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NIGERIAN BORN KAYCEE MADU WINS IN EDMONTON

By Julius Oyekunle

It was indeed a tightly contested race in Edmonton South West, as United Conservative Party candidate (Kelechi) Kaycee Madu was declared the winner in Edmonton-South West against John Archer of the New Democrat Party.

It was a close call and if not for the votes swinging to fringe parties, it could have gone either way. Kaycee Madu polled 7,742 to defeat his closest rival, John Archer 6,974.

Archer, 48, a former journalist, worked as a reporter for CBC for more than 22 years and later joined the premier's office communication team in 2015 and was Transportation Minister Brian Mason's press secretary.

Mo Elsalhy of the Alberta Party could not give the much needed fight on election day as he



came a distant third.

Madu, 45, a Nigerian immigrant, graduated with a bachelor of laws from the University of Lagos. He migrated to Canada in 2005 with his wife who enrolled in postgraduate studies at the University of Alberta.


Kaycee is a lawyer with experience in both solicitor and

litigation practice. Kaycee and his wife manage a small law firm in the city. Previously, he worked for Alberta Hospital – Patients Food Services, Legal Aid Alberta, and the Government of Alberta.

Kaycee's work in government spans through employment standards investigations, strategic and operational public policy, regulatory and legislative reforms, governmental issues management and stakeholder consultation. He is particularly proud that he and his colleagues completed the Firefighters Regulation before leaving the public service.

continued on p(43)

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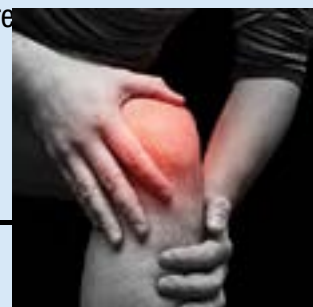
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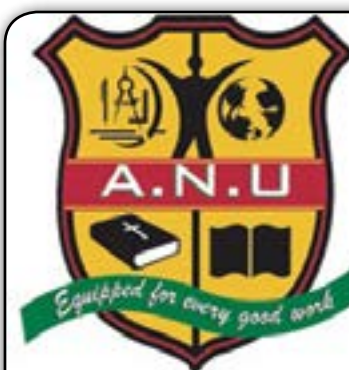
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ONTARIO REDUCES FUNDING FOR PUBLIC LIBRARY SERVICES BY FIFTY PERCENT



Image source: www.thebrockvoice.com

By N.Ugoh

Funding for the two public library services in Ontario has been reduced by half. The provincial government made it known the decision was taken in a bid to address the \$11.7-billion deficit of the province.

The northern and southern Ontario

heads of library services say they were notified about the cuts a day after the recent budget announcement by the Tories.

The Chief Executive Officer of Southern Ontario Library Service Barbara Franchet to disclose it's not yet clear as to whether the cut will impact service levels or result in layoffs.

NIGERIA'S POPULATION HITS 201 MILLION AS FERTILITY RATE DROPS – UNFPA

By Julius Oyekunle

The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in its 2019 state of the world population report made available on its website indicates that Nigeria's population was increasing at an average of 2.6 percent from 2010 to 2019. Nigeria's population grew from 54.7 million in 1969 to 105.4 million in 1994 and 201.0 million in 2019.

The report indicates that fertility rate among Nigerian women has also dropped from 6.4 in 1969 to 5.3 in 2019; by implication, an average Nigerian woman gives birth to at least five

children. The population estimate is put at 201 million.

Global fertility rate, or the average number of births per woman stood at 4.8 in 1969; 2.9 in 1994; and 2.5 in 2019.

The report says contraceptive prevalence rate among Nigerian women aged 15-49 is only 19 percent, adding that decision making on sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights among these women has averaged at 51 percent between 2007 to 2018.

This means 49 percent of Nigerian women still do not have the power to

NDP ESTABLISHES FIRST OFFICIAL BLACK CAUCUS IN ONTARIO HISTORY

QUEEN'S PARK — Official Opposition Leader Andrea Horwath and the NDP caucus announced the official formation of the NDP Black Caucus – Ontario's first formal Black caucus in a political party.

"Black community members should see themselves represented and respected when they look at their government. Black Canadian leaders must be at the table when every decision is made. That's why I'm so proud to announce the formal creation of the Ontario NDP's Black Caucus, chaired by our Anti-Racism Critic and MPP for Kitchener Centre, Laura Mae Lindo," said Horwath.

"This is the first official Black caucus in Ontario's history. It is the first time any party has elected enough Black members to form a caucus, and the first time a body like this has been formally identified as a key priority. What we're putting out there by formalizing this caucus is that we expect and believe that the Ontario NDP MPP Black Caucus will continue for generation after generation, growing after every election."

The NDP's Black caucus was established as a direct re-



pic: byblacks.com

sult of an initial Black community leaders' roundtable discussion at Queen's Park with the NDP. This discussion, which was a key step in cultivating and advancing an ongoing partnership between the NDP and the Black community, gave members of the NDP caucus the opportunity to hear from Black community leaders. A key recommendation was the importance of formalizing representation, and direct engagement with the Black community as a distinct group.

The establishment of the Black caucus is part of the Ontario NDP's continued commitment to working with Black communities – from Zanana Akande's trailblazing work establishing the Anti-Racism Secretariat in the 1990s to ag-

gressively pushing the previous Liberal government to abolish carding instead of legislating it, and the NDP's present call for the government to not only eliminate carding in Ontario, but also destroy all data obtained from the unconstitutional practice.

The inaugural NDP Black Caucus consists of:

Kitchener Centre MPP Dr. Laura Mae Lindo
York South-Weston MPP Faisal Hassan

Toronto – St. Paul's MPP Dr. Jill Andrew
Brampton North MPP Kevin Yarde
Beaches—East York MPP Dr. Rima Berns-McGown

The mandate of the NDP Black Caucus is to ensure that

Black perspectives are meaningfully incorporated into the work that New Democrats do on every file – from finance, to health care, education, housing, the Arts and beyond. Our mandate is to work actively and collaboratively with Black communities to address systemic anti-Black racism by proposing policy solutions that will help build a future of equity, justice, respect and safety," said NDP Black Caucus Chair Laura Mae Lindo.

"It's time for political leadership in this province that isn't content with backsliding or even with a slow pace of change, but that instead works actively and urgently with the Black community to build a future of equity, justice, and respect."

decide on their sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights.

Of this 201 million, 44 percent or 88.44 million are between the ages of 0 and 14, while 32 percent, 64.32 are within the ages of 10 and 24.

The reports also revealed that "reproductive rights are still out of reach for too many women, including the more than 200 million women who want to prevent a

pregnancy but cannot access modern contraceptive information and services".

"Ultimately, almost all of the 4.3 billion people of reproductive age around the world today will have had inadequate access to sexual and reproductive health services at some point

In 1969 world population reached 3.6 billion, up about 1 billion from only 17 years earlier, leading to the establishment

of UNFPA.

The UN agency has succeeded in reducing fertility rates worldwide by about

50 percent.

In the least developed countries, fertility was about six births per woman in 1969.

When there is no enemy within, the enemies outside cannot hurt you.

– African Proverb

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Editorial

KAYCEE MADU'S ELECTION IN ALBERTA, WHAT HAVE WE LEARNT?

The election of Kaycee Madu as member of parliament in Alberta does not come as a surprise to many political analysts within the region. It is well deserved, a testament to the integration of migrants to the Canadian socio-political system. Recall that Kaycee migrated to the country in 2005 having graduated from the University of Lagos. Canada no doubt offers a great deal of opportunities to excel in today's world than any other country on the western hemisphere.

We have witnessed significant increase in the number of minority representations, affirming our diversity as a

custodian of democratic values. The diversity that exists today must be sustained by an institutionalized approach to achieving fair participation in governance.

More importantly, African immigrants must be aware that Canadians are not a people who wait for the government to pull things through. What will give them greatest advantage during electioneering is their impact in their various communities. Here is a culture that gives and the ballot ultimately represents your score card.

Kaycee Madu did not just achieve this feat by proxy, it was a victory that was earned. For

many wishing to jostle for elective positions, it will suffice to check out Mr Madu's outstanding contributions which brought him to lime-light in Alberta. The onus lies on individuals who have benefitted largely from the loving arms of Canadians to reciprocate same to the country and their countries of origin.

ZAMFARA, THE NORTH & THE NIGER DELTA 'GOLD' MADE OF BLOOD

To say there's no correlation between natural resources and violence in Nigeria and indeed Africa is to deny the fact that aging is a close call to death. The dangerous trend of events in the northern part of Nigeria is worrisome but not surprising. The children we have failed to nurture, educate and mentor will set the house aflame or sell it off (Nigerian Proverb). What we left undone is undoing us.

The Almajiris of times past: children wandering the streets begging for money and food after attending Quranic classes. They are lacking in skill, abandoned by fathers with multiple wives, mothers who were married early and lacking parental skill. A people who cherish population growth as an advantage to win elections yet whose political elites have gloriously plundered their commonwealth.

We are witnessing a fire ranging from the north with fury and the south should not slumber. It could catch the length and breadth of the country if not quenched. Banditry, kidnapping, Boko Haram attacks, herdsman invasion, ethnic ten-

sions among Tivs and Jukuns in Taraba, religious violence which could escalate within hours, Kajuru killings and who knows what's next on the list.

Zamfara gold deposit is certainly coming at a wrong time. Although, mining activities had been going on for years, this blessing has since become a curse, just as oil discovery is to the Niger Delta.

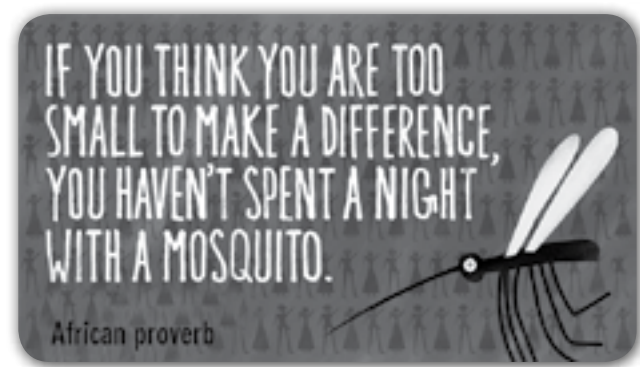
The greed of government officials, traditional rulers and miners makes it extremely hard to control such treasonous acts. The importation of arms to scare away competitors and establish dominance results in unnecessary blood letting. The emergence of war Lords like the Sirrea Leone/Liberia conflict (blood diamonds) is a horrible tale of what could transpire if the government is not proactive.

The federal government has left it late but not as late as to be devoid of pragmatic solutions. Firstly, how can mining activities of that level be taking place within a geographically crafted entity called Nigeria without the federal government presence? When has mining become a concurrent function within the confines of the constitution that state governments could control? Wouldn't it be unfair to the Niger Delta region if we all share in

the common wealth of the region through oil exploration yet we hide the abundance of gold and other resources elsewhere?

The role played by security agencies and traditional chiefs must be scrutinized. Although, banditry like many other vices ravaging the northern part of the country requires a holistic framework, which evidently could require decades to succeed if implemented, however, in the meantime, the Ministry of Mines and Natural Resources should as a matter of national urgency take over every known natural resource site, and make suggestions to the government on private sector investment for licensing of mining companies.

The Ministry must also ensure that earnings from registered companies are not repatriated but accrue to the Nigerian government while also earmarking a percentage for the community development in the form of provision of basic infrastructure, scholarships, and empowerment for the youths. By so doing, we can have a peaceful Zamfara, peaceful north and a prosperous Nigeria, where the Niger Delta experience will not have to wear its ugly head again. Never Again!



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TIPS TO HELP LOWER YOUR KIDS' INTAKE OF SUGARY DRINKS



(NC) Did you know that sugary drinks are the main source of sugars in the diets of Canadians? Drinking sugary drinks may lead to increased risk of obesity, type 2 diabetes, and cavities in children.

Sugary drinks can include:

- iced tea

- fruit juice
- soft drinks
- sports drinks
- energy drinks
- fruit-flavoured drinks and punches
- sweetened plant-based beverages
- flavoured waters with added sugars
- sweetened milks like chocolate milk

- sweetened hot or cold tea, coffee, hot chocolate and other specialty drinks

It may not seem easy to get your kid, teen or tween to drink fewer sugary drinks, but here are a few tips:

- Reduce the amount of sugary drinks available at home.

HOW TO ADD YOUR PHARMACIST TO YOUR CAREGIVING TEAM

(NC) If you're one of the 8.1 million Canadians caring for a family member or friend, you understand firsthand the responsibilities required to manage the health and well-being of a loved one. But who is caring for the caregivers?

Now, the newly launched Caregiver Friendly Pharmacy Program by Teva Pharmaceuticals provides education, resources, tools, an online caregivers support network, and assistance from pharmacists trained specifically to help support caregivers in their role.

"We know pharmacists have always been the most acces-

sible front-line support in the healthcare setting," says Iris Krawchenko, a pharmacist consultant and caregiver to her own elderly father. "This initiative strengthens the opportunity for pharmacists and caregivers to connect and provides tangible tools to organize and advocate for their care."

The program provides concrete checklists; health, social and government resources; support organizations; caregiver education and self-assessment tools; and, medication information that anyone would be grateful to have.

How to add a pharmacist to your

caregiving team:

- Introduce yourself to your loved one's pharmacist and identify your role as a caregiver.
- Schedule a meeting with the pharmacist to provide background about your loved one.

Bring information about your loved one and a list of questions for your first visit.

- Take notes that include your observations or concerns for future visits with your pharmacist.

- Report any change in the condi-

• Encourage them to make healthy drink choices when they are away from home.

• Offer water or carbonated water with meals and snacks.

• Brainstorm as a family ways to flavour water with fruits and herbs.

• Hop on the do-it-yourself trend. Make up a pitcher of unsweetened iced tea with your favourite herbal tea. Or create a signature infused water concoction. Use sparkling water to add some fizz.

• Serve healthier alternatives when hosting friends and family. Offer water and a variety of fruit and herb-infused water, or sparkling water.

Get more information on healthy eating habits at Canada.ca/FoodGuide.

TEACH YOUR KIDS TO LOVE THEIR TEETH



(NC) As parents and guardians, we are responsible for the health and well-being of our children, including their oral health. So, it's never too early to start teaching good habits to reduce the risks of tooth decay and oral disease.

Once baby's first tooth appears, parents and guardians should clean it with a small, soft toothbrush or gauze and use floss to clean between teeth that are touching.

Young children who are old enough to hold a toothbrush should be taught how to brush their teeth twice a day and to clean between their teeth.

Parents and guardians need to help with toothbrushing until children are able to do it properly on their own. Teens should be reminded that brushing their teeth only takes two minutes twice a day, followed by oral rinsing and cleaning between the teeth. Asking them to go easy on

the pop and junk food will help too.

If toothbrushing time is a daily struggle, try these tips to turn those tears into cheers:

1. Offer little ones rewards, such as stickers, high fives or extra bedtime stories, for good toothbrushing skills.

2. Play music in the bathroom — any fun two-minute song will do.

3. Show your kids the latest interactive brushing apps.

4. Take them shopping for their own toothbrushes.

5. Make brushing a family affair. There's always room for one more at the sink.

Build good daily oral hygiene habits early. Teaching your kids to care for their teeth and scheduling regular dental hygiene appointments beginning at age one will give everyone something to smile about.

Find more tips at www.dentalhygienecanada.ca/kids.

Nigerian Canadian News Supports Sickle Cell Awareness

Know your Sickle Cell Status.
Get tested today



ONTARIO CONSIDERS MAKING ALL TEACHERS TAKE A COMPULSORY ANNUAL MATH TEST



pic: www.iheartradio.ca

By NCNC Staff
The government of Ontario is planning to implement a compulsory annual math test for every teacher in the province.

Nigerian Canadian News gathered that if this plan is implemented, teachers who want to carry on with teaching must pass the test. We also reliably gathered that the development would apply to teachers of primary and second-

ary school regardless of whether they teach mathematics or not. The government, as a matter of fact, has repeatedly promised to take steps that will improve student math performances, which have been on a steady decline for years all over the province. Annual math test for every teacher was given consideration after the government's recent passage of the legislation that will demand all as-

piring teachers in Ontario to pass a math test before getting their license to teach.

Premier Doug Ford said recently that the government was considering widening the requirement so it can apply to all teachers every year.

During the question period, Ford said: "I have an idea: Why don't we test all the teachers, rather than just new ones, on learning how to deliver math?"

The president of the union that represents secondary school teachers in Ontario, Harvey Bischof, has described the idea as "nonsensical" and said it could put teachers who are effective out of work.

Bischof said: "High school teachers in Ontario are subject specialists. If you're not qualified to teach math, essentially, you don't. And if you are qualified, you don't need a test. Imagine taking an effective art, history or geography teacher, and finding out they can't solve a quadratic equation and preventing them from teaching the subjects that they're highly qualified to teach."

The government has not disclosed what the annual test will look like or the person that will administer the test. The government has however revealed there would be consultation with parents and teachers before the plan is implemented.

SECOND CANADIAN SENTENCED TO DEATH IN CHINA



pic: getty images

By D.Forrester

Fan Wei was sentenced to death last month in a move that will further strain Sino-Canadian relations. Both countries had been on the fringes since Canada arrested Huawei tech chief last December at the request of the U.S.

Fan Wei was one of 11 people at the Jiangmen Intermediate People's Court in southern Guangdong province for their roles in a methamphetamine ring.

The list include one American and four Mexicans, who were all given life sentences or death sentences suspended by a period of two years.

It is unclear if Fan Wei was the real name of the accused.

The court held that Fan Wei and Wu conspired to manufacture and sell the drugs in 2012, and brought the others — described as "drug-making technicians" — on board.

Between July and November of that year, the court says, the group set up a "den" in Guangdong's Taishan city, where they produced and sold more than 63 kilograms of methamphetamine and 365.9 grams of dimethyl amphetamine.

Foreign Affairs Minister Chrystia Free-

land has come out to denounce the sentence, calling it "inhumane."

"We're very concerned by this sentence," she told gathered reporters. "Canada stands firmly opposed to the use of the death penalty everywhere around the world. We think that this is a cruel and inhumane punishment which should not be used in any country. We are obviously particularly concerned when it is applied to Canadians."

Fan Wei and the others sentenced can still appeal.

In a later statement, Global Affairs Canada said by email that it had, "raised our firm opposition to the death penalty with China, and will continue to do so."

"We call on China to grant clemency for Mr. Fan," the statement added. "It is of extreme concern to our government that China has chosen to apply the death penalty, a cruel and inhumane punishment."

"Global Affairs Canada has been closely following this case and has been providing consular assistance to Mr. Fan and his family since he was first detained in 2012," the statement concluded.

MONTREAL PLANS TO NAME A CÔTE-DES-NEIGES PARK AFTER MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.



By Dele Akintilo

Kent Park will soon be renamed Martin Luther King Park. The park will be named after the American civil rights activist leader who was murdered in 1968. According to a resolution, Montreal's executive committee is expected to have approved the plan.

Mayor Valérie Plante commended Martin Luther King's "contribution to the pursuit of an egalitarian society that is free of racial discrimina-

tion based on race."

She added that King was "instrumental in upholding civil rights and the equality of black people and in combating racial discrimination in the United States. His work has had major repercussions for the defense of minority rights not only in the U.S. but also in Canada and around the world."

The representative of the area that encompasses the park, councilor Magda Popeanu, remarked

that Montreal has a large population of blacks. "As such, it is essential to honour the contribution of this great man to our community. This (name change) contributes to the improvement of the quality of life, as it enhances a public space by paying tribute to this man so important in the history of civil rights."

Kent Park is located in northern Côte-des-Neiges—Notre-Dame-de-Grâce borough and is bordered by Côte-des-Neiges Rd., Hudson Rd and Appleton and Kent Aves.

Kent Park was given its current name in 1967 and according to Montreal city website, it was named after the Kingdom of Kent of Anglo-Saxon England.

BRAMPTON ADULT PRESTO FARES HIKE EXPECTED IN MAY

By D.Forrester

Brampton Transit will make light changes to PRESTO adult fares starting from the 12th of May, a move done according to a recommendation approved by Brampton City Council. The change, however, will exclude cash fares; PRESTO fares for children, youths and seniors; or GO Transit co-fares.

PRESTO single adult ride: \$3.10

PRESTO adult weekly pass: \$34.00

PRESTO adult monthly pass: \$128.00

The city council hopes it will generate additional revenues of \$1.1 million in 2019 to help Brampton Transit finance service im-

provements and expansion.

Brampton Transit intends to add to the number of buses in the city (five 60 ft. articulated buses and seven 40 ft. conventional buses) and provide an additional 81,000 service hours.

"Our priority is to provide a safe and reliable transit service," says Alex Milojevic, General Manager of Brampton Transit. "With our ridership growth, we're focusing on adding more buses and frequencies to our routes to provide a better customer experience while using our service. This fare increase will help ensure that our riders have better options for their daily commute."

8 NIGERIANS SENTENCED TO DEATH IN UAE

By D.Forrester

The fate of eight Nigerians involved in robbery is hanging on the gallows as they were sentenced to death in Sharjah, United Arab Emirates, for a string of robberies at money exchanges and cash machines (ATMs) across the emirate in December 2016.

One of the accused Nigerian denied the charge against him, saying that one of the accused's brothers asked him to transfer Dh60,000 to an account in Nigeria.

They were initially held for attacking security guards in four violent attacks at ATMs and money exchanges across Sharjah in late 2016.

Out of the 20 suspects, nine were convicted.

Some of the accused confessed to their crimes, while others denied the charges levelled against them.

Judge Majid Al Muhairi of Sharjah Criminal Court gave the judgement.

The eight-member gang attacked security trucks and entered establishments by force and threatened and assaulted staff and

members of the public with bladed weapons in a spate of robberies, three of which were carried out on the same day on December 18, 2016.

The gang, who were all in the UAE on visit visas, were said to be highly organised and plotted a string of orchestrated attacks to ambush security trucks that were transporting money boxes to and from ATMs, and at least one money exchange in Sharjah.

The first robbery took place at a Dubai Commercial Bank ATM on King Abdul Aziz Street, where Dh540,000 was stolen.

Then two days later, they attacked an ATM in Al Safer Mall in Al Nahda, fleeing with Dh700,000, and an ATM in Muweilah where they stole Dh710,000.

Police foiled a fourth attack at a money exchange office near National Paints.

The Senior Special Assistant to the President on Foreign Affairs and Diaspora, Mrs. Abike Dabiri-Erewa has described the death sentence passed on eight Nigerians in United Arab Emirate (UAE) as unfortunate, appealing to Nigerians to be law abiding in foreign countries.

DOMINIC LEBLANC TAKING MEDICAL LEAVE AFTER CANCER DIAGNOSIS

The finance minister, Crown-Indigenous relations minister will take over his duties.

OTTAWA — Dominic LeBlanc is stepping away temporarily from his duties as intergovernmental and northern affairs minister after being diagnosed with a form of non-Hodgkin lymphoma.

His oncologist, Dr. Nicholas Finn, says non-Hodgkin lymphoma is a treatable condition and LeBlanc has responded positively to initial treatments.

Finance Minister Bill Morneau will take over LeBlanc's duties on the intergovernmental and international-trade files for now.

Crown-Indigenous Relations Minister Carolyn Bennett will take on issues related to northern affairs.

This is LeBlanc's second bout with cancer; he was diagnosed

CANADA HAS CUT OFF FINANCIAL AID TO NICARAGUA OVER HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

By Bunmi Akintilo

The government of Canada has revealed it has cut off its financial aid to Nicaragua since last year in a bid to respond to human rights violations that are prevalent in the country. This decision had been kept under wraps since but was recently disclosed.

Foreign Ministry's spokesperson, Brittany Fletcher, confirmed the suspension after CBC's report that the financial aid was stopped in August 2018. According to the CBC, the ban occurred during a crackdown on protests against the government but was kept under wraps in a bid to give the President of Nicaragua



pic: france24.com

(Daniel Ortega) room to backpedal but Ortega remained adamant.

While confirming the suspension, Fletcher said: "Our government is concerned by the deteriorating human rights situation and economic downturn in Nicaragua. In light of these concerns, we made the decision to suspend direct fi-

She said further that Canada still of-

financial assistance to the Nicaraguan government last summer. President Ortega's repressive actions against his people are unacceptable. We continue to consider all diplomatic and policy options at our disposal in order to support Nicaraguan people."

