FAYETTE COMMUNITY SOURCE

September-October 2015 Vol 11

Philippians 4:4 (KJV) 4 Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice.



## Faith & Soul News Magazine —

Refreshing the Mind, Body and Spirit!





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## MELINDA'S NOTES

Proverbs 31:10 (KJV)

Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price is far above rubies.

## Blessings!

We thank Jesus Our Lord and Savior and God for allowing us the opportunity to publish Faith & Soul News Magazine. We appreciate all of our advertisers, subscribers, and readers. It is our blessing to serve you and the Fayette County community.

In this issue, we are proud to have Pastor Glenn B. Allen on our cover. We thank Pastor Allen for opening up his heart, church, and spirit to us. Pastor Allen is a Hurricane Katrina Survivor and in the last ten years, he has become a Hurricane Katrina Success. Most of us have seen images from Hurricane Katrina on television, but as a first responder to that incredible natural disaster, I can say that the days and weeks after Katrina were something that I will never forget. Serving others during Hurricane Katrina made me both humble and very thankful, and by the grace of God, New Orleans has transitioned from Pain to Process to Progress in just ten years.

In this news and inspiration-packed issue, you'll also read about newly elected District 5 Commissioner Charles Rousseau, a recipe for cooking New Orleans style red beans, Essence fashions, and Fayette County School Superintendent Dr. Joseph Barrow's plan for our schools. We were up close and personal with the cast and producers of War Room, attended the Georgia Military College's Grand Opening, invited you into Faith & Soul News Magazine's "Community Reunion" --- and more!

To our Fayette County residents in District 5: kudos for electing your candidate of choice Commissioner Charles Rousseau.

Election day is November 3rd for Mayor's and City Council's Race in Tyrone and Fayetteville. Go Out and Vote!

Finally, we thank everyone who supported our first Faith & Soul News Magazine's "Community Reunion". The event was a true testimony that once we start communicating with each other, we have more in common than not. True testimony: Jim Pace and Wayne Kendall met and found out they have a lot in common, including a similar vision for Fayette County's future. That is the power of Faith & Soul News Magazine working with the inspiration and power of God.

Blessings, Peace, and God's Love from our family to yours,

Melinla C. Sylnester

Publisher
Faith & Soul News Magazine







to our lovely mom, Mrs. Theresa Calais on September 15, and

mother-in-law, Mrs. Daisy Sylvester on September 14!



to these two loving grandmothers

to all the grandparents in the world.

FASMG loves you all, especially those who are now raising their grandkids.

God Bless You!

## Georgia Military College Celebrates Grand Opening of Campus in Fayetteville



A LIBERAL ARTS JUNIOR COLLEGE

(right) Chairman, President and CEO of Chick-fil-A Dan Cathy

Georgia Military College celebrated the grand opening of its newest campus August 20 in Fayetteville, Ga., just ten months after breaking ground in October, 2014. More than 100 invited guests attended the event. "GMC extends its heartfelt thanks and gratitude to Fayetteville, Fayette County, and the surrounding area for the very warm reception they've extended to GMC. Thanks to a tremendous amount of hard work from many stakeholders, GMC Fayetteville is now ready to support the educational needs of this area's growing workforce," said Lieutenant General William B. Caldwell, IV, GMC president.

Group VI Development, joined by Halbert Development and Foley Design Associates Architects, Inc., completed construction of GMC's eleventh campus in just nine months. With more than 25,500 square feet of space, the facility includes nine classrooms,
12 offices for
faculty and staff, a
biology and chemistry
lab, a media center, a book
store, two conference rooms,
a student lounge with café,
and a student support services
area. Nearly 300 enrolled
students began classes at GMC
Fayetteville on August 3rd,
with 65 dual-enrolled high
school students also attending
college under the state's Move
On When Ready program.

Located at the intersection of South Sandy Creek Road and Veterans Parkway in the western part of Fayetteville, GMC Fayetteville offers all 27 two-year degree programs available across GMC. Also, the school expects to offer the Bachelor of Applied Science

(above left to right) Jim Pace of Group VI and the CEO of Fayette Piedmont Hospital, Michael Burnett

degree, and will explore the possibility of providing offerings in allied health and film technology/media production, in the 2016-17 school year.

"Our vision at GMC Fayetteville is to provide and promote a values-based academic center of excellence that serves the community and prepares all college and careerready students to succeed in a competitive global society. We



(below front row) Fayette County Chamber of Commerce President & CEO Carlotta Ungaro and Chick-fil-A Chairman and CEO Mr. Dan Cathy



and go anywhere!'

