

Summer 2011 - 1000 Men Rally Edition

# LIFELINE

MAGAZINE



## Bishop George Bloomer

Sends Ex-Offenders National Summons

**Inside This Issue:**  
Kingdom Take Over  
Black Family Condition: Critical  
Let Us Make Man




**1000 Men Rally  
4 Years Later**

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I need you to join us as we accept the call to “Let us make man.” For years I have read Genesis 1:26 and debated if “us” was a plural connotation. I no longer debate that issue because I accept my responsibility in making man today and ask you to accept yours. It is our responsibility to speak life to man. It is our responsibility to be the window of heaven that pours out the blessing. Malachi 3:10 “Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open YOU the windows of heaven, and pour YOU out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.” Men of God, we are the windows that God desires to open up and pour out. Join us to be opened up, that there may be meat in the house, so in these difficult times our people will not hunger. Don’t build another family life center unless it is going to open every day as a refuge for our young and our elderly. We have to begin to see ourselves as the window. Heaven is not going to open up, except through us. We are the windows of heaven. Inside of us is the blessing for man. When we don’t do what we can do to help men become what they have been called to be, “We are pouring water on a drowning man.” I don’t want to be guilty of that, so stand with us as we make man.

On behalf of the entire staff of Line-Line Magazine “Thank you for choosing our publication.

The Publisher,

*Gregory L. James*  
Gregory L. James

## Publisher’s Notes

Dear Readers:

It is in a state of urgency that I write this greeting to you. I am sitting in a court room in Gadsden County with a man who has been sentenced to life in prison. He has been locked away since age 18 and now he is almost 40. As I watch him enter the court room, I see something familiar. I see *Hopelessness* fighting with *Hope*. I see *Fear* fighting with *Faith*, and I see *Justice* fighting *Injustice*.

Here I sit, and what I hear is “No Vote. No Voice. No Choice”, which I know will be a component of our national platform. Imagine with me for a moment that your right to choose has been snuffed out by one bad choice. Your right to choose has been killed by a gesture of inappropriate behavior. As the publisher of Life Line Magazine, I write this letter in grief, because I want so very much through Christ to help change the condition of man. There are some men we will help to obtain liberties and freedoms both in society and spiritually, but, there are some we will not be able to reach without you. I will not use this portion of the page to give you a glamorized version of accomplishments or an explanation of the 1000 Men Rally. Instead, I am sentenced to petition each of you for your help.

# Kingdom Take Over

By: Pastor Darrick D. McGhee

1000 Men Rally: 4 Years Later

In order for there to be a true “Kingdom Takeover”, we must understand what the Kingdom really is and what the kingdom is not. The Kingdom is greater than any denomination or religion. It is greater than mega-ministries or pastoral personalities. It is greater than sermonic hymns or seminary scholars. It is greater than the size of any Sunday offering or choir. The Kingdom is the spiritual domain over which God is sovereign. The Kingdom paradigm goes beyond the four walls of a building to the world around us. It is a mentality! As we search for answers in the midst of turmoil, nothing seems to resolve the issue. The secure job has ended with a pink slip, the 401k has been reduced, the value of your home has hit rock bottom and all of a sudden everything that was, is no more and the only thing that is remaining is the Kingdom of God. The Kingdom mindset has to become our modus operandi now if we plan to be more than conquerors.



Have you ever studied the basic training requirements for men and women attempting to enter into the life of military service? To a non-military individual, the thought of putting yourself through such demanding drills is ridiculous. However, to the man or woman who is committed to such a life, the drills are approached with the mindset of “if this is what I have to endure to get where I desire to be ... BRING IT ON!” They do not whine about how unrealistic the drills appear. They just dig down and give it their all. They do not ask for leniency; and while the United States Armed Forces prepares to protect us from the enemy invasion from afar, the enemy is still creeping around our homeland. We, the Kingdom minded Christian, wants to resort to the explanation “that God will take care of us.” As long as that manifestation is seen, we are well. But as soon as God desires to stretch us, we quickly rebel. It is because of this rebellion that the Christian impact on our world appears to be bleak. It is this rebellion that causes the fathers to be absent from the homes. It is this rebellion that makes our sons desire

to be next “souljah boy” instead of the next Kingdom soldier. It is this rebellion that has many of our young ladies wanting to be the next “Nikki Minaj” and never becoming the women they have been called to be. With a country that appears to conform to everything contrary to the Christian principles it was established upon, we have strayed far away from the Kingdom agenda.

The question is, how do we go into the enemy’s camp and take back what has been stolen? We need keys. Matthew 16:19 says, “I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven and whatsoever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.” We have the keys that permit and prohibit what happens in the earth. Whatever we prohibit on earth God will prohibit in heaven. Whatever we permit on earth God will permit in heaven. If it’s going wrong it is because we the Christian Believer permit it. We refuse to lock it up. In spite of the tragedies we hear about or the despair we see, I believe we are in the right season for a Kingdom Takeover. Our world is in dire need of this takeover (more than we may ever know). This is a clarion call to the body of Christian believers that it is time for us to get back in our rightful places. No more living beneath what the Lord has declared for us. No more accepting this world’s order and business as usual. It is “Kingdom Takeover Time.” Men, it is time for us to reverse the statistical trends, which say we are an endangered species.

