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"YOUR COMMUNITY MAGAZINE"

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NEWS MAGAZINE
Vol.6 No.56 DEC.. 2012

"REJOICE IN THE LORD ALWAYS, AND AGAIN I SAY , REJOICE. PHILLIPIANS 4:4"



In this issue: Atty. Glenn Armentor Paying It Forward, LA Treasure John Neely Kennedy: START Program, Book Author Ve May, Events: Kwanzaa, New Years Ball and much more



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Presents
Its
24th Annual Kwanzaa
Celebration



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7:00 p.m.

Dr. Beatriz Morales

Southern University & A&M College
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This program is made possible in part by a grant from Southern University.



ISAIAH 43 vs. 5 & 6

5): Fear not: for I am with thee: I will bring thy seed from the east, and gather thee from the west;

6): I will say to the north, Give up; and to the south, Keep not back: bring my sons from far and my daughters from the ends of the earth;

I want to thank our Lord Jesus Christ, who continues to give me strength and wisdom to publish Faith & Soul News Magazine. I want to thank my dedicated staff, my beloved family, friends, colleagues and most important our advertisers and subscribers. We Love You All!!

In this issue:

Atty. Glenn Armentor Pays It Forward at SLCC, Louisiana State Treasure John Neely Kennedy. Financial Tips for Women, Sports In A woman's Words, IRS Tips, Food & Family and much more.

Faith & Soul Loves You: Have A Bless New Year!

May God Bless You Abundantly!!!!

Enjoy Reading,
Melinda

****Articles and views expressed in this publication do not necessary reflect the views of Faith & Soul News Magazine and its staff.***

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Publishers' Pointers:

Lord, take me from where I am and move me forward



This message will be short and sweet. As another year comes to an end: Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, New Years and other celebrations are over. Many of us will look back at 2012. A New Year 2013: is a New Opportunity for God's Blessings. Choose Life..

The Lord put on my heart this prayer: Lord, take me from where I am now and move me forward. The bad mistakes, decisions, wrong turns, and all the lost. I can't do anything to change those choices I made and some were made for me. I ask you dear Lord to take me from where I am now, bless or broken and move me forward. I can't do this along. I believe with you God all things are possible. Call it as it may: I am moving forward. God promised: I will get back everything the locust has taken from me. Pray for everyone in Newton, CT, Sandy Hook School and all the love ones they left behind. Only God can move us forward. Give Lots of Love this Holiday Season. Thank God for all your blessings. Jesus is the Reason For the Season! God gave us his only Son! We need to Be a Giver. Blessings, Peace and Love Melinda

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GLENN ARMENTOR PAYS IT FORWARD AT SLCC



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Office of Public Relations

News Release

#161

For Immediate Release

Dec. 19, 2012

Contact: Christine Payton
(337) 521-8936

GLENN ARMENTOR PAYS IT FORWARD AT SLCC

*Armentor establishes \$10,000 scholarship fund through
Pay-it-Forward Scholarship of Excellence*

LAFAYETTE – Education at South Louisiana Community College may be within closer reach for several aspiring students, thanks for The Glenn Armentor Law Corporation.

Through the generosity of Glenn Armentor, as many as four at-risk young and adult students, will be awarded financial assistance through the newly established SLCC Glenn Armentor Pay-It-Forward Scholarship of Excellence. Together these scholarships will total \$10,000 to pay full tuition to any SLCC campus in Acadiana.

“What Glenn Armentor is establishing at SLCC is an opportunity for the pursuit of an education for someone who otherwise could not financially make college a reality,” said Dr. Natalie Harder, chancellor of South Louisiana Community College. “We appreciate Mr. Armentor’s generosity, and I am confident these students will one day be able to ‘pay it forward’ just as he is doing today.”

The Scholarship Award Committee will be made up of an independent panel of community educators, leaders, professionals, and citizens. They will award the scholarships based on a combination of attributes such as student performance, drive, ability, financial need, desire to seek a college degree, and more.