Director. •

said Brigadier General

(Ret.) Rock Donahue,

GMC Fayetteville's Executive

Faith & Soul | September-October 2015

## Couples: The "Push-Pull" Effect



by Porsha Jones, LMFT

There are many patterns of interaction that couples display, some healthy and some not. I'm sure if you take a moment you can identify a few of what yours look like. These patterns are typically known as the "dance" that couples do. This "dance" is usually an attempt to get some type of need met by one or both partners. When patterns of interaction are unhealthy, your relationship can suffer from major conflicts, unresolved issues, infidelity, anxiety and depression.

A specific type of unhealthy pattern of interaction is when one partner "pushes" toward the other in an attempt to get a need met which only results in the other partner "pulling" away. I refer to this as the "push-pull" effect. It is important for couples to recognize this particular pattern of interaction, for neither partner gets their

need met and are only pulled further apart.

Below are some specific examples of "push" and "pull" behaviors to help you identify if you are engaging in this unhealthy pattern of interaction.

#### "PUSH" Behaviors

- Continue to pursue your partner for answers or information despite it resulting in a negative effect
- Not allowing healthy space to meet individual needs (i.e., complaining when your partner wants to do something without you)
- Criticize your partner to get their attention, even negative attention
- Yell or scream at your partner in an effort to be heard

#### "PULL" Behaviors

- Mentally shutting down (Stonewalling) during an interaction or just walking away
- Avoids conflict and confrontation by placating the other partner which only leads to resentment
- Becomes quiet and withdraws from the interaction typically resulting when your partner is "flooded"
- Procrastinates to get your requests done due to feelings of being overwhelmed and "I won't be enough anyway"
- Periodically "blows up" at your partner when your "pushed" too hard

If you experience any of these "pushpull" behaviors, couples therapy can be a beneficial resource to help you alter your "push-pull" effect, and learn new healthy ways of interacting.



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#### **Community Event**

left to right) Ms. Elverta Williams presents a tribute for Mrs. Pota Coston; Kevin Callison (Modern Woodmen donated schools supplies); and Ronnika Ann of

Modern Mondadings

And the Management of the Man

In Geneus introduces Bishop Sterven Hall and Co-Pastor Vanessa Hall from Rhema Christian Fellowship

66Great! NFCA was honored to be included. Looking for many more collaborations. I learned more about Pinewood Studios Atlanta.

- Larry Mapp

MC, please call me with future events. This was a blessing to the community.

- Minister Rick Hayes

Carlotta about it and now the Chamber wants to partner with Faith & Soul News Magazine to do an event this year.

- Greg Detwiler

66 A blessing to be part of this type of event. ??

- Jim Pace

- Flyerata Williams

661 want to be part

of the next one. 99

from the video presentation at the event. Fayette County Schools has a student we would love for you to interview as an intern. [Erin was hired by FASMG.]

- Virginia Gibbs

Wery informative. This was good information... lots of information. Awesome to hear mayors worship God. ??

- LaShawn

\*This is the first time this type of event was held in our community. We appreciate being part of it. \*?

- Malcolm Hughes

Good job! Keep up the great work.Senator Valencia Seay

66 Awesome event.

Great evening.

- Shysha Skipper



(left to right) Minister Rick Hayes, MC for the event; Alison Mills Newnam - zoloist, producer and actress; and Greg Detwiler, Board Chair Fayette County Chamber of Commerce / Georgia Power gives Chamber updates. Chamber recently took a stand at Fayette County Commissioners' meeting supporting District Voting





**66**Thanks for inviting me.

Next event please make in

- Mayor Vanessa

Peachtree City. 99

# The Reconstruction of Pastor Glenn B. Allen Sr.

015

**Ten Years After Hurricane Katrina** 





In the 10 years since Hurricane Katrina flattened New Orleans and emptied out the pews in Senior Pastor Glenn Allen's church, a lot has happened to the man who now leads a fast-growing congregation at the Destiny Christian Center International in Fayetteville. The setbacks have been many, and so have the victories. "People call us survivors and refugees," says Allen, "but I label myself as a Katrina success." We talked to the Pastor about listening to God, and how to pull victory out of the jaws of defeat.

It was August of 2005 and Pastor Allen and his congregants were in the middle of their "Daniel fast", so-called because it lasts for 21 days. ("Jesus fasted for 40 days, Daniel fasted for 21", says the Pastor, by way of explanation.) "We do a three-week fast nearly every August to become more keen for hearing God's voice, and to see change. When Katrina hit, we were just coming off the annual fast, and while I was praying, I heard God tell me to go to Shreveport." So he packed his family into a SUV with some supplies and clothes, and they arrived in Shreveport. Once there, he got a call from a good friend, Pastor Greg Wall, who asked the Allen family to come to Fayetteville, Georgia. "God said to go through the door, so we went through the door to Fayetteville," says Allen. The welcome was generous and warm: the Allen family was offered a fully-furnished home by friends at the Olivet Church, including Pastor Rev. Dr. Howard W. Creecy Sr. and Pastor Rev. Dr. Howard W. Creecy Jr. and their families. There they found a fully-stocked refrigerator and all the amenities.

