



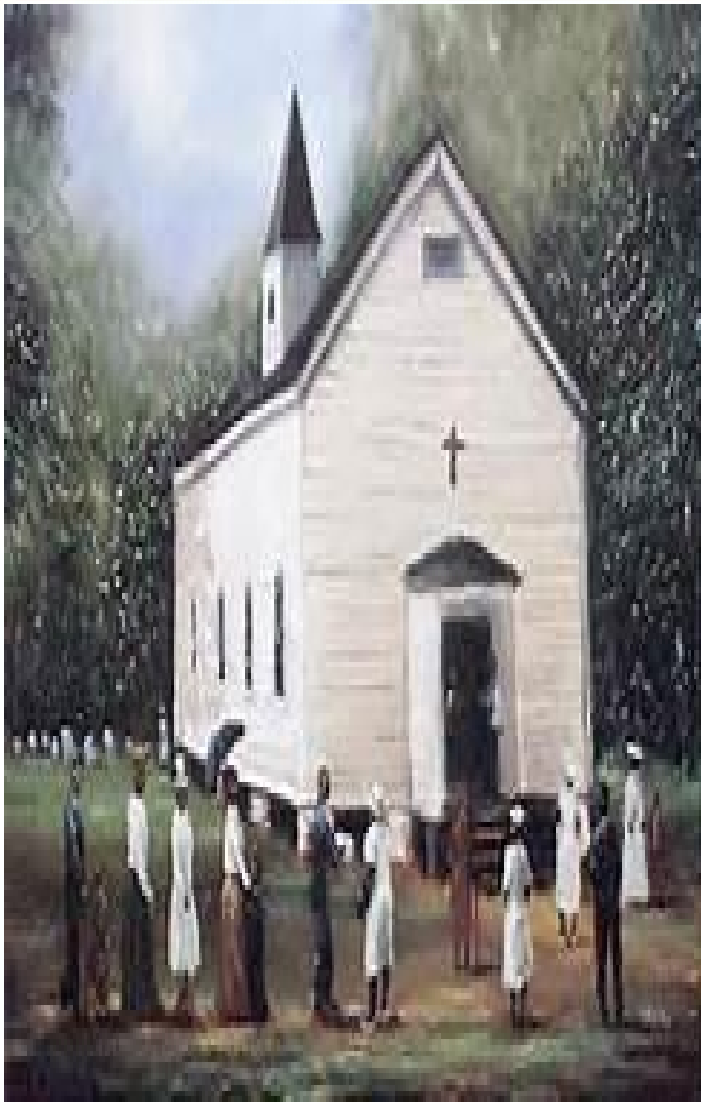
# Let Freedom Ring

## *Happy Valentine's Day*

**What's Love Got To Do With It? .... Page 7**  
Minister Olivian Peterson-Brown

**Valentine Word Search .... Page 9**

February 2016



## **Black History Program**

**Sunday, February 28th**

**Noon Day Service  
Freedom Ministries Church**

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### **Service Times**

10:30 a.m. Sunday School  
12:00 p.m. Sunday Morning Worship  
7:00 p.m. Tuesday Shavah Prayer  
7:00 p.m. Thursday Bible Study

*You can visit our website:  
[Acalltofreedom.com](http://Acalltofreedom.com) and our Facebook*