While the statistics appear grimacing, we are in the right season for a Kingdom Takeover. We will takeover all that is not pleasing to Almighty God. We will takeover that which restores the Glory back to its rightful place. We will takeover and shake the very foundation of the world’s belief systems. We will takeover and send the message “for God I live and for God I die!” We will takeover and the father’s face will be back in the family portrait.

**NOW IS THE TIME. WE ARE KINGDOM CITIZENS AND IT IS TIME FOR US TO TAKE BACK WHAT HAS BEEN STOLEN FROM US. THIS IS A CALL TO ALL WHO CARE. IT IS TIME FOR US TO LOCK ARMS AND TAKE BACK WHAT IS RIGHTFULLY GOD-ORDAINED.**

---

Pastor Darrick D. McGhee (affectionately known as Pastor D) is the under-shepherd of the Bible Based Church in Tallahassee, FL. To learn more about Pastor D and to read the daily devotional ministry entitled: Meditation Moments with Minister McGhee®, please visit [www.darrickdmcghee.com](http://www.darrickdmcghee.com). You can also join the Meditation Moments with Minister McGhee® group on Facebook, as well as the Bible Based Church – Tallahassee, FL group on Facebook.



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# 1000 Men Rally: 4 Years Later

It seems like yesterday when God planted in Gregory L. James the vision of the 1000 Men Rally. But, it was not yesterday. It was almost 4 years ago. Since that time the Rally has gone from Walker-Ford Community Center, to the Court House Square of Gadsden County, to Downtown Tallahassee, Florida. Though the locations have changed, the mandate has remained the same; to empower men to take their position in their community, their families, their State, their nation. Some may debate whether there is any significant result from these efforts. Well according to Pastor Gregory James, the visionary; God says, "Yes I am pleased."

"As the 1000 Men Rally celebrates this 4th year in the making, we have to announce to you why the number 4

these same men are now being released from prison," says James. "Men have big shoes to fill; and even bigger when they are ex-offenders. As a Redeemed Ex-offender, nobody can imagine what it is like to be released from prison and then be denied access to basic human rights and opportunities; not unless you have lived it or you are living it. Yes..... I make it look easy, but it is not easy," says James.

You can see the passion of James' desire for the redemption of all men through his eyes, as tears begin to flow down a face that appears to have aged slightly during his 13 years of incarceration. With a pause to compose himself he continues, "it's not just the physical bars of prison and societal restrictions that have strong-



is so significant," says James. Even if I were to look at numbers superficially, I could readily see the significance. However, I look at numbers spiritually and as we tend to see through a dim glass and know only in part, so it has been with the 1000 Men Rally. We only knew in part what God's ultimate plan was for this vision. This number 4 represents universality in the spirit realm", says James. "It is derived from the four directions of the compass being all points, all directions, helping one navigate the four corners of the earth. It is not a coincidence that in this 4th year God would establish a national mandate for a national summons, or that He would shift us from a motivational movement to Ministry, Empowerment & Networking", says James.

The 1000 Men Rally has had several mantras over the years but this year James reports "Let us Make Man" will be the annual mantra from now on. "It's a call to action. The making of man is critical to survival of our families and communities. My calling is to minister to men. I was locked away 13 years with men who were lost, hurting, and uncertain of their present and their future. Some of

held our freedom", says James. "The spirit of man has been confined. We have to free the spirit of man. Man was made in the image of God his mere breath is God's breath," says James. When asked, how then has man allowed so much to come in and present itself contrary to who God says he is? James responded, "deception." "Man has been deceived and that's what the 1000 Men Rally is about. It is about reminding men who they really are. God told man who he was in the beginning. Even after the falter in the Garden of Eden, He did not take man's authority. He added more responsibility. *Let Us Make Man* is a call for all of us to join in and bring man from the ground up, that he may accept responsibility, accountability and walk in the authority he has been given. Man can only do that through Christ. We have to get him to Christ, that is our commitment", says James.

The Annual 1000 Men Rally is held every summer, with the focus being on men, but the beneficiary also being the families and communities.

Visit the [www.1000menrally.com](http://www.1000menrally.com) for more information.

By: Willie Dawkins-Miller





**he spirit of man has been confined. We have to free the spirit of man..."**



**"Man has been deceived and that's what the 1000 Men Rally is about..."**



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# The Critical Condition of the Black Family

By: Dr. Willie Myles

**D**r Willie Myles is an entrepreneur, educator, author and social activist. His primary work is with the Black Community and Black Children. He has a profound interest in evoking meaningful social movements to ameliorate the devastating risk factors, placing Black Children and Black Families at risk.