According to a memorandum cited by CBC, Canada ranked among top five bilateral aid donors to Nicaragua and Canada had been providing \$20 million annual aid.

fers support for international organizations and NGOs in Nicaragua "with a focus on help for the most vulnerable."

According to a memorandum cited by CBC, Canada ranked among top five bilateral aid donors to Nicaragua and Canada had been providing \$20 million annual aid.

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NEW CANADIAN BLACK CHAMBER OF COMMERCE DESIRES TO GIVE OWNERS OF BUSINESS A 'UNIFIED VOICE'

NEW CANADIAN BLACK CHAMBER OF COMMERCE DESIRES TO GIVE OWNERS OF BUSINESS A 'UNIFIED VOICE'



As at the time Lola Adeyemi made up her mind to quit a career in information technology to launch her own line of African soups and stews, it was as if there was no one available to guide her through the launching process.

Lola Adeyemi moved to Canada from Nigeria around fifteen years ago as an international student but she had difficulty finding the taste of home in the grocery arena. To her, other flavors and tastes were available in abundance but the flavors and soups she knew very well we're not available.

While talking about the challenges she faced while starting her business, she said, "That's a gap that I thought I could

fill. I think one of the struggles when I started the business was having somebody who looked like me, has been through the same struggles as an immigrant like me that I could reach out to and say, 'Hey, I want to start this business. What are the struggles I might face? What are the challenges I might face? The fact that was nonexistent was almost like I was jumping into the water with sharks and I didn't have any protection. I didn't have anyone guiding me on the path to take or not to take.'

The Canadian Black Chamber of Commerce that was recently launched desires to change that.

The organization's launch event recently

held in Toronto and the non-profit organization was launched with the aim of providing better growth and economic opportunities for Canada's numerous black communities.

According to CBC, the founder of Canadian Black Chamber of Commerce, Michael Forrest, wants to multiply the success of the black business community.

While talking about the organization, Forrest said, "It allows us to coach the black community, the business community and make sure they can elevate their brand and their business across Canada. We're 1.2 million black Canadians and we need to find a way to connect ourselves eco-

nomically."

The organization seeks to make access-

ing mentors, networking with other businesses and accessing consulting, among other things easier for black entrepreneurs. The organization's head office will be in Toronto but plans are in place to expand and create more chapters across Canada.

While talking about the goal of the chamber, Forrest said the chamber's goal is focusing more squarely on developing businesses, especially small and middle-sized ones.

He said: "There are many people in the black community that are under-served and I believe there's much more room for other groups to enter this marketplace."

Dewitt Lee, who was part of the people present at the launch said: "This is not a new idea. This is a concept that exists in many other ethnicities, so we're a little bit behind in terms of pooling our resources ... but now we'll have a unified voice that can speak directly to the needs of small business owners."

CANADIAN WOMEN FREED FROM SOMALILAND JAIL

By R.Njeru

Sources have revealed that two Canadian women were recently freed from a jail in Somaliland.

According to Mubarik Mohamoud Abdi, their lawyer, the two women were put into custody after police arrested them in a house in Hargeisa.

Karima Watts, 24, and Maymona Abdi, 28, were arrested for drinking alcohol, which is illegal in the African country. Karima Watts, 24, and Maymona Abdi, 28, were arrested for drinking alcohol, which is illegal in the African country. Karima Watts, 24, and Maymona Abdi, 28, were arrested for drinking alcohol, which is illegal in the African country.

According to Jason Jeremias, a New York-based human rights activist, Ms. Abdi was in Somaliland to help women facing gender-based violence.

Their lawyer said that the prosecution failed to prove before the court that the ladies had indeed consumed alcohol. Mubarik said that they were slapped with a sentence of 2½ months in prison and 40 lashes although they had tried to avoid jail by signing confessions under duress.

Maymona Abdi's mother Fahima Hassan made a statement that revealed the relationship between Maymona and Karima. She said that the two women were best

friends who grew up in Ottawa, Canada. She revealed that she adopted Karima after her mother died.

Jeremias, who has been advocating on their behalf, said both women struggled to cope in jail. He said that Abdi was denied medical attention when she contracted pneumonia while in jail. He also said that the women were also sometimes denied sanitary pads, showers and food.

Ayan Mahamoud, a representative of Somaliland to the Commonwealth and the U.K., said being sentenced to lashings is rare in Somaliland. The last capital crime in Somaliland was in '92, '93."

According to Jeremias, the two women suffered both mentally and physically, and they didn't understand why this was happening to them.

Ayan said that in the beginning it was difficult to get information regarding the condition and whereabouts of the women.

Global Affairs Canada said it is aware that the two women have been released and they are providing consular assistance.

Canada says that Somaliland is "extremely volatile" with the threat of domestic terrorism "high." It cautions travelers to avoid Somalia.

SASKATCHEWAN MAN PLEADS NOT GUILTY FOR THREATENING PRIME MINISTER

By R.Njeru

A Saskatchewan man has pleaded not guilty to charges of threatening Prime Minister Justin Trudeau.

On Feb. 12, the Saskatchewan RCMP national security enforcement section received information about a phone call made to an employee at a Canadian government agency.

During the call, a man allegedly said that he would blow up the Parliament Buildings and shoot Trudeau.

On Feb. 27, David Petersen was arrested by the Nipawin RCMP in the town. The 52-year-old is fighting charges of threatening parliament and the prime minister.

The police department has confirmed that there has been no

contact between the man and the prime minister. Petersen chose to represent himself after he submitted his plea in a provincial court in Nipawin.

Prosecutor Tyla Olenchuk says the Crown has three witnesses for the trial, including a Mountie and a government agency worker who is to appear via video from Winnipeg.

The authorities released Petersen from custody after they established that he did not intend to carry out the alleged threats.

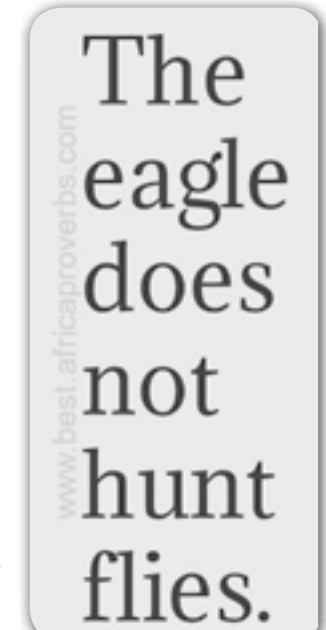
In court, Petersen said Trudeau's name came up during the phone call with a Canadian government agency worker but said he didn't feel he was threatening Trudeau's life or safety.

Petersen said that

he initially wanted to plead guilty so that he could "save the court's time". He also revealed that the charges had affected his personal life.

Cardinal told Petersen he should have his trial if he believes he's not guilty.

The trial date for the Nipawin man has been set for Sept. 4. Nipawin is roughly 225 kilometres northeast of Saskatoon.



HELP KEEP FINANCES SAFE ONLINE

(NC) While digital navigation has become an essential skill, it also comes with its own set of dangers. From online banking and mobile apps, to online shopping and credit and debit cards, it's important that you take precautions to keep your personal and financial information safe.

Whether you're looking to beef up your own security or teach your kids cyber awareness, here are some simple strategies for creating strong passwords:

Get creative. While each login will have different password requirements that you must adhere to, it's a best practice to include numbers, symbols, capital and lowercase letters. And think of out-of-the-box ways to incorporate these. Avoid the use of full words and anything that relates to your personal information, such as names and birthdates.

Differentiate. Using different credentials for every login is a great way to help

keep your information – and yourself – secure. To help with remembering numerous passwords, track them as soon as you create a new account in a secure password keeper.

Go beyond the bare minimum. There is often a minimum requirement of eight characters for passwords. Try surpassing this with 12 or more characters to create another layer of complexity.

Share smart. All of these password creation tips are especially important when using mobile or online banking, which is a great way to manage finances. Remind older children to never give out any personal banking information to anyone, even if they claim to be a banking representative. It is a good idea to have record of your teen's passwords and online banking information. Be a safety net in case there's trouble.

Find more information at rbcroyalbank.com/student-solution.

SMALL BUSINESS OWNER? THERE ARE THINGS YOU MUST KNOW AT TAX TIME

(NC) Owning a small business can be a challenging but rewarding experience. One of those challenges is learning how to file your taxes properly.

If you own a restaurant, bar, hair salon or other business where your employees receive tips from customers, it's important to know that you have certain respon-

sibilities with respect to how to treat that tip income. How you handle tips earned by your staff determines whether they are considered "direct" or "controlled" and what your obligations are as a business owner.

Controlled tips are tracked and paid by you, the employer. You collect them from customers and control how to pay them

FINANCE WHEN IS THE BEST TIME TO OPEN AN RRSP?

By Ajay Oberoi

Are you looking forward to open an RRSP? Then you must be looking for the best time of the year to go ahead and make that decision. At the beginning of the year, you can see many financial institutions advertising that it is the best time to go ahead and open a Registered Retirement Savings Plan, which is also known as RRSP. By taking a look at these advertisements, you will wonder whether it is the best time of the year for you to go ahead.

Yes, if you are in a position to spend money out of your pocket to the RRSP contribution, beginning of the year is the best time to go ahead and open an RRSP. We will tell you why and you can keep on reading to figure out more information.

Most of the employees tend to provide the opportunity for the employees to go ahead and contribute towards a group RRSP. This is a good opportunity that you can get your hands on as well. Therefore, you are strongly encouraged to take a look at this alternative. If you compare the facts, you will figure out that it is a better option available to consider instead of opening an individual RRSP at a credit union or a bank.

When you open an RRSP account, you will have to spend a considerable amount of money on management fees. But when you open a group RRSP account, you can make sure that you don't need to spend such a lot of money on the management fees. It is deducted from the published returns. This is just one reason available for you to think about a group RRSP account. However, there are many other options

and you are encouraged to take a look at them as well.

When you open an individual RRSP account, you will have to pay a management fee of around 2% to 3%. But when you open a group RRSP account, you will be able to reduce that to around 0.5% to 1.5%. In the long run, this can contribute a lot towards your savings.

Some of the individuals boast about having thousands of dollars in their bank accounts towards the RRSP in the months of January and February. Due to this reason, contributing towards the RRSP account during this time can be considered as more effective. Then you will be able to make a wise move towards your retirement.

If you want to save enough money for your retirement, you need to make sure that you have an excellent savings plan. This savings plan needs to be based upon the regular contribution frequency to RRSP. As a result, you will be able to overcome hassle and frustration that you have to do with budgeting as well. For example, contributing \$50 towards your RRSP account in every couple of weeks is more convenient, instead of contributing over \$1,300 at the end of the year. Therefore, you are encouraged to take a look at such a plan and make sure that you don't take your retirement savings as a headache.

It has also been identified that people find it as an easier task to make the payments, if they are being deducted directly from their paychecks. In fact, the deductions are made from the paycheck before it is deposited into the bank account. This is another benefit that you will

be able to get with the assistance of group RRSPs.

You can also receive a tax refund, when you are making a payment to the group RRSP account with your payroll deductions. This tax refund would be immediate. Therefore, you don't need to wait until you file for the tax returns. For example, if you make a contribution of \$100 from every paycheck, \$100 will be the actual deposit. However, your real deposit will only be around \$60 and \$40 will be the tax saving.

You will be able to get a large number of benefits with the immediate tax savings, instead of receiving refunds at the end of the year. In fact, this will help you to experience a large number of additional returns. Moreover, you can make sure that you don't have to wait until the end of the year to get your hands on the returns.

When you spread the RRSP contributions throughout the year, your return potential is much higher. That's mainly due to the amount that you will be able to save with the assistance of income tax savings. You will be making immediate investments and the returns



of that investment can be obtained both short term and long term. As a result, you will be able to generate a better return.

When you wait until the end of the year to make a contribution, you will not be able to generate any return throughout the year. But when you contribute with your each payment, it will be converted to thousands of dollars at the time of your retirement. Even though this depends on the performance of bond markets and stocks, your returns are guaranteed. Therefore, you will be able to keep peace of mind when you go ahead as well.

Now you have a basic understanding on when you need to invest your money on RRSP account. With that in mind, you can go ahead and start your investment. You should also determine the exact contribution amount before you start, so that you will be able to get the best possible results out of it in the long run. When you do it, you will be provided with a peaceful and a hassle free retirement, without any financial difficulties. In case of you have credit or debt issues visit www.gtacredit.com or call 416 650 1100.

When you spread the RRSP contributions throughout the year, your return potential is much higher. That's mainly due to the amount that you will be able to save with the assistance of income tax savings. You will be making immediate investments and the returns

full to the employee. If you hold those funds, they could be considered controlled and you could become responsible for CPP contributions and EI premiums.

Get more information on how to follow the tipping model of your choice at canada.ca/tips-gratuities-employer.

My Stubbornness Cost My Children Their Innocence

Dear Agatha,
I got married, five years ago to my boyfriend of three years. Though we had our differences during our courtship days, we were able to overcome those challenges. Right from the beginning, I never hid my ambition to pursue my career as I didn't want all the time and money invested in my education to go to waste.



Agatha Edo
gataedo@yahoo.com
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Though I knew he didn't particularly support the idea, I ignored whatever misgivings he had to the idea of me, pursuing my career. I knew it would be difficult because of the dictates of my job but I was determined never to relegate my career to the background.

My first child came exactly 10 months after our wedding. Against my husband's decision to get his elderly widowed auntie to come over to help with the child and house work, I employed a nanny to look after my child as I didn't want any of his relations in my home. He clearly understood my message and allowed me to be.

He is the kind of man that doesn't talk much. Once he has voiced an opinion on a matter, he steps back and gives me the freedom to do as I liked. To be candid that was one of the major reasons I married him. I didn't want any man breathing down my neck at all. I got too much of that from my dad whose militarization of our home made it so unbearable for my mother and siblings.

Being always away at work even on weekends, I hardly get to spend time with my children. But I made it up to them by buying them expensive toys and clothes. They are actually closer to their

three months old. He said my stubbornness, blinded ambition; non-availability to the children, home and marriage caused our daughters their innocence. From the look of things I need your counsel on how to get my family back. My husband is rebuffing every move I have made so far to win him back. Even my daughters are keeping their distance from me. I don't know what to do.

Imelda

Dear Imelda,
It's very painful and unfortunate that your children became the innocent victims of your decision to price your career above their concern and welfare. There is always a choice to be made in life and each of these choices, comes with its bouquet of consequences.

When a woman makes the choice to marry and have children, she should be ready to forgo certain things if her marriage must work. No woman goes into a marriage with the mindset of a single woman without recording casualties in her home. Yours, was your determination to make a success of your career without thinking of the implications of your constant absence from home on your young daughters and husband.

You mortgaged their innocence and happiness for money and success. Deep down are you happy at the current state of your home? Wouldn't your family have been happier and better had you entrusted the management of your children to your husband's auntie than a stranger whose origin and culture you know nothing about? Marriage is a partnership: one where both

continued on p(38)

PASSION With This Ring

Continued from the last issue



Pastor Taiwo Odubiye

Ibiede's mind went to Pastor Femi. How could a day that was going on so well suddenly turn so bad? Nothing prepared her for this pregnancy news. And what would Pastor Femi's reaction be when he got to know about Grace's pregnancy? Even if he'd been having feelings for her, this case could make him change his mind. What had she done to deserve this? She wondered.

She was silent for some time, and then she cried, "Lord, help me!" She sat on the bed and burst into tears.

Her phone alerted her of a message but she didn't bother to take her handset. When her weeping subsided, she checked her phone. The message was from Lizzy. She forced herself to reply.

I will call you later. The door opened slowly. She looked up and saw Grace. She looked away.

"Mum?" Ibiede didn't respond.

"Mum, I'm sorry."

She looked at her and said angrily, "How could you stand there and tell me you're sorry? How could you be sorry when you allowed it to happen? You were not supposed to engage in sex!"

"I'm sorry. I -" "It's okay. You can go. We'll talk about it later."

Without another word, Grace left the room and quietly closed the door.

Ibiede remained where she was, and continued thinking and talking to God, asking Him for help to face the challenge.

Different thoughts

trace of Grace in the living room.

Ibiede stood by her door and asked, "Are you ready for church?"

"I'm not going."

Under a normal circumstance, Ibiede would have asked why and tried to change Grace's mind but today, she didn't bother. She would have stayed at home herself if she didn't have the meeting with the singles to attend.

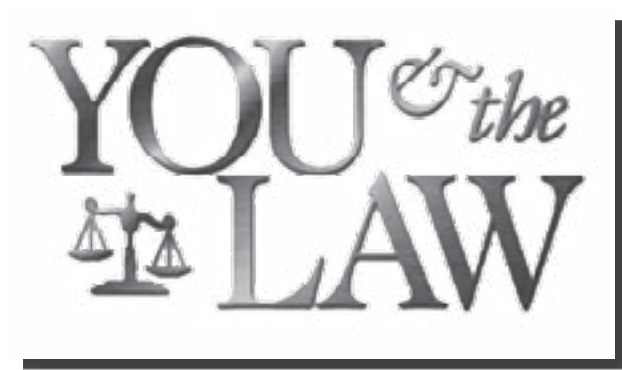
Without another word, Ibiede returned to her room. When she was ready, she had cereal and left the house without saying goodbye to Grace.

Grace remained in her room until she was certain that her mother had left. She came out to the living room with her robe wrapped around her slender body. Taking the control, she flipped on the TV and sat down with her feet propped comfortably on a stool in front of her. Her eyes were glued on the TV but her mind was far from it as she tried to clear her mind.

Some minutes after, deciding it was time to have her bath, she entered the bathroom. About twenty minutes after, she was back in her room, and standing in front of the full length mirror, she looked at her tummy. There was no baby bump yet. She removed a pair of jeans from the hanger and selected a white top which she wore.

About half an hour later, she was seated in the living room, having breakfast as she watched TV. Afterward, she lay on the sofa and made a couple of phone calls after which she continued watching TV until she drifted off to sleep.

continued on p(38)



PROVINCE CUTS FUNDING TO LEGAL AID ONTARIO REFUGEE SERVICES IMPACTED

Legal Aid Ontario will see steep budget cuts under a budget released by the provincial government on April 11.

The organization, which says it provides legal services to low-income people independent of the government but uses public funds, will see a cut of \$133 million in the year ahead, and the province said in the budget it hopes to save \$164 million on legal aid spending each year starting in 2021. Funding for legal services for refugees will be affected by the cuts, says LAO president and CEO David Field.

"Certainly, we are still going through the numbers — we just found out yesterday — I think it is realistic to say that our refugee services will be affected," says Field. "Our priority will be to focus on client services."

Lawyers are still waiting for more details on how the budget cuts will be enacted. For example, Doug Ferguson, director of community legal services at Western Law, said on Twitter that there are no details yet on how student legal clinics will be affected.

Kate Robertson, a lawyer at Markson Law who accepts legal aid certificates, says the funding cuts may compound pre-existing problems and inefficiencies in how these systems are managed. If fewer cases receive legal aid support, it shifts the burden to the criminal defence bar and the accused to make up the difference, she says.

"As someone who has been working in the criminal justice system for years — not only as defence counsel but also on the other side of the courtroom as a prosecutor — I believe it will not save the public money to implement reform to Legal Aid Ontario's budget," she says. "It simply adds to how much the public needs to pay resource courts — that includes court staff, judges and the amount of time that police services needs to devote

to criminal litigation. . . It will also slow down and clog courts in a system that is already heavily backlogged and could very well cause cases to be tossed because of unreasonable delay."

The union that represents 350 Legal Aid Ontario lawyers, the Society of United Professionals, called the cuts "catastrophic" and "unprecedented," estimating that the cut represented more than a third of Legal Aid Ontario's funding and "will absolutely mean job losses for legal aid lawyers."

Field says LAO will be talking to lawyers who are services providers and get their comments on how they think LAO should be addressing the changes.

"The staff are an important part of our delivery model; that's going to remain a focus for us," he says.

The Canadian Forum on Civil Justice found last year that the average spending amount for people dealing with legal problems is about \$6,110. LAO's website says it offers certificates for household incomes of \$11,632 to \$50,803, depending on the circumstances and household size.

"We have had challenges in the past. Usually, it's because of expenditure increases or demand for services. I think the numbers speak for themselves. Any organization that's faced with a 30-per-cent reduction has some challenges ahead of it," says Field. "Our clients really represent the poorest people in the province. If there are other services that provide access to justice, we support that. . . . We work closely with the Law Foundation to make sure access to justice remains a focus, and we are going to continue to do that."

The Ontario Bar Association called Ontario's provincial budget reduction to legal aid services "drastic" and said on Twitter that it will "continue to push for protection of

7 THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT YOUR OMBUDSMAN

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7 - Our location: 375 University Ave., 8:30 am-5pm, Monday to Friday.

WHAT IS DURESS?

While duress is a concept people likely have heard of before, they may not quite know what it is or how it is applied in law in Canada.

DEFINITION OF DURESS

Duress is defined as using force against someone, such as false imprisonment, threats, and physical or other types of violence to get a person to do something they wouldn't ordinarily do, such as commit a crime or sign a contract.

DURESS WHEN MAKING A CONTRACT OR A WILL

Duress can be used in cases in which a person was forced to sign or do something they didn't want to do, to argue that a contract or a will is not valid.

For example, duress can be found in cases in which a will was executed or a contract was signed. If a person who signed the contract or will was forced through duress

to sign away money or some sort of power, or giving something up, then the court will find the person was compelled to sign the document by serious threats of violence and/or actual violence and most likely find the document null and void.

A duress finding in the making of a contract will almost always result in a contract being invalidated.

DURESS USED AS A CRIMINAL DEFENCE

While duress is used in civil/contracts/wills cases, it can also be used in criminal cases with the caveat that the defence of duress is only available on a limited basis.

The Criminal Code of Canada explains that duress can be used as a defence for a limited amount of crimes.

The section is entitled "compulsion by threats" and states:

"A person who commits an offence under compulsion by

threats of immediate death or bodily harm from a person who is present when the offence is committed is excused for committing the offence if the person believes that the threats will be carried out and if the person is not a party to a conspiracy or association whereby the person is subject to compulsion. . . ."

The code forbids the defence of duress when it comes to the most serious crimes, including: murder, attempted murder, sexual assault, forcible abduction and hostage taking.

However, a 2015 case allowed for duress to be considered in a criminal case involving murder — even though the Criminal Code forbids it, and the defence hasn't been able to be used in other cases involving murder.

In R. v. Aravena, a gang of bikers appealed their murder convictions arguing they were forced to kill other bikers due

to duress, as they feared for their lives. Even though the Ontario Court of Appeal dismissed the appeal, they did find that the lower court judge erred in finding that duress couldn't be used as a defence.

The court used the reasoning that if a person is truly afraid of losing their life, and feels they have no choice but to kill the person threatening them with violence, then they should have the defence of duress available to them.

To disallow the defence of duress in a case where a person truly feared they were going to die is giving priority to the life of the victim over that of the accused, which was unacceptable to the court.

If you have signed a contract or a will, or any other legal document under duress, or have been charged with a crime in which duress was involved you should consult a lawyer as soon as possible.

Source: wills.find-law.ca

the most vulnerable and a recognition of the value of lawyer services."

The Law Society of Ontario, which regulates lawyers and has been in the process of rekindling ties with Legal Aid Ontario, said in a statement that it was "gravely concerned."

"The reductions will have a significant impact on vulnerable Ontarians who require legal assistance, and have no other means of obtaining it," LSO Treasurer Malcolm Mercer said in the statement.

"This major reduction in such a short

period of time will cause increased court delays and threatens to seriously disrupt the administration of justice."

Brampton lawyer and law society bencher Raj Sharda, who accepts legal aid certificates, says the reduced funding does not serve access to justice.

"The financially vulnerable of this province need to receive a more comprehensive provision of legal services," he says.

Ontario's budget change comes amid a provincial cost-saving plan that will affect the justice sector broadly. The prov-

ince said it expects to spend two-per-cent less on the justice sector between 2019 and 2022 through steps such as combining tribunals and digitizing juror selection, in-custody court appearances and evidence collection.

Ontario is not the only province that has had pushback from the legal community about legal aid cuts. In British Columbia, the Legal Services Society and the government recently announced a funding agreement and narrowly avoided a shutdown scheduled to begin on April 1.

