“Bank On Toledo provides access to mainstream financial vehicles to individuals who otherwise would not participate in that market. We are helping people get more out of their money.”

Norris Finley, Director
Bank On Toledo
Learning While Teaching: Understanding the Gangsta’s God  
By Rev. Donald L. Perryman, D.Min.  
The Truth Contributor

...And maybe that’s what really scars people about rap - not that it has the power to stir up trouble, but that it makes us think about troubles we’d just as soon shove under the table. - Ice Cube

Recently, I had been intrigued, no stunned, by the recurring theme of the Divine and Holy interspersed among “not so nice” utterances by a young man during a mentoring session on fatherhood. Dressed head to toe in a bright ensemble all of one color to depict his neighborhood affiliation and “tatted-up” to express his individuality and hardcore identity, I certainly did not picture him as a choir boy.

I spoke with Ebony Utley, Ph.D., concerning her forthcoming book Rap and Religion: Understanding the Gangsta’s God for insight on this and other controversial topics.

Perryman: What experiences shaped your perspective and thus helped to give birth to the work, Rap and Religion?

Utley: I grew up a fundamental Baptist in Indianapolis. There’s a story I tell in the prologue of the book about hearing rap music in the church parking lot after 11:00 church service and how I knew as a teenager, that that was clearly “against the rules” and yet it was kind of cool.

My mother used to tell me that I could listen to rap music as long as I had memorized as many songs from the hymnal as I had rap lyrics. I never quite made it, but my mother had lots of rules about you can have rap music but it should never become more important than your religious life.

I was always toying that line and realized that many rappers were toying similar lines in their lyrics so that rap music and gospel music serve the same purpose. They both were there for people going through hard times. So Tupac’s “Keep Your Head Up” was just as useful as Dorothy’s “Precious Lord” as far as I was concerned.

Then, at Northwestern University I was studying abolitionism, civil rights and black power rhetoric because I was fascinated with how young urban black people were using language to advocate for social change. I realized that rap lyrics were the place that young, urban, black people were using language to get at social change, so I shifted my attention to rap music and how rappers talked to God. The rest was pretty much history.

Perryman: Have you considered the biblical icon King David, described as “a man after God’s own heart,” but who was young and rich with an abundance of women at his beck and call, had a long-running public “beef” with a rival, and shared a very similar lifestyle as today’s gangstas, including murder, intrigue, and family drama?

Utley: Yes. There’s a phrase one of my colleagues uses that I think sums this up appropriately. He always says it’s “an - and without contradiction.” I think David was a character that all of those things that you listed about him, and - without contradiction. He was a lover of God, and a justly murderer, a poet and a fighter.

I think to understand complex characters like David, to understand a lot of the complex rappers, you really have to get outside of these good bad, right/wrong dichotomies because they’re simply not useful. Instead we’ve got to think of them as very complex layered human beings who do different things at different times for different reasons. I mean God is different things to different people at different times for different reasons. So, if we’re looking for a box to put God in or a box to put these complex characters in we’re not going to find that.

Perryman: How does Rap & Religion speak to today’s young fathers or the contemporary problem of father absence?

Utley: There’s intense desire for a physically and/or emotionally absent father and yet having been denied it, results in compromises.

Last time I checked, I think the numbers were 70 percent of African-American kids were born to single mothers. So there’s a strong desire for [father figures] in the ‘hood and it’s often times filled by surrogate fathers. In best-case scenarios, by surrogate fathers who are grandfathers, uncles, cousins and pastors, or mentors. But in the worst case, by pimps, hustlers and folks involved in actual illegal activities.

But there’s also a kind of a “Daddy God” and what’s interesting about how youth and rappers talk about Daddy God is that even though it’s God, their relationships are still imperfect. I like that because it reflects human relationships. So its like 50 Cent says in “Many Men”: “you pray to God, and He don’t say nothing back so I still have to stay with my “gat.”

And I imagine that as kind of being like a young boy who prays for his daddy to come home and his daddy doesn’t come home so he’s still got to do what he has to do. And a lot of times Daddy God operates the same way, you’re asking these pressing questions and your answer is silence.

The message is, and it’s about the answer, it’s about the asking of the question that helps you grow up into a man. So that you’re no longer just acting out or angry or can’t articulate your feelings but that you can freely ask the question and know that having asked, whether you get an answer or not, you’ve matured.

Ebony Utley, Ph.D. is an associate professor of communications studies at California State University Long Beach. Her writing has appeared in a variety of high-profile publications.

Contact Rev. Donald Perryman, D.Min, at dflperryman@centerofhopebaptist.org
Do you ever think that we give too much “credit” to Satan, a.k.a. the devil, for the misfortunes of our mistakes or mis-adventures? I mean, consider the following scenarios. What behavior would you ascribe to the intervention of the devil?

(1) Boy takes cookies from jar and is caught by Mom and the boy blames the devil for his sweet tooth cravings.

(2) Girl takes family car and is arrested. The bottom line is, any idiot could clearly see that a teenage girl in her right mind would not be tempted to go to the mall and hang out with her best buds.

So, it is obvious that Satan was needed to push her over the edge and have her take the car and make that dash for mall freedom. Score yet another victory for the devil.

As for the above number three, who has not been in that situation wherein you are in a darkened area and cannot see but you take your chances and stumble along, hoping that you can make it without a mis-step.

That is like the Wizard of Oz movie in which the Wizard was exposed as being smaller than he is because he advocates he is a “god” (small “g”). I guess it would not look good if a “god” purportedly chose his kid or hits her with a shoe or punches her. That would not be the best PR for keeping his cash cow of “Name It..Claim It!” roll-ing across the airwaves and driving into your pockets and purses.

So, what you do is, you blame it on Satan and crank out a tear or two in front of your Sunday audience and they will rally to you and join in a hearty chorus of, “Let’s blame the devil!”

Results? You are off the hook of being remotely seen as a mean daddy and Satan is on the hook as being the puppeteer who is calling the shots.

Satan takes the hit and you are free to go and if there is a next time, you will do any punching or choking or shoe throwing in a broom closet where there are no witnesses.

Sorry, Satan, go fish somewhere else! So, if someone gets a flat tire or receives bad restaurant service or overcooks a meatloaf cas-serole, we now know who is behind those shenanigans. We are onto your tricks!

Contact Lafe Tolliver at tolliver@juno.com

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Rep. Teresa Fedor Victorious in Aiding Trafficking Victims

“Safe Harbor Act” Passes, Makes History

Special to The Truth

State Rep. Teresa Fedor (D-Toledo) released the following statement on the passage of Sub. House Bill 262 by a vote of 32-0 in the Ohio Senate. Throughout the legislative process, the bill has been changed through efforts from both sides of the aisle.

