

AMIBW

America In Black And White The Magazine

1000



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HAPPY HOST LETTER

| BY CHARLES ZACKARY KING |
FOUNDER OF AMIBW



Welcome to Volume 2 of AMIBW The Magazine, a living archive of legacy, resilience, and unapologetic Black brilliance. As I sit with the pages of this issue, I'm reminded that this work is more than media—it's ministry. It's movement. It's memory.

Each story we share, each voice we uplift, is a testament to the divine design of our people. From educators and artists to healers and historians, AMIBW continues to be a platform where truth is spoken boldly, and healing is pursued intentionally. Volume 2 is no exception. It's layered with wisdom, rooted in faith, and charged with the energy of those who dare to dream beyond survival.

This issue features the incomparable Eugene Jamil Muhammad, a man whose life as an educator, biology instructor, and community advocate is deeply shaped by the teachings of the Honorable Elijah Muhammad. His story reminds us that knowledge is sacred, and that education, when grounded in purpose, can be revolutionary.

To our readers, contributors, and supporters: thank you. Your belief in this vision fuels every word, every interview, every image. You are the reason AMIBW exists, not just as a magazine, but as a mirror reflecting the beauty, complexity, and power of Black identity.

To our readers, contributors, and supporters: thank you. Your belief in this vision fuels every word, every interview, every image. You are the reason AMIBW exists, not just as a magazine, but as a mirror reflecting the beauty, complexity, and power of Black identity.

As we turn these pages together, may you feel seen. May you feel inspired. And above all, may you feel called to continue the work because A Message in Black Wisdom is not just something we publish. It's something we live.

With gratitude and fire,

Charles Zackary King
Founder & Host,
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."

EDITORIAL

A Milestone Worth Celebrating

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



Welcome to the second issue of AMIBW The Magazine—and to a historic moment as we celebrate the 100th episode of America In Black and White for 2025.

This magazine was born as more than a printed extension of a podcast. It is a living archive of conversations, culture, and reflection. A safe space crafted with intention, voice, and purpose. Each page carries the energy of the stories we've shared on-air, now brought into the hands, homes, and hearts of our readers.

In these pages, you'll find more than reporting. You'll encounter voices that haven't always been amplified, perspectives that challenge the status quo, and images that reveal truth, resilience, and pride. Every feature, every interview, and every layout is built with meaning—designed not just to look good, but to leave an imprint.

Our commitment remains clear and unshakable: depth over distraction, context over clickbait, legacy over fleeting trends.

Media, when rooted in integrity, has the power to shape how we see ourselves and how we see one another. That belief is what guides this work.

The 100th episode is more than a number—it is proof of consistency, dedication, and the trust of an audience that values conversations that matter. It is a reminder that our stories are not only worth telling, but worth preserving.

This publication is for thinkers, listeners, builders, and dreamers—for all who demand more from media than noise and who believe in imagining a better future together.

Thank you for reading. Thank you for thinking. And thank you for being part of this milestone with us. Let's keep turning pages, creating dialogue, and building legacy—together.

With respect,
Blake Andrews
CMO of IMTv360
Executive Publisher & Creative Editor-in-Chief
of AMIBW The Magazine

“Still Dreaming: MLK’s Vision and the Power of Black Legacy”

BY CHARLES ZACKARY KING

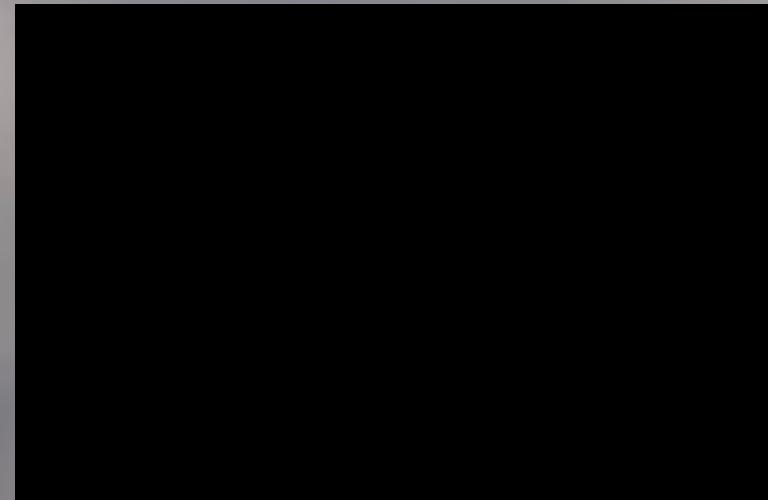
Sixty-two years ago, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. stood before the nation and declared, “I have a dream.” His words, delivered on August 28, 1963, during the March on Washington, were more than a speech, they were a spiritual summons to justice.

King’s message was rooted in urgency. He spoke not just of hope, but of action. He reminded America that the Emancipation Proclamation had freed the body, but not the soul of Black America. Segregation, poverty, and systemic exclusion still gripped the nation. His dream was not passive, it was a challenge.

Today, as we honor the anniversary of that iconic speech, we must ask: What does the dream demand of us now?

For Black entrepreneurs, creatives, and legacy builders, King’s vision is a blueprint. He called for freedom to ring from every mountaintop, and we must echo that call through our platforms, our businesses, and our stories. His speech reminds us that justice is not abstract. It lives in our hiring practices, our media representation, our community investments.

King’s dream was also deeply personal. He imagined a world where his children would be judged by their character, not their skin. That vision still resonates in a time when racial bias persists in education, healthcare, and opportunity.



I Have A Dream Speech - August 28, 1963

It calls us to build systems that affirm Black excellence and protect Black futures.

The timing of this reflection is critical. We live in a moment where voting rights are under attack, economic gaps are widening, and cultural erasure threatens our narratives. King’s warning against “business as usual” is a call to disrupt, to innovate, and to lead.

At AMIBW The Magazine, we honor that legacy by spotlighting Black women entrepreneurs, youth innovators, and community champions. We believe that storytelling is activism, and that media can be a tool for liberation.

Let us not merely commemorate King’s dream. Let us live it. Let us build platforms that uplift, businesses that empower, and legacies that endure.

INTERVIEW WITH

HUMANITARIAN

★ BILLY ANDRE HUMANITARIAN

Benefit from insights into the complex, interconnected challenges of relief work and the resilience required to meet them.



Billy Andre is a seasoned humanitarian aid professional and emergency response program manager for ADRA (Adventist Development and Relief Agency), overseeing operations across Africa and Europe, including critical flood relief efforts in South Sudan. From the depths of the Amazon to the sands of the Sahara, his on-the-ground experience living and working in dozens of countries underscores his unwavering commitment to serving those most in need. When not actively responding to crises, he channels his energy into volunteering and mentoring others drawn to humanitarian service. A gifted storyteller and global innovator, Andre continually seeks new approaches to drive positive change. As he observes in his work for ADRA, “People lack food and land to cultivate anything... Health officials are reporting a rise in malaria, mental trauma, and anxiety,” reflecting the dire conditions he confronts and the urgency of responsive aid.

Stratus Is Here: The New COVID Variant Sweeping the Nation

BY CHARLES ZACKARY KING

We've entered a new chapter in the COVID-19 story and it's moving fast.

The latest variant, XFG nicknamed "Stratus" is now the dominant strain in the United States. In just a few short months, it's gone from zero reported cases to accounting for nearly half of all infections nationwide. And while the headlines may feel familiar, the threat is real, and the timing couldn't be worse.

