

Messages from the Mound



In 2007, I began my prison ministry where I facilitated my Relationship First Aid spiritual based personal development classes at Mound Correctional Facility in Detroit. After Mound closed in 2012, I continued to communicate with the inmates through newsletters, birthday cards and attending/speaking at events at various facilities. It is suspected that the facility got its name because of the many ancient mounds that were found all over Detroit, and I believe the most concentrated and/largest ones were along what is now known as Mound Rd.

"Messages from the Mound" is named after the newsletters that I send out to the inmates since that is where we all initially met. Because the classes that I was teaching them focused on spiritual elevation allowing the negativity within them to die, thus ultimately elevating their consciousness, I thought it an appropriate name because a "mound" is defined as: an "elevation" formed of earth overlying ruins, a grave etc., a heap or raised mass. The following articles are from men that are currently incarcerated or released and this serves as an opportunity for the voiceless to have a voice. If you have a loved one that is currently incarcerated and would like for me to send them newsletters, please forward their contact information with a MDOC number to:

Relationshipfirstaid@yahoo.com or contact me at:
Relationship First Aid, Attn: Ma'at Seba, P.O.
Box 1934, Belleville, MI. 48112 cashapp
Donations to: #moundministry

Waking Up in Prison

By Joseph Green
SPECIAL TO THE SUN



Giving praise and honor to my creator ALLAH! I'm grateful for my health, my life, my family and friends. Positivity over Negativity. I want to be an asset to someone's life and not a liability. Thanking God daily that I don't look like what I've been through. And I've been through some s***.

Today I read something by Theodore Roosevelt. It's called THE MAN IN THE ARENA.

"It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs, who comes short again and again, because there is no effort without error and shortcoming; but who does actually strive to do the deeds; who knows great enthusiasms, the great devotions; who spends himself in a worthy cause; who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who neither know victory nor defeat."

Many times in prison the man who strives to truly change is looked upon as weak. Crazy right? And the man that still acts like a savage is seen as strong. What many people fail to realize is that changing an attitude, state of mind, or way of life is hard. Most of us come from really bad and tough circumstances. To survive we adapt certain thought patterns that ensures our safety. We find ways to put food on our tables rather its right or wrong.

To start that process of change and growth in a place that is just like the environment you grew up in is hard as hell. You have to constantly repress your old way of thinking. Change is hard. If it was easy everyone would do it. We give the respect to the wrong people in prison. I respect the man that strives to change daily. The man that fights his toughest opponent "himself" every moment that he is awake. I respect the man that understands that his actions affect his family and friends. As well as his community.

I strive everyday to encourage the youth and my peers. I may have street cred and respect but that s*** is not helping me give back a life sentence. If I can help change one life, then I have done my job. I'm tired of seeing black men kill black men for s*** that holds no value or substance. We kill over s*** we don't own and we rep cities that don't remember us after we are gone. S*** if I'm going to die or kill for some land at least let me own it and know in my death that my children will get. When we die we don't get s*** but some balloon's released in the air, flowers where we died and our face on a \$15 shirt.

I encourage change in the mind-set of young man around me by being that change and example. I'm a boss, a king and a man. Showing them that real power is the man capable of changing. The man who acquires knowledge and applies that knowledge to change the lives of others in a positive way.

Today will be positive and productive. I stand strong and refuse to bend or fold. I am a King. I am Man. I am a leader. I am my mama's SUN! Pressure either busts pipes or make diamonds! What do you think it's doing to me? My success will be my testimony. THIS IS WAKING UP IN PRISON 10-24-2022! Stay tune for more.....T.B.T.W!

Check out my podcast on Spotify and all streaming platforms at T.B.T.W PODCAST (Thoughts Behind The Wall).

