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Community Builders 'This Is The Ressurrection'

In the universal scheme, life is comprised of COMMUNITIES; communities of stars, black holes, quasars, planets, suns, some light years away from us make up this solar system. Each planet and star in its own orbit, with its own amount of magnetism, may seem to be functioning alone, but all the while has an affect and is interdependent on other stars, suns, to maintain its order and balance. Thus, contributing to the overall balance that is the universe. On the molecular/subatomic level, the essence of existence depends on the coordinated efforts of independent neutrons, electrons, protons all in motion like separate planets, representing microcosmic polarities of a functioning system, equipped with dynamic synergistic self-sustaining intelligence for the maintenance of that whole, being that particular organism. Without the communities of solar systems, galaxies, planets, all undefined within their cosmic potential, that compose the greater universe, there can be no basis for life; without the community of cells, which work together, there can be no existence on this plane of things made manifest. These fundamental exoteric truths illustrate the possibilities of a unified effort in any endeavor, and the importance of the collective all aimed towards one goal.

Marcus Mosiah Garvey said, "One God, One Aim, One Destiny". This call still goes out to the One People that make up this world. This One People of the human family, who still have to fulfill their potential to meet their goals and take their place in the affairs of the world amongst the family's of nations. What makes up the nations of the world if not the countries, states, cities & towns of people who live there, that is made up of counties, municipalities, of varied communities of families and individuals. In the structure of any formidable country or nation are industrious, ingenious independent communities. Somewhat like planets in the solar system; the subatomic structure of cells in any organism. Be it animate, or inanimate.

As above, so below; many individuals strive for an ideal of success in this modern era. Yet forget that success can only be guaranteed when it is taken out of the self-centered idiom, and spread out to encompass the people that make up that collective. Of course, this starts with the immediate family. While every society is a result of different families, which in turn form communities, that in turn become bigger families. The success of one somebody from said community is not sufficient to secure the peace and happiness of that collective, or community. The whole community must experience that success for the legacy to be established and such success to be maintained. This is the way of civilization. The modern concept of capitalism has scarred the psyche of many, altered the

natural perception of happiness. Without secure happiness in any society, there can be no longstanding 'peace'. Peace as a state of being, a mentality that maintains the orderly functioning of communities in the society. People strive for peace, to have a sense of security. One of the toxic side effects of capitalism is excessive materialism. This requires retail consumption, which leaves symptoms of consumer-blues, when people cannot acquire certain material things. The stress from this deteriorates peace. Stress breeds panic. Panic is akin to fear. Fear is extremely destructive, an intoxicating emotion that blinds all vision. These are just a few of the false ideals that plague this modern-era. People become what they think. The thought always leads. Now, those who are successful, and have not sought the means to reciprocate such success with those of their community's have contributed to this cycle of madness. Not to say that one individual could be the means whereby to "save" their whole community, or town. That is impossible. However, the influence a successful person has on others is like a seed thrown on fertile ground. When minds open to realize possibilities, doors open, and people begin to see ways to **SAVE THEMSELVES**.

In light of the capitalistic 'black-hole' that permeates this corporate system, and rapidly awakes one from the 'American Dream', many residents of this great diverse nation are taught to put profit above morality. To such an extent that people overtly live lives that personify the question, *is there profit in morality?* As if everything is for sale, susceptible to exploitation. For the accumulation of material things, and worship thereof, that mentality is appropriate. Nevertheless, for the natural growth and development of any people, such a mentality is more toxic and consuming than trying to exist at ground zero of an atomic explosion. Such recklessness and shallow ideologies erode the base of any sense of community cooperation. The symptoms to this modern-day social phenomenon are numerous, and a book could be dedicated to that alone. My duty is to remind people to use their mind to see the unseen benefit beyond seeming grey clouds. Community Builders is only about 'Building', an action, and pre-emptive strike against the impoverishment, and degradation of any neighborhood, or community: Community Builders is a ray from the universal light of civilization. Civilized people, families, nations, co-exist in an agreeable manner whereby everyone is afforded the means and opportunity to pursue a purposeful life with the right to self-determination and prosperity.

There are laws of survival, which are modeled to fit certain environments, reactionary modes of living bearing the behavioral modification of circumstantial conditions. Creatures/beings that live in accord to circumstantial dictates are governed and subject to such laws. They are the ruled. Be it animals in the wild, or humans in any society. The case on behalf of the animals is although they do have free will, they are not

endowed with the intelligence to establish, and maintain dominion over their native habitat. Man can, yet many men choose to allow the conditions of their environment to set the standard and rules for the life they live. Why is it that so many so-called Americans have this viscous 'dog-eat-dog' mentality? As if most of the societies in this country, exist in a jungle-like setting. Moreover, why do people accept the illusion that accompanies living in big cities? The illusions that causes people to be divided, overtly aggressive, self-centered, disrespectful to themselves, family, and their neighbors, when this is one of the most prosperous countries on the planet. People who live in the streets live better than some in their own homes in other countries. Nevertheless, it seems that everyone is in a rush to get things, things, which chances are, they will get anyway. As if, they are missing something. It is excessiveness, which leads good people astray. People who are blessed with many opportunities, but choose to limit themselves through a lack of knowing: It was said, that some people because of how they grow up, the things they were exposed to in their immediate environment, their lack of education, all these and other things, leaves one without choices. (?) I do not doubt the seeming reality this perception offers; I have been thru this myself. Yet the choice issue is not as limited as we believe. The choice is always there, one way or another. The influence is a different story. There is a science to that; behavior modification is a clinical pathology. It seems, when one chooses not to make their own choices in life, they choose to follow something, or someone else's. Having the innate capacity to practice dominion does not mean we should be little ourselves to live by laws that reflect circumstance, which simulate to lifestyles of animals, and are contrary to high principles of living. Moreover, it was taught by the ancients; 'People suffer for a lack of knowledge', and 'Fools die for want of wisdom'.