A Surge We Can't Ignore

Stratus has been confirmed in wastewater across 30 states, but the CDC believes cases are rising in 45 and not declining anywhere. Emergency room visits are up across all age groups, just as schools reopen and families return to crowded routines. This isn't a drill. It's a late summer surge with serious implications.

What Makes Stratus Different?

Stratus is a hybrid of variants F.7 and LP.8.1.2, and it's spreading globally. Scientists say it's more transmissible than previous strains including the earlier Nimbus variant. It carries unique mutations in its spike protein that help it evade antibodies from prior infections and vaccinations.

That means even if you've had COVID before or are vaccinated you're not immune to infection. The good news? Vaccines still help reduce the risk of severe illness. But prevention is key.

Where It's Hitting Hard

While the national viral level is considered "moderate," 14 states are seeing high or very high activity. California, Nevada, Utah, Colorado, Texas, Hawaii, and Louisiana are among the hardest hit and surrounding states aren't far behind.

This isn't isolated. It's widespread. And it's accelerating.

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MENTAL HEALTH ADVOCATE

Sergeant First Class Alexander R. Stewart (based out of Pesidio of Monterey, CA) is an active-duty Army combat veteran, mental health advocate, poet, and motivational speaker whose service includes tours in Afghanistan, Iraq, and Syria. In his debut collection of poems, *Unspoken Words: The Thoughts of a Soldier*, he offers raw, heartfelt insight into the mental and emotional struggles that many service members face, writing, for instance, "Throughout my time in the service ... I have seen many terrible things and have dealt with the aftermath of experiencing those things. I personally understand the internal struggle that those around us cannot see...". Stewart's heartfelt verses serve as a bridge between military and civilian worlds, helping veterans recognize they are not alone, and helping loved ones understand what soldiers truly endure. Moreover, his advocacy extends beyond the page: through motivational speaking, free resource donation, and fitness events honoring the 22 service members lost to suicide daily, he actively supports recovery and promotes resilience.

INTERVIEW WITH

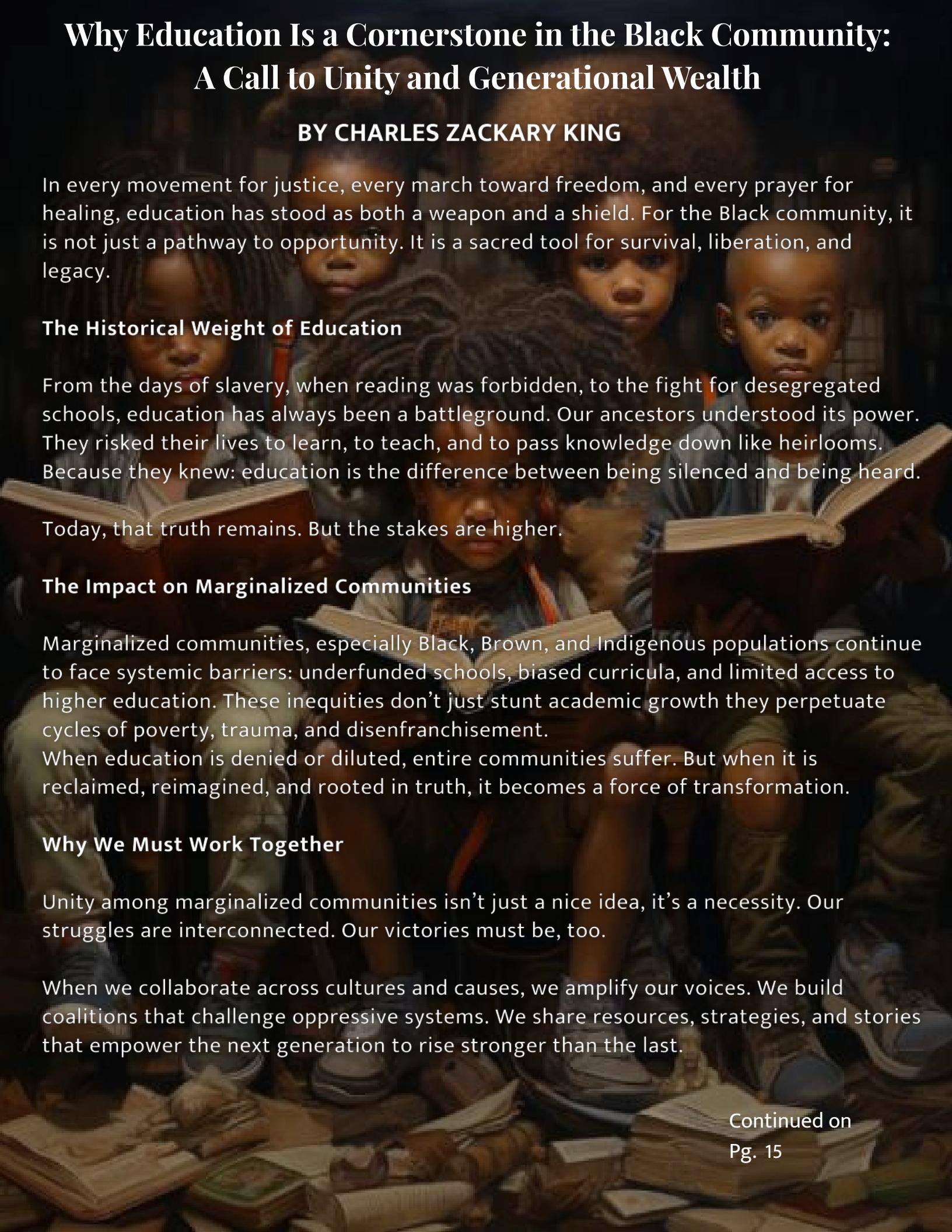
★ ALEXANDER R. STEWART

Benefit from an authentic voice, gain empathy, understanding, and encouragement in confronting and healing from invisible wounds.



Why Education Is a Cornerstone in the Black Community: A Call to Unity and Generational Wealth

BY CHARLES ZACKARY KING



In every movement for justice, every march toward freedom, and every prayer for healing, education has stood as both a weapon and a shield. For the Black community, it is not just a pathway to opportunity. It is a sacred tool for survival, liberation, and legacy.

The Historical Weight of Education

From the days of slavery, when reading was forbidden, to the fight for desegregated schools, education has always been a battleground. Our ancestors understood its power. They risked their lives to learn, to teach, and to pass knowledge down like heirlooms. Because they knew: education is the difference between being silenced and being heard.

Today, that truth remains. But the stakes are higher.

The Impact on Marginalized Communities

Marginalized communities, especially Black, Brown, and Indigenous populations continue to face systemic barriers: underfunded schools, biased curricula, and limited access to higher education. These inequities don't just stunt academic growth they perpetuate cycles of poverty, trauma, and disenfranchisement.

When education is denied or diluted, entire communities suffer. But when it is reclaimed, reimagined, and rooted in truth, it becomes a force of transformation.

Why We Must Work Together

Unity among marginalized communities isn't just a nice idea, it's a necessity. Our struggles are interconnected. Our victories must be, too.

When we collaborate across cultures and causes, we amplify our voices. We build coalitions that challenge oppressive systems. We share resources, strategies, and stories that empower the next generation to rise stronger than the last.

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INTERVIEW WITH

JAMES B. KYNES JR.

Gain insight, inspiration, and a pragmatic path toward building meaningful ventures.