A call to Afrikan (Black) women

By Dion Bantu Dawson
SPECIAL TO THE SUN



As We Afrikan (Black) men theorize a new iteration of a Pan-Afrikan movement, We are compelled to organize Ourselves firmly rooted in a historical materialist analysis that "Black people will never be free unless Black Women participate in every aspect of Our struggle, on every level of Our struggle." (Assata Shakur, A Message To My Sisters)

For Us, the necessity of equality between the sexes will not be mechanical or issue from charity, but be born out of the recognition that there can be no triumph of Afrikan (Black) liberation without the substantive sharing of power and representation with women, because women hold up the other half of the sky. We men accept and agree with Assata's argument that "Black women, more than anybody on the face of the earth, recognize the urgency of our situation." Because it is Black women "who have watched our young grow too old, too soon. We who have watched our children come home angry and frustrated and seen them grow more bitter, more disillusioned with the passing of each day. And We who have seen the sick, trapped look on the

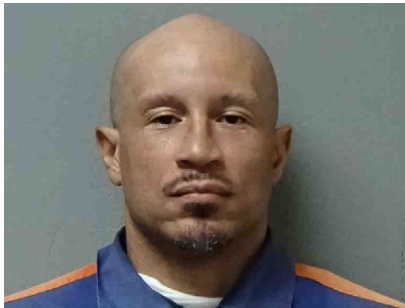
faces of our children when they come to fully realize what it means to be Black in Amerikkka... We sisters, We have seen our young, the babies that We brought into this world with such great hopes for, We have seen their bodies bloated and aching from drugs, scarred and deformed by bullet holes."

Grounded in these historical truths, as We Afrikan (Black) men struggle in the continuum to push forward the legacy of Black Liberation, this is Our call to Afrikan (Black) women as it is you that are equipped to ignite a resurgence of activism within the paradigm of what Revolutionary Intellectual Walter Rodney called "guerilla intellectualism." And it university (college) based women who are ideal for bridging the gap and uniting the lumpen-proletariat and middle/petit bourgeois classes of Afrikan (Black) women (and men), of all age demographics and ethnicities, into political education study groups that will serve as hubs for developing political, cultural and revolutionary consciousness. These hubs will also serve as marronage spaces, decolonization incubators by which the most qualified Afrikan (Black) women will be appointed and/or elected into respective positions of power equal to men in leadership cadre, vanguard, council, committee and security roles for the establishment of autonomous institutions that will meet the social and economic needs of Afrikan (Black) women, and the overall triumph of Afrikan (Black) liberation from a revolutionary perspective.

Learn more about program by contacting the writer of this piece, and support Justice For Bantu (an innocent man) by signing his petition drive @ www.justiceforbantu.com

Back in your day

By Raymond L. Carr, Jr.
SPECIAL TO THE SUN



When I was a teenager, I would tell my mother, 'Back In Your Day' when referring back to her teen years. However,

some parents take offense, when their children told them things were different 'Back In Your Day'. Even though, teenagers from different generations face some of the same issues growing up, things were different for each generation.

I think some adults forget what its like to be a kid, and become numb to the challenges young people face, creating a Generational Gap. The young people of today, may face the same pressures and challenges that previous generations did before them. However, each generation faced the world's challenges in a different reality and culture.

What made things so different, it was the moral standard. The moral standard was different for the Baby boomers, what we see on television today wasn't allowed in the 1950's. In the 1950's, most TV married couples didn't even sleep in the same bed. Then, in the 60's and 70's the beds were pushed together for Generation X. Then, for the Millennials, what Generation X had to see on cable TV, is normal television for them.

The moral standard has relaxed over the years and with it, the reality and perception of young people changed with it.

When I was talking with the younger generation, and they were telling me how different things are today, than it was 'Back In My Day' when I was a teenager. I was ready to defend my generation, because I was not too much older than their generation. Then, I had to realize, it has been 30 years since I was a teenager. In life's fast pace, I guess we forget how fast time fly's.

Today's culture have changed so much, it seems like anything goes today. But nevertheless, it has changed, some for the good and some for the not so good. So, when young people tell older people, things have changed and that was 'Back In Your Day', they have a point and maybe the older generation should listen.

Young people of today, are dealing with peer-pressure on a whole another level that young people before them never faced, because of the outside influences of this time era.

Each generation is born into a world they didn't create and are forced to adopt and merge into a lifestyle and belief system of that time. However, the new generation is creating and carving their space in history, leaving their mark for the next generation to divide.

So, it only makes sense to keep an open line of communication for understanding with each other to close the Generational Gap for a harmonious existence among all generations. If we do not build, a bridge over the Generational Gap, the generations will continue to live, 'Back In Their Day'.

**EVERYONE
HAS A PLACE,
A VOICE,
AND SOMETHING
TO CONTRIBUTE.**