



# A LASTING *Legacy*

## LEGACY MONTH

During the month of February, we think and talk a lot about legacy. It is the month we honor the legacy of African American individuals and organizations whose achievements and sacrifices lifted a people from slavery to freedom and from Civil Rights to the White House. At some point in our lives, we begin to ponder our legacy - what are we leaving behind that lets others know we were here. Next month we honor women, afterwards the contributions of the myriad of native and non-native peoples that have historically contributed to this great United States of America and the world!

I believe most people strive or thrive to leave some type of legacy within their family, community, or the world at large. Unfortunately, leave the mortal world feeling as if they have left nothing of significance because they use a very narrow measurement for legacy. Is it your name on a building, a street renamed after you, a large college endowment, or a high political office that classifies legacy?

Did Harriet Tubman, George Washington Carver, John F. Kennedy, or Rosa Parks concern their daily contributions with thoughts of their legacy or did they just offer actions that BECAME

legacies we remember and benefit from? The legacy of the Historically Black Colleges and Universities started in church basements. The legacy of the demise of Jim Crow started in a seat at the front of the bus. The legacy of doors of equal access started at lunch counters. The legacy of the right to vote started with volunteering to ride buses and advocate in the deepest south. Blacklisted organizations such as SNCC, SCLC, and the NAACP provide a lasting legacy of organized, peaceful empowerment. The legacy of President Barak Obama will forever be remembered as “Yes We Can!” So, how are you defining, creating, and leaving legacy?

## THE POWER OF LEGACY

The majority of you reading this magazine and connecting to the Power Is Now are working vehemently to help yourselves and others leave a worthy legacy. We are all benefitting from the worthwhile legacy nurtured by Real Estate entrepreneur, Eric Frazier and his associates. Homes, land, commercial properties, financial wealth, are the physical legacies we work to leave the many who historically have had so little as well as others who continue their legacy quests. Your financial goals and dreams are noteworthy and necessary. The time IS now or never!

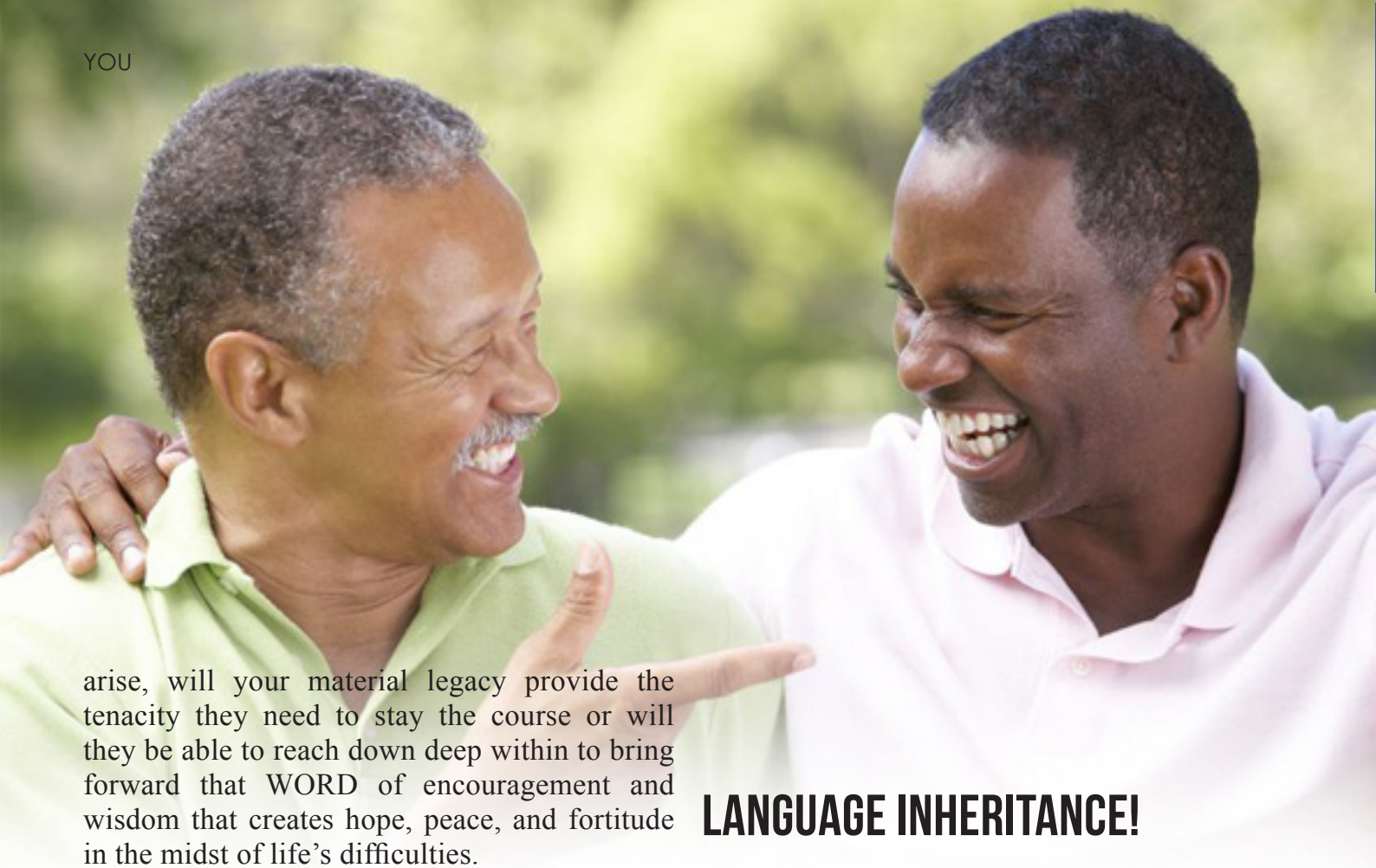
However, let us add another vital and arguably more important legacy to leave behind and we do not have to physically die or exhaust ourselves to leave it! It is the same legacy the aforementioned individuals and groups have left and continue to share. A legacy that never dies! It is a legacy that EVERY SINGLE individual on this planet can leave IF they are purpose-filled and enabled to do so. It is a legacy that bequeaths self-knowledge, self-worth, civic responsibility, sisterly love, ethnic pride, respect for others and care for mother earth. You cannot leave this legacy in a bank or other material possessions. It is a legacy of great power with the ability to change the course of history! It is a legacy that in the right hands heals a nation - ask MLK, Jr, Mother Teresa. It is a legacy that in the wrong hands destroys world peace - ask Hitler, Pol Pot. Good, bad or ugly, all of us reading and connecting with "The Power Is Now" are consciously or unconsciously living and leaving this legacy daily. This legacy requires the same amount of intentionality as amassing wealth. It requires daily focus, self-correction, and purposeful sharing. Unfortunately, too many are sharing a toxic legacy, which they individually or collectively received from the past, into the present that leads to a continual perpetuation of self-loathing, self-centeredness, and a lack of brotherly love.

