

DETROIT NATIVE SUN

Real Talk

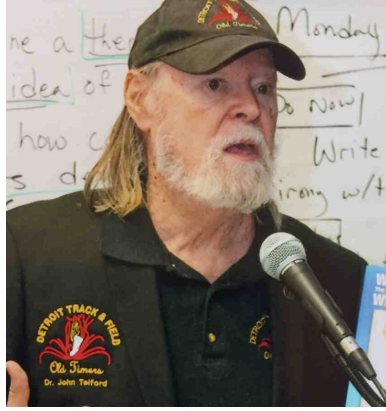
Let's teach our youth



THEO BROUGHTON
HOOD RESEARCH



PAUL TAYLOR
MILLION MAN MARCH ALUM



DR. JOHN TELFORD
AUTHOR, EDUCATION ACTIVIST

By James Ford
FOUNDER OF NATIONAL OBAMA WEEKEND
These advocates say join the planning and volunteer some time and impute your thoughts. Make suggestions and get involved - Talk is cheap.
THE OBAMA WEEKEND is AUG 5,6,7
PLACE: BARACK OBAMA ACADEMY
19800 CANFIELD DETROIT, MICH
TIME: 11 AM to 7 pm - each day
The parade is from 11 am to 12 pm

This is a school setting - respect all.
The Obama Weekend Planning Meeting takes place every Sunday at 3 pm at the Samaritan Center 5555 Conner Detroit, Mich. (Building with the cross on top)
For more information or to volunteer: Call 586 918- 3061 or 701-301-3118. Visit ObamaDayAugust4.com, Facebook, YouTube and Twitter. Email Realgoodpresident44@gmail.com.

I preach fatherhood

By Calvin T. Mann
SUN COLUMNIST



I preach Fatherhood for the simple reason that many people see it as flawed. Yet it's an answer and a solution to many of

society's social ills. There are too many issues to count when it comes to how Fatherhood is a solution. This country is capitalizing off these problems meanwhile the results are wreaking havoc on our families and communities. But we can change it with focus, a changing mindset and intention. In so many instances I often hear; "here we go, another man talking about fatherhood is a solution." Sometimes no one is listening... but I hope you will!

Imagine with me, will you? Let's look at "gang" culture. It's usually run by men, and they appoint various leaders to head up the gang activities to executive a variety of tasks. They share the good and the bad and make each member feel connected to the "family" unit. Sound like a familiar model? One movie that comes to mind is "The Godfather." Remember, this classic was about a family with the top guy serving as "Dad". Then look at "street gang" culture. One guy is "the man" and many may flock to this one leader looking for a father figure too: for Dad. Most of the time if we follow him home, we may find that a healthy Dad is not there. Absent Fatherhood, that's strange symptom, isn't it? Think about that for just a minute. Males tend to seek out Father-figures sometimes its conscious other times unconscious. But when they go to find them, typically, they are not there.

Then there is another culture of males in jail. Usually, we see other broken examples of Fatherhood that may result in crimes such as murders, rape, abuse, theft, and many other examples of crimes that lead to prison. This is also where unresolved Fatherhood issues land many men and women that sometimes bring them closer to resolution. Driving thoughts to think about one's life and how to get to the next level; especially if you have kids is important. Now, follow me on this often-missed connection. The Black community boasts the highest single household rate.

This stat alone is one of the bases for investments in building prisons and jails. The system anticipates this prison industry as the journey for the offspring of this single culture without Dads. I believe it's a philosophy that is weakening our chances of successful children, families, and communities... unless we choose differently. Unless we commit to preach and teach healthy Fatherhood.

I preach Fatherhood simply because I know it's a solution. As a man, I stand before you are having been a broken child that produced some of the same problems, I grew up watching. As I got older, I modeled the males in my life too. Some of my Father-figures influenced behaviors in me too. I liked being a player, pimp-talked and acted in a self-destructive way. I missed having my dad and I had some resentment knowing that at a point it could have been different had my parents not divorced and had he not died. The ideas we have witnessed produced a lot of problems and a lot of the acceptable culture that we lived in. We see it and accept it for so long, that we refuse to sit back and see the issues that could become solutions if we would only address the complexity of fatherlessness and absent father syndrome.

