A Fatherhood Initiative Celebration

TPS Superintendent Romules Durant, Pastors LeRoy Williams and Jerome Graham
Prisonomics

By Rev. Donald L. Perryman, D.Min.
The Truth Contributor

... Capitalism was built on the exploitation of black slaves, and continues to thrive on the exploitation of the poor, both black and white, both here and abroad

— Martin Luther King, Jr.

The Lucas County commissioners and their consultants continue to evaluate potential sites for the construction of a new Lucas County jail after being made aware of “restrictions” which do not allow them to build at their preferred site located at Central Avenue at Jeep Parkway.

To the surprise of the commissioners and several members of the Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority, an “agreement” with the developer of the Overland Industrial Park exists that restricts usage of the land at the old 111-acre former Jeep factory site to manufacturing and manufacturing-related uses. The project to construct a more modern and humane low-rise jail facility with a 600-bed capacity will require anywhere between 10 and 20 acres of land.

The decisions surrounding the construction of the new jail in Toledo are taking place under the radar and little attention is being paid to the costs, dynamics and damaging collateral effects of incarceration.

More than 2.4 million men, women and children are incarcerated in nearly 5,000 custodial institutions throughout the United States, the overwhelming majority for low-level drug sales or possession. Of these 2.4 million offenders, approximately 800,000 individuals are housed in local jails, awaiting trial, sentencing or serving short-term periods of confinement of less than 12 months.

The United States now employs approximately 750,000 men and women and spends more than $60 billion annually on corrections. When budget items for local law enforcement, courts, legal, community supervision, i.e. probation departments and other related staff and facilities, are added in, the criminal justice system appears to have replaced the manufacturing sector to perhaps become the largest segment of our economy.

However, here is the rub.

It is well known that in many states, investment in corrections exceeds that to educate our college-age citizens. Increasing spending in jails and prison often requires us to, in effect, disinvest or withdraw money from educational and other institutions that transmit knowledge and skills necessary for building and developing social capital that empowers rather than excludes young people of color from the mainstream.

The process driving this economic boom requires locking up ever-increasing numbers of young black men from impoverished neighborhoods. The concentration of urban young black males is so extreme that we automatically experience fear of every young man we encounter and assume that each has a criminal record.

Mass incarceration, while having a small or negligible impact on crime, has become so salient in impoverished communities that inner city youth are “more likely to know someone who has been involved in the criminal justice system than to know someone who is employed in a profession, such as law or medicine.”

The damage to these poor communities is troubling.

The cycling of young blacks through the prison system makes going to prison an acceptable and common way of life in poor communities or neighborhoods. The children of this “prison generation” grow up angry and defiant in families “hardly ever without a son, uncle, or father who has done prison time.”

Perhaps the most troubling aspect of this new economy of the prison is its regressive, redistributive process which diverts and redirects resources and opportunities away from disadvantaged communities and the children and families who live there to majority communities who already possess relative advantages.

As Lucas County and its consultants evaluate potential sites for new jail construction, they have a moral obligation to re-effectively look at the comparatively...
TPS, Private Concern to Split Head Start Funding

By Kevin Milliken
Sojourner’s Truth Reporter

Toledo Public Schools (TPS) and Pittsburgh-based Brightside Academy will split some $13 million in federal Head Start funding to serve an estimated 1,600 children across Lucas County with a preschool program and a new-to-Toledo initiative called Early Head Start, which focuses on children between birth and three years of age.

The TPS share of the five-year grant will be $8.1 million. TPS partnered with the Lucas County Family Council, which will assist with Early Head Start, and WSOS, a community action agency that has run Head Start in four northwest Ohio counties since the federal preschool program’s inception in 1965.

The TPS portion of the grant will to serve 1,126 children. Brightside Academy will receive just under $5 million to serve an additional 455 children. The aim is to better prepare TPS students and other children for kindergarten. The revised program will begin in August.

“The best intervention is prevention—by getting involved with our students at an early age,” said Romules Durant, Ed.D, TPS superintendent.

“We needed to stem the tide of a lack of preparedness that some students, because of their economic situation, just didn’t have the access to the preschool advantages of some of their peers in other parts of the community have,” said Cecelia Adams, Ph.D, TPS board president.

Durant indicated school district officials would meet with Brightside Academy representatives in mid-June to determine which entity would serve which zip codes in the county. Durant stated TPS invited Brightside to join its proposal for competitive funding, but the privately-owned education company declined.

Head Start programs won’t be located just at TPS schools or central-city facilities. WSOS will provide other school districts will have at least one site for income-eligible preschoolers, including Washington Local, Maumee and Springfield.

The Family Council will work with infants, toddlers, and pregnant mothers. TPS will locate Head Start sites at the Summit Street YMCA, existing TPS preschools, and several elementary schools, such as McGtuge. Another 200 students will attend private child-care providers that qualify by having at least three stars in the Step Up to Quality state ranking system.

