Joshua Christian Academy Selects Keith Ratliff As Executive Director

The Rev. Keith A. Ratliff, Sr., Pastor of the Maple Street Missionary Baptist Church, has been selected as the Executive Director for the new Joshua Christian Academy (JCA).

JCA will open its doors in the Fall of 2009, offering affordable Christ-centered education for students in Kindergarten through 3rd grade. Classes will be held at Maple Street Missionary Baptist Church, with the long-range goal of building a new facility and adding a grade each year.

Rev. Ratliff received his B.A. from Simpson College and his M.A. degree from Drake University. He has been in the ministry for thirty years. His background reflects leadership in his community at the local, state and national level, specifically the following:

- Pastor for 28 years, 18 at Maple Street Baptist
- NAACP National Board Member
- NAACP State Conference President
- Past President of the Des Moines NAACP
- Past President of the Des Moines Black Ministerial Alliance

Rev. Ratliff has received numerous awards for his community service and commitment. Some of them include:

- Des Moines Area Religious Council Interfaith Service Award
- Des Moines Human Rights Commission Award
- Induction into the Iowa African-American Hall of Fame
- Central District Baptist Association’s Pastor of the Year Award
- Mid-City Vision Community Service Award

Rev. Ratliff will be retiring from John Deere DSM Works after a successful 33-year career as an Senior Engineering Analyst. Rev. Keith Ratliff, Sr. and his wife Debra have been married for 30 years and have five children.

Donovan Awards $18.9 Million To Jump Start Affordable Housing Construction In Iowa

U.S. Housing and Urban Development Secretary Shaun Donovan (pictured) awarded $18,978,542 to jump start affordable housing programs in Iowa that are currently stalled due to the current economic recession. Funded through American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Recovery Act), HUD’s new Tax Credit Assistance Program (TCAP) will allow Iowa Finance Authority to resume funding of affordable rental housing projects across the state while stimulating employment in the construction trades.

“The intended purpose of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act is to jumpstart the nation’s ailing economy, with a primary focus on creating and saving jobs in the near term,” said HUD Secretary Shaun Donovan. “The funding being awarded today is an important step in achieving the goal of putting American people back to work while at the same time providing quality, affordable housing options for low-income families at a time when it is needed more than ever.”

The current economic and financial crises present significant challenges for the construction industry, particularly residential construction. One of the by-products of this crisis has been the freezing of investments in the LIHTC market. Tax credits provide an incentive for investors to provide capital to developers to build multi-family rental housing for moderate- and low-income families across the country. Since the contraction of the credit market, and as traditional investors remain on the sidelines, the value of tax credits has plummeted Consequently, as many as 1,000 projects (containing nearly 150,000 units of affordable housing) are on hold across the country.

In response, the Recovery Act provides $2.25 billion for TCAP, a grant program to provide capital investments in these stalled Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) projects. HUD is awarding these TCAP grants by formula to state housing credit agencies to complete construction of qualified housing projects that will ultimately provide affordable housing to an estimated 35,000 households nationwide. Since a major purpose of this program is job creation, the Recovery Act establishes ambitious deadlines for expenditure of grant funds and requires state housing credit agencies to give priority to projects that can begin immediately and be completed by February 16, 2012.
Human Capital

[Note: This column originally appeared in the July 9, 2007, edition of Iowa Bystander.]

An investment in our productivity is to invest in human capital. Human capital is a term used by economist's that means knowledge and skills that workers acquire through education training and experience.

Human capital includes the skills that are accumulated in early childhood programs, grade school, high school, college, and on-the-job training for adults in the work force. Although education, training, and experience are less tangible than lathes, bulldozers, and buildings, human capital is like physical capital in many ways. Like physical capital, human capital raises a nation’s ability to produce goods and services.

Also like physical capital, human capital is a produced factor of production. Producing human capital requires inputs in the form of teachers, libraries, and student time. Indeed, students can be viewed as “workers” who have the important job of producing the human capital that will be used in future production.

Human capital the knowledge and skills that workers acquire through education training and experience are foundational and should be used to raises a community’s ability to produce goods and services that can equal great revenue returns. Having the physical infrastructures in place in the Des Moines community we have an opportunity to begin training our young people in the art of human capital.

For example we could have an entrepreneur’s club in the John R. Grubb YMCA, if we fill it up to watch our kids shoot hoops we can bring them to a club that prepares them to compete in business. The Forest avenue library, the foundational and should be used to raises a community’s ability to produce goods and services.

Now its time to put up or shut up , if you have any interest in this plan contact me , and we can sit down and put the plan in motion.