Pastor Allen knew then that his family would stay in Fayetteville.

Reconstruction is a recurrent theme in the Pastor's life. Born in New Orleans, LA, when Allen was 4 years old, his family moved to Muskegon, Michigan. But by the time he turned twelve in 1974, his parents had divorced, and his mother took her children back to New Orleans where she raised her three sons by herself. The strength of his mother and the



## PASTOR GLENN B. ALLEN FAST FACTS

FASMG Congratulates Pastor Glenn B. Allen who will receive the Chosen Pastors Award at the 2015 Gospel Choice Awards on September 21, 2015

Come celebrate Pastor Glenn B. Allen's birthday on October 13 as Destiny Christian Center International celebrates Pastor Allen's birthday month every Sunday in October

Pastor Glenn B. Allen: 34 years of preaching and 29 years of pastoring

The 2014 Fayette Citizen of the Year Award Recipient

influence of her faith in God were huge influences on the young preacher: "I always knew that the same God of my mother would be the one who would help me," he says.

After Katrina, Pastor Allen tried to keep the church in New Orleans going. But it became too physically challenging to commute back and forth all the time, especially when most of his New Orleans congregants had fled to other cities. So in January 2006, he closed the New Orleans church, and the Allen family sold everything they had there. By March 2006, they had started up a new church in Fayetteville in a humble suite of rooms in a doctor's office. At first, there were only 70 congregants. But by July, the church was full, and by December Pastor Allen had to add a second service. By March 2007, there were Sunday traffic jams outside the Fayetteville Destiny Christian Center International.

Pastor Allen had re-gathered his flock.

Then, loss struck again. In January 2013 Pastor Allen lost his wife, Minister Carla Yvette Henry Allen, to cancer. Now he is a single father to two teens. (Three older children live in their own homes.)

"The story of Job has informed me," says Pastor Allen. "The loss of my wife was painful. Everything we had built up in New Orleans was also lost, and that was painful. But I always pray to God to understand what He is doing with my life. He giveth and he taketh away." He quotes Romans 8:28, "We know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose...and like Job," says Pastor Allen with a small smile in his voice, "we got double for the trouble."

And what is that "double"? When in 2008, the Destiny congregation moved yet again, this time to its current location at 182 North Glynn Street in Fayetteville, it was thanks to a group effort by people from many backgrounds and races. "When we came to the new location," he says, "we expected the black community to be our main support, but the white community also helped to design the building, supply furniture and computer equipment, and donated funds to make the move possible." Diversity is a foundational concept for Pastor Allen's work, and his congregation now includes congregants from Trinidad, Nigeria and Barbados. But Pastor Allen is fasting for yet more change: "We are praying to make our ministry even more diverse. We live in a very well-blended community and our church should represent the community." He also wants to reach out to the "entitled" youth of our community, and perhaps connect them in service to "our forgotten seniors". Says Pastor Allen, "It would be awesome to teach the youth to serve by getting them together with the elderly!"

A couple of his children are already showing promise in following in Mom's and Dad's ministerial footsteps. "One of my daughters and one of my sons may hear their call. Zoe, my youngest, is probably going to be my successor. She watches me and pays close attention. Jewel may also be called to ministry." And Glenn Jr.? "I pray that he will grab the steering wheel himself," says his father, always hopeful.

We asked Pastor Allen what advice he would give to others who have experienced "hurricanes" in their own lives. "Our family mantra is 'Never quit'," he says. "Anybody can survive any storm if they simply refuse to give up. The Bible says, "The Lord upholds all who fall and lifts up all who are bowed down." (Psalm 145:14) So don't surrender, never quit, just keep moving. If your faith is in God, he's on your side and he's sustaining you. Don't worry: the storm will pass. Your job is to wait -- and not give up."

Pastor Allen has great faith in his mission in Fayetteville: "We're here to make a mark that cannot be erased, and we are thankful for God's favor." For Pastor Glenn Allen, God is not just a God of second chances. He's a God of infinite chances. •

## DR. JOSEPH BARROW: FAITH AND FORWARD VISIONARY FOR THE FAYETTE COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM

by Dorothy Potter Snyder

FASMG Publisher Melinda Sylvester and Dr. Nancy J. Lewis, author, business coach and President of Progressive Techniques, Incorporated, recently sat down with Fayette County School Superintendent Dr. Joseph Barrow for a conversation.

FASMAG: Nancy and I are here to build a relationship with Fayette County School System, to assist, and perhaps provide solutions. Since you began your current position in 2013, you've become well aware of the challenges we face in Fayette County from the demographic shift in our school system. But let's start with finding out more about you. Who Is Dr. Joseph Barrow?