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In most of my writings, I discuss the deteriorating condition that the Black family is in, however I have yet to see collective efforts to remediate this condition. In all life domains Black children in Black families are in the most deteriorating state. African American babies in the U.S. today are two-and-a-half times more likely to die before their first birthday than white babies. Only three out of 100 Black kindergartners will graduate high school. Black families are 7 times as likely to be persistently poor. Eighty five percent of all children that exhibit behavioral disorders come from fatherless homes. As I began to evaluate the “why us” I have to revisit the issue of the impact of slavery on our condition. I submit to you that once the emancipation proclamation was signed it offered no “transition program or workshop” on what should happen next. As a matter of fact, some of the slaves decided to stay with their masters. Interestingly, slaves were not allowed to read. Today 75% of African American boys are in special education. They are 4 times more as likely to be expelled. Black men suffer far worse health than any other racial group in America. Blacks are twice as likely to be arrested.

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The mass incarceration of Black males has a profound impact on the Black community and the stability of the Black family. Reports state that there are more Black men in prison and on probation than there were enslaved in 1850. What kind of impact does this have on the stability of the Black family? Black men are the foundation to family and serves as the protector and provider. If the protector and provider is locked away...then who protects and who provides? The government designated Uncle Sam

to this role of being the Protector (Housing) and provider (welfare). Most of my conversation has been in regards to Black families and how these families are faring in the midst of difficult times. What many of my colleagues and I agree upon is that we as adults are responsible for the condition that our family and children are in. We have not introduced a sense of history or perspective for them. They do not know who we are, and the rich heritage that gave us the strength to overcome slavery and obtain basic human rights in the 1960's. Some want us to treat slavery as some ancient event. One hundred and fifty years is not so ancient when the effects continue to somehow perpetuate itself in the Black community in 2011. We have failed to emphasize those values of working together, being self sufficient, and supporting the village. It is those values that have helped us to sustain in a nation like America, and obtain the right to be on the playing field, though sometime uneven.

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It is critically important that we take immediate action to cure our condition for the next generation. We must first address their spiritual needs. They must know who God is in the midst of it all. Secondly we must take control of our children's education. We must not depend upon a system to instill family and cultural values and teach our history and heritage. We must take control of our economic direction. We must stop teaching our children to get a good education to work for someone else. We must teach them early to get an education to meet the economic and social goals for the community. We must start eating healthy, because a sick body affects the mind. We must rearrange our social and political priorities. We must not engage in any behavior that would prove detrimental to the well being of our family and our children. No more reports are needed; we simply need to act on what we know and become more accountable for our children, our family and preparation for the next generation. It must start today. That is how CRITICAL the condition of the Black family is. We can no longer delay treatment, less we die.

# 1000 Men Rally salutes 2011 Men Makers

## **Pastor – Bishop Himrod Ambroise**



Senior Pastor-Bishop Himrod Ambroise is the Founder of International Faith Ministries (IFM), Orange, NJ where he has served God and His people since September 2003. Through the leading of the Holy Spirit, Pastor Himrod has developed a people of faith, purpose, destiny and power. IFM is a multi-cultural ministry demonstrating the extraordinary God that knows no boundaries and truly the God who demonstrates in who He calls, He justifies and qualifies; as Himrod Ambroise also serves as an International Prelate.

In only 7 years of Ministry, the anointing of God and the wisdom that can only come from above has used this great man to demonstrate God's power in the earth. The ministry has blossomed from approximately 36 members in 2003 to now over 800 in 2010. Pastor Himrod is relentless in taking God at His Word and watching it manifest, especially in the area of *men's ministry*. He is the trustee for developing strong friendships and accountability among the men of International Faith Ministries through regular gatherings and group interaction, and ultimately builds the character of Jesus Christ into every man who involves himself with the *men's fellowship*. His commitment nationally and internationally is even the more engaged, as he is one of the co-founders and partners of the national support system(s) for ex-offenders and their families, founded by Bishop George Bloomer, and co-founded by Senior Pastor Gregory L. James.

When asked what has been the most effective way to reach other men he responded, "the word of God tells us in Revelations 12:11, *they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony.*"

"It is my testimony, the transparency of sharing who I was and the exposure of who I am now in Christ that renders the effectiveness. It is critical that as men we rely on God to reveal our true identity. That has to be our message. We have the ability to change the world. We may not be able to change the entire world at once but we can change the world one person at a time; and it is time for us to start the change with man", says Ambroise. "That is my commitment. That is what God is requiring of me."

