

AMIBW

America In Black And White True Magazine

**Chase
Ransom**
pg.18

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AMIBW / Community



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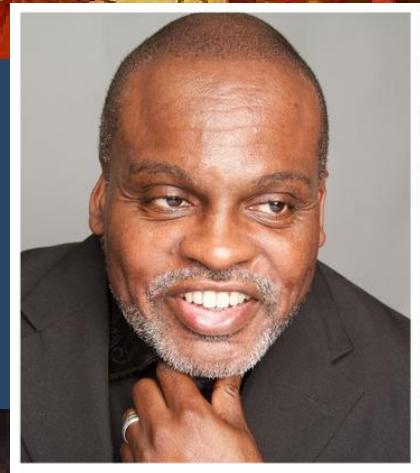
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HAPPY HOST LETTER

| BY CHARLES ZACKARY KING |
FOUNDER OF AMIBW



Dear Readers,

Welcome to the 4th Issue of AMIBW The Magazine a publication born from purpose, rooted in legacy, and driven by the unwavering belief that truth-telling is a form of healing.

As Founder and Host of America in Black and White, I am honored to present this latest edition, which continues our mission to amplify voices, elevate stories, and educate our communities on the civic and historical forces shaping our lives. This issue arrives at a pivotal moment, when clarity, courage, and communal connection are more vital than ever.

Inside these pages, you'll find Legacy Spotlights that profile changemakers whose work bridges advocacy and impact, alongside Historical Contexts that bring overlooked narratives to center stage. You'll also discover Civic Engagement Tools offering actionable insights to help you navigate policy, participate meaningfully, and advocate effectively. Rounding out this issue are Guest Features—exclusive interviews that honor resilience, vision, and the enduring power of storytelling.

This magazine is more than a publication, it's a platform for truth, a vessel for legacy, and a call to action. Whether you're a longtime supporter or discovering us for the first time, I invite you to engage with this issue not just as a reader, but as a co-architect of change.

Thank you for walking this journey with us. Your presence, your voice, and your commitment to community matter deeply.

In truth and legacy,

Charles Zackary King
Founder & Host, America in Black and White
& AMIBW The Magazine



CZK Enterprise is where legacy meets strategy

"Empowerment isn't a moment. It's a movement."

"From struggle to strategy—from pain to power."



CZK ENTERPRISE

COME AND RECEIVE YOUR LIFE CHANGING EXPERIENCE

"We don't inherit legacy—we build it."

We create systems, stories, and symbols that elevate Black excellence, preserve cultural heritage, and empower future generations. Through bold media, empowering merchandise, and transformational community initiatives, we don't just inspire—we build. CZK is more than a brand—it's a blueprint for impact.

"Stories shape legacies. Legacies shape futures."

HOLIDAY EDITORIAL

THE PUBLISHERS DESK | & | CREATIVE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
BLAKE M. ANDREWS



Welcome to the Fall 2025 issue of AMIBW The Magazine.

As the season of gratitude unfolds, I can't help but pause and reflect on why this publication exists. AMIBW The Magazine was never meant to be just ink on paper or pixels on a screen. It was created as a living archive — a safe space where conversations, culture, and reflection are preserved with intention and voice. Each page carries the heartbeat of the stories we share, now reaching the hands, homes, and hearts of readers who value depth and authenticity.

Inside these pages, you'll find more than articles. You'll discover voices that challenge convention, images that speak truth, and stories that honor resilience and pride. Every feature, interview, and design decision is purposeful — built not just to look good, but to leave an imprint that lasts well beyond the turn of a page.

Our promise remains steady: depth over distraction, context over clickbait, and legacy over fleeting trends. We believe that media, when rooted in integrity, can shape how we see ourselves and one another. That belief fuels everything we create.

This Thanksgiving, I'm especially grateful for you — our readers, thinkers, listeners, builders, and dreamers. Your curiosity, support, and willingness to demand more from media inspire us to keep going.

From my family to yours, Happy Thanksgiving. Thank you for inviting us into your lives and allowing these stories to live on through you. May this season bring warmth, reflection, and hope as we continue turning pages, sparking dialogue, and building a lasting legacy — together.

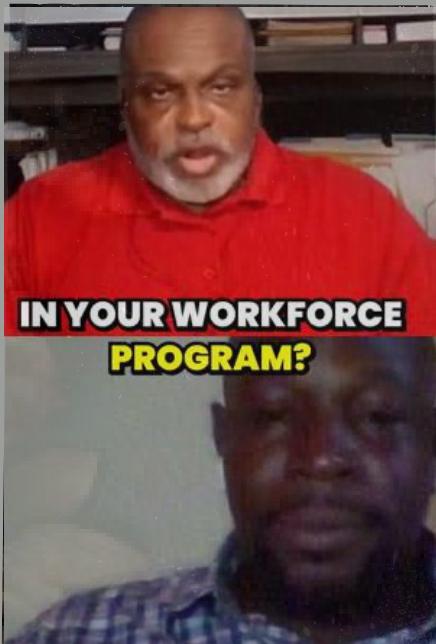
With gratitude,

Blake M. Andrews
Chief Marketing Officer, IMTv360
Executive Publisher & Creative Editor-in-Chief, AMIBW The Magazine

How a Brooklyn son turned eight years behind bars into a blueprint for second chances

INTERVIEW WITH

★ CLEMENT BENEDICT:



“You can change at any time you’re ready. Just don’t change when it hurts too much.”



How a Brooklyn son turned eight years behind bars into a blueprint for second chances

Born and raised in Brooklyn to a Nigerian mother, Clement Benedict understands both the ache of isolation and the power of community. After falling in with the wrong crowd, he was sentenced to eight years in prison—an experience he transformed into purpose by mentoring more than 100 incarcerated men, women, and youth and discovering a gift for teaching.

On release, Clement applied two decades of private-sector grit to direct-service roles with Defy Ventures, Ironbound Community Corporation, HeartShare St. Vincent's Services, and Rising Ground, focusing on reentry, career readiness, and wraparound support. Today he leads The R.O.L.E. Initiative, a multi-state social-impact organization delivering trauma-informed, credential-based, culturally responsive programs across New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania.

His portfolio includes SHYFT (gender-inclusive life skills & reentry), Life Readiness Academy (OSHA, ServSafe, CPR, Sales, Google IT), S.T.A.G.E. (healing through drama), E.L.I.T.E. (professional development), and Super30X (12-week wellness & self-mastery). A proud father of three, Clement stands as living proof that redemption is real—and scalable.

Where to connect & find his work:

Derrick Jackson's Bold Bid for Governor: Legacy, Leadership, and a Vision for Black Georgia

|Article By Charles Zackary King |

The original article titled “Derrick Jackson Discusses Campaign for Governor” was written by Christopher Smith and published on News & Talk WAOK.

Georgia State Representative Derrick Jackson isn't just running for governor, he's running on legacy, lived experience, and a moral obligation to serve. With a 42-year career that spans military command, corporate leadership, and legislative advocacy, Jackson's campaign is rooted in justice, equity, and empowerment for all Georgians, especially Black communities historically left behind.

A Life of Service and Strategy

Jackson is a husband, father of seven, and retired U.S. Navy Lieutenant Commander with 22 years of service, including seven deployments. After a decade in the corporate sector with General Electric, he transitioned into public service, winning election to the Georgia House of Representatives in 2016. He represented District 64 until 2023, and now serves District 68, marking nearly a decade of legislative leadership.

His record includes fighting for voting rights, women's rights, LGBTQ+ protections, and small business support. But Jackson's work in underserved communities goes deeper, he's been a consistent voice for economic justice, healthcare access, and educational equity.

Legislative Impact: Raising the Floor for Black Georgians

Among Jackson's most impactful legislative efforts is his sponsorship of a bill to raise Georgia's minimum wage to \$27/hour by 2028. The bill proposed a phased increase, starting at \$15/hour and rising annually, designed to uplift working-class families, especially Black workers disproportionately affected by wage stagnation and attacks on diversity initiatives.

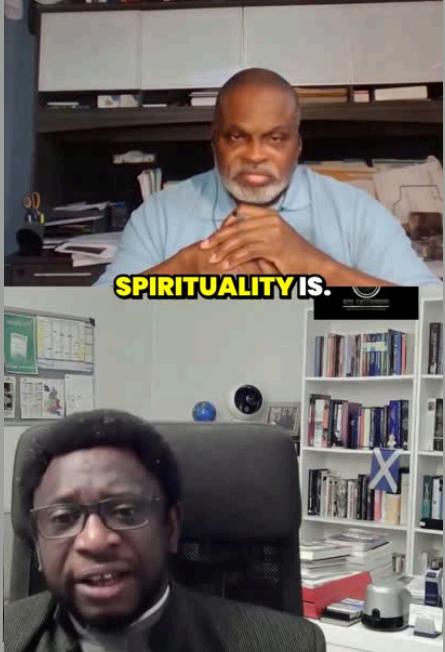
This legislation, though stalled in committee, remains a cornerstone of his campaign. It directly addresses the economic disparities that have long plagued Black communities in Georgia, where over half a million Black jobs were lost in the past year due to rollbacks in equity programs.

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Faith, Humanity, and the Future of Chaplaincy

INTERVIEW WITH

REV MICHAEL ANGLEY OGWUCHE:
PASTOR



“I don’t see the crime first; I see the human being.”

Faith, Humanity, and the Future of Chaplaincy

Rev. Michael Angley Ogwuche's journey is one of radical transformation and fearless service. Born in Nigeria in humble, difficult circumstances, he once searched for wealth and meaning in all the wrong places—even considering joining secret societies to escape poverty. But on January 12, 1987, a life-changing encounter with faith turned him from despair toward a calling that would eventually span continents. From those early days as a street evangelist and pastor in Africa, Rev. Agu embraced ministry with a passion for people, determined to serve beyond church walls.

Today, he stands as National Director of Chaplaincy for the New Testament Church of God (England & Wales), leading hundreds of chaplains across hospitals and prisons. His work embodies what he calls ministry outside the gate—meeting people where they are, especially those society forgets. A respected voice in “reverse mission,” Rev. Ogwuche ministers to indigenous British congregations and builds bridges across cultures and faith traditions. His theological training in mission, public theology, and chaplaincy fuels his commitment to serve everyone with dignity, regardless of their past or beliefs.

An author and thought leader, Rev. Ogwuche has penned impactful works including *HIV/AIDS Stigma*, *Preparing for Revival*, *Dyslexia & Me*, and *Philosophia Instant*. Each book reflects lived experience—his battle to overcome the stigma of dyslexia, his heartbreak over loved ones lost to HIV/AIDS, and his deep study of how faith and philosophy meet in a post-truth world. Through writing and his NUMA Podcast, he creates space for honest dialogue about spirituality, justice, and the modern search for meaning.

Beyond leadership roles, Rev. Ogwuche works hands-on with prisoners, mentors young chaplains, and advocates for Nigerians incarcerated abroad. He dreams of a more compassionate, culturally aware chaplaincy movement and is pioneering digital chaplaincy, training AI systems to provide triage and support for those in crisis. Though deeply accomplished, he rejects the idea of leaving a legacy; instead, he says, “I just want to do my part and leave when my time comes.” His life is a testament that faith can evolve, justice can be practical, and service can change lives—one human encounter at a time.

Where to connect & find his work:

To Be a Black Man in America: The Weight We Carry - The Truth We Live

Article By Charles Zackary King

To be a Black man in America is to live with a dual reality: one shaped by brilliance, resilience, and legacy, and another shaped by suspicion, exclusion, and systemic violence. It's not just difficult. It's deliberate. And yet, we continue to rise.

This post is not a cry for pity. It's a declaration of truth.

The Burden of Being Seen

- Criminalized Before We Speak:

From childhood, we're labeled "aggressive," "disruptive," or "dangerous." Our tone is policed. Our presence is questioned. Our humanity is often denied.

- Economic Gatekeeping:

We are told to "work twice as hard," but the doors still close. Black men face higher unemployment, lower wages, and fewer opportunities, regardless of education or experience.

- Policing and Surveillance:

We are over-policed, over-incarcerated, and under-protected. The justice system was not built to serve us, it was built to control us.

- Emotional Suppression:

Vulnerability is seen as weakness. We are expected to be silent, stoic, and strong, even when we're breaking.

This is the example of being Black. Being Black is what happens when you are always stopped for no reason and then being asked "why are you up set"? "You must be guilty of something", when you are just coming from work or going home from visiting family. The thing that makes this even worse is that you have other Black People including family that don't believe you because the brain washing of the media has made them think you are guilty. There is nothing worse than having your Mother, Father, Brother, Sister, Wife/Girlfriend thinking you are guilty and refusing to support you because they can not give you the benefit of the doubt. None of these people can see the stress they are causing you but they want you to protect them and do what they need from you. Our own people can not see the harm they cause you. This adds to all kinds of pain and trauma and they still don't see that.