Robertson says the legal aid funding cut in Ontario is an "astonishingly deep" reduction. "That's something the public needs to know when they weigh and measure the reforms that have been announced to the budget," says Robertson. "In my opinion these cuts . . . undermine access to protections of constitutional rights in Canada, because access to legal representation an essential way of ensuring individuals' rights are protected."

Source: www.canadianlawyer.com

FAMILY

HAVE WE FORGOTTEN HOW TO EAT TOGETHER?



pic: athomedad.org

(NC) Kids eat together on the playground, and college students dine in shared dorm rooms, but as we get older and take on day jobs, are we still eating together?

Apparently, not so much. A recent national survey commissioned by President's Choice found that although Canadians spend significantly less time eating meals with friends and family compared to screen time, there is still a desire to spend more time at the table.

With technology becoming more accessible than ever and permeating our everyday lives, it's important we take the time to put down our devices and re-connect with those around us. Research has shown on average, almost one in three of us are spending more than four hours of our free time engaging with screens each day.

The simple act of

TEACH YOUR KIDS THE BASICS OF PERSONAL FINANCES IN CASHLESS SOCIETY

(NC) Teaching your children about finances is an essential life lesson, especially as society is increasingly becoming cashless. Nowadays, money can seem invisible to children and harder for them to grasp, both literally and figuratively.

The earlier you start talking to your kids about money, the more opportunities you have for teachable moments along the way.

To get the conversation underway, Emily Steen, senior manager of student banking at RBC suggests the following ABCs to help children learn about money and

regularly sharing a meal with friends and family can contribute to a beneficial lifestyle, including healthier eating habits, early childhood development, and stronger interpersonal relationships.

In fact, for the first time since its inception, Canada's most recent food guide released earlier this year encourages us to cook more often and eat meals with others in an effort to instill healthy eating habits.

"The act of eating together is very simple, yet the positive impacts are significant," says Uwe Stueckmann, senior vice president at Loblaw Companies. "We know that moments and memories are created while sharing meals together, conversations are created with our children, healthier meals are eaten, and we leave the table happier and more connected with the ones we love."

the importance of what's really doing on behind our digital transactions:

A is for adding up: Pick a savings goal and create a family plan. Whether you're putting cash in a jar or saving digitally, children of any age will benefit from the next. Another term for

about the final result.

B is for bank account. Take your children to your local bank branch to open up a young savers' bank account so they can learn how it all works and how to save. As your children get older and

LAUNDRY LESSONS: STAIN REMOVAL 101

(NC) The basics of laundry seem straightforward, but sometimes it feels like stain removal requires an advanced degree. To help simplify removal, check out these easy tips for five of the most common (and frustrating) stains:

Grass. Much like dye stains, grass stains contain a pigment that sticks to clothing fibres. The secret is to act fast, soaking the stain in cold water as soon as possible. Once the garment is really soaked with water, use a cleaning agent like white vinegar, rubbing alcohol or even bleach (if you're dealing with

whites) to treat the stain.

Red wine. With a wine stain, it's all about the dab - rubbing the stain can set it further. Dabbing complete, apply salt liberally to the stained area, let it dry and then wash with cold water and a mix of detergent and baking soda.

Lipstick. Kiss away lipstick stains by pre-treating with a solvent-based stain removal product (or a bit of liquid detergent). Allow the stain remover to work for at least 15 minutes and then wash the garment in the hottest

water possible for the fabric - be sure to read the care label.

Sauces. Can't eat pasta without spilling tomato sauce on your top? Simply apply dish detergent to the stain and rub with an ice cube. Once the stain has faded, blot it with a clean cloth soaked with vinegar and wash as usual.

Oil and grease. Start by covering the stain in baby powder or cornstarch as quickly as possible - the powder will soak up much of the grease or oil. After about 30 minutes, dust off any excess powder and give the garment a

wash on the hottest water-setting possible for the fabric.

Still feeling stymied by stains? Modern laundry appliances are making it easier than ever to tackle tough ones with pre-determined settings. GE Appliances' new washers, for example, come with a Stain Removal Guide feature: simply push a button based on the stain you're treating and the machine will automatically adjust the water temperature, spin speed, wash action and soak time.

Learn more at ge-appliances.ca.

EXAMPLES OF FAMILY TRADITIONS TO BUILD BONDS

Family rituals and traditions are important. They establish a foundation for family values and are a good bonding experience. Rituals also give both children and parents something to look forward to.

FAMILY RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

A family ritual is a set of behaviors that is repeated and that is symbolically meaningful. Family rituals provide families with a sense of identity and belonging. They often stir up strong emotions and are frequently reminisced about and discussed within the family. Family rituals also provide a sense of continuity across generations. In other words, they are a way of transmitting family values, history, and culture from one generation to the next. Another term for

family rituals is family traditions.

EXAMPLES

Perhaps the best example of family rituals are holiday traditions, such as those surrounding Christmas or Hanukkah. Events surrounding these holidays like picking out a Christmas tree, lighting the menorah and gathering for dinner with extended family can become rituals. Families also have non-holiday rituals that are unique to their family.

Apple picking every fall or renting a vacation cabin every summer are two good examples. Some families may also have a ritual for every member's birthday. It may be as ordinary as baking a special cake that is the birthday boy or girl's personal favorite. It may also be something funny or an inside

family joke that becomes a tradition on anyone's birthday.

FAMILY TRADITIONS THROUGH GENERATIONS

Many families have traditions that last for generations. These often produce the fondest memories that everyone cherishes and attempts to carry on.

- Some are related to the family's heritage like going to the local cultural festival or cooking a meal from the 'old country' on a certain day each year.
- Others may have to do with special events, such as that pearl necklace that is passed down at each daughter's weddings.
- Still, others are simply fun. A family full of baseball fans may make it a tradition to go to the stadium on

great example is groceries: if you take your child grocery shopping with you, they inevitably ask for extra items that are not on the list - or not within budget. Show them what your overall grocery budget is with cash and help them learn how all the

opening day. It may have started with great-grandpa and is continued to involve the youngest members of the family.

FAMILY RITUALS VS. ROUTINES

Family rituals can be contrasted with family routines, which also occur repeatedly but lack the symbolic meaning that family rituals hold.

- Family routines are highly important to the welfare of all family members and to the family structure itself.
- Family routines are often necessary to keep the family unit together.

A family dinner every Friday night may be a routine. A family dinner at a fancy restaurant for Mom's birthday may be a ritual or tradition.

Source: www.verywellfamily.com

small items add up. Take it one step further and talk about how spending over or under the allotted amount impacts your overall household budget.

Find more information at rbcroyalbank.com/student-solution.

BUYING A HOME AS A FAMILY

(NC) Canadians who purchase a home with family or parental involvement continues to gain popularity while purchasing a home with a spouse or partner has shown a steady decline over the past few years. According to the 2019 RBC home ownership poll, a family purchase is now nearly as popular as sole ownership. The family purchase approach to buying a home is especially popular with the millennial set.

While funding as a family provides an opportunity for those who may not be in the financial position to buy on their own or with a partner, it has the potential of being complicated when multiple parties come together to finance such a large purchase. Here are a few tips to help you manage this financial milestone together and help ensure your family bond remains stronger than ever:

Lay the ground rules - together:

People tend to be reserved when talking about money, but now is not the time for this mindset. Approach the process by being open, honest and candid about your individual

plans and commitments to contribute to the home buying process and financial commitment. This will help eliminate surprises and misconceptions, which is especially important once the purchase has been made.

Create a contingency plan: Buying a house is much more than a monthly mortgage payment. Preparing for one-time, ongoing and emergency costs of homeownership is essential to being able to manage.

Seek advice from an expert: While there are lots of great online tools, a great way to manage questions and concerns together is to talk to a mortgage specialist in person together. They can make sure you have a complete understanding of your current situation and have a look at your short- and longer-term plans and goals while easing any worry in real time.

To find an RBC Mortgage Specialist near you for no-obligation professional advice, personalized service, and fast and easy mortgage pre-approval visit www.rbcroyalbank.com/mortgage-specialist.

DO YOU OWN A BOAT? LEARN NEW OBLIGATIONS STARTING SUMMER 2019



pic: nautal.com

CAN MILLENNIALS AFFORD HOME OWNERSHIP NOW?

- LOIS EZEUDE (EDITED BY STEVE EZEUDE)

"Many millennials are looking looking to their parents for some assistance in home buying." - *Altas Canada*



Steve Ezeude

The issue of home ownership has been on the front burner for quite sometime now considering the higher home price, borrowing cost and mortgage requirements. To the older generations, they are getting used to the trend although some still haven't had the wherewithals to own one. I decided to leave these old folks and seek the mindset of the millennials for this discourse. To help me, I implored my daughter, Lois, (as a younger millennial) to help share her mindset as she responds to the question, "Do you think home ownership will be attainable for you in the future? Why or why not?"

posed by the Ontario Real Estate Board (TREB) early this year. Here she goes:

The American Dream is the belief that anyone has the opportunity for prosperity and success. This ideology is not just exclusive to Americans. In fact, Canadians have developed this mindset and often associate this success with the ownership of a home. I am one of these Cana-

biggest challenge being finding an affordable home. The homeownership rate amongst millennials is around 8% points lower than previous generations in the same age group (Nova, 2018). This is because student loans are one of the biggest factors for them in deciding to put off settling down. Young adults have become more educated which means that many of us will complete or have already completed post-secondary school. Higher educational attainment generally leads to higher homeownership rates (Anon). But the 2015 homeownership rate among young adults who are college graduates or high school graduates is lower than the 1990 and 2000 homeownership rates for the same educational grouping. This is because Canadian students owe \$28 billion in government loans. According to data from 2017 from Statistics Canada, tuition fees increased by over 3% for undergraduate programs in the 2012-2018 academic years. It is now 2019 and who knows how much it has increased since then. Because I am in my senior year of secondary school, I will be attending University in the fall and

Secondly, I do not believe that home ownership will be attainable for me in recent years because I plan on staying in Toronto and the cost of living in and around the city has increased drastically over the years and will continue to do so. According to Mortgage Broker News, the median house now costs 7.9 times the median household income, up from 5.9 times income just five years earlier. In Vancouver, the median home costs 12.6 times the median income, up from

(NC) If you own a commercial vessel or a fishing or recreational boat, there are certain rules to follow, such as obtaining your boating licence or registering your vessel. This season, you also need to be aware of new prohibitions and responsibilities.

In the summer of 2019, the Wrecked, Abandoned or Hazardous Vessels Act comes into force, under the Government of Canada's Oceans Protection Plan. It's designed to address

the growing problem of wrecked, abandoned or hazardous boats that are posing hazards to our waters and creating safety risks for people and the environment. It's currently estimated hundreds of these vessels exist in Canadian waters, ranging from small pleasure craft to large commercial ships.

The Act prohibits boat abandonment and irresponsible boat management, strengthening owner accountability and liability for the end-of-life management of their wa-

tercraft. Under the new rules, you could be fined for abandoning your boat; leaving it adrift for over 48 hours; or causing it to become a wreck by sinking, stranding or grounding it. You're also prohibited from leaving your boat in poor condition or in a dilapidated state in the same area for more than 60 days without prior authorization. You are also prohibited from leaving your dilapidated boat on federal crown property, such as a small craft harbour, with-

out permission. Remember that as an owner, you are responsible for using your boat safely, keeping it in good working order and properly disposing of it when it reaches the end of its life. You are also responsible for any hazard-related costs, including clean-up and repairs.

If you find a wrecked, abandoned or hazardous boat, report it to the Canadian Coast Guard. Find more information at www.tc.gc.ca/abandonedboats.

continued on p(31)

FOOD

10 SIMPLE WAYS TO START EATING HEALTHILY RIGHT NOW

(NC) Healthy eating is more than the foods you eat. It's also about where, when, why and how you eat.

Here are 10 ways you can start eating healthily right now:

1. Be mindful of your eating habits. Take time to eat and notice when you are hungry and when you are full.

2. Cook more often. Cooking and preparing food can support healthy eating habits.

3. Plan what you eat and involve others in planning and preparing meals. A little planning goes a long way in helping to develop and maintain healthy eating habits.

4. Eat meals with others. Enjoying healthy foods with family, friends, neigh-

bours or co-workers is a great way to connect and add enjoyment to your life.

5. Make it a habit to eat a variety of healthy foods each day. Eat vegetables and fruits, whole grain foods and protein foods. Among protein foods, choose those that come from plants more often. Protein foods include beans, lentils, nuts, seeds, lean meats and poultry, fish, shellfish, eggs, lower fat milk and lower fat dairy products.

6. Choose foods with healthy fats instead of saturated fat. Choosing foods that contain mostly healthy fats can help lower your risk of heart disease.

7. Limit highly processed foods. If you

choose these foods, eat them less often and in small amounts.

8. Prepare meals and snacks using ingredients that have little to no added sodium, sugars or saturated fat.

9. What you drink is as important as what you eat. Make water your drink of choice. Replacing sugary drinks with water can have a positive impact on your overall health.

10. Use food labels to compare and choose products, so that you can make an informed choice.

Follow Canada's food guide to help you eat well and live well. Get more information at Canada.ca/Food-Guide.

5 TIPS FOR COOKING THE PERFECT, JUICY HAMBURGER

(NC) Warm weather weekends are all about grilling on the barbecue. Whether you're having guests over at the cottage or simply cooking a delicious meal in your backyard, use these tips for the tastiest hamburger patties that rival those of any restaurant.

1. Safety first. You don't want to risk food poisoning, and raw beef can be contaminated with bacteria, such as E. coli. So, keep your raw meat cold and don't leave it sitting in the car after a shopping trip or on a counter when you get home. Refrigerate or freeze it as quickly as possible. Place the beef in a clean container or a plastic bag that will hold any leaking juices.

2. Use fresh beef. For the juiciest burgers, use freshly bought beef no more than one to two days after buying it. Freeze any meat



you don't intend to cook within this time. The safest way to thaw beef is in the fridge—never at room temperature.

3. Make a thumbprint. After forming a thin patty, use your thumb to make a deep groove in the centre – this will prevent it from puffing up in the middle and help it cook evenly. Season simply with salt and pepper.

4. Flip once. This step is crucial – flip too early and the burger will fall apart; flip too late and the outside will get

charred; flip too many times and you'll lose juices and flavour. Wait for a crust to form on the grill-side down before flipping.

5. Use a digital thermometer. You can't tell if meat is done and safe to eat by looking at the colour alone. Insert a food thermometer through the side of the patty and keep cooking until the internal temperature is 71°C (160°F).

Find more information at canada.ca/foodsafety.

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FOOD QUIZ



1. I am green outside red and black seeds
2. Drink me for breakfast and a dose of Vitamin C
3. I grow on a cane and I am bright red
4. I am a tropical fruit with black seeds inside
5. I have a strong Irish background
6. What grows in a "hand"?
7. What were the Catholics not allowed to eat on Fridays?
8. What Tea company, set up in 1706 in London, still maintains the same address?

*Twinings / Watermelon / Meat / Banana
 Papaya / Orange / Raspberry / Leeks*

Answers on p(38)

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TECHNOLOGY

WIRELESS CHARGING TAXIS TO BEGIN IN OSLO

By Julius Oyekunle



Oslo, the Norwegian capital will soon become the first city in the world to install wireless charging systems for electric taxis, hoping to help vehicles recharge faster and efficient enough to speed the takeup of non-polluting cabs.

This is also known as induction technology, where charging plates installed in the road at taxi ranks linking to receivers installed in the vehicle, Finnish utility Fortum said recently.

Beginning from 2023, all taxis in Oslo will have to be zero emission and Norway wants all new cars to

be zero emission by 2025. Among other nations, Britain and France have similar goals for 2040.

Fortum, which is working with U.S. firm Momentum Dynamics and the City of Oslo on the scheme, said the greatest hurdle for electrification of taxis had so far been the infrastructure, as it is too time consuming for cabbies to find a charger, plug in, then wait for the

long-term perks such as free or discounted road tolls, parking and charging points.

Last year, almost one in three new cars sold was electric.

The government also exempts electric vehicles from taxes on traditional vehicles that are very high in a country which does not have its own fossil fuel car industry to lobby against them.

Induction is more energy efficient and enables charging the taxis while they are in the slowly moving queues at taxi ranks.

"Time equals money when taxi drivers are working," said Ole Gudbrann Hempel, head of Fortum's public charging network in Norway.

Norway has the world's highest rate of electric car ownership, partly thanks to

5 BENEFITS OF HIRING A PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZER

(NC) By now you're likely familiar with the Marie Kondo craze. If you're looking to "spark joy" in your life but are struggling to tackle the clutter yourself, it may be time to call in the professionals. Read on for some of the benefits of using a pro:

1. They make it easier for you. Sometimes getting started is the hardest part. Professional organizers create a game plan to help you achieve your goals. Plus, having an outsider who isn't emotionally attached to your items will make sorting through them easier.

2. Accomplish more faster. Having extra support will help you get more done in a shorter amount of time. When it comes to how much time you can save, Lindsay Whisen, owner of Ease Up — The Organizing Experts, estimates that a six-person team can complete around 45 hours of progress in just one day.

3. It's their passion.

It should come as no surprise that we often avoid the tasks we do not want to do. Working with professionals will make the process easier, as you will be surrounded by people who not only enjoy what they're doing, but are experts at it.

4. Get lasting results. How many times have you sorted through a junk drawer to have it back to the way it was in less than a week? A professional will not only help you organize, but also make your new system easy to maintain.

5. You will feel great. Your day-to-day life will be easier as you will know exactly where everything is. In addition to a more functional home, you will feel better emotionally and mentally as our environments have a big impact on how we feel. Your happiness at the end of the project will be well worth the money.

Find a professional organizer for your home at homestars.com.

APPLE ANNOUNCES NEW GENERATION AIRPOD



By Julius Oyekunle

Apple recently announced the second-generation AirPods and its got people talking. The new AirPods are fitted with the H1 chip, which is meant to offer performance efficiencies, faster connect times between the pods and your devices, and the ability to ask for Siri hands-free with the "Hey Siri" command.

Because of its performance efficiency, the H1 chip also allows for the AirPods to offer 50

percent more talk time using the headphones. Switching between devices is 2x faster than the previous generation AirPods, according to Apple.

The world's best wireless headphones just got even better with the new AirPods. They are powered by the new Apple-designed H1 chip which brings an extra hour of talk time, faster connections, hands-free "Hey Siri" and the convenience of a new wireless battery case.

The second-gen

FACEBOOK UNDER NEW INVESTIGATIONS

By Julius Oyekunle

Facebook has been hit by new investigations over its privacy practices following a particularly tumultuous month of security lapses and privacy violation.

The social networking giant will be investigated under the GDPR data law which came into effect in Europe last year. It could lead to fines of up to four percent of its global annual revenue for the infringing year — already some several billions of dollars.

Canadian authorities had reported that the company broke its strict privacy laws. The Office of the Privacy Commissioner of Canada said it plans to take Facebook to federal court to force the company to correct its "serious contraventions" of Canadian privacy law.

The findings came in the aftermath of the Cambridge Analytica scandal, which vacuumed up more than 600,000 profiles of

Canadian citizens.

Lastly, and slightly closer to home, Facebook was hit by its third investigation — this time by New York attorney general Letitia James. The state chief law enforcer is looking into the recent "unauthorized collection" of 1.5 million user email addresses, which Facebook used for profile verification, but inadvertently also scraped their contact lists.

"It is time Facebook is held accountable for how it handles consumers' personal information," said James. "Facebook has repeatedly demonstrated a lack of respect for consumers' information while at the same time profiting from mining that data."

Facebook spokesperson Jay Nancarrow said the company is "in touch with the New York State attorney general's office and are responding to their questions on this matter."

AirPods are available with the standard wired charging case (\$159), or a new Wireless Charging Case (\$199). A standalone wireless charging case is also available for purchase to \$79. We've reached out to Apple to ask if the wireless case is backwards compatible with first-gen AirPods and will update the post once we know more.

The wireless charging case works "with all generations of AirPods," according to the Apple website listing.

It appears that older models are still for sale, as well.

Two times faster

switching and 50 percent more talk time might sound like small perks for a relatively expensive accessory, but I've found that one of my biggest pain points with the AirPods are the lack of voice control and the time it takes to switch devices.

The introduction of "Hey Siri" alongside the new H1 chip, as well as much faster switching between devices, should noticeably elevate the user experience with these new AirPods.

After a search through the Apple website, it appears that old AirPods are no longer available for sale.

REFLECTIONS ON RELATIONSHIPS

PUTTING OUT A FLEECE

By Pastor Taiwo Odubiyi

What does it mean to 'put out a fleece'? Is 'putting out a fleece' a reliable way of knowing God's will in the area of relationship?

The phrase 'put out a fleece' is from the story of Gideon in the Bible, when God told him to go and defeat the Midianites.

36 So Gideon said to God, "If You will save Israel by my hand as You have said— 37 look, I shall put a fleece of wool on the threshing floor; if there is dew on the fleece only, and it is dry on all the ground, then I shall know that You will save Israel by my hand, as You have said." 38 And it was so. When he rose early the next morning

and squeezed the fleece together, he wrung the dew out of the fleece, a bowlful of water. 39 Then Gideon said to God, "Do not be angry with me, but let me speak just once more: Let me test, I pray, just once more with the fleece; let it now be dry only on the fleece, but on all the ground let there be dew." 40 And God did so that night. It was dry on the fleece only, but there was dew on all the ground. (Judges 6:36-40)

Gideon first showed doubt in verse 15 when he told God, "How can I save Israel?" God must have smiled as He said to him, "Surely I will be with you, and you shall defeat the Midianites as one man."

But this didn't seem



Pastor Taiwo Odubiyi

enough for Gideon as he spoke again, asking for a sign.

Then he said to Him, "If now I have found favour in Your sight, then show me a sign that it is You who talk with me. (verse 17)

Gideon quickly went in and prepared a meal which he set before the angel of

God. The angel of God told him to lay out the food on a rock, and Gideon did so. The angel touched it with the end of the rod in his hand and fire came out of the rock, consuming the meal. Then the angel disappeared.

Now, Gideon was very sure he had been standing and talking with God's angel. Terrified, he said, "Alas, O Lord GOD! For I have seen the Angel of the LORD face to face!"

Being patient and merciful, God told him he would not die.

Everyone would have thought that Gideon would say 'Yes' to God at this point, turn and leave to carry out His wish but Gideon did not. He asked for another sign, to put out a fleece. God did continued on p(31)



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JEWISH PERSPECTIVES

THE WIFE'S GROUNDS FOR DIVORCE

Woman Can Initiate

The right of the wife to demand a divorce is as legally entrenched as is the right of the husband to demand a divorce. This legal entrenchment goes all the way back to biblical times, and is not merely an adjustment to more modern contingencies.

It would be a basic inequity in the relationship if the husband would be allowed to sue for divorce for whatever precipitating factor, whilst the wife would not be allowed to demand exit from the marriage no matter what happened. No one can deny that there are inequities in the system, but these inequities emanate more from abuse of the system rather than from its basic weaknesses.

Equity in the Law

The very same Torah that forewarned against taking advantage of the orphan and the widow could hardly be expected to entrench vulnerability of the wife within the marriage. If anything, the sense of fairness, and concern for all individuals no matter what their position or station in life, is a central feature of the Torah. All individuals are G dly creations, and all individuals must be appreciated as such.

It is therefore not surprising and quite natural that the woman has access to exit from the marriage not only in cases of mutual desire, but also in situations where she is obviously disadvantaged by a callous and insensitive husband.

To force a woman to endure the agony of a cruel

husband who abuses her is unfathomable. The self-same Torah of G d which forbids the afflicting of others could surely not allow, or tolerate, a situation wherein afflicting of others is permitted to continue through the camouflage of an institutionalized union.

Irresponsibility

The primary right of a woman to demand a divorce is linked to situations when basic marital needs have been neglected, or abused by the husband. The husband is then "convinced" by the court to both grant the get to his wife, and to give her the ketubah (marital contract) settlement.

The husband who has been derelict with regard to the sustenance that he is obliged to give to his wife, or the conjugal visitation that he must share with his wife, has thereby violated a primary responsibility of the marital covenant, and the wife has the right to a divorce in these situations. These elements of the marriage are so crucial, that their being used by the husband as a weapon with which to deprive the wife, either emotionally or physically, is considered a breach of the sacred marital trust.