Change happened….Change Continues….Moving Toward Change….JB

Obama Tells Russia’s Putin The Cold War Is History

WASHINGTON (AP) - President Barack Obama said former Russian President Vladimir Putin and his hand-picked successor should expect an in-person reminder the Cold War is over when the U.S. leader makes his first trip to a Moscow summit.

Obama said that Putin “still has a lot of sway” in his nation as its nominal prime minister. “I think that it’s important that even as we move forward with President Medvedev that Putin understand that the old Cold War approaches to U.S.-Russian relations is outdated,” he said. “Putin has one foot in the old ways of doing business and one foot in the new.”

Obama praised Moscow for its cooperation in international efforts to persuade North Korea and Iran to abandon their nuclear development programs. After North Korea conducted an underground nuclear test in May, the United Nations approved “the most robust sanction regime that we’ve ever seen with respect to North Korea,” he said.

He expressed optimism he could get international agreement for even tougher action if North Korea persists in defying demands that it dismantle its nuclear weapons and stop production. The U.N. sanctions, for instance, did not include one thing the U.S. wanted - allowing the use of military force to board and inspect ships suspected of carrying banned weapons.

“International diplomacy, people tend to want to go in stages,” Obama said. “There potentially is room for more later.”

The main agenda item for Obama and Russian President Dmitry Medvedev in Moscow is to advance talks on a new strategic arms reduction treaty to replace one that expires in December.

In addition to sitting down with Medvedev, Obama also is meeting with Putin, the former president who now is prime minister but still a major force. He said Medvedev understands that, but Putin needs convincing that the U.S. wants cooperation rather than “an antagonistic relationship.”

Putin responded in characteristically colorful language.

“We don’t know how to stand so awkwardly with our legs apart,” he said in televised remarks. “We stand solidly on our own two feet and always look into the future.”

Putin’s spokesman Dmitry Peskov said that Obama was wrong about the premier. “Such a point of view has nothing to do with a true understanding of Putin,” he told the AP, and suggested the reason for Obama’s view was simply that he “has not yet spoken with Putin - they are not acquainted.”

Peskov said that Obama’s planned breakfast meeting with Putin should clear the air.

“I am convinced that after this meeting the president (Obama) will change his point of view about Putin,” he said.

On Afghanistan, Obama said he intends to reassess the possible need for additional U.S. troops after the nation holds national elections in August, but that he believes America’s key goals can be met there “without us increasing our troop levels.” He has ordered 21,000 more troops to Afghanistan this summer, bringing the U.S. total to 68,000.

Minutes before his vice president, Joe Biden, landed in Iraq for a two-day visit, Obama said he was confident - but not certain - that the timetables for removing U.S. troops from that war will hold. This week marked a major milestone in the war when U.S. troops pulled out of major Iraqi cities.

“I reserve the right to make changes based on changing circumstances to protect U.S. security,” he said.

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‘Jena 6’ Beating Case Wraps Up With Plea Deal

JENA, Louisiana (AP) - Five black students pleaded no contest Friday to misdemeanor simple battery and won’t serve jail time, ending a case that thrust a small Louisiana town into the national spotlight and sparked a massive civil rights demonstration.

The five, standing quietly surrounded by their lawyers, were sentenced to seven days unsupervised probation and fined $500. It was a far less severe end to their cases than seemed possible when the six students were initially charged with attempted murder in the 2006 attack on Justin Barker, a white classmate. They became known as the “Jena Six,” after the central Louisiana town where the beating happened.

As part of the deal, one of the attorneys read a statement from the five defendants in which they said they knew of nothing Barker had done to provoke the attack.

“To be clear, not one of us heard Justin use any slur or say anything that justified Mychal Bell attacking Justin nor did any of us see Justin do anything that would cause Mychal to react,” the statement said.

The statement also expressed sympathy for Barker and his family, and acknowledged the past 2 1/2 years had “caused Justin and his parents tremendous pain and suffering, much of which has gone unrecognized.”

None of the defendants spoke to reporters.

By pleading no contest, the five do not admit guilt but acknowledge prosecutors had enough evidence for a conviction.

Charges against Carwin Jones, Jesse Ray Beard, Robert Bailey Jr., Bryant Purvis and Theo Shaw had previously been reduced from attempted murder to aggravated second-degree battery. All but Shaw were assessed $500 in court costs. The judge did not tack that punishment on to Shaw’s case because he stayed in jail for almost seven months, unable to raise bail, following his initial arrest.

Each paid the fine and court costs immediately.

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The only member of the group to serve jail time was Bell, who pleaded guilty in December 2007 to second-degree battery and was sentenced to 18 months in jail.