Restoring Fathers, Rebuilding Families

INTERVIEW WITH

★ **LARRY SMITH:**
ENTREPRENEUR



"I became a father at sixteen, and it taught me two things: accountability and empathy."



Restoring Fathers, Rebuilding Families

Larry Smith is the President & CEO of Fathers and Families Center, one of the nation's most respected hubs for fatherhood restoration and family strengthening. A former teen father who grew up without a resident dad, Larry transformed personal hardship into a mission to rebuild men and families. He leads a 32-year-old organization that has touched more than 25,000 fathers and is nationally recognized for its Strong Fathers Program — a 90-hour, three-week curriculum built on the Four Ps: Person, Parent, Partner, and Provider.

A first-generation college graduate, Larry earned his degree from Williams College and an MBA from Stanford University. He spent over a decade in corporate America before pivoting to mission-driven work. Under his leadership, Fathers and Families Center has become a model for trauma-informed reentry, mental health support, paid participation, and career-focused advancement. His guiding philosophy is simple but transformative: "A job, a better job, a career."

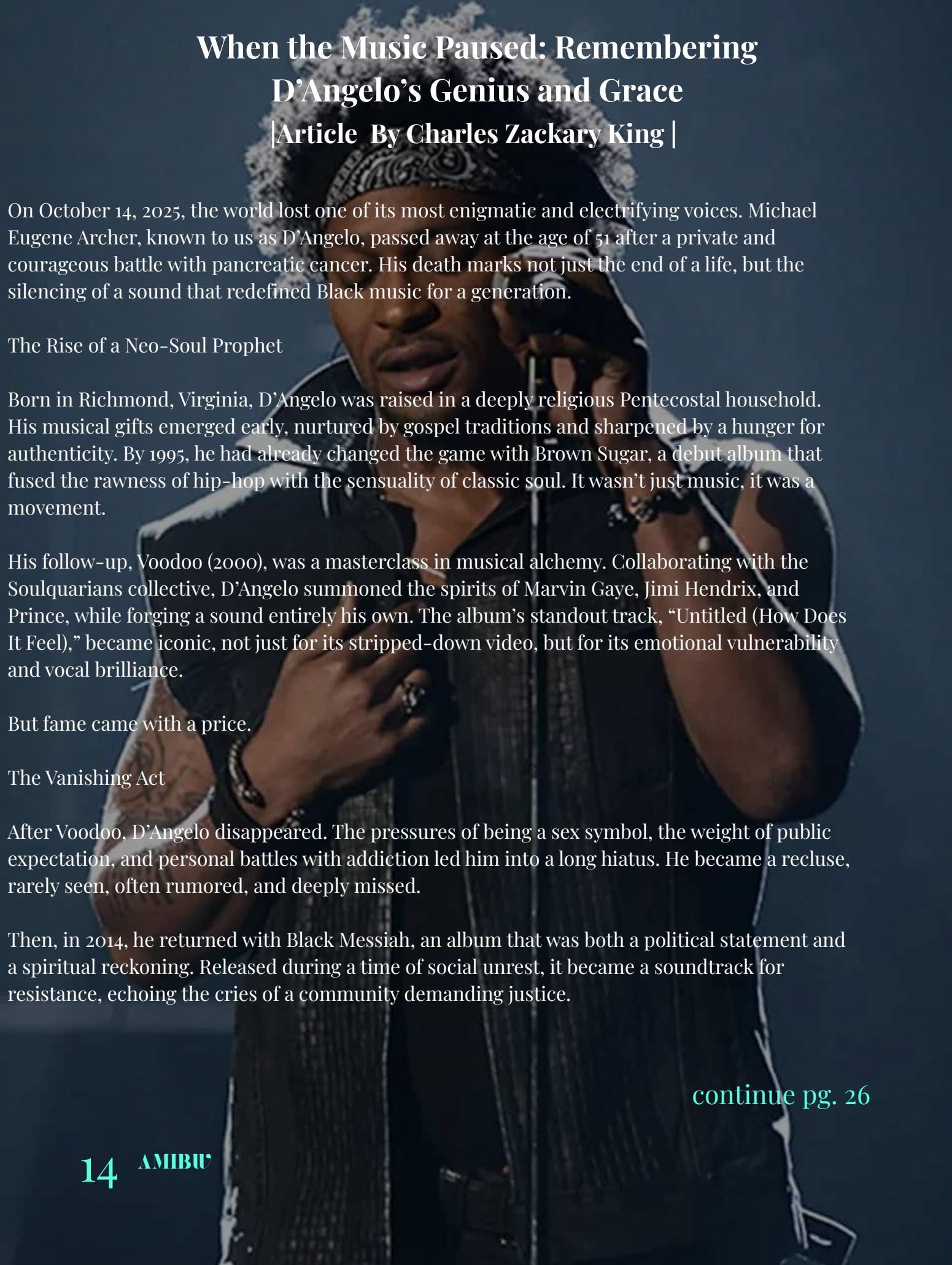
Larry is also a longtime Sunday school teacher and weekly columnist for the Indianapolis Recorder, where he writes about race, policy, and the complexities of Black fatherhood. He blends data-driven strategy with empathy, busting myths about absentee fathers and advocating for systems that help men heal and succeed. His voice resonates beyond the Center — shaping public conversation on fatherhood and reentry.

At his core, Larry believes fatherhood is sacred work. He's committed to creating environments where men can grow beyond mistakes, rebuild families, and give their children a different future. Through curriculum, policy advocacy, and personal mentorship, he's proving that redemption isn't just possible — it's generational.

Where to connect & find his work:

When the Music Paused: Remembering D'Angelo's Genius and Grace

|Article By Charles Zackary King |



On October 14, 2025, the world lost one of its most enigmatic and electrifying voices. Michael Eugene Archer, known to us as D'Angelo, passed away at the age of 51 after a private and courageous battle with pancreatic cancer. His death marks not just the end of a life, but the silencing of a sound that redefined Black music for a generation.

The Rise of a Neo-Soul Prophet

Born in Richmond, Virginia, D'Angelo was raised in a deeply religious Pentecostal household. His musical gifts emerged early, nurtured by gospel traditions and sharpened by a hunger for authenticity. By 1995, he had already changed the game with *Brown Sugar*, a debut album that fused the rawness of hip-hop with the sensuality of classic soul. It wasn't just music, it was a movement.

His follow-up, *Voodoo* (2000), was a masterclass in musical alchemy. Collaborating with the Soulquarians collective, D'Angelo summoned the spirits of Marvin Gaye, Jimi Hendrix, and Prince, while forging a sound entirely his own. The album's standout track, "Untitled (How Does It Feel)," became iconic, not just for its stripped-down video, but for its emotional vulnerability and vocal brilliance.

But fame came with a price.

The Vanishing Act

After *Voodoo*, D'Angelo disappeared. The pressures of being a sex symbol, the weight of public expectation, and personal battles with addiction led him into a long hiatus. He became a recluse, rarely seen, often rumored, and deeply missed.

Then, in 2014, he returned with *Black Messiah*, an album that was both a political statement and a spiritual reckoning. Released during a time of social unrest, it became a soundtrack for resistance, echoing the cries of a community demanding justice.

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People-First Leadership, Community, and Courage in Action

INTERVIEW WITH

★ MICHELLE GIBSON: HR & TALENT ACQUISITION



“I define success when my customers hit their bottom line. Then I’ve done my job.”



People-First Leadership, Community, and Courage in Action

Michelle Gibson: People-First Leadership, Community, and Courage in Action

Michelle Gibson is a people-first executive, entrepreneur, and community builder whose career spans healthcare insurance, HR and talent acquisition, and mission-critical work across the Intelligence and Department of Defense communities. A Seattle native who built family and career roots in the DMV, she now splits her time in Washington State while staying deeply engaged in civic life—recently enrolling in the Kent (WA) Community Police Academy. Professionally, Michelle serves as a Senior Vice President of HR & Talent Acquisition, with domain depth in IT and cybersecurity and cross-industry experience (law firms, manufacturing, public sector).

Beyond the office, Michelle is a serial giver: 16-year HOA president, founder of the Little Black Dress Society (women's connection & self-care), and creator of The S.P.O.T. — Supporting People Of Talent, a 10-year youth mentoring program launched with Starbucks. She's an avid traveler and gardener who believes in using story and shared experience to open space for growth, healing, and possibility. Her leadership philosophy centers on boundaries, equity, customization for client needs, and lifting as she climbs.

Where to connect & find her work:

Mansa Musa: The Legacy of the Lion King of Mali

Article By Charles Zackary King |

In a world where wealth is often measured by fleeting trends and digital valuations, the story of Mansa Musa stands as a timeless reminder of legacy, leadership, and cultural stewardship. Known as the richest man in recorded history, Musa's reign over the Mali Empire in the 14th century was not just about gold, it was about vision, education, and the elevation of a people.

The Rise of a Legend

Mansa Musa ascended to power in 1312, inheriting an empire already rich in resources and influence. But under his leadership, Mali expanded its borders, deepened its cultural roots, and became a beacon of prosperity in West Africa. His empire stretched across modern-day Mali, Senegal, Guinea, Mauritania, and parts of Niger—making it one of the largest and most powerful of its time.

Wealth Beyond Imagination

Musa's wealth was legendary. His empire controlled vast gold mines and taxed trans-Saharan trade routes dealing in salt, ivory, and other commodities. But it was his pilgrimage to Mecca in 1324 that truly stunned the world. Traveling with an entourage of 60,000 people and distributing gold so generously in Cairo that it disrupted the region's economy for years, Musa's journey was both a spiritual mission and a global statement.

A Builder of Culture and Faith

Upon returning from Mecca, Mansa Musa invested heavily in Islamic scholarship and architecture. He commissioned the construction of mosques, schools, and libraries—most notably the Djinguereber Mosque in Timbuktu. He invited scholars and architects from across the Muslim world, transforming Timbuktu into a center of learning and culture that would influence generations.

CONTINUE PG. 29

From Overlooked Athlete to NIL Entrepreneur & Community Builder

INTERVIEW WITH

 CHASE RANSOM:
NIL BRAND STRATEGIST



*“My proudest moment
was forming my LLC.
Seeing my parents proud
meant everything.”*



From Overlooked Athlete to NIL Entrepreneur & Community Builder

Chase Ransom is a Division II student-athlete turned entrepreneur, brand strategist, and mentor who is rewriting the playbook for name, image, and likeness (NIL) success. Based between Columbia, South Carolina and Loganville, Georgia, he built his NIL presence from scratch—without the power of a Division I program, major media exposure, or a massive social following. Instead, Chase learned to research opportunities, craft his own pitch letters, and secure partnerships that now include CVS, McDonald's, Stanley, and other national brands.

Now a graduate assistant at Benedict College, where he helps coach the track & field throws program while completing his master's degree, Chase is equally focused on teaching other small-school athletes how to monetize their stories, position their personal brands, and use NIL as a platform for entrepreneurship. His long-term vision is to become an athletic director, using his influence to create opportunities for underserved student-athletes on and off the field.

Beyond sports, Chase is deeply invested in community outreach, from hosting back-to-school drives to mentoring youth through Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. His platform, Mr. NIL Marketing Group LLC, empowers athletes to develop their own logos, merchandise, and media kits while connecting them with brands. For Chase, NIL isn't just about profit—it's about identity, storytelling, and leveling the playing field for athletes who often go unseen.

Where to connect & find his work:

Derrick Jackson's Bold Bid for Governor: Legacy, Leadership, and a Vision for Black Georgia

|Article By Charles Zackary King |

Campaign Agenda: A Georgia That Works for Us

Jackson's gubernatorial platform is built on eight pillars, each designed to help Georgia families thrive. For Black Georgians, his agenda includes:

- Medicaid Expansion to close healthcare gaps and prevent rural hospital closures
- Repealing Harmful Laws like the six-week abortion ban and rent control restrictions
- Investing in Black Farmers, Small Businesses, and Nonprofits with access to capital and policy inclusion
- Environmental Justice to protect communities from pollution and neglect
- Education Reform & Workforce Development with expanded access to trades, apprenticeships, and technical education
- Reparations Advocacy, proposing 33% of Georgia's \$16B budget be allocated to Black families as a fulfillment of broken promises

Jackson's message is clear: "We're not just building a Georgia for business, we're building a Georgia for families."