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REAL ESTATE BROKER

James B. Kynes Jr., an Atlanta-based commercial real estate broker and entrepreneur, is the founder of Rushman Moore Commercial Real Estate Group, a boutique firm specializing in tenant representation and business brokerage

[Instagram+11Block-C](#)

[Properties+11Voyage ATL+11](#). He began his career in corporate sales and sports business management before entering the grooming industry, where he discovered his passion for facilitation and entrepreneurship — ultimately guiding him to establish Rushman Moore CRE [TenantBase](#). With a legacy of purposeful leadership and strategic vision rooted in enterprise, he helps brands and developers find lasting success through ideal locations and structure

[TenantBase+3Voyage ATL+3Block-C](#)

[Properties+3](#). His forthcoming book, 10 Rules to Entrepreneurship: Answer Your Call, Live Your Dream, showcases the blueprint he's personally used to transform vision into value.

Stratus Is Here: The New COVID Variant Sweeping the Nation

BY CHARLES ZACKARY KING

Symptoms to Watch For

Stratus symptoms mirror previous variants, but with a twist:

1. Less frequent loss of taste or smell
2. More common sore throat and hoarseness
3. Fatigue, congestion, and fever remain typical

If you feel “off,” don’t brush it off. Get tested. Mask up. Protect your circle.

Why This Matters

We’ve been here before. But complacency is dangerous. Lower reporting levels mean we’re flying blind in many areas. The virus is adapting. And we must respond with urgency, not indifference. This is about protecting our elders, our children, our communities. It’s about staying informed, staying vigilant, and staying united.

What You Can Do Right Now

1. Get vaccinated or boosted if you haven’t already
2. Wear a mask in crowded or indoor spaces
3. Stay home if you’re sick even mildly
4. Check local health updates and CDC wastewater data
5. Support vulnerable neighbors with resources and care

We don’t need panic. We need preparation.

Final Word

Stratus is not just another variant it’s a reminder. A reminder that COVID-19 is still evolving. That our response must evolve with it. That our communities especially the most vulnerable deserve truth, protection, and action.

Let’s not wait for the numbers to spike. Let’s move now.

Because when we act together, we save lives.

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From pg. 7

ENTREPRENEUR

Omar Kinnebrew is the Atlanta-based entrepreneur and founder of Bespokuture®, a luxury bespoke clothing and accessories brand he launched in 2015 (initially as O.S.K. Styles) before pivoting to high-end custom suits, shoes, and leather goods known for their craftsmanship and confidence-boosting design (bespokuture.com). A graduate of North Carolina A&T (Business Management & Spanish) and Mercer University (MBA in Marketing & Strategic Management), he brings strategic vision and refined style to both fashion and real estate ventures (about.me, bizjournals.com). His creations have been featured in BET, Atlanta News First, Modern Luxury, and other publications (bespokuture.com). As he shared in a 2024 profile, his evolution from selling pocket squares as a side hustle to guiding collaborations with Facebook, Toyota, and Mastercard shows how inspiration, integrity, and innovation can elevate entrepreneurial stature (theqgentleman.com, bizjournals.com).

INTERVIEW WITH ★ OMAR KINNEBREW

Gain lessons in how passion-driven craftsmanship, thoughtful branding, and ownership can redefine both style and success.



What's Wrong with the Democratic Party: A Wake-Up Call from the Black Base

BY CHARLES ZACKARY KING

For decades, Black people have been the backbone of the Democratic Party, showing up, voting in record numbers, organizing on the ground, and carrying the weight of civic responsibility while being promised change that never comes. And yet, when the dust settles and the power shifts, we're left with empty speeches, symbolic gestures, and policies that barely scratch the surface of our real needs.

Let's be clear: the Democratic Party has a leadership problem. Not just in strategy but in courage, conviction, and connection to the people who built their platform.

The Black Vote: Taken for Granted, Ignored in Practice

Every election cycle, the party rolls out gospel playlists, kente cloth photo ops, and vague promises of "equity." But when it's time to legislate, Black communities are sidelined. We don't see sweeping criminal justice reform. We don't see reparations. We don't see economic investment in our neighborhoods. What we see is performative allyship and political cowardice.

This isn't just neglect it's betrayal. And it makes the Democratic Party look complicit with the very forces they claim to oppose.

Complicity with the Republican Agenda

While Republicans openly attack voting rights, education, and bodily autonomy, Democrats respond with press releases and hashtags. They lead from behind, always reacting, never initiating. They blame obstruction, but refuse to use the power they have when they have it.

When Democrats hold the House, Senate, and White House, they still hesitate. They compromise with extremists. They water down justice. And in doing so, they enable the erosion of democracy.

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INTERVIEW WITH

JASMINE R. WILLOIS

Gain practical knowledge, confidence, and mentorship in alternative asset investing especially note investing from deep expertise and clear guidance.



REAL ESTATE INVESTOR

Jasmine R. Willois is a San Diego-based real estate investor, educator, and podcast host who pioneered note investing through her Note Assistance Program (N.A.P.), empowering professionals to confidently invest in non-performing mortgages

jasminewillois.com [+6canvasrebel.com](http://6canvasrebel.com) [+6facebook.com](http://facebook.com) [+6](http://6canvasrebel.com). With over three decades of experience spanning Wall Street trading, mortgage finance, real estate investing, and financial advisory, she also serves as general partner at Eleos Capital Group and leads the NAP Private Equity Club facebook.com [+4jasminewillois.co](http://4jasminewillois.com) [m](http://facebook.com) [+4facebook.com](http://facebook.com) [+4](http://4). As she insightfully notes, "But at the end of the day, the bond market dwarfs the stock market, because that's where the real money is." creators.spotify.com.

Why Education Is a Cornerstone in the Black Community: A Call to Unity and Generational Wealth

BY CHARLES ZACKARY KING

Together, we are unstoppable.

From Knowledge to Generational Wealth

Education is the first step, but it cannot be the last. We must move from learning to earning, from surviving to thriving.

Generational wealth isn't just about money. It's about ownership. Land. Businesses. Intellectual property. It's about passing down assets, values, and visions that outlive us.

To build generational wealth, we must:

1. Invest in financial literacy from a young age
2. Support Black-owned businesses and institutions
3. Create platforms that celebrate and monetize our stories
4. Mentor and uplift youth with tools for entrepreneurship and innovation

Education gives us the blueprint. Unity gives us the strength. Wealth gives us the freedom.

Final Word

We are the architects of our future. Every book we read, every lesson we teach, every young mind we inspire, these are bricks in the foundation of a new legacy.

Let us educate. Let us unify. Let us build.

Because when the Black community rises, the world shifts.

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ENTREPRENEUR

Nate Paxton, hailing from Scottdale, Georgia, is a former Division I walk-on turned team captain at Georgia State who overcame homelessness, family loss, and hardship to earn both bachelor's and master's degrees and pursue a professional football career overseas, in the CFL, and in arena leagues

[Instagram+9](#)[Voyage](#)

[ATL+9](#)[Facebook+9](#). After coaching at his alma mater, he founded Just In The Nick Of Time, Inc. to mentor underserved student-athletes and authored The ABC's of Recruiting as a "cheat code to help any family navigate ... the process successfully"

[X\(formerlyTwitter\)+3](#)[Gumroad+3](#)[nickoftimementor.com+3](#). "Life is

10% what happens to you and 90% how you respond," he states, encapsulating his ethos [VoyageATL](#).