“Whether presented by Republicans or Democrats, all viable ideas were considered if they strengthened the bill,” said Fedor. “The Senators made a stronger bill coming out of the House for Representative’s even stronger.” The bill is now ready to be signed into law by Governor Kasich.

“This legislation is the result of years of hard work. The goal from the very beginning has been protection, prevention, and prosecution, and this bill will help protect victims, prevent trafficking, and prosecute offenders,” said Fedor.

Fedor was taken aback seven years ago by the shocking report of a trafficking ring in which 77 victims came from Toledo, Ohio. Of those, 38 victims were under 18 years of age and one was only 10-years old. Since then, she has been determined to pass legislation like House Bill 262. The bill contains an Emergency Clause and therefore is immediately enacted upon the signature of Governor Kasich.

“The bottom line is, anyone who wants to operate a trafficking operation and anyone who wants to buy sex from a minor will pay a very high price in the state of Ohio. We are taking part in the modern-day abolition movement and this legislation is a huge step for Ohio. As legislators, we put aside partisan divides and made the youth of our state the first priority. With the passage of this bill, we will begin to clean up this horror crime and save victims. I want to thank the Governor’s office, Senator Wagoner, and the rest of the Senate Judiciary Committee for their hard work on this bill,” said Fedor.

Ref.: Christian News Press, PR for keeping his cash cow of “Name It..Claim It!” roll-ing across the airwaves and driving into your pockets and purses.

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Contact Lafe Tolliver at tolliver@juno.com

By Lafe Tolliver, Esq
Guest Column

Throwing the Devil under da Bus ...
Community Organizations Sponsor Family Events during Father’s Day Weekend

By Artisha S. Lawson
Sojourner’s Truth Reporter

Father’s Day Walk

Historically Father’s Day, which dates back to the early 1900s, has been celebrated since 1960 on the third Sunday in June. In Toledo two community organizations sponsored family-oriented events during this year’s Father’s Day weekend.

The second annual Fatherhood Walk, sponsored by R.E.S.T.O.R.E., Inc, called for fathers and community residents to support the mission to restore fathers to the head of families by walking and enjoying family-friendly activities on Saturday, June 16 at Central Catholic High School on Cherry St.

Mark Robinson, walk organizer and R.E.S.T.O.R.E. founder, opened the ceremony. Toledo Mayor Michael Bell and Ohio House of Representatives Michael Ashford provided event greetings. The organization’s mission is restoration, empowerment, spiritual transformation, opportunity, (Continued on Page 4)
Kwanzaa in the Summer

Father’s Day Weekend
(Continued from Page 4)

responsibility and enhancement; citing Biblical scripture
Malachi 4:6. For further information visit
www.restorefathers.org

Second-year participant and father Anthony Woods,
brought his step-daughter Kevon and son Alonzo to partici-
pate in today’s festivities. “It’s important for me and my kids
to enjoy the walk, and find out about positive community
events.”

The walk sponsors are: R.E.S.T.O.R.E., Inc, Air Extreme
Ohio, Buckeye CableSystem, Heal the World, House of Day
Funeral Home, J&B Records, Lamar, Lucas County Children
Services, Lucas County Family and Children First Council,
Lutheran Social Services of Northwestern Ohio, McDonalds,
Ohio Department of Mental Health University of Toledo,
Seaway Market Place, Stop Child Abuse Now, The Andersons
and Toledo Area Ministries.

Later that afternoon from 11:00 a.m. To 5:00 p.m., Toledo
Kwanzaa House sponsored Kwanzaa Summertime to pro-
vide educate the community on the principles and ways of
implementation. Kwanzaa is traditionally celebrated from
December 26 until January 1 to celebrate unity, self-determi-
nation, collective works and responsibility, cooperative eco-
nomics, purpose, creativity, and faith.

Event organizer Rolita Noble planned a day’s worth of
community engagement activities including head-wrap dem-
onstrations, drumming, explanation of Kwanzaa principles,
vendors and opportunities for community fellowship. “People
expressed concerns about December being too cold, so the
committee organized a one-day event that will explain the
seven Kwanza principles.”

Toledo Kwanzaa House organizes the annual city-wide
celebration and week-long celebration at Wayman Palmer
YMCA. Those interested in joining the committee should
contact Noble at 419-708-9701.

More than 150 youth ages 10-16 from across the Toledo
area are participating in the 43rd annual National Youth
Sports program at The University of Toledo.

The athletic camp runs through Thursday, June 28 with
youth participating in weekday activities such as track, soc-
cer, softball and swimming throughout the afternoons.

The camp begins each day at 10:30 a.m. with a lunch and
address from a “hometown hero” before they break into
groups for athletic activities until 3:30 p.m., most of which
take place at the Intramural and Inter-Collegiate Athletic
Fields off the east entrance to Main Campus off Douglas
Road. Click here to view a schedule of the activities.

The National Youth Sports Program provides economi-
cally disadvantaged youths the opportunity to participate in
fitness, recreation and educational programs. When the pro-
gram started in 1968, UT was one of the first universities in
the country to host it.

In addition to the athletic activities, the youth also partici-

Area Youth Participate in National Youth Sports Program
at UT

Free Summer Meals for Kids!

For more information visit the
National Youth Sports Program website.
Obama Team Organizes African-American Voter Outreach in Ohio

Sojourner’s Truth Staff

“‘It’s a different time and a different conversation,’” says Ashley Allison, newly-appointed African American Vote Director for the Obama for America-Ohio campaign, when asked about the differences between 2008 and 2012. “We are going to be very aggressive in organizing neighborhood teams and going to the barber shops, beauty salons and churches.”

According to Allison, the Democrats’ effort to re-elect President Obama will reach “every corner of the state” both with the general populace and in the African-American residential pockets – both urban and rural. The strategy the Obama campaign utilized in 2008, unlike with most previous Democratic campaigns, was to place organizations in all 88 Ohio counties. Previous Democratic campaigns had focused on a dozen or so, mostly urban counties.

The goal, said Allison, is to match or, if possible, exceed, the voter turnout of 2008 within the African-American community. That may prove to be a formidable challenge indeed.

In 2008, black voters nationally increased their turnout by five percentage points to 65 percent from 2004, just one percentage point lower than for non-Hispanic white voters. Among the 18 to 24 population, African Americans had the highest turnout of any ethnic or racial group for the first time in the nation’s history.

Allison pledges to do everything in her power to duplicate that feat at least among Ohio voters.

An Ohio native, Allison grew up in the Youngstown area and earned a bachelor’s degree from The Ohio State University in political science. She then headed to New York City to teach special education in the Bedford-Stuyvesant section of the city. She became involved in the 2008 campaign after noting how excited her students were about the prospect of Barack Obama winning the election and, after that campaign, headed off to law school.