Inspired by Legacy: John Lewis and the Spirit of Service

Jackson cites civil rights icon John Lewis as a moral compass for his campaign. "I have a moral obligation to run for governor," he said on WAOK, invoking Lewis's legacy of courage and conscience. His leadership style blends executive discipline with grassroots empathy, qualities he believes make him the only candidate truly qualified to serve as Georgia's Commander-in-Chief.

A Call to Action

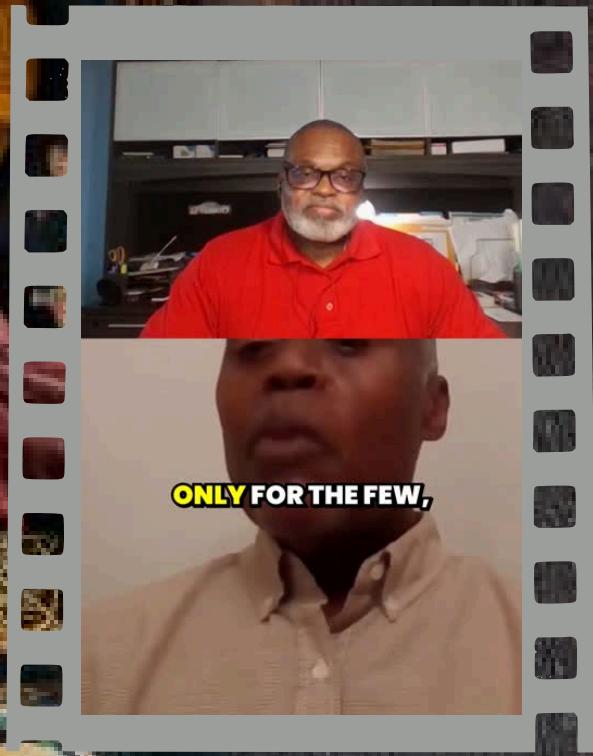
Jackson's campaign isn't powered by million-dollar donors, it's powered by people. He urges Georgians to "Tell 10 to Tell 10," mobilize their communities, and vote for a future rooted in dignity, equity, and opportunity.

For Black Georgians, this race is more than political, it's generational. It's about reclaiming the promise of Georgia and ensuring that every child, every elder, and every entrepreneur has a seat at the table.

Leadership, Legacy, and the Power of Emotional Intelligence

INTERVIEW WITH

MILTON CORSEY: LEADERSHIP STRATEGIST



“Trust is built on three C’s: competence, consistency, and caring.”

Leadership, Legacy, and the Power of Emotional Intelligence

Milton Corsey is a transformative leadership strategist and the Director of Human Capital Solutions at Achieve Next, where he helps emerging and established leaders evolve from high-performing individual contributors into collaborative team architects. With an MBA from St. Joseph's University (Haub School of Business) and a business degree from Villanova University, Corsey blends academic rigor with lived experience to cultivate cultures of excellence, accountability, and purpose.

Raised by a politically active mother during a period of sweeping social change, Corsey witnessed firsthand how ordinary people could shape the destiny of a nation. That foundation informs his conviction that “leadership is not reserved for the few – it’s a verb, an action of influence.” He has since dedicated his career to empowering others to embrace leadership as service, not status.

Before consulting, Corsey taught business at a university in South Jersey and spent years guiding Fortune 1000 executives, Wall Street firms, and retailers through transformation. At Achieve Next, he designs manager-training frameworks and strategic-planning systems that place people—not process—at the center. Inspired by the business acumen of Reginald Lewis and the clarity of Malcolm X, Corsey's approach combines intellect with integrity, and capitalism with consciousness.

His life's mission is to help leaders “become the most powerful and potent version of themselves” by mastering emotional intelligence, building trust, and fostering environments where every voice feels valued. Whether coaching CEOs, mentoring students, or lecturing on human-capital strategy, Corsey insists that true leadership is measured not by authority but by the ability to elevate others.

Where to connect & find his work:

To Be a Black Man in America: The Weight We Carry - The Truth We Live |Article By Charles Zackary King|

When we talk about the Economic Gatekeeping we are talking about ever since the 70s when the PayScale represented the White Man, the White Woman, the Black Woman and then the Black Man. This causes your woman to look down on you and the others to think they can use you for pennies on the dollar and get the milk for free. Being put in this position is a major problem for your household but your wife/girlfriend does not see it that way. When you do what is necessary to please her, she complains but when you are not bringing in enough money she complains. Communication is bad and needs to improve because the wrong people have influenced your way of thinking and your love. What is still not seen is this man is struggling and is feeling trapped. This is the thing that has led to Single Parent Households.

The justice system has a precursor that states if you are a Black Man you must be guilty, and we can plant evidence against you and not worry about it. No one cares for you, and people will back the Blue when it comes to you. The bad part about this is some of the officers look just like you. Again, something that is adding to more stress than you can handle and it causes anxiety and mental health disorders. The question that is always there, "will they be here for me when I need them"? Please think about this.

As a Black Man we have pride and refuse to let anyone see us vulnerable. We cannot be weak, and we refuse to let others know we are hurting. The problem with this is Black Men have been carrying this jug of water for more than 100 years. We are not appreciated but are looked upon to protect and serve, we are not respected but expected to solve the most complex problems, and we are the real professionals with so much knowledge but never get the acknowledgement we deserve. All along we are the real strong leaders, thinkers and can do men on the earth that make a real difference.

The Truth They Don't Teach

- Black men are more likely to die prematurely due to systemic neglect in healthcare, housing, and mental health.
- We are less likely to receive fair trials, adequate representation, or restorative justice.
- Our stories are often told by others, flattened, filtered, and stripped of nuance.

Our health always come into play because we have to be involved in the things that happen to our communities, our families and our people in general. Our leadership is needed to work with the others in our communities instead of against them. In todays time it is all about leadership and we have lots of it. We will continue to provide this until the day we die.

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Faith, Service, and the Power of Real, Raw, and Relevant Leadership

INTERVIEW WITH

**★ OSBORN “OZ” NESBITT SR.:
FMR. ROCKSDALE CO. GA. CHAIRMAN**



*“Manage the distractions
and interruptions in
your life or they will
manage you.”*

Faith, Service, and the Power of Real, Raw, and Relevant Leadership

Osborn “Oz” Nesbitt, Sr. is a dynamic public servant, author, and former Chairman & CEO of Rockdale County, Georgia, whose decades of service reflect a rare combination of faith, grit, and community-first leadership. Raised in public housing in Augusta, Georgia, Oz turned struggle into strength, drawing on his grandmother’s wisdom — “never get amnesia and forget where you came from” — to fuel a lifelong mission of giving back. His early career in law enforcement and 16 years in county government gave him a frontline perspective on how policy, poverty, and perseverance intersect in the real lives of citizens.

Oz’s leadership philosophy—anchored in his mantra of being “real, raw, and relevant” (20:16–20:33)—has made him a respected voice in civic and cultural circles. Whether increasing county employee salaries for the first time in a decade (31:03–31:44) or walking the neighborhoods instead of relying on consultants (18:30–19:25), he believes authentic leadership starts with proximity. As he often says, “the best disparity study is to get in your car and walk your community.” (18:24–19:25)

Beyond politics, Nesbitt is a member of 100 Black Men of America and a passionate mentor dedicated to guiding young Black men “from boys to men” through education, etiquette, and emotional intelligence (54:22–58:34). He’s also an author, consultant, and speaker, whose book *Fumes and Faith* chronicles his journey from the projects to public office, blending lessons of struggle, integrity, and unwavering belief in God.

Guided by the examples of his Aunt Mattie Bernie, James Brown, and Senator Charles W. Walker, Oz embodies a leadership legacy rooted in service over status. His story is a living sermon on perseverance—proof that real leaders rise not from privilege, but from purpose.

Where to connect & find his work:

When the Music Paused: Remembering D'Angelo's Genius and Grace

|Article By Charles Zackary King |

The Father Behind the Fame

Though fiercely private, D'Angelo was a devoted father. He leaves behind three children:

- Michael Archer Jr. (aka Swayvo Twain), his son with the late Angie Stone, who died in a tragic car accident in March 2025
- Imani Archer, a gifted musician in her own right, who shared a touching tribute to her father after his passing
- Morocco Archer, his youngest son, who has largely remained out of the public eye

His children now carry the torch of his legacy, not just in music, but in the quiet strength he modeled as a father.

Why the Industry Will Never Be the Same

D'Angelo didn't flood the market with content. He gave us only three studio albums across three decades. But each one was seismic. He reminded us that Black music could be raw, spiritual, erotic, political, and timeless, all at once.

He was the heartbeat of neo-soul. A bridge between the sacred and the secular. A man who could make a Fender Rhodes whisper and a falsetto scream.

Artists like Lauryn Hill, Questlove, Raphael Saadiq, and Jay-Z collaborated with him, not just because of his talent, but because of his truth. He was one of one.

Rest in Power, D

D'Angelo's passing leaves a void that no algorithm can fill. His music was never just about melody, it was about memory. About the ancestral pulse that lives in every chord, every lyric, every silence between the notes.

As we mourn, we also celebrate. Because D'Angelo didn't just make music. He made moments. And those moments will echo for generations.

“We are eternally grateful for the legacy of extraordinarily moving music he leaves behind.”
D'Angelo's family

The Duality of Brilliance and Burden

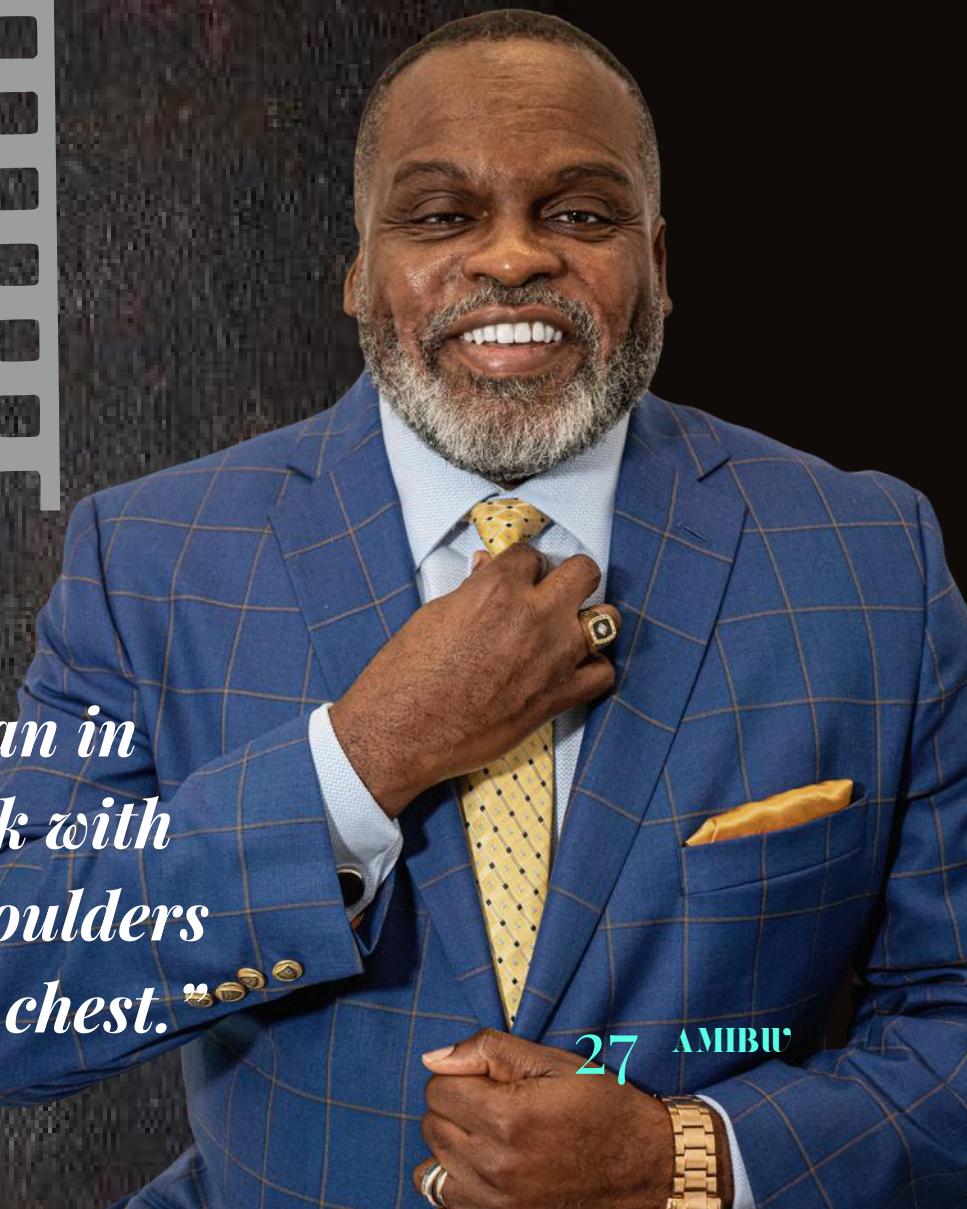
A Black Man's Truth in America

INTERVIEW WITH

★ CHARLES Z. KING:
CREATOR OF AMIBW



"To be a Black man in America is to walk with history on our shoulders and hope in your chest."