INTERVIEW WITH

NATE PAXTON

Benefit from resilience, faith-driven leadership, and practical guidance, gaining a powerful model for transforming adversity into opportunity.



What's Wrong with the Democratic Party: A Wake-Up Call from the Black Base

BY CHARLES ZACKARY KING

Real Leadership Builds, Not Begs

Real leadership doesn't wait for permission. It doesn't poll-test morality. It listens to the people, acts with urgency, and stands firm in truth.

Leadership means:

1. Passing bold legislation that protects voting rights, ends police brutality, and invests in Black futures
2. Centering the voices of the marginalized, not just during election season but every day
3. Calling out racism and economic injustice, even when it's politically inconvenient
4. Building coalitions, not just fundraising machines

The people are tired of leaders who whimper in the face of opposition. We need warriors, not weather vanes.

The Struggle Between Races and the Have-Nots

The Democratic Party's failure to address racial and economic inequality head-on has deepened the divide. They speak of unity but ignore the systemic wounds that keep Black and poor communities locked out of opportunity.

By refusing to challenge capitalism, white supremacy, and mass incarceration, they perpetuate the very systems they claim to fight. Their inaction is not neutral, it's harmful.

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INTERVIEW WITH

DERION SEARCEY

Offered is a blueprint of civic empowerment and leadership cultivated from grassroots organizing to strategic governance.



GOVERNMENT RELATIONS MANAGER

Derion Searcey is a native of Indianapolis who earned an associate degree from Ivy Tech and a political science bachelor's from IUPUI. He began his career interning for the Indiana Black Legislative Caucus, where he later served as executive director while also becoming treasurer of the Marion County Young Democrats and co-founding The Growth Project to inspire youth political engagement facebook.com/10rjlsolutions.com/10indyhub.org/10. He further honed his expertise through roles with the Marion County Prosecutor's Office and the National Black Leadership Staff Legislative Council, and was recently appointed Government Relations Manager at RJL Solutions, where he advances client policy goals across local, state, and federal levels instagram.com/7rjlsolutions.com/7indyhub.org/7.

ENTREPRENEUR

Skyler D. Simon, originally from Paterson, New Jersey and now based in Atlanta, Georgia, is a Senior Project Manager in the hotel industry's eCommerce sector, blending creativity, technical know-how, and leadership to oversee sophisticated digital implementations that elevate operations and guest experience. A BA in Art Studio from Coastal Carolina University (2015), his collegiate years included impactful mentorship of local high school students and initiation into Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc., reflecting his lifelong commitment to empowerment and growth. As the eldest of eight on his mother's side and a middle child on his father's, Skyler's early family roles shaped his resilience, adaptability, and drive for excellence. Beyond his professional sphere, he expresses his multifaceted talents through art, fitness, and social connection, embodying a holistic approach to leadership and creativity.

INTERVIEW WITH

SKYLER D. SIMON

Draw from a story and model of integrating personal passion, mentorship, and strategic vision to deliver impactful results in tech-driven environments.



INTERVIEW WITH

DR. ROBERT WORTHINGTON

Benefit from a unique model of blending technical leadership with community empowerment demonstrating that excellence in aviation and in life can go hand in hand.



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AERONAUTICAL ANALYST

Dr. Robert Worthington, based in Columbia, Maryland, is an aeronautical data analyst with over 25 years of experience, now serving as a federal contractor for Leidos after working with the Federal Aviation Administration

signalhire.com 3inmybrothersshadow.com 3montgomeryschoolsmd.org. He holds a DBA from Walden University, an MBA in Aviation from Lynn University, and a BS in Professional Aeronautics from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University inmybrothersshadow.com. His distinguished career spans roles in air traffic control, aviation safety, and federal operations at iconic institutions like the Pentagon, Kennedy Space Center, and the FAA's National Air Traffic Control Center inmybrothersshadow.com. Beyond his technical expertise, Dr. Worthington champions holistic youth development through his basketball camp and mentoring programs that nurture young people's personal, social, and emotional well-being.

What's Wrong with the Democratic Party: A Wake-Up Call from the Black Base

BY CHARLES ZACKARY KING

What the People Want: A New Balance

We want more than representation. We want transformation.

1. Economic justice: Invest in Black-owned businesses, cancel student debt, and create pathways to generational wealth
2. Political accountability: Stop using our votes as leverage and start delivering real results
3. Community power: Fund grassroots movements, not just corporate campaigns
4. Truth-telling: Acknowledge the harm, repair the damage, and build policies that reflect lived experience

We are not asking for favors. We are demanding what we've earned.

Final Word

Black people have held this party up for too long, only to be spit on, sidelined, and silenced. The time for loyalty without reciprocity is over. If the Democratic Party wants to survive, it must evolve. It must lead. It must listen.

Because we are no longer waiting. We are building. We are rising. And we are ready to shift the balance by any means necessary.

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MUSICIAN

Emmanuel Nawa is a young, purpose-driven musician and Development Studies student from Mongu, Zambia, whose musical journey began in 2020 under Game Tite Records, an American label, and showcases themes of love, spirituality, and resilience through emotionally resonant lyrics

facebook.com+5facebook.com+5facebook.com+5.

Balancing artistic expression with social impact, he also contributes to literacy efforts as part of a student-led Book Drive Committee that, as of 2024, has distributed hundreds of books to orphanages facebook.com+1.

Though public quotes are limited, his work reflects a deep belief that "passion" and "purpose" can awaken our best selves

facebook.com.

INTERVIEW WITH

EMMANUEL NAWA

Stand and gain from a fusion of creative inspiration and community engagement finding motivation in a story to pursue meaningful expression that uplifts others.



INTERVIEW WITH

HEATH HARRIS

Benefit from a proven formula for operational excellence and collaborative consulting, empowering businesses to achieve sustainable performance and meaningful impact.



ENTREPRENEUR

Heath Harris is a results-driven entrepreneur based in Cleveland Heights, Ohio, and the Founder & CEO of Prominent Business Services LLC, a BBB-accredited consulting firm launched in January 2023 that delivers customized, transparent solutions in marketing, operations, and team development

facebook.com+5bbb.org+5oliverwealth.com+5. Recognized in 2025 by Marquis Who's Who for his leadership in business management, he's known for cultivating high-performing teams, optimizing operations, and driving growth through analytical precision and persuasive communication bbb.org. While no public quotes were available from interviews or publications, his hands-on approach and emphasis on measurable results position him as a trusted advisor and strategic partner.

ENTREPRENEUR

Dr. Eugene Jamil Muhammad is a dedicated educator and lifelong learner based in Chicago, currently serving as an Assistant Biology Instructor at Morehouse College, his alma mater, where he teaches both introductory biology and a self-developed Men's Health course

YouTube+2Apple Podcasts+2. A Morehouse graduate with a B.S. in Biology and M.S. in Biotechnology, he is now pursuing a Ph.D. in Biomedical Sciences (Neuroscience) at Mercer University, reflecting his deep commitment to academic and scientific growth **Podbay**. Rooted in his Chicago upbringing, he brings purpose to education with a focus on mental, physical, and environmental health, as he says: "I have dedicated my style of education to promote healthy lifestyle habits and decisions"

Podbay+1. As a board member of EmPrana Inc., he channels his expertise into youth mentorship, wellness initiatives, and community empowerment.