A woman may demand a divorce from her husband, if he has been found to be philandering with other women. There need not be proof of his having committed adultery, just of his having cavorted with other women. Even his causing her a bad name through his lecherous actions is likewise considered legitimate justification

"THAT NIGHT IN ROOM 401" B I THOUGHT I KNEW LARRY, BUT I DIDN'T....

(EMMANUEL MICHAEL AS LARRY) "THAT NIGHT IN ROOM 401" (PART 5)

Opeyemi Ojerinde Akintunde ©

I sat in that position for over 7 minutes analyzing what my best option was. With hands like Jelly, I picked up my phone and I found myself dialing Larry's number. That was the only person I could think of calling. It rang just twice...

"So?" What is your conclusion....? He said with the most emotionless voice I have ever heard from his mouth...

"Daniel is dying" I summoned all the strength to say it...

"You did it?... what did you use? Rat poison? I knew you could do it, I will be on my way right now, to help you finish it up... We will make His death clean without implicating you.... "I couldn't believe

the words pouring out of his mouth and for the first time it seem like I saw who Larry was... He was the devil sent to finish me... The love I felt for him suddenly became hatred and fear...

Larry's place was just 10 minutes' drive from my place. It suddenly hit me, Larry was on his way to kill Daniel... Was that what I wanted? I think I must have heard the Holy Spirit, because ever since that night in Room 401, the voice of the Holy Spirit was far...

I heard "Get Daniel out of here fast"...How was I going to get my big sized husband out of this house...? At this point... I was not sure I could drive.... My legs felt like Iron...

sever the relationship. The wife may then demand a divorce.

Should the husband, via a vow, forbid the wife to engage in any form of work, this is considered sufficient grounds for the wife to demand a get. The reasoning behind this is that imposed idleness has certain adverse personal consequences, leading to frustration and perhaps even worse. No wife can be coerced into

I decided to call our doctor to send the ambulance, which I did, but he told me it would take about 25 minutes because of the distance...

As I rounded up the call with my doctor, I heard the banging of the gate... I froze... Larry was around already? ... I curled up beside Daniel saying the only prayer that I could utter... "God, please don't let Daniel die...please send Larry away".

My phone started ringing, I didn't have to check the screen to know who it was... Suddenly, the banging stopped, I heaved a sigh of relief. Larry was gone....

Or so I wished until I heard a loud thud, Larry had jumped the fence into the compound... Oh



my, there was no stopping him. As a close family friend, he knew our emergency entry into the house through the roof... Larry was going to kill Daniel...

I sat down defeated on the floor, as I heard his footsteps on the roof, the door... Yes... The door to the room. It was a difficult door to break. I jumped up and locked the bedroom door. Larry got into the house and was calling my name in the most loving way I have ever heard...

"Grace... Bae... Where are you? I know you are scared...We can handle this together..." continued on p(33)

ates a situation which is untenable. The wife cannot be expected to live in such an environment, and she is well within her rights to demand a divorce.

In this situation, the wife must be able to show that this is not a rare occurrence, or an isolated outburst, but that it is reflective of the husband's usual demeanor. Should a husband counterclaim with continued on p(33)



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MONTREAL IN THE PROCESS OF BANNING SINGLE-USE PLASTICS BY 2020

By NCNC Staff

The City of Montreal has announced that it intends to ban single-use plastics by the spring of 2020. The leaders are currently working on a bylaw that will secure this agenda.

According to a research that was conducted by the city, two-thirds of our garbage is filled with these kinds of waste products with only 11 per cent of it being recycled — the rest finds its way into the water system.

This ban is targeted at products like plastic cutlery and straws as well as Styrofoam, food packaging and plastic glasses. However, it will not target plastic water bottles.

Mayor Valérie Plante has said that they have decided to follow in the footsteps of other North American cities like San Francisco, New York and Vancouver.

Plante said that Montreal has the capacity and the responsibility to lead the way in Quebec. At the moment, some businesses in Montreal have already started using reusable dishes and cutlery.

Plante was quick to assure companies that would be affected by the law that they would be assisted by the government.

The ban comes at a time when Montreal is working on its C40 goal to become a zero waste city by 2030. C40 is a conglomeration of 40 major cities around the world working towards greener and more sustainable practices to fight climate change.

In her statement, Plante insisted that pollution from polystyrene and single-use plastics is a serious problem in the environment. She said that world leaders needed to work promptly because time was running out, she added plastic containers can take several hundred years to decompose.

Plante said she wants companies to come up with more environmentally friendly alternatives.

Meanwhile, a prominent business group suggested the city should proceed with caution.

According to a statement by the Canadian Federation of Independent Businesses, the authorities in Montreal should do a study of the economic impact of banning plastic items before they can engage in public consultations.

Coun. Laurence Lavigne Lalonde, the executive committee member in charge of ecological transition and resilience, said that Montreal will use alternative containers and packaging, including 100 per cent compostable containers, or washable, reusable containers.

Montreal has emerged as a leading city in the fight against pollution and it remains to be seen how many other cities will follow in this direction.

TRAVEL WHAT TRAVELLERS NEED TO KNOW IF A DESTINATION WEDDING IS CANCELLED

(NC) It's two weeks before you're scheduled to attend a destination wedding and then you get the call. The wedding has been called off.

Sure, you're upset for the couple, but now you're faced with plane tickets and hotel reservations. So, what can you do?

There's no reason why you can't go and enjoy the trip, but bear in mind you may face a price increase, especially if this was part of a group booking. Group bookings often include a minimum number of travellers to get the discounted price, as well as terms and conditions regarding changes or cancellations.

You could ask other travellers to come along to keep the group discount.

But name changes often count as cancellations based on the terms of the vacation package and premium charges may apply. If you booked with a TICO-registered travel agency, website or tour company, it's better to contact them and ask about options before making any decisions.

While it's devastating for the couple who planned the destination wedding, the fact is that the cancellation affects all the confirmed guests. So, it's important to know your options so you can salvage an unfortunate situation. Always book with a TICO-registered travel agency, website or tour operator so you can circle back and find out what they can do for you.

PEEL STUDENTS TOLD TO RESELECT GRADE 12 COURSES



By Bunmi Akintilo

[they] said we have to reselect our courses, I heard a collective gasp throughout the room. Hands were shooting up all around the room. Kids were fidgeting, squirming in their seats. The collective anxiety was overwhelming.

The doubt comes as the government plots to add to the sizes of average class by one student in Grades 4 to 8 and to twenty-eight from twenty-two in high school, thereby eliminating 3,475 teaching positions throughout the province by 2023 as it tries to cut down a deficit it values at \$11.7-billion.

The boards of various schools have been trying to discover the courses they can offer with lesser teachers. Many schools revealed they have had no option but to send out layoff notices recently with the fear of an anticipated reduction in government funding. The Near North District School Board revealed that it would be issuing "redundancy notices" to almost 50 percent of its high-school staff.

Meanwhile, the Education Minister, Lisa Thompson has said that there wouldn't be any layoff and that teaching positions would only be lost through attrition. This means that meaning that teachers who voluntarily resign or retire would not be substituted. In the same vein, the government has promised it would provide boards with \$1.6-billion transitional fund.

A spokeswoman for Ms. Thompson, Kayla Iafelice has branded any attempt to drop courses prior to funding announcement as "irresponsible and unjustified."

The Board of Peel District School has however remarked that the course selection at Cawthra could further be modified but this is dependent upon the funding announcement.

But the Chairman of the Board, Stan Cameron, said that if boards are compelled to cut back on courses, it will tighten the pathways for students and in turn affect graduation rates. The Peel board has sent out layoff notices to 193 high school teachers (about 7 percent of its full-time secondary pool) due to the loss of some funding and increase on average high school class sizes.

In Cameron's statement, he said: "We call on the government to provide school boards with the funding needed to support the success and well-being of all learners."

Ms. Kirby-McIntosh revealed further that students left the assembly ground with much anxiety about next year. She said: "For me, it's a general feeling of confusion," she said. "I want to go to university. I don't know if I will have what I need to do that."


The President of the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation, Harvey Bischof, said that going by the current class size increases, his union "expected and feared" the situation at Cawthra.

He said: "Students will have less access to courses that will allow them to choose the path to their own futures. Ultimately, this will lead to a decrease in student success."

Silence is the best answer to the unwise.

- African Proverb

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AFRICA

CYCLONE KENNETH HITS MOZAMBIQUE



pic: standardmedia.co.ke

By Julius Oyekunle

the Comoros islands.

A raging cyclone Kenneth dashed through northern Mozambique and so far, 41 persons have been reported dead, while several others are missing. This is coming a month after a super-storm slammed into the country's centre, devastating the area and leaving hundreds dead.

Category three Cyclone Kenneth, packing winds of 160 kilometres (miles) an hour, struck the north coast's Cabo Delgado province late after swiping

the Comoros islands. In the same vein, authorities in neighbouring Tanzania ordered schools and businesses shut in some southern districts and urged people to brace for extreme winds and rain.

The Red Cross and Aid agencies have been finding it difficult to reach communities mostly affected as villages were literally cut off. Rising sea levels, extreme weather conditions due to climate change have raised concerns about the preparedness of the country for such disasters.

ALGERIA'S PRESIDENT DECIDES TO STEP DOWN

By Dele Akintilo



pic: dkbjl.com

The office of Algerian President Abdelaziz Bouteflika has announced that the President will vacate his seat before his tenure ends on April 28.

The news broke a day after President Bouteflika's office announced that a new cabinet of 27 ministers had been formed. The cabinet will be headed by the country's recently appointed Prime Minister Noureddine Bedoui.

Six members of the former cabinet are part of the new cabinet. The statement from the Presidency reads: "The president will take steps to ensure state institutions continue to function during the transition period. His resignation would occur before April 28, 2019."

However, the Chief of Staff of Algeria, Ahmed Salah, had requested that Bouteflika be declared not fit to rule after many days of protests against him.

The army chief demanded that the country's Article 102, which allows for a president to leave office if declared unfit should be adopted

with immediate alacrity.

While talking on television, Salah said: "We must find a way out of this crisis immediately, within the constitutional framework," he had said in a speech on television.

However, Salah still retains his position as army chief of staff and deputy defence minister in the new cabinet.

Bouteflika, who assumed office in 1999, cancelled his reelection bid after series of protest.

He had a stroke in 2013 and he has rarely been seen publicly since then.

The opposition Labour Party while reacting to this development described the new cabinet as the new face of an old government.

In a statement issued by the party, the party said: "It is unclear on what basis these figures were chosen."

EGYPTIANS APPROVE EXTENSION TO PRESIDENT EL-SISI'S RULE

By R.Njeru

The election commission of Egypt has announced that voters have approved constitutional changes allowing President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi to remain in power until 2030.

Lasheen Ibrahim, the commission's chairman, said that the changes in the referendum were endorsed by more than 23.4 million voters.

The amendments will extend el-Sisi's current term from four to six years, giving him the opportunity to seek another six-year term

in 2024. The amendments were recently approved by the nation's parliament.

The three-day vote recorded a turnout of 44.53 percent, with 11.17 percent voting "no" and 88.83 percent voting in favor of the amendments.

The amendments will also expand the president's power over judicial appointments and bolster the role of the military.

El-Sisi thanked the Egyptian people for approving the amendments in his first public comments after the referendum. Almost 27 million votes were cast out

of an eligible base of 61 million voters.

Pro-government legislators, business people and media pushed for a high turnout and a "yes" vote, offering incentives, while authorities threatened to fine anyone boycotting the three-day referendum.

Leaders of opposition parties had urged the citizens to vote "no" but the amendments were quickly approved by parliament, which is packed with el-Sisi supporters.

Two international advocacy groups - the International Commission of Jurists

and Human Rights Watch - had urged the Egyptian government to withdraw the amendments, saying they placed the country on a path to more autocratic rule.

Many observers have described the vote as another step towards restoring authoritarian rule, eight years after a pro-democracy uprising that toppled autocratic president Hosni Mubarak.

El-Sisi, a former army general, was elected president in 2014 after Mohamed Morsi, Egypt's first civilian, democratically elected president, was toppled in a coup the previous year.

5 BILLIONAIRES ARRESTED IN ALGERIA

The private Ennahar TV channel has reported that three billionaire brothers have been arrested on charges of corruption. A judge in Algiers has placed them in temporary custody.

The Kouninef brothers will serve a longer pre-trial detention after General Ahmed Gaïd Salah, the army chief Lieutenant, pledged to prosecute all corrupt members of the ruling elite. These business tycoons are close friends of Algeria's former President Abdelaziz Bouteflika.

Many Algerians believe that Tarek Kouninef, Abdelkader and Reda have enriched themselves through preferential access

to lucrative state contracts.

Karim Kouninef, a fourth brother, was also arrested but has since been released.

The three were arrested together with Algeria's wealthiest businessman, Issad Rebrab, founder and chairman of Cevital, Algeria's biggest privately held company.

Rebrab is accused of importing "used equipment" despite enjoying tax cuts contingent on the purchase of new material and making false statements concerning the transfer of funds.

In early April, the government also arrested prominent businessman Ali Haddad. Haddad was

caught trying to cross into neighboring Tunisia with large sums of money. He is one of the country's richest men.

Bouteflika was recently forced to resign as president after weeks of demonstrations by mainly younger Algerians seeking change. The final blow to his 20-year-rule was when his own army turned against him.

The protestors in Algeria want to replace the ruling elite with a new generation of leaders who can jump-start a faltering economy hampered by cronyism.

Bouteflika has been replaced by Abdelkader

Bensalah, the former head of the upper house of parliament, as interim president for 90 days until a presidential election is held on July 4.

Hundreds of thousands were involved in recent demonstrations to demand a complete political overhaul and the resignation of Bensalah. The demonstrations have been going on for nine consecutive weeks.

The army has largely patiently monitored the mostly peaceful protests that several times have swollen to hundreds of thousands of people.

MALI CHOOSES NEW PM FOLLOWING GOVERNMENT RESIGNATIONS

By R.Njeru

Ibrahim Boubacar, the Malian President, has chosen a new prime minister a few days after the government resigned because of violence in the restive West African country.

According to a statement by the presidential office, the job of stopping the bloodshed in the country has been given to Boubou Cisse, a 41-year-old former Finance Minister. He is required to form a "broad government" that can accommodate different political players.

Cisse worked as the country's finance minister for three years under the previous government. He does not belong to any political party.

The nation was shocked when almost 160 herders from the Fulani community were massacred by an ethnic vigilante group in the town of Ogossagou. A few weeks later, Soumeylou Bouye Maiga, the former Prime Minister, and his government resigned.

Maiga was heavily criticized for failing to deal with Mali's worsening security situation. The pressure was too much and he finally resigned without giving an official reason.

Maiga was heavily criticized for failing to deal with Mali's worsening security situation. The pressure was too much and he finally resigned without giving an official reason.

Al Jazeera's Nicolas Haque, reporting from the capital, Bamako, said Cisse, who is from the ethnic Fulani origin, is a "candidate of appeasement".

According to Haque, the president chose Cisse after consulting with members of the ruling

party, opposition leaders and various actors from civil society.

Both Mali and neighbouring Burkina Faso have been dealing with increased hostilities that are sponsored by Islamist armed groups seeking to extend their influence over the Sahel, an arid region between Africa's northern Sahara desert and its southern savannas.

The war has resulted in a wave of inter-ethnic clashes that have been fueled by long-standing rivalries between communities.

The authorities have arrested five people suspected of taking part in the Ogossagou massacre.

Despite pledges by Maiga, the authorities have not yet succeeded

in disarming the armed groups.

The West African country has been in war since 2012 when ethnic Tuaregs and allied fighters started a rebellion that saw them take over half the country. This prompted the French to intervene to push them back the following year.

The latest attack was done by unknown gunmen who invaded an army base, killing 11 soldiers and burning the camp.

Canada has a peace-keeping force of about 250 in Gao, northern Mali supporting the UN's Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission. Canada recently turned down a UN request to extend the mission. It ends in July 2019.

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OPINION

FROM THE DOCTOR'S DESK

THE POST ELECTION CIRCUS SYNDROME

By Dr. Ignatius Odianosen Okosun (PhD)
From: Toronto-Canada
Email: odyseries@gmail.com

Democracy is a system of government where the citizens exercise power by voting. In a direct democracy, the citizens as a whole form a governing body and vote directly on each issue. In a representative democracy the citizens elect representatives from among themselves. These representatives meet to form a governing body, such as a legislature. In a constitutional democracy the powers of the majority are exercised within the framework of a representative democracy, but the constitution limits the majority and protects the minority, usually through the enjoyment by all of certain individual rights.

The term "democracy" first appeared in ancient Greek political and philosophical thought in the city-state of Athens during classical antiquity. The word comes from *demos*, "common people" and *kratos*, "strength". Led by Cleisthenes, Athenians established what is generally held as the first democracy in 508–507 BC. Cleisthenes is referred to as "the father of Athenian democracy."

Democracy is an inconceivable bequest, a political system that requires a accepted vote to take place in order to elect the leader of a country and other officials. If practiced fittingly, this incredible gift can support change, foster equality and protect people's interest. However, if this implausible gift is not utilized in the proper manner, if it is applied with un-

ruliness and a state of impunity, it can activate corruption, may involve immoral practices during elections, it might even allow the misuse of public funds, together with so many other disadvantages for a nation.

However, since the remarkable, tranquil, democratic transition of power to the opposition party in Nigeria in 2015, when the then incumbent President Goodluck Jonathan of the PDP conceded defeat to General Muhammadu Buhari of the APC, national elections were just recently held in Nigeria. Those elections have now become a litmus test as to whether this time we applied a trustworthy process in order to actualize the incredible gift we embraced four years ago.

No matter which side of the divide one is on, one must concede that the 2019 elections revealed serious shortcomings in the legal and institutional framework of Nigeria's electoral system. If we yearn to clean up the electoral process, there is no time to desecrate in ensuring fundamental reforms are made. The country is still suffering Post-Election-Syndrome, whereby the victors' raucous jubilation derision the losers as they head to the courts seeking electoral remedy.

While, the elections may not be perceived as a national calamity, many infractions during the process need to be pointed out, particularly in the gubernatorial elections. The elections exposed the scrawny and partisan structure of the Election Commission in charge of the overall management of electoral process, and gaps in the Electoral Code and

Constitution. In the elections, there were towering level of abuse of human rights. Official impunity characterized the process in many places.

Moreover, the desperation exhibited by both the incumbent and the opposition to get the result in their favour was indeed horrendous. Desperate and do-or-die politicians were quick to deploy every trick they had in their kitty to influence electorates, thus disrupting the peaceful conduct of the elections. Armed soldiers were deployed in contravention of several subsisting court judgments from prior elections; the political class remained resolute in making a mockery of our electoral process. During the exercise, the electoral guidelines was set aside going by the level of intimidation of the electorates. Some local observers, as well as journalists, have gory tales to tell about their experiences during the elections - the culprits were from both sides of the divide.

Though, in the Kano supplementary elections were rather volatile as politicians unashamedly deployed their thugs to force electorates to do their bidding, despite the presence of security agents. Violence did certainly punctuate the voting in several locations. There were clear instances and evidence were thugs and party agents intimidated voters into voting for particular candidates. Several observer group reports showed a lot of irregularities, harassment of voters, INEC officials and abuse of the exercise. In the particular instance of Kano, the desperation and power tussle is, most likely, not unconnected to

the State's political value and computation ahead of the 2023 elections.

The supplementary elections in Sokoto, Plateau and other states recorded modest incidents but were flawed by issues of underage voting and voter inducement. While INEC has persistently reiterated that underage voting is illegal, the act still superfluities. Underage voting has been a foremost question in Nigeria's political discourse since the return of democratic government in 1999. This conundrum, which consecutive governments have not been able to solve has disillusioned the beauty of the incredible gift in the country.

Voter enticement was another major flaw of the 2019 elections. Voters were induced through etching of pictures of candidates and political party logos on gift items during elections. And then there was the rampant strategy of covert vote buying. The gubernatorial elections in some states, where vote buying greatly influenced the electoral process, proved that it is a major contemplation for victory among politicians.

Furthermore, with all these reported infractions in our electoral process, the first step to overhauling the system is self-awareness. We must put aside the self-righteous exaggeration and accept that in Nigeria, we, most likely, no longer enjoy a neutral electoral process in a functioning democracy. With the way these past elections were conducted, we must face the actuality that we are slowly sliding back to our old ways, back to becoming one of those

struggling developing world states that needs to claw its way slowly toward democratic veracity.

Debatably, political parties have shown that they are inept of providing candidates that are worthy of being elected and can be elected by people, based on their credibility, and that, as political parties, they cannot get to power on merit except when they lure and induce people as a way to buy their candidates into power. Also, all those involved in the electoral process, including the government and state institutions, the executive and legislative branches, and political parties themselves urgently need to further reach an accord on the nature and gravity of required electoral reforms needed in Nigeria. They should try to determine what should be done, given the political environment, and expediency of implementation.

As a nation looking to advance and strengthen our incredible gift, we may have to seriously consider whether there should be a new type of INEC; possibly one that is entirely technical, or a tangential mechanism with organic roles and arrangement that would assure political actors. Aside from these superseding obstacles, the serious lack of trust amid the several actors in the electoral process, such as the civil society, the political parties, the citizens and the electoral commission must be addressed.

The Electoral Reforms Panels headed by Retired Justice Mohammed Uwais, Ahmed Lemu and Senator Ken Nnamani respectively needs to be fully and thoroughly implemented for the

country to have flawless elections in future. The 2008 Uwais report recommends establishing commissions to deal with Electoral Offences, Constituency Delimitation and Political Parties Registration and Regulation. Some of the power vested in the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) and the State Independent Electoral Commissions would be transferred to the new commissions. It further recommended proportional representation in elections to the Federal and State legislatures and to the local government councils. The report also recommends the head of the Independent National Electoral Commission should be appointed by the judiciary, rather than the President. There have been many calls by different groups, individuals and association for the espousal of this report. As it stands, INEC has too many tasks on hand, ranging from voter registration, monitoring of political activities to printing of materials and conducting elections. There is a need for the establishment of other commissions to perform the different tasks in such manner that they would ensure effectiveness and efficiency, leaving INEC to function optimally with fewer tasks.

Therefore, the primary responsibility of this much needed reform lies with the government and the legislature, although civil society can inform public opinion and guide politicians, who are otherwise too preoccupied with their partisan interests, away from driving the process to a stalemate. Moving forward, it is

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THE TRAGEDY OF LEADERSHIP AND FOLLOWERSHIP IN NIGERIA: A CALL FOR TOTAL DECONSTRUCTION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF IDEAS AND BEHAVIOUR

By Lawrence Onwuegbuchunam, RN. Ph.D. (c).

THE PROBLEM WITH NIGERIAN LEADERSHIP AND FOLLOWERSHIP

Leadership has been defined as a process whereby a leader influences a group of followers to achieve common goal (Northouse, 2013). Leadership is also explained as the process of social influence that directs the actions and the activities of a group towards their shared goal (Bolden, Hawkins, Goshing & Taylor, 2011). Leaders have ethical and moral responsibilities to pay attention to the mutual needs/common goals that exist between them and the followers, instead of seeking their own interests alone (Northouse, 2013).

Followership on the other hand, is the other side of leadership, and in fact, an indispensable aspect of leadership. Followership means following direction, and absorbing information in order to work collaboratively as a team, to accomplish certain goals (McCallum, 2013). The concept of followership extends to include the ability to behave appropriately, to do the right thing, and to carry oneself in an honorable way in the world (Riggio, Chaleff & Lipman-Blumen, 2008). Followership is vitally important, and justifies the necessity and the relevancy of leadership in the first place, and is grounded in a dyadic relationship between leaders and followers. Elaborating on the dignity and beauty evident in the art of followership, Riggio, Chaleff and Lipman-Blumen (2008) argued that great followers make great leaders and great organizations, a statement of fact that locates effective followership within the context of great leadership. Therefore, effective collaboration between leaders and followers is both necessary and compulsorily important in order to accomplish common goals. It is a shared responsibility.

I argue that the greatest problem evident in Nigerian leadership and followership is anchored in their erroneous worldviews, beliefs, and assumptions on the meaning of leadership, and their lack of understanding that leadership is grounded in servanthood. In other words, to lead is to serve (Locke, 1986); both leaders and followers work collaboratively to effectively accomplish the common goal of the country. I contend that leadership and followership issues evident in Nigerian society are grounded in Nigerians' erroneous worldviews on the concept of leadership.