The Duality of Brilliance and Burden

A Black Man's Truth in America

Charles Z. King, host and creator of America in Black and White (AMIBW), delivers one of his most powerful monologues to date. An unfiltered, reflective, and deeply emotional exploration of what it means to be A Black Man In America. Speaking without guests or filters, King turns the lens inward, offering both a personal and collective reckoning with the systemic, emotional, and spiritual realities that shape the lives of Black men across generations.

Born from lived experience and generational observation, King's message carries the rhythm of truth-telling and the weight of cultural inheritance. His reflections move between pain and pride. From redlining and racial profiling to legacy, leadership, and love. With the tone of a sermon and the precision of a social analyst, he reminds viewers that "to be a Black man in America is to walk with history on your shoulders and hope in your chest".

King's call is not for pity but for power. He challenges listeners to rebuild family structures, reclaim narrative ownership, and restore unity between Black men and women. His voice measured, impassioned, and resolute. Bridges generations, echoing the resilience of those who built legacies from struggle. This is more than commentary; it's a declaration of identity and purpose, grounded in faith, accountability, and love for his community.

Where to connect & find his work:

Mansa Musa: The Legacy of the Lion King of Mali

| Article By Charles Zackary King |

Legacy That Lives On

Mansa Musa died around 1337, but his legacy endures. He proved that African leadership could be visionary, global, and deeply rooted in cultural pride. His story challenges the erasure of African excellence from mainstream narratives and reminds us that wealth is not just material—it's historical, intellectual, and communal.

Why Mansa Musa Matters Today

In the spirit of America in Black and White and Changing Trends and Times, Mansa Musa's legacy speaks directly to our mission:

- Civic education: His governance model emphasized justice, scholarship, and diplomacy.
- Advocacy: He uplifted his people through infrastructure, faith, and international recognition.
- Legacy-building: His impact was generational, not transactional.

As we continue to tell stories that empower and enlighten, let Mansa Musa be a reminder: Black history is global history. And legacy is built, not bought.

CONTINUE PG. 48

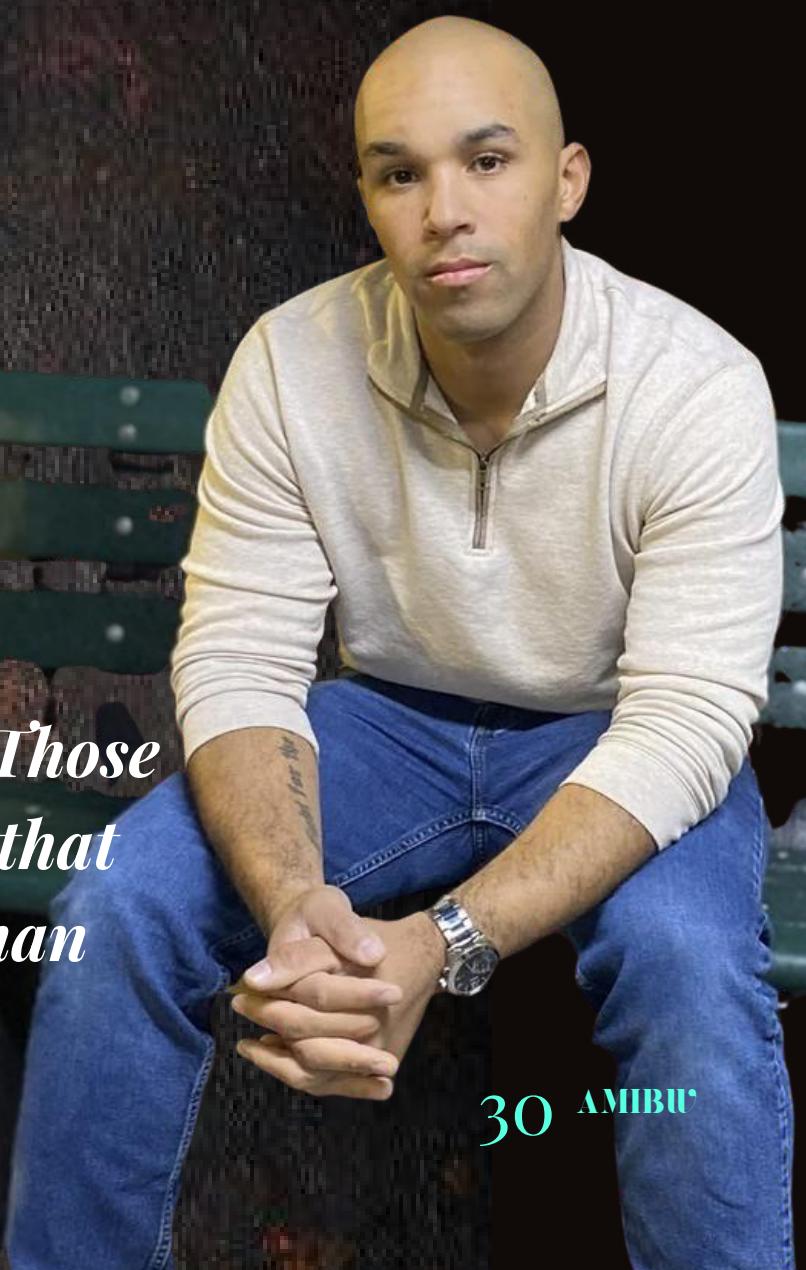
The Healing Power of Purpose Turning Pain into Progress

INTERVIEW WITH

★ ALEXANDER R. STEWART: MENTAL-HEALTH ADVOCATE



“Love and pain... Those are the two things that connect every human being.”



The Healing Power of Purpose Turning Pain into Progress

Alexander R. Stewart is a purpose-driven entrepreneur, author, combat veteran, and mental-health advocate whose work bridges business, leadership, and emotional wellness. Founder of Unspoken Words, a platform born from his acclaimed debut book *Unspoken Words: The Thoughts of a Soldier*, Stewart transforms raw experience into restorative dialogue. His voice fuses discipline from military service with empathy born of survival — offering a space where entrepreneurship meets healing.

Sitting on the boards of two national nonprofits — one serving civilian suicide prevention and another focused on active-duty military members — Stewart's advocacy extends far beyond talk. His 22-mile Veterans Day ruck march honors the friends he's lost to suicide and raises funds for organizations providing confidential therapy to struggling service members.

Inspired by Nelson Mandela's courage, Malcolm X's conviction, Maya Angelou's grace, and Dr. King's unifying vision, Stewart's life mission is to turn unspoken pain into shared purpose. His writing and speeches challenge stigma, dismantle silence, and remind audiences that true strength is not in hiding emotion but in harnessing it for change.

Where to connect & find his work:

To Be a Black Man in America: The Weight We Carry - The Truth We Live

Article By Charles Zackary King |

We know we will never get a fair shake which is the thing that makes community and family so important to us. It is clear and evident what the justice system has in store for us but what do we do? This is why we have to make sure we build our communities and keep our families together because when there is no male figure in the household outsiders find ways to take advantage of our people.

This is being told from my eyes because it is important that we do what is necessary to work and build together. Outside ramble is just that but we got to continue to show that we are the real leaders of our people. We have to communicate better but met with the same demeanor from those in our community. No one or nothing is perfect and I know we can grow like everything was intended to be for us all.

This is not accidental. It's structural.

The Legacy We Build Anyway

Despite it all, we lead. We mentor. We create. We heal. We build platforms like America in Black and White and AMIBW The Magazine to tell our stories on our terms. We are not just survivors, we are architects of truth.

Personal Reflection

As a Black man, I've felt the sting of betrayal, the weight of expectation, and the silence of being misunderstood. I've been told to "tone it down," "wait my turn," and "be grateful." But I've also seen the power of truth-telling, the healing in storytelling, and the strength in community.

I write this not just for myself, but for every Black man who's been told he's too loud, too angry, too ambitious, too Black.

Do what is necessary by your wife/Husband and Family and make sure you are documenting and telling your story. Don't ever give up just keep pushing because as a Black Man you are really viewed as the KING you really are.

Call to Action

- Listen to Black men. Not just when we're in pain—but when we're building.
- Support Black-led platforms. Subscribe, share, and invest.
- Challenge stereotypes. In your workplace, your media, your conversations.
- Honor our humanity. Not just our struggle—but our joy, our creativity, our legacy.

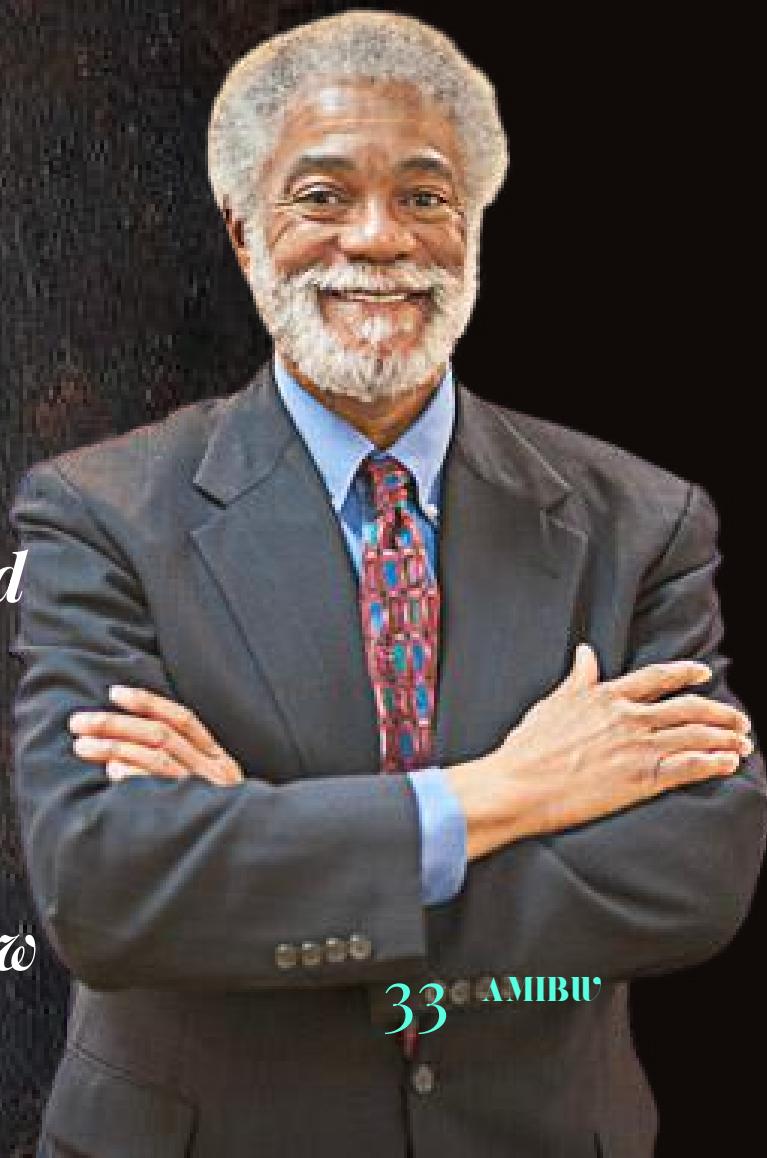
From the Courtroom to the Page Writing Truth, Law, and Legacy

INTERVIEW WITH

★ HAROLD MICHAEL HARVEY: ENTREPRENEUR



“The white lawyer looked at me and said, ‘You’re the Freaknik Lawyer,’ and laughed. He wanted to make fun of what I saw as serious work.”



From the Courtroom to the Page Writing Truth, Law, and Legacy

Harold Michael Harvey is a two-time award-winning author, attorney, and historian whose voice bridges the disciplines of law, literature, and liberation. A native of Macon, Georgia, Harvey is the author of *Freaknik Lawyer: A Memoir on the Craft of Resistance* and *Watch Night: Our Souls Cried Out for Freedom*, both of which chronicle untold chapters of Black American history through his unique lens as a lawyer, activist, and writer. His narrative style merges courtroom precision with Southern storytelling. Transforming personal experience into cultural record.