Education takes on new meanings. It becomes more like preparation, cultivation, cooperation, and expectation, self-development to perceive life as more than what the eyes see. Many people in this country see education as a type of brain-washing/training-tool for the working class, who develop retail consumption fixations. However, the true purpose of education is for self-development. To make use thru intelligence, of one's mind. For within the mind are many, many doors not confined to limitations, only dependent upon imagination. It is not a theory that everything in life is the result of an idea. This fact/truth is self-evident. The intangible substance of thought is the platform for the idea. What we see is that intangible force manifested. This is our recipe for dominion in the world. Education should be a system of learning, wherein the young learn about themselves and practice developing and improving thought. When thought is held in its true regard, choices in life become manifold. This is one way we know we are more than our environments and conditions.

At the foundation for Community Building, is a social responsibility established on the principle of self-preservation. Community Builders build on the rock; not the sand of circumstance that is ever changing, shifting to and fro. The tools for Community Building are:

- i. Brotherly Love Sisterly Love
- II. Honor
- III. Conflict Resolution
- IV. Community Entitlement
- V. Community Enfranchisement



-Loving Ones Neighbor-

Life's motto has got to be, 'love your neighbor as one loves one's self'. Going thru the daily routine and pressures of modern day living, we forget the importance of love. Some use it as a reference word. Like a prop on a stage, without life or substance. However, love in its fullness is a verb, an action that must be manifest to be experienced. This experience is more than an utterance of words in passing. It is much more than the 'love'-making exchanged by couples in their intimate embrace. Most times, that's just sex. Love is the oil that makes the machine of life run smoothly. It is a universal principle that accommodates and preserves life, while being an integral element in the spark that produces life. Love is a must. And in love we should trust. Without that circulation of love in ones system, it's easy for the mind to rust, become brittle with negativity and bust.

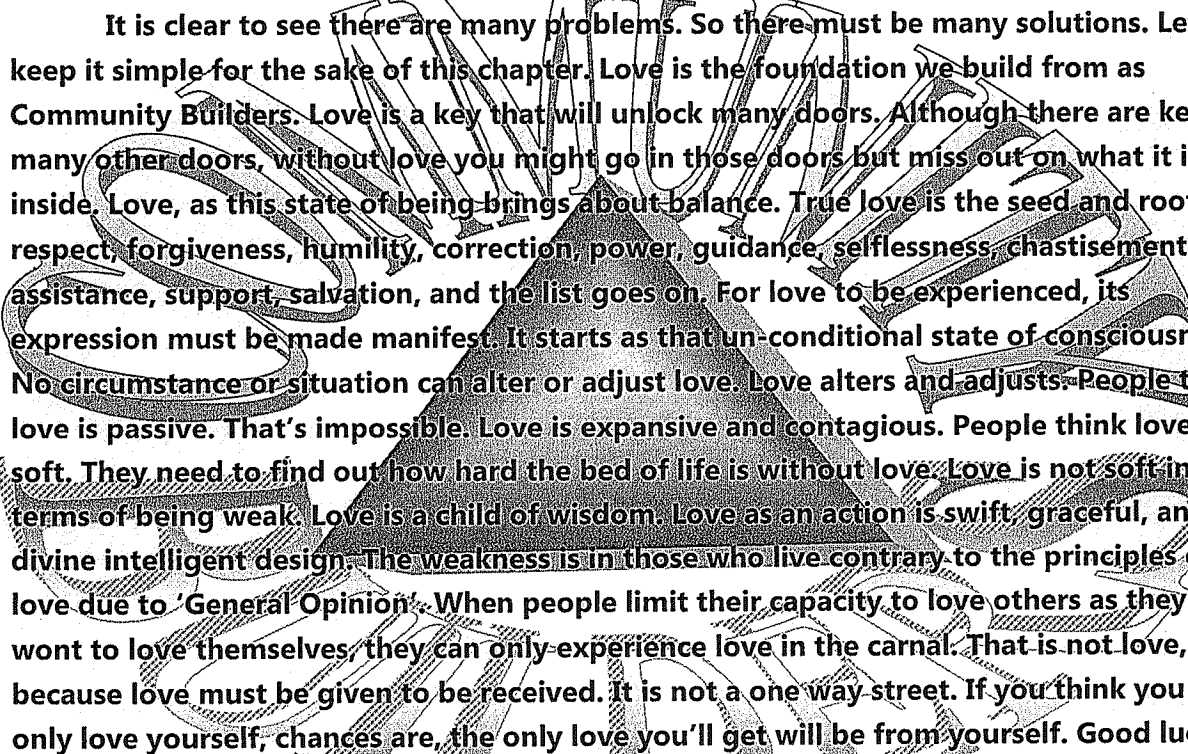
In case you don't know, love has everything to do with Community Builders, metaphorically speaking, just as, "Love is the oil that makes the machine of life run..." love is the mortar that binds the stones used in Community Building. We as a whole, have many desires and wants. While practicing and participating in numerous ideas, we are missing the essential element of life, which is love. If this truth remains ignored and disregarded, the state of modern-day society will continue to creep into decadence. Let the record of today's events reflect the collective state of mind the media so promptly portrays. The attitude is one of high disregard and value for human life, increased levels of violence with younger generations. There are a few murder capitals across this country,