Armentor is proud to be able to pay forward this gift, in memory and appreciation for all those who helped him arise from poverty and cultivate the ability to build one of the state’s most successful law firms.

“These scholarships are a way for me to pay forward what I can not pay back,” said Armentor. “It is a way for me to give a deserving individual with great potential the chance to grow into the bright future they richly deserve, just as those people in the past helped me overcome major economic and domestic adversity as a child.”

HEALING HOUSE VOLUNTEER TRAINING PROGRAM

Healing House; Hope for Grieving Children, is in need of caring dedicated volunteers to help grieving children in Acadiana who have experienced the death of a parent or sibling. Our volunteers serve as support group facilitators and caring companions for children ages 4-18. Healing House volunteers are trained to observe, listen, and respond appropriately to a grieving child. All volunteers MUST:

Be at least 21 years of age,

Commit to 2 evenings/afternoons a month for one year (September – May)

Attend both days of the training session.

Volunteer Training Session:

Friday, January 11, 2013 8:30am-3:30pm

and

Saturday, January 12, 2013 8:30am-1:00pm

To register, please call 234-0443, or e-mail kim@healing-house.org

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My personal understanding about falling down and getting back up again:

Yesterday after about 30 minutes, I realized I kept singing the song we fall down but we get up again and I began to think about how many times in my life I have falling, but fortunately I got up again, but not without the helping hand of my Savior.

How many times have you done something in your past you weren't happy or proud of? It could be an addiction to sex, drugs, alcohol, over eating, habitual lying, cheating on your mate or abusing someone, including yourself, it could be an addiction to a stressful job that's not worth the pay, it could be an addiction to hanging around the wrong people in your life, and it could be an addiction to overly spending money you really don't have, it doesn't matter its all addiction.

So you decide to give up on trying because every time you turn around you fall victim to the same old thing over and over and over again. Well, everyone let me shed some light.

Life happens; we ALL fall down; the great news is we can get back up if we don't give up! So stop sitting there and LET US GET BACK UP! If help is needed, there's help if you aren't too proud to ask for it from the Lord!!!

We all make mistakes which I believe is God's way of allowing us the opportunity to learn from our errors and indiscretions, grow stronger and get closer to him in order to move forward in a positive way with the right attitude. The reason I believe we stay stuck in a situation is because we don't try or we get tired of trying to get up, so we give up, which is so easy to do. PLEASE DON'T GIVE UP! Giving up is exactly what the enemy wants us to do, which will ultimately destroy us if we STOP TRYING!

Continue on page 15



Don't Look ■ Any Further

■ "Yes I Handle ■ Those Cases."

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IRS Offers Tips for Year-End Giving

IRS Videos: Exempt Organizations Select Check:
Fair Market Value of Charitable Donations:

IR-2012-102, Dec. 19, 2012

WASHINGTON — Individuals and businesses making contributions to charity should keep in mind some key tax provisions that have taken effect in recent years, especially those affecting donations of clothing and household items and monetary donations.

Rules for Clothing and Household Items

To be deductible, clothing and household items donated to charity generally must be in good used condition or better. A clothing or household item for which a taxpayer claims a deduction of over \$500 does not have to meet this standard if the taxpayer includes a qualified appraisal of the item with the return. Household items include furniture, furnishings, electronics, appliances and linens.

Guidelines for Monetary Donations

To deduct any charitable donation of money, regardless of amount, a taxpayer must have a bank record or a written communication from the charity showing the name of the charity and the date and amount of the contribution. Bank records include canceled checks, bank or credit union statements, and credit card statements. Bank or credit union statements should show the name of the charity, the date, and the amount paid. Credit card statements should show the name of the charity, the date, and the transaction posting date.