The severity of the original charges brought widespread criticism and eventually led more than 20,000 people to converge in September 2007 on the tiny central Louisiana town of Jena for a major civil rights march.

Racial tensions at Jena High School reportedly grew in the months before the attack. Several months before attack, nooses were hung in a tree on the campus, sparking outrage in the black community.

Residents said there were fights, but nothing too serious until December 2006 when Barker was attacked.

The criminal proceedings were followed by a brief civil hearing to settle the lawsuit by Barker against the group.

When I was diagnosed with cancer I had so many questions, then I called the American Cancer Society. I would never have imagined they offer so much information and help.

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Something To Think About
Do You Have The Time Of Day?

I am an early riser. I love the morning. Why? Because it is the only part of my day when I feel that I have complete happiness. The worries of the day have not crept back into my mind. The negative interactions with others, that seem to happen, unknowingly, have not surfaced. Financial stresses are the furthest thing from my conscience. I’m just me with my own personal wake up thoughts. The Quest of the dawn. The time when I can praise and thank my Lord for blessing me to see another day. Contentment. Joy. Peace. Happiness.

The inspiration for this near perfect moment, is my alarm clock. Strange as it may seem. The reason being is that most mornings when I wake up, it is the first thing that I see. Usually the time on the clock is 6:26. Which also happens to be the date of my birth. Seeing this time gives me a comforting thought, that I have been blessed to see another day. Another day to dream. Another day to accomplish my life goals. Another day to be productive. Another day that I have never seen before.

As this moment passes, it is replaced with the realization that the zeal of my youth is behind me. Many dreams that I had, may go unfulfilled. Even though I know that I have been blessed to see, and have things that I never thought were possible. I still have thoughts about time that sometimes make me wonder. Am I wasting my most treasured and precious gift? Am I wasting my Time?

Time. Something that so many of us take for granted, seems to be passing by so very quickly these days. Time. Something once spent can never be recaptured. Time. Our best friend when it comes to problem resolution, accomplishing goals. … AND finding TRUE LOVE, which for lots of people means happiness. Time. The biggest thing in our lives that we take for granted. By the way, do you ever think about time and how it relates to your birthdate? You see, twice a day, on the clock, you can see the date of your birth. Whether your birthdate is February 4 (2:04), April 14 (4:14), September 7 (9:07), or whatever.

With that said, take a minute to check out “the clock” during the day. OK, if you prefer, perform this little mental exercise as you prepare to go to bed. Ask yourself these 3 questions: (1) Did I learn something new today? (2) Did I help someone today, other than myself, regardless of how small that help may have been? And (3) Did I do something today, that made a new happy memory for myself, my family and/or my friends? If you can answer “YES” to at least 1 of these 3 questions, than you should consider the gift of today’s time, a day well spent.

Remember, time, is the only thing once spent can never be recovered. Use your time wisely, regardless of what age or stage your life may be in. All we have is today and hopefully tomorrow. Don’t steal your joy by living in the past. You see, yesterday, is nothing more than a pleasant memory. So, when you wake up, tomorrow, (to see another day, a day that you have never seen before, mind you), begin it with a smile on your face and joy in your heart. With that, I leave you with one last thought, spend your time wisely and do your best to have a great day!

- Nelle-
Southern Black Mayors Conference Postponed

JACKSON, Miss. (AP) - The recession is causing organizers to delay a three-day conference that was designed give black mayors from six southern states a chance to discuss economic development strategies and ways to tap into the federal stimulus program.

The Gulf Coast Black Mayors Conference was to be held July 12-15 at Southern University in Baton Rouge, La., with mayors from Mississippi, Louisiana, Arkansas, Texas, Alabama, and Florida scheduled to attend.

Organizers said Monday they now hope the event can be rescheduled for next month.

Many mayors who wanted to attend the event are dealing with budget cuts, causing them to be more frugal about travel expenses, conference organizer James Gilmore said.

"We were hoping to get between 25 and 50 mayors," Gilmore said. "A lot of mayors said they wanted to come ... but for those mayors, it was kind of hard about having to cut travel and lodging expenses. Organizers said the event was designed to give mayors a chance to learn about effective strategies for tapping into the federal stimulus program and to enhance their technical skills in budget planning and monitoring during these tough economic times.

The conference was also to include sessions on strategies in creating economic development opportunities for minority contractors and the benefits of affordable housing.

Gilmore said officials are looking to added sponsors to cut down on travel and lodging expenses. And he said budget cuts in Louisiana hurt the timing of the event.

"When you are having some layoffs and you're having to cut your budget, you kind of also don't want to have big events and activities and expendi- tures that people may perceive as not as much of a priority," Gilmore said.