The collaborative Head Start model will offer “wraparound” services, including healthy meals and medical care for Lucas County’s children, as well as education for parents so they can take steps towards self-sufficiency.

The federal Dept. of Health and Human Services (HHS) put in a competitive bidding process for Head Start in 2011, which placed former provider Economic Opportunity Planning Association (EOPA) against TPS. However, neither group’s proposal was selected.

Instead, HHS selected Denver-based Community Development Institute (CDI) to run Head Start during a second round of bidding. CDI plans to lay off most of its 280 employees by the end of July. TPS, WSOS, and Family Council officials plan to hire about 110 people over the summer.

“We’ve been trying to get the Head Start grant since 2011 and politics got in the way,” said TPS board member Lisa Sobecki.

Preschool teachers to be hired will be required to have at least a bachelor’s degree in early childhood education and assistant teachers must have at least an associate’s degree in early childhood education.

“We do that because we believe the children who qualify or Head Start are the most at-risk and, statistically, have the most to lose,” said Amy Allen, Ph.D, a UT professor who will head TPS preschool and special education programs. “They need and deserve the best we have to offer and that is what we intend to give them.”

The TPS-based collaborative will be part of an HHS pilot project, which expands Head Start from birth to five years. The program will serve children longer, but fewer will be accepted into the program. TPS board members lamented that 7,000 kids are eligible for Head Start programing in Lucas County, but the majority won’t be served.

“We’re going to have to pick and choose, through eligibility requirements, as to who gets to take advantage of this opportunity,” said Bob Vasquez, TPS board member. “It’s bothersome to me there are so many children not able to be afforded this opportunity.”

Durant indicated meetings already are set up in search of more community-based funding to serve more children. Some TPS board members also raised concerns over whether the district’s general fund would have to be tapped in order to provide Head Start services. The superintendent admitted that could be a possibility at a future date.

“We have a collective problem that is going to take a collective solution and a collective effort of multiple agencies to come to this solution and have a collective impact,” he said.

“We should be looking toward universal pre-K across the county,” said TPS board member Polly Taylor-Gerken.

Perryman... continued from page 2

sons between the communities from which prisoners typically come from and the locations of the new jail settings to which they will go.

One thing is known. New structures of opportunity will be created around the project as the construction and operation of the jail will spur development of multiple offshoot small businesses in the neighborhood as well as add new jobs and additional construction and jail employment. New social networks will also evolve to provide points of access into the “new economy of the prison.”

If Lucas County is serious and sensitive to the needs of all of its residents, then they will understand the injustice of supplying the economy of the new jail disproportionately from disadvantaged minority communities without reinvesting into these same communities that have been devastated by policies dependent on more black and brown arrests to keep up the revenues necessary to support jail operations.

If public dollars are to be invested in the local prison industrial complex, then surely this investment must benefit poor communities of color rather than continuing to exploit them.

Contact Rev. Donald Perryman, D.Min, at drdperryman@centerofhopebaptist.org
Local Agencies Collaborate for Fatherhood Initiative Celebration

By Artisha S Lawson
Sojourner’s Truth Reporter

Lucas Metropolitan Housing Authority (LMHA) and the Frederick Douglass Community Association collaborated to sponsor the 2014 LMHA Family Self-sufficiency Program’s Fatherhood Initiative 2014 celebration.

The festivities welcomed over 150 youth, parents and community leaders on Saturday, June 14 at the Frederick Douglass Community Association. The opportunity was also provided for local vendors to connect with residents, including: Boy Scouts of America, Erie Shores Council, City of Toledo Fire and Rescue Department, East Toledo Family Center, Exactcare Pharmacy, Hot 97.3 FM radio station, Josh Project, Local Initiatives Support Corporation, Molina Healthcare, Neighborhood Health Association, Pathway, Prevent Blindness, The Source, Toledo Fair Housing Center and YMCA Fun Bus.

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TPS Superintendent Romules Durant, Pastors LeRoy Williams and Jerome Graham

African Art Has Arrived!!
Hundreds of wood carvings from Ghana have recently arrived at The Truth Gallery – masks, statues, village scenes! All at unbelievably low prices!

The Gallery is open Monday through Friday from 8 AM to 4 PM
See more art online at www.thetruthtoledo.com

The Truth Gallery
1811 Adams Street
419-242-7650
June 18, 2014

The Sojourner’s Truth

Celebration.. continued from page 4

“This is an annual event that LMHA sponsors, and this year we joined in partnership with the Frederick Douglass Center. They were kind to extend their facility for this event. It’s an initiative to acknowledge fathers and father figures in the household, and celebration of family. We wanted to bring fun, activities, and community information together today,” explained Vanessa Street, LMHC.

The Fatherhood Initiative celebration focuses on honoring Toledo fathers and supporting male involvement in the lives of their children, utilizing the theme, “Reconnecting Fathers and Dads.” The initiative is connected to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development’s program.