She got the call to return to her home state and become a big part of the 2012 re-election campaign. It’s a challenge she was eager to embrace.

“We all have to play a part,” she says of her commitment to the re-election effort.

NAACP Commends President Obama on Immigration Executive Order

Defers deportation of undocumented students eligible for NAACP-supported DREAM Act

Special to The Truth

The NAACP commended President Barack Obama on his executive order to defer deportation of promising youth and students eligible for the DREAM Act.

“President Obama is taking an affirmative step toward addressing our nation’s immigration concerns while protecting our supply of intellectual capital,” stated NAACP President and CEO Benjamin Todd Jealous. “This decision ensures that America retains a future generation of well-educated workers and thinkers who can offer diverse perspectives on the challenges of the twenty-first century.”

The NAACP has strongly supported the “Development, Relief and Education of Alien Minors Act”, or DREAM Act. The DREAM Act would allow thousands of young immigrants to become permanent citizens if they demonstrated good moral character and met other educational or military requirements.

“This decision allows hundreds of thousands of young people—people who have worked hard, integrated themselves into the American culture and into American communities and stayed away from trouble—to fulfill their dreams and the dreams of their parents and to become American citizens,” stated Hilary O. Shelton, NAACP senior vice president for Advocacy and Policy and director of the NAACP Washington Bureau. “While Congress is stuck in gridlock, this is a good first step toward that goal.”

Founded in 1909, the NAACP is the nation’s oldest and largest civil rights organization. Its more than one million members throughout the United States and the world are the premier advocates for civil rights in their communities, conducting voter mobilization and monitoring equal opportunity in the public and private sectors.
Summer Food Program Kicks Off in Lucas County

Free regular meals for kids at nearly 100 neighborhood sites

Thousands of kids in Lucas County have breakfast and lunch at school. So what happens to these kids when school is out for the summer? Thanks to the Summer Food Program, they won’t go hungry.

At roughly 100 sites throughout Toledo, kids can receive free meals this summer at various times. To find specific locations and meal times, parents and their children are encouraged to dial United Way at 2-1-1, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Children up to age 18 can receive meals, no questions asked.

“Our goal is to make sure no child in Lucas County goes hungry this summer,” said Todd Tibbits, president and CEO, YMCA and JCC of Greater Toledo. “We hope to feed even more children this summer than we did last year.”

Community organizations, agencies and businesses including ProMedica, Columbia Gas, United Way, Toledo Public Schools, Feed Lucas County Children, Mercy Health Partners, the Toledo Free Press, The Andersons and the YMCA/JCC of Greater Toledo have come together to support the Summer Food Program to ensure our children will not go hungry.

This federal program is funded by the United States Department of Agriculture and administered by the Ohio Department of Education. The locations of the feeding sites are based on proximity to schools in which at least 50 percent of the students receive free or reduced-cost lunches during the school year, which includes all but four of Toledo’s Public Schools.

“We’ve got a long history of alleviating summer hunger throughout the county. But even after serving over 150,000 meals last summer, our work is far from over,” said Tony P. Siebeneck, founder/executive director of Feed Lucas County Children, Inc. “Toledo ranks number 10 in the U.S. for children living at or below poverty, a ranking we are not proud of. We know this program is making a difference, and we hope to make even more of an impact this summer as we partner with more than 80 community organizations, and expand our program to include Saturday and Sunday meals,” he said.

Sites will be staffed with a combination of paid and volunteer personnel and will serve one or more meals, including breakfast, lunch, an afternoon snack and/or an early dinner, depending on the site. The food will meet state guidelines and include milk, fruits and vegetables, grains/bread and meat, and will be provided by a variety of vendors.

Rep. Sykes Supports Amendment to Ensure Minority Business Loan Access House agrees to clarify language in SB 314

State Rep. Vernon Sykes (D-Akron) voted yes on an amendment yesterday to ensure minority owned and operated businesses would continue to have the same, if not greater, access to funding through state programs.

“I am proud to have been a co-sponsor of this legislation,” said Rep. Sykes. “The bill, as passed, will ensure that we continue to create opportunities for minority owned businesses in this state, and that minority business owners will have greater access to resources they need to be successful. So many great businesses have been born from the MBE loan fund. I look forward to seeing even more great ideas come to fruition now that we have stabilized access to these funds.”

The proposal was offered by Rep. Reece of Cincinnati and comes in response to the bill’s transfer of funds from the Minority Business Enterprise Loan Fund to the Capital Access Loan Program Fund. The proposed transfer could have restricted minority businesses from accessing the same amount of funds that have typically been used in the past, redirecting the money to a loan program with less specific requirements. Rep. Reece’s amendment specified that the portion of transferred funds “be used solely for minority business enterprises or minority businesses certified by the minority business supplier development council.”

Special to The Truth
Bank on Toledo Is Striving to Bring Local Residents into the Banking System

By Fletcher Word
Sojourner’s Truth Editor

This week, Bank On Toledo, which pulls together local government, financial institutions and community organizations to set up transaction accounts for unbanked consumers, will be celebrating their one year anniversary with two events designed to deliver a wealth of information and assistance to potential bank clients.

On Thursday, June 21, Bank On Toledo will open shop at One Government Center from noon to 4 p.m. and offer free credit reports, financial coaches, an educational workshop calendar, health screenings and information on how to free up a cumbersome ChexSystems report.

On Friday, June 22, Bank On Toledo will repeat the exercise in the Super Fitness parking lot at the corner of Dorr and Reynolds from noon to 6 p.m.

Bank On Toledo is a non-profit organization that was founded to “provide access to mainstream financial vehicles to individuals who otherwise would not participate in that market,” says Norris Finley, executive director of the organization. “We are helping people get more out of their money.”

The focus of Bank On Toledo’s attention is the unbanked population – those without checking or savings accounts for a variety of reasons – who tend to spend more on financial services than do other Americans.

It is estimated that in the United States, 7.7 percent of households have no checking or savings account and another 17.9 percent are under-banked – have accounts but still rely on alternative financial services such as check-cashing operations, payday loans, rent-to-own agreements and pawn shops. In Lucas County those numbers are 8.3 percent and 19.3 percent, respectively out of a total of 180,000 households.

“Bank On Toledo is a strategic alliance between the City of Toledo, financial institutions and community centers,” says Finley. “It is a very flexible program and molded around the people.”

If someone has had difficulties in the past with a checking account, for example, Bank On Toledo can arrange for such a person to take classes that may lead to a local financial institution granting permission to open an account.

Finley has been the executive director of Bank On Toledo since January 2012. A Toledo native, Finley is a graduate of St. Francis de Sales High School and earned his bachelor’s degree in business administration/finance with honors from The University of Toledo. He has a wide range of experience in finance in the interim with private companies and as a financial instructor for a variety of non-profit organizations and higher education institutions.