**The 1000 Men Rally salutes Bishop Hamrod Ambroise as a 2011 Men Maker.**

## **Bishop Willie A. Battles, Unity Temple of Deliverance, Williston, FL**



Willie A. Battles, Senior Pastor and Presiding Bishop of Unity Temple of Deliverance, Inc., (UTODI), Williston, Florida is known as a "Watchman" on the wall in the State of Florida. He is a National and International Crusader for the Kingdom of God. He remains humbled by the assignment that God has given him to make man. In Williston, Florida, UTODI is the cornerstone of the community,

known for community development in the area of housing, home ownership, building families, and saving children. These initiatives are fostered through mentoring and intentional outreach, as well as serving as an open door for ex-offenders who are pursuing a new beginning. "We are Unity Temple of Deliverance, Inc., and we live up to that name." says Battles.

"We work together to deliver through Christ a transformative difference in people's lives." His commitment and that of the UTODI family has brought recognition from across the state and the nation. Located in the middle of nowhere in Williston, there is light in the field that can be seen miles away as the glory of God shines through. Battles is committed to job creation. Through his own companies, he has created jobs for many. He is humbled by the entrusted position to be a spiritual father and mentor for men all over this country, Battles who is a licensed electrician and CEO/Owner of his licensed electrical company and several other business ventures says, "through Christ you can have power in the middle of nowhere, and that's what we do; we empower men who think they are in the middle of nowhere." Battles has mentored thousands of men over the years and continues to help many pursue and develop their dreams of entrepreneurship.

**1000 Men Rally salutes Bishop Willie Battles as a 2011 Men Maker**



## Entrepreneur- Lawrence McGriff



“Instead of playing a game, try to create a game” is a quote that 15 year old Shamorey(Morey) Sands is used to hearing. Working in Lawrence McGriff’s All in One Hair Store, this is something that the Leon High student hears on a daily basis. “Each day I get off from work, I take something from it.” Sands said after McGriff introduced him to CNN and MSNBC.

McGriff decided to hire Sands after attending a town hall meeting where Reverend Gregory James spoke to local business owners on hiring at-risk youth to keep them out of the streets. McGriff didn’t waste any time in hiring his youth. He hired Sands in June and hasn’t thought twice about it. Since. “Since he has been working here, he has matured and now is even mentoring my 11 year old son. He has really grasped the concept of “Each one reaches one, teaches one” and makes me proud each day,” McGriff says. “While Morey is at work, I make sure that the television is on MSNB, CNN, and the Bloomberg report. I want him to get into the habit of reading the news and not going on what people tell you,” McGriff tells.

Sands says that the job has changed his life. “I learned how to manage my money, because before I was spending money left and right, and now I have a bank account which helps me track my spending.” Sands says that he doesn’t know how his life

would’ve turned out if McGriff hadn’t stepped in and became his mentor. Sands believes that all students should have a chance like he has been given. “Help us out, not just African Americans, but all races. We all face some of the same problems.” After working at All in One or two months Sands says that if he doesn’t become a NBA player, then he would most likely become a business owner and use the some of the same tactics that McGriff uses.

**1000 Men Rally salute Bro. Lawrence McGriff as a 2011 Men Maker**

## Bishop Victor L. Powell, Rhema Cathedral, Albany GA



“It is known that every man has a journey and even if he is handed a map, most maps do not show where the potholes are in the road. Thus, unexpectedly you hit one or two and suddenly everything is out of alignment.” Bishop Powell believes that is what has happened to man. On his way to destiny he hit a pothole and he just got out of alignment. Everyone knows that potholes are really not that deep, but they are dangerous. They cause problems with suspension, cause accidents, and usually present themselves as invisible until you are just too close to prevent hitting them without swirving out of control.

Bishop Victor L. Powell says that we have to realign man back to his

“son” position. “Along the way he hit a pothole. Somehow on the road to destiny they became fathers and forgot that they were sons. We have to restore fathers back to sons,” says Powell. “The church has to become the surrogate mother and father to all who are lost not just people in the church. The church has to be the surrogate mother and father to the young men who are joining gangs, and dropping out of school, the single mothers, the former offender who is reentering society. The church , which is me and other believers like me, is the key to the reconciliation and realignment of man.” Bishop Powell joined the 1000 Men Rally in 2009, because it correlated with his God given mandate to connect men with Spiritual Fathers. As a Presiding Bishop who has a very poignant prison ministry, he has identified that Black men are imprisoned primarily because they lack the “father piece.” He declares that, “this has nothing to do with the incompetency of the mother but the absence of the father.” Bishop Powell has authored and published training manuals and is an international facilitator for leadership training, prison ministries, parenting and men ministries to name a few. Bishop Powell is known as the *father* of sons across this nation. He has formed male mentoring programs that match men who have hit the potholes with stable men who can help realigned them as sons. When asked what is the message every pastor should be giving men? Bishop Powell replied “God never changed His mind about man. You must understand your original identity. You are the image of God, no matter your past you have been created in the image of God.”