which changes from year to year. The incarceration rate has increased greatly since the Reagan's administrations 'War on Drugs'. One might ask; 'How' can an increase in drug-related offenses and incarceration, be a reflection of a lack of love amongst this North American collective? Well, last time I checked, a dope-fiend was someone whose priority in life, was to maintain a fix, whether it is heroin, cocaine, crack, or any other narcotic. For any one who has fallen to that level of life, this state is accompanied with a very low morale when it comes to getting that fix. Nine times out of ten, 'aint no love in that. Just a whole lot of "me". Dope-fiends will sell anything they get their hands on when the 'jones' comes down, and most time what they get their hands on doesn't belong to them. 'Aint no love in that. Family and friends get betrayed, and ultimately they betray themselves. Any and every one who benefits from the production and distribution of these substances is working to keep people in a junkie state of mind. There's no love in this. While there is a by any means 'Love' for that dollar, and the delusion of grandeur and power that accompanies the accumulation thereof.

In some urban areas, the image of power is held by those who have gained these material things, and have the muscle to maintain them. Many young people strive to stand on this same ground. Consideration and kindness are limited attributes of love when the perceived need to get these things becomes the basis for action. As mentioned in the introduction, people have this tendency to let circumstances dictate their thoughts, attitudes & behavior. Instead of using their thoughts, attitudes & behavior to adjust and change circumstance. People inadvertently sacrifice their birthright, their potential and ability bestowed on them by the Creator, that ability to have dominion on and over the earth. People give up this position of esteem, to follow modern-day trends & fads. People lower the standard they hold in life, to assimilate to the standard of the many. "General Opinion Is No Proof Of Truth".

It is these attitudes inspired by "General Opinion" that separate people from adhering to the high standard of LOVE. People are not inclined to learn love, but to learn hate. Why??.. The reasons are many. I have illustrated a few previously; ¹ the obsessive capitalistic/materialistic view; ² the 'perceived' choice issue; ³ the lack of true education, which when properly gained would be the basis of self-development. Those of us who live the life, and reap the fruit form these seeds of thought know full well the problem. And with a little vision can foretell that if this path of living is continued, the future looks bleak to say the least. I endeavor to articulate some things regarding these problems, to

draw attention and interest to the solutions that are in front of us." For every problem there is a solution"- "For every difficulty there is relief". Some don't believe this to be so. And they are confined in thought, and ignore the reality of universal balance/duality/polarity/*justice*. We could never know up if not for down. Never know hot, without cold. Never know joy without sorrow. The idea is to maintain the balance between the two.



It is clear to see there are many problems. So there must be many solutions. Let's keep it simple for the sake of this chapter. Love is the foundation we build from as Community Builders. Love is a key that will unlock many doors. Although there are keys to many other doors, without love you might go in those doors but miss out on what it is inside. Love, as this state of being brings about balance. True love is the seed and root of respect, forgiveness, humility, correction, power, guidance, selflessness, chastisement, assistance, support, salvation, and the list goes on. For love to be experienced, its expression must be made manifest. It starts as that un-conditional state of consciousness. No circumstance or situation can alter or adjust love. Love alters and adjusts. People think love is passive. That's impossible. Love is expansive and contagious. People think love is soft. They need to find out how hard the bed of life is without love. Love is not soft in terms of being weak. Love is a child of wisdom. Love as an action is swift, graceful, and of divine intelligent design. The weakness is in those who live contrary to the principles of love due to 'General Opinion'. When people limit their capacity to love others as they are wont to love themselves, they can only experience love in the carnal. That is not love, because love must be given to be received. It is not a one way street. If you think you can only love yourself, chances are, the only love you'll get will be from yourself. Good luck.

You get nothing out of life with your hand closed. With an open hand you are prepared to aid and assist your neighbor. Your neighbor is the same as yourself, just a variety of human expression. What we do for others, we ultimately do for self. This is the vision, foresight that love provides. Love sees beyond the physical, into the un-seen. It will pave the path we have yet to embark upon. Love will go before us and prepare a peaceful place in our journeys. Love is accountable, and responsible. But we have to use it as life's golden-rule. For Community Builders, it's our 'Golden-Tool'. We have a duty to love our neighbor, so our neighborhood will be a good place. It's not wise to have hate or animosity with your neighbor. Just as love is an action that must be manifest to be experienced, hate as a thought will find its channel of expression in the area it permeates. Negative energy can cloud a sunny day. The idea of hate is a force. Even though such ideas are not seen or detected by the physical eye, they can be felt beyond the five senses. Radio-waves can't be seen by the eye, yet produce what was broadcast, and are received

by radios. In a similar way, thoughts are things of an unseen, un-defined substance that are the seeds for all we can see, hear, smell, and sense, etc.. Hate as a thought will cloud the ethers of any neighborhood, and pollute the energy in any community. The only thing you can build with hate and negativity is confusion, chaos, fear, uncertainty and destruction. This state unfortunately clouds some neighborhoods and communities.