INTERVIEW WITH

DR. EUGENE

JAMIL MUHAMMAD

Benefit from a holistic, health-centered pedagogical approach. Gain insight, balance, and inspiration from both scientific rigor and community-focused leadership.



From Bondage to Brotherhood: The Enduring Legacy of Lyon Farm and the Unhealed Wounds of Slavery

BY CHARLES ZACKARY KING

In the quiet hills of Georgia's Arabia Mountain National Heritage Area stands Lyon Farm—a place where pain and perseverance are etched into the soil. What began as a site of bondage in the 1820s became the birthplace of Flat Rock, one of Georgia's oldest African American communities. But beneath the triumph of survival lies a deeper truth: slavery leaves a scar that time cannot erase.

A Farm Built on Forced Labor

Joseph Emmanuel Lyon, a former British soldier turned landowner, won his property through the Georgia Land Lottery. He brought 17 enslaved Africans to toil on his farm, forcing them to build the very home they were crammed into. For nearly four decades, Lyon Farm produced cotton, apples, muscadines, and sorghum—all harvested through the brutal labor of people denied their humanity.

This was not just agriculture. It was exploitation. It was trauma. And it was the beginning of a legacy that would shape generations.

Freedom Came—But So Did Hard Choices

When the Civil War ended and the Emancipation Proclamation took effect, the enslaved people of Lyon Farm faced a cruel paradox: freedom in a land that had never treated them as free. Many chose to stay—not out of comfort, but out of necessity. They clung to the only land they knew, forming a tight-knit community for protection and survival.

That decision birthed Flat Rock—a place where Black families built schools, churches, and civic groups during Reconstruction. But even as they laid the foundation for progress, the shadow of slavery loomed large.

Building Community Amidst Hostility

The newly freed families shared everything—tools, knowledge, labor. They turned sharecropping into a lifeline and created informal networks of support. Families like the Hill Lyons, Shumakes, Christians, and Syphos migrated to Flat Rock, drawn by whispers of safety and solidarity.

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INTERVIEW WITH

SHELIA PROSSER

Benefit from a practical, purpose-driven approach to financial coaching. Gain clarity, confidence, and actionable strategies for building lasting financial independence.



FINANCIAL COACH

Shelia Prosser is a Regional Leader with Primerica Financial Services, based in Duluth, Georgia, where she has served since 2008 and holds multiple licenses in life insurance, investments, and financial coaching across several states

primerica.com+2bettymills-robinson.org+2. With over a decade of entrepreneurial experience, she is committed to “destroy[ing] financial illiteracy, banish[ing] financial ignorance, and break[ing] generational curses one person, one family, and one community at a time” [**bettymills-robinson.org**](http://bettymills-robinson.org). Shelia’s work empowers individuals and families through investing, retirement planning, debt elimination, income protection, and college funding helping them build strong financial foundations. As she emphasizes, “The time is NOW! We have to create generational wealth, massive-passive income for generations to come” [**bettymills-robinson.org**](http://bettymills-robinson.org).

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.

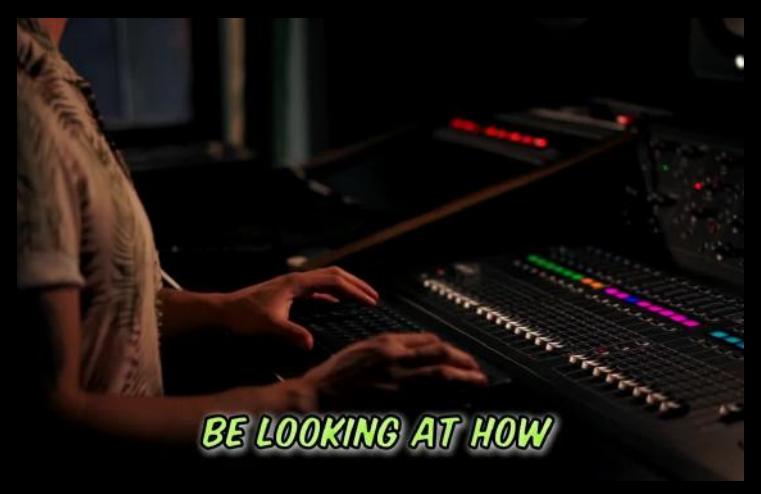
But sounding human is only half the equation. The AI's real strength lies in its deep customization of its services. Whether the inquiry was about marketing, social media management, CRM tools, or reputation management, the AI delivered accurate, context-aware answers in seconds. Even nuanced topics 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>), 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.



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

SENIOR ACCOUNTANT

Cheryl Blakeney is a New York-born, Orlando-based financial educator and founder of Financial Fitness Consulting LLC, established in 2023 and serving Altamonte Springs and beyond. With over four decades of experience as an accountant and financial services , she now empowers individuals through clear, faith-grounded financial education, mentoring, and hands-on consulting across planning, insurance, wealth building, and more. Her guiding principle “Financial fitness is like muscle; the more you use it, the stronger it becomes”—reflects her belief that everyone deserves access to effective money management, not just the affluent. Clients praise her “knowledgeable, compassionate, and thorough” approach, noting how she “simplified the complex” and helped build confidence and clarity in their financial lives.

