity remains essential.”

In 1989 I started writing the Wake-Up-Everybody column in response to the Mark Mauer Sentencing Project Report on our plight, and I was also in the audience at the “Crackdown on Crime” program that included Governor Terry Branstad, then Police Chief Moulder, now, State Rep. Wayne Ford, deceased Powell Three Outreach coordinator Jack Hill and the Iowa Czar at that time. I asked the first question on the program that I’ve asked thousands of times since. What do we do about the societal problems that cause people to lose hope and not want to improve their lives, don’t want to feel those feelings, thereby using mind-altering substances leading to criminal justice system involvement? Another question I asked that night was what is the correlation of drugs in our society and the rising prison population?

Since (1989) the proportion of African American involvement in the criminal justice system is one in three. The one in seven in our population on the endangered species then, has now become one in five who could die because of being in the wrong place in relationship to drugs, whether they are participants or innocent bystanders hit by a stray bullet.

The Town Hall Meeting held in Waterloo, IA on September 13, 2007 sponsored by Abraham Funchess, Jr. Iowa Department of Human Rights Division Administrator of the Division on the Status of African Americans had many panelist that are directly involved in the outcomes of African American justice system participation. Do we need more studies, more commissions to study the problem? I don’t think so, we’ve got Representative Deborah Berry, and Representative Wayne Ford who have become part of very powerful appropriation committees in the legislature that can directly get things done with the facts we have on hand from past studies that haven’t ever been acted on. Representative Ako Abdul-Samad has vast knowledge of this issue also and knows our own community experts to address solutions to this pressing problem that keeps getting dropped under the rug.

Ako Abdul-Samad stated that we need to “Redefine your perception” in a Bystander news article of the importance of our participation in the political process. Never say our vote doesn’t count. We’ve got to stop believing we can’t make a difference, if we don’t, we can’t expect the powers that be that reap benefits from our misery to honestly go about undoing their profit from it.

We have the children of the lost generation that are entering the prison system now from the mistakes of their parent’s participation in the crack epidemic that nearly annihilated us as a people.

Brother Michael Muhammad spoke to the panel and audience at the Waterloo Town Meeting and of the most important things he stated was, “we must always tell the truth, and represent the truth no matter what.” I will continue addressing this issue and would like for the publics input. Please e-mail me your comments at: asah23spencer@yahoo.com “Wake-Up-Everybody.”
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Fight over Cherokee identity spills into tribe’s new organizations in California

ROCHESTER, N.Y. (AP) - After years of delays, a Frederick Douglass cultural center is finally being built just a minute’s walk from the Victorian house once owned by fellow civil rights crusader Susan B. Anthony.

Douglass spent 25 of his most influential years in Rochester, publishing *The North Star* newspaper on Main Street. It was the place, he later wrote, where “I shall always feel more at home . . . than anywhere else in the country.”

Removations started Wednesday at a former metalwork shop where the Frederick Douglass Resource Center will open next spring at a cost of nearly $1 million. It sits on King Street next to a neighborhood green dominated by a bronze sculpture of Douglass and Anthony conversing face-to-face over a pot of tea.

The project, supported by a $560,000 state grant and an additional infusion of $550,000 from the city, ends decades of failed efforts here to create an epicenter honoring the 19th-century anti-slavery leader, said its executive director, Gerald Smith.

Douglass “was able to do some of his greatest things using Rochester as his base,” Hunt said. “Tourists who come into the city and wonder ‘how come there’s nothing for Douglass?’ will be able to visit the center at the same time they might be visiting the Susan B. Anthony house.”

“This has been a dream not only of the African-American community but truly the entire community.”

The center will feature a theater, a workshop, two classrooms, a computer resource center and a large exhibit space for displays as well as artifacts borrowed on a rotating basis from black American cultural institutions around the country, including New York City’s Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, Hunt said.

The project is spearheaded by his father, the Rev. Errol Hunt, a former Urban League director in Providence, R.I., who grew up in New Bedford, Mass. - the town where Douglass experienced his newfound freedom after his boyhood in slavery in Maryland.

The elder Hunt has been trying to find a setting for a Douglass heritage hub since his arrival in Rochester in the early 1990s, but various community projects intended to memorialize Douglass have been beset by infighting and funding setbacks.

A museum featuring displays linking Douglass to other civil rights advocates opened on Main Street in 1996 but was evicted in December 2000 for not paying rent. Xerox Corp. pledged $500,000 but withdrew most of its donation after organizers ignored repeated requests for financial documents.