Worldview is the fundamental and the foundational derive behind our cultural and personal beliefs. Worldview is the conglomeration of the assumptions, and beliefs that influence the way we think and behave, and as well, determine our thought and behaviour (Cosgrove, 2006). The fundamental ideas, beliefs and assumptions that we have, which are both conscious and unconscious, inform and influence the lenses through which we view reality. Our worldview helps us to interpret and attach meaning to our lives, it helps us to organize our lived experiences and decisions into an accurate and clearer perspective, just like the reading glasses put the world into a clearer and better focus for many people (Cosgrove, 2006).

Worldviews help us to answer the fundamental question about the meaning of life, it gives us emotional security and stability during the time of crises such as illness. It informs and provides us with insights regarding right and wrong. It helps us to integrate our culture in a way that makes sense to us (Hiebert, 2008). Worldview is a "commitment, a fundamental orienta-

tion of the heart that can be expressed, which may be true, partially true or entirely false that we hold consciously or unconsciously about reality, that provides the foundation on which we live and move and have our being" (Sire 2009, p.20).

From the practical and lived experiential perspectives, it is a statement of fact that leadership worldview held by the majority of Nigerians, especially, but not exclusively, by the people in leadership positions, are entirely wrong. The status quo in Nigerian leadership, and the context of understanding the meaning of leadership in Nigeria is bereaved of the foundational concept of leadership which is servanthood. It is both an odd and bizarre ideology in Nigeria to perceive leadership in the context of servanthood. It is my position that this entirely erroneous view by Nigerians, is the primary cause of leadership and followership issues in that country. A typical example of this statement is anchored in a popular common saying in Igbo culture that "Igwe adaghi eje nga" (A leader/a king cannot go to jail). In other words, a leader is expected to be above the law, which is a strange, an unwelcome, and often frowned-upon concept in the western society.

It is also a popular belief in Nigerian by the majority of the citizens that leadership position/office is an opportunity for exploitation, embezzlement of public fund and accumulation of wealth for the leader and for his/her generations to come. This selfish ambition becomes the most basic drive that attract many Nigerians to use every means possible, especially, wrong avenues, to pursue and run for public office. The presence of uncontrolled power and money attached to leadership role in Nigeria, is the root of the evil in Nigerian leadership, and that evil is grounded in the erro-

neous worldviews of Nigerians on the meaning and the context of leadership.

As noted earlier, great followers make great leaders. In other words, corrupt followers also make corrupt leaders. This is because a follower today, can become a leader tomorrow. Followers with erroneous worldview on the meaning and the context of leadership and followership, who are bereaved of the conviction and commitment that leadership is anchored in servanthood, and that leaders and followers work collaboratively towards achieving common goal, will as well, seek leadership position with a subordinate, cold and selfish ambition of exploitation and embezzlement of public wealth for personal use.

It is extremely a challenging task to accomplish in regards to eradicating corruption in Nigeria, especially when the corruption is deeply rooted in the leader, who supposed to influence followers towards achieving common goals, which is a commonly accepted scholarly definition of leadership. Leaders influence followers through their words and actions, but more importantly, through their actions, for actions speak louder than voice. Leaders increase their leadership credibility if what they are saying is grounded in values, and are consistent with their actions (Malphurs, 2004).

There are corruptions in leadership in almost all the countries, including the West, primarily due to the fact that selfishness is embedded in the very nature of human person. But, the difference between the corruption in the western countries and in Nigeria is grounded in worldview and working systems that hold both leaders and followers accountable evident in the Western societies, and the erroneous worldviews and ineffective working systems in Nigeria. Most western

countries have reasonably right worldviews, and believe in the rule of law, and the fact that everyone is equal before and under the law, with a system of checks and balances that works to a reasonable extent, and holds everyone accountable. The fundamental difference between Nigeria and the West, is anchored in the fundamental error in worldview and lack of working system in Nigeria.

A CALL FOR TOTAL DECONSTRUCTION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF WORLDVIEWS AND BEHAVIOUR

Worldviews can and do change over time. Erroneous worldviews can change in light of right information and right education. Collectively, we have the obligation to help people improve their worldviews when their beliefs have inconsistencies, and when their perceptions and assumptions are not consistent with good information (Cosgrove, 2006). Since worldview is so deeply rooted and embedded in our sub-conscious (Sire, 2009), and thus, requires scrupulous examination and reflection for us to be consciously aware of it, it is often very difficult to change, because it is the foundation on which we live and move and have our being are saying is grounded in values, and are consistent with their actions (Malphurs, 2004).

It is therefore necessary and compulsorily important to call for a total deconstruction of the erroneous Nigerian worldviews on the meaning and the context of leadership and followership. It is also necessary to acknowledge the complex and rigorous process that accompany such an effort, taken into cognizance of the fact that worldview is rooted in the nature of human person as the foundation of his/her existence. The essence of worldview lies in the inner core of the human

person: the mind and the heart (Sire, 2009). Therefore, reflective practice, self knowledge and self awareness are the beginning process of the deconstruction trajectory of the erroneous Nigerian ideas on leadership. Through conscious examination, we can be able to identify the necessary changes that need to happen. With determination and moral courage, which according to Kidder (2003), "is a commitment to moral principles, an awareness of the danger in supporting those principles and a willing endurance of that danger" (p.7), Nigerians can strive towards total eradication of erroneous leadership worldview and practice, with the aim of replacing it with servant leadership model that grounds leadership in servanthood.

Servant leadership model is a leadership style that echoes the necessity and the relevancy of the leader serving the people he/she leads as a matter of priority. Then, through conscious effort, the leader aspires/proceeds to lead. This leadership approach is sharply in contrast with other leadership styles because of its emphasis on serving first, and then, on the process of serving, one proceeds to lead. The "servant first" concept of leadership evident in servant leadership model, is clearly the opposite of a "leader first" idea of leadership (Greenleaf, 1991; Sendjaya, 2015). The servant first concept of leadership is grounded in both the philosophical and the theological foundations of leadership. John Locke (1986) argued that to lead is to serve. In the gospel of Mathew 20:26, Jesus asserted: "whoever wants to be great among you must be your servant." This is the reconstruction in leadership worldviews that need to happen in Nigeria, a leadership model that locates servanthood as the starting point of authentic leadership.

continued on p(43)

YOUTH CORNER

Your Children need your PRESENCE more than your PRESENTS” – Jesse Jackson

This month we bring you interesting and useful information. Please, have fun with the information we have for you this month.



WORDS THAT END IN “ENT”

BENEVOLENT, ACCENT, LENIENT, PARLIAMENT, VENT, COMMENT

- If you're a foreigner you have an _____
- An easy going person _____
- Where laws are made _____
- A kind, generous person _____
- To make a statement _____
- To let off stem _____

answers on page (35)

WHO AM I?

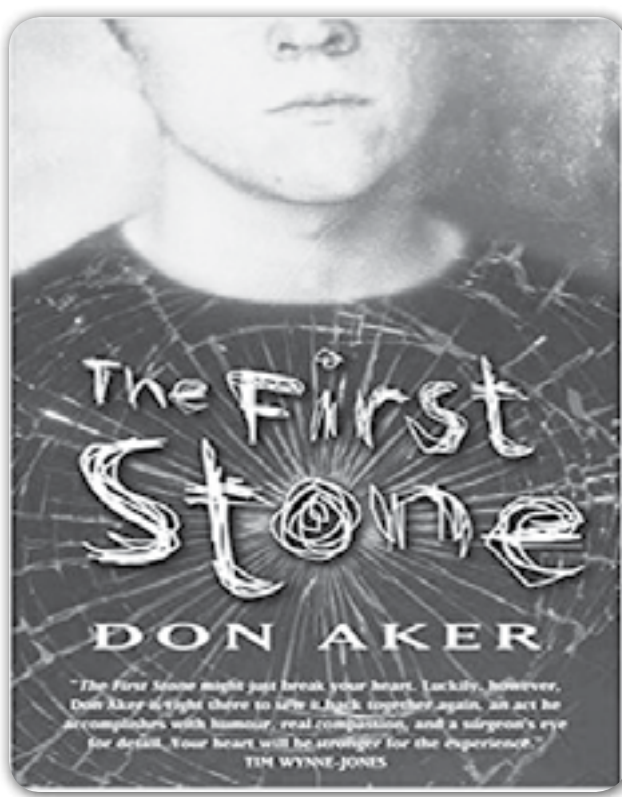
- I was elected Prime Minister of Canada at the age of 40 _____
- I attempted to run from coast to coast with only one leg. _____
- The first woman to be mayor in Ottawa for two terms 1051-56, 1961-64. _____
- Name the province with the largest population. _____
- What province has red soil? _____

answers on page (35)

BOOK OF THE MONTH

THE FIRST STONE

By Don Aker



Dear friends, enjoy quality time to read and gain more insight through stories that touch. As young lads, get inspired to succeed and live beyond difficulties.

The First Stone

When life throws its lethal jabs at you, fight back with healing your wounds. Your recovery is your greatest opportunity to live and fight for your happiness.

Reef and Leeza both can't seem to understand why the very people they love most have been taken away from them. It's a battle they must win if healing is going to come. For Reef, his late mother is irreplaceable and Leeza is definitely not at ease over the demise of her sister.

IDENTIFY THE SYMBOLS

- \$ _____
- h _____
- OZ _____
- lbs. _____
- Jr. _____
- . _____
- ! _____
- % _____
- ⊕ _____
- ⋮ _____

answers on page (35)

UNSCRAMBLE WORDS

- Lowfers
- dimecal
- aaannb
- ksir
- etbal
- slagess

answers on page (35)

WORD SEARCH

MONTH OF MAY

U G M O T H E R D A Y M K K I H I S
 B X Q C N T B X F T W I R N C H Y G
 I Z F L O W E R F B W K G J I S E F
 J I D C I N C O D E M A Y O F U A N
 F O R G I V E N E S S V B H F Z Q Q
 A V I C T O R I A D A Y L H R T R V
 V E Y L B F Z U Q K M I I C O O R Y
 M E M O R I A L D A Y A K Q D M G R
 J V H B Z R J C Z Y L R E X D V O U
 T R F G E M I N I F D P K B Q V L S
 R V A V P F E C O F D T B G H M J B
 X A T G F N D S T A U R U S A Z D K

- CINCODEMAYO
- FLOWER
- FORGIVENESS
- GEMINI
- MEMORIAL DAY
- TAURUS
- VICTORIA DAY

answers on page (35)

TELEPHONE SCRAMBLE

BY DIVINE CHIMSOM UGOH

a) 4 7 3 2 8 8 4 4 6 4 7 6 3 8 3 7 2 2 6 3 3 7 6 6

2 6 6 3 6 7 8 9 6 6 3 7

b)

2 7 4 6 7 5 3 4 3 5 5 6 2 6 8 5 3

5 3 2 3 8 6 2 6 4 5 5 4 6 6

8 4 4 6 4 7

answers on page (35)



WHAT TO DO IF YOU HATE YOUR COLLEGE ROOMMATE

Frustrated with your roommate? Think he or she might be frustrated with you? Roommate conflicts are, unfortunately, part of many people's college experiences, and they can be incredibly stressful. With a little patience and communication, though, it doesn't have to be the end of the roommate-relationship. At the same time, these same skill-sets can go a long way toward determining if it would be best for each of you to find new roommates.

try to think about patterns. Something like "she doesn't respect my space and stuff, even though I've asked her to" might address the problem more and be easier for your roommate to handle.

Address the Problem

Once you've figured out the main issues, try to talk to your roommate at a time that is good for both of you. It's a very good idea to try to set this time in advance. Ask if you can talk when you are both done with morning classes on Wednesday, on Saturday at 2 p.m., etc. Set a specific time so that "this weekend" doesn't come and go without the two of you talking. Chances are, your roommate knows that you guys need to talk, so give him a few days to possibly put his thoughts together, too.

On the same note, however, if you don't feel comfortable talking to your roommate directly, that's okay, too. But you do need to address it. If you live on campus, talk to your RA (Resident Adviser) or other hall staff member. They are trained to help residents with roommate problems and will know what to do, even if you don't.

Get Clear About Your Issues

In a space other than your room, sit and think about what is really frustrating you. Try writing down what is frustrating you the most. Is your roommate not respecting your space and/or things? Is she coming home late and making a lot of noise? Having too many people over too often? Instead of writing down "last week, she ate all of my food AGAIN,"

Speak Your Mind...But Listen, Too

Using the list and notes you made, and possibly in a conversation facilitated by an RA, let your roommate know how you are feeling. Try not to attack your roommate too much, no matter how frustrated you are. Try using language that addresses the problem, not the person. For example, instead of saying, "I can't believe how self-

ish you are when it comes to my things," try saying, "It really frustrates me that you borrow my clothes without asking." The more you verbally attack your roommate (or anyone else, for that matter), the more her defenses are going to go up. Take a deep breath and say what you need to in a way that is constructive and respectful. After all, you'd want the same from your roommate, right?

And, as hard as it may be, try to listen to what your roommate has to say without getting defensive or interrupting. It may take you biting your cheeks, sitting on your hands, or mentally pretending that you're talking on a tropical beach, but do your best. Your roommate may have some valid reasons behind what's going on and be frustrated, too. The only way you are going to get to the bottom of everything is to put it out on the table, talk about it, and see what you can do. You're in college now; it's time to address this like the adult that you are.

If you're having an RA facilitate the conversation, let him or her take the lead. If it's just you and your roommate, try to address the things you both said in a way that can satisfy everyone. Most likely, you both won't leave 100% happy, but ideally, you can both leave feeling relieved and ready to move on.

After the Discussion

After you guys talk, things may be a little awkward. Which is, of course, fine and totally normal. Unless there are issues that you just cannot tolerate, give your roommate a little

continued from p(21)
PUTTING OUT A FLEECE

what he asked. But Gideon asked for yet another sign, a second fleece, and God granted his request again.

Is 'putting out a fleece' a reliable way of knowing God's will in the area of relationship?

No, it is not. Unfortunately, even some Christians still practice it. Many seek a fleece. "God, if she is mine let her smile at me today." "Oh God! We are putting on the same colour, does this mean something?" "What he did today was exactly what I saw in my dream!"

I dealt with this issue in one of my novels, 'You Found Me'. Sister Agnes sent a text message to Sam, telling him she was sure he was the right man for her to marry.

"How are you sure I'm the man for you?" Sam

asked.

"Well, Brother Sam, I want to make it clear to you that I wasn't thinking of you before this time. I was simply praying that God would reveal my husband to me. Then last month, I told God to make the Christian man for me get in touch and ask me out. That was on Sunday, and on Tuesday, you came to me after lecture and invited me to the love feast in your fellowship."

Sam laughed.

"Please don't laugh. This is serious." She said.

He tried to control his laughter. "I'm sorry. Please go on."

She did. "I found it difficult to believe myself. I thought it was just a coincidence. I attended the

programme and afterward, I asked God to confirm His will by making you call me on phone."

Oh my God! Sam almost couldn't believe what he was hearing.

"And you called me on phone."

"I called to thank you for attending the love feast!" He pointed out.

"It was an answer to my prayer." She insisted.

"This is unbelievable!" He exclaimed.

In Gideon's story in the Bible, God granted his requests but that did not mean asking for signs or putting out a fleece is the right thing to do. The fact that Gideon did it and God answered does not mean it was acceptable

continued from p(17)
CAN MILLENNIALS AFFORD ...

9.5 times income five years earlier, which was already unachievable (Tencher, 2018). At these prices, millennials can no longer afford housing, so what can be expected for the Gen Z generation? There is an evident wealth gap between older and younger people has also widened significantly over the past 30 years. A 30-year-old in 2013 is worth 21% less than a 30-year-old in 1983. Meanwhile, the net worth of the average 60-year-old today is more than twice as high as 1983 (Roos, 2018). In other words, younger generations keep getting poorer, while older ones get richer.

Lastly, home ownership seems unattainable in the long run because the economic forces are working against younger generations. Although Gen Z is entering the workforce on a firm financial base, with a stronger job market, we are still burdened from the economy that is still recovering from the lack of stable millennial labour. After completing over 6 years of University, looking for jobs will not be easy without a stable job. Yet, it

is unrealistic to think that I can obtain one quickly after graduation because it will be incredibly competitive due to the economy. I expect to be unemployed throughout school and shortly after which means that I will not have money to save up to purchase a home. It will take me many years to even qualify for a mortgage when I am employed. So this means that I will be delaying other major life events such as marriage, kids, home ownership, etc. Less than 40% of millennials are married, according to the 2015 American Community Survey. This marriage rate is 7.5% points lower than the rate of similar age cohorts in 2000 and 15.8% points lower than the rate in 1990, this rate will continue to decrease as younger generations are not in a rush to marry (Pleci, 2019). Eighteen-to-34-year-olds who are married or have experienced marriage are more likely to be homeowners than those who are single. This suggests that changes in marital composition could be a major contributor to the drop in the millennial homeownership rate.

Furthermore, the mil-

lennial homeownership rate is 7.0 to 7.2% points lower than the homeownership rate among baby boomers and Gen Xers when they were ages 18 to 34 and this rate will continue to decrease. Greater costs of living, student loans, the economic decline, delayed major life events are all important factors driving down millennial and Gen Z homeownership. Millennials face greater external barriers to homeownership than prior generations. Education debt and the rise in living costs have made it more difficult for millennials to save for a down payment. In today's society, the reality of homeownership has increased challenges that will be difficult for me to overcome which is why I believe that home ownership is unattainable for me and other millennials.

Steve Ezeude is a Realtor with Royal LePage Signature Realty and a Real Estate Investment Syndicator. For questions and/or feedback, please send email to stevez@royallepage.ca or call 6478608304. www.mitorontohomes.com

time to make the changes you discussed. He may be so used to how things have been going for two months that it will be hard to stop doing some of the things he didn't even know drove you nuts. Be patient, but also make it clear that you two came to an agreement and he needs to keep his end of the deal, too.

Moving Out

If things just aren't working out, it's not the end of the world. It doesn't

mean you or your roommate did anything wrong. Some people just don't live well together! It may be that you both are much better friends than roommates. Or that you will rarely talk to each other for the rest of your time at school. Any situation is fine, as long as you feel safe and ready to move on.

If you decide that you just can't stick with your roommate for the rest of the year, figure out what to do next. If you live on campus,

talk to your RA again. If you live off campus, figure out what your options are in terms of the lease and re-locating. You aren't the first person ever to have a problem with a roommate; there are undoubtedly resources already available on campus to help you transition out. Regardless, do your best to remain civil and respectful, and know that your next living situation probably has nowhere to go but up!

Source:www.thoughtco.com

39 But He answered and said to them, "An evil and adulterous generation seeks after a sign, and no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. (Matthew 12:38-39)

We should be confident in God's words. We are expected to walk by faith and not by sight or putting out a fleece.

7 For we walk by faith, not by sight. 8 We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord. (2Corinthians 5:7-8)

And as many are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God. (Romans 8:14)

As Sister Agnes did in the novel 'You Found Me',

you might have 'put out a fleece' a number of times, asking for particular signs and it worked for you, or maybe you know someone who did it and got a positive result, that does not mean it's a good idea or that it's approved by God. It's not a mature faith. It contradicts the Biblical teachings on faith. In fact, it's a dangerous way of determining the will of God or whom to marry.

I do not doubt the fact that God sometimes speaks in dreams but dreams also comes through multitude of business. Signs can be misleading, the devil also gives signs. Allow the Holy Spirit to lead you. God seeks Christians who are after His HEART and not His ACTS alone, Christians who are after Him not because of His presents, but because of His presence. Do you believe Him or seek a sign?

BUSINESS

ONEUNITED BANK LAUNCHES NEW KING & QUEEN VISA DEBIT CARD

By Dele Akintilo



pic: www.oneunited.com

America's largest black-owned bank, OneUnited Bank, recently launched two cards that symbolize the Royalty running through our veins, the royalty campaign that we have forgotten.

The Bank is honoring a new generation of Queens in America who are mounting their thrones. These Queens range from educators to entertainers, from scientists to

activists; black women are transforming the world.

Also, #BlackGirl-Magic's impact cannot be overemphasized. A

commendable number of most paramount political and civil rights leaders are Black women. These women include Angela Davis,

Harriet Tubman and Shirley Chisolm.

In the area of entertainment, the efforts of the most important entertainers and artists who are black women are highly noticeable. Women like Beyonce, Queen Latifah and Late Aretha Franklin cannot be quickly forgotten.

As far as business is concerned, the number of businesses owned by black women increased by 164% from 2007 to 2018.

4 STEPS TO GET YOUR BUSINESS UP AND RUNNING IN 2019

(NC) A recent small business poll revealed that over half of Canadians have thought about owning a business. If you've been thinking about making your business ownership dream a reality, here are four steps to help get you started and set up for success:

- 1. Finalize your business plan.** A business plan is your road map and an important exercise in defining what your business is all about, and what success looks like to you. Key components of the plan include an outline of your business' strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats; a forecasted

cash flow; your channels of distribution; and a detailed marketing plan that includes research on your competitors, target customers and advertising tactics. Digital marketing solutions like Acquisio's Promote can help owners reach new customers with targeted online advertising campaigns.

- 2. Register your business and open a business bank account.** Registering your business is important to establish your brand and enhance its credibility. It's also required if you earn more than \$30,000 in revenue annually. Ownr.co offers an affordable and straightforward ser-

vice for business owners in Ontario, Alberta and BC to register their business in less than five minutes. Similarly, consider separating your personal and business finances from the start to make your life easier down the road. Once you've registered your business, you can set up a business bank account online in less than 15 minutes with RBC's online application.

- 3. Create your brand.** A successful business needs a great brand identity. More than just a pretty graphic, your brand is the essence of how you want to be perceived and your promise to your customers about what they can

GET HELP TO AVOID COMMON TAX-FILING ERRORS BUSINESSES MAKE

(NC) Having a hard time with bookkeeping for your business? To help small business owners and those who are self-employed avoid com-

mon tax errors and better understand their tax obligations, the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) Liaison Officer service offers free in-person visits. Dur-

ing a visit at your home or business, a Liaison Officer will give you tips on how to keep good books and records and what you're entitled to claim for business expenses.

Based on more than 34,000 visits with self-employed individuals since 2014, Liaison Officers have pinpointed the most common errors they see and help correct:

- 1. Combining personal and business records.** Combined records

can cause confusion and mistakes when trying to separate business and personal expenses at tax time. Keep your records separate.

- 2. Keeping inadequate records to support automobile claims.** When you use your car for business, you need to keep track of what you use it for and when. Without a logbook, listing each date, destination, kilometers travelled and purpose

WHY JUMIA LISTED ON NEW YORK STOCK EXCHANGE

By Julius Oyekunle

It is no longer news that one of Africa's leading online store has listed on the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE). Meanwhile, the company has stated why it chose New York. Speaking to Newsmen, the Chief Executive Officer, Jumia Nigeria, Juliet Anammah, disclosed why the company chose New York. Anammah noted that more investors have a marketplace and tech focus in New York than any other place. "We made a logical choice. This is the largest stock exchange in the world; many technology companies are listed on the NYSE (Alibaba, Twitter, Snap)," she said.

Explaining the reason for the Initial Public Offering (IPO), Anammah said Jumia has been private for seven years, and the management sees a lot of positive aspects to being public. According to her, the move is about creating more trust and raising the public profile to help with the business, among others, raise the public profile to help bring more sellers to Jumia.

The move is expected to help build even more trust with consumers, in particular, those who are still not comfortable with eCommerce, just as the listing will help with talent recruitment, retention, as it aimed to attract more attention from top talent.

She said the IPO is all primary, and about providing the resources to Jumia, and not to selling shareholders. The Jumia CEO

explained that Jumia operates in Nigeria and 13 other African countries, and will never go beyond them.

She maintained that Jumia has invested heavily in tackling major infrastructure challenges, including investing in logistics, delivery and has also developed a proprietary online payments technology.

"It's also worth noting that though our two CEOs are French, like many companies where CEOs/Founders are of a different nationality, and a small team of key account managers in Dubai (to oversee partner brands whose HQ are in Dubai)."

Jumia's management and staff in most countries are largely local, including country heads. We directly employ more than 5,000 people in Africa and believe that our business has a significant indirect impact on job creation across the continent," she stated.

Anammah said Jumia is happy to have international shareholders, like many other companies, and "we are bringing investors to the African tech scene and building the economy and talent there.

Though initially funded by German investors in 2012, we got one of our main shareholders (and still do to date) MTN in SA. It is amazing that international investors are bringing positive news to the whole tech scene in Africa and for many more startup companies after us. Now that we are public, any African investor is welcome to invest in Jumia.

of the trip, you won't be able to justify expenses like gas, mileage and repairs.