INTERVIEW WITH

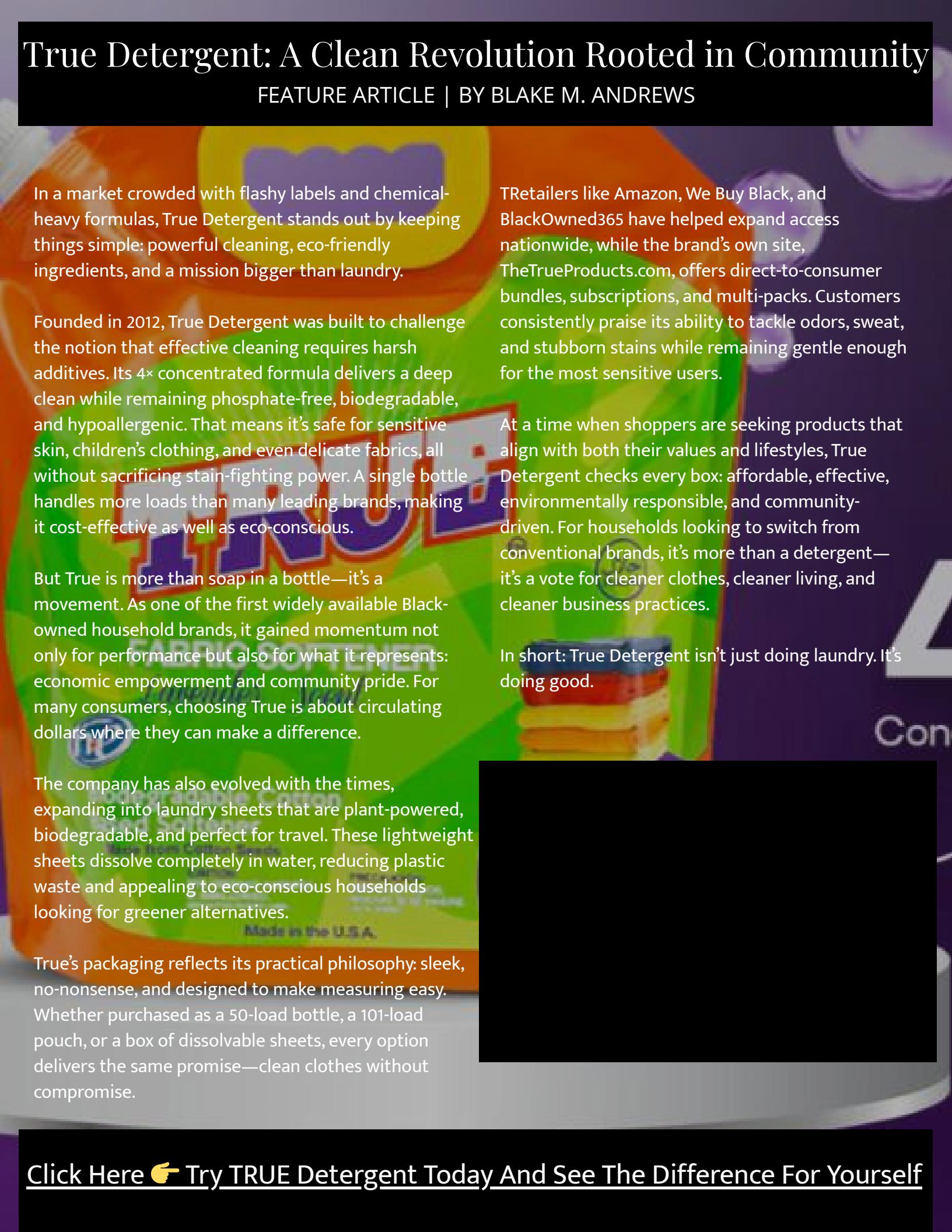
 **CHERYL
BLAKENEY**

Benefit from practical guidance. Personalized support, and unwavering commitment to building lasting financial foundations for families and communities.



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](#)

INTERVIEW WITH

DR. DONALD RUCKER

Benefit from a vision of leadership, gaining inspiration in how strategic, equity-driven teaching can foster academic excellence and systemic improvement.



EDUCATOR

Dr. Donald Rucker is a veteran educational leader based in Atlanta, currently serving as Regional Teaching & Learning Coach at KIPP Atlanta Schools, where he elevates instructional quality and supports educators across the network

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[RESA+12Facebook+12](#). Previously, he led a Title I K-8 campus as a principal—overseeing 800+ students and steering curriculum, teacher mentorship, and equity-centered initiatives [Fulbright Finland](#)

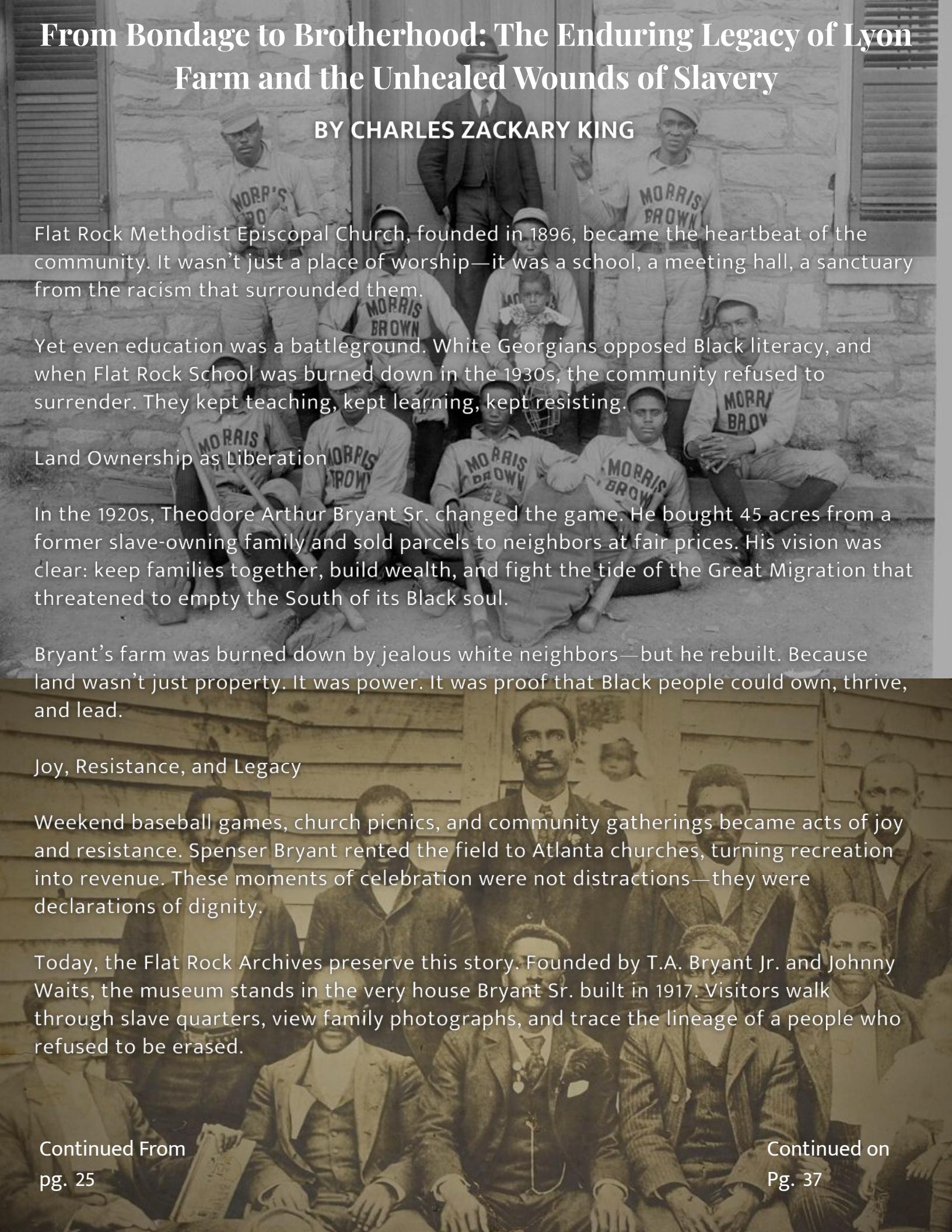
[Foundation](#). A Fulbright Global Leader and LEAD Atlanta Fellow, Dr. Rucker has expanded his global insight through the Fulbright Leaders for Global Schools Program, bringing transformative perspectives from educational systems abroad back to Atlanta [Atlanta Public Schools+10Maryville](#)

[College+10Fulbright Finland](#)
[Foundation+10](#). As he reflects, “Do good on the largest possible scale”—a guiding mantra from his alma mater, Maryville College—continues to inform his mission in education

[Maryville College](#).

From Bondage to Brotherhood: The Enduring Legacy of Lyon Farm and the Unhealed Wounds of Slavery

BY CHARLES ZACKARY KING



Flat Rock Methodist Episcopal Church, founded in 1896, became the heartbeat of the community. It wasn't just a place of worship—it was a school, a meeting hall, a sanctuary from the racism that surrounded them.