Fortunately, the remedy for this social ailment is love. The Community Builder uses un-conditional love as a primary tool for construction in the modern community. That sounds natural, as if there's nothing special about it. Yet, love is MIA (Missing In Action). It use to be a given that our neighbor would have our best interest at heart, have our back in the mean and in-between time. Now, in a lot of places, there are so many issues, so much fear and uncertainty, there's no trust past the front door. Neighbors are suspicious and malicious towards one another. A reactionary state from this pre-conceived reality impresses a loveless front in our neighborhoods, and communities. Love is the solution. Common-courtesy, kindness, generosity, respect and consideration has got to be the pillars we build on. People mistake kindness for weakness. While its rudeness that is weak, and established from fear. To be genuinely kind requires a reservoir of love, which is independent of circumstance. Brave to face the weak opposition that hate deludes to. Kindness in the face of negative odds calls upon a vision to see past shallow ignorance. It's an investment into establishing the dominion of non-partiality, and justice in our communities. Those who seek the means to maintain this state are not the ruled. They are the free...

TWO

HONOR

-POSITION-

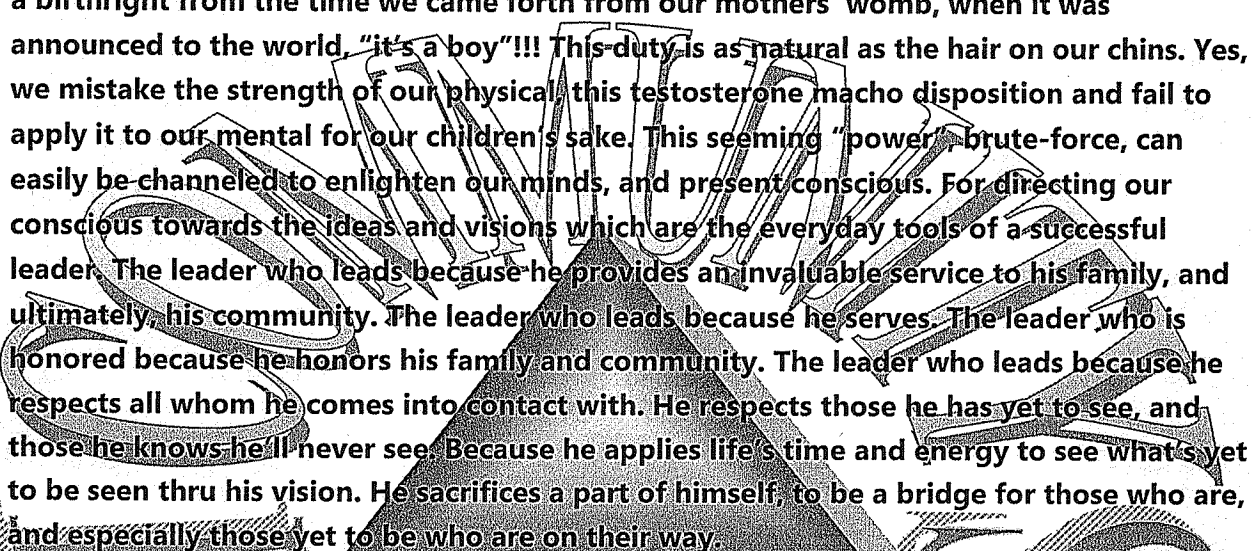
This is the resurrection; Resurrection of thought. To be resurrected in this sense is to be raised up from a 'grave' of illusion, misconception, and false identification of self. You see, we all have a position to play in this orchestra that is life. If everyone does not play their position, there can be no harmony. When we are out of key, there is noise and confusion. Why should there be confusion amongst those who can peer into the far reaches of outer-space? Who have developed the technology and wherewithal to dwell beyond the boundaries of this world and atmosphere? How is it that we can't exist in harmony on our own planet? Doesn't make sense. The maintenance of harmony is such a thing made of common-sense. Indeed. But this is what happens when we're out of

position. Not doing what we're supposed to. Not being who we're supposed to. Ultimately, disrespecting ourselves.

This is the resurrection. The trumpet form hence sounds loud & clear. This blast goes to Man: All Men, who are MIA, just as love is. Men who by nature's design are to be the front line and social pioneers for the security, prosperity and longevity of our communities. From one Man, to another, and others. Where we at!?!? This call goes to the collective of men. Not just the few who do what they're supposed to. Every single one, it takes every man to stand to ensure the best for our communities. Collective input is the requiem for complete results. It's said: "Many are called but few are chosen". It's more like 'few choose to respond'.

Men have this **POSITION** of **HONOR** to fulfill. We are amidst this social malady and the prognosis reveals that a strange sacrifice was made. A lot of men have sacrificed their position of honor because they got a limited read on the price to be paid for honor. Honor has to be earned, not taken. The price to be paid is the service we owe to our families, and communities. Nothing from nothing leaves nothing. Got to put out something to get something. Too many of us as men have sacrificed our 'rite' to honor by not ensuring an active present contribution to the service and enrichment of our communities. This sacrifice was made when thoughts were imaging ways to style and profile. When men sought ways to be seen for the sake of impressing others, and not imaging improvements in the methodology of present pursuits to secure the foundation for our families within our communities. Been busy tripping on things that were not made to last, when energy should have been spent seeking the means to impress the modes for a renewable system of economic advancement for some of the slum neighborhoods we come up in. You see, this is one of the problems when men especially, limit their potential for growth & development by false attachment to the ways, fads, & trends of 'General-Opinion'. Men forget their positions, fall into a living state of amnesia, and perpetuate beliefs of followers. "Woe be unto the shepherd (leaders) who led those sheep astray"; for real, it's worst for the sheep that have lost their way. Nevertheless, this was the sacrifice chosen. Hence, the price to be paid.