**We salute Bishop Victor L. Powell as a 1000 Men Rally Men Maker.**

# Bishop George Bloomer Sends Ex-Offenders National Summons

By: Gregory L. James

Bishop George Bloomer rushes to respond to Life-Line Magazine's request for an exclusive interview for which he has allotted 30 minutes. It's just past midday and he is scheduled to take a flight in the afternoon, plus go live to announce the new Rejoice Show for the Word Network and then off to the next meeting. In the interim of it all, he appears unshaken by the demands. In an exclusive interview with Life-Line, Bishop Bloomer graciously afforded us a transparent view into his life.

Our first question, how do you do it? The inquiry was satisfied with a familiar scripture; "Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee and before thou camest forth out of the womb, I sanctified thee, and ordained thee a prophet unto nations....." Jeremiah 1:5. "That's what He said to me," says Bloomer. That's what God said to George "the then gangster, drug abusing" Bloomer. He ordained me of all people. He chose me. He even gave me my name "George."

"Since I only learned to read about 16 years ago what my name meant didn't mean anything to me. Then one day with all this technology, I decided to seek explanation of why would my mother give me the name

"George." I searched and there it was "George," meaning farmer, also George was also known as a knight who became a patron saint of England and achieved legendary status through the medieval story of his struggle and fight with the devil. Suddenly Jeremiah 1:5 was made flesh and the real verdict was in; God knows who I am" says Bloomer.

Bishop George G. Bloomer, a native of Brooklyn, New York, has served as an evangelist for fourteen years. His pastorship began in 1996 as the founder and Senior Pastor of Bethel Family Worship Center in Durham, North Carolina. As the Presiding Bishop, he is the founder of Young Witnesses for Christ, a youth evangelistic outreach ministry with several chapters on college campuses throughout the United States; Bishop of C.L.U.R.T. (Come Let Us Reason Together) International Assemblies,

comprised of over 83 churches nationwide and abroad; and founder and publisher of Blooming House Publishers, a Christian publishing company for new authors who find it difficult to get published, yet have a seasoned word from the Lord. Bishop Bloomer holds to his credit a degree of Doctor of Religious Arts in Christian Psychology and is a best-selling author. He is best known as a prophet and "The General of Warfare."

When asked, what does all this mean? Bloomer responded "God has invested in me and he is expecting a return. He gave me the name that means farmer and devil fighter. He equipped me with a name, and He gave me His Word, which is now my spiritual almanac. He has taught me when to plant and when to harvest; how to weed out and how to sow; when to look for rain where to turn when there is no rain." The Gospel of Mark 4:14 says "the farmer sows seeds by taking God's words to others." "I am a sower of seed, but before seed can be sown, I am required to plough. God has required that I prepare the



ground for sowing. As a prophet of God. I am required to break the clods. The prophet represents God metaphorically as the ploughman.

The heart of man is like the "fallow ground", that having once been tilled has lain uncultivated in righteousness, becoming hard obdurate, barren and unfruitful. The ministry of the Word of God is my plough and I the minister am the ploughman. Regardless of the fact that I have been given the title of "*The General of Warfare*," I never steal God's Glory. I acknowledge that God makes the ministrations useful for the convicting of the mind and the heart and the breaking of the heart into pieces. The heart of man is becoming more unsusceptible to seed which means, we have a lot of work to do and we must start with men," says Bloomer.

When asked how does he see man's condition? Bishop Bloomer responded, "fragile." "I know that man's condition is fragile but God has not forsaken or forgotten man. The condition of man is my inspiration for the Ex-Offenders National Summons (ENS). The men of God are serving notice across this nation that we are in position and we are recruiting even more men to become not just watchmen but spiritual wardens. We can no longer work separately but we will begin working in kingdom alliance. The Ex-offender's National Summons is an independent member service, led by Redeemed Ex-Offenders. Our vision is equality for Reformed Ex-Offenders, and empowering them with one voice. There are 5.3 Million people in the United States who are affected by disenfranchisement. It is the goal of ENS to free Ex-Offenders'

liberties & opportunities through the National Summons. The Word says in John 8:36, "If the Son therefore shall make you free you are free indeed." The Redeemed Men of God stand with the Reformed Ex-Offenders and walk with them as they reenter society. It is our commitment to help ensure that more than cell doors open for them. We the Men of God, some who have carried this label "Ex-Offender" are developing not another program, but a *Movement*," Bloomer says.

Bishop George Bloomer reports that it seem like many years ago that he was locked away in New York's notorious Riker's Island Prison. "The prison became my processing chamber the place where the Lord would finally get His "Yes" out of me. Ultimately, all God wants is a yes. Despite the trials and tribulation of my life God placed inside me a fiber of sustainability that only He could have woven. He not only had a plan for my life, He had purpose for my life, even during the episodes of lawlessness and disobedience" Bloomer says.

Bloomer testifies that men who find themselves on the opposite side of the law, and are finally released from prison are released with an expectation from the system that they will be back. "How else can we explain the release granted access denied" concept that is systematically enforced throughout this country?"