Donations of money include those made in cash or by check, electronic funds transfer, credit card and payroll deduction. For payroll deductions, the taxpayer should retain a pay stub, a Form W-2 wage statement or other document furnished by the employer showing the total amount withheld for charity, along with the pledge card showing the name of the charity. *cont. on page 14*

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Faith & Soul News Magazine wants to share some traveling tips for President Obama's Inauguration, which will be on Monday, January 21, 2013.

This is also Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday.

So expect a huge crowd. This is President Obama's second Inauguration and yes the last one. Many people who didn't go to the first one is excited and will be traveling to this one.



1. Pray before going to Washington, pray for God's grace for a beautiful day, pray for patience, pray for energy and pray to stay warm. Psalm 91. Traveling Grace for Everyone
2. Bring all medications in a carry on bag and have with you at all time. Have emergency numbers on you. Write a note not to forget to take your medicines. Bring a snack, eat a meal early, a good breakfast, bring fruits, healthy snacks and some bottles of water.
3. Make sure you have the proper gears: coats, hats, gloves, scarfs, thermal garments, comfortable shoes and clothing. You may have to walk miles, wait for a taxi or train or stand for a long time. Now if you are from the South, bring gears that are suitable for Washington, D.C. weather. You can get some gears at an outdoor sporting goods store, don't forget to get thermal socks or insulated pants. Check the weather, it's better to have packed the gears then to freeze up there.
4. Last time, most phones did not work before, during or after the inauguration. Hopefully, this will not be an issue. But make your important calls early. Should you want to check on the kids, parents, pets, home or job call before. Don't depend on any wifi or wireless signal those went out also; they were limited.
5. Should you be a smoker be respectful of others. There are lots of people with smoke allergy. Consider the ones with peanuts allergies also. Just show some love. Think of others. Be courteous, be polite.
6. Have A Bless and Safe Time. Use cautious when traveling. Don't drink and drive. Use a buddy system, traveling along let your family know your whereabouts.
7. E-mail us your experience and share your story with our Faith & Soul family.

It's More Than A Party!!

Be Bless and Enjoy History! !!!!!!! (F&S)



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The Food was great great but the time with Family left a better taste



Time with family over the Holidays was awesome.; We ate some good Louisiana cooking. The food was great but the time with family left a better taste. We prayed and thanked God, we laughed and we ate. We should cherish our family all the time. Share God's Love. This is family and friends and some of Aunt Jeanette's cornbread dressings.

Happy Holidays, Merry Christmas! Have a bless New Year! Spend more time with your family. Yes, call your Mother more often. Be Bless!!





***Faith & Soul News Magazine's Publisher
Melinda Sylvester Chats with
Louisiana State Treasurer John Neely Kennedy:***

***START Giving the Gift of Education/ Treasurer
Kennedy Says College Savings Account Wise Gift
For A Child's Future***

F&S: Happy Holidays, Merry Christmas, We want to thank LA State Treasurer John for taking time out of his busy schedule to chat with Faith & Soul. We do understand it's the end of the year.

Kennedy: Same to you, glad to talk to you Melinda

F&S: When, we read about the press release and we thought this was a great gift idea for Christmas. Most kids are bored with the gifts after the first week, even video games get boring to them after a while. We wrote about options for Christmas gifts Educational gifts are awesome. Faith & Soul sponsors a program called: "Reading Is Rewarding"; that is in line in what we are promoting to start planning and saving for college. As a parent of a recent LSU graduate, I personally know the cost to go to college. We want to encourage parents, grandparents, godmother, aunts and uncles to look into this program. Expound on the program and know the benefits of the START 529 College Savings account versus other savings plans for college.