It's not the situations and circumstance that bring a degree of dishonor, we as men dishonored ourselves by working for the wrong thing, thus sacrificing life's time and energy in chasing mirages. This dishonor entails a greater degree of disrespect. Respect is to be given, before it is earned. Just like honor. We have succeeded in 'dising' our present state. The reflection of this casts a shadow simultaneously in two ways. ONE; on our past, our ancestors, forbearer's, our parents. TWO; towards our future, our seeds that are, and those yet to be. It is a present-day blatant contradiction that people feed into this belief



that you can get something for nothing. This is averse to every natural law of existence that predicates life. These principles are universal, and everywhere present, in some degree or another. These principles can become the subject of intense study and lessons we all must learn in life. Too many of us as men 'dis these principles, whereby forsaking the natural duty of man. To personify the natural leader that he is, we have this duty, like a birthright from the time we came forth from our mothers' womb, when it was announced to the world, "it's a boy"!!! This duty is as natural as the hair on our chins. Yes, we mistake the strength of our physical, this testosterone macho disposition and fail to apply it to our mental for our children's sake. This seeming "power", brute-force, can easily be channeled to enlighten our minds, and present conscious. For directing our conscious towards the ideas and visions which are the everyday tools of a successful leader. The leader who leads because he provides an invaluable service to his family, and ultimately, his community. The leader who leads because he serves. The leader who is honored because he honors his family and community. The leader who leads because he respects all whom he comes into contact with. He respects those he has yet to see, and those he knows he'll never see. Because he applies life's time and energy to see what's yet to be seen thru his vision. He sacrifices a part of himself, to be a bridge for those who are, and especially those yet to be who are on their way.

By forsaking life's duty as a man, there's no room for grief or disgust at the present state. The condition in society is something that was left to anything. What's real is thru grief and complaints only bring rhetoric that diverts energy from the realizations and creating of solutions. There's a song by the Staple Singers called "Respect Ya'self". The verse goes, "... hear you talking there's a problem with air pollution, put your hand on your mouth when you cough that will help the solution". The situation has to be diagnosed so that we can seek the means to apply a progressive solution to some of the many problems that plague our communities. Every single man has a part in this solution. He's got to take his place in the affairs of men, and be counted as one amongst the family of nations around the world.

As men, let's not let the comforts of present living, technological advancements be the cause to fall asleep at the wheel and crash. Let's not forget that work has to be done. Nothing comes from 'make-believe', other than 'make-believe'. The principle in working for those things we need is that we develop a sense of worth for those things we attain. We realize what's worthy of our commitment, effort and focus. Life's time & energy is not something to be squandered. We have to work; the power from our testosterone has an honorable function. We put in work with our innate strength into our communities, and we must hold our families and communities to a high plateau of invaluable worth.

Without their preservation, we're no better than animals. No wiser than an army of ants.
No more busy than a bee.

-ACCOUNTABILITY-

Just as love & honor are required to be put into action for them to be reciprocated, we as men must be cognitive to the common-ground of obligation that duty & accountability shares

By definition,

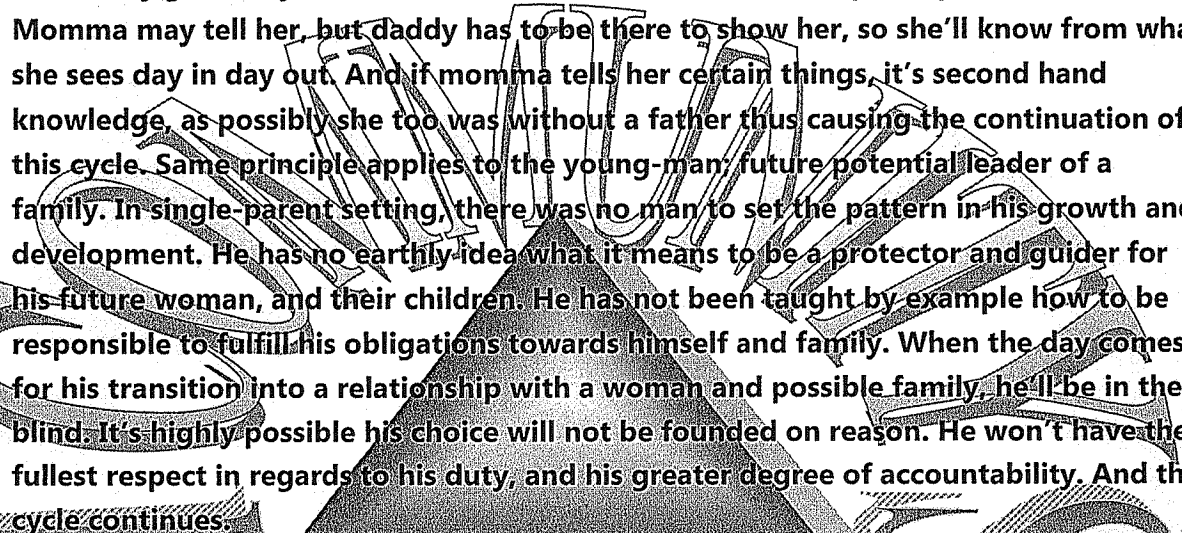
Duty: "...the compelling or binding force of what is right... obligation..."