Before ending this conversation, I must share how many men have really hurt the community with our self-inflicted gunshot wounds fired by the absence of Fathers. Sometimes it's what happened to us and it's what we do to our kids. But we can do something. We can change! Males are taking co-parenting, shared parenting, and even custody of our kids more seriously. I preach Fatherhood so that more males are fighting for Fatherhood and know to go to support groups, to step up as mentors, to share their stories and to fighter for their marriages. I preach this call to action to embrace and celebrate Fatherhood as an answer. I preach fatherhood because it's "the Truth"!

If you want to know how to embrace and/or preach Fatherhood as your lifestyle too, reach out to Good Fathers Only at www.thegoodfatheronly.com and we can connect you with local organizations and providers to help or contact with your next step toward healthy Fatherhood.

For speaking engagements, 1-on-on coaching, male mentoring, and programs, reach out to Calvintmann@gmail.com. Calvin T. Mann, National Encourager, is President and Founder of Encourage Me I'm Young and Good Fathers Only.

Lessons from the Journey: "Possession or Purpose?"

By Heather Hetheru,
SUN COLUMNIST



Good day Good People!
We are born into this (very material) world with every moment being shaped by images, ideas and attitudes motivated by popular culture and deep seeded mindsets the predates us by centuries. We are being taught to place value on ownership and to take "possession" of others. This mindset has led our society to the system of overt and covert slavery. Where many of the chains were removed and the words only spoken in shadow, we still live through this darkly shaded lens. But I am unlearning this deep programming daily and I want to help you re-tool also to live a richer life experience through a different lens than those we were taught. Even today, we program people - especially our children, this practice of living through a darkly shaded lens. In truth, most of us are not even aware of just how heavy a burden we take on by doing so! Read on, there are some jewels in the insights that follow!

Intention of Action:

Confused? Disagree? No worries. It was only through prayer --- my calling out to God for help--- that my awareness (the clearing of my darkly shaded lens) was cleared. This was the beginning of my journey from possession to purpose. I was 38 years old, married (my second time) and was due to have our first baby. Six months into my pregnancy I developed high blood pressure. Fearful for my health and that of our unborn son, the doctor recommended an immediate and emergency C-section. My son arrived safely but I was told that he would have to remain in the neo-natal unit in ICU for a minimum of 2 months and that in a few days I would be going home without him. With the news, my blood pressure continued to escalate until it put me in a critical state. Heavily medicated, the doctors and nurses were baffled as to what was keeping my blood pressure so high despite the medication.

The truth was, that the closer I got to the delivery date, the more worried I got about the world I was bringing him

into. The incredible loss of life and humanity present in our communities but mostly for him as a Black male; terrified me. What would I do if anything ever happened to him? How could I possibly live without him? My heart could not take the thoughts of distress. My diagnosis was getting worse by the day---It was here that I cried out to God for help. I prayed that God would give me peace in my body so that I would be able to leave the hospital and take care of MY son. This is where I heard the most profound insight that set me straight and continues to seed my life. I heard in my spirit, "He is NOT yours; he is ENTRUSTED to you." I was shocked; embarrassed; ignorant. I was so consumed by my programming that I really thought that I owned him. He was MY possession not my purpose!

Solutions for Consideration:
Once the reality of this error in my judgement set in, my blood pressure returned to normal, and I found peace in my body. Once I removed the ownership of his life from my mindset, I shifted to realize the fullness of my role was a steward; one who looks after and helps to manage the affairs of another until they can do so for themselves. He gave my life purpose, but he was not my life. He needed me to help him get to the point where he could start the process of self-management. I was entrusted to teach him life-skills which included love, independence, values, self-care, humanity, and stewardship. This same lesson was to be seen in my friendships, romantic relationships, with nature, on the job, in my work and any other place that my journey would lead. Today, 15 years later, I can say that this insight keeps growing me and continues to clear my darkly shaded lens on a purpose-filled life.

Share my "lesson for the journey" through one of my 6 lessons for the journey books available on Amazon under Heather Hetheru Miller or view YouTube workshops, videos, and/or podcasts. For more insights join me by visiting yourinspiredjourney.com.

Need more insights? Start the next steps and/or next chapter of your journey with Heather Hetheru, Personal Change Coach. Let her 25+ years' experience helping others navigate the journey of life through books, workshops, and 1-on-1 coaching work for you too.

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