The 2014 Toledo-area community Fatherhood Initiative celebration supporters were: COM-MEXX, Dairy Queen, Express Youself Hair Salon, Fifth Third Bank, Foodtown, Honey Baked Ham, Latrina’s Salon of Beaute, Lowe’s, Mercy Health Partners, Metroparks Toledo area, Michael’s Old Navy, Operationz Barber Shop, Skyway Financial, Splash Universe Water Park-Resorts Toledo, TARTA, The Butterfly House, Toledo Mud Hens, Toledo Walleye, Toledo Zoo, University of Akron, and Wal-Mart.

“Today, I’m representing Toledo public schools but ultimately the program we run YMOE and YWOE is a dear opportunity if fathers are not in the home or father figure is not present. This is an opportunity to get involved in our program which we will provide the assistance. Also more importantly, the assistance of peer-to-peer support which is more impactful on today’s youth. We encourage our parents to maintain a presence, particularly fathers and the impact that they have. My father has a huge impact on my life and I’m giving a little bit of my father to each child,” shared Romules Durant, PhD, TPS Superintendent.

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Summer Food Service Programs: Ensuring Ohio Children Don’t Go Hungry

By U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown

Guest Column

With so many families struggling to make ends meet, many Ohio children are living in “food insecure” households, where parents don’t always have the resources to provide enough healthy food for their families.

During the 2012-2013 school year, 630,000 Ohio children daily received free or reduced-priced school lunches through the National School Lunch Program, ensuring their healthy development and easing the burden on their families. When schools close for summer, however, these families are left wondering how to continue to provide meals for their children. Fortunately, through the Summer Food Service Program, children can receive breakfast, lunch, or a snack at sites across Ohio.

The Summer Food Service Program, a joint venture of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Ohio Department of Education, provides a critical resource to families who need assistance feeding their children but many families don’t know it’s available. Right now, these sites are underutilized.

Last summer, only 66,000 Ohio children daily participated in the program, compared to the hundreds of thousands who do so during the school year. Food security doesn’t increase simply because it is summer. What this means is that children are going without. And that is unacceptable.

If you find that your children need meal assistance, I urge you to participate in this program. You can also be a resource to your friends and neighbors, helping raise awareness about the nearly 1,700 summer camps, schools, churches, synagogues, pools and recreation centers, and other organizations that host Summer Feeding Program sites in Ohio.

Healthy, well-fed children are essential to a strong community and we must ensure that children have the resources they need to thrive both while during the school-year and on summer break.

To find a Summer Food Service Program in your county, please visit https://oh.cnpcares.com/summer/SfspFoodServByCnty.asp. Families can also call the National Hunger Hotline at 1-866-3HUNGRY for assistance in English and 1-877-8HAMBRE for assistance in Spanish.

Social Security Column

Retirement is A Big Decision

By Phil Walton

Social Security Manager in Toledo, OH

If you believe in going all the way or not going at all, there’s a day to celebrate your extreme ways. July 26 is All or Nothing Day. Not a day for the undecided, All or Nothing Day is dedicated to the idea of making decisions and plunging in. Whether it’s overcoming an agonizing fear, trying something you’ve always wanted to try, or making a big decision and seeing it through, All or Nothing Day is your chance to make it happen.

All or Nothing Day is a great day to think about your retirement—whether it’s right in front of you or looming on the horizon. When is the right time for you to retire? Choosing when to retire is an important decision, but it’s also a personal choice and one you should carefully consider. There is no one-size-fits-all answer. Social Security offers a list of factors to consider in the publication, *When to Start Receiving Retirement Benefits*, available at www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs.

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Debunking the Myths about Homeownership

As a result of the recent housing crisis, many potential homebuyers, especially first-timers, are hesitant to enter the market. But if you’re holding back, evaluate why. Experts say your reasons may be based on myth.

“Buying a home is more affordable than ever for families with stable incomes and good credit,” says Christina Boyle, Vice President and Head of Single-Family Sourcing & Relationship Management, at Freddie Mac.

So before ruling out homeownership, get the facts. Boyle is offering some tips to help you sort fact from fiction.

• Myth: I need to make a big down payment, as much as 20 percent, to get a mortgage.

• Fact: A 20 percent down payment is not the golden rule. Generally you should expect to put down about five or 10 percent. Note however, you may be required to pay mortgage insurance if you make a down payment of less than 20 percent.

So while it’s true that getting a mortgage today requires a stronger credit history than in past years, you don’t need perfect credit. Keep in mind though, that the higher your score, the more options you have when looking for a mortgage.

• Myth: I don’t make enough money to own a home so I plan to rent for the long-term.

• Fact: In many areas of the country, it is more affordable to own a home than rent one, especially as rents are rising fast. With a 30-year fixed-rate mortgage, you’ll have the certainty of knowing what your mortgage payment will be for 30 years, whereas rents could continue to rise.