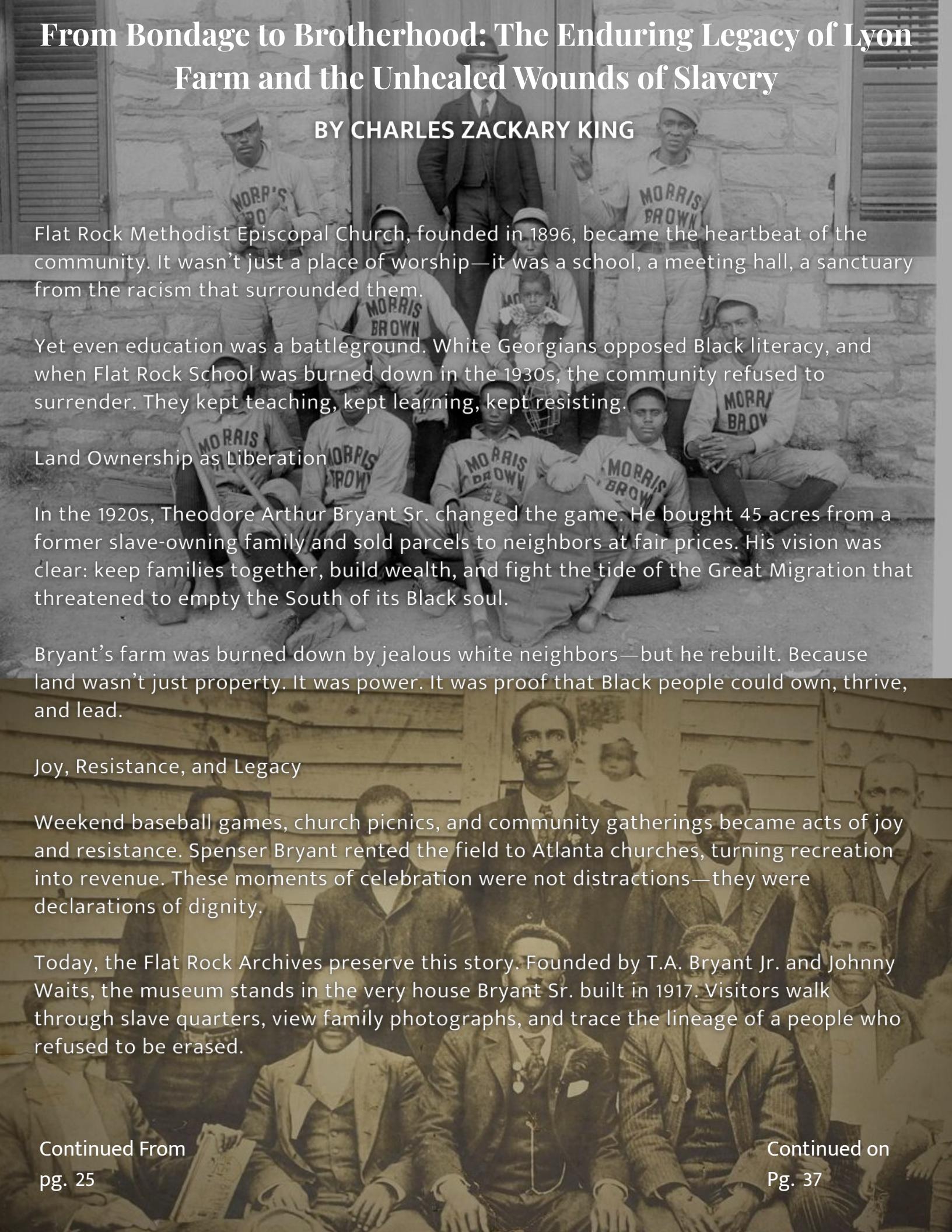
Yet even education was a battleground. White Georgians opposed Black literacy, and when Flat Rock School was burned down in the 1930s, the community refused to surrender. They kept teaching, kept learning, kept resisting.

Land Ownership as Liberation

In the 1920s, Theodore Arthur Bryant Sr. changed the game. He bought 45 acres from a former slave-owning family and sold parcels to neighbors at fair prices. His vision was clear: keep families together, build wealth, and fight the tide of the Great Migration that threatened to empty the South of its Black soul.

Bryant's farm was burned down by jealous white neighbors—but he rebuilt. Because land wasn't just property. It was power. It was proof that Black people could own, thrive, and lead.

Joy, Resistance, and Legacy



Weekend baseball games, church picnics, and community gatherings became acts of joy and resistance. Spenser Bryant rented the field to Atlanta churches, turning recreation into revenue. These moments of celebration were not distractions—they were declarations of dignity.

Today, the Flat Rock Archives preserve this story. Founded by T.A. Bryant Jr. and Johnny Waits, the museum stands in the very house Bryant Sr. built in 1917. Visitors walk through slave quarters, view family photographs, and trace the lineage of a people who refused to be erased.

RESILIENCE ADVOCATE

Marz Bishop, a Long Island, NY native and two-time author, is a resilience advocate and dynamic speaker who channels his personal journey—from being diagnosed with Sickle Cell Anemia at age five and surviving two strokes that left his left side paralyzed—into uplifting others nationwide

[**marzbishop.com+1**](http://marzbishop.com+1). As he powerfully states, "Sickle Cell prepared me for pain—but it also prepared me for purpose. It taught me how to endure... So I could empower. I turned survival into service." [**facebook.com+1**](http://facebook.com+1) Through engaging workshops and motivational presentations, Bishop inspires students and professionals to overcome adversity, focus on solutions, and unlock their inherent potential.

INTERVIEW WITH MARZ BISHOP

Benefit from a message of transformation, gaining courage, clarity, and the belief that resilience can be a catalyst to greatness.



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.

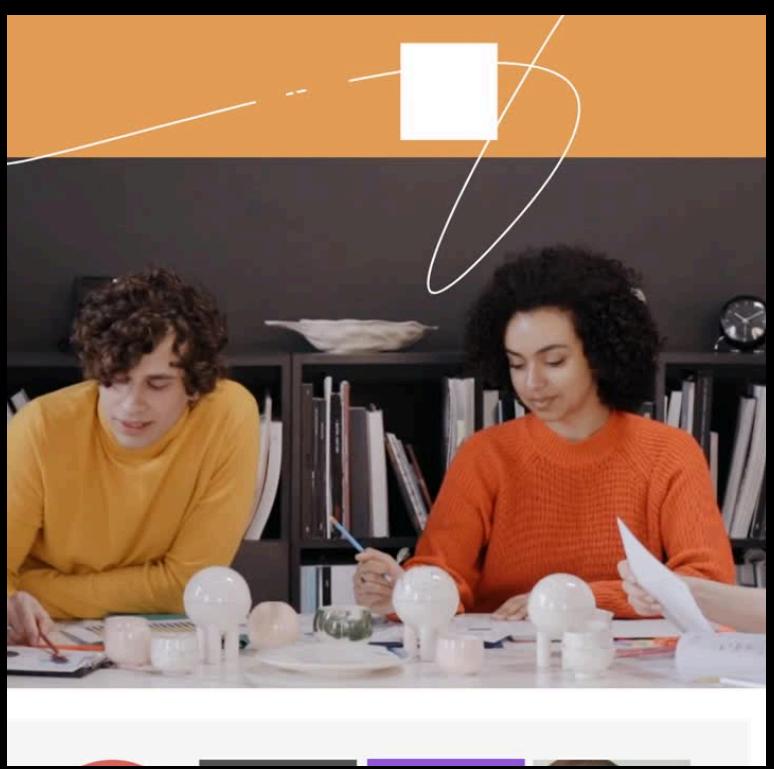
The **AMIBW Networking Empowerment Community** is open to past and future guests, readers, and supporters of America In Black and White.

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.

INTERVIEW WITH

★ DR.

LASHAWNTE MCCARY-SARVIS

Readers and institutions benefit from her lived authenticity, strategic vision, and heartfelt storytelling—garnering both inspiration and actionable frameworks for transformation, equity, and leadership.