**Dr. Barrow:** Some people in the community may not know who I am, but I strive to be a champion for all children. Growing up in poverty, I certainly understand the challenges that can pose for children. I was born on an Air Force base in Wyoming, but I grew up in Evans County. I am a first generation college graduate, attending Georgia Southern where I was awarded my BSED and a MED in Education. I received my EdD. from Nova Southeastern University. I wear an administrator's hat, but I am a classroom teacher at heart.

I began my teaching and coaching career in middle and high schools. My first administrative job was Assistant Principal at a primary school where I had a wonderful mentor who helped shape my early practice. My first principalship was at Bethlehem Elementary in Barrow County. After four wonderful years there, I took a new post at a school in Vidalia City school system. After two strong years there, I had a very unique experience in becoming a high school principal at Glynn Academy, the second oldest high school in Georgia. The school looked more like a Junior college, and had considerable racial and economic diversity. The school had a mix of "haves" and "have-nots", with wealthier students going to school with kids who lived in public housing.

After 11 years, I became superintendent in the Ware County school district where 70+% of the students were on free or



reduced lunch programs. When I arrived, the graduation rate was at 45% and when I left the graduation rate had improved to 82%. We worked very hard to change the culture there. We had to change the fact students had low expectations of their school system and themselves.

My background has prepared me for my role in the Fayette County School System. Data is showing demographics in Fayette are beginning to shift, so we need to begin to modify our practice to adjust to that reality. One report shows that 50% of the students are now non-white. One difference between my previous posts and my work here is that in the schools/systems I worked in before, I recognized a sense of urgency and saw they needed to change. To adapt to new circumstances here in Fayette County, we will have to work together, businesses and the whole community to recognize the needs and address them. I cannot do this alone, but I am very committed to world class excellence. I am not just a superintendent, I'm also a parent. My eight year old twins attend Fayette County Public schools, so I have a vested interest in making things better and the type of education I want for my children is the type of education I want for all of the young people in Fayette County.

Nancy Lewis: Cultural proficiency is something that can be taught. Sometimes teachers are only exposed to a racially diverse population at school, while their home environment has not given them a chance to get up to speed, culturally speaking. The same goes for the students themselves. I would love to be part of the solution for the Fayette County

School System. I've taught at Georgia State, Dale Carnegie and many other places, and I live right here in Fayette County. I have deep experience in doing human resources diversity trainings and presentations.

**Dr. Barrow:** Yes, cultural proficiency will have to be addressed. I know we can make this a world class school system, in part by understanding

that students make choices based on their passions and talents, and emphasize that every young person needs post-secondary experience and skills to make it in life, whether they achieve that in the military, at college or through work in the private sector. We hope to encourage our kids to come back to Fayette County to raise their families and, by doing so, support our excellent school system. Also, we

need to recognize that technology is changing educational landscape, but I know that no technology will ever replace a highly-effective teacher.

Weemphasizethevalue of Rigor, Relevance, Relationships. and Continuing to emphasize values those vision the that quality education can overcome any obstacles, we



succeed.

that improvement over time is tough and not always easy to attain, but it is possible. We need to address the issue of cultural proficiency, be sensitive, and seek first to understand before asking to be understood. My whole career has prepared me for this challenge here in Fayette County. We may have different colors of skin, but our hearts are one.

### FASMAG: What can you tell us about the pending lawsuit?

**Dr. Barrow:** Because of the ligation still pending, I cannot say much. I will make one statement, though: We are much better together than apart. My approach as a leader is to emphasize that we can all pull together.

### FASMAG: What is your mission for Fayette County School District?

**Dr. Barrow:** First, to get our young people college and career ready, and to see to it that they have marketable skills when they leave high school. We need to provide opportunities so

### FASMAG: What's new and exciting in our schools today?

Dr. Barrow: At the top of my list of exciting developments is the Center of Innovation (COI) for the school system which now offers expanded courses in health sciences and the culinary arts. I'm also excited about the developing partnership of the Southern Crescent Technical College and Piedmont Fayette Hospital. Also, we now have a Digital Media Career pathway available in all five of our high schools. We are leveraging technology better. It's a big plus that students will soon be able to study and catch up with their work online should they fall behind. Additionally, progressive learners will be able to access advanced course materials from universities from around the country. We are starting to employ teaching via video conferencing, allowing students to work with a teacher online to enhance their foreign language skills. •

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## **NOVEMBER 3 ELECTIONS**











Candidates for Fayetteville Mayor

Greg Clifton (Incumbent)

Ed Johnson

Candidates for Tyrone Mayor

Ed Dial (*Incumbent*)

Derrick Jackson



## RESOLUTIONS FOR A NEW SCHOOL YEAR



by Erin Schilling

When the schedules are posted and school supplies are ready, students around the world pack lunches and wave to parents and make bold promises to ring in the new year right. Shouts against procrastination and for organization sound over the hallway shuffling. This year is different, we say. This year is the one where I change.