The event was to be conducted by the Louisiana Center for Equitable Development at Southern University in conjunction with the National Conference of Black Mayors.

Michael A. Stubblefield, a vice chancellor at the Louisiana Center for Equitable Development, said in a news release that the decision to postpone the event "was driven by several factors, along with registration numbers that may have been impacted by the national economic environment."

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First Black President Of Library Group Dies

WASHINGTON, N.C. (AP) - The first black president of the American Library Association has died in eastern North Carolina.

Amina Josey Turner says her father, E.J. Josey, died Friday at his home in Washington at age 85 from natural causes.

Josey served as president of the American Library Association from 1985 to 1986. Turner says her father's efforts during the civil rights movement led to the desegregation of library associations in Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana and Mississippi.

Services will be held Saturday at Cornerstone Missionary Baptist Church in Greenville, N.C. The family says a memorial tribute will be held at the University of Pittsburgh later in the summer. Josey was a professor emeritus at the school.

Josey is survived by his daughter, ex-wife, Rev. Dorothy J. Josey, six grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren.

Civil Rights Activist Mitchell, 90, Dies In Crash

DELAWARE CITY, Del. (AP) - Delaware civil rights activist Littleton Mitchell has died in a crash near his Delaware City home.

The crash occurred around 3 p.m. Monday on Wrangle Hill Road when Mitchell's Toyota Prius crossed the centerline and collided with a GMC Savana.

Delaware State Police say 90-year-old Mitchell was pronounced dead during surgery at Christiana Hospital. Mitchell's sister, Linda Price, was treated and released.

Mitchell, who served as a Tuskegee Airmen, led the state NAACP chapter for more than 30 years and, along with his late wife Jane, was a key figure in eliminating segregation in Delaware hospitals.

The Milford native was the first black to teach white students in Delaware and labored to get Delaware State Police to hire their first black trooper.

Elpis Fellowship — Weekly Meditation

Don’t Lose Your Flavor

Scripture Reference: Matthew 5:13-16 (NLT)

"In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father."

Have you ever wondered why God put you on this earth? Did you ask God...what is my purpose? God put us all on the earth with His characteristics and attributes to bring flavor to the earth. Meaning...we are to show the world God in a way that they wouldn't otherwise see Him. Seasoning the world with God-flavors is to bring out the goodness hidden in everyone. We are God's tools to be utilized in such a manner, being light to shine, so the world will see God in us and in turn will glorify Him!

Seasoning enhances the flavor of food. But if the season has no flavor, it essentially has no value. If believers don’t affect the world around them in a positive way, reflecting God’s characteristic and attributes, then we are of little or no value to Him. We can lose our usefulness by blending in with the world. We become so much like the world that our light becomes dim and the characteristics of God don’t shine through for the world to see what Christ is like and what He is doing in our lives.

God creates us in His image and gives us His attributes so that we can be a beacon of light to the world around us. So that when the opportunity presents itself we will stand up for Him and speak boldly and confidently about Him to those that don’t know him. It’s through us, that God is showing the world “how living a Christ-centered life will give us value and meaning...and Christ, Himself! It is up to us to maintain that light and God-flavors to bring about a positive change to the world around us.

New Normal: We should not lose our God-flavors or let our light go dim or hide it from the world. We should let our light shine so that the world will see the wonderful qualities of Christ and be curious enough to want to know what they must do to have a relationship with Christ.

Michelle Harris • Elpis Fellowship

“Growing Together In The Things Of God”

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Join the MERCY TEAM

At Mercy Medical Center – Des Moines, our employees are our most valuable resource. Our organization is committed to providing an environment in which all employees can contribute fully, feel valued and respected and are recognized for their efforts.

If you are interested in employment opportunities, please visit our website at www.mercydesmoines.org.

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• 2006 Des Moines NAACP Branch Merit Employer of the Year Award
• 2007 Des Moines Human Rights Commission Business and Industry Award for Diversity

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Already own a business? It just makes good business sense to get certified.

For more information about the Targeted Small Business program of Iowa go to www.iowalifelching.com/business/tsb.html or call 515.242.4175 or 800.532.1215.
J. Moss Kick Off Celebration Huge Success For Iowa Juneteenth In Des Moines!

J. Moss Grammy and Stellar Artist kicked off the Des Moines Juneteenth Observance on June 12th to an audience of nearly 600 persons!

Reike Plecas Church Day Chair-person said that First Assembly was the perfect venue for the event to play host to such a time as this! We had a choir, music and dance team of over 100 to really showcase the talent and gifts of Iowa. In addition we hosted Nate Pointer and guests along with Master of Ceremony Radio personality from Power 92 of Chicago Keno Greer!