When asked why a summons? Bloomer reported, "A summons is a notice sent out by the authority of a government entity. We are the authority in the Kingdom of God and we are serving notice to those making decisions which inhibit ex-offenders' successful re-entry by use of legal discrimination, disenfranchisement and social exclusion and that includes the church. Ex-Offenders' National Summons-ENS is driven by the needs of Ex-offenders and their families. We work to reduce crime first and foremost by overcoming the barriers of

social exclusion, discrimination, and disenfranchisement. These barriers prevent Reformed Ex-offenders from successfully reintegrating into society and thus inhibiting their ability to lead crime free lives. This is a non-partisan, non-political, non-denominational issue and movement. These are human rights issues that adversely affect who we are as a people, living in a free country", says Bloomer.

According to Bloomer, ENS will provide a pathway through the faith base community and serve as a voice for Ex-Offenders, their families and friends to be heard. "We will offer resolutions to the plight of people re-entering society with limited to no way to meet their basic needs or family needs after prison. Though we will address the whole man, ultimately it is about transforming Reformed Ex-Offenders to Redeemed Ex-offenders", says Bloomer.

Bishop Bloomer has committed to take the ENS movement across the nation in collaboration with co-founders Pastor Gregory L. James, Tallahassee, FL and Bishop Himrod Ambrose, Orange, NJ and other Presiding Prelates and Senior Pastors across the nation. As a Messenger of Deliverance, Hope, and Redemption, and his recent acceptance as the Host of the Word Network, he says he believes it is all in divine timing, "I am really excited about every platform God affords me for the purpose of winning souls for Him. We accept our assignment as Spiritual Wardens.....

Join Bishop George Bloomer on Rejoice in the Word Network Friday Nights @8:30pm Eastern. The Word Network is in 80 million homes in America, 200 countries and in several languages.

# WILKERSON:

## Thank God for Goodness & Mercy

By: Willie Dawkins-Miller

“**A**nd calling those things which be not as though they were,” says former Pastor, still Preacher, Revivalist, and Evangelist, Mark J. Wilkerson. “I am not back yet”, says Wilkerson. “But I believe I’m on my way.”

Wilkerson, a pastor of 15 years, who was known as an electrifying expositor of the Word of God, was recently placed on sabbatical. Not because it was what he desired, but what God required. “How many times, have we seen Pastors fall from the throne of grace?” Wilkerson asked. We replay their fall on local, national, and international fronts to find that regardless of the fall, “Being confident of this very thing, that He which has begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ.” When asked of the details of his fall Wilkerson responded “disobedience.” “To give the details in this arena is not appropriate but stay tuned for the testimony”, says Wilkerson.

Wilkerson, who has continued to preach but not Pastor, now sits literally at the right side of Senior Pastor Gregory James of the Life Church International, Tallahassee, Florida. Wilkerson admits that it is not a comfortable seat but a required seat. “I am learning so much about humility and serving and servant leadership, because Gregory James’ heart is service and I lacked that. I was very comfortable with being served. I was accustomed to having the best seat and accustomed to driving the fine cars and wearing the finest suits,” says Wilkerson. “But, God said “Enough!” And He placed me on sabbatical not to write a book or travel, but to “lose weight” because I had gotten too big for my britches, as the old folk would say.”

Wilkerson says, “Sometimes we just get caught up in the entrusted position and we forget we are “Servant Leaders,” not leaders to be served. Surely I

recognize that the positions of Pastor, Presiding Elder, and Bishop carry much responsibility, but I have learned that whatever service we receive, we should be a cup that runneth over. I get it now; when David wrote the 23rd Psalm, He anoints my head with oil, my cup runneth over, surely goodness and mercy shall follow me, I really get it”, professed Wilkerson. “First David is anointed. Then his cup runneth over with the anointing, as a result of the cup running over, goodness and mercy follows because it follows the anointing, not David. I thank God that Goodness and Mercy follows the anointing; because if they had followed me they both would have turned back and I would not be here!”

“I just need people to know that we fall down but we get up; for a righteous man falleth seven times, and riseth up again; but the wicked are overthrown by calamity. I’m not restored yet, because sometimes you have to be demolished before you can be restored. God is still tearing down some stuff in me, but His plans for me are still in view, and goodness and mercy are leading the way,” says Wilkerson.





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## Mutaqee Akbar, PA

### 1000 Men Reclaimer of the Year Award Recipient

By: Gregory L. James

Mutaqee Akbar is more than a brilliant attorney. He is a friend of the community. After gaining an invaluable experience at the Public Defender's Office in West Palm Beach, Florida, Mutaqee Akbar decided to move back home to Tallahassee, Florida to open the Law Office of Mutaqee Akbar, P.A. The Law Office of Mutaqee Akbar, P.A. was established to fight for the freedom, justice and respect of those charged with crimes in and around his home town. In doing so, he has become known as a strong spokesperson for our youth especially those finding themselves on the opposite side of the law. He is passionate about the practice of law and employs law as a change agent to make a difference in society. He believes that law is the mechanism that brings reparation for injustices.