The countdown begins with the warning bell, and by first period, the ball has dropped and students are eager to carry out their resolutions

while the final bell explodes like fireworks.

For some students, moving into a new grade holds more promises than throwing away a calendar. "I make a resolution to myself to do the best I can for grades throughout the whole year," junior Spencer Dawson said.

She prepares for school by doing summer work and looking ahead in classes like Spanish once she knows her schedule. "I'm always excited to see who I have in my classes and what teachers I have," she said.

The first hint of the back-to-school season begins with the release of schedules, and the immediate posting of these schedules to any social media outlet possible. Instagram is torn between final summer flings and lists of classes with frantic captions asking for friendly faces. Twitter erupts with everything from complaints about teachers to schedule mishaps.

School is finally here and summer activities take the backseat as open house looms in everyone's minds and visions of lectures dance in everyone's dreams.

There are two types of attitudes going into the school year. There are the kids dreading every possible aspect of school and holding onto the last rays of summer, and there are the ones who have a resolute acceptance of the year to come and almost, but not fully, look forward to the year. •



(above) Seniors Kelly Wildermuth and Regan Romuno leave Starr's Mill after the final bell rings. These students carpool to and from school everyday because they both live in the same neighborhood.

(lbottom) Seniors Victoria Alvarez, Dhruva Jandhyala, and Evan Johnson make use of the freedom of the patio section at Starr's Mill during lunch and play "the floor is lava." a kids' game in which they have to try not to step on the ground.





(above) Starr's Mill upperclassmen eat lunch and finish last-minute assignments next to the windows of the cafeteria. There is an unspoken rule at the school that lowerclassmen are not allowed in this area, so they sit on the far side of the cafeteria.

### **Southside Symposium Focuses on Special Needs**

by Raissa Chandler Founder, Southside Support Inc.

Raising a child with special needs is daunting. Families have so many questions about diagnosis, school, finding resources, traveling, behaviors that it can be a bit stressful at times.

Southside Symposium: Managing Life with Special Needs is a day long conference that will help answer questions families, caregivers, providers, and educators who are in a position to influence special needs children. The conference features Hay House Radio host, Dr. Suvrat Bhargave as the keynote speaker and additional breakout sessions, lunch, networking, and exhibitors.

Tickets are \$49 in advance, \$60 at the door. Saturday, October 3. Harry S. Downs Continuing Education Center on the campus of Clayton State University Morrow. Continuing Education Credits available.

southsideraissa@gmail.com or (770) 713-6731. •





For more information, visit SouthsideSymposium.com or contact Ms. Chandler at

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# PRAYERIS A POMERIS A POWERFUL WEAPON

The War Room Movie Uses Prayer as A Weapon of Mass Destruction in Box Office Ticket Sales... In Spite of Critics Criticisms

by Melinda SYLVESTER



The new movie *War Room* has critics thinking: how did they do it? The answer: Only God.

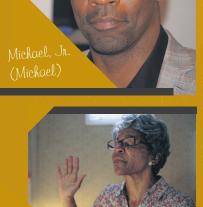
"And you say 'thank you," stated Alex Kendrick, the movie's director.

The Kendrick Brothers, the production team behind the movie, are in awe like all of us... only God could have done what He did this weekend. Director Alex Kendrick took a couple of minutes to say thank you and to celebrate some of the incredible things that have happened since *War Room* opened in theaters on Friday. On opening weekend *War Room* came out at #2, then the first week it was #1, and again, during Labor Day weekend it remained at #1.

Here are just a few of the reviews from *War Room* movie-goers who have posted on the FASMG Facebook *War Room* page:

Incredible movie that reminds us that our battles must be fought on our knees in prayer. This movie makes you laugh and cry but at the end, will challenge you in your prayer life. A must see!!

- Nancy L.



Great movie. We felt the spirit of God throughout the movie. We were deeply moved and blessed!!!
- Tony P.

Awesome, my wife and I loved the movie... great acting and wonderful script.

I am not religious but this is a great movie... very inspiring.

- Shawn C

- Gary N.

FASMG was on the scene at the War Room

premiere with cast, screenwriters, and producers. As the publisher of Faith & Soul News Magazine, I was was blessed and humble to receive an invitation to attend the premiere of *War Room* at the High Museum of Art in midtown Atlanta. The hospitality was awesome and genuine. The evening began with a red carpet affair where the cast members took photographs with attendees. Buffet-style food and beverages were served, and guests were also treated to popcorn and refreshments.