Despite these facts, note that homeownership is not necessarily the right step for everyone. If you move frequently or don’t have time for home maintenance, renting might make more sense for your lifestyle.

• Myth: Mortgage rates are rising too fast and I’ve missed the window of opportunity to buy.

• Fact: While mortgage rates have risen over the past year, they are still at near historic lows, with a 30-year fixed mortgage under 4.5 percent at the start of 2014.
In a quaint garage on a quiet street in a beautiful and serene subdivision on the outskirts of Toledo, Ohio, inconspicuously lies the home of Toledo’s newest craft brewery. This is no ordinary brewery; however, this is the home of the first minority-operated brewery in the city and, quite possibly, the state. On Friday the 13th, we were fortunate enough to sit down and enjoy a beer with Toledo’s newest craft brewer: Chris Harris of Black Frog Brewery.

Black Frog Brewery is the newest edition to the craft beer scene in Toledo. In the very recent months, Toledo’s beer scene has really begun to take shape and catch up to neighboring Cleveland, Columbus and Cincinnati. With breweries such as Maumee Bay Brewing Company, Great Black Swamp Brewing Company, and the coming-soon Black Cloister Brewing Company, Black Frog Brewery will be welcomed into a community that is primed and eager for even more amazing craft beer.

For better or for worse (you can be the judge), one of the defining features of Black Frog Brewery, aside from the fantastic beers they brew, is the fact that Black Frog will be the first minority owned and operated craft brewery in Toledo — and quite possibly the entire state of Ohio. Chris Harris, owner of Black Frog, will immediately be placed into the extremely exclusive group of minorities and people of color who own, operate and brew beer on a professional level.

Chris Harris, a veteran of the United States Armed Forces, is truly the American Dream for so many home brewers. His beginnings into the art and craft of brewing beer were truly humble. Harris began his brewing journey on the user-friendly Mr. Beer Kit.

Harris’s Humble Brewing Beginnings Started on a Mr. Beer Kit.

The moment his taste buds encountered his homemade creation, he was hooked. He instantly started upgrading his system and began brewing every chance he could; experimenting and tinkering with recipes all the while. Co-workers began sampling his beer and requesting more and more of it; so much that he began wondering if he could translate his passion of home brewing into a legitimate profession.

As we sat with Harris hared some of his brews with us – his very special cream ale – which was quite delicious on a beautiful summer evening. Harris just recently took the plunge: filing paperwork, buying a brand new Blichmann System - Black Frog’s Blichmann Brewing System – and, most importantly, hand-construction his nano-brewery with the help of his father, in quiet Holland, Ohio.

We talked at length about the importance of his status as a minority entering the world of craft beer. His minority status is, in part, the foundation of his brewery’s name – Black Frog.

One point in our conversation, Harris turned the interview tables on us and said “Let me ask YOU - Why do you think I named my company Black Frog?”

We sort of sheepishly and nervously answered “Well, Toledo is the Black Swamp…we are ... continued on page 9
called Frog Town...and...well...you’re black...” We all shared a laugh and he excitedly confirmed our hypothesis. He wanted to integrate all of the local culture and history of Toledo with his minority status in an attempt to create an all-encompassing company – which we thought was a great homage to both the city and his identity.

You will notice on the Black Frog Brewery logo that there are honey bees in addition to the frog. Another interesting twist to make Black Frog Brewery unique is that every recipe (Chris Harris emphasized ‘EVERY’) will integrate honey! That is sure to be a sweet spin on his brews! (Sorry, I had to.)

It is not debatable that craft beer, for whatever reason, is dominated by white males. In fact, we discussed with Harris a previous article we had written concerning WHO is the Craft Beer Drinker and why he thinks the environment in craft beer is the way that it is. We also discussed how NPR wrote a fantastic piece on the topic, which highlighted the fact that there are only a handful of people of color who are professionally involved in craft beer.

Michael Ferguson of BJ’s Restaurants, Andres Araya of 5 Rabbit in Chicago, Omar Ansari of Surly, and just a few more, round up the minorities that represent professional craft beer.

We find that so striking and so critically important to discuss, and Chris Harris had some fantastic insight on the matter. He carefully and respectfully postulated that the reasons for the lack of minority involvement in craft beer may be a lack of knowledge of craft beer.

We acknowledged that African Americans do indeed enjoy beer, but many African Americans (especially those living within inner-city areas) quite literally do not have access to craft beer. Most carry-outs that serve the inner city do not stock their shelves with craft brews, and craft beer, typically, is not really targeted or marketed to the inner-city population.

Harris also acknowledged the socio-economic factors that could potentially distance minorities from craft beer: craft beer sells at a higher price-point than many other beers, and many families and individuals of color (again, especially in inner-city communities) simply do not have the monetary access to higher quality beer.