As executive director of Bank On Toledo, which is modeled after a similar program in San Francisco, Finley represents the program and works with a steering committee that has representatives from the 11 financial institutions involved in the program. He spends a great deal of time speaking to those groups, such as unions or student organizations, that might benefit from the services offered by Bank On Toledo.

What are those benefits? Account ownership, says Finley, means less money spent on financial transactions, money is more secure, savings balances grow and greater access to other mainstream, affordable financial products.

After only one year in existence, Finley sees an already impressive impact of the program on the lives of a number of Toledo area residents. Those numbers will grow, he says, if the community becomes more involved, leading to an all-around healthier community.

“In order for the program to impact the people who need to be impacted, it’s going to take help from the leaders of the community,” he says. “There are so many things that are affected by financial issues – domestic violence, homelessness, for example. Somewhere in all of that is the aspect of financial mismanagement. It’s a huge stressor. Solving that will help solve so many problems.”

For more information on Bank On Toledo, call 2-1-1.
Toledo Urban Receives Three Star Financial Rating

Sojourner’s Truth Staff

The Toledo Urban Federal Credit Union received three stars during the last quarter from BauerFinancial Inc of Coral Gables, FL, a leading bank research firm that rates credit unions and banks on a scale of zero to five stars based on financial criteria.

A one star rating for a financial institution means “troubled,” two stars are “problematic” and three stars are “adequate.”

For five consecutive quarters in recent years, Toledo Urban received no stars at all and was widely perceived as being on the brink of failure. Over the last year and a half, Toledo Urban’s Suzette Cowell, chief executive officer, and the credit union’s staff and board of directors have worked with collaborators to improve the financial stability of the institution, resulting in the most recent BauerFinancial three star rating.

The credit union has led a community-wide effort to raise funds and has sought help from area banks. As a result, according to BauerFinancial officials, the institution has improved its capital reserves to total assets from 3.92 percent in the first quarter of 2011 to 8.06 percent in the first quarter of 2012. The governing body for credit unions – National Credit Union Administration – requires its members to have capital reserves of at least seven percent of total assets.

Cowell was more than a little pleased by the latest ratings report from BauerFinancial. Two years ago Toledo Urban was reeling after a report in which the ratings firm had stated that the institution had “significant challenges.”

Toledo Urban, said Cowell at that time, has had significant challenges from the moment of its inception. The 16-year old credit union has been fulfilling its mission of “helping small businesses, householders and nonprofit agencies,” she said.

Nonperforming loans in the first quarter of this year were $80,000 compared to $247,000 for the first quarter of 2011 and Toledo Urban had no repossessed assets in the quarter, noted a BauerFinancial official. For her part, Cowell thanked a host of local organizations and institutions for their assistance in Toledo Urban’s revival, including the leaders of many of Toledo’s banks. She also praised dozens of individuals for their help in righting the ship.

Suzette Cowell

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The Sojourner’s Truth

ASk Yvon

By: S. Yvon Harper, CEO, Focus on Finance, LLC
The Truth Contributor

“Vacation Without Debt”
It’s HOT and for many that means vacation time. While it is wonderful to get away from the daily grind you shouldn’t do it at a cost of unnecessary debt. Here are a few suggestions to enjoy time away.

State Vacations. When the economy hit bottom many would-be travelers found hidden getaways in their home states. This is yet true and many are discovering that rest and relaxation doesn’t have to be a 10 hour trip to the beach. Many locations are within a 90 minute drive, which could allow you to enjoy and return home the same day. To find hot vacation spots in any state look up the state’s tourism department on the Internet. In Ohio go to www.ohio.gov/Tour

Cash Flow. When it’s HOT and for many “Vacation Without Debt” is a few suggestions to enjoy time away.

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All Inclusive Deals. Experts agree that all-inclusive resort packages are the best way to have a debt-free vacation. Popular choices are cruises or resort deals where food, lodging, transportation and even entertainment is included in the fee. To best capitalize on these types of deals plan and pay early, as the more time you have the better.

Family Reunions. Many families plan to get together during warm weather months. In fact, my family is having one in a few weeks. To maximize your vacation time research other activities and attractions in the area beforehand some as many have group discounts you can enjoy. Also, utilize the hospitality of family and friends to stay overnight, which can help eliminate lodging costs. One of my favorite memories growing up during reunions was the family slumber party at our gatherings.

Social Media Outlets.

Understanding Cash Flow: A Workshop for Small Business Owners - Tuesday, June 26

The Toledo-Lucas County Public Library is scheduled to present a FREE event titled Understanding Cash Flow: A Workshop for Small Business Owners from 6-8:30 p.m. on Tuesday, June 26 at the Kent Branch Library @ CCESS Center, 3010 Collingwood Blvd.

Learn the following:

Cash Flow: Study cash flow to develop your own analysis and projections, a close-up look at profit and loss
Market Research: How to do market research using library resources

Ten Tips To Cut Home Energy Bills

The secret to reducing your monthly energy bills is following the latest tips to cut down on your household’s everyday consumption, according to the Department of Energy.

1. Use the latest lightbulbs. Lighting-related costs add up to about 10 percent of your electric bill. Reduce your lighting usage by up to 75 percent by using the latest lighting technologies, including compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) or light-emitting diode (LED) lightbulbs.

2. Keep the wattage low. Make sure that your lightbulbs aren’t a higher wattage than the listed wattage for sockets.

3. Hit the pool. Use 75 percent less wattage than incandescent pool lights with white Pentair IntelliBrite LEDs, and save up to $1,500 a year by switching from a single-speed pump to an IntelliFlo variable-speed pump, part of the Eco Select family (www.pentairpool.com/calculators).

4. Install ceiling fans. You’ll be able to raise the thermostat for your air conditioner about 4 degrees without compromising relief from the heat.

5. Find and plug all air leaks. Save 5 to 30 percent on energy costs by caulking or weather stripping gaps where air flows: window frames, doors, baseboards, electrical outlets, mounted air conditioners, attic doors, fireplace dampers, pipes, wires, mail slots. If you can rattle or see daylight around a door or window, it’s likely leaking air.

6. Turn the water heater down. The energy used to heat your water accounts for up to 25 percent of your energy usage. Turn down the temperature on your water heater to 120 degrees.

7. Set up a programmable thermostat. Cooling and heating systems account for about 56 percent of your energy use. Set your thermostat for the morning, day, evening, overnight and vacation to control costs.

8. Replace your old cooling and heating equipment. Installing a high-efficiency air conditioner can help reduce related energy costs 20 to 50 percent. And if your forced-air furnace is more than 15 years old, consider replacing it.