The premiere showing of *War Room* was exceptional and spiritually fulfilling. Here are what a few of the movie's team members had to say:

**Priscilla Shirer (Elizabeth Jordan):** Yes, this is a blessing for my life. Hollywood threw big names, but the producers sought me out. I pray more since being in **War Room**.

Karen Abercrombie (Ms. Clara): I only had two weeks to prepare. Praying was always a part of my life, but I realized after working on this movie that I was just scraping the service. Now I go deep into prayers. The writing is absolutely amazing. It was a blessing in so many ways. I was blessed to be able to raise my son and get back into acting by accepting this part in War Room.

T.C. Stallings (Tony Jordan): I was excited to play this role. It was a positive side of a black man, not the typical black gangster or the way America portrays black men. I was drawn to this role - a man who loves God, his family and prays. In Courageous, I played T.J. the gang leader.

Michael Junior (Michael): I believe that anything I say my kids can repeat... all my jokes,

### WEAPON

I want my kids to be able to repeat them. I turned down several movies. Someone told me, "God said people write scripts with you in mind." This **War Room** script was written with me in mind. I hope this takes you away.

Alena Pitts (Danielle Jordan): This is my first movie. I was glad to be part of it. I am saved and love God. This movie got me closer to God. I enjoyed making the movie.

Jennifer (Friend of cast member Alena Pitts): My first movie. With same spirit, this movie got me closer to God. I love God.

FASMG had the opportunity to speak with co-writer/producer Stephen Kendrick:

Wow, what a movie! I am spiritually blessed. Tell us about it and any advice for someone who wants to get in the business. Do you look at scripts from other writers? Faith & Soul News Magazine is blessed to be here. We would like to extend our magazine for your future projects.

**Stephen Kendrick:** We knew an African-American family would do it. It would resonate in the world. Hollywood wanted to use big names, but we knew through the Holy Spirit an African-American family would do the job best. Priscilla Shirer who played Elizabeth Jordan was our choice, not big names from Hollywood. She did an awesome job. Our whole cast did an outstanding job acting. This movie was made to bring the country back to God. Each cast member were answers to prayers. We had 1,000 churches praying for us.

Best advice for anyone who wants to get into the business, be surrounded with a "Think Tank." Let them tell you what's good and what's not so good. Take the criticism.

No, we don't look at scripts. It was advised by our attorney that so many of us have the same ideas and it could easily be taken as using someone else's ideas.

The critics were harsh but we are proud to say the movie was not made with them in mind. We are working on other projects as well.

Thank you. We appreciate Faith & Soul News Magazine and look forward to working with you again in the future.







.S. District Court Judge Timothy Batten ruled that a special election to fill a vacant Fayette County Board of Commissioners' seat could be decided by district voting. His decision earlier this month is just one part of an ongoing saga between two sides doing what they believe is right for Fayette County. At stake is the decision ... on how decisions ... will be made by voters.

Until 2014, elections for Fayette County Commissioners and School Board members have been held by at-large voting. Citizens in all Fayette districts were able to cast their vote for each candidate. Fayette County NAACP Branch President John E. Jones says after moving to Fayetteville in 1997, he noticed a number of African Americans running for county commission and school board posts, but they weren't elected. That's when he says he noticed a problem. Attorney Wayne Kendall, who ultimately filed the voting rights' lawsuit, also has concerns with at-large voting. "It prevents minority voters from being able to elect the person of their choosing for the board of commissioners," he states. Chairman of the Board of Commissioners, Charles Oddo, noted at-large voting has worked well for years. While limited in what he can share due to ongoing litigation, he says, "The past board and present board don't understand why (district voting) is necessary." And with those differences of opinion over the need for district voting, the stage was set for action to begin. But filing a voting rights' lawsuit was not the first solution sought.

**2** 

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"We tried every avenue possible to get district voting," Jones says. "We tried the legislative route, we tried advocacy and going to meetings, and asking to voluntarily change to district voting." When the NAACP felt all possibilities were exhausted, they filed the lawsuit in 2011. Jones says initially the school board was willing to reach a settlement. The Board of Commissioners opted not to settle, and litigation continued. It seemed a perpetual tug-of-war, until a break came in the form of the election of District 5 Commissioner Pota Coston.

Coston was the first African-American elected in the history of the board of Commissioners. She was sworn in January of this year. She was also elected using district voting for the first time in the county's history. "With District voting, we got Pota Coston, who was the candidate of our choice and served us well," Jones noted. Coston was a positive presence endeared to many. Sadly, she died just a short time ago in July. Although her time in office was brief, her impact was immeasurable. She left a lasting historical legacy the county can be proud of. Her death, however, also left a void on the commissioners' board, creating the need for another election. While the Board of Commissioners has conceded to the special election in September going forward via district voting, the battle between the two sides is far from over. And some Fayette County residents say enough is enough.