A past president of the Gate City Bar Association, Georgia's oldest Black bar association, Harvey also founded its Hall of Fame to honor pioneering Black attorneys who carved paths through systemic exclusion. Beyond his legal legacy, he serves as a voting member of the National College Baseball Hall of Fame, ensuring that athletes from HBCUs receive long-overdue recognition.

Harvey's courage was forged during the mid-1990s when, as the sole attorney willing to defend Black college students arrested during the controversial Atlanta Freaknik festival, he stood against political and institutional power alone. His decision became an act of resistance, later immortalized in his memoir. That courage, he discovered, ran deep in his lineage: from ancestors who defied enslavement in Hawkinsville, Georgia, to his own refusal to bow to intimidation.

Today, Harold Michael Harvey continues to write, speak, and mentor — using his pen as both gavel and gospel. Through his books, speeches, and historical research, he calls the next generation to honor their past, defend their dignity, and never forget where courage comes from.

Where to connect & find his work:



GOODE®

Dedicated to Good Nutrition For Our
FOODS

A Family's Mission to Put "Good" Back in the Can

Goode Foods began in 2003 with a simple idea: make nutritious, honestly labeled pantry staples accessible to everyday families. **Founder Emile Johnson**, a former Abbott Labs sales director, left corporate life and—with his son Andrew—built a Chicago-rooted, **Black-owned brand** that would grow from trunk-of-the-car deliveries into national grocery aisles. [***The TRiiBE***](#)

Early on, the Johnsons aimed their impact where it mattered most. In 2009, Goode Foods became the sole supplier to Chicago's WIC centers, providing fresh produce, canned fruit and vegetables, beans, frozen vegetables, and even infant formula—an anchor contract that put healthier options directly into the hands of women, infants, and children across the city. The following year they won a cereal contract for Chicago Public Schools, reinforcing their community-first DNA. [***Goode Foods***](#)

As the brand matured, Goode Foods kept its labels—and its values—clean: non-GMO ingredients, no added sugar, BPA-free recyclable cans, and close work with Upper Midwest farmer co-ops to prioritize soil health and thoughtful crop rotation. It's a canning philosophy built on stewardship as much as shelf life. [***Goode Foods***](#)

Goode's community footprint extends beyond procurement lists. The company regularly re-engages with WIC centers and works alongside Catholic Charities to bring high-quality staples to families who need them—an on-the-ground commitment that mirrors how the brand started. Their own store locator still highlights WIC touchpoints, a quiet reminder of where the mission took root. [***Instagram+1***](#)

Leadership passed to Andrew E. Johnson, who helped drive a 700% distribution expansion, landing Goode Foods in major retailers such as Kroger, Meijer, Walmart, Food Lion, Shaw's, Associated Wholesale Grocers, Target, and more. That scale has enabled new categories—like Pic Select Fresh, the first Black-owned baby-food brand available in major retailers—while keeping ownership 100% family-held, without outside investors. [***FIREBELLY+2 The TRiiBE+2***](#)

Through all the growth, Goode Foods has stayed close to its starting line: serving families with dignity. From WIC clinics and school breakfast lines to everyday carts in national chains, the brand proves a canned vegetable can carry a lot—nutrition, trust, and opportunity—when a company treats community as its bottom line. [***Goode Foods***](#)

In short: Goode Foods isn't just stocking shelves; it's circulating good—in households, in supply chains, and in the communities that raised it. [***Goode Foods***](#)

Building Cities, Building People

The Blueprint for Equitable Economic Growth

INTERVIEW WITH

★ ARTIE JONES III: CIVIC STRATEGIST



“We spend 95% of our disposable income outside our communities. We must reinvest and deliver quality.”



Building Cities, Building People The Blueprint for Equitable Economic Growth

Arty Jones III is a veteran economic development leader, civic strategist, and community builder with 26+ years of experience across Georgia. Raised in a small town in Southeast Georgia, he credits his entrepreneurial spark to his parents. Real-estate and childcare business owners. His public-service compass to his father, the first Black county commissioner in Camden County.

After internships in local government, Arty stepped directly into community & economic development leadership and never looked back. His public-sector career has focused on tailoring growth to the needs of underserved neighborhoods, building trust between residents and developers, and converting policy into tangible, inclusive outcomes.

As Economic Development Director for the City of College Park and Executive Director of its Development Authority, Arty led marquee projects including the Gateway Center Arena—home to the College Park Skyhawks (NBA G League) and Atlanta Dream (WNBA)—and laid the framework for the 300+ acre “Six West” mixed-use district. He now leads King City Advisors, an economic development consulting firm serving cities, counties, non-profits, and entrepreneurs.

Grounded in faith, mentorship, and results, Artie’s work blends data-driven strategy with a human touch. Prioritizing equity, legacy, and long-term community wealth

Where to connect & find his work:

ACTIVELY BLACK APPAREL: REDEFINING OWNERSHIP IN SPORTSWEAR

ARTICLE | By Blake M. Andrews

For decades, global sportswear giants such as Nike and Adidas have built billion-dollar empires on the influence and talent of Black athletes. Their campaigns have celebrated Black excellence, yet the power behind the logos rarely belonged to the culture it portrayed. Former professional basketball player Lanny Smith saw this imbalance firsthand — and decided to change it. “Ownership is very important,” Smith says. “For far too long we’ve only been consumers, not owners.” Out of that conviction came Actively Black, a premium athleisure and sports apparel brand with a mission to empower and reinvest in the Black community.

Launched in November 2020, during a moment of global reflection on racial equity following the murder of George Floyd, Actively Black was created as a direct response to what Smith saw as empty, performative pledges from major corporations. Instead of statements and hashtags, he envisioned a Black-owned brand that could compete on quality, design, and cultural pride — while putting real dollars back into underserved communities. In 2023 alone, Actively Black donated 10% of its profits to organizations such as Black Kids Code, Our Own, and The Liberation Fund. This isn’t just a clothing line; it’s an economic blueprint for change.

<https://activelyblack.com/>

That vision quickly resonated with celebrities and everyday consumers alike. Actively Black has been spotted on stars including Steph Curry, Lupita Nyong’o, Steve Harvey, and even a former U.S. president. The company became the official outfitter of the Nigerian bobsled team during the 2022 Winter Olympics and partnered with Marvel Studios to launch the Wakanda Athletics collection — a powerful nod to the cultural pride inspired by Black Panther. For Smith, these moments bring his mission full circle. “I wanted to create a brand that makes our people feel the same way I felt walking out of Black Panther for the first time,” he reflects.

Now valued at around \$30 million, Actively Black stands as proof that Black entrepreneurship can thrive in industries long dominated by non-Black ownership. It’s more than fashion; it’s movement-building. For Smith, whose mother grew up in the Jim Crow South and integrated schools just a generation ago, the company represents progress that once felt impossible. Each hoodie, jogger, and jacket carries more than a logo — it carries a vision of equity, self-determination, and pride. Actively Black isn’t asking for a seat at the table; it’s building its own.

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ACTIVELY BLACK APPAREAL:
REDEFINING OWNERSHIP IN SPORTSWEAR
ARTICLE | By Blake M. Andrews

<https://activelyblack.com/>

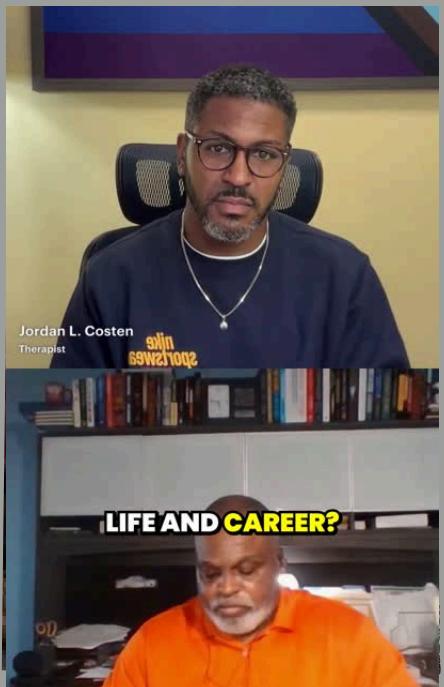


Light, Love & Leadership

Creating Safe Spaces for Healing and Hope

INTERVIEW WITH

★ JORDAN L. COSTEN: PSYCHOTHERAPIST



“We’re only doing our best as a community when our most vulnerable are thriving.”



Light, Love & Leadership Creating Safe Spaces for Healing and Hope

Jordan L. Costen is a licensed psychotherapist, nationally recognized speaker, and founder of Safe Space NOVA, a nonprofit dedicated to uplifting LGBTQ+ youth through advocacy, affirmation, and mental-health access. Before entering the mental-health field, Costen built a successful career in IT account management but felt a deeper calling to create spaces for those navigating trauma, identity, and systemic barriers. That purpose led him to transition from technology to therapy. Choosing purpose over prestige.

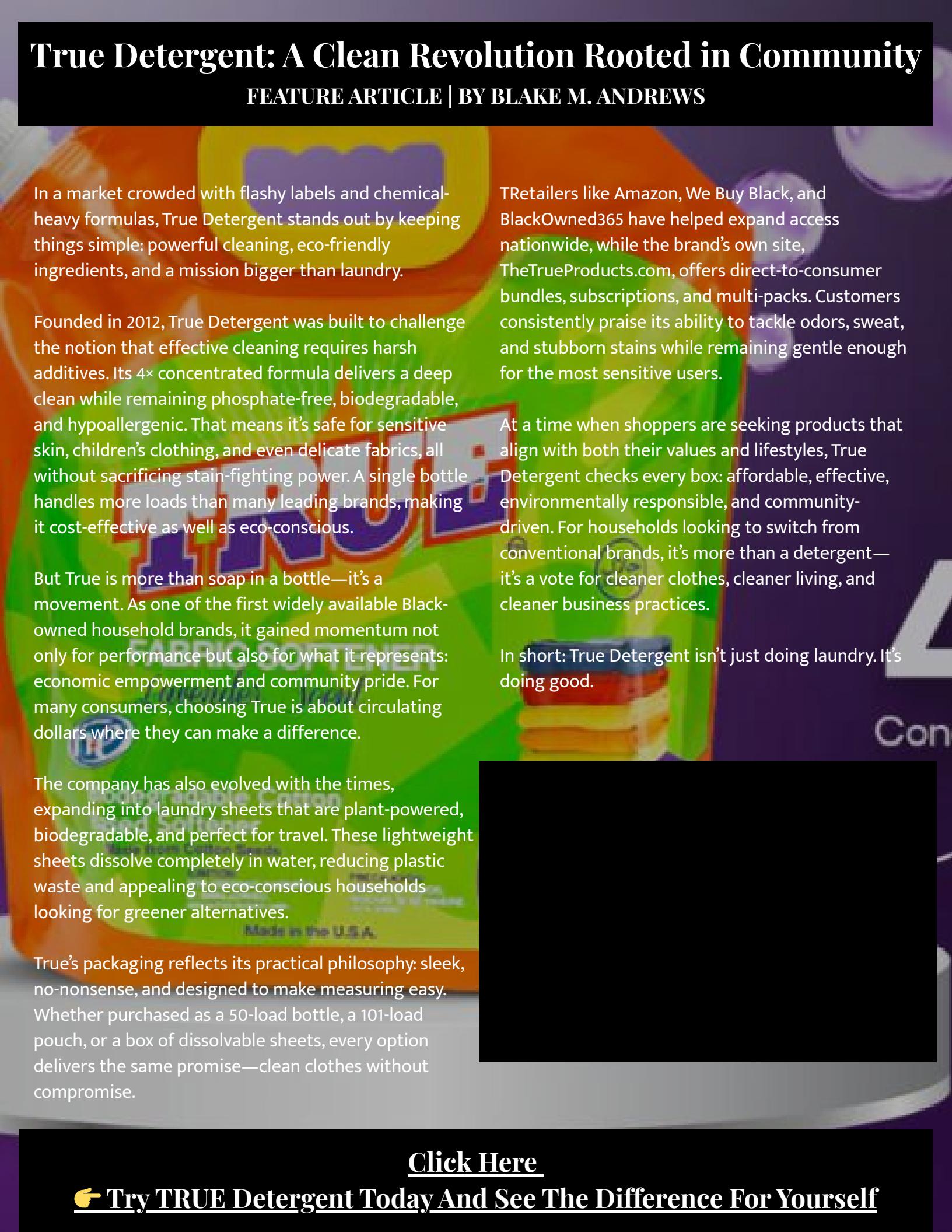
Armed with degrees from Howard University, American University, and The Catholic University of America, Costen brings a trauma-informed, culturally responsive approach that centers compassion, authenticity, and empowerment. In 2016 he founded Safe Space NOVA, which will celebrate its 10-year anniversary in March 2026. His nonprofit fills a void in Northern Virginia's support network for LGBTQ+ youth, providing community, mentorship, and affirmation where none previously existed.