9. Remember your filters. Change the filters on your forced-air furnace and air-conditioning unit about every month or two and have professionals check them annually.

10. Explore your insulation. Seal any gaps around attic openings for pipes, ductwork and chimneys with expanding foam caulk or other permanent sealant. And make sure there’s a vapor barrier such as a plastic sheet or specialized paint beneath insulation, including the attic door.
Collateral Sanctions Reform Legislation Passes House

Special to The Truth

State Representative Tracy Maxwell Heard (D-Columbus) praised today the passage of SB 337, collateral sanctions reform legislation that focuses on eliminating barriers that non-violent, ex-offenders often face when trying to obtain jobs upon their release from prison.

Over the past several months a bipartisan group, including the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction, the Ohio Department of Youth Services, the Governor’s office, legislators, and various interested parties, have attended forums across the state to discuss Ohio’s outdated criminal statutes and come up with commonsense public policy ideas that would improve the abilities of ex-offenders to obtain jobs. This bill is a result of the moderate approach taken at these forums and reflects the suggestions from the workgroups.

“I was very pleased to have worked on the House version of this bill HB 524 with my colleague, Representative Ross McGregor and with Senate companion bill co-sponsors, Senators Shirley Smith and Bill Seitz. This bill represents what can be done when we are willing to come together and work in a friendly, bi-partisan manner. What we accomplished here is a shining example that thoughtful, impactful, legislative can be passed and signed into law. I am very proud of this bill and everything it will do for Ohioans but more importantly I am proud of what it represents,” said Heard.

Collateral sanctions are restrictions, disabilities, or penalties beyond the direct punishment imposed on individuals at the time of sentencing. One in every six Ohioans is an ex-offender, and by reducing collateral sanctions this legislation will increase employment opportunities for these individuals with criminal records, reduce recidivism and increase an individual’s prospects for real social and economic participation in their communities.

“Since we undertook this subject a few years ago, my focus has been on juveniles. I’m pleased that we have been able to make that distinction between juvenile and adult returning citizens in a way that protects their privacy and provides legitimate opportunity for a second chance to our children,” said Heard.

The House passed SB 337 unanimously. The bill is now on its way to Governor Kasich’s desk where it is expected to be signed into law.

Five Ways To Put Money Back In Your Pocket Each Month

If you’re like most people, you’re looking to cut costs and save money. Fortunately, a few simple things can really add up and help you save a lot. Leah Ingram, a frugal-living expert and author of “Suddenly Frugal: How to Live Happier & Healthier for Less,” suggests a few of her own family’s simple changes that can save you money every month:

• The average American drinks 1,132 cups of coffee annually—3.1 a day—and spends $1,562 a year on brewed coffee or $2,773 on espresso drinks at stores, restaurants and coffee shops. The cost to brew the same number of cups at home can be as low as $147 ($.13 per cup). By making your coffee at home, you can save some $2,626 per year.

• Bottled water is more expensive than gas—about $10 per gallon. Americans spend about $1,400 a year on bottled water, or about $117 a month. If you got a refillable, reusable water bottle and filled it from the tap, you would save about $117 a month.

• Americans who eat lunch out every weekday spend, on average, about $7 per meal. If you packed your lunch, you would incur some grocery costs in buying what you need to make lunch but you could save nearly $2,000 a year—about $166 a month.

• Ingram’s family used to spend about $750 a year on phone service from the phone company; now they’re making calls free. A landline phone is quickly becoming a duplicative expense. If you’re already paying for high-speed Internet, you should consider a VoIP system, such as the Ooma Telo. This device can be hooked up to the Internet instantly, letting you make unlimited long-distance calls within the U.S. with crystal-clear call voice quality. You can also reduce cell phone expenses by switching to a prepaid plan and using your home phone more, once the VoIP system is up and running. This monthly savings can add up to $40 to $50.

• Nearly every home in the United States has some sort of computer printer and those printers go through a lot of ink cartridges. Rather than toss them in your recycling bin, bring them to an office supply store that will not only recycle them for you but also give you cash back for your good, green deed. At Staples, for example, you can get $5 per recycled ink cartridge for recycling those cartridges. That can add up to $240 back in your pocket each year.

All these little things can add up to big savings in the long run.

Cash Mob Hits Inkjet Express

Sojourner’s Truth Staff

“Cash Mob” an effort by the Toledo African American Chamber of Commerce to boost revenues of black-owned local businesses visited Inkjet Express on Saturday, June 16 much to the delight of proprietor Walt Crockel.

The Cash Mob was the third such event this year. The first business to be mobbed was Ruby’s Kitchen on April 12, followed by Powell’s Beauty Supply on May 19.

Tackling Tough Times...

The Economy...

The Truth Art Gallery on Adams Street will be mobbed on July 21. Keep reading for more details in the following weeks.

Toledo Zoo Welcomes New Board Members

One reason the Toledo Zoo is a first-rate zoological institution and the region’s top attraction is the support it receives from its Board of Directors. At its recent annual meeting, the Zoo welcomed three new members to its Board and elected a new slate of officers.

Bob Vasquez is a member of the Toledo Public Schools Board of Education. Olivia Summons is the manager of community relations at Toledo Refining Company. Jim Haudan is the CEO and chairman of Root Learning in Sylvania. Vasquez and Haudan serve three-year terms. Summons fills the seat of a board member who retired mid-term and will serve for two years.

In addition, the Board of Directors elected Mary Ellen Pisanelli to serve as board president, Lamont Thurston as vice president, Pamela Hershberger as treasurer and Chip Hambro as secretary. Each has been elected to serve a one-year term in his or her respective office. The remaining members of the Board include Matt Anderson, Susan Allan Block, Peter Beyer, Elaine Canning, Sandra Hylant, John Jones, Tim Konieczny, Kevin McQueen, John Meier, Jonathan Orser, Clarence Smith and Barbara Steele. The Board’s Ex-Officio member is Lucas County Commissioner Carol Contrada.

Special to The Truth

The Board’s Ex-Officio member is Lucas County Commissioner Carol Contrada.
Television is not like life.

Okay, so you already know that. You’re well aware that situations don’t get wrapped up in 60 minutes or less, that hospitals aren’t like fraternities, and that nobody’s relatives are that weird. You also know that crime isn’t anywhere near as clean as it is on TV, and gangbangers don’t dance for the cameras.

Yep, that’s television for you, but what would life be like for someone in a real urban gang? Author Jorja Leap wondered, too, and in her new book *Jumped In*, she shares what she learned.

Back in the 1970s and ‘80s, Jorja Leap worked with gangs. She was a social worker then, operating from Martin Luther King Hospital in South Los Angeles, and green as grass. Twenty years later, better-armed with a PhD, a faculty appointment at UCLA, and experience in “violent environments internationally,” she decided that she wanted to “figure out what to do about violence that was occurring close to home.”