**Email:** [zjbirdsong@gmail.com](mailto:zjbirdsong@gmail.com)

**Write:** Freedom Ministries Church  
1348 Old Apopka Road  
Apopka, Florida 32703

*Deadline to submit next articles:  
Sunday, February 28th*



We are off to an excellent start for 2016. We closed out our 2015 year with our 4Q Business Meeting and we are well on our way. Minister Angie Thomas is our new secretary of Freedom Ministries and she is working with Sister Jean Birdsong to include the Let Freedom Ring on line for all to follow and see how God is blessing us on a regular basis. Minister Angie is a tremendous asset to this ministry and for that we are thankful to God for this addition. As we saw the need to equip the church with cameras for expansion of the safety of our parishioners, a number of our members (Brother Tony, Sister Cheryl, Sister Tonja and Minister Paul, including the Girley Law Firm) put in the money to purchase our new system and Minister Cedric Thomas will contact a friend of his and of this ministry to help install it. The baby shower went well for Sister Jennell Birdsong Dennis and everyone in attendance thoroughly enjoyed themselves. The Singles met and enjoyed presentation by a holistic doctor and her husband. Much information was imparted to the group. We continue to pray for our children, grandchildren, and for ourselves as we witness the famine in the land as described in Amos; not a famine for bread or water, but of hearing the unadulterated Word of God. It is coming so, saints of God, stay in the Word and be examples to all that notice what you do. We are commanded of God to make disciples of men for the Kingdom of God. It is God's job to save; let us do our job. Join us on Thursday night bible study as we study Psalm 37 to determine that "God Takes Care Of His Own". Meet with us on Tuesday night at 7pm for Shavah Prayer for our community and our family members to keep them alive to hear the Gospel of the Kingdom. Brother Tony and Sister Tiffany Jenkins will dedicate God's miraculous gift to them at our noon day service on Valentine's Day, February 14. Also come out in support of Sister Ivey Griffin for the Black History month celebration fundraiser on the 27<sup>th</sup> with our Black History Program Sunday for our noonday service. I am so grateful to God for the Leadership at Freedom Ministries and the direction that they are taking the church, not only in activities but also that the moral fiber is kept in place. We represent our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, in word and in deed. Our prayer is to continue to walk by faith and not by sight. Join us when you can and pray for us at all times. Jesus is soon to come.



# Two New Additions



**Fred and Ivy Griffin** welcome two new additions to the family, Skylar Griffin and Dante Horne - first grandson.

*Congratulations!!*







# What Does It Take To Please God?

by Pastor Freddie Filmore

**T**he short version and my final answer is: "walk in obedience to His Word". We both understand that God has called us to righteousness and true holiness in the fear of God. That means that we have to be doers of the Word and not just hearers only. Our Father God has decreed in Deuteronomy 30:19 I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live: It is important for us to understand and appreciate that God wants what is best for us and that He has our best interest at heart. What that means is that He watches over us, His children, to provide for us everything we will ever need to fulfill His plans and purposes for our lives. Because Satan is the god of this world as shown is (NLT) 2 Corinthians 4:4 *Satan, who is the god of this world, has blinded the minds of those who don't believe. They are unable to see the glorious light of the Good News. They don't understand this message about the glory of Christ, who is the exact likeness of God.* Satan does not want you to see the light that God provides in the person of Jesus Christ so that you may live. Satan represents death so the blinders that he presents to you is to keep you in the dark. You can't see where you are stepping. When the Spirit of God is alive and active in us, our desire is to not only do the Will of God, we come to understand that we then are the Will

of God. It is God's will that all men be saved as it is stated in 1 Timothy 2:4 *Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.* <sup>5</sup> *For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;* Think about this; when God created Adam, he was created in His likeness and in His image. Our creator is holy therefore, Adam was created holy. Satan came on the scene and tempted (blinded her to the truth) Eve. From that point sin entered into the world. Adam and Eve were created to be free, moral agents and they made the wrong choice. The God that we serve is a God of Love and as such, He loved us too much to leave us in that sinful state. So He made provisions to redeem us from our sin to again make us like unto Himself. Look at 2 Corinthians 5:21 *For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.* That is what love is and that is what it does. Armed with that same love, He commands us, His children, to love one another as He has loved us. Nothing more, nothing less. We are without excuse so let us stop trying to justify our lack of obedience by our rationale that we are only "human". God knew that and that is why He made provision for us that believed on the Lord Jesus Christ to be born again and received the gift of the Holy Spirit. He knew that we could not make it on our own. Yet, it is still a matter of choice. As we are tested in life, we must choose; and we make choices even when we are



## What Does It Take To Please God? (Continued)

silent. Stand up and declare that you are a child of God and that you choose to walk in obedience to His Word. Mark 1:10-11 *Immediately coming up out of the water, He saw the heavens opening, and the Spirit like a dove descending upon Him; <sup>11</sup>and a voice came out of the heavens: "You are My beloved Son, in You I am well-pleased."* We have the Spirit of Christ in us as believers and therefore we don't lack anything to live as He lived.