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“This has been a dream not only of the African-American community but truly the entire community.”

The center will feature a theater, a workshop, two classrooms, a computer resource center and a large exhibit space for displays as well as artifacts.
New Smithsonian museum on US black history appears online long before building opens

WASHINGTON (AP) - The Smithsonian Institution's museum dedicated to black history and culture in the United States launches this week with an interactive Web site, long before its building is to be completed.

Social-networking technology donated by IBM Corp. will allow visitors to help produce content for future exhibits at the National Museum of African-American History and Culture. Almost anything is fair game - long essays, short vignettes of memories or recorded oral histories. The museum plans to add video capabilities in the coming months.

The museum announced a similar partnership in February with MySpace and Facebook. That is when Bunch and IBM Chairman and CEO Sam Palmisano were in Japan, Germany, Norway, Sweden and the United Kingdom - drawn to the Little Rock Nine on Tuesday and documented their words.

"I can forgive because it lifts a burden from my heart," Eckford told the audience. "But if you can't name what you did, it's not an apology. You can never have true reconciliation until we honestly acknowledge our painful but shared past." She thanked her listeners for their support of the Little Rock Nine Foundation's college scholarship program.

She felt grateful that she grew up during a time when parents and grandparents encouraged them to stand up to it and were almost arrested.

"So, students, when you get your education and career, look around you. Then reach out to use it to also help someone else to a better life," she told the audience.

"Our parents were the real heroes and sheroes" in sending them off to school under the U.S. Supreme Court ruling that found segregated schools unconstitutional, LaNier said.

Montgomery" Brown Trickey, who was expelled from Central High after smoking with white students, joked that she would behave herself.

Terrence Roberts challenged each audience member to be "an active agent for change." His determination to attend Central was a result of his parents' insistence that he be the best person he could be.

"Inspite of the progress that has been talked about here today, it is not nearly enough for me," Roberts said, in keeping with the spirit of his upbringing. "Look in the mirror and ask the hard questions. "What am I doing to support the status quo? What am I willing to do to change that?"

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"We traveled at first by automobile, and then our car broke down, and we had to ... travel by Greyhound bus from Arizona to Alabama. We thought of it as our family freedom ride," Lomax told The Associated Press. "My mother was a writer accustomed to the run-ins with white students, joked that she would behave herself.

She said Hillary Clinton now "offers us that same promise of hope" and "inspiration for the nation." Green referred to the former president as "the 10th member of the Little Rock Nine."
KBBG keeps Black Iowa informed!

Tune into “Black Iowa Today,” “Black Iowa Imperative,” and “KBBG’s Legislative Wrap.” “Black Iowa Today” airs the 1st and 3rd Monday of each month at 2:00 p.m., “Black Iowa Imperative” airs the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month, and “KBBG’s Legislative Wrap” airs every Sunday at 5:00 p.m. on radio station KBBG 88.1 FM, Waterloo, Iowa or on the world wide web at www.kbbgfm.org.

The programs are hosted by Jonathan Narcisse, president of the State of Black Iowa Initiative.

Cornerstone Family Church

3114 SW 61st Street
Des Moines, IA 50321
Phone: 515-243-2852

Business Office
Monday – Friday, 8:30-4:40
Church Office 515-243-2852 ext 75

Our Purpose
Helping ALL people find and live their lives for Christ, bridging ethnic, cultural and denominational lines.

Sundays
Worship at 9:00 & 11:00 a.m.
Sunday School 9:00 a.m.
Youth Elevate 9:30 a.m.
Real Life – Ministry for Singles 18-29
Each Sunday at 9:30 a.m.
Transportation to Sunday Morning Worship services at 9:00 & 11:00 a.m.

Wednesdays
Bible Study: 7:00 p.m.
Spirit Life 7:00 p.m.
One Youth 7:00 p.m.

Saturdays
Worship at 5:00 p.m.
Merge – Ministry for Singles over 30
2nd Saturday of each month 6:30-9:00 p.m.

Radio Ministry
Fridays 11:30 a.m. & Sundays 7:30 a.m. on Praise 940 AM
Website: www.cornerstonefamilychurch.org

Men at Work & Sweet Sisters - October 3rd, 7:00 p.m.
Pastors Dan & Anne will minister to the men and women of CFC respectively.