Specifically, she wanted to work with gangs again. Most people, says Leap, believe that gangs predominantly consist of black males, and that there are two major gangs, the Bloods and the Crips. She discovered, however, that there are hundreds of different gangs and when one disappears, another appears in its place. Hispanic gangs account for about half those in LA and the number of girls joining gangs is on the rise.

Doing the job she was hired for (evaluating prevention and intervention programs) meant immersion in gang culture, but it wouldn’t be easy. Gang members, both former and current, were extremely mistrustful. They wanted assurance that Leap wasn’t an informant or a member of the LAPD.

She wasn’t. But her husband was.

As the summer of 2002 progressed to become one of Los Angeles’ bloodiest seasons, working with gangs began to overtake Leap’s life. She craved working the streets, though her husband—who knew the danger she was in—wanted her at home.

The situation was complicated by Leap’s initially-unsettled status as stepmother, and the contrasting fact that gangs often become temporary family for children whose parents are drug addicted, jailed, or both…

As you’re reading this review, I’ll bet you’ve got a “typical gang member” ensconced in your mind. And you’ve probably got it wrong.

By busting myths and shedding light on little-known angels in the City of Angels, author Jorja Leap gives readers an inside look at what’s going on in the streets of one American metropolis, which is simultaneously chilling and hopeful.

What makes this book unique, though, is that Leap intertwines private confessions with research, until her two lives oddly mesh. I didn’t fully appreciate the personal bits, in fact, until I saw how they served to illustrate two diverse (and divergent) worlds so perfectly.

This is not an easy book to read, but you won’t be able to put it down, either. If you’re interested in the dynamics of gang life or what can be done about the crime that follows it, *Jumped In* is a book to pounce on.
Three Reasons Why You Refuse to Have a Good Time in Toledo

By Michael Hayes
Minister of Culture

You barely leave the house.
You’re one of those people who winds up watching TV all weekend, probably with your alcoholic beverage of choice on deck. You’ve got a few nice outfits you would like to wear out but “the weekend ends too quick” and you’re back at work feeling wack.

You’re the type who always hears about stuff after it’s happened and if it’s not edible or smoke-able, you rarely try new things. However, soon after the weekend rolls back around and you realize you do have a few extra bucks to spend—...you kick that same old dry refrain:

“Man, it ain’t nothing to do here” and then continue...with your usual routine.

My thoughts:
You are one of those people who couldn’t find a good time no matter what city you’re in.
You work. You handle family business. You run errands. You attend church. And all your other time is spent complaining from the couch about not finding anything to do when all you really like to do is stay home, sip or smoke and watch the world go by.

So part of it is just you.
But, if you decide to put some space between you and those couch cushions I’m sure you can find something around here you might enjoy!
You’ve given up on your city.
You actually do like to have fun, but your thoughts about a night out in Toledo are jaded.
You spend too much time in Detroit, Columbus, and Cleveland that you should pay taxes there. To you, a night out in Toledo is somewhat beneath you. Your favorite artist can come to the 419 and you will spend more money and wait in longer lines just to see the same show in Detroit.

When people tell you about a fun night they had somewhere here in the city, you mock every story they tell with a story of your own that happened in an even bigger city. You work here, live here, but kick it everywhere else BUT here.

My thoughts:
The city has changed and evolved and you haven’t noticed. It’s people like you who are exactly who we need to keep the fun we do have going strong. Get off that high horse and let someone show you a few of the new spots and at least try to appreciate the growth.

You have limited interests.
You do actually go out to have fun in Toledo, but you keep seeing the same people at the same kinds of functions and it’s making you sick to your stomach.

You only like kicking it with certain groups. You only feel comfortable in certain environments. Because you’re so narrow in what appeals to you, you’ve already exhausted all this city has to offer so now you just complain or stop going out entirely.

My Thoughts:
Toledo is a lot bigger when you have broad interests.
I’ve been in after-hour raves in some random warehouse on the same nights I’ve attended networking events or local rap shows. The wine-tasting crowd needs to mix with the Fat Fish Blue crowd. The progressive art, political activist crowd needs to mix with the black professional crowd. The community theatre crowd needs to mix with the skating and hustling crowd. You don’t have to keep going to the same places each weekend hoping it will somehow defy the laws of physics and give you some entirely new vibe.

Make it a point to kick it with people who feel foreign to you at first, and keep attending events and getting involved until that cagey feeling wears off.

You will find a whole new set of friends and opportunities, trust me.

Summary
Do you realize June is just half over?
All this month I’ve been meeting people from all over the United States who just happen to be here for some event and they absolutely love Toledo.
I’m serious. Someone from northern California and someone else from North Carolina have been able to come here and see some redeemable qualities.
June is only half over and already you’ve had carnivals and comedy shows. Strawberry Festival and Old West End Festival, chart-topping country artists and chart-topping rap artists, Latino Fest and the Art Hop—all happen right here in your backyard!
The Art Gallery/Glass Hop event for example, was an event like most cities never offer.

You tour the various art galleries of the downtown area on a free shuttle that has so many destinations it has to have a red loop and a blue loop. There’s food and music at almost every stop, you meet people from all across the country because there’s a convention in town, and you see some of the most innovative art work imaginable.

Then, you walk in another building and find a new restaurant in downtown Toledo that’s not even a month old. I mean, if you don’t find anything to do here it’s simply your own fault.
I’ll be the first to admit, we’ve got a long way to go before we are as progressively exciting as Columbus or Pittsburgh. But our biggest hurdle should NOT be the low self esteem so many Toledoans have about Toledo that keeps them from supporting the various activities. Oh yeah, shout out to C.C. on opening her new hair salon AND spoken word venue this past weekend too.

Look at that. C.C.
Someone I knew when I used to run my own open mic night back in college.
We had live jazz and spoken word every week downtown in the early 2000’s.

Onstage, sometimes I would lead my audience in a simple call and response:
“ Toledo...has...Culture...DAMMIT!”
I still want to move to NYC one day.

My affinity for my hometown isn’t so delusional that I overlook what we lack or over-estimate the potential.
All I know is, I saw a shirt last year in Bozarts art gallery that read:
Boring People Hate Toledo, and I understood at that point how fashion can communicate thoughtful expression because I concur.