ENTREPRENEUR

Dr. Lashawnte McCray-Sarvis, originally from Conway, South Carolina, is an acclaimed educator, consultant, and author with nearly 30 years of experience dedicated to cultivating equitable, innovative learning environments most recently as Assistant Principal at Heyward Career and Technology Center and founder of LeeJane's Consulting LLC to support educators and international professionals. Rising from her role as a young single mother to earn a PhD in Organizational Leadership and lead campus transformation, she channels her personal journey into narratives like *My Name is Lu-Shawn-tu: From the Womb to the Woman*, sharing, "My books reflect that journey". Her leadership spanning classroom teaching to educational consulting is fueled by the belief that every person deserves to be known, valued, and empowered to succeed. *[Follow On Facebook](#)

100TH

AMIBW

EPISODE

CELEBRATION

**Milestone Moment: S3 EP100 of
America in Black and White**

One hundred episodes. One hundred conversations that have challenged narratives, uplifted voices, and sparked transformation. On August 28th, America in Black and White celebrates a landmark achievement Episode 100 with none other than Dr. David Banks, a visionary educator, thought leader, and advocate for equity in education.

This episode is more than a milestone it's a mirror reflecting the power of storytelling, truth-telling, and legacy-building. Dr. Banks joins host Charles Zackary King for a riveting dialogue on the intersections of education, leadership, and justice. Together, they explore how faith, resilience, and radical imagination can reshape systems and empower communities.

Highlights to expect:

- Dr. Banks' journey from classroom to national influence
- The role of culturally grounded education in healing and liberation
- Reflections on legacy, mentorship, and the future of Black excellence

From the very first episode, America in Black and White has been a platform for truth, healing, and hope. Episode 100 is a testament to the movement it has become—a movement rooted in faith, driven by purpose, and sustained by community.

Thank you to every listener, guest, and supporter who has walked this journey. Here's to 100 more stories that matter.

ENTREPRENEUR

Dr. David Banks is the President of Noble Success Strategic Group LLC, a Chattanooga-based consulting firm where he guides professionals worldwide in leadership development, relationship-building, and discovering purpose through his Purpose Discovery Blueprint™

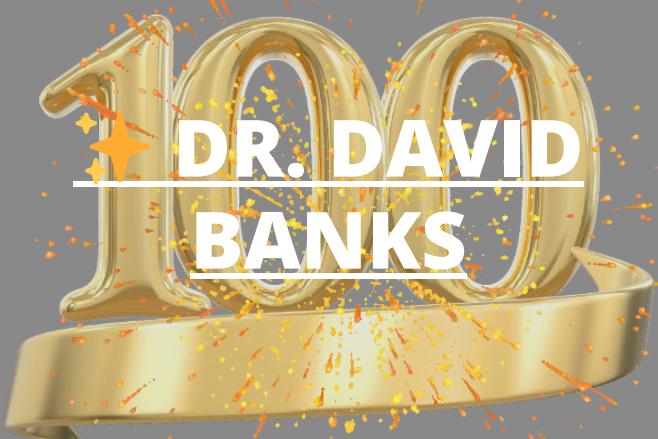
[Amazon+10David](#)

[Banks+10espeakers.com+10](#). A

certified coach across multiple disciplines—including neuroscience and entrepreneurship—he empowers individuals and organizations with strategies that create both meaning and measurable results [David BanksCovenant Keypers](#). A two-time

Amazon International Best-Selling author, he has collaborated with thought leaders like Les Brown and Dr. Cheryl Wood [Covenant Keypers](#). In his work, he teaches that “Purpose produces profit,” a philosophy echoed by clients whose businesses have seen significant growth thanks to his guidance [David Banks](#).

INTERVIEW WITH



Benefit from a holistic approach. Transforming ambition into actionable clarity and fostering leadership grounded in purpose and performance.



From Bondage to Brotherhood: The Enduring Legacy of Lyon Farm and the Unhealed Wounds of Slavery

BY CHARLES ZACKARY KING

Why Slavery Still Hurts

Slavery wasn't just physical bondage—it was psychological warfare. It stripped generations of their names, their languages, their gods, and their dreams. Even after emancipation, Black communities faced systemic barriers designed to keep them poor, uneducated, and invisible.

The scars of slavery show up in housing disparities, educational gaps, health outcomes, and the criminal justice system. They show up in the trauma passed down through stories, silences, and survival strategies.

Flat Rock is a miracle—but it's also a reminder. A reminder that the resilience of Black people does not erase the cruelty they endured. That healing requires truth-telling. And that honoring the past means confronting the pain, not just celebrating the progress.

Continued From
pg. 25

INTERVIEW WITH

LEE PEPPER

Benefit from a unique fusion of military discipline, strategic innovation, and compassionate mentorship. Gaining insights to lead with purpose, scale impact, and deliver results in mission-driven environments.



38 AMIBW MAGAZINE

AUTHOR

Lee Pepper is a Tennessee-based author, entrepreneur, and veteran whose leadership in healthcare marketing propelled Foundations Recovery Network to grow shareholder value 60-fold, culminating in its \$350 million acquisition by Universal Health Services, and who also built successful internal marketing teams for **SpecialtyCare** and Meadows Behavioral Healthcare

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[.com+9simonandschuster.com+9](https://www.com+9simonandschuster.com+9)

Drawing on his roots in an Army family and eight years of service as an Armor Officer after graduating from the University of Tennessee, he now consults, writes, and speaks on marketing, leadership, and healthcare admissions. Including mentoring through the Veteran's Treatment Court

[simonandschuster.com+2simonandschuster.com+2](https://www.simonandschuster.com+2simonandschuster.com+2). As he shares, this journey reflects how "battlefield strategies" in leadership and marketing can transform organizational growth perspectives likely explored in his forthcoming book **Never Outmatched**
[simonandschuster.com+4amazon.com+4simonandschuster.com+4](https://www.simonandschuster.com+4amazon.com+4simonandschuster.com+4).

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.

Through powerful narratives, dynamic interviews, and unapologetic commentary, the magazine illuminates the lived experiences, triumphs, and challenges faced by Black communities across America.

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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.

From historical legacies to contemporary advocacy, AMIBW bridges generations with content that's intellectually rich, emotionally resonant, and rooted in truth.

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.

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.

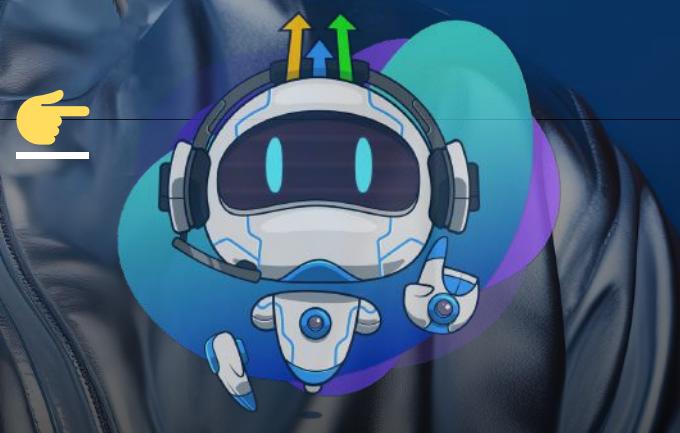
3. The Not-So-Tech-Savvy Beginner

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.



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RICHARD L. MACK

AMIBW

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