We asked if he had any unique strategies to market inner-city populations. While he did have some interesting ideas (farmer’s markets, festivals, inner-city bars, etc) we had a laughable moment when Harris jokingly exclaimed that just because he is a minority does not mean he will be brewing malt liquor and distributing in 40-ounce bottles.

Some beer drinkers state “Beer is Beer, everyone can enjoy it.” While true, we feel that statement is ignoring the issue at hand. What is it about craft beer that is so ethnically homogenous and so (assumption-ly) unintentionally exclusive to white males? If you have a response to this, please leave a comment on our website.

One of the best sentiments Chris Harris shared with us was the opportunity he has as an African-American brewer to reach an entire new audience of beer drinkers and bring them into the craft beer community. He feels that the craft beer scene at large will benefit from inviting new types of people to the bar, and that when the environment becomes more diverse, everybody wins from a business and consumer standpoint.

Though Chris Harris and Black Frog Brewery are still in the planning stages – and he has an incredibly busy summer ahead of him – we truly feel that he has a great chance to be a major influence in not only the Toledo craft beer scene, but the craft beer scene throughout America.

Ed. Note: Cory Smith and Ron DeGregorio may be contacted at their website – www.brewreview-crew.com.
Toledo SOUP is Coconuts for Community Improvement!

Summer luau event will raise funds for local projects

Area leaders, visionaries and community members will come together to fund local change at Toledo SOUP’s Summer Luau on Sunday, June 22, 2014.

The event will take place at the Madison Avenue Collective, located at 1600 Madison Ave. 2nd Floor in Toledo, from 5-8 pm.

The attendance fee/donation is $5 for adults and $1 for children 12 and under. Each guest will receive one vote for their favorite community initiative, as well as a complimentary meal of soup, salad and bread from area chefs, including Andrew Ruiz from the Toledo Museum of Art.

Proposals for this season’s grant that were evaluated by a panel of judges featuring:

- Bob Meeker - financial advisor at Edward Jones and board member of the Libbey House Foundation, Arts Commission of Greater Toledo, Red Cross of Greater Toledo and Anne Grady Services
- Peter Ujvagi - county administrator and chief of public policy and Legislative Affairs for Lucas County and board member of the Hungarian Club of Greater Toledo
- Lisa Lawrence - operations coordinator at Local Initiative Support Corporation
- Kimberly Cuter - deputy director of Local Initiatives Support Corporation
- Paula Hicks-Hudson - Toledo city council president and attorney

Judges selected the following proposals to be presented at the Toledo SOUP event.

- Jean Schoen: Someone I Know Has Cancer
  Her team wrote and illustrated a book for young children that explains cancer and the treatment process in terms the kids can understand. They’ve also developed a coordinating education program, and are looking for funding to visit local schools, Scout troops and cancer centers.
- Sonya Williams & Brandy Fuller: FDCA Late Night Basketball
  This program is offered to Toledo young adults aged 16-28. It provides a safe, positive outlet for inner-city youth and encourages teamwork, acceptance, self-confidence and responsibility. They’re seeking funding for equipment and supplies.
- Viviana Esquivel: East Side Art Studio
  This project will provide exciting art experiences to children at an East Toledo child care center. Kids will explore the work of great artists and create their own art using various media and techniques. The summer-long program will culminate with a gallery show open to parents and the public. They’re seeking funding for art supplies.

Each attendee will get to vote for their favorite proposal, and the winning presenter will be awarded all the funds raised during the evening’s event, typically around $500.

Past Toledo SOUP events have benefited Glass City Goat Girls - building a fence for their urban goat farm; New Life Outlets - helping women transition out of human trafficking and away from domestic violence; Art Around - providing creative and educational art activities for area youth; and Glass City Pedicabs - Toledo’s first 100% green transportation company.

About Toledo SOUP
Toledo SOUP is a crowd-fund ing opportunity for community members to contribute or enact small-dollar projects that positively impact the Toledo-area community.

How SOUP! works:
1. Put $5 in a basket.
2. Eat soup.
3. Listen to proposals while you eat soup.
4. Vote on the proposals you listened to while eating soup.
5. Top vote-getter leaves with everyone’s $5 contribution to the basket.

For more information, visit us online at ToledoSOUPl.com.

Put Your Proposals To The Test
If I could do/have/see/create/change _______ in Toledo it would be...

Toledo SOUP can help make your community-minded dream come true. If you have a project that needs funding ($500-$1000) to become a reality, a Toledo SOUP micro-grant could help. We welcome anyone living or working in northwest Ohio to submit a proposal.

It’s time to stop thinking about making a difference, and put your ideas onto (virtual) paper. We’re talking to you small business owners. And you, non-profit directors. And we’d love to hear from all of those talented high school and college students with dreams and goals for Toledo, too. Artists, musicians, activists, teachers, coaches, friends, neighbors, we know you all have ideas worth sharing, and possibly funding as well. That’s why Toledo SOUP proposals are open to anyone in the community.