Let’s have a safe, fulfilling and enormously fun summer, Toledo.
Notice to Bidders: Inquiry # FY12-142, (Project # 0051-12-728) for North Engineering Roof Repairs for the University of Toledo. Sealed bids for this project must be clearly marked with the project number on all inner and outer envelopes and/or shipping containers. Bids must be addressed and delivered to the University of Toledo, Facilities and Construction, Plant Operations, Room 1100, 2925 E. Rocket Drive, MS 216, Toledo, Ohio 43606 or before 2:00 p.m., Tuesday, July 3, 2012. Bids will be publicly opened that same day at 2:05 p.m. in the Plant Operations Building, Room 1000. Copies of Plans, Specifications, and Bid Forms may be obtained from Becker Impressions, 4646 Angola Rd., Toledo, Ohio 43615. Call 419-385-9305 for an appointment to pick up bid package. A cost of $50.00 will be charged per set. Any further information may be obtained from Tim Fry of The JDI Group at 419-725-7161. One Pre-Bid Conference will be held on Tuesday, June 26, 2012 at 10:00 a.m. in the Plant Operations building, Room 1000, at the University of Toledo, 2925 E. Rocket Drive, Toledo, OH 43606. Total Bid Guaranty and Contract Bond are required per section 153.54 of the Ohio Revised Code. EDGE Participation Goal: 10%. Project Estimate: $415,000.00; Breakdown: General Const: $415,000.00.

Tutoring Assistance
Does your son or daughter need help with school work? I am offering tutoring! Give me a call – Ms. Sherri – 419-215-8742.

I will be able to help.

Northwest Ohio Psychiatric Hospital
Volunteer Opportunities
393 South Detroit
Toledo, Ohio 43614

Volunteering provides a wonderful opportunity to the public to give back to the community while gaining knowledge and understanding about mental illness, a disease which will affect one in five individuals.

Volunteers can work as a group (such as a church or school group) or individually. Volunteers working must be at least 16 years old.

Volunteer assistance is needed in the following areas: fund-raising, event planning, clerical assistance/computer experience, organizational skills, fund raising, processing donated clothing, and organizing craft rooms and clothing rooms.

We also need volunteers to share their talent for our Summerfest “NOPH GOT TALENT SHOW” Monday, Aug 27 at 4pm.

The Volunteer Services Department’s goal is to make your volunteer experience as worthwhile as possible. Give a little, get back a lot!

Contact: Jan Volunteer Coordinator 419-381-1881 Ext. 4464 wasiele@mh.state.oh.us

AOD THERAPIST
Unison Behavioral Health Group, Inc. is seeking an experienced AOD Therapist to provide individual, family and group counseling and case management services.

Candidate must possess a Bachelor’s degree, Master’s Degree preferred and have a minimum of two years experience working with adults with mental health and chemical dependency issues. Dual mental health (LSW, LISW, PC, PCC) and chemical dependency licensure (CDCA, LCDC II, LCDC III or LCCD) required.

Send resume with salary requirements or apply to:
Human Resources - AOD
Unison Behavioral Health Group, Inc.
1425 Starr Ave.
Toledo, OH 43605
Fax: 419.936.6764
Email: hr@unisonbhg.org
EOE

St. Martin de Porres
Parish is seeking a part-time accountant, 12-16 hours a week. Proficiency in QuickBooks and Microsoft Excel, a must. Experience in a church setting, a plus. Associate degree in accounting is required. Send letter of inquiry and resume, with references, to Search committee, St. Martin de Porres Catholic Church, 1119 W. Bancroft St., Toledo, Ohio 43606. Email to virginia@whittgrouprealty.com. For more information call 419-241-4544.

Hillandale - $87,000/REDACTED
Ottawa Hills condo. 1440 sq. ft., 2 full baths. Location, location, location. Bright home, new carpet, newly painted. Spacious one floor, Lots of storage, private garage. One great unit.

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Great investment property! 2-2 ½ units, one for owner or tenants. Both units contain newer furnace, hot water tanks, new windows, updated electrical system. Both consist of large living rooms and lots of storage space. WOW! Motivated seller. Easy access to downtown.

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Woodley Court - $259,000
6 bedroom, 2 1/2 baths, 3488 sq. ft. Custom-built home. Must see to believe. Located in the quiet Trail Acres subdivision. Built for entertaining or large family. Easy to show and sell for buyers.

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He Delivers
419.320.0863

Great First Home!!!
Traditional financing & lease w/ option available for some.

Call Montalena @ 419.320.5224
and follow me...
Your Guide To Home!!

St. Martin de Porres Catholic Church is seeking a Parish Secretary, a part-time position.
The position will be approximately 14 hours per week. The hours are flexible; they need to be worked Monday through Thursday. The primary responsibilities will include the following:

- Answering and routing telephone calls
- Managing the Parish Phone Bank
- Managing the Parish Calendar
- Providing assistance to the Parish Office
- Providing assistance to the Finance Office
- Providing assistance to the Parish office

Applications are available at the Parish Office.

Deadline for applications is June 26, 2012.

For more information contact St. Martin de Porres Catholic Church
1119 W Bancroft St.
Toledo, OH 43606
419-241-4544

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For more information contact St. Martin de Porres Catholic Church
1119 W Bancroft St.
Toledo, OH 43606
419-241-4544
Houses for Rent

Advertisement for Proposals
Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority Toledo, Ohio

Notice is hereby given by the Board of Directors that Sealed Bids will be received by the Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority for:

Parking Meter Mechanisms
This contract is for providing a new Parking Meter Mechanisms for the existing on-street parking in Toledo, OH, in accordance with the approved plans and specifications, for the Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority at One Maritime Plaza, Toledo, OH 43604. Bids will be received at the Port Authority’s administrative offices at One Maritime Plaza, Toledo, OH 43604 until Tuesday, June 26, 2012, at 1:00 PM, at which time and place all bids will be publicly opened and read aloud. This project shall consist of approximately 400 single space electronic parking meter mechanisms to be installed in the existing on street parking locations in accordance with the specifications. The meters shall accept payments made with United States coins, tokens, credit/debit cards and/or smart cards. They shall fit in the existing Duncan Model 70 meter housing; maintain two-way communications with a Remote Management System (RMS) using a cellular network; meet current PA-DSS standards; operate fully with a self-contained solar powered system; process credit/debit card transactions in real time; wirelessly transmit financial and operational data to a remote computer (RMS); wirelessly accept payment; wirelessly transmit financial and operational data to a remote computer (RMS); wirelessly accept payment; and provide a user-friendly interface for payment and operation. The Engineer’s estimate for this project is $214,000. The full advertisement may be viewed at: http://www.toledoportauthority.org/PublicNotices/tabid/1811/language/en-US/Default.aspx

Notice to Bidders
Sealed Proposals for bidding on Pond Shoreline Planting Improvements, Pearson Metropark, Oregon, Ohio will be received; opened; and read aloud at the Metropolitan Park District of the Toledo Area, Fallen Timbers Field Office, 8101 Fallen Timbers Lane, Maumee, Ohio 43537 Friday, July 6, 2012 at 2:00 p.m. local time.