Kento and Plecas truly worked side by side to ensure that the evening was filled with love, laughter, tears and met the spiritual needs of all that were in attendance!

This event would not have been possible without the gifts of: Elder James “Mac” McNear, S. “Heavy” Jarrett, Larry Brandon, Casey Plecas, Cornerstone Family Church, Elim Christian Fellowship, Faith Temple, First Assembly of God, King of Kings, Maple Street Baptist Church, Miracle Life Family Church, Mission Temple Church of God in Christ, Union Baptist Church, Veracity Financial Group and Iowa Juneteenth Observance and Des Moines Police and the Black Ministerial Alliance. It is our desire to give God the glory for this event and thank absolutely everyone that gave of time, talent and treasure!

Moss gave his testimony to the mass and there wasn’t a dry eye in sight of the choir or photographers as he ministered what the Lord has brought him through. Giving light to an end of a long tunnel gave evidence to all that there is peace in Christ Jesus.

Plecas also worked closely with the late Chauncey Mallett to ensure a success at Neighbors Day in the Davis park with such talent as: Testify, Pointer, Lorie Smith, Tony Tidwell and Team from Chicago. The day had musical talent from 1pm to 7pm, which kept the center stage active nearly all day.

Plecas is grateful for being asked to serve on the Iowa Juneteenth committee this year and truly has been blessed by many emails, phone calls and has been honored to serve the community!
Jackson Memorial A Somber, Spiritual Celebration

LOUIS ANGELES (AP) - It was not spectacular, extravagant or bizarre. There were songs and tears but little dancing. Instead, Michael Jackson’s memorial was a somber, spiritual ceremony that reached back for the essence of the man.

Singer, dancer, superstar, humanitarian: That was how the some 20,000 people gathered inside the Staples Center arena on Monday, and untold millions watching around the world, remembered Jack-

son, whose immense talents almost drowned beneath the spectacle of his life and fame.

If there was a shocking moment, it came in the form of Jackson’s daughter, Paris Michael Katherine Jackson, who made the first public statement of her 11 years. “Ever since I was born, Daddy has been the best father I could imagine,” she said, dissolving into tears and turning to lean on her aunt Janet. “I just want to say I love him so much.”

Outside the arena, the celebrity-industrial complex that Jackson helped create ground on. More than 3,000 police officers massed downtown to keep the ticketless at bay. Helicopters followed the golden casket as it was driven over blocked-off freeways from Forest Lawn cemetery to Staples Center. A bazzaar of T-shirts, buttons, photos and other memorabilia sprouted in the blocks around the memorial. Movie theaters played the service live and the thousands of mourners were glad to hear.

A lengthy silence of several minutes followed, punctuated only by a steady twinkle of camera flashes. The thousands of ticketholders began filing in early and encountered few problems, and traffic was actually considered by police to be lighter than normal. An estimate of up to 700,000 gawkers turned out to be about 1,000.

The city of Los Angeles set up a Web site to allow fans to contribute money to help the city pay for the memorial, which was estimated to cost $1.5 million to $4 million.

It was not clear what will happen to Jackson’s body. The Forest Lawn Memorial Park Hollywood Hills cemetery, where a private service was held, is the final resting place for such stars as Bette Davis, Andy Gibb, Freddie Prinze, Liberace and recently deceased David Carradine and Ed McMahon.

But Jackson’s brother Jermaine has expressed a desire to have him buried someday at Neverland, his estate in 150 miles (240 kilometers) northwest of Los Angeles.

“Words can’t express how I feel,” said Dani Harris, a 35-year-old mother of Jackson’s two oldest children.

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But Jackson’s brother Jermaine has expressed a desire to have him buried someday at Neverland, his estate in 150 miles (240 kilometers) northwest of Los Angeles.

“The ceremony ended with Jackson’s family on stage, amid a choir, singing “Heal the World.”

“All around us are people of different cultures, different religions, different nationalities,” Rev. Smith said as he closed the service. “And yet the music of Michael Jackson brings us together.”

Iowa Bystander Mission
The responsibility of the Black press is to empower the Black community through meaningful communication and leadership nurturing, and to keep the Black community informed of those issues most vital to us as a people.

Iowa Bystander
President, CEO & Publisher • Jerald Brantley, Sr. 
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EEO/AA
The Out-of-Towners
Featuring Mr. Leonard Brown

Mr. Leonard Brown, the youngest son of Mr. Larry and Mrs. Judith Brown, brother of Mr. Kenneth Brown (one of Iowa Bystanders’ featured Police Officer), and Sergeant First Class Quanda A. Brown, is a North High School graduate, class of 1986. He has served in the National Guard, has been employed by Continental Airlines for 12 years and currently developed a website, “Art By Leonard”, featuring his original religious art work.