Hebrews 13:15 *By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name. <sup>16</sup>But to do good and to communicate forget not: for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.* If you really want to please God, just simply obey Him; do what He tells you. Because of who He is, He is worthy of our praise at all times. Praise Him regardless.



## BLACK CHICKS ROCK

*Presents:*

### "An Encouragement Program" 100 Women in Red

Come out and enjoy an evening of fellowship, praise, worship, love and encouragement!

**Saturday February 27, 2016 at 6 p.m.**

2016 Black Chicks Rock Honorees: Elthel Tarver, Juittee Moss, Olivian Brown, Pastor Barbara Barnes, Martha McCray, Berniece Wynn, Bertha McGraw

at

### **Freedom Ministries Church**

1348 Old Apopka Road

Contact Info: Ivy Griffin 407 748-7356 or

Lushell Anderson Raper 407 867-9427

**Email: [ivygale69@gmail.com](mailto:ivygale69@gmail.com)**



# What's Love Got To Do With It?

Minister Olivian Peterson-Brown

When it comes to love and affairs of the heart, most times I honestly think we miss the mark by a mile. We are inundated with information and yet, we can still be as dumb as doorknobs. I know. That doesn't sound very "loving" or "churchy" does it?

Sometimes my patience wears thin and I wear my thoughts on my face, not on my sleeves. It becomes rather evident that I'm fed up because I get tired of seeing the same cycle of devastation and waste over and over and over again. The names and faces may change but the patterns don't. Satan leads us around by our emotions and we follow blindly as if we're drunk and have a ring in our noses to help him guide us into the fury of hell. It saddens me more that we're not going alone. We're taking people with us by being their unfit examples and role models. When will we wake up? Really?

Some mistakes allow us the opportunity to park and go into reverse and some don't. How do I know that? I've lived it. I've seen it. I've regretted it. I've read about it. I've heard the testimonies. I've given scriptural and practical advice. I've watched those who took the advice and those who didn't. I've cried with mothers and fathers on the brink of mental exhaustion and emotional breakdown. I've prayed with adult children who would give anything to have just one more day with a parent who had passed on. I've listened to widows who had missed their last chance to make up with their spouse and it was too late to say "I'm sorry. I love you. Have a fantastic day." I've seen siblings choose anger and bitterness over forgiveness for decades.

We waste so much time playing games and/or trying to please and appease other people that we forget whose voice we should really be listening to. That Person is Jesus. Not only does He have the answer. My Friend, HE is The Answer. Fully follow Him and the dictates of the Holy Spirit and regrets will be few. He will teach us how to love each other and ourselves. He is the Ultimate Example of Genuine Love in Action.

St. John 3:16 – 17 is a True Love Story:

- His love for me is Unconditional.
- His Love is steadfast and consistent regardless of my behavior.
- He will always do right by me regardless of popular opinion or politically correct agendas.
- His love for me is based on Who He is. It is not performance based.
- I have not and cannot earn His love.
- I cannot be separated from His love.



## What's Love Got To Do With It? (Continued)

Minister Olivian Peterson-Brown

- Because of His love, He will correct and discipline me when my behavior calls for it.
- He affirms me as His Own and will never deny me His love.
- He sacrificed everything for me and I know that my value far exceeds the outer shell or appearance.
- I am the priceless object of His love and He is devoted to me.
- I must have the same basic thoughts about myself that He does.
- If I value Him and His Great Love for mankind and allow Him to show me the ropes, we all win.

The flowers, the candy, and all of the commercial expressions? They're nice but the candy will be eaten or go bad. The flowers will die. To be honest, for the most part, they're conditional. Think 'genuine love'. Stop salivating and stressing over Hollywood's fake stuff and let's get to the solid stuff that lasts. When life happens (and it will happen), we need the God's consistency and God's definition of 'love'. We need God's choice in mates, friends, and even family.