Toledo SOUP welcomes every type of idea, whether it’s creative and artistic or serves an overlooked need in our community. Proposals from new and long-time supporters of Toledo SOUP will be accepted, so feel free to submit new initiatives. Or, if you have submitted an idea in the past but did not get asked to present, feel free to make any changes to your earlier proposal and re-submit.

If you have any questions about writing or submitting a proposal, just contact us at toledosoup@gmail.com.
June 18, 2014

The Sojourner’s Truth

The Man from Essence: Creating a Magazine for Black Women by Edward Lewis with Audrey Edwards, foreword by Camille O. Cosby

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

The Truth Contributor

It’s never been done before. It’s never been done, it’s never been tried. Maybe it’s never been thought of, either, but that hasn’t stopped you. Once a valid idea pops into your head, it’s not long before the idea becomes more.

You’ve been around long enough to know, however, that the road to success can be paved with spikes and nothing ever happens smoothly. In The Man from Essence by Edward Lewis (with Audrey Edwards), you’ll see that that phenomenon crosses all industries.

By age 28, Edward Lewis had already endured his share of awkwardness: he’d lost a football scholarship at one college and had flunked out of law school at another. He was, however, able to find and keep a good job at a major bank in Manhattan, which led to an opportunity that would “transform” his life.

The vice president of a New York investment firm invited a “bunch of… young bloods” to a think-tank meeting, promising them financing if they came up with a business idea that would work. One of the attendees mentioned that his mother always dreamed of a magazine specifically for “Negro” women and, offhandedly, the investment VP paired him and two others with Lewis, who knew “something about finance.”

Eager to own their own business, the four men — Clarence Smith, Jonathan Blount, Cecil Hollingsworth, and Lewis — set up a partnership in March, 1969, and began looking for an editor for their new magazine, even though they “knew a little more than zip about Negro women and the consumer market…they comprised.”

There was, of course, a learning curve — including a disastrous almost-name of the magazine, staffing problems and many wars of words — but in the spring of 1970, Essence magazine debuted. Despite an initial problem with funding, a revolving editorial door, plenty of in-fighting, lawsuits, ousting of partners, and “out-of-control behavior,” the magazine thrives with a readership that today “remains ever faithful.” And of the original four partners, Lewis was the “last man standing” when Essence Communications Inc. was sold to Time Warner in 2008.

This story of a magazine as told by The Man from Essence is a good one. It’s filled with advice, insight, and hot-button gossip, but that’s not all. It also includes stories about people who probably won’t like those stories told.

Indeed, author Edward Lewis (with Audrey Edwards) leaves nothing unsaid in this business memoir and I found that completely irresistible. Here, readers learn a bit of background on what it takes to launch a successful magazine — what to do and definitely what not to do — and we get a behind-the-scenes taste of a business like this. Along the way, Lewis gives us a sense of the times and attitudes in which this iconic magazine was launched and incubated, which is both entertaining and informative.

That makes this book a nice surprise, and not just for fans of the magazine. If you’re up for an advice-dispensing business biography that also dishes dirt, in fact, The Man from Essence is a book to try.
Your wallet is almost totally empty.

The same goes for your checkbook. There were two credit card bills in yesterday’s mail, you owe your neighbor ten bucks, and if you had a savings account… well, let’s just say you don’t much.

You work hard, you reach for your dreams, but you still can’t seem to catch a break – which means you’re doing it all wrong, says Dennis Kimbro in his new book *The Wealth Choice*.

This morning, you decided what you were going to have for breakfast and what you’d wear all day. You chose when to leave the house and where to go – but did you choose to be wealthy?

That’s an important thing, says Kimbro. It’s a decision you “must make” in order to control your life and seize opportunity. And yes, there are opportunities to be had; you just have to be on the lookout for them.

“Riches,” says Kimbro, “are lying everywhere for the observant eye.”

In order to find them, though, you’ll need to think and act like a millionaire, and two of the “common factors” Kimbro discovered about black millionaires are their “relentless commitment to lifelong learning” and their focus on a purpose in life.

Millionaires also utilize their unique strengths to “master whatever field [they] enter.” They’re self-starters with “grit” and a strong work ethic, inquisitiveness, and they understand that ideas have power. They practice thrift, salesmanship, and spirituality. And for them, failure is not an option.

To step on your own personal path to wealth, learn how to “add value” – not only for your customers but for employees and your community at large. Be an optimist. Read all that you can to educate yourself (and to set an example: recent studies show that nearly half of black 17-year-olds are “functionally illiterate”). Understand that looking rich and being rich are often two vastly different things. Don’t be afraid of work; in fact, love your work and stop being afraid of Mondays.

Learn how to network and how to stop wasting time. Practice Praise. Believe in yourself, know who you are, and play up your strengths. Invest in yourself.