Mr. Brown has always loved working with pastel, colored pencils, acrylic, pen and ink. He enjoys painting, drawing and crafts. He is a fan of Bob Ross and other artist of PBS. The change of seasons in Iowa kept his creative juices flowing. During the fall and snowy seasons, he would paint Halloween and Christmas characters, cut them out, attach them to strings and hang, and make mobiles that would spin around so gently in his room. In junior high school, he won an award from his entry in the city wide fire prevention poster contest.

In high school, he competed in the national NAACP ACT-SO competitions in the fine art category, held in Baltimore, Maryland in 1986 and New York City, New York in 1987.

Mr. Brown currently lives in Spring, Texas, with his wife and two children.

Suffer the little children to come unto me and forbid them not, for of such is the kingdom of God.

—Mark 10:14

Iowa Bystander Church Directory

...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. Dr. Willy L. Mafuta
Sunday Morning Worship: 11:00 a.m.
Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.
Wednesday Bible Study: 12:00 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.

Maple Street Missionary Baptist Church
Address: 1552 E. Maple Street • DSM, IA 50316
Phone: 515-282-1931
Pastor: Rev. Keith A. Ratliff, Sr.
Sunday Morning Worship: 8:00 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.
Wednesday Bible Study: 7:00 p.m.
Free Medical Clinic: 1st, 3rd & 5th Tuesdays - 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 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 School: 9:30 a.m.
Wednesday Bible Study at 7:00 p.m.
Tuesday 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

Union Missionary Baptist Church
Address: E.Univ. & McCormick • DSM, IA 50316
Phone: 262-1785
Pastor: Rev. Dr. Henry I. Thomas
Sunday Morning Worship: 8:00 a.m., 10:40 a.m.
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.
Wednesday: Prayer and Bible Study: 7:00 p.m.


...how shall they preach, except they be sent? Romans 10:14

To get your church in our directory call Jon at 515-770-1218!
Study Finds Widening Generation Gap In U.S.

WASHINGTON (AP) - From cell phones and texting to religion and manners, younger and older Americans see the world differently, creating the largest generation gap since the tumultuous years of the 1960s and the culture clashes over Vietnam, civil rights and women’s liberation.

A new study released by the Pew Research Center found Americans of different ages increasingly at odds over a range of social and technological issues. It also highlights a widening age divide after last November’s election, when 18- to 29-year-olds voted for Democrat Barack Obama by a 2-to-1 ratio.

Almost eight in 10 people believe there is a major difference in the point of view of younger people and older people today, according to the independent public opinion research group. That is the highest spread since 1969, when about 74 percent reported major differences in an era of generational conflicts over the Vietnam War and civil and women’s rights. In contrast, just 60 percent in 1979 saw a generation gap.

Asked to identify where older and younger people differ most, 47 percent said social values and morality. People age 18 to 29 were more likely to report disagreements over lifestyle, views on family, relationships and dating, while older people cited differences in a sense of entitlement. Those in the middle-age groups also often pointed to a difference in manners.

Religion is a far bigger part of the lives of older adults. About two-thirds of people 65 and older said religion is very important to them, compared with just over half of those 30 to 49 and 44 percent of people 18 to 29.

In addition, among adults 65 and older, one-third said religion has grown more important to them over the course of their lives, while 4 percent said it has become less important and 60 percent said it has become less important and 60 percent said it has become less important. Pew also reported being depressed, lonely or a burden to others than did whites and blacks. They also were less likely to do volunteer work or be involved in their communities.

-Younger people are more likely to embrace technology. About 75 percent of adults 18 to 30 went online daily, compared with 40 percent of those 65 to 74 and about 16 percent for people 75 and older. The age gap widened over cell phones and text messaging. About 6 percent of those 65 and older used a cell phone for most or all of their calls, 11 percent sent or received text messages. That’s compared with 64 percent of adults under 30 for cell phone use and 87 percent for texting.

-Americans differ on when old age begins. On average, they say 66 people age 30 believe it begins at 60, while those 65 and older push the threshold to 74. Of all those surveyed, most said they wanted to live to 85.

Pew interviewed 2,969 adults by cell phone or landline from Feb. 23 to March 23. The poll has a margin of error of plus or minus 2.6 percentage points. This puts the thresholds to 74. Of all those surveyed, most said they wanted to live to 85.