Kennedy: It's probably the best way to save for a child's education, by education I mean post secondary education: Vo-Tech school. Community College, University. It's a state sponsored program. Let's suppose you are a parent or grandparent and you want to start saving money for a child's education uhm, you can put up any amount of money as low as \$10.00 you make your contribution to the state in the START Program, you enrolled your child into the START program. Let's suppose you put up \$100.00; you get an immediate income tax deduction of your state income tax, so you save money there. The state will match some will match some of what you put up anywhere from 2% of the \$100 up to 14% depending on how much money you make. The money is invested by Department of Treasure, you tell us how you want it invested and we can work with you. Any earnings you get grows income tax free, you pay no income tax, when comes time for the child to go to school you take the money out you pay no income tax you have the money you put in and the money the state put in plus the earnings interest free. You can use the money for tuition, books, living expenses, any kind of expense related to a child's education. If your child changes his mind and doesn't go to a school you can roll it over to another child. You can even take your money out if you change your mind, when you take it out you have to pay taxes on any earnings and you lose any amount the state puts up. It's a great deal we have about 44,000 people who started the START account with over \$400 million dollars. We are trying to get folks to use the program because it's just a WIN WIN Great Deal and it makes a Great Christmas Gift. Your child can also go to school outside of Louisiana. (F&S)

Continue from page 8 IRS TIPS

These requirements for the deduction of monetary donations do not change the long-standing requirement that a taxpayer obtain an acknowledgment from a charity for each deductible donation (either money or property) of \$250 or more. However, one statement containing all of the required information may meet both requirements.

Reminders

To help taxpayers plan their holiday-season and year-end giving, the IRS offers the following additional reminders:

- Contributions are deductible in the year made. Thus, donations charged to a credit card before the end of 2012 count for 2012. This is true even if the credit card bill isn't paid until 2013. Also, checks count for 2012 as long as they are mailed in 2012.
- Check that the organization is qualified. Only donations to qualified organizations are tax-deductible. [Exempt Organization Select Check](#), a searchable online database available on IRS.gov, lists most organizations that are qualified to receive deductible contributions. In addition, churches, synagogues, temples, mosques and government agencies are eligible to receive deductible donations, even if they are not listed in the database.
- For individuals, only taxpayers who itemize their deductions on Form 1040 [Schedule A](#) can claim deductions for charitable contributions. This deduction is not available to individuals who choose the standard deduction, including anyone who files a short form (Form [1040A](#) or [1040EZ](#)). A taxpayer will have a tax savings only if the total itemized deductions (mortgage interest, charitable contributions, state and local taxes, etc.) exceed the standard deduction. Use the 2012 Form 1040 Schedule A to determine whether itemizing is better than claiming the standard deduction.
- For all donations of property, including clothing and household items, get from the charity, if possible, a receipt that includes the name of the charity, date of the contribution, and a reasonably-detailed description of the donated property. If a donation is left at a charity's unattended drop site, ***continue on page 16***

My personal understanding about falling down and getting back up again:

I honestly and truly believe everyone has a story to tell, some people have been abandoned, some people have been molested, some people have been abused, and the list goes on and on. But we must STOP living in our past and move forward toward a wonderful and beautiful future the Lord has for us. Remember a Saint is just a Sinner who fell down and got back Up again.

So many of us continuously LIVE in the past, we don't want to break free from it! We wear a sign on our body that says; I'm Stuck In My Past and I Can't or Won't Let Go!!

Just because we make mistakes or situations allows us to do something we regret, doesn't mean we must beat up on ourselves for the rest of our lives.

God didn't create us to be sorrowful, He didn't create us to be someone's doormat, He didn't create us to be used, abused or disregarded as a nothing human being. He created us to glorify His name; He created us to live a happy and abundant life. If we aren't living that life then it's because at some point we have convinced ourselves that we've fallen and we can't get back up!

Don't get me wrong, I don't want anyone to think it's easy to get back up, because more times than many it's not. It's a daily process that must be put into action.

We need to commit to making changes in our lives; we must BELIEVE that God has a divine purpose for us. Remember that Faith is the substance of things hoped for and the evidence of things not seen. We must change our thinking and the way we do things, which is very hard work on a daily basis.