Since the inception of the 1000 Men Rally he has always stood backstage, but yet is the epitome of everything that Reclaiming the Land 1000 Men Rally represents. He is a men maker. He is committed to not only supporting

what we do financially, he has taken cases pro-bono from time to time, and advocates for alternative sentences for youth which vicariously initiates a second chance for those who in many cases would be sentenced to incarceration.

As a cum laude graduate from Morehouse College in 2001, he continued his education at the University Of Miami School Of Law, where he received his Juris Doctorate and graduated Cum laude in 2004. He currently has a law firm both in Leon and Gadsden Counties. It is our distinct honor to salute Attorney Mutaqee Akbar as the 1000 Men Rally Reclaimer of the Year.

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# Navigating the Rough Seas of Re-entry

By: Ramon Foster

“Instead of diving into uncertainty, we have to know that we can make it and allow others to help us navigate”

It's October 2008, just a few weeks after the 1000 Men Rally and Eldrick James has just been released to a work release program. Not knowing where he's going to work, he makes a call to his childhood friend, State Representative Alan Williams, who has recently been working collaboratively as a partner with the 1000 Men Rally an event that was the vision of another childhood friend. William decides to reach out to one of the corporate partners of the 1000 Men Rally 2008, Captain D's owner/operator Terry Gillis, in hopes that his partnership would extend past the events, but would help in the evolution of change.

Now it's August 2011, just a few weeks before the 1000 Men Rally and Eldrick James, the former ex-offender is now the store manager of the Tallahassee Captain D's. “I felt that since I was coming out of prison, I had to work harder than others because people were looking for me to mess up,” James stated. After being hired as a cook, James worked his way up and went through doors he claims were opened for him. “I never gave up hope. I had to overcome odds

because I knew there were people out there looking for me to fail. The key to my successful re-entry was good family, friends, and faith. And to those in prison, stay focused and strong. There are opportunities out here. Keep God first. Keep looking up and looking ahead and everything will work out for you.” James credits both Williams and Gillis for believing in him and giving him the opportunity to succeed.

Terry Gillis, believed in James and wanted to give him and men like him second chances. “I don't believe in giving too much, but I do believe in opening doors. It's up to you to take advantage of the opportunity in front of you.” Gillis says. Gillis, who may not be familiar with prison himself, has had some hard times and that is why he believes in giving second chances. “When I was 19 years old I became a father. I had no idea how I was going to take care of this child and this woman.” But Gillis remained determined and optimistic about things and at 22 years old with a child and wife, Gillis got into the restaurant business only making \$3.35 an hour. “I had to make it work. I wasn't about to do anything illegal to be separated from my wife and kid.” Gillis is now the owner and operator of Captain D's in both Tallahassee and Quincy. Gillis says the message he sends to those who are still incarcerated, “stay positive and make good decisions. Because the decisions you make now will begin to effect how things will turn out for you.”

Here it is now 4 years into the 1000 Men Rally and Terry Gillis continues to be an avid supporter of the rally, State Representative Alan Williams continues to serve as an annual chairperson and Eldrick James continues to be the evidence of a successful re-entry, and what happens when others reach out to help navigate the re-entry process.

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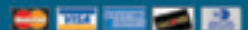
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**Inside-Out: A Story of Return,  
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Only in America and the State of Florida would a developed humanitarian society deny access to its citizenry. Republican Governor Rick Scott and the Florida cabinet have denied access to non-violent felons. They have chosen to end the automatic restoration of voting and other civil rights to nonviolent felons once their sentences are up. Acting as the sentencing judge, Governor Scott and his cabinet voted to change the clemency

board rules and warrant at least a five-year waiting period before the formerly incarcerated felon can even apply to get their rights back. The mere fact that Law Enforcement and State Prosecutors favored such a change is an indication that there is a lack of comprehension of the term "double jeopardy".

This camouflaged act of double jeopardy affects over 100,000 ex-felons. That means that there are 100,000 votes that will not be casted, at least 80,000 formerly incarcerated will be added to the unemployment roll, and the likelihood of recidivism is eminent. The republican lawmakers justify their action with the explanation, that people who have broken the law need time to prove themselves. How does deprivation of civil rights allow someone to prove themselves?

It would appear that if the State Government truly wants proof that an ex-felon is successfully assimilating back into society, they would require that they vote. They would require that employers not discriminate based on criminal history, so access to employment would be in place. They would require that fair housing and healthcare be extended to people coming out of prison. The probability of violating is reduced when the formerly incarcerated are given access to the basic civil rights given to all citizens. To deny access to people who have paid their dues and risk jeopardizing their re-entry success can not be interpreted as anything less than a form of double jeopardy laced with conspiracy. If you deprive a man of the ability to meet his basic needs legitimately he resorts by nature to illegitimate options. That's a fact. It is contradictory to invest Millions of dollars into re-entry and then deprive the formerly incarcerated access to basic human rights and access to resources needed to meet basic human needs for themselves and their family in some instances. One would now have to question if this re-entry platform is just another economic plot which dignifies the release and continuously and strategically denies the access. Non-violent formerly incarcerated should not have been sentenced again by the State of Florida. It's unfair and bordering unconstitutional.