- 3. Claiming the personal portion of home expenses as a business deduction.** If you use space in your home to conduct business, you may be able to deduct part of your related expenses, such as electricity, heat, and maintenance. The amount you can claim depends on what area(s) of your home you use and the time spent using it.

A free visit from a CRA liaison officer is a great way to stay on top of your accounting, minimize how much effort you will put in at tax time, and avoid costly mistakes. For information on this service, or to request a visit, go to Canada.ca/cra-liaison-officer.

- 4. Improperly claiming meals and entertainment expenses.** You can claim part of your expenses for food, beverages, and entertainment such as gratu-

ities, cover charges and hospitality suites, but you need to keep a log which indicates the purpose of the expense.

5. Not tracking income accurately. In Canada, most income is taxable and must be reported. Keep a record of all sources of income, including cash payments, tips and gratuities, self-employment income, investment income and benefit income.

A free visit from a CRA liaison officer is a great way to stay on top of your accounting, minimize how much effort you will put in at tax time, and avoid costly mistakes. For information on this service, or to request a visit, go to Canada.ca/cra-liaison-officer.

THE WIFE'S GROUNDS FOR DIVORCE

continued from p(21)

the charge that his behavior is instigated by her, the burden of proof is upon him. We assume the correctness of the wife's position unless and until the husband can prove otherwise.

Unbearable Conditions

The woman whose husband insists that his mother (that is, the wife's mother-in-law) move into the house—and this thereby restricts the wife's freedom—may demand a divorce if this is an unbearable situation for her.

The wife whose husband forces her into conjugal relations during her menstrual period may also demand a divorce. This is the case even if she may not be scrupulous with regard to observing the laws of menstruation, which forbid conjugal union during that period and seven days beyond.

The underlying common denominator in the mother-in-law and menstrual situations is that the husband fails, or refuses, to accord to the wife the freedom, dignity and respect to which she is entitled beyond any question.

The wife has the right to demand a divorce if the husband, for whatever reason, makes life unbearable for her. Aside from some of the reasons heretofore cited, this untenable situation may come as a result of the husband having developed a repulsive blemish, or having adopted a noxious habit, such as cigarette smoking. It may ensue from his having taken on a malodorous, offensive trade, from which he comes home with an intolerable stench.

The wife who was aware prior to marriage that her husband would be making his livelihood in an offensively smelling vocation, is still able to claim that her awareness prior to the mar-

riage did not prepare her and condition her to live with it. Even though she had the best of intentions, it turned out that the stench was much worse than she had envisaged, and she now finds it unbearable.

Childlessness

If the husband is unfortunately sterile, the wife has a right to a divorce, on the proviso that this demand for divorce is linked to her assertion that she desires to have children. The same is true if the husband is impotent. When the husband takes issue with the wife's claim that he is impotent, her statement of his impotence is considered to be the more powerful argument. She is believed as long as she makes this statement directly, and not via the "good" offices of a lawyer.

Although the grounds spelled out here do not exhaust the full gamut of legitimate right for the wife to demand a divorce, they do provide sufficient insight into the wide range of circumstances which are found to be unfair to the woman, and because of this unfairness, she is allowed to demand exit from the marital union. Much as divorce is not a desideratum within Jewish life, neither is the locking in of either husband or wife in a prison of misery.

ISRAEL AND JERUSALEM

The land of Israel, a potentially explosive issue within marriage, has implications for divorce. The general rule is that whichever of the couples move to Israel has the full right to the cooperation of the other spouse in this desire, and can demand a divorce from the reluctant spouse, if that spouse refuses under any circumstances to move to Israel. The exception to this

is when moving to Israel would transform the couple into a charity case, unable to make ends meet on their own.

The same general equation applies when the issue is moving, within Israel, from any other city to Jerusalem. The spouse who desires to move to Jerusalem has the more powerful hand, and can demand a divorce from the intransigent other spouse who refuses the move to Jerusalem.

The reasoning behind this is that Israel is crucial to spiritual growth. Since marriage is a spiritual union in which the couple should grow together in a decidedly spiritual way, the failure to move to Israel, or Jerusalem, obstructs rather than facilitates this growth. There is a transcendent quality to the marriage that is neutralized through this refusal.

Neither of the marital partners has the right to stand in the way of the marriage taking such a positive direction. The obstinate refusal to go along with such an obvious incremental improvement in the marriage's spiritual content is considered to be a breach of the primary intent of the marital covenant. But it is advisable that the marital partners not use the Israel or Jerusalem factor as a weapon. This, and other marital growth issues, should be a shared concern.

A Unique Title

Within the realm of claims to divorce, there is a unique title and attendant rules given to one specific situation. That is the situation when either the husband or the wife refuses to be involved in conjugal relations. In this matter, the affected party, be it husband or wife, has sufficient grounds to demand divorce. This has already been discussed.

The instigator of this refusal is given a precise title, a title of dubious distinction. The instigator is labeled as a "rebel." If it is the husband, he is referred to as a mored; if it is the wife, she is referred to as a moredet.

This term is generally accepted as applying specifically to conjugal visitation. It speaks eloquently and powerfully about the seriousness with which deviation from conjugal responsibility is viewed within the Judaic perspective. It is well known that pejorative labels are not the usual Judaic way of expressing displeasure with behavior. The use of such a label here must be seen as an extraordinary deviation from the norm, and a sharp comment on the extreme gravity of this offense. Using one's body as a weapon to punish one's partner prostitutes the marriage compact in a most serious and inexcusable way.

General Rules

The husband who is a mored must give his wife a divorce, and must also give her the marriage settlement known as the ketubah. The wife who is a moredet may be divorced by her husband, and she forfeits her right to the ketubah settlement. When it is the husband who is the mored, the rebellious one, the wife has the right to seek a divorce, but she is not compelled to exercise that right.

The reasoning for this is quite simple. Compelling the wife to seek a divorce would contravene the basic notion that the wife cannot be divorced against her will. It is obvious that any situation which forces the wife to seek a divorce from her husband would open up a convenient excuse for the husband to behave in that derelict manner, so as to be sure that he will gain the wife's cooperation for the

divorce. This is unacceptable.

Conjugal Games

It is interesting to note that the husband is considered a rebellious one, a mored, even if he just swears off conjugal relations for a short period of time. He is a mored even if that period coincides with the wife's menstrual period, when conjugal visitation is in any event proscribed. The point being driven home with this structure is that one's body, one's very being, may never be used as a device to punish, deprive, or threaten the other. When the relationship reduces itself to that level, the exit door is opened wide.

A husband who insists on engaging in conjugal union with his clothes on is likewise considered a rebel, a mored. Even though he may be motivated by considerations of modesty, and he thus may argue that this is not spiteful deprivation, it is deprivation nevertheless.

The wife who denies herself to her husband is considered a moredet, a rebellious wife, even if she claims that her locking the husband out of conjugal intimacy is because of the husband's debts incurred to her.

Limitations

Under any circumstances, the wife does not have an obligation to submit to frequent conjugal union beyond the norm. She can never be reduced to chattel, to be used by the husband at his lustful whim.

The wife is likewise not considered a moredet if she leaves the house because the husband has failed to live up to his maintenance responsibilities. In fact, in such an instance, the husband is considered to be the instigator.

Additionally, if the

wife leaves for other reasons, such as because of difficulties with her in-laws, then too she is not labeled a moredet, if she maintains her willingness to engage in conjugal union with her husband. The fact that she has left the premises does not necessarily mean that she has denied herself to her husband.

With regard to the extraordinary situation and label of mored and moredet, the husband and wife are equal, in that whatever legitimately removes from the one the label of rebel, would accomplish the same for the other.

Can, but Not Obligated

Having spelled out the situations and grounds for which both husband and wife can demand a divorce, it bears repeating and reemphasizing that simply because such reason or ground exists, this does not militate that either husband or wife should run to the divorce court, or more specifically, to the Bet Din that supervises the granting of a get. The first reflex in situations like this is to address the issue, to carefully scratch below the surface, to find out what exactly has triggered the overtly non-cooperative behavior of the spouses.

When true love, respect, and appreciation prevail, neither husband nor wife will deny the self to the other, or be derelict in the responsibilities to the other. The fact that they do so indicates there is something seriously wrong with the marriage. Because there is something seriously wrong with the marriage, the overriding impulse should be towards correcting that which is wrong. Radical surgery is only a last resort.

Source:www.chabad.org

THAT NIGHT IN ROOM ..

Sometimes bad things have to happen to others, for us to be happy"

By this time, he was at the door of the bedroom...
"Open the door Grace...Lets do this before the day breaks... You know I love you baby, this is for us, When we are done with this, I will divorce my wife, so we can be together..."
I didn't move an inch... I sat beside Daniel who was already in a coma, as I kept checking if he was still breathing...

"Larry, please leave me, I don't love you any more" I said with the little strength in me... My eyes were gushing out tears on its own accord...

"No you do, you love

me and I love you... you are just stressed up"... He said trying to convince me...

"Larry you are destroying me, Is that what you came for?...I thought you came to help my music, but my music does not mean anything to me any more... , If you want to finish me, please do, not my husband, he is a Good man..." I cried bitterly

"I love you, is that a crime? We are soul mates, if you had not married early, maybe we would be married "Larry was saying using his sweet cajoling voice, but I noticed Larry was moving around as he spoke... I didn't understand why until I saw the door knob moving... He was obviously trying to break in with a knife or something...

Larry was going to kill Daniel.... Just then a Miracle happened... We heard the siren of the ambulance...

"You called the police on me, Grace?" Larry asked with disbelief

"NO...I mean it is... "I tried explaining it was an ambulance, but then it hit me... This was the way out... Larry thought the ambulance was the police, this was the best opportunity ... I didn't utter any more words... Larry got furious...

"Grace you are going to pay for this, you called the police on me?" He left the door, opened the Back door of the kitchen and jumped out through the fence...

With shaky hands and feet, I went out to open the gate for the ambulance. We got to the hospital in time... But it was too late...

Daniel was already a vegetable...Alive but no more active... My one night of adultery was giving way to more than I bargained for...

I had two problems now... First, what do I tell my Igbo in-laws...? Secondly, I have to face Larry's wrath..., Larry, the hand-

some devil I thought I knew before, at that moment I didn't know what he was capable of doing next...

Before I continue my tale, which actually just started, do you have any comments for me?

DEEP THOTS NOVELS INSPIRED BY THE

LIVING WORD
WRITTEN BY OPEY-EMI O.AKINTUNDE
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TO THE RESCUE

SAY NO TO CORRUPTION
By Pastor Dele Dada



CONTINUED FROM THE LAST ISSUE

"The last point I want to consider as I begin to close is "Make God your source." The reason many are into this craze of pull the nation down syndrome steal all the 'stealable', embezzle all the 'embezzlable', get all you can, can all you get, is nothing more than not having faith that God can provide for them. The eunuch was afraid that Daniel will not look good. Many young people feel they will not make it if they do not steal. They will not pass the exam if they do not cheat. They will not get the contract if they do not give bribe. They steal not only for themselves but for their generations unborn. Why? They are afraid of tomorrow. In fairness to them, they have reasons to be afraid. The unemployment rate is high. Those who were working are not retiring. No new factories. Those who stole money from the nation instead of investing it to the system took them to Swiss hide outs. London banks and America banks and of recent Dubai banks. They make the future bleak. Successive governments get worse, be it military dictatorship or civilian democratic government. But friends, that is why you are here. That is why you are a believer. Believers are people of faith. They believe there is a better future not only in heaven but on earth. There are two camps in the world. You have to choose one. You either have a Daniel excellent spirit or a spirit of a spoiler. You are either dead in sin or alive in Christ- You are either lost without Christ or found by His grace. You are either foolish trusting in flesh or wise trusting in God. You are either walking in the flesh or walking in the spirit of God. You are either living for this world or living for the world to come. You either have no Jesus and have no peace or you know Jesus and you know peace. You are full of energy. Work hard, work smart and you will succeed. Can I hear Amen?" Pastor Charles preached on top of his voice.

"Amen" they all chorused.

Pastor Charles was full of Fire of Holy Ghost tonight. "Here is my conclusion tonight before I make an altar call."

"Do not be troubled or anxious about the challenges of daily living." Pastor Charles said with emphasis using his immaculate white handkerchief to wipe away sweat from his face. "We should not focus on the challenges but keep faith in God- We should set our eyes and affections on Heaven and

WHEN SHE LOVES

BY TIA MCCOLLORS, PIPER HUGULEY, SHERRI LEWIS, MICHELLE LINDO-RICE, RHONDA MCKNIGHT, PAT SIMMONS, AND BRIAN THOMPSON



Readers will encounter amazing love stories, how women have come to symbolize love.

It compiles the works of bestselling authors of fictional stories of inspiration, drama, romance and sacrifice. With stories like Love's Miracle, When Love Is Enough, The Greatest Of These, 99 Miles, and Romancing Jacinta, you can read favorite love stories at home or on the go -- in the doctor's waiting room, the bank line, at lunchtime, before bedtime or at your child's football practice.

kingdom issues. We should live as pilgrims in this world, people just passing through. We should know that this whole world, with all its allures, is fizzling out. Daniel was a young man like you. He had an excellent spirit. He built the nations. Joseph was a young man like you at the age of thirty years he was ruling the nations. David at seventeen years of age conquered Goliath. Nehemiah repaired the falling walls of Jerusalem and Ezra the temple of Solomon. I see before me tonight a generation of repairers. If you are one of them or you want to be one of them. Please bow down your heads in prayer."

Turning to the choir stand "I would like the choir to please sing for me softly— 'I surrender all' by Judson Van Deventer. "If you are here tonight and you are tired of the wayward life you are living. If you are here tonight and you want the precious blood of Jesus to wash you clean. If you are here tonight and you are tired of being a chicken picking pebbles of life and you want to be an eagle soaring high, if you are here tonight and you are tired of living a mediocre life style, please rush to the altar before I count one to ten. One, two, thank you. Don't be ashamed. Come out. As you come to the front please kneel down and pour out your soul to your creator. Come from the back, come through the aisles, and find your way from the gallery, from my right, thank you Jesus. You are going to become a nation builder. The power of God will come upon you tonight and you will become a new man. Four. I can see people coming. Praise God. Give the Lord a clap offering for this response tonight, this is amazing, this is huge."

TO BE CONTINUED

TALES OF SURVIVAL: STORIES FROM THE HEART OF BOTSWANA

BY KAGISO MADIBANA

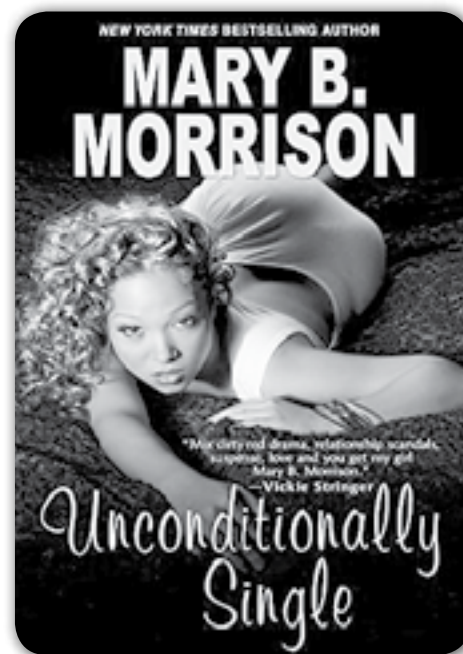


Here is a touching series of stories about bouncing back and becoming victorious after struggles. Get inspired by the amazing characters that resonates our daily life encounters.

These characters from Botswana have had their fair share of struggle and taste of unpleasant experiences but they eventually find a way to overcome their obstacles. Their stories will help motivate/inspire those who are going through tough times. At the end of it all, hard work pays.

UNCONDITIONALLY SINGLE

BY MARY B. MORRISON



At some point in time we ought to discover or choose those who give us happiness and do away with those who can potentially take away our joy.

Honey Thomas runs a counseling center that helps women get off the streets after once working as a prostitute. The best part is her new life is being bankrolled by money stolen from her ex-pimp, Valentino James. But Valentino wants his money back, and he's willing to kill Honey to get it. Now Honey has to figure out what to do with people in her life.

BESSEM'S SONG

BY SHERRI LEWIS



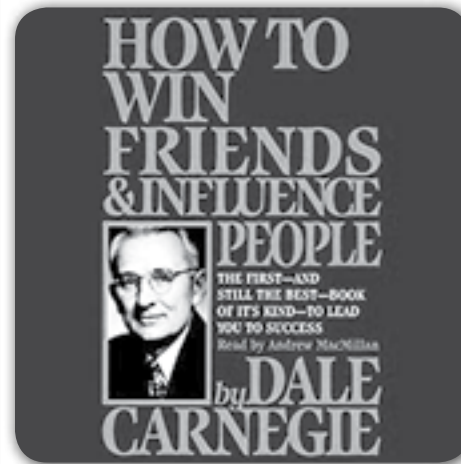
Bessem's song is a reminder that we often times do not have control over situations especially at a young age. However, we can learn to stay positive.

Bessem went from being a happy, singing child to an almost mute, fearful one, she's willing to do anything to save her – even risk her own life. When she realizes that Baby Arrah is in danger, she has to make some decisions that no eleven year-old child should have to make. With all that they've suffered, Achale wonders whether she can trust God to protect them. And even if He can somehow save them from their troubles, will Achale ever again hear Bessem's song?

AUDIOBOOK

HOW TO WIN FRIENDS & INFLUENCE PEOPLE

DALE CARNEGIE (AUTHOR), ANDREW MACMILLAN (NARRATOR), SIMON & SCHUSTER AUDIO (PUBLISHER)



Understanding the psychology behind people's disposition to things, their likes, dislikes could give us the edge in getting things done and how we appeal to others.

Get going with these evergreen life hacks on;

- The six ways to make people like you
 - The twelve ways to win people to your way of thinking
 - The nine ways to change people without arousing resentment
- And lots more.

VENOUS ULCER IS A BLOOD VESSEL CONDITION



A shallow wound that develops on the lower leg when the leg veins fail to return blood back toward the heart normally — a condition known as venous insufficiency. They are also called varicose ulcer or stasis leg ulcer.

What It Looks Like

The first sign of a venous ulcer is an area of dark red or purple skin, which may also

become thickened, dry, and itchy. Without treatment, an open wound or ulcer may form. The wound may be painful.

One of the first signs that a venous ulcer may be forming is that you may experience a dull ache or pain in the legs, swelling that subsides with elevation, eczematous changes of the surrounding skin, and varicose veins.

Causes

The overall prevalence of venous ulcers in the United States is approximately 1 percent. Venous ulcers are more common in women and older persons. The primary risk factors are older age, obesity, previous leg injuries, deep venous thrombosis, and inflamed veins.

Risk of developing venous ulcers is increased by the presence of blood clotting disorders, pregnancy, obesity, a family history of varicose veins, smoking, excessive alcohol use, poor nutrition, or excessively long periods of inactivity or standing. In-

creased risk may also occur as a result of recent operative procedures. Another possible cause is if the calf muscle is ineffective at pumping since it plays an important role in circulating the blood from the lower half of the body back to the heart.

Treatment

Treating a venous ulcer requires the use of various methods to improve circulation. In the beginning, treatment may include compression therapy and elevating your legs.

Compression therapy is the standard for treating venous ulcers,

as proven by a 2009 Cochrane review article that found venous ulcers heal more quickly with compression therapy than without. This could be because compression therapy reduces swelling, improves venous reflux, and reduces pain. Success rates range from 30 to 60 percent after 24 weeks, and 70 to 85 percent after one year, according to an American Journal of Medicine study.

After an ulcer has healed, lifelong maintenance of compression therapy may reduce the risk of recurrence. There is also evidence that being active may also help prevent venous ulcers from occurring; especially when used in tandem with compression therapy.

The above can help prevent the ulcer from occurring, but if it has already formed medication may be needed. Aspirin is sometimes used as a therapy; but the evidence that it works is poor, according to a 2016 Cochrane review article. Another pharmaceutical option is Trental (Pentoxifylline), usually 400mg three times daily. This platelet aggregation inhibitor reduces blood viscosity, which improves microcirculation.

It has been shown to be an effective adjunctive treatment for venous ulcers when added to compression therapy. However, if venous ulcers become infected or resist healing for longer than 6 months, more aggressive treatments such as removal of tissue and bacterial burden through debridement, surgery to reduce venous reflux and prevent ulcer recurrence, and skin grafting may be needed.

www.verywell-health.com

continued from p(30) UNSCRAMBLE

lowfers - flowers
dimecal - medical
aaannb - banana
ksir - risk
etbal - table
slagess - glasses

continued from p(30) IDENTIFY ...

\$ dollar
h hour
oz ounces
lbs. Pounds
Jr. Junior
. period
! Exclamation
% percentage
⊕ therefore
⊖ because

continued from p(30)

WORD SEARCH ANSWERS

. . M O T H E R D A Y
.
. . F L O W E R
.
. . C I N C O D E M A Y O
F O R G I V E N E S S
. V I C T O R I A D A Y
.
M E M O R I A L D A Y
.
. . G E M I N I
.
. T A U R U S

continued from p(30) WHO AM I?

- I was elected Prime Minister of Canada at the age of 40 – Joe Clark
- I attempted to run from coast to coast with only one leg. – Terry Fox
- The first woman to be mayor in Ottawa for two terms 1051-56, 1961-64. – Charlotte Helmecken
- Name the province with the largest population. - Ontario
- What province has red soil? P.E.I

continued from p(30) WORDS THAT END WITH

- If you're a foreigner you have an accent
- An easy going person lenient
- Where laws are made parliament
- A kind, generous person benevolent
- To make a statement comment
- To let off stem vent

continued from p(30) TELEPHONE ANSWERS

- a) Great things never came from comfort zones
- b) A simple hello could lead to a million things

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

COMEDIAN BECOMES PRESIDENT IN UKRAINE



By Julius Oyekunle

Comedian Volodymyr Zelenskyy has been elected as Ukrainian president after ousting incumbent President Petro Poroshenko in a landslide.

Zelenskyy had 73 percent of the vote with Poroshenko at just under 25 percent. The 41-year-old had initially won the first round of the March 31st election.

He recently starred in a popular TV series, "Servant of the People," in which he played a history teacher who is

elected president after his rant about government corruption goes viral.

"As a citizen of Ukraine, I can say to all countries in the post-Soviet Union look at us. Anything is possible!" the elated Zelenskyy said.

Zelenskyy has promised to keep Ukraine on a pro-Western course, but has sounded less emphatic than Poroshenko about possible plans for the country of 42 million people to one day join the European Union and NATO.

SRI LANKA BOMBINGS: WORLD LEADERS REACT

By Julius Oyekunle

About 200 persons were killed while 500 others were injured in multiple bombings during Easter celebrations in Sri Lanka. Eight blasts were reported, including at three churches in Negombo, Batticaloa and Colombo's Kochchikade district. The Shangri-La, Kingsbury and Cinnamon Grand hotels and one other, all in the capital of Sri Lanka were also targeted.

A national curfew has been put in place "until further notice" and social media networks have been temporarily blocked.

President Muhammadu Buhari, in a statement by Senior Special Assistant on

Media and Publicity Garba Shehu extended condolences to the families of persons killed and wished the injured speedy recovery.

"We stand with victims of terrorism all over the world because we know and understand this harrowing inhuman activity," the president said. He added that Nigeria was standing with the people of Sri Lanka, even as he urged authorities not to spare "the wicked elements behind these mischievous attacks."

Meanwhile, Pope Francis, in his traditional Urbi et Orbi speech at the Vatican, condemned the attacks as "such cruel violence" targeting Christians celebrating Easter.

Cardinal Archbishop of Colombo,

UAE WOMAN OUT OF COMA AFTER 27 YEARS

A woman from the United Arab Emirates (UAE) who was seriously injured in a traffic accident in 1991 has made a seemingly miraculous recovery after emerging from a 27-year-long coma.

Munira Abdulla, who was aged 32 at the time of the accident, suffered a severe brain injury after the car she was travelling in collided with a bus on the way to pick up her son from school.

Omar Webair, who was then just four years old, was sitting in the back of the vehicle with her, but was left unscathed as his mother cradled him in her arms moments before the accident.

Ms Abdulla - who was being driven by her brother-in-law - was left seriously injured, but last year regained consciousness in a German hospital.