There is a lot written about the generation gap, but it is not a new phenomenon. The gap is simply a reflection of the differences in the way people grow up and live their lives. It is not a simple matter of age, but rather a complex interaction of personal, social, economic and cultural factors.

-It seems to be typical of life in America, where opportunities, real and fancied, are thicker than anywhere else on the globe, that the second generation has no time to talk to the first.

-Given the widespread belief that the generation gap is a significant problem, it is surprising that there is so little research on the topic. There is a need for more studies to understand how the gap affects individuals and society.

-There is a lot written about the generation gap, but it is not a new phenomenon. The gap is simply a reflection of the differences in the way people grow up and live their lives. It is not a simple matter of age, but rather a complex interaction of personal, social, economic and cultural factors.

-By Rev. David Reasby

Good Action Needs Good Support

There are a lot of officers out there busing there butt to protect and serve, then there are others; their badge has made them God, judge and jury.

These are the basic reasons police win in court against Blacks:
1. Black people are automatically guilty before they go to court. Huh?! Does probable cause mean anything? How about suspicious behavior? How about your car was reported, seen in a different area and a crime was committed? How about, what are you doing out this late? Now none of these questions are necessarily inappropriate, as long as you ask these same questions to white people in all neighborhoods.

2. If you are driving an SUV of some kind, an old school car with 20’s, tinted windows, music playing, and it doesn’t have to be loud either, you are going to be pulled over.

3. Driving while slumped back in the seat, sitting directly parallel with the divider of the front and back door.

4. Driving with two or more people in the vehicle, you are going to be pulled over or followed to intimidate.

5. Don’t be in Urbanbade, Windsor Heights, Clive and West Des Moines, #1 #2 will apply, (Our black cops get pulled over there, along with their families)

6. Yes it’s suppose to be that when a person reports a crime the police takes that information and pursue an investigation. But let that person be white who is reporting the crime, even if you are not the person who committed the crime, you will be arrested.

7. Will you please have your driver’s license, registration and insurance card, it helps and it is the law!!!

8. When pulled over, especially at night, turn on the interior light and put your hands on the steering wheel. If you have nothing to hide, act accordingly, always put the proof of burden on the officer. Don’t give him or her any reason to act stupid with you. It doesn’t hurt to say sir or maam.

9. When police are questioning a matter, whether it is a friend or relative do not interrupt with loud ignorant remarks, it just causes matters to escalate and you could be arrested for interference with official acts.

10. Do not get in an officers face, do not go into your pockets, keep your hands very visible so he can see them, you know we get shot a lot of times because of that excuse.

11. You don’t have to run from a police officer, even if you gives you that “go ahead and run look”. You didn’t do anything; there is no need to run.

12. Last but not least, always get the badge number, time of the incident and if possible get the car i.d number (it generally on the driver’s side of the squad car)

13. Most of all, TELL THE TRUTH. You be surprised if you just tell the officer the truth how better the outcome is.

I’ve given you the basic reasons how not to be arrested, let’s say your best to do the right thing and not get arrested. Put the proof of burden on them. ***

Coming: Why does it take so many shots to kill a black man?!
I am hearing some very sad stories about the things that are going on in our schools. Talk of middle school aged boys feeling the private parts of the young girls, and even forcing sex on them. I understand that the kids swear at their teachers and do just as they please in class. When I was a kid in school, we would have been beaten senseless for swearing, feeling up a girl, and certainly for rape; although, if you raped a girl back then, you would have ended up in juvenile hall, in big trouble, and maybe have to deal with her father. We see these things and say to one another, “it’s just a sign of the times,” but I believe it’s more about how we have let our children down, listening to these so-called experts in child psychology on how to rear a new human being.

Upon close inspection, what we see is that a lot of people are having children for all the wrong reasons, and some didn’t intend to get pregnant in the first place. Some people simply do not wish to be bothered with these little that they have created, and wish they would just go away. I have heard of people doing really cruel things to little kids, things that would break your heart.

Parents need to establish a system of rules to govern the conduct of their children, and stick with that system, it makes them feel loved and wanted. I am a firm believer in the fact that a child needs to feel that he or she is loved and wanted by both parents. I make the assumption that there will be two parents, it takes two to make them.

Now, can we agree that there has to be a consequence for bad behavior, if not for the fear of being shot or sent to prison, I would rob a bank every morning. It’s not about good boys or bad boys, it’s about obeying the rules, because if you don’t, something bad will happen to you. If we get into the habit of doing things right and obeying the rules and the laws, it becomes a way of life, and that’s what we hope for. Nobody is born good or bad, we have to be taught. Remember, garbage in, garbage out, a computer term, but very pertinent.