Notice that when a storm comes, the fluffy stuff is blown away but the solid matter; the stuff with some real substance will remain. The fluffy stuff is fine in its place and there's nothing wrong with having it. However, remember that it is the solid stuff that will take us through the tough times. And tough times will come.

When they come, what can you count on? Which kind of 'love' can you bank on? Which one can you depend on to remain? Be solid as a rock? Stick with you when you're sick? When you don't have money? When you don't have a job? When your body isn't a size 6 anymore? When your six-pack turns into a barrel? *When stuff happens.....?*

By the way, 'What's love got to do with it?'



## Star Students Roll Call:

Eryn Griffin made all A's    Kimia Gibson made the A/B honor roll  
Aubrey Griffin all A's    Denahja Horne Honor student

*Great job!! Keep reaching the stars!!*







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# DRESS FOR SUCCESS IN GOD

by Pastor Freddie Filmore

**M**an's idea of success is so very different from success from God's perspective. Man equates success with material gains; big house, bank account, fine car; etc. Whereas God's success does not deny those provisions for the child of God, everything goes to motive. To be a success in God is to be like God; and that can only be done if I have His Spirit and am allowing His Spirit to live through me. No, I am not God, for He said thou shall have no other gods before me. Solomon was a very wealthy king because God blessed him. God said in His word in Deuteronomy 8:18 *But thou shalt remember the LORD thy God: for it is he that giveth thee power to get wealth, that he may establish his covenant which he sware unto thy fathers, as it is this day.* Please keep in mind that wealth is not confined to money. Here is God's take on the subject as found in 1 Timothy 6:9 *But those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a snare and many foolish and harmful desires which plunge men into ruin and destruction.* <sup>10</sup>*For the love of money is a root of all sorts of evil, and some by longing for it have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.* Look also at Mark 4:19 *And the cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things entering in, choke the word, and it becometh unfruitful.* It is not the money but our attitude concerning it. Consider also 1 Timothy 6:17 *Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy.* To be truly dressed for success we need to allow God to dress us up as He tells us in 1 Peter 4:1 *Forasmuch then as Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves likewise with the same mind: for he that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sin;* When we have the Spirit of Christ, God is able to dress us for success as found in Ephesians 6:10 *Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.* <sup>11</sup>*Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.* <sup>12</sup>*For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.* <sup>13</sup>*Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.* <sup>14</sup>*Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness;* <sup>15</sup>*And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace;* <sup>16</sup>*Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.* <sup>17</sup>*And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:* <sup>18</sup>*Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;* God instructs us to walk in the Spirit so as not to fulfill the lust of the flesh (Galatians 5:16). God wants our inside clean and pure. If we allow God to dress us, every situation that comes our way, we can handle it in the Lord because He told us to fight the good fight of faith, and lay hold on eternal life. But one thing is very important for us to understand clearly. 1 Samuel 17:47 *And all this assembly shall know that the LORD saveth not with sword and spear: for the battle is the LORD'S, and he will give you into our hands.* When we were born again of the Spirit of God, we are not our own from that moment on, we belong to the Lord and our purpose is to do the will of God at all times. Test time will come into our lives but be of good cheer; God says in Romans 8:37 *Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.* <sup>38</sup>*For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come,* <sup>39</sup>*Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.* Remember, we are His children and He knows how He wants us to look. We walk in the confidence of God knowing that we represent Him at all times.

# HAPPY PRESIDENTS' DAY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																																									
	1	2 Shavah Prayer at 7pm	3 6:30 pm Youth Staff Monthly Meeting	4 7pm Bible Study	5	6																																																																																																									
7 12 Pastor Filmore 7pm NES	8	9 Shavah Prayer at 7pm	10 7pm Youth Ministry	11 6pm Leadership Meeting 7pm Bible Study	12	13																																																																																																									
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21 12 Min. Birdsong 7pm NES	22	23 Shavah Prayer at 7pm	24 7pm Youth Ministry	25 7pm Bible Study	26	27 12pm Black History month practice 6pm Fundraiser for Black Chick Rock																																																																																																									
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