Costens' commitment is deeply personal. At 14, he survived a suicide attempt. An experience that reshaped his life's mission. "I was spared for a purpose," he says, vowing to help others find light when they feel in darkness. Today he serves as Board Chair of Safe Space NOVA and as a member of the One Fairfax Community Roundtable, amplifying under-represented voices and helping local leaders shape equity initiatives.

Where to connect & find his work:

True Detergent: A Clean Revolution Rooted in Community

FEATURE ARTICLE | BY BLAKE M. ANDREWS



In a market crowded with flashy labels and chemical-heavy formulas, True Detergent stands out by keeping things simple: powerful cleaning, eco-friendly ingredients, and a mission bigger than laundry.

Founded in 2012, True Detergent was built to challenge the notion that effective cleaning requires harsh additives. Its 4x concentrated formula delivers a deep clean while remaining phosphate-free, biodegradable, and hypoallergenic. That means it's safe for sensitive skin, children's clothing, and even delicate fabrics, all without sacrificing stain-fighting power. A single bottle handles more loads than many leading brands, making it cost-effective as well as eco-conscious.

But True is more than soap in a bottle—it's a movement. As one of the first widely available Black-owned household brands, it gained momentum not only for performance but also for what it represents: economic empowerment and community pride. For many consumers, choosing True is about circulating dollars where they can make a difference.

The company has also evolved with the times, expanding into laundry sheets that are plant-powered, biodegradable, and perfect for travel. These lightweight sheets dissolve completely in water, reducing plastic waste and appealing to eco-conscious households looking for greener alternatives.

True's packaging reflects its practical philosophy: sleek, no-nonsense, and designed to make measuring easy. Whether purchased as a 50-load bottle, a 101-load pouch, or a box of dissolvable sheets, every option delivers the same promise—clean clothes without compromise.

TRetailers like Amazon, We Buy Black, and BlackOwned365 have helped expand access nationwide, while the brand's own site, TheTrueProducts.com, offers direct-to-consumer bundles, subscriptions, and multi-packs. Customers consistently praise its ability to tackle odors, sweat, and stubborn stains while remaining gentle enough for the most sensitive users.

At a time when shoppers are seeking products that align with both their values and lifestyles, True Detergent checks every box: affordable, effective, environmentally responsible, and community-driven. For households looking to switch from conventional brands, it's more than a detergent—it's a vote for cleaner clothes, cleaner living, and cleaner business practices.

In short: True Detergent isn't just doing laundry. It's doing good.

[Click Here](#)

 **Try TRUE Detergent Today And See The Difference For Yourself**

Faith, Fatherhood & Resilience

Turning Pain Into Purpose

INTERVIEW WITH

QUINTIN BLAND: LIC. PRACTICAL NURSE



“Nursing became both a profession and a ministry of compassion, especially during the pandemic.”





Faith, Fatherhood & Resilience

Turning Pain Into Purpose

Quinton Bland's journey from the disciplined life of a military child to the compassionate mission of community service reflects extraordinary resilience and faith. Born in Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, Bland spent his childhood moving across the country as a military brat, learning early lessons about adaptability and independence. Following in his father's footsteps, he served six years in the U.S. Air Force, where he developed patience, teamwork, and cultural sensitivity—values that continue to guide his leadership.

After his military service, Bland pursued a career in healthcare, becoming a Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) and serving for over twelve years, including as a travel nurse during the COVID-19 pandemic. His frontline experiences in overwhelmed hospitals across New York and New Jersey exposed him to grief and loss on a scale few ever witness, deepening his empathy and strengthening his spiritual resolve.

“Healthcare is not something you should do for the money,” he reflected. “It’s emotionally tolling.” (14:09–14:14).

Beyond healthcare, Quinton’s personal journey through homelessness, depression, and faith-based recovery transformed his mission. Those hardships became the foundation for his nonprofit organization, My Abba Father, dedicated to supporting men—particularly fathers—facing family, financial, or emotional crises (18:47–19:18). Through the ministry, Bland provides legal assistance, counseling, and mentorship, ensuring no man feels alone in his struggle to be a father. “My Abba Father was built out of the pain and struggle I had,” he explains.

Today, Bland balances nonprofit leadership with seminary studies, preparing for ministry ordination while remaining grounded in family and service. His mission transcends personal success—it’s about leaving a legacy of love, faith, and leadership. As he puts it: “Legacy isn’t money. Legacy is when people are inspired and able to learn from what you’ve done.”

Where to connect & find his work:

AMIBW Networking Empowerment Community

Your Invitation to Connect, Collaborate, and Grow

FEATURE ARTICLE | BY BLAKE M. ANDREWS

At **America In Black and White (AMIBW)**, every episode, article, and feature tells a story, stories of resilience, innovation, and empowerment within our community. But we believe the conversation shouldn't end when the page is turned or the show wraps. That's why we created the AMIBW Networking Empowerment Community, a vibrant space where readers, supporters, and past guests can meet, share, and build meaningful connections.

Inside **AMIBW The Community**, you'll find more than just familiar faces. You'll discover a powerful network of entrepreneurs, thought leaders, artists, and change-makers who have walked the same paths, faced similar challenges, and celebrated hard-earned victories. Here, you can connect directly with inspiring individuals you've read about or seen on the show, continue conversations, ask questions, and explore new opportunities for collaboration. You'll be able to share your own journey, whether you're launching a business, promoting a cause, or offering your expertise, all within a supportive space where your voice matters.

Members enjoy access to exclusive resources such as early event invitations, private workshops, and insider updates before they are made public. The community also serves as a place to form partnerships, seek mentorship, and build projects together. Many members find that the right conversation at the right time can open doors to exciting ventures. When you reach milestones, big or small, you'll find people ready to celebrate your wins alongside you.

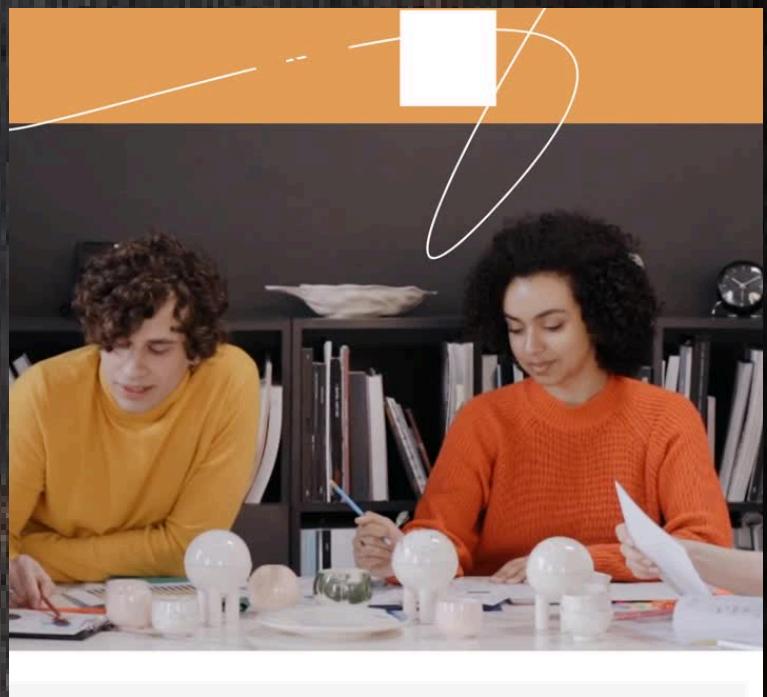
The **AMIBW Networking Empowerment Community** is open to past and future guests, readers, and supporters of America In Black and White.

It's also a welcoming safe space for entrepreneurs, professionals, creatives, and community advocates who value authentic and purpose-driven connections.

Joining is simple. **Visit the AMIBW Networking Empowerment Community below** and create your free profile. Once inside, introduce yourself, explore the member list, and start engaging with others.

This is your invitation to be part of something bigger, not just reading the stories, but living them alongside those who inspire you. Let's grow together, support one another, and build a network as powerful as the voices we amplify.

Click here: [**AMIBW Networking Empowerment Community**](#) where connection becomes opportunity.



- **Interested** in having a community of your own to fully customize, contact **Blake Andrews** in the AMIBW community.

Bridging Continents Through Culture

The Art of Connection and Legacy

INTERVIEW WITH

★ JEAN-PATRICK GUICHARD: CULTURAL CURATOR



“We are custodians of our culture. Nurture it and pass it on.”



Bridging Continents Through Culture The Art of Connection and Legacy

Jean Patrick Guichard is a cultural curator, visionary arts advocate, and international bridge-builder whose journey connects Brooklyn to Guinea, and Africa to America. Born in New York City and raised in Guinea, West Africa, Guichard was shaped by both diasporic identity and deep continental experience. His mother—a U.S. Foreign Service officer and cultural attaché, inspired his early appreciation of global art and diplomacy. Her influence, and his exposure to African art across Senegal, Ghana, Nigeria, South Africa, Cameroon, and the Congo, sparked a lifelong mission to elevate African voices through artistic storytelling.

With a degree in Black Studies from San Francisco State University, Guichard spent decades working with international NGOs on conflict resolution, resource conservation, and community development, experiences that gave him an unmatched understanding of Africa's social and cultural ecosystems. Transitioning into art full-time, he founded Gallery Miriam, named in honor of his mother, as a living tribute to her legacy of cultural exchange and service.

Since 2010, Gallery Miriam has served as a platform for emerging African artists, curating exhibitions at Gallery Serengeti (Maryland) and Aazi ATL (Georgia). His signature Art and Senses Dinner Series blends fine art, cuisine, music, and dialogue. Creating a multi-sensory cultural exchange that immerses audiences in Africa's global influence. Today, Guichard balances his work in IT project management with his passion for curating art and mentoring artists worldwide, emphasizing that legacy is not ownership—it's impact.

Where to connect & find his work:

AI Concierge: A Game Changer for Small Business Owners

FEATURE ARTICLE & OVERVIEW VIDEO | BY BLAKE M. ANDREWS

In today's competitive marketplace, the way businesses handle customer interactions can be the difference between growth and stagnation. That's exactly what came through in a recent discussion between **Blake Andrews** and **Charles King** on The Basement Crew podcast, where they explored the transformative potential of an AI Concierge powered by Prime AI and offered by IMTv360.

From the start, Charles didn't mince words calling the AI Concierge a game changer. His enthusiasm wasn't just hype; it was rooted in firsthand experience. What stood out most was how humanlike the AI sounded. Gone were the robotic tones and awkward pauses we've all endured with automated systems. Instead, conversations flowed smoothly, creating an interaction that felt natural and engaging.

But sounding human is only half the equation. The AI's real strength lies in its deep customization of its services. Whether the inquiry was about marketing, social media management, CRM tools, or reputation management, the AI delivered accurate, context-aware answers in seconds. Even nuanced topics like customer engagement were handled with ease demonstrating a level of sophistication well beyond basic scripts.

The business implications are profound. This AI isn't just answering calls; it's generating leads, scheduling appointments, and maintaining customer relationships all while working 24/7. That means no missed calls, no lost opportunities, and no employee fatigue. For small and medium-sized businesses, it's like having the perfect receptionist who never takes a break.

Cost is another factor in its appeal. Compared to hiring a full-time receptionist or outsourcing customer service, the AI Concierge offers top-tier performance at a fraction of the price. Even startups can access the same high-quality customer interaction tools once reserved for large companies.

With IMTv360's live AI Concierge available right on the website, you can experience firsthand what it's like to have a natural, humanlike conversation with your own 24/7 virtual assistant. Simply call **(253) 316-8526** or visit: [**\(https://app.imtv360.io/4bots\)**](https://app.imtv360.io/4bots), ask questions about IMTv360's services, book an appointment, and watch as **Olivia** the Ai Concierge responds instantly, just like it would for your customers.

Ultimately, Blake and Charles's conversation underscored a powerful reality: in an era where every customer interaction matters, having an AI Concierge ensures consistent, professional communication without fail. For business owners, that translates into more time, more efficiency, and more growth.

The logo for IMTv360 features the word "IMTv360" in a large, bold, red sans-serif font. Below it, the words "Independent Multi-Media // Marketing/Television" are written in a smaller, blue sans-serif font. To the left of the main text, there is a vertical blue bar with the letters "NREPTV" in white. Below the main text, the word "Prime Ai" is written in a large, bold, red sans-serif font.