## WHAT IS THIS LASTING LEGACY? LANGUAGE LEGACY

Have you ever thought that the only way we connect with legacy is through the recording of it? Whether in cave writings, oral histories, history books, ledgers, wills, recorded speeches, even the present-day social media craze; our shared legacies have been captured for future knowledge. This is how we continue to share and appreciate the world-renowned "I Have A Dream Speech" by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. or the heart-stirring "Shuttle Challenger Disaster Memorial" delivered by the late President Ronald Reagan or the soul-searching speech "The Perils of Indifference" by Holocaust survivor Eliezer ("Elie") Wiesel or the call to our humanity speech "Adopting the Declaration of Human Rights" by Anna Eleanor Roosevelt or the sacrificial speech "Ending His 25 Day Fast" delivered Cesar Estrada Chavez...by these and countless others, we know who we are!

So I place before you the most important question concerning YOUR legacy, will your children know WHO they are because of the material legacies you have left (howbeit important and significant) or by the WORD implanted into their soul? Will they be able to thrive solely on assets you have left behind? When the challenges to their purpose, passion and life contributions





arise, will your material legacy provide the tenacity they need to stay the course or will they be able to reach down deep within to bring forward that WORD of encouragement and wisdom that creates hope, peace, and fortitude in the midst of life's difficulties.

It is not the material gifts that exist forever, but the legacies of purpose, selflessness, passion, and love. How are these characteristics shared? YOUR WORDS! Your "daily word" is the most powerful legacy you family and community can inherit! Of course, let us layup material inheritance for our children and our children's children, but more so share and leave words of love, wisdom and personal empowerment that lifts up family, community, and the world we live in.

To paraphrase an old proverb, "Give a man a fish and he eats for a day; but teach a man to fish and he eats for a lifetime." Leave your family the inheritance that allows them to "fish for a lifetime"! First comes the thought, then the thought becomes a word, and then the word becomes a life! Wealth, poverty, love, thankfulness, healing, war, are ALL conditions of the human heart. Out of the heart come the thoughts, words, and deeds of humankind. The question is "HOW" do they get there.

## LANGUAGE INHERITANCE!

In addition to the legacy of material wealth and enterprise, leave the one inheritance that truly helps to change, empower, and heal lives – WORDS that create a life and a world worth inheriting!



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