Omar has opened up about the accident and about his mother's progress following years of treatment in an interview with the UAE-based newspaper The National.

"She hugged me to protect me" "I never gave up on her because I always had a feeling that one day she would wake up," Omar told the newspaper.

"The reason I shared her story is to tell people not to lose hope on their loved ones; don't consider them dead when they are in such a state," he added.

Malcolm Ranjith, told Newsmen: "It's a very difficult and a very sad situation for all of us because we never expected such a thing to happen and especially on Easter Sunday."

UK Prime Minister Theresa May tweeted condolences, saying the "acts of violence against churches and hotels in Sri Lanka

"My mother was sitting with me in the back seat. When she saw the crash coming, she hugged me to protect me from the blow."

He was unharmed, suffering just a bruise to the head, but his mother was left untreated for hours.

Years of treatment

Ms Abdulla was eventually taken to hospital, and later transferred to London. There, she was declared to be in a vegetative state - unresponsive, but able to sense pain - The National reports.

She was then returned to Al Ain, a city in the UAE on the border with Oman where she lived, and moved to various medical facilities according to insurance requirements.

She remained there for a few years, fed through a tube and kept alive. She underwent physiotherapy to ensure her muscles would not weaken through lack of movement.

In 2017, the family was offered a grant by the Crown Prince Court, a government body in Abu Dhabi, for Ms Abdulla to be transferred to Germany.

There, she underwent a number of surgeries to correct her severely shortened arm and leg muscles, and she was given medication to improve her state, including her wakefulness.

Dr Samson Ayokunle said it was "a tragic irony that these dastardly acts took place while we are celebrating the resurrection of Jesus Christ who died for the sin of the world including those terrorists." In a statement, he urged the United Nations to step up aid to victims of similar attacks in Ni-

geria and other countries.

He recalled: "This weekend, here in Nigeria, not fewer than 11 people were reportedly killed in Benue State during the Easter celebrations," adding optimistically: "The good news is that Jesus, the Prince of Peace, will restore peace to the world."

Source: BBC



pic: thenational.ae

Hospital row

A year later, her son was involved in an argument in her hospital room, which seemed to prompt his mother to stir.

"There was a misunderstanding in the hospital room and she sensed I was at risk, which caused her a shock," Omar said.

"She was making strange sounds and I kept calling the doctors to examine her, they said everything was normal."

"Then, three days later, I woke up to the sound of someone calling my name."

"It was her! She was calling my name, I was flying with joy; for years I have dreamt of this moment, and my name was the first word she said."

She became more responsive, and can now feel pain and have some conversations.

She has returned to Abu Dhabi, where she is undergoing physiotherapy and further rehabilitation - mainly to improve her posture when sitting and prevent muscles from contracting.

Cases like Abdulla's are rare

There are only a few cases of people recovering consciousness after several years - and even then, recovery can be protracted.

It is impossible to predict the chances of someone in a state of impaired consciousness improving, says the UK's National Health Service.

People who do regain consciousness often have severe disabilities caused by damage to their brain.

One notable recovery case is that of Terry Wallis, an American man who was involved in a car accident when he was 19, and made a dramatic recovery after spending 19 years in a near-vegetative state. It was thought he had been able to re-grow brain tissue.

Former Formula 1 racing world champion Michael Schumacher suffered a head injury in a skiing accident in France in 2013. He was placed in a medically induced coma for six months before being transferred to his home in Switzerland to continue his treatment.

Source: BBC

HERE ARE 6 THINGS WE LEARNT

By NCNC Staff

Trump largely failed at obstructing justice in the Russia investigation, but it was mainly because his advisers stepped in and refused to carry out many of his directives.

When Trump learned Mueller had been appointed special counsel, he said, "I'm f---ed. This is the end of my presidency."

The Trump campaign tried to obtain deleted Hillary Clinton emails.

The White House press secretary, Sarah Huckabee Sanders, told Mueller she lied when she told the public that "countless" FBI agents

had contacted the White House after Comey's firing to say they had lost confidence in him.

The Trump campaign believed that Russia's interference in the election would help propel Trump to the presidency.

In January 2018, after Paul Manafort and Rick Gates were indicted in two separate cases in the Russia probe, Manafort told Gates he had talked to Trump's personal lawyer and "they were going to take care of us." Manafort then urged Gates not to plead guilty, telling him they should "sit tight" and "we'll be taken care of."

PHILIPPINES PRESIDENT SAYS IT WILL "DECLARE WAR" ON CANADA

By NCNC Staff

The Philippine president, Rodrigo Duterte, has said he is ready to "declare war" against Canada due to abandoning of wastes in his country's ports for more than six years.

100 containers or more of waste landed in the Philippines in 2013 and 2014. Most of the containers remain in local ports, sparking protests from environmental activists.

Philippine officials say they were falsely declared by a private firm as recyclable plastic scraps and have asked Canada to take the rubbish back.

"I will declare war against them. I will advise Canada that your garbage is on the way. Prepare a grand reception. Eat it if you want to," Duterte said in a televised meeting with local officials recently. "Your garbage is coming home."

The Canadian embassy in Manila has reacted by saying, Canada was "strongly committed to collabor-

ating with the government of the Philippines to resolve this issue." The embassy also acknowledged a court order stipulating that the Canadian importer of the waste ship it back to the country.

In 2016, a Filipino judge ruled that Canada must take back the 1,300 tonnes of waste, which was brought to the Philippines by an importer and intercepted by the country's customs bureau.

The Canadian prime minister, Justin Trudeau, has said in the past that he discussed the problem with Duterte.

Canadian regulations "prevented us from being able to receive the waste back in Canada", Trudeau said in 2017. He said those legal barriers have been dealt with "so it is now theoretically possible to get it back".

Lingering issues, however, including the consequences of the commercial transaction, which "did not involve government," were delaying the resolution of the problem, he added.

VIRGINIA GOVERNOR SIGNS BILL MAKING ANIMAL CRUELTY A FELONY

By Dele Akintilo

The governor of Virginia Ralph Northam has recently signed a bill that sets the penalty for "cruelly or unnecessarily beating, maiming, mutilating, or killing a dog or cat" at par with that of a felony charge.

The bill is referred to as "Tommie's Law" and it changes current stipulations that suggest an animal must die for someone to be charged with a felony.

The new law ap-

plies only to dogs and cats and will take effect from July 1.

Many people have named the bill "Tommie's Law" due to the fact that the measure came after the demise of a pit bull that was set on fire after being tied to a pole in Richmond, Va.

As gathered by Nigerian Canadian News, Tommie the dog died five days after the horrible incident at Richmond Animal Care and Control shelter.

While reacting



pic: www.yahoo.com

to this development, State Sen. Bill DeSteph revealed he had been crafting the legislation for not less than three years after a dog named Sugar was attacked with a machete in Virginia Beach.

He said: "It should be named for every one of those cases. The crime matches the penalty. Not whether the dog lives or dies, the act of maliciously wounding or torturing a dog is the felony."

KIM JONG UN MEETS PUTIN IN FIRST SUMMIT

By R.Njeru

North Korea's Kim Jong Un recently traveled to Russia for a meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin.

The meeting was organized to discuss the ongoing standoff over Pyongyang's nuclear program. It was also meant to improve the long-standing diplomatic ties between North Korea and Russia. The two leaders said that they had a great meeting in which they had positive discussions.

Before the summit, Mr. Putin said that the meeting would help Russia to come up with a plan that will be used to reach a settlement on the Korean peninsula.

Kim's first trip to Russia comes about two months after his second summit with President Donald Trump failed because of disputes over U.S.-

led sanctions on the North. Putin meanwhile wants to get more leverage with Washington and expand Russia's clout in the region.

The two summits between U.S. president Donald Trump and Kim Jong Un have increased tensions between Washington and Pyongyang. In fact, North Korea recently asked for the removal of US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo as a negotiator.

In addition to the increasing hostility towards Pompeo, the state news agency reported that the Asian country recently tested a "new type of tactical guided weapon."

It's the country's first known weapons test since February's failed US-North Korea summit in Hanoi.

For many years, Russia has been trying to convince North Korea to get rid of its nuclear programme.

Russia, China, the United States, Japan and the two Koreas were involved in the so-called "six-party talks" that were last held in 2009.

Putin previously held a summit in Russia with Kim Jong Un's father and predecessor as North Korean leader, Kim Jong Il, in 2002.

Kim Jong Il visited Russia again in 2011 when he was hosted by Dmitry Medvedev, the Putin lieutenant who was serving as Russian president at the time.

Mr. Kim, who had arrived in Vladivostok a day earlier on board his armoured train, told Mr. Putin the meeting would help strengthen and develop ties between Rus-

sia and North Korea, which share a long history of friendship.

The summit is a platform for North Korea to seek support from a new quarter as it looks for a possible relief from the sanctions hurting its economy.

Analysts have said that the summit is unlikely to help North Korea to remove the existing sanctions because Russia wants Pyongyang to dismantle its nuclear program before the sanctions can be removed. However, the summit is a diplomatic win for Kim Jong Un.

Mr. Putin is the sixth world leader to meet Mr Kim since he started ruling North Korea in 2011.

6 THINGS TO KNOW FROM THE REDACTED MUELLER REPORT

By Julius Oyekunle

After two years of investigation and an anxious climax, the United States Justice Department released a redacted version of the special counsel Robert Mueller's final report in the Russia investigation in April.

It investigated Russia's interference in the 2016 US election, whether members of President Donald Trump's campaign conspired with Moscow to tilt the race in his favor, and whether Trump obstructed justice after the public learned of the investigation.

**Every town
has its own way
of cutting up a
chicken.**
- African Proverb

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TAIWO..

As Ibie parked her car in the nearly full parking lot of the church, she could hear the voice of the woman leading the opening prayers. She got down, and walking between the parked cars, she made her way toward the offices.

She went to the church administrator's office, collected the printed materials and gave him some copies of the flier so he could announce the singles' programme. She handed the materials over to the Singles' Head before heading inside the church hall.

The choir had started singing praises when Ibie walked through the door of the hall and she went straight to the ministers' assigned place.

The large hall which was painted white and had clear glass windows was filled with stackable padded single chairs. The floor was tiled.

People around her sang happily as they danced and clapped. Ibie was singing but she didn't dance as she usually did. What was there to dance about? Her heart was heavy. She felt disgraced. Very soon, everyone in the church would know that her daughter was pregnant. People who had respected her would now be talking about her.

She saw Femi as he entered through a side door and went to his place in front.

When the worship session began and the choir started to sing 'I've come to say how much I love You,' tears gathered in Ibie's eyes but she tried to hold them back as she sang along.

When they reached the line, "Lord I'm not here to complain," she lost control and began to weep. With trembling voice and a palm covering her face, she continued singing.

About my many problems, By Your Spirit and Your grace, I'm confident You'll solve them, I'm here to say I love You, I'm

here to say I adore You, I'm here to say I love You, Lord, I love to love You, Lord.

When Femi took his place in front, he prayed briefly as he always did and then joined the congregation in singing. He allowed his gaze to go to the ministers' side. All of them were there including Ibie. He was happy to see her. She was singing but not dancing which was unlike her. The Ibie he knew liked dancing. He looked away but soon returned his gaze to that side. He took a second look at Ibie and felt she didn't seem like her normal self, she looked dull. What could the matter be?

During the worship session, he looked in her direction again and saw tears running down her face. Were they tears induced by the awesomeness of God or sadness? He wondered. Then he noticed that her hands were not lifted in worship and she looked really sad. So different from the lively woman he saw yesterday. He felt concerned. What could be troubling her?

When it was time for the sermon, he came up on the altar with his cordless microphone in his hand. "Good morning, church."

"Good morning, Pastor." The congregation replied in unison.

Ibie's lips were pressed together as she looked up at him. He wore a crisp white shirt and a sleek tailored black suit with a good tie.

He did not look in Ibie's direction as he announced, "This is the day that the Lord has made! We will rejoice and be glad in it! The devil is a liar!"

"Halleluyah!" Some people responded with a shout while some clapped. "Child of God, relax for God is in control! And He is faithful!"

"Halleluyah!" The people responded. Ibie nodded. Then he asked the

choir to sing Kirk Franklin's song - My life is in Your hands.

As the choir began to sing, the congregation sang along.

When the music began to subside and the audience settled into their seats, Femi shouted, "Halleluyah! God wants me to tell you that you can make it!"

"Amen!" "Don't let circumstances determine your joy. No matter what you are going through, I declare - you will testify at the end in Jesus' name!"

By the end of the sermon, Ibie was feeling much better. After the service, as she walked to the side where the singles were gathering for their meeting, Femi's personal assistant and secretary, Daniel came and told her that Femi would like to see her before she left church.

"Alright."

When she was through at the meeting, she went to Femi's office. She opened the door and entered the reception. There were comfortable couches and chairs in the room. Magazines were on the end tables, and right in the center of the room was a tall artificial tree.

Daniel greeted her and called Femi on the intercom.

A couple who came to the church for the first time was with Femi when his intercom buzzed.

"Excuse me," he told the couple as he picked it up. "Yes, Daniel?"

"Pastor Ibie is here sir."

"Ask her to come in."

(to be continued)

This story is from the novel - With This Ring by Taiwo Iredele Odubiyi

To read the novel, pls visit: <https://www.amazon.com/Taiwo-Odubiyi/e/B00G6MU031>

Or: m.okadabooks.com/search?term=Taiwo+Iredele+Odubiyi

Website: www.pastortaiwoodubiyi.org

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FOOD QUIZ

1. I am green outside red and black seeds *Watermelon*
2. Drink me for breakfast and a dose of Vitamin C *Orange*
3. I grow on a cane and I am bright red *Raspberry*
4. I am a tropical fruit with black seeds inside *Papaya*
5. I have a strong Irish background *Leeks*
6. What grows in a "hand"? *Banana*
7. What were the Catholics not allowed to eat on Fridays? *Meat*
8. What Tea company, set up in 1706 in London, still maintains the same address? *Twinings*

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THE POST ELECTION CIRCUS SYNDROME

vital that future elections are carried out in a free, fair, translucent and trustworthy manner. This would mean implementing an environment of trust, which can be facilitated through the application of some of the measures already suggested.

The factors that resulted in inconclusive elections such as violence, vote buying, over voting, underage voting, and cancellation have clearly repeated themselves in these past elections. Wretchedly, the factors became worse due to the des-

peration of politicians who turned elections into a do or die affair. There is need for a serious national conversation on critical areas of improvement in the conduct of elections in Nigeria.

Finally, democracy is an incredible gift is meant to provide an enabling environment for everyone to feel safe. It is supposed to be a tool where leaders are elected credibly. If we allow our process to be incredible, we will not enjoy its gift, because, for our democracy to be incredible, our elections must

be credible. Like a marriage, democracy cannot survive without trust. The relationship between the Nigerian government and its people is broken. Apathy prevails. Trust is scarce. President Buhari's second term needs to be focused on tackling this lack of trust that Nigerians increasingly feel towards their political system. Otherwise, the future of Nigerian democracy looks very bleak indeed.

Dr. Ignatius Okosun is a researcher, prolific writer and a social commentator.

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AGATHA..

parties bring their ideas as well as differences to the table for dialogue and compromises. Only the best suggestion should prevail in a marriage especially when it comes to the welfare and safety of the children.

Marriage is never a competition between the man and woman. Being educated and financially buoyant should not negate the natural order of things in the home. The man remains the De-facto head of the home while the role of the woman, irrespective of who and what she is, is to stay connected to her children, home and husband.

Had you been there for your children, you would have noticed the pains they could not mask between their legs. You would have also noticed the blood of their innocence on their diapers or pants when you give them their bath in the evening or morning. It wouldn't have been their father they tell about the pains in their vaginas but their mother

If you were constantly around your children, their caregiv-

er wouldn't have had the audacity of abusing them so excessively like she did. Your constant absence from home emboldened her to do whatever she liked with the children.

For your daughters to live normal lives, you need to be there for them always. Only your love, care and attention can help them forget their abuses. Nothing beats a mother's love and attention. Your children need you now more than ever to completely erase these unpleasant experiences from their memory banks.

This is the critical point in your life and home when you have to make the inevitable choice; the decision that will either destroy your home forever or thread it together.

You don't have to stop work if you can rearrange your schedule. It could be a matter of adjusting your timetable to give you time with your family or get another job that is not so demanding. You might also want to consider setting out on your own. Surfing the internet on your related interests would give you several op-

tions to select from.

One basic fact of life is this: being with our children is not the same as having a connection with them. You have to devote a lot of time to the study of their personalities, temperaments and desirers to acquaint yourself with the knowledge of their every move and expression. The job of a mother goes beyond buying expensive gifts. It's about giving your time, energy and heart to another tiny being till that child becomes an adult, even at that, a mother for as long as she lives is always at the background still giving her support.

This is the time to let go of your childhood experiences and focus on making your marriage work. Go and plead with your husband. Accept your faults and ask for his forgiveness and help in making your home better than the best.

Both of you should realize that parenting is a full time job that requires dedication. If nothing else, you owe these children that much.

Good luck.

RELIGION

MY MONTH OF REJOICING IN CHRIST

By Pastor Amos Dada
PhD; P.Eng

Welcome to this great month. The Month of May 2019 our month of Rejoicing in Christ. Often, we read from that peculiar Apostle, Paul, phrases and exclamations like, "Finally, my brethren, rejoice in the Lord. To write the same things again is no trouble to me, and it is a safeguard for you." Phil 3:1; "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice!" Phil 4:4. The Psalmist declares in the same sentiment: "Be glad in the LORD and rejoice, you righteous ones; And shout for joy, all you who are upright in heart." Psalm 52:11. Prophet Zephaniah was not left out of the proclamation when he said "Shout for joy, O daughter of Zion! Shout in triumph, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter of Jerusalem! Zephaniah 3:14. I have good news for you, the embodiment and totality of what Jesus Christ personifies for you and I is for us to live our lives rejoicing in our great God. Job has not called you to a low life of diseases, frustration, depression, whining, murmuring, complaining and limitation. Rather he has through his Son Jesus Christ made a way for you to escape them. The Scripture declares "I am God, the one and only. I don't just talk to myself or mumble under my breath. I never told Jacob, 'Seek me in emptiness, in dark nothingness.' Isaiah 45:19. (MSG) No, my brothers and sisters we are not to seek God in vain, emptiness and nothingness. Therefore, let us roll out our drums with great rejoicing as a life style, this is the life God has called us to - a life of rejoicing in Christ from this month. Christ's death must not be in vain in your life. This is what God wants me to remind you of this month - "The voice of rejoicing and salvation is in the tabernacles of the righteous: the right hand of the LORD doeth valiantly." Psalm 118:15. My prayer is that the shout of joy, if it is not already in your house or marriage or life, shall be yours this month in Jesus name, and if it is already there it shall remain permanent! God shall give you reasons to rejoice this month; joy unspeakable!

The Difference between joy and happiness

Online dictionary defines joy as a feeling of great pleasure and happiness. The synonyms include delight, great pleasure, joyfulness, jubilation, triumph, exultation, rejoicing, happiness, gladness, glee, exhilaration, ebullience, exuberance, elation, euphoria, bliss, ecstasy. John Piper writes, "Christian joy is a good feeling in the

soul, produced by the Holy Spirit, as he causes us to see the beauty of Christ in the word and in the world." No wonder the bible says the joy of the Lord is my strength.

Happiness on the other hand is dictated by circumstances. It is a state of mind influenced by emotion. When you buy a car, get married, pass an exam you are happy. If you have everything the world can give - pleasure, possessions, power - but lack peace of mind, you can never be happy. When you fail an exam, you are not happy. When something bad happens, you are not happy because it is more of momentary, instantaneous emotional state. Have you asked yourself why do people with great wealth, great possession commit suicide? A major reason is because they have lost the happiness those things used to give them.

It is important to know the difference between being happy and having joy. Happiness is an emotion in which we "experience feelings ranging from contentment and satisfaction to bliss and intense pleasure," whereas joy "is a stronger, deeper experience that is not dictated by circumstance but by life. Joy could be dictated by emotion but it is much more of a life encounter, your total being, what defines you. When you give your life to Christ you experience 'joy unspeakable.' You have peace of mind. Maybe you have been in anguish and pain, suddenly such will be lifted. When Job lost his wealth and all his children and was in pain of sickness, the wife said 'curse God and die!' Because all the possession that was giving them happiness were gone. But Job said no: 'I know that my redeemer liveth.' There was something inside of Job that was giving him strength and hope that others could not see - joy of the Lord. Theologians are not sure when Job existed, but they are certain it was before the advent of Christ on earth. But even then, Job was rejoicing in His creator. "Then Job arose, and rent his mantle, and shaved his head, and fell down upon the ground, and worshipped, 21 And said, Naked came I out of my mother's womb, and naked shall I return thither: the Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord." Job did not commit suicide because the stock market crashed and he lost all his wealth, rather Job worshipped God, because his life was not defined by all those material things, that gives only happiness. He had joy that all his four friends who were healthy did not have. Paul says: "For the kingdom of God is

not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. (Rom 14:17) Happiness is a subset of joy. You can be happy and not have joy but you cannot have joy and not be happy. Happiness is dictated generally by the mundane things of the earth; joy is spiritual, dictated by the eternal values. That is why rejoicing in Christ is not an option, you need to know Christ to find the joy on earth and the world to come.

Lack of knowledge and application.

There are three things that limit us as Christians. (1) lack of knowledge in Christ (2) reveling in sin (3) unsaturation of the Power of Holy Ghost. Those who excel in any area of life have some peculiar knowledge. You will never grow beyond your level of knowledge. That is why you need to constantly and continuously learn, unlearn and relearn. Paul writing to his converts said: "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ." Eph 1. What is spiritual blessing? Everything to make us joyful, healthy and wealthy. When he saw the people were not taking advantage of that he resorted to praying for them. "That's why, when I heard of the solid trust you have in the Master Jesus and your outpouring of love to all the followers of Jesus, I couldn't stop thanking God for you—every time I prayed, I'd think of you and give thanks. But I do more than thank. I ask—ask the God of our Master, Jesus Christ, the God of glory—to make you intelligent and discerning in knowing him personally, your eyes focused and clear, so that you can see exactly what it is he is calling you to do, grasp the immensity of this glorious way of life he has for his followers, oh, the utter extravagance of his work in us who trust him—endless energy, boundless strength!" Phil 1:15-19(MSG) Wow! Unfortunately, our story is like that woman that died wretched despite the fact that she had a huge inheritance. Her story goes thus: A story was told about a minister who visited a poor dying old woman to comfort her in her last hours. However, he noticed a frame on the wall with an unusual seal which aroused his curiosity. Upon closer attention to the frame, the minister discovered a letter that was actually a Will from an aristocratic lady that designated her as heiress of a large estate with attendant comfort. The minister asked the woman about the letter but all she could say was that she valued the letter so

much because a lady she served faithfully for many decades gave it to her before she died - so to her the letter was a mere cherished memory of her dear matron. She had no knowledge of the content of the letter... how sad! (Angelo Delzotto, "Counselling & spiritual warfare") The bible tells us the prophetic and love journey of Jesus from Genesis to Revelation. What he will come to do and how he will do it (OT) and how he came and accomplished it (NT). We are to learn about it daily and when we do so, we shall find ourselves constantly rejoicing in Christ

Three broad Things Jesus came to do for humanity.

There are two broad of knowledge you need to know in life, being and doing. You must constantly seek to know who you are, said in another way discover yourself. The second one is what you are to do, that is, your purpose. The first is a prerequisite for the second. You will be limited in achievement in life if you don't know your potentials and what you carry. Jesus knew who he was and what he came to do.

To seek and save the Lost.

"For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost." Lk 19:10.I have better translation for you: "For the Son of Man came to find and restore the lost."(MSG) The whole essence of Jesus incarnation (becoming man) being crucified, dying, buried and resurrection is to rescue you from your despicable terrible sinful situation and restore you to a non-sin carrier situation so that you will not pay the weighty penalty of sin which is death! (If that is not a reason for you to rejoice in Christ, I don't know what it is!

To build his church.