And finally, own your own business: that, says Kimbro, is one of the major “laws” of wealth.

Tired of nothing but dust in your wallet? Sick of paying with pennies? Then crack open *The Wealth Choice* just about anywhere, and get ready for real change.

With dozens and dozens of anecdotes and examples (including his own), author Dennis Kimbro explains how millionaires are made – and not just monetarily. Because he tends to repeat himself in various ways, readers get a hard examination of attitudes and traits of the wealthy, making it nearly impossible to avoid assimilation of these habits.

And that’s good because, really, who doesn’t want to be successful?

Though it’s written mostly for the benefit of African-American readers, this book can certainly be utilized by anyone. If you want to be one of the thousands of millionaires around the world today, *The Wealth Choice* won’t leave you empty.
The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), formerly called food stamps, allows those who qualify to receive
the Ohio Direction Card, which can be used to buy food. Eligibility depends on income.

Prescreening and application assistance will be available at the following places in Lucas and Wood Counties. If you are having difficulty buying food for yourself or your family, consider applying for SNAP. Toledo Area Ministries SNAP case managers will be glad to assist you. If you cannot attend on one of the listed dates or need additional information, please call 419-654-4744.

Contact: Glenna Berres, SNAP Case Manager 419-654-4744 gberres@tamohio.org.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, July 01, 2014</td>
<td>Zion UMC</td>
<td>10926 Maumee, Whitehouse, OH</td>
<td>9:30-10:30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, July 01, 2014</td>
<td>Owns Community College Food Pantry</td>
<td>30335 Oregon Rd, Perrysburg, OH</td>
<td>11:00-12:00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, July 02, 2014</td>
<td>Way Library</td>
<td>101 E Indiana, Perrysburg</td>
<td>11:00-12:00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, July 02, 2014</td>
<td>Trilby United Methodist</td>
<td>5918 Secor, Toledo, OH 43623</td>
<td>12:00-1:00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, July 03, 2014</td>
<td>Pilgrim Church</td>
<td>1375 W Sylvania, Toledo, OH 43612-13</td>
<td>9:00-11:00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, July 07, 2014</td>
<td>Pemberville Library</td>
<td>375 E Front, Pemberville, OH</td>
<td>1:00-2:00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, July 08, 2014</td>
<td>Washington Library</td>
<td>5560 Harvest Lane, Toledo, OH</td>
<td>11:00-12:00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, July 08, 2014</td>
<td>South Library</td>
<td>1736 Broadway, Toledo, Ohio</td>
<td>3:00-4:00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, July 09, 2014</td>
<td>St Lucas Lutheran Church</td>
<td>745 Walbridge, Toledo, OH</td>
<td>11:30-12:30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, July 11, 2014</td>
<td>Augsburg Lutheran</td>
<td>1342 W Sylvania, Toledo, OH 43612-13</td>
<td>9:30-10:30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, July 11, 2014</td>
<td>Flower Market</td>
<td>3890 Monroe, Toledo, OH</td>
<td>2:00-4:00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, July 14, 2014</td>
<td>Walbridge Senior Center</td>
<td>705 N Main Street, Walbridge, OH 43465</td>
<td>11:30-12:30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, July 15, 2014</td>
<td>Kent Library</td>
<td>3101 Collingwood, Toledo, OH</td>
<td>11:30-12:30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, July 15, 2014</td>
<td>Whitehouse Library</td>
<td>10651 Waterville, Whitehouse</td>
<td>3:00-4:00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, July 16, 2014</td>
<td>Our Lady of Lourdes</td>
<td>6145 Hill Avenue</td>
<td>10:30-11:30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, July 17, 2014</td>
<td>Mustard Seed</td>
<td>5420 302nd, Toledo, OH 43611</td>
<td>10:00-12:00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, July 17, 2014</td>
<td>Hunt Senior Center</td>
<td>2121 Garden Lake Parkway, Toledo 43614</td>
<td>12:00-1:00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, July 18, 2014</td>
<td>Mayores Senior Center</td>
<td>2 Aurora L Gonzales Drive, Toledo, Ohio</td>
<td>9:00-10:00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, July 18, 2014</td>
<td>Salem Lutheran</td>
<td>1127 N Huron, Toledo, OH 43604</td>
<td>9:00-10:30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, July 18, 2014</td>
<td>Troy Senior Center</td>
<td>545 Indiana, Toledo, Ohio</td>
<td>10:30-11:30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, July 18, 2014</td>
<td>Holland Library</td>
<td>1032 S McCord, Holland, OH</td>
<td>12:00-1:00</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Toledo Refining Company has an immediate need for a Rotating Equipment Superintendent. This position will provide leadership, direction, management coordination and functional expertise to the rotating equipment function throughout the refinery.