We had a system in place for dealing with the rearing of children, a system that had been developed by parents, probably over the last five thousand years. It worked on me and it worked on my parents, and it worked on my children as well. A bunch of soft-hearted, dumb-headed, do-gooders came along and screwed everything up, so much, that we had to build another county jail, now we have three jails and they are all full, not to mention our prisons.

The best way to determine if a system is working or not, is by observing the results. Do any of you think the new way of doing things is working?

R.L. Parkey, Sr.

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**Black-minority Health Fair To Educate On Swine Flu**

**INDIANAPOLIS (AP) -** The Indiana State Health Department says one of the goals of its annual Black and Minority Health Fair in Indianapolis next week is educating people on the new swine flu virus.

State Health Commissioner Judy Monroe says the virus poses an uncertain situation for the fall. She says the virus most likely will continue to spread and could cause more serious illnesses.

The Black and Minority Health Fair will be held July 16-19 at the Indiana Convention Center in downtown Indianapolis. The Health Department says it will include information on how to prepare for the fall flu season. It also will have free screenings and testing on cholesterol, blood glucose, child lead exposure, and adult and child dental screenings.

**Charges Dismissed In SF Cop Killing**

**SAN FRANCISCO (AP) -** Prosecutors have dismissed murder charges against four alleged ex-members of the Black Liberation Army accused of killing a San Francisco police officer in 1971.

The charges were dismissed Monday against Henry Jones, Ray Boudreaux, Richard Brown and Harold Taylor in the killing of Sgt. John V. Young during an attack on San Francisco’s Ingleside police station.

Another defendant, Anthony Bottom, pleaded no contest Monday to conspiracy to commit voluntary manslaughter in Young’s death as part of a deal with prosecutors. Bottom is already serving a life sentence for the murder of two New York City police officers.

Only one of the seven original defendants in the case - Francisco Torres of New York - is now left to stand trial for Young’s murder.

*I never teach my pupils, I only attempt to provide the conditions in which they can learn.* - Albert Einstein
Colin Powell Attacks Critics Of Sotomayor

WASHINGTON (AP) - Colin Powell, one of the nation’s most prominent African-Americans, is going after people who attacked Supreme Court nominee Sonia Sotomayor because of her stand in favor of affirmative action.

Powell, who’s from the same Bronx neighborhood in New York as Sotomayor, said she should face “a spirited set of hearings” in the Senate. But he said the federal appeals court judge, who would be the first Hispanic justice, shouldn’t be condemned for ruling against white firefighters who contended they suffered reverse discrimination.

“What we can’t continue to have is to have somebody like a Judge Sotomayor … called a racist, a reverse racist and she ought to withdraw her nomination because we’re mad at her.” Powell said in an interview broadcast Sunday on “State of the Union” on CNN.

Powell made it clear that he was referring to critics outside the Senate.

Fortunately, the senators who will sit on this hearing in the Judiciary Committee, after a few days of this kind of nonsense, said, “Let’s slow down, let’s examine her qualifications in the way we’re supposed to at a confirmation hearing.” The committee begins hearings July 13.

Powell said Sotomayor has “an open and liberal bent of mind, but that’s not disqualifying. But she seems to have a judicial record that seems to be balanced and tries to follow the law.”

Powell, a Republican who supported Obama, said his party still is not sensitive enough toward minorities.

He noted that Obama had a significant advantage with Hispanics and African-Americans in the November elections. He criticized Republicans who are not elected to office and “immediately shout racism” against Sotomayor, while accusing Powell of supporting Obama because both men are black.

“We still have a problem,” he said.

Radio talk show host Rush Limbaugh has called Powell “just another liberal,” said he should become a Democrat and charged that Powell endorsed Obama based on race. Powell said Sunday that Limbaugh “doesn’t decide who I am or what I am no more than I decide who he is or what he is.”

The Supreme Court ruled 5-4 last Monday that white firefighters in Connecticut were unfairly denied promotion because of their race. The justices threw out a decision that Sotomayor had endorsed as an appeals court judge.

Everyone Welcome!

Burns United Methodist Church
1st Annual Classic Car Show

July 4th • 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
2 Huge Parking Lots 800 - 811 Crocker

10 Trophy Prizes!
- Best Show Car 1st Place Only
- 3 Prizes for Best Painted Car
- 3 Prizes for Best Car Interior Design
- 3 Prizes for Best Car Design
- 1st, 2nd & 3rd Place Each

Entry Fee Donation of $25.00 Per Car

To Register Contact:
- Mr. Roger L. Parkey at 515-43-4895
- Mr. Clifford Watkins at 515-282-4244
- Gaynelle Narcisse at 515-274-1342

Everyone Welcome!