Servant Evangelism Outreach - October 6th
Adopt a Block at Evelyn Davis Park. Can you rake leaves, pick up litter, wash windows, sweep walks etc? Sign up at the table in the lobby to show God’s love in a practical way!

Cornerstone’s Family Nite - October 6th, 6:30-9:30 p.m.
Have a rolling good time at CFC’s Family Skate at SK8 North located at 5621 Meredith Drive. $5.00 cost includes skate rental.

Neighborhood Life - October 7th
Only two more chances to enjoy the fellowship of your Neighborhood life groups!
Church Listings & Weekly Schedules

Burns United Methodist Church
Rev. Dr. Curtis DeVance, JD, MDIV, Pastor
811 Crocker Street
Des Moines, IA 50309
Phone: 515-244-5883

Church Schedule:
- Sunday Morning Worship: 11:00 a.m.
- Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.
- Wednesday Bible Study: 12:00 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.
Phone: 515-262-3802
Email: sdaphiladelphia@msn.com

Church Schedule:
- Sabbath (Saturday) Morning Worship at 11:00 a.m.
- Sabbath School at 9:30 a.m.
- "Showers of Blessing" Fellowship & Prayer Service 15 9:00 a.m.
  (Saturday)
- Wednesday Prayer Service at 6:30 p.m.

St. Paul A.M.E.
Rev. Derek E. Bastian, Pastor
St. Paul A.M.E Church
1201 Day Street
Des Moines, Iowa 50314
Ministry Days & Times
- Tuesdays: Bible Study 7:00 p.m.
- Thursdays: Praise Team
- Saturdays: Men’s Fellowship and Bible Study 10:00am-12:00pm
- Esther Circle Mission Society - 1st & 3rd Tues. of Every Month 1:00 p.m.
- Busy Bees Mission Society - 2nd & 4th Sat. of Every Month 10:00 a.m.
- Health Clinic - Third Tuesday of Every Month 4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

King of Kings Missionary Baptist Church
Rev. Irvin Lewis, Sr., Pastor
619 S.E. 15th Street
Des Moines, IA 50317-7611
Phone: 515-282-3425
Transportation to Sunday School and Morning Worship Service

Church Schedule:
- Sundays - Worship at 8:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.
- Sundays - Christian Education at 9:15 a.m.
- Mondays - Boy’s Scouts & Cub Scouts at 6:30 p.m.
- Wednesdays - Family Night Ministry for all ages
- Wednesdays - Prayer Meeting at 6:15pm
- Wednesdays - Bible Study at 7:00pm
- Saturdays - Knitting Class at 12:00 p.m.
- Saturdays - Men’s Fellowship and Bible Study 10:00am-12:00pm
- Esther Circle Mission Society - 1st & 3rd Tues. of Every Month 1:00 p.m.
- Busy Bees Mission Society - 2nd & 4th Sat. of Every Month 10:00 a.m.

 Maple Street Missionary Baptist Church
Rev. Keith A. Ratliff, Sr., Pastor
1445 E. University & McCormick Street
Des Moines, IA 50314
Phone: 515-282-3425

Church Schedule:
- Tuesdays: Praise Dance rehearsal
- Thursdays: 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Computer Classes for seniors
- 12:00 p.m. Bible Study
- 6:00 p.m. Prayer Meeting
- 6:00 p.m. Aerobics & Tae-Bo
- 7:00 p.m. Bible Study

Good Samaritan Youth Outreach
Church Schedule:
- Wednesdays: 5:30 p.m. Women’s Ministry
- 6:00 p.m. Youth Choir Rehearsal

Thursdays
- 6:00 p.m. Aerobics
- 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. Praise Team
- 7:00 p.m. Unity Choir Rehearsal

Saturday
- Morning Worship - 1st & 3rd Saturdays of each month at 8:00 a.m.
- 4:00 p.m. Traditional Service
- For information please call 515-288-4419.

Union Missionary Baptist Church
Rev. Henry Isaiah Thomas, Pastor
E. University & McCormick Street
Des Moines, IA 50314
Phone: 515-262-1785
Transportation to Sunday School and Morning Worship Service

Church Schedule:
- Sundays - Worship at 8:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.
- Sundays - Christian Education at 9:30 a.m.
- Tues. & Wed. - Reading Program at 7:00 p.m.
- Wednesdays - Mid-Day Prayer Meeting at 12:00 p.m. and Prayer Meeting & Bible Study at 7:00 p.m.
- J.A.M. (Jesus and Me) Youth Service 1st & 3rd Sunday 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

...how are they to hear without a preacher? Romans 10:14

Burns United Methodist Church
Address: 811 Crocker Street • DSM, IA 50309
Phone: Church 515-244-5883
Pastor: Pastor: Rev. Curtis DeVance, JD, MDIV
Sunday Morning Worship: 11:00 a.m.
Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.
Wednesday Bible Study: 12:00 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.