"I'm absolutely believing that this whole issue needs to go away," says Jim Pace of Group VI Development. Citing concerns about further splintering within the county, Pace went a step further. "I believe district voting should be implemented. Most of the counties surrounding us already have it," he adds. Jones expresses similar thoughts. "When every county around you uses district voting and you're trying to cling to at large voting, that kind of tells you, you're out of step with the times. And I think it calls for some serious self-examination."

Pace adds, "It's trying to do the right thing to build bridges between the northern part of the county and the south. This isn't something that benefits me in the least. It's something I believe is the right thing to do." He also believes it is the financially prudent thing to do. Fighting the implementation of district voting "is an unwise expenditure of taxpayer dollars. It would be better to give that money as raises to the hardworking people that work in the county."

Oddo concedes the cost is taking its toll. "It's expensive; no question about it," he says. He adds, however, that there are some issues that are beyond the principle of finances. And how much is the outlay for this fight costing the citizens of Fayette County?

"Now we're approaching a million dollars, and that's for the county spending, trying to retain at-large voting," Jones states. "If they're ultimately unsuccessful, they'll be responsible for



The Fayette County Board of Commissioners (from left to right): Steve Brown (District 3), David Barlow (District 1), Charles Oddo (Chairman, District 4), the late Pota Coston (District 5), and Randy Ognio (District 2)

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The candidates running for the vacant District 5 seat following the loss of Mrs. Pota Coston. Seated left to right at the District 5 forum: Peyton Riley, Charles Rousseau and Angela Bean. Sitting at the far left is Tyrone Jones, President of the Fayette County Republican Party and at podium City Council Ed Johnson.



the legal defense funds fees, which are approaching a million. So that's two million dollars." Both sides say their costs are justified, as they fight for what they believe in.

With so much money at stake, the question on a lot of minds is, why continue the fight? While important to each side and their individual beliefs, it may not be a concern for the average voter. Jones says it should be, noting that it's not just a racial issue. "District voting gives each and every voter much more power to select the candidate of their choice. Because our votes are not diluted, that candidate has to be more accountable and responsible."

What looms for the district voting issue is a pending trial. Barring any sort of compromise being reached, both sides are continuing to prepare their arguments - and increase their spending - to get the desired outcome. Despite so many disagreements surrounding the issue, there is one thing that people from both sides agree on ...

the desire to bring together the citizens of Fayette County.

"It's time for us to unite as Fayette County," says Pace. "I like Proverbs 6:16 – the thing God hates the most are people that cause division among His children. And I don't want to be in that number." Echoes Oddo, "We need to tolerate each other, understand each other as much as possible, and get to the other side of this thing. We will get through it. It's how we get through it that makes the difference."





Mr. Jason Carter

#### **Fayette County Branch NAACP**

and

Honorary Program Chair Honorable State Representative Virgil Fludd

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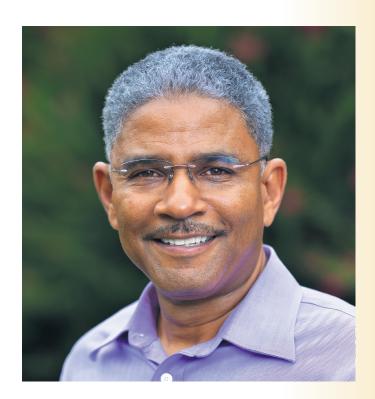
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Table for Ten Guests: \$700

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# LATE BREAKING NEWS: FASMG'S EDITOR SPEAKS WITH NEWLY ELECTED FAYETTE COUNTY DISTRICT 5 COMMISSIONER CHARLES ROUSSEAU

#### by Renarda Williams



In a special election held on September 15, 2015 in Fayette County, Georgia, Charles Rousseau made history with 70.13% of the votes to become the first African American man to be elected as Fayette County' Fifth District Commissioner. The late Mrs. Pota Coston was the first elected African American in over 193 years. Charles and others ran in 2006.

On the night of his victory, newly elected Fayette County Fifth District Commissioner Rousseau delivered the following emotional speech surrounded by supporters and family:

"I want to thank my wife and children, my God, our volunteers, our donors, the local Democratic Party, the plaintiffs, NAACP/LDF, area churches and their respective pastors, my father and mother for teaching me the value of service to mankind, and all voters who entrusted me with their vote. I extend my heartfelt apologies to my supporters for the unfortunate incidents at various polling places."

FASMG spoke briefly with Commissioner Rousseau the day after the election.

FASMG: What was it like winning with over 70% of the votes in a special election?