➤ Accountability: "...the state of being held responsible for carrying out ones obligations..."

Obligation is the cord that binds Men to their families and communities.

➤ Obligation: "...to bind morally... duty on account of social relationship..."

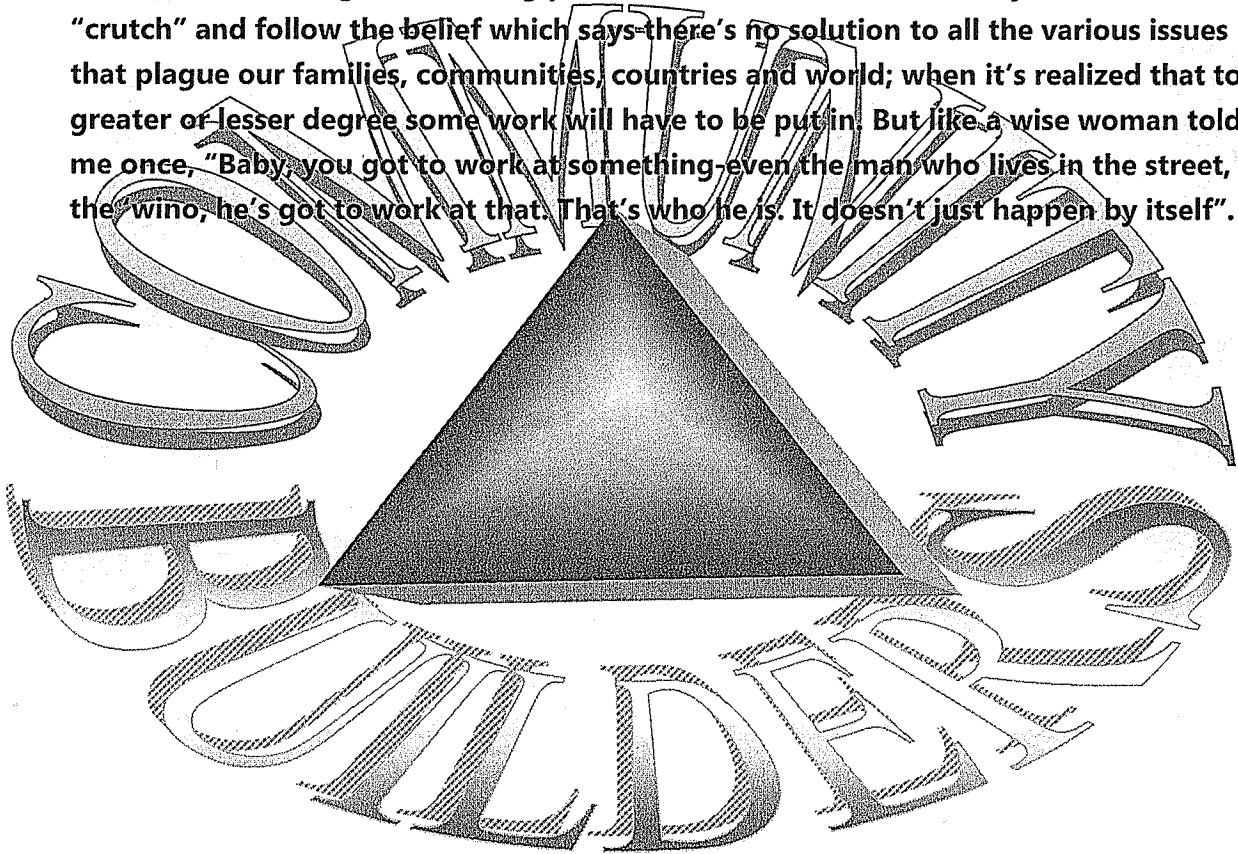
Some insist on using the excuse of 'freedom' as an alibi to do whatever with their lives. Choices which free-will bring compel a high degree of personal accountability. Men bear the duty as caretakers, protectors, directors of life's production. We are the forerunner for our children and families whom inevitably weave and are part of the social fabric that adorns our communities. Whether we consciously choose to or refuse to, our footprints set the standard. Some women in the present-day are confident a man's is not needed in their homes, even in their lives. Subsidized Section-A Housing even requires women to live without a spouse, only their children. However, no family is complete without both parents to consciously guide the growth and life of their children. Neither can men and women live without each other in a balanced way. This trend plagues society. Incomplete families, that man bear the brunt of accountability for, by nature's design. Women, who are naturally impressionable, reflect their man. Men set the stage and are leaders to an extent in relationships. Some men adhere to a mentality of a soul-less culture, in which the growth, development, protection of the children is left to the women alone. While subscribing to a belief that a natural family structure is "old-fashion". There's nothing old-fashion about what works best. There's nothing old-fashion about what's natural. Although women are natural heads of the household, without a man at home, the household is neither natural nor complete.