Principle responsibilities for this position include but are not limited to following:

- This position will be responsible for supervising employees and will be required to demonstrate excellent leadership skills.
- Analyzes work requirements and directs the work of others in the performance of various assigned maintenance duties. Works under a rotating superintendent and moves up to that position to fill absences.
- Provides direction to craftspeople to ensure the highest level of safety, productivity, work quality and reliability is achieved on each assignment.
- Holds safety meetings and audits necessary to achieve safety goals.
- Provides training, development and manages performance of craft employees.
- Assists rotating equipment craftspeople in solving complex equipment problems. Provides a high level of troubleshooting skills.
- Insures compliance with preventative maintenance programs, process safety management and other code requirements.
- Communicates daily activities related to manpower, accomplishments and problem areas to supervision.
- Oversees designated area work activities during unit turnarounds and outages and reports to Turnaround Supervision.
- Performs estimates for maintenance and repair costs.
- Maintains good customer relations and interfaces effectively with vendors to accomplish work goals.
- Manages a large number of projects concurrently.
- Produces work orders, plans daily work assignments and other duties as required.
- Utilizes SAP effectively. Reviews SAP history for timely and accurate entry in SAP.
- This position will be responsible for writing reports, business correspondence, and procedures using Windows-based computer systems.

Candidates must have a High School Diploma or GED. A minimum of 5 years refinery maintenance and supervisory experience is required. Candidates must have a master level proficiency in millwright activities including diagnosis and repair of centrifugal/reciprocating pumps and compressors, gear boxes, fans, blowers, mechanical seals, steam turbines, lube oil and seal oil console equipment and preventive maintenance tasks is required. Knowledge of tolerances and duties related to machinist activities, pipelining, blue print reading, rigging and interaction with instrument/electrical crafts related to rotating equipment is also required. SAP experience is preferred.

All interested candidates may apply by going to www.pbfenergy.com and selecting the Career tab. Once on the career page, candidates can view current job opportunities and apply to desired position.

EOE/M/F/D/V

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- Provides direction to craftspeople to ensure the highest level of safety, productivity, work quality and reliability is achieved on each assignment.
- Holds safety meetings and audits necessary to achieve safety goals.
- Provides training, development and manages performance of supervisors, planners, technicians and craftspeople.
- Assists department in solving complex equipment problems. Provides a high level of troubleshooting skills.
- Insures compliance with preventative maintenance programs, process safety management and other code requirements.
- Communicates daily activities related to manpower, accomplishments and problem areas to management.
- Oversees work activities during unit turnarounds and outages and reports to Turnaround Supervision.
- Develops annual expense and capital budgets for rotating equipment maintenance and projects.
- Maintains good customer relations and interfaces effectively with vendors to accomplish work goals.
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EOE/M/F/D/V
Second Baptist Celebrates 62nd Church Anniversary

Special to The Truth

The congregation of Second Baptist Church of Holland, OH celebrated the church’s 62nd anniversary during the month of June over a three-Sunday period. The theme for the celebration was “We Are the Church” – Ephesians 2: 19-22.

On June 1 the guests were Rev. F. Alexander Sheares and the congregation of Rossford First Baptist, June 8 guests were Bishop Breton Hall and Greater New Psalmist, This past Sunday, June 15, Rev. Clifford Mayes and Macedonian Baptist were the guests.

This year’s event chairman was Sister Nicky Sims and the co-chairman was Mother Emma Brown.

Refreshments were served after all three services at Second Baptist which is under the leadership of Pastor Jerry L. Boose, D.Div.

Currently services are being held at the Spencer Township Neighborhood Center at 330 Oak Terrace Blvd, 43528. Transportation is available. The church invites one and all to come worship at any time.

“The church of a second chance.”

Second Baptist Holds an Informational Fair

Special to The Truth

An informational fair was held on Thursday, June 12 at the Spencer Township Neighborhood Center from 2:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. @ 330 Oak Terrace Blvd., Holland, OH.

This event was presented by the Joint Utility Social Service Committee (JUSSC) and co-sponsored by the Second Baptist Church (SBC) of Holland, OH. Participating agencies included over 25 local Toledo agencies and visitors were able to receive information from utility and social service agencies on programs and services available to our community.

In an interview near the close of this event, Pastor Jerry L. Boose, of Second Baptist made the following comments:

“We want to say we thank God for today. In conjunction with the Joint Utility Social Service Committee and Second Baptist, it was truly a blessing to have over 25 different businesses come out... joining in and assisting, and helping people in every area of their lives. We had a large crowd of people come out and take advantage of this fair.

“This is just one way of us being a blessing to our community, and we just want to thank God for allowing us to be able to do this.

We thank God for all the people that came out to take advantage of these programs.

“We especially thank Ms. Cheryle Wilson and her agency for joining forces with us to be a blessing, as well as all the agencies that played a part in this event. You should keep praying that we continue to do greater things for the kingdom of God. Again we say thank you and God bless.”