"And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." Matt 16:18. He came to build his church-Ecclesia - the Call out. He came to call out those who will believe in him so that they will be instruments in His hand to contend the onslaught of Satan in this wicked world. I'm writing this piece from Arboga in Sweden where we are having a leadership training (across the churches in Europe) on the platform of International Gathering of Eagle Conference. The church in Sweden and the generality of the people don't like to mention the word 'hell.' They see it as a curse word. They avoid it like a plague. They have this general pervasive doctrine that everybody will go to heaven! If

everybody on earth irrespective of their religion, and life style will go to heaven there will be no need for Christ to come to this world! "And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved." Acts 4:12. Take it or leave it, there is only one way to heaven - the way of Christ. All religions are NOT the same. We don't all serve the same God! Christ came to build a people (The Church) that will have this understanding so that the gates of hell shall not prevail. (Get a copy of my book on The Gates of Hell Shall Not Prevail for more understanding on this subject) The fact that you are part of that global enterprise of the body of Christ is a cause for you to rejoice in Christ.

To make available the Holy Ghost:

Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you.8 And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: John 16:7-8. When Jesus was on earth, he had the Holy Spirit without measure. (Jn 3:34) He knew we cannot operate; we cannot come to him and be what we need to be or do what he has called us to



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do without the power of the Holy Ghost.

Two broad areas where we can rejoice in Christ.

Rejoicing in the blessings of what Jesus did for us on the cross. Rejoicing in the responsibilities of what Jesus want us to do. Unfortunately, over 80% of Christians rejoice in what Christ has done for them but never rejoice in what he has called them to do. Said in another way, 80% of Christians have consumer mentality while only 20% has producer mentality. (My own observation-based statistics, not based on any survey) Let us look at the first part which is what Jesus did for us.

Rejoicing because of who, where, and what we are in Christ and other reasons.

Who we are in Christ Jesus

New creation (2 Cor. 5:17)2.Born of God (John 1:12-13)3.Chosen in Him before the foundation of the

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APOSTLE SULEIMAN ACQUIRES PRIVATE JET



pic: www.naijachurchnews.com

By N.Ugoh

The General Overseer of Omega Fire Ministries International, Apostle John-son Suleiman has bought a private jet. He acquired the private jet months after he appealed to his church members to channel their wealth towards providing help for the needy.

Many Pictures and video of Apostle Suleiman in his newly bought jet was posted on the official Facebook page of Omega Fire Ministry, Dubai recently.

The caption of the images and video reads: "Join us as we congratulate our

father, the restoration apostle, God's general, God's own oracle, a dispensation of our time, the lion of Africa, Apostle Prof. John-son Suleiman on his brand new private jet for the propagation of the gospel of Christ to nations of the world with his undiluted word of power, signs, wonders, deliverance, healing and restoration and the prophetic. (Mark 16:14 - 18; Luke 4:17 - 25). Daddy Sir, you belong to the air, keep Soaring."

As a result of this feat, the indefatigable preacher now joins the league of Nigerian pastors who possess private jets.

SPORTS

NIGERIA RECORD FIRST EVER WORLD CURLING CHAMPIONSHIP WIN IN NORWAY



By Tunde Ajibode

Nigeria capped off a historic appearance at the World Mixed Doubles Curling Championship 2019 with a milestone victory on Thursday April 25, the final day of round-robin games in Stavanger, Norway.

Tijani Cole and Susana Cole defeated their French opponents 8-5 to help Nigeria become the first African nation to win a curling game at a world championship. The win may not have been enough to qualify Broomzilla from Group C into the round of 16, considering they had lost all their previous games at Sømarka Arena, but it has proven to be a reward for hardwork.

Hardwork "All of our hard work has paid off. We did it," Susana told the re-

porters The couple could not hide their excitement following the remarkable feat. "I am feeling ecstatic, I am excited," Tijani told the official website of the World Curling Federation. "To all my countrymen at home, we did it. Our motto, as you can see on our brooms, is 'we won't be outworked'. It's something we look at every day and we say as long as we don't get outworked, we are proud of what we do," he enthused.

Tijani and Susana first took up curling three years ago and they have been training rigorously over the past year to improve their skills for the big occasion. The couple, who live in Denver, prepared hard for the championship at the Denver Curling Club in Colorado, USA. "What a great dream to share this with your

best friend, my wife," Tijani said. "You go through so many trials and tribulations. It's been a long journey."

Results Their journey at the championship began with Tijani living a childhood dream as he waved the Nigerian flag at the opening ceremony. Then came a 2-13 loss to China on day one, followed by a frustrating 20-0 defeat to the Czech Republic on day two. They scored two in the first end against Wales to secure an early lead on day three but eventually lost 4-10. They then suffered a 7-4 defeat to Croatia on day four and lost 0-18 to Italy on day five before securing victory on day six.

Progress At the start of the championship, their coach Ellery Robichaud said that both Tijani and

Susana's progress in the sport: "If you saw them last summer compared to know there's a huge difference," he said. "I like to work with people who want to learn. They are fun to work with. It's fantastic. They have a lot to learn but they're moving at a fast rate."

Reward After the famous win, the Canadian curler and coach based in Moncton said: "It's a reward for the headaches of coaching. It can be frustrating sometimes. The rewarding part of today was they got it. They placed the rocks. They put it together."

The Olympic dream A record 48-teams participated at this year's championship, and only 16 teams progressed to the play-offs. The play-off teams have automatically qualified for next season's new 20-team World Mixed Doubles Curling Championship. Nigeria will now have to scramble for one of the remaining four slots in a qualification event. It is very important that Broomzilla do well enough to qualify for the 2020 and 2021 championships because as stated on the official website of the World Curling Federation: "Teams gain qualification points for the Olympic Winter Games in the two World Mixed Doubles Curling Championships prior to the next Games."

NIGERIA TO HOST ITTF CONTINENTAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

By Tunde Ajibode

Following the successful staging of one of the elite tournaments in the world – the African Table Tennis Federation (ATTF) backed by the International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF) has awarded the hosting right to Nigeria for the 2019 ITTF African Cup and Club Championships in August 2019.

The ever-bumblng Molade Okoya-Thomas Hall of Teslim Balogun will welcome top players from Africa for the continental tournaments which serve as dress re-

hearsal for the 2019 African Games holding in Morocco later this year.

According to the President of African Table Tennis Federation (ATTF), Khaled El-Salhy, it was Nigeria's pedigree in staging one of the continent's colourful tournaments that prompted the ATTF Executive Council (EC) to give the West African nation the nod to stage the tournaments.

"Nigeria applied for the bid of hosting such prestigious event on time and the EC found it is a very good chance to bring the event to La-

gos just prior to the 2019 ITTF Challenge Plus Nigeria Open in order to give multiple benefit for the African players to play more than one tournament especially at same venue. Also it aims to encourage more African players to feature in the Nigeria Open this year," he said.

He expressed optimism that more players would feature in the tournaments as most of them would be using as tune-up to the 2019 African Games in Morocco, which serves as Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games qualifiers.

For the President, Nigeria Table Tennis Federation (NTTF), Ishaku Tikon, Nigeria is known to have staged one of the colourful table tennis tournaments in the world, adding that hosting the continental tournaments would not be an issue.

"We are ready to host the tournaments as ITTF and ATTF have both agreed to do the necessary things to ensure we stage befitting tournaments. We have the experience and the human resources to put up a good show and we

TIGER WOODS COMEBACK EARNS HIM 5TH MASTERS

By Julius Oyekunle

Tiger Woods did a great comeback at Augusta National Golf Club to claim a fifth green jacket and the world of golf can't have enough.

It was an emotional finish. The 43-year-old Woods, gave us the Tiger of old and beating players he inspired with his 1997 win at Augusta National Golf Club.

Woods evened the score firing 2-under-par 70 and finishing at 13-under 275. He became the first \$2 million man (\$2,070,000 for the winner) in Masters history.

"It's one of the most amazing days in

our history."

"To have the opportunity to come back like this, it is probably one of the biggest wins I've had for sure," Woods said.

Woods had 22 birdies, the second-most in the field after Xander Schauffele's 25. He led the field in greens in regulation, hitting 58 out of the 72 greens.

"I just felt so prepared coming into this event," Woods said.

Woods' fifth Masters title moved him past Arnold Palmer and puts him one behind Jack Nicklaus for the most green jackets in history. He's also three majors behind Nicklaus' record of 18.

hope to again put Africa on the world map with hosting of the championships," Tikon said.

On the ability of Nigeria to stage the tournament, the ATTF boss said: "Nigeria is one of the very experienced African Federations hosting Continental & World title events, and I see that success is increasing year by year for their ITTF World Title event, thus this year with additional African events, they will have more success."

For this event, each national association is expected to register four players made up of two men and two female as

the African Cup serves as qualifiers for the ITTF World Cups for men and women.

"Each Association will register two male and two female players including the title holders - Aruna Quadri of Nigerian and Dina Meshref of Egypt being the champions of previous edition in Agadir, Morocco in 2017," El-Salhy added.

The African Club Championships serves off on July 31 to August 2 while the African Cup holds on August 3 to 5 with an average 15 countries and 70 players expected to compete in the tournaments in Lagos, Nigeria.

CANADIAN ACTRESS, STEFANIE SHERK DIES BY SUICIDE



By Julius Oyekunle

Canadian actress and model Stefanie Sherk has reportedly died by suicide. The incident occurred on the 20th of April according to the Los Angeles County Medical Examiner Coroner's office. She was 43.

Sherk featured in films such as "Valentine's Day," "Un Cuento de Circo & A Love Song" and "Loco Love." She also appeared on TV shows like "CSI: Cyber," "Tele-novela" and "#Hashtag: The Series." According to her IMDB page, Sherk will appear in "Grudge" in early 2020, which is currently in post-production.

Sherk's husband, actor Demián Bichir, announced her death on Instagram.

"It has been the saddest and toughest time

of our lives and we don't know how much time it will take for us to overcome this pain," Bichir wrote. "Stefanie's beautiful, angelical and talented presence will be immensely missed. We will hold Stefanie in our hearts forever."

Her friends and co-workers took to social media to share condolences, with a number of celebrities commenting on Bichir's Instagram post, including actress and songwriter Denyse Tontz and actress Diane Kruger.

Actress Laura Zak, who worked with Sherk on "#Hashtag: The Series" also shared her condolences on social media.

I am saddened and shocked to learn of the sudden passing of my gorgeous-inside-and-out co-star on my first project.

AVENGERS ENDGAME SETS NEW RECORDS

By Julius Oyekunle

In less than 24 hours after hitting the cinemas, record demands were recorded in many parts of the world specifically in China, Disney — which owns Marvel Studios.

The movie grossed \$169 million on its first day of release in 25 markets including China, Australia and several countries in Europe.

It set single-day box office records in China, Australia, New Zealand and other countries, said Disney,

which bought Marvel Studios in 2009.

The film's performance in China was impressive — \$107.5 million.

In France, "Endgame" scored the biggest opening day for a Marvel film. It set an overall opening day record in the Netherlands, Greece and Egypt.

The figures indicate that "Endgame" will smash earnings generated by the previous episode in the "Avengers" saga — "Infinity War" — which came out last year.

RAPPER NIPSEY HUSSLE SHOT DEAD

By R.Njeru

The entertainment industry is mourning after receiving news that rapper Nipsey Hussle has died after succumbing to gunshot wounds in his head and torso.

According to a high-ranking law enforcement official with the Los Angeles Police Department, the rapper met his death in Los Angeles near a clothing store he owned. The authorities also confirmed that two other people were injured in the shooting. The shooting occurred in the area of Slauson Avenue and Crenshaw Boulevard.

Hussle's death sent shock waves across Los Angeles and the country as fans, celebrities and city officials mourned the loss of a dedicated community organizer and a talented musician.

In 2010, Hussle, 35, whose birth name was Ermias Davidson Asghedom started the record label known as All Money In. He used this label to propel his rap career, releasing "The Marathon," the rapper's fifth official mixtape. His 2013 "Crenshaw" release sold more than 1,000 cas-

ettes each priced at \$100.

He went on to perform across the country in his Crenshaw Tour in 2014.

Hussle reached new heights when he started working with dozens of successful artists like Meek Mill, YG, Young Thug, Ty Dolla Sign, Drake and Kendrick Lamar.

Police have arrested Eric Holder, a 29-year-old suspect who is believed to be responsible for the murder of the Grammy-nominated rapper. According to LAPD chief Michel Moore, the authorities believe that Nipsey was shot as result of a personal dispute between him and Mr. Holder. They also believe that the two knew each other.

Nipsey, a former member of the Rolling Sixty Crips gang, was working together with the police to stop gang violence.

After Nipsey's death, dozens of celebrities including Rihanna, Pharrell Williams, rapper Ice Cube, Stephen Curry, rapper J Cole, LeBron James, Meek Mill and Drake took to social media to express their condolences.

May his soul rest in peace.

ALEX TREBEK DIAGNOSED WITH STAGE 4 PANCREATIC CANCER

By Julius Oyekunle

Jeopardy! host Alex Trebek, 78, has been diagnosed with stage 4 pancreatic cancer, he said in a video posted on YouTube on Wednesday.

"Just like 50,000 other people in the United States each year, I was diagnosed with stage 4 pancreatic cancer," Trebek, who's been hosting the game show for 34 years, said in the video.

"Now, normally the prognosis for this is not very encouraging, but I'm going to fight this and I'm going to keep working and with the love and support from my family and friends and with the help of your prayers also, I plan to beat the low survival rate statistics for this disease."

Even under these trying circumstances, Trebek's sense of humor was intact: "Truth told, I have to because under the terms of my contract, I have to host Jeopardy! for three more years, so help me. Keep the faith and we will win."

Trebek has hosted Jeopardy!, which is produced by Sony Pictures Television and distributed by CBS Television Distribution, for 34 years. Jeopardy! first premiered in

broadcast syndication in its current iteration since 1984. He is currently under contract to host the show through the 2021-22 season.

"If anyone can beat this, it's Alex. He has our full support as he tackles this challenge head-on," said Mike Hopkins, chairman, Sony Pictures Television, in a statement.

"Our thoughts and prayers of support go out to Alex and his family. We have no doubt that he will fight this with the tenacity and grace for which he is known," said CBS Television Distribution, also in a statement.

Healing wishes immediately went out on social media in support of the game-show host, who has two children with wife Jean Curriwan.

"I've said this before but Alex Trebek is in a way the last Cronkite: authoritative, reassuring TV voice you hear every night, almost to the point of ritual," tweeted Jeopardy! champion Ken Jennings.

On Tuesday, Jennings and others finished up Jeopardy!'s \$1 million All-Star tournament with Brad Rutter's team winning the big prize.

www.broadcastingcable.com

BIOGRAPHY OF LATOYA MULLINGS

Submitted by Mandigo

Latoya Mullings is a Canadian Artist who is based in Toronto. This dynamic and prolific singer, is the Recipient of the International Women Achiever's 2019 Entertainment Award and has been recently nominated for the Gospel Music/Covenant Awards 2019, in the category, "Female Vocalist of the Year." She was born in the picturesque, breezy parish of St Elizabeth, Jamaica. Hailing from a musical family, she was exposed to music from the age of four.

Latoya has received the opportunity to perform at prestigious events such as opening for Singer and Actress Brandy at the Black Diamond Ball in Toronto 2017. She also graced the stage at the 2016 International Women Achiever's Awards Show, as well as opening the 34th Annual Black Business Professional Association Harry Jerome Awards 2016, with her melodious rendition of the Canadian Anthem & the Black National Anthem.

This songbird has been recognized for her participation in the community with the Certificate of the Honorable Jean Augustine Legacy Service Award in July 2015 for outstanding community participation, celebrating Black-African Canadian professionals for their professional services; Certificate of Appreciation from the City of Toronto, Frances Nunziata, Councillor, York South Weston, for demonstrating



dedication to the community & neighborhood.

Through her participation in Youth Day Toronto 2016, she secured a record deal with Akashic Records, which included a worldwide digital release of an original single with distribution through The ILS Group/ Universal Music Group. Her first Gospel Single, "Take this Cross" is available on all retail platforms world-wide that are covered by Universal, such as Google Play, Spotify, Apple Music, iTunes, Amazon. Her latest Gospel Single, "One Foot" is also available through the same medium.

Latoya likes listening to great singers such as Yolanda Adams, Aretha Franklin, Bob Marley and Whitney Houston just to name a few.

When she sings, it is her prayer that God will keep her humble, as he uses her to touch others through that which he has blessed her with, a musical gift to touch lives

She's in demand to perform at various events across Canada and overseas and can be contacted through her website at www.latoyamullingsmusic.ca.

BRUCE SPRINGSTEEN RELEASES ALBUM



By Julius Oyekunle

Bruce Springsteen just released a brand new studio album after more than five years, which he titled, Western Stars.

"This record is a return to my solo recordings featuring character driven songs and sweeping, cinematic orchestral arrangements," wrote Springsteen on Twitter. "It's a jewel box of a record."

Springsteen, 69, also released his debut single, Hello Sunshine on April 26. It will be the first piece of

original music since his last album, High Hopes (2014).

Western Stars is set to be released through Columbia Records on June 14.

Western Stars takes Springsteen's music "to a new place," according to a press release. It also draws inspiration "from the Southern Californian pop records of the late '60s and early '70s."

It was recorded at Springsteen's New Jersey-based home studio for the most part, with additional recordings from studios in California and New York.

YINKA FARINDE'S BIRTHDAY AND ALBUM RELEASE

APRIL 12TH, 2019



Pictures by NCNC

THE TRAGEDY OF LEADERSHIP AND FOLLOWERSHIP IN NIGERIA

continued from p(29)

From pragmatic and realistic perspectives, waiting for Nigerians to deconstruct and reconstruct their worldviews to align with the right information and right context of the meaning of leadership and practice may take forever. Nigeria is a country where almost every citizen has one form of religious belief or the other, with Christianity and Islam being the most prominent. Yet, the lack of values, ethics and morals in that country is beyond comprehension, and extremely difficult to explain. For example, in order to change the world, Hunter (2010) asserted that Christians should maintain faithful presence in the world. By faithful presence, Hunter (2010) implied that Christians should be present to one another's needs regardless of their beliefs, and as well, be faithful to the task of being godlike in the community. Also, faithful presence means "a constructive resistance that seeks new patterns of social organization that challenge, undermine, and otherwise diminish oppression, injustice, enmity, corruption, and in turn, encourage harmony, fruitfulness, abundance, wholeness, beauty, joy, security and well being" (Hunter, 2010, pp.247-248). Nigeria will be like heaven on earth if and only if Christians for example, and other genuine religions in Nigeria, are able to maintain faithful presence in that country.

But, let's leave religion and fantasy alone for now. From a practical perspective, if Nigerians want an immediate and expedited process of deconstruction and reconstruction that will translate to a workable leadership and followership, they need to focus on restructuring and practical implementation of the rules of law at all levels, regardless of power or position. Here, I argue that in order to solve the issue of erroneous worldview in leadership and followership in Nigeria, the strategy should not be based on trying to change Nigerian world-

views alone, but a need for structural change, an adjustment, a shift from the status quo, and an adoption of effective implementation of legal system that holds everyone accountable. If the laws apply to everyone regardless of class or status, regardless of power, privilege, or wealth, just as is the case in the Western world, then you will see a drastic change in behaviour and attitude. With time, that change could translate to a change in worldview. If Nigerians are serious about implementation of the law, and prosecution of corruption and other crimes, you will see a quick change especially in leadership positions. Worldview such as the "the king/the leader cannot go to jail" could disappear with time. The reason why the West is so successful with the implementation of their law is due to the consequences attached to the breaking of the law, which applies to everyone, regardless of fame and power, and may not necessarily be because

of possessing superior/sophisticated worldviews. This is my contribution to the leadership and followership issues in Nigeria.

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continued from p(1) ..KAYCEE MADU WINS ..

Kaycee enjoys giving back to the community in a variety of ways. He volunteers his legal skills with the Law Society of Alberta Lawyer Referral Program and the Edmonton Community Legal Centre (ECLC). He is a member of his cultural association, the Igbo Cultural Association of Ed-

monton, and supports his community league activities and his church. The elections of Kaycee has once again proven how immigrants integrate well into the Canadian system. He is only UCP MLA in Edmonton.

MY MONTH OF REJOICING IN CHRIST

continued from p(39)

world (Eph. 1:4)4. Purified being (1 John 2:12-13)5. Accepted in the beloved (Eph. 1:6)
 6. Sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise (Eph. 1:13)7. Light in a dark world (Phil.2:15)
Where we are in Christ Jesus
 1.Life hidden with Christ in God (Col.3:5)2. Seated with Christ Jesus in heavenly Places
 3. Far above principalities and powers in Christ Jesus.4. Defended before the father by Christ our head and high priest (Heb. 4:14).
What we possess in Christ
 1. Life eternal (1 John 5:12 - 15, John 3:16)2. Abundant life (John 10:10) 3. Blessed with all spiritual blessings (Eph. 1:3)4. Access to the mystery of His will (Eph. 1:9).5. Access to spiritual / heavenly resources (John 15:7)
More reasons why we rejoice in the Lord
 1. We have eternal life and can never lose it (1 Jn 5:11-13).2. We are one with Christ (Rom 8:17)
 3. Jesus has paid for every sin we ever have and ever will commit (Col

1:14)4. God himself is our Father (Jn 1:12)5. There is absolutely no condemnation for us in Christ (Rom 8:1)6. We are no longer slaves of sin or under its dominion (Rom 6:14)7. We are joint-heirs with Christ and will share in his reward (Rom 8:17)8. We have a sympathetic high priest who intercedes for us night and day (Rom 8:34)
 9. The Holy Spirit of God dwells in, empowers, comforts, and counsels us (Jn 14:14)10. Our God is our refuge, strength, and strong tower (Psalm 46:1)11. We have unlimited access to the throne of grace (Eph 2:18, Heb 4:16)12. Nothing will ever separate us from God's love (Rom 8:37-39)13. God is working all things for our good (Rom 8:28)14. Someday we will be reunited with our loved ones who believed in Jesus (1 Thes. 4:13-18) 15. The Creator of the universe hears our every prayer (Lk 1:18)16. God has a purpose for our lives which he will certainly fulfill (Jer. 29:11)17. God has prepared good works for us to walk in (Eph 2:10)18. The angel of the Lord encamps around us 24/7 (Psalm 34:7)19. God is in control of every detail of our lives (Phil 4:6-7, Lk 12:22-26, Matt 6:25-34)20. Jesus will never leave us nor forsake us (Heb 13:5-6, Isaiah 41:10, Deut 31:6)21. Every bit of pain we endure produces an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison (Jam 1:2-4)
 22. The One who watches over us neither slumbers nor sleeps (Psalm 121)23. God will make each one of his children into the likeness of his Son.24. God will reward us for every good deed we do, no matter how small (Gal 6:9-10, Heb 11:6)25. God will supply our every need (Phil 4:19).26. Someday Jesus will personally wipe away our every tear (Rev 12:1-8).27. And someday we will gaze upon the glorious face of our Savior for eternity (Rev 22:12-14)
Rejoicing in what responsibilities Jesus gave to us.
 When Christ went to the cross, he accomplished much for us some of the benefits are enumerated above. One of the clear discussions after the resurrection of Christ was the issue of the meeting in Galilee. "But go your way, tell his disciples and Peter that he goeth before you into Galilee: there shall ye see him, as he said unto you"

and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us." Rom 5:3-5. Let us rejoice in serving the Master. What are you doing for the Lord? Paul says if you want to give to God do it cheerfully. Are you a wife/husband do it rejoicing in the Lord. Raising our children in the Lord. Are you a Minister, missionary, politician, professional, academician, businessman/woman do it rejoicing in the Lord. Paul said giving thanks to God who qualified me to be in ministry. That is why when he was incarcerated for preaching along with Silas he was singing and praising God! James said-"My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations;3 Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience.4 But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing." Brethren it is a privileged to be saved, sanctified and satisfied. Let us rejoice in the blessings, challenges and responsibilities that our Master has given us. If my theology is correct all we shall do in heaven is worshipping our God and rejoicing in His presence.
Conclusion: We are especially favoured to be saved. Favoured to be called children of God. To be conquerors of the power of darkness. Let it be joy for you to serve God. Let joy fill your heart no matter the situation. Let it be joy when you have money and when you don't have. When you have children and when you don't; When you are sick and when you are healthy; When you are wealthy and your wealth is yet to come. Joy is beyond the ephemeral, mundane things. The Kingdom of God is about joy in the one that took away from you and I the penalty of our sin-death. The opposite of joy is sadness, sorrow and melancholy. Brethren we are called to rejoice in Christ whether for blessing or challenges and responsibilities. I say again, rejoice in Christ Jesus!
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