Men are natural guiders and protectors of the family itself. These days, the increase in single-parent homes (mostly headed by women) has led to an increase in incarceration, drug abuse, and teen-age pregnancy. Young women without strong father figures at home have no idea what a real-man is like. They've never been exposed nor had the experience to know what to look for and expect with a man, when they get ready to make the transition into a relationship and parenthood. Momma may tell her, but daddy has to be there to show her, so she'll know from what she sees day in day out. And if momma tells her certain things, it's second hand knowledge, as possibly she too was without a father thus causing the continuation of this cycle. Same principle applies to the young-man; future potential leader of a family. In single-parent setting, there was no man to set the pattern in his growth and development. He has no earthly idea what it means to be a protector and guider for his future woman, and their children. He has not been taught by example how to be responsible to fulfill his obligations towards himself and family. When the day comes for his transition into a relationship with a woman and possible family, he'll be in the blind. It's highly possible his choice will not be founded on reason. He won't have the fullest respect in regards to his duty, and his greater degree of accountability. And the cycle continues.

Personal accountability, accepting ones duty in life, the obligations which exceed preference, separates one from being dependent. Accountability is the price paid for independence. Independence is the fruit of freedom grown from the seeds of truth. For those that run from the natural obligation accountability requires, run head-long into dependency on something or force outside of themselves. As long as we as men turn the other cheek to our innate responsibility we will be subject to those who take responsibility for situations we've left un-attended, whom could never have our best interest in mind. While cleaning up our mess, so to speak. Its strange how the average 'Joe', balls for freedom. Claims it's something he's ready to die for. While he can't seem to navigate the way in which to live it. Freedom is dependent upon personal responsibility. Responsibility coupled with the afore-stated accountability means we can provide the way & means for ourselves, family and people. This is the dynamics of any Community, and those who are fully accountable for self, know full well the value of independence. Independence means not having to depend on any one other then yourself. In this instance, one's family, community; ultimately ones nation. Of course no one is an island, thus the importance of associations. But whether in the small or large sense, the more you can do for self & family, the more you can guide the course of one's own destiny. The more your choices matter.

Life is the best thing going in this world, yet it has its price. There are no two ways about it. Either you do or you don't. If someone pays your way, you'll be forced by way of that circumstance to meet that price, and serve those ends. Too many people in this era have become addicted to comfort. Having sacrificed their zeal for earning comforts or being willing to pay the price for those things. Inevitably, they've sacrificed something else. A living part of themselves. It's all too easy to wear the "crutch" and follow the belief which says there's no solution to all the various issues that plague our families, communities, countries and world; when it's realized that to a greater or lesser degree some work will have to be put in. But like a wise woman told me once, "Baby, you got to work at something-even the man who lives in the street, the wino, he's got to work at that. That's who he is. It doesn't just happen by itself".



THREE

CONFLICT RESOLUTIONS

-WHERE IS THE CONFLICT?-

There is a saying, "Man Respects Man". It's known that for a man to respect his fellow man he has to know what it means to be a Man. For the sake of the reader, I'll reiterate the point, that this work is aimed towards the male-collective. For our edifying, and the raising of our conscious state in a time we need to be developing a super-conscious state to address social issues that affect everyone. I got to get at the men, because for too long, our women and Mother's have been picking up the slack, playing both roles, being compelled to be responsible for things beyond their natural means to deal with. For too long we as men have not invested our life's energy into securing our homes, and building on the common ground that is shared in our neighborhoods and communities.

The role-reversal that is the result of too many men not playing their role and position is a major conflict. We have spent money and time making women think love is found by how much money can be spent on them in one night. We have influenced them to chase after this excessive material fixation by always trying to impress them with all those material things nobody can really afford. We have to correct this. This is done by knowing our roles.

So what is our role? We as conscious men are caretakers, protectors, guiders of our women & children. We are the support of, backbone for our families. We are the role models for our son's and daughter's. We are the guiders of our wives and families. We set the course, and are the navigators. The beautiful thing is that when we are who and what we're supposed to be, the woman must recognize and fall in line with whom she is. The script to life's production was memorized in our genetic-DNA code, 'long before we ever came on the stage. All we got to do is be our natural selves and harmony will be maintained. We just need to play our role to resolve this affront being desperately maintained by our women.

An African proverb states, "It takes a village, to raise a child". The proverbial "village" lies in our neighborhoods and communities. We're not that far removed from the heritage of our culture. We don't have to travel to our 'homelands', regardless what spot on the globe we descend from, we still represent and personify the ways of our ancestors. This is not about religion, this is about being ourselves. This is about raising our neighborhoods and communities above our personal preoccupations. Knowing our roles

and adapting that ancient honorary code that says, "It takes a village, to raise a child". Going beyond our personal families, and being concerned about the lady down the street, with her three children whose fathers not on the scene. Or the Grandmother who stays around the corner, who was left with the burden of both her daughters children. There's no possible way she can keep up with them, or always be there to keep them out of all the non-sense happening day in to day out. We might see her grandchildren more than she does. It won't cost us anything to keep an eye out, and keep them in line. When we know their Grandmother is doing as much as she can to keep that roof over their head, with food in the icebox, etc... Real men do these things with no strings attached. Because they can reflect when they may have been out there like that, in need of just a little guidance to present the opportunity for choice.