[Click Here ➡ To See IMTv360's Ai Concierge Olivia in action for yourself](#)
[continue pg. 63](#)

AI Concierge: A Game Changer for Small Business Owners

FEATURE ARTICLE & OVERVIEW VIDEO | BY BLAKE M. ANDREWS

IMTv360
Independent Multi-Media // Marketing/Television
Prime Ai

[Click Here ➡ To See IMTv360's Ai Concierge Olivia in action for yourself.](#)

Building Stronger Sons, Restoring Fatherhood, and Redefining Legacy

INTERVIEW WITH

★ MARCUS MENESE: ENTREPRENEUR



“You can change at any time you’re ready. Just don’t change when it hurts too much.”



Building Stronger Sons, Restoring Fatherhood, and Redefining Legacy

Marcus Meneese is the Founder and Executive Director of Stronger Than My Father, Inc., a Nashville-based 501(c)(3) nonprofit devoted to uplifting youth and families through education, mentorship, and faith-based empowerment. Since 2013, Meneese has built his organization into a cornerstone of community leadership—creating programs that address fatherlessness and inspire generational healing. With over two decades of hands-on experience, his mission is simple yet profound: to help young men become “stronger than their fathers,” breaking cycles of abandonment and restoring the power of fatherhood in the family.

A proud Nashville native, Meneese holds a B.S. in Psychology from Tennessee State University and an M.S. in Organizational Leadership from Trevecca Nazarene University. His work blends spiritual purpose with social responsibility, emphasizing mentorship, structure, and the critical role of male guidance. Through his signature podcast Stronger Than My Father, he gives voice to those impacted by the absence—or presence—of their fathers, fostering open conversations that heal and unite.

Raised in a stable two-parent household, Marcus credits his father for instilling the principles that now shape his mentorship model—discipline, consistency, and service. Yet it was his mother’s gentle push to mentor his cousin that unlocked his calling. That act of obedience became the seed that grew into a lifelong mission of developing responsible adults and engaged parents through transformative mentorship programs.

Today, Marcus’s message resounds far beyond Nashville: that faith, family, and consistency can rebuild broken foundations, restore manhood, and reshape entire communities. His example reminds us that true leadership begins at home.

Where to connect & find his work:

Unlocking Your Business Potential With CRM & AI TECH

FEATURE ARTICLE | BY BLAKE M. ANDREWS

Let's talk business, your business. Whether you're juggling a side hustle, taking client calls from your car, or stuck in the "I-have-an-idea-but-where-do-I-start" phase, one thing's clear: technology isn't a luxury anymore it's the playing field. And right now, CRM and AI tools are the MVPs.

If CRM sounds too corporate, don't worry it simply means Customer Relationship Management. Think of it as your digital brain and personal assistant in one. Add AI automation, and suddenly you've got a 24/7 system that tracks leads, sends texts, books appointments, follows up, and even responds to missed calls while you focus on what you do best.

Here's how it works in real life:

1. The Solo Entrepreneur:
La Shawnda, a fitness coach, used to spend hours texting clients and missing leads. Now, her system handles FAQs, sends reminders, and even upsells sessions automatically giving her more time to train and grow.

2. The Side Hustler with a Dream:
Marcus works a 9-to-5 but wanted to launch a mobile detailing service. With just a booking calendar, a simple form, and a few automations, he built weekend business that soon became full-time.

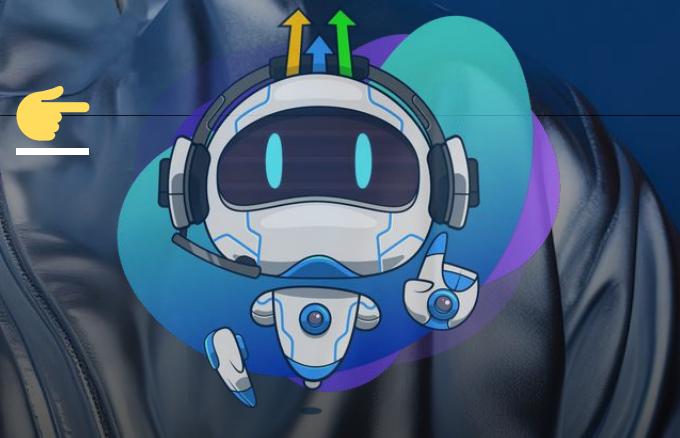
3. The Not-So-Tech-Savvy Beginner

Catrena runs a small cleaning service and isn't very techy. But with a basic CRM setup, she tracks clients, confirms appointments, and follows up for reviews making her service look pro and grow faster.

If tech feels overwhelming, you're not alone. Plenty of successful business owners started not even knowing what a CRM was. Today's tools are made for people just like you no coding, no tech skills, just smart systems that help you start strong and scale fast.

Best of all, you don't need a big budget. You can start investing in yourself and your business for less than \$100/month and get a **Free 14-Day Trial** to explore, test, and see the difference for yourself.

So whether you're building something new, upgrading what you've got, or just exploring ideas it's your time. Don't wait for "someday." Get in. Look around. You might just surprise yourself.



[Click Here](#)

👉 Business doesn't have to be complicated. Take a look at what's possible.

Midnight Clarity... Healing, Purpose, and Authentic Self-Mastery

INTERVIEW WITH

★ DOMONIQUE D. K. EVANS: LIC. PROFESSIONAL COUNSELOR



“Therapy isn’t about fixing broken people; it’s about guiding them back to themselves.”



Midnight Clarity... Healing, Purpose, and Authentic Self-Mastery

Dominique Evans is a Licensed Professional Counselor, mental health advocate, and founder of Midnight Clarity Therapy, a private practice dedicated to helping clients rediscover balance, authenticity, and inner truth. With roots grounded in resilience and guided by empathy, Dominique's approach bridges clinical expertise with lived experience. Raised by his mother, Karen Evans, in a single-parent home, he credits her with instilling his enduring philosophy: "Get everything with your name on it." Her encouragement to pursue every goal with intention and excellence became the foundation for both his personal and professional success.

Evans' journey to becoming a therapist wasn't linear—it was born from hardship and perseverance. During graduate school amid the COVID-19 pandemic, he juggled a full-time job, internship, and personal responsibilities, often questioning his limits. But through it all, he chose persistence over surrender: "If I drop out, what is that solving?" His lived resilience became his greatest credential, shaping his unique ability to guide others through emotional storms with grounded compassion.

Beyond the therapy chair, Dominique is an athlete, creative, and mindfulness advocate, using movement, fitness, and reflective practices as extensions of emotional healing. His experiences as a track and field runner under Coach Julian Edwards instilled lifelong discipline and accountability: "Never say can't—show up for yourself." That lesson, passed through sport, now defines his approach to therapy, entrepreneurship, and mentorship.

Through his company Midnight Clarity Therapy, Dominique redefines what modern therapy looks like—offering late-night sessions for working adults, merging mindfulness with movement, and breaking stigmas around mental health in Black communities. His mission is simple yet transformative: "Healing isn't about becoming someone new. It's about remembering who you've always been."

Where to connect & find his work:

Faith, Fitness, and the Fight for Life

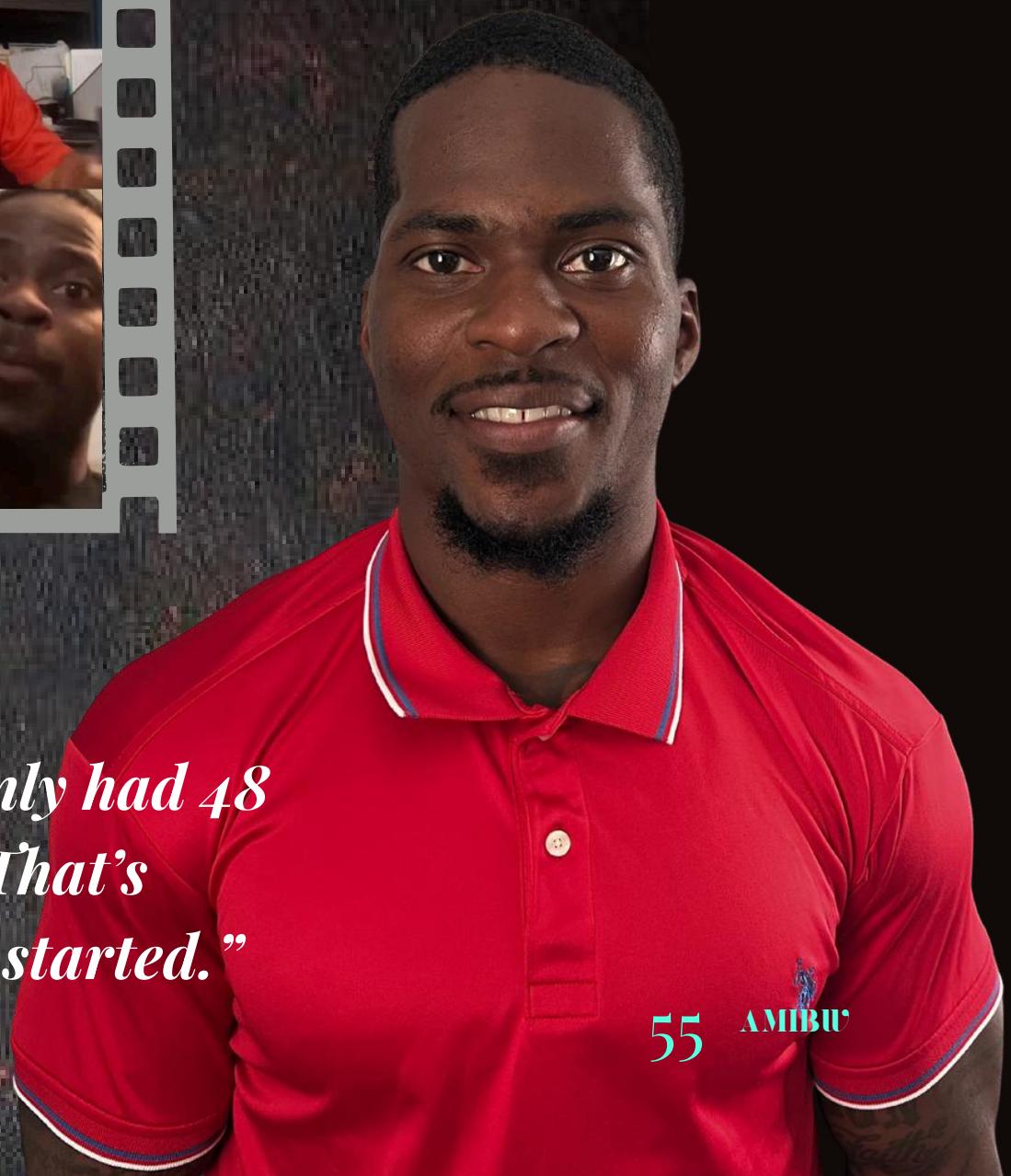
Turning Pain Into Purpose

INTERVIEW WITH

★ LARRY E. TAYLOR JR: PERSONAL TRAINER



“They said I only had 48 hours to live. That’s when my faith started.”



Faith, Fitness, and the Fight for Life

Turning Pain Into Purpose

Larry Eugene Taylor is a brain cancer survivor, author, father, personal trainer, and faith-driven motivator whose life embodies the triumph of the human spirit. Born in Cleveland, Ohio, and raised between Frankfort, Kentucky and Birmingham, Alabama, Taylor's journey is one of relentless perseverance and divine transformation. A Kentucky State University Magna Cum Laude graduate and former collegiate football player, Larry built early discipline on the field—discipline that would one day help him fight for his life off it.

In 2012, doctors told his family he had just 48 hours to live. Four years later, after collapsing from a seizure and crashing into a pole, he learned the truth—he had a brain tumor. What could have ended his story became the beginning of his testimony. “They said I only had 48 hours to live, but God said, ‘Not yet,’” he recounted. Despite chemotherapy, radiation, and homelessness, Larry never lost faith. Surrounded by prayer warriors, family, and the unwavering love of his aunt Barbara Gordon, he declared victory through scripture: “By His stripes, we are healed.”

Today, Taylor channels his trials into transformation. As a strength coach, motivational speaker, and author of the book *God So Great*, he uplifts others facing adversity with a message of faith, resilience, and self-discipline. His philosophy—rooted in scripture and tested by fire—is simple yet powerful: “Everything that happened had to happen for me to become this man.”

Through his fitness business and ministry, Larry helps others build not only physical strength but also emotional and spiritual endurance. His story proves that no diagnosis, circumstance, or past can defeat divine purpose. As he says, “If it’s not hurting, it’s not working. Pain is the path to growth.”