Corinthian Missionary Baptist Church
Address: 814 School Street • DSM, IA 50309
Phone: 515-243-4073
Pastor: Rev. Dr. Lee Zachary Maxey
Sunday Morning Worship: 8:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.
Sunday Church School: 9:15 a.m.
Wednesday Prayer Meeting at 6:15pm
Wednesday - Bible Study at 7:00pm
Website: www.corinthiannbaptismdsm.org

New Friendship Church of God In Christ
Address: 1317 Forest Avenue • DSM, IA 50314
Phone: 515-243-7097
Pastor: Rev. R.L. Daye
Sunday Morning Worship: 11:00 a.m.
Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.
Tuesday: Prayer Service at 7:00 p.m.
Thursday: Pastor Teaching at 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study Led By Pastor: 7:00 p.m.

King of Kings Missionary Baptist Church
Address: 619 S.E. 15th Street • DSM, IA 50314
Phone: 515-282-3425
Pastor: Rev. Irvin Lewis, Sr.
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship: 11:00 a.m.
Wednesday: Prayer and Bible Study 6:00 p.m.

Maple Street Missionary Baptist Church
Address: 1552 E. Maple Street • DSM, IA 50316
Phone: 515-262-1631
Pastor: Rev. Keith A. Ratliff, Sr.
Sunday Morning Worship: 10:45 a.m.
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.
Wednesday Bible Study: 7:00 p.m.

Mount Hebron Missionary Baptist Church
Address: 1338-9th Street • DSM, IA 50314
Phone: 515-280-9163
Pastor: Rev. Bobby Young
Sunday Morning Worship: 11:00 a.m.
Sunday Church School: 9:30 a.m.
Tuesday Bible Study at 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday Prayer Meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Philadelphia SDA Church
Address: 1639 Garfield Avenue • DSM, IA 50316
Phone: 515-262-7467
Pastor: Rev. Marlon T. Perkins, Sr.
Sabbath (Saturday) Morning Worship: 11:00 a.m.
Sabbath (Saturday) Church School: 9:30 a.m.
Wednesday Prayer Meeting Service: 6:30 p.m.
Sunday Radio Ministry: 9:00 a.m., Praise 940 AM
Email Address: sdaphiladelphia@msn.com

St. Paul A.M.E. Church
Address: 1201 Day Street • DSM, IA 50309
Phone: 515-288-4419
Pastor: Rev. Derek E. Bastian
Sunday School: 9:00 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship: 10:00 a.m.
Sunday School: 9:00 a.m.
Tuesday Bible Study: 7:00 p.m.

...how shall they preach, except they be sent? Romans 10:15

Send your church news to: iowabystanderarticles@yahoo.com
Meet Richard Beechum

By Paul Smith

Richard Beechum currently serves as the Transportation Director for the West Des Moines School District. He’s been with them for eight years.

Richard was born in Ottumwa, Iowa on December 31, 1944 and graduated from Ottumwa High School in 1963. He attended Memphis State University, the University of Minnesota and the University of Texas El Paso.

His career includes three years of military service in the U.S. Army as a military police officer and 27 years with the Ysleta School District in El Paso, Texas. He is bilingual.

When asked what his responsibilities are he stated: “My duties at The West Des Moines Community School District, includes hiring all bus drivers and bus associates for the school District. Making sure the buses are mechanically safe and that they are clean and kept in a sanitary condition. Getting all registered children picked up and dropped off daily and returned home without incident. Training all bus drivers and bus associates to understand the policy of the District and all safety aspects of the job. Listen to and investigating all parent complaints and making a decision satisfactory to the parents and the District. Make all specifications for and purchases of school buses for the District. Approve all purchases for the Transportation area for the District. Member of the Board Policy Committee to help shape Policy for the District. Responsible for implementing change in the new busing arrangement and the boundary changes for the West Des Moines School District. In charge of getting each school year started as smooth as I can, so the children of West Des Moines will have the best possible learning experience.”