We must realize the past is just that, something that's behind us, we can't get that time back. Besides, who wants that time back? I don't! But the future is another second, another minute, another hour, another day, another week, another month, another year and many more years, which hasn't happened to us yet; it gives us the opportunity to get it right this time.

Let's go down memory lane back to school for a moment and learn something, let's tell ourselves every time we fall short that we won't live in our past which is behind us and all that mess is not important because hopefully it's over and done with. The only thing that is important is our future, and that we decide to live for our future which is ahead of us, we need to say this over and over again until we really have it embedded in our hearts and minds. We must put our thinking to use by looking forward to a beautiful future. We must never forget we were created by God.

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Continue from page 14 IRS TIPS

- keep a written record of the donation that includes this information, as well as the fair market value of the property at the time of the donation and the method used to determine that value. Additional rules apply for a contribution of \$250 or more.
- The deduction for a motor vehicle, boat or airplane donated to charity is usually limited to the gross proceeds from its sale. This rule applies if the claimed value is more than \$500. [Form 1098-C](#), or a similar statement, must be provided to the donor by the organization and attached to the donor's tax return.
- If the amount of a taxpayer's deduction for all noncash contributions is over \$500, a properly-completed [Form 8283](#) must be submitted with the tax return.
- And, as always it's important to keep good records and receipts.

IRS.gov has Additional information on charitable giving including:

- ☐ [Charities & Non-Profits](#)
- ☐ [Publication 526](#), Charitable Contributions
- ☐ Online mini-course, [Can I Deduct My Charitable Contributions?](#)

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FAITH & SOUL NEWS MAGAZINE FINANCIAL TIPS FOR WOMEN

By: Francine

It's the end of the year and most of us are looking back and saying: "Where did my money go"

Well, Ladies we can't look back and regret, but we can look forward and move on. Let's commit to plan for 2013 and keep records of our money. Plan a budget and work hard to stick to it.

Tip # 1: Stay encourage, get educated on planting seeds on good ground.

Josh 1:9..... "Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."

Tip # 2: You slip and fall, made a mistake, admit and correct it immediately.

2Tim 4:7..... "Fight the good fight, finish the race, keep the faith." (paraphrased)

Tip# 3: Don't blame others; take responsibility.

Rom 8:28..... "And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose."

Tip# 4: Don't let others make your financial decision and don't make financial decisions on others emotional comments
Col 3:23..... "Whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men,...

Tip #5: Be more proactive and less reactive. Plan and set goals.

Jas 1:4..... "But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing. (F&S)

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My personal understanding about falling down and getting back up again:

If we do this on a consistent basis, I believe we will pack all our bags of the past and burn all our stuff in that baggage, and then when our faith grows stronger and we feel and see the changes; we will have a new positive outlook and a new attitude about our lives.

During those times we find ourselves living in our past or allowing our past to hold us hostage from the new, positive, exciting and Grande things God has for us, let us not forget; We Fall Down, But We Must Get Back Up Again, Because A Saint Is A Sinner Who Fell Down!

Blessings To Everyone, And Remember We Are A Creation of God! (F&S)

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SPORTS IN A WOMEN'S WORDS

Ladies, the Saints made us proud with the win over Dallas. We know the play-offs may not be part of the Saints plan. But a winning ending will bring great excitement for the next season. Now, let's keep our eye on the Falcons; let's cheer them on. We pray and hope they make it to the Superbowl and win. It would be great to see Georgia in Louisiana on February 2, 2012. If you are going to the LSU vs. Clemson game in Atlanta for the Chic-fil-A Bowl. The game will be on December 31, 2012 in the Georgia Dome in Atlanta, Georgia. Make sure you eat at Chic-fil-A. We hope the LSU Tigers win. Congratulations to ULL Football team for their bowl win in New Orleans. This is the second year winning. We are so proud of the boys and the coaches, staff and the wonderful fans who supported them all year. (F&S)

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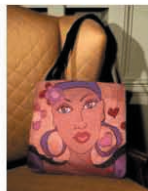
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