Where to connect & find his work:

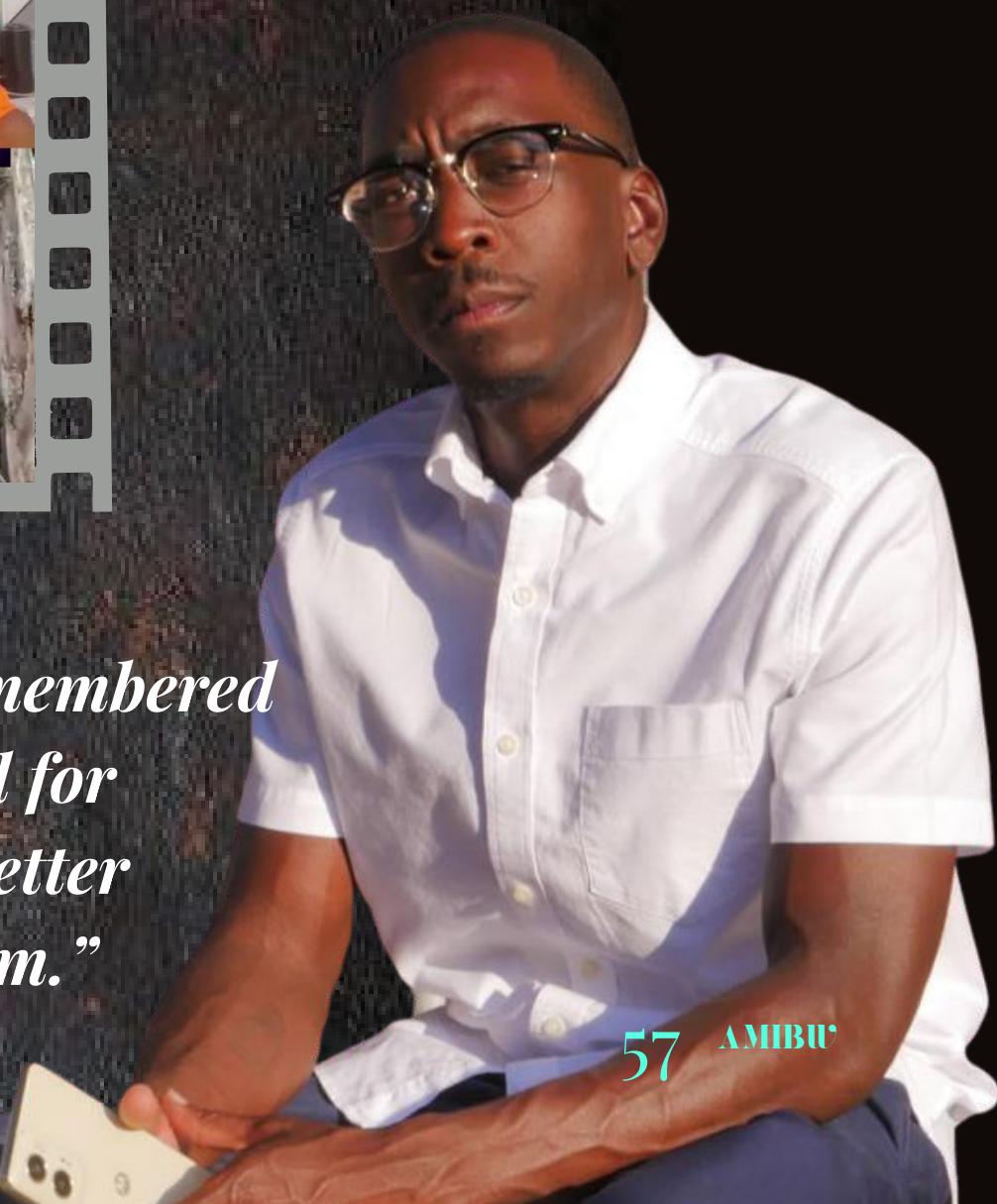
Divine Disruption: From 19 Arrests to a Life Redeemed by Purpose

INTERVIEW WITH

★ SELVIN HICKS:
SPEAKER & AUTHOR



*“I want to be remembered
for my smile and for
leaving people better
than I found them.”*



Divine Disruption: From 19 Arrests to a Life Redeemed by Purpose

Selvin Hicks is a speaker, author, entrepreneur, and disciple, whose life story reads like a modern parable of redemption and divine restoration. Forged in the fire of 19 arrests, near suicide, and spiritual warfare, Hicks emerged as a messenger of transformation, purpose, and truth. Today, he is the founder of Selvin Presents, a platform that merges entrepreneurship, ministry, and empowerment, reaching audiences in boardrooms, churches, re-entry programs, and corporate summits alike.

Before the pulpit, Selvin built success in business development, marketing, and real estate, creating Manifest the Market, a business growth network for entrepreneurs. Yet behind the glow of achievement lay years of internal chaos—pain masked by status, nightlife, and fleeting success. “From the outside looking in, life looked amazing; from the inside looking out, it was horrific,” he recalled. It took prison walls, demonic encounters, and divine intervention to strip away the mask and reveal his true calling.

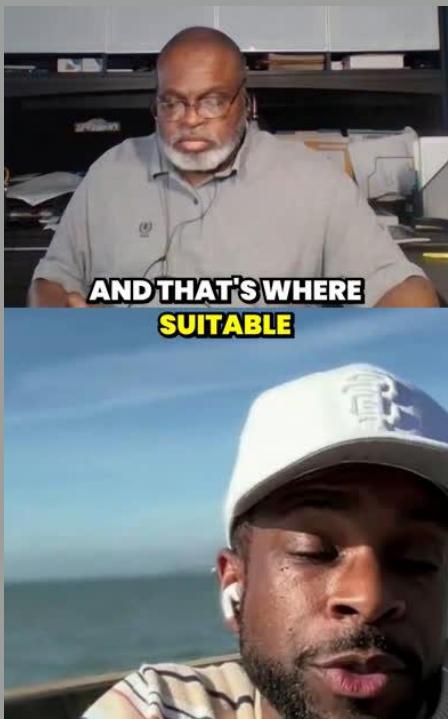
Today, Hicks identifies himself foremost as a disciple of Christ, walking in obedience and teaching others to “stop hiding and start building.” Through his testimony and new book, Sinner’s Redemption, he helps men and women escape bondage to become builders of faith, freedom, and legacy. His speaking style—raw, honest, and Spirit-led—moves beyond motivation into transformation. As he says, “I don’t come to motivate. I come to interrupt.”

Where to connect & find his work:

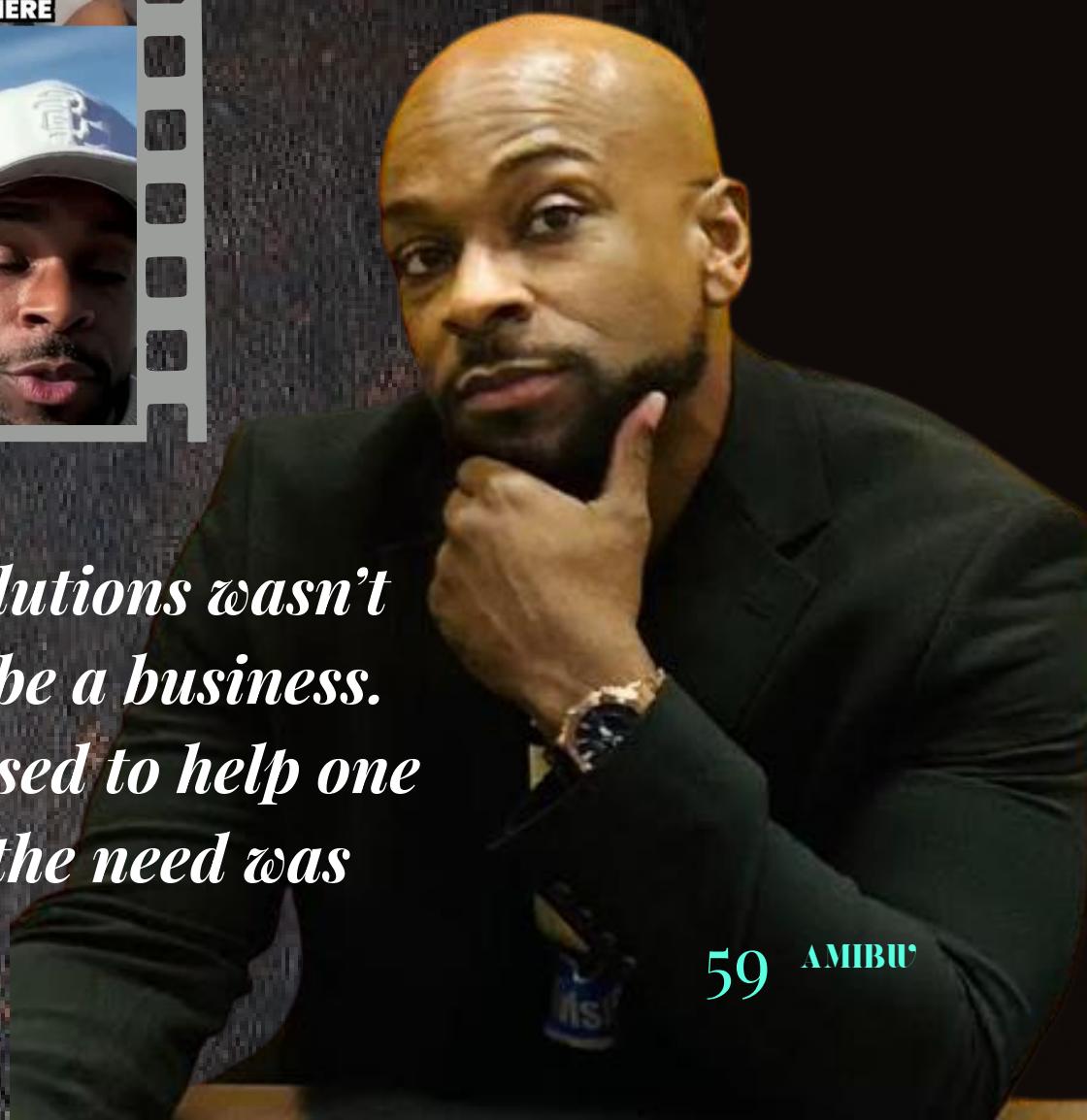
Redemption, Rehabilitation, and the Rebuilding of Hope

INTERVIEW WITH

★ CHRISTOPHER S. BRYSON: REHABILITATION COUNSELOR



“Suitable Solutions wasn’t supposed to be a business. It was supposed to help one person. But the need was greater.”



Redemption, Rehabilitation, and the Rebuilding of Hope

Christopher S. Bryson is a rehabilitation counselor, educator, entrepreneur, and advocate for restorative justice, whose life journey reflects the transformative power of accountability, education, and service. Once a troubled youth searching for identity, Bryson's turning point came inside the California Department of Corrections, where he discovered purpose through programs rooted in service, empathy, and redemption.

His participation in Prisoners Overcoming Obstacles Creating Hope (POOCH)—a program training service dogs for autistic children and disabled veterans—awakened his capacity to give back. That experience laid the foundation for his later work in behavioral health and re-entry reform. Certified as a trauma-informed facilitator through the Guiding Rage Into Power Institute, and a Substance Use Disorder Counselor, Bryson became both student and teacher of change.

Today, Bryson serves as CEO of Suitable Solutions Programs (SSP), developing both correspondence and in-person re-entry programs for justice-involved individuals. He also works as a counselor at San Quentin Rehabilitation Center (SQRC) through CDCR & CCHCS, addressing co-occurring disorders and behavioral health needs. In addition, he serves as Director of Development for Every Life Deserves Assistance (ELDA), where he leads trauma-informed workforce initiatives, and as Program Coordinator and Instructor for the Prison Education Project at UC Davis and Sacramento State.

Bryson's story is one of transformation through structure, empathy, and perseverance. "I found the harder I worked, the luckier I got," he reflects. His belief that rehabilitation is not just about changing behavior—but about rediscovering one's worth—anchors everything he does.

Where to connect & find his work:



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America In Black And White

AMIBW is more than a magazine—it's a movement. Founded by visionary advocate Charles Zackary King, AMIBW stands at the intersection of storytelling, justice, and cultural legacy.

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AMIBW champions the athletes, leaders, educators, and everyday heroes whose voices have too often been marginalized in mainstream media. With each edition, the magazine not only challenges bias—it rewrites the playbook on how media can empower, educate, and inspire.

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Whether amplifying the talent of Justin Fields, spotlighting changemakers like Dr. Patrick Graham and Dr. Lila Elliott, or celebrating community impact through initiatives like Integrated Community Education Consultants, AMIBW is the platform where culture meets purpose.





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