Proceeds from this book will benefit children whose parents are incarcerated.



# The Motivation of Pain

## Inside-Out: Story of converting pain into purpose and prosperity

By: Willie Dawkins-Miller

“Pain in the eyes of my children because I had not been there was a motivation for me.”

How do you explain five years of not ever coming home, missing birthdays and the first day of school? How do you explain Father’s Day at school and your friends ask “you gotta a daddy?” After all they have never seen him in the five years that you have gone from kindergarten to 4th grade. How do you explain it? Eric McKinnon, a local entrepreneur and former ex-offender says it was that pain in his children eyes that motivated him to not give up no matter what, after five years of incarceration.

McKinnon whose life has not been an easy one, admits that everything he has experienced was a result of choices. He admits the 5 years behind bars was because of choices, and the success he is experiencing now is because of choices. The 15 minute interview was as if McKinnon hit a rewind button, and then fast forward. He replayed a snippet of

prison life to us; but not what prison did to him rather what he did while in prison. “I prepared in prison. I read a lot. I had time to think about what was and what should have been....I learned to type 180 words per minute in prison. When I left prison, I left with my record in hand, but not in heart. I left with credentials and credibility,” says McKinnon. “I knew my credentials would speak for me, but my hard work would speak louder. I had a mindset that if a door was shut and locked, then I would just knock on another one, until a door opened.”

Thank God for a changed mind says McKinnon, because he had resolved that whatever it took to make it work on the outside, he was not going back on the inside. His resolve manifested a lion’s strength that was camouflaged in quiet humility. He reunited with family, friends and faith, which became his anchor for holding on during the door closing experiences. He began to establish alliances with people who could help springboard him. “My current business partner recently joined with me for this 2nd location. Our experiences are similar but our values are even more similar, our value for family, faith, and financial accountability”. McKinnon, who admits that his business success takes a lot of hard work, and he has to balance it with giving back to the community, taking care of his children as a single father, and mentoring other children and adults in the community, says “this is just the beginning. As I am faithful over little I will be provided even the more.....I am pleased to be a mentor of men who are seeking another chance at getting it right.”

McKinnon constantly sends a message to people reentering society, “If the world don’t accept us, we must build our own world of opportunities for legitimate businesses, support mechanisms and empowerment.”

Eric McKinnon, a changed man from the Inside-Out.

Eric McKinnon is the owner of Leola’s Crab Shack Restaurants, Tallahassee, FL. For more information visit: [leolacrabshack.com](http://leolacrabshack.com) or their New Location at 2790-4 West Tennessee Street.



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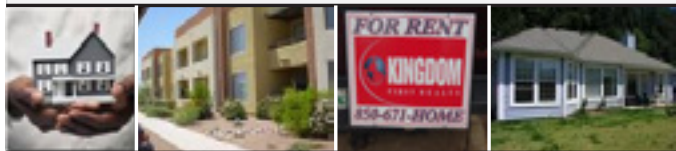


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By: Dr. Willie Myles, President  
FOC Behavioral Health Care Systems,  
Author, Therapist

I find it interesting that in this particular time in history that we men find it difficult to admit that we do not always have it together, that we do not always have the answers and yes we do stress out. We deal with our stress in unhealthy ways including drinking, drugs, extramarital affairs, and other physical and emotional ways. We will not admit that we worry, and yes we hurt, due to cultural definitions of manhood, or the lack thereof. It is critically important to understand that when we deny emotionality, we harm not only ourselves but our children, our family, and our love ones. What a severe injustice to everyone, because we die before our time. Men no longer have to have the superman complex.

Men we have a reason to be stressed. From the time that we get out of bed, we think about our being a good provider for our family. We wonder if we will be the first fired today, or if unemployed will we find a job today. We worry about paying the bills and being a good father. We wonder if our mate still loves us, even when we are ometimes unlovable. These thoughts all occur before

leaving the house. We don't view these issues as possible causes leading to depression, which makes it unlikely for us to seek counseling.

I don't mind admitting that I have sought therapy before. Counseling helped me to deal with situations. Counseling helped me to understand what is really important in life. It also taught me how to handle life's challenges. It is important that men have good MENTAL' Health. We have to stand "TALL", and be strong when it comes to having a healthy mental health. Good Men-Tal' Health is critical to our survival. Let me assure you that receiving counseling does not mean you are "crazy". It simply means you need help to get your mind on a positive track. Yes, "He will keep thee in perfect peace whose mind stays on thee." But, if for some reason your mind is doing something contrary to peace, seeking counseling is always an option. For additional information or counseling sessions you may contact Dr. Myles at [pluforida@aol.com](mailto:pluforida@aol.com)



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