The scope of work consists of extensive horticultural shrub, perennial, grasses, and groundcover plantings, mulching, split rail fence, lawn-repair grading & seeding. Bidders may obtain copies of plans, specifications, contract documents and plan-holder’s list through Newfax Corporation, 333 West Woodruff, Toledo, Ohio 43604 between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday (check made payable to Newfax Corporation) or via the Newfax Digital Plan Room at www.newfaxcorp.com. Newfax can be contacted at 419-241-5157 or 800-877-5157. A non-refundable fee of $15 is required for each set of documents obtained. For additional information, please contact Jon Zvanovec at 419-360-9184, jon.zvanovec@metroparkstoledo.com.

Each bidder must furnish either (1) a bond for the full amount of the bid or (2) a certified check, cashier’s check or irrevocable letter of credit in an amount equal to ten percent (10%) of the bid with their bid. The successful bidder must furnish a 100 percent (100%) Performance Bond and a 100 percent (100%) Labor and Materials Bond.

No bidder may withdraw its bid within thirty (30) days after the actual date of the opening thereof.

The board of Park Commissioners of the Metropolitan Park District of the Toledo Area reserves the right to reject any or all bids, and to waive any informality in bidding.

By order of the Board of Park Commissioners
Metropolitan Park District of the Toledo Area

Steven W. Madewell, Director

Financial Coach
Financial Opportunity Center seeking financial coach to assist individuals to meet goals through assessment of financial situations, assisting in development of spending, savings and debt management plans, repairing credit and building assets. Ideal candidate has excellent interpersonal and computer skills, knowledge of available community resources and experience with low income population. BA or equivalent required. Submit resume to: UN, 3106 Lagrange Street, Toledo, Ohio 43608.

Marketing Lead Specialist
Sunrise Windows, an innovative manufacturer of custom vinyl replacement windows, seeks an individual with excellent problem solving skills and organizational ability. Creative thinker able to find new dealer leads. You should have a Bachelor’s degree in Marketing, Business or related field and 3 years experience in B2B or retail marketing via phone, canvassing or account services and demonstrated success developing a repeatable and sustainable lead generation process, a pipeline of leads, conversion programs and marketing campaigns that provide measurable improvement in top-line and bottom-line growth. Familiarity with program management and Microsoft Dynamics CRM systems or another CRM system is a plus. We offer a competitive benefit and compensation package. To apply, send cover letter, resume and salary requirements to employment@sunrisewindows.com. Salary requirements are required.

NORTHGATE APARTMENTS 610 STICKNEY AVENUE
Now Accepting Applications for 1 and 2 Bedroom Apartments
Mature Adult Community for Persons 55 and older. Rent Based on Income. Heat, Appliances, Drapes, Carpeting Included. Call (419) 729-7118 for details.

Equal Housing Opportunity/Equal Opportunity Employer

AOD Therapist
Unison Behavioral Health Group, Inc. is seeking an experienced AOD Therapist to provide individual, family and group counseling and case management services.

Candidate must possess a Bachelor’s degree, Master’s Degree preferred and have a minimum of two years experience working with adults with mental health and chemical dependency issues. Dual mental health (LSW, LISW, PC, PCC) and chemical dependency licensure (CDCA, LCDC II, LCDC III or LIDCD) required.

Send resume with salary requirements or apply to: Human Resources - AOD Unison Behavioral Health Group, Inc. 1425 Starr Ave. Toledo, OH 43605 Fax: 419-936-7574 Email: hr@unisonbhg.org EOE

Special Notice
RE: Examinations for Journeyman Wireman

Applications for the Journeyman Inside Wireman test will be accepted July 9-13, 2012 at the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 8, 807 Lime City Road, Rossford, Ohio between 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. The qualifications to be eligible for this examination are:

• Must be 18 years of age or over.
• Must live in the jurisdiction of Local 8 for one year prior to application.
• Must have proof of 4 years employment in the commercial/industrial electrical construction industry.

Wanted to Buy: Diabetes Supplies
Earn up to $12 per box of 100 test strips. Must expire after September 2012. Leave labels on boxes. We remove and shred.

Call 419-740-7162 and leave message.
Congregation Honors 2012 Graduates

By Artisha S. Lawson
Sojourner’s Truth Reporter

Congregation members gather to celebrate the accomplishments of eight college and three high school graduates on June 15, 2012. “We love our graduates, we encourage further education and support in any way possible,” said Richard Lewis, education director.

This 30-year tradition of The Glass City Church of Christ began when Bro. Turner, along with Annie and George Mayo launched a resource and encouragement program for students which concludes with the annual banquet. Current educational director Lewis works with committee members to ensure the vision continues.

Students received a proclamation from Mayor Michael Bell, plaque, saving bond, faith-based encouragement, and Bible. “This program has survived through the dedication of the committee, and we hope the graduates will see the light and love from us and continue to shine,” said Richard Lewis.

This year’s college graduates were Brandon Banton, Mesha Brown, Ashli Hearron, Marva “Peaches” Jones and Manquel Michell from The University of Toledo; Vernanna Duplar from Ashford University; La Rhonda McCray from Owens Community College and Charmyn McKinney from Herzing University. High school graduates were Terrika King from Polly Fox Academy; Theodore “Tre” Marshall III and Morgan Morrison from Sylvania Southview.

UT graduate Banton, earned a network administration degree with expectation of installing networks. “College is the way to go, not the only option but a good one that leads to success. Go to college, go to college, I can’t stress that enough,” he said.

Graduation committee members were: Dorothy Hill, Marchel Houston, Nat Jones, Richard Lewis, Vanessa Lynn, Gail Purdie and Cheryl Wilson.

The Glass City Church of Christ is under the pastoral leadership of Minister Robert G. Birt holds worship and ministry meetings at the Holiday Inn Splash Bay located at 1705 Toll Gate Drive Maumee, Ohio Sunday school 9:00 a.m; service 10:00 a.m; Wednesday Bible study 11:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.

The Watson triplets were the second set of triplets since 1982 to graduate from Robert S. Rogers High School on Tuesday evening June 6, 2012. The triplets were honored at a special school ceremony with many other students for their honor roll status and received an award for Citizenship and cooperation in school spirit.

Terrell, Terrance and Travon are members of the Indiana Missionary Baptist church where Rev. John E. Roberts is the pastor. The triplets attended junior church under the leadership of Mother Leola Haynes, director; Deaconess Sharon Greene-Gaines; Deaconess Pamela Green-Jones and Tom West. They have helped with many volunteer hours at the youth group of the church. Other community activities include Top Teens of America, Toledo Chapter and the Toledo Club NBPW Youth Group. The triplets will be attending The University of Toledo Medical College in the fall.