Commissioner Charles Rousseau: It was a labor of love. The community asked me to put my name in for consideration. I did so, and they responded in kind, by overwhelmingly electing me to this position of service.

It was just the journey. The journey was just tiresome... working late nights and early mornings.

I wanted to put particular interest in getting our message out. We were "Old School," knocking on doors... delivering our message directly to the voters. We visited churches, businesses, social and civic organizations — and the people responded.

FASMG: How did you feel taking over where Mrs. Pota Coston left off?

Commissioner Rousseau: I appreciate the work she did — offering herself as a candidate and serving us well. I will do the same, serving this community well and recognize her contributions.

The next issue of Faith & Soul News Magazine will feature an indepth interview with Commissioner Charles Rousseau.



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## Meet the 2015 **ESSENCE Street Style** Award Honorees!

by Dana Baxter, Sr. Communications Director ESSENCE & People en Español

## **GABRIELLE UNION - Closet Crush Award**

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Follow Gabrielle on Instagram @gabunion.

#### **JASON REMBERT - Style Disruptor**

#### WHY JASON?

In less than seven years, this 27 year old celebrity stylist has dressed Usher, Taraji P. Henson, Solange, Ciara, Erykah Badu, A\$AP Rocky, Nicki Minaj, Prince, Iggy Azalea and Rita Ora (pictured), to name a

few. This year, he landed a coveted spot on The Hollywood Reporter's 25 Top Stylists list.

#### ADVICE TO NEW STYLISTS:

"Be a lifelong intern. Never get too old or big to learn!"

Follow Jason on Instagram @jasonrembert.

Singer Ciara, Actress Gabrielle Union, Designer Charles Elliot Harbison and Celebrity Stylist Jason Rembert were recognized at the recent Essence magazine's 2nd Annual 'Street Style Awards' Dinner on September 13th during New York Fashion Week.



#### **CHARLES ELLIOTT HARBISON - Designer** to Watch

#### **WHY CHARLES?**

The Parsons School of Design grad launched his first women's wear collection in 2013 to rave reviews. After his 2014 spring



collection, The New York Times reported, "Mr. Harbison is certainly going places..." Beyoncé and Solange agree and rock his gear regularly.

#### HIS FASHION MOJO:

"My personal style—a combo of ease, classicism, quirk and romancedefinitely impacts my work. My clients are intellectual and bold, yet easy and relatable. Í love that."

Follow Charles on Instagram

## **CIARA** - Curator of Cool

New mom, new boyfriend, new look! Ciara has moved from being a chic pop star to a more aspirational red carpet fixture—who still manages to have a little fun (backward

baseball cap, anyone?).

#### HER STYLE TIPS:

"Don't overthink your fashion choices. Whatever you feel in your gut, roll with it. Have fun with fashion. When I have fun, it always comes out right."

Follow Ciara on Instagram aciara.



## COOKING FAITH&SOUL'S NEW ORLEANS STYLE:

RED BEANS

by Melinda Sylvester

resh Red Beans are a healthy source of fiber. Faith & Soul News Magazine wants to share the secret to delicious Red Beans New Orleans style. The first secret is to start with the right product: Red Kidneys from Camellia Brand's Famous New Orleans Red Beans. These beans have been available in the market since 1923. You can cook them in a slow cooker or on the stove. Either way, wash your beans thoroughly.



#### IN THE SLOW COOKER

- After washing the beans thoroughly, put the beans in the slow cooker and add 6 to 8 cups of water.
- Set the slow cooker on low for about 6 to 7 hours. (It is not recommended to leave the cooking beans unattended.)
- Then add fresh onions, bell peppers, parsley and green onions.
- Increase the heat setting to high for another two hours.
- Stir the beans constantly.
- When the onions, bell peppers, parsley and green onions are cooked, reduce the heat to low.
- Add cooked stock such as healthy turkey sausage, or try Richard's Hot Sausage. It is so good and gives beans a great taste.
- Serve over brown rice.
- Season with Babineaux's Creole Season.

And God said, Behold, I have given you every herb bearing seed, which [is] upon the face of all the earth, and every tree, in the which [is] the fruit of a tree yielding seed; to you it shall be for meat.

- Genesis 1:2

#### ON THE STOVE

- After washing the beans thoroughly, put the beans in the potand add 6 to 8 cups of water.
- Cook on a high fire for a couple of hours. (It is not recommended to leave the cooking beans unattended.)
- When the beans get a little tender, add fresh onions, bell peppers, parsley and green onions.
- Lower the heat, cover the pot, and let the beans simmer.
- Stir the pot constantly.
- Add cooked stock such as healthy turkey sausage, or try Richard's Hot Sausage. It is so good and gives beans a great taste.
- Serve over brown rice.
- Season with Babineaux's Creole Season.





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