Is there an expectation that some force outside of us will provide a solution to these issues? There seems to be this silent disgruntled position to complain when things don't get worked out by those who are not at ground-zero to these issues. Just as an ailing person goes to the doctor for relief from his/hersickness. 'Relief' was requested, and that's exactly what they got, "Relief"... Well, everyone knows, relief is not a cure. Relief is but a temporary fix. If the doctor cures you, you'll never be back. And you paid quite a bit for that relief. Now you do the math. Let me share the latest social "relief" that's being prescribed to our youth. All our youth regardless of class/caste/race or ethnicity stand the chance of experiencing this, and I quote... "In a first of its kind, the U.S. Department Of Justice(DOJ) held a conference on civil rights and school-discipline... as schools across the country adopt – and vigorously enforce – so called 'Zero-Tolerance' discipline policies that mandate increasingly harsh punishment, even for petty infractions such as school uniform violations, and subjective violations, including disrespect and insubordination... ". In case your vision dear reader is clouded by the presence of the DOJ being involved as the mediator between the schools and the public, be assured this is no cure. As for this 'Zero-Tolerance' policy, if these children don't get the proper home cultivation and discipline, then this policy will prove to be a stage for future conflict and rebellion. Will the schools be safe? Too many of those students will become outcasts of their generation. The possibility exists that "Corrections" will become these youths immediate future. By "Corrections", I mean the Correction Facilities that increase disproportionately thru out this country.

A cure and solution is dependent on what we as men do. Not what we engage in rhetoric about. What we do, the work we put in, and the starting point is our families, and our Communities. The youth in schools represent various Communities across the country. Some of these youth come from broken families. We may not be in the immediate

position to mend those broken families, yet, if we work to maintain a collective interest in these youths in our communities, then we can enforce the ancient code, "It takes a village". In addition, we can set our sights to step in before the DOJ sends them to a state of "Zero-Tolerance". Such a policy is in conflict to the natural growth and development of the youth. Youth need guidance, not "Zero-Tolerance". You can give animals' zero-tolerance because they are beasts, but not a human youth whom are the jewels of society, those who are here to usher in the world's future. However, I suspect there is some who demonstrate more solutions that are creative of love and patience with domesticated animals then with their children, let alone someone else's.

Every situation is unique, and every community maintains its own degree of dynamics. There is no cure-all across the board. Nevertheless, the love, honor, interest, concern, and commitment we as men demonstrate will always prove to bring a greater degree of balance to surmount the obstacles that face us. This is the price to be paid for free-will and choice. To exercise our innate potential and capacity to have dominion. It starts with self. Being man enough to stand in the face of circumstance and adjust/change them to fit our needs. Their circumstances, environments, and conditions rule the animals. Its man who has dominion over all circumstance, environments and conditions.

Now is the time. Tomorrow will be made by the choices we make today. Regardless to what it is, we'll work at something. We need to work to ensure what will last, not what will pass. Life is short, it's not as long as it seems.

-MENTORSHIP-

Remembering being young, the careless innocence without the experiences brought on by time. Many of us as adults get lost in the reverie when looking at babies and children. We all remember those days, and should know how crucial they are towards developing the best in a person. There is the starting point, for such direction influence can affect. Two sides of the same coin. Influence on the home-front can be the cause for success or failure. Influence can be a remedy, or the continuation of a viscous cycle. However, the natural spirit that inhabits humanity can rise, shine and promote one to be and become the best despite earthly/genetic social, environmental influence. However, not all of us are so self-sufficient. Most of us reflect the culture we come from. This is a key reason why we must force ourselves to remember those days, trace our thoughts to the place that shaped our perspective. Some adults continue to think as children, and don't have much tracing to do. If they want to get into the mind of a child, they just need to 'think'. This is unfortunate, but indeed a reality. If we doubt it, let us look at the state of things in the present-day. Too many adults are still caught up in the fun & games. Still

playing, still telling jokes as if life's a comedy show. This is the social 'program'. I'm trying to figure out what is so funny?

Many adults are quick to scrutinize the youth, pass judgment and disregard their position. This proves to increase the divide, and maintain static in the lines of needed communication. Plenty of the youth who were lacking guidance coming up, are looking for guidance and direction NOW. What's respected is the action, more than the words. This is a 'Rap' generation. Everybody has something to say. Cell phones and numerous Hi-Tech media have got the public saturated in the word-fest. Action is what's missing.

When we know our roles, then we can be role models. Just because people are famous and have carte blanche for influence via media, and entertainment, does not warrant their ability to be anyone's role model. Most in the limelight, do not know their natural roles, because the price for entertaining has them in multiple roles, for which they already sold their souls chasing that gold. The worse travesty is that the youth from every generations look at these caricatures as who they want to be. The irony is many 'platinum' rapper's, project the image of someone they're not because the business side of that game is entertainment. Entertainers live for that money. Artists on the other hand do what they do as a form of creative expression. It doesn't matter who sees them, or who buys it, their creativity must be expressed.

Well, it is what it is. Image is EVERYTHING. It's the image, the sight the baby, the child sees, followed by the tone of voice that molds the youth. Moreover, we have to be ready to go to the starting point to get the best results. That is the family, at the Home Front, and this is a natural thing. It's our natural role, it's not hard, and it comes easy. We just have to be ourselves, who we naturally are. We'll be ourselves, and in the meantime help our youngster's to be themselves. Remembering that what we are is who the children will see. The image that will guide and influence. Every worthwhile mentor is in the habit of finding the good out of a bad situation. Being able to use that as the starting point, demonstrates the dominion we possess, by choosing to rule and not be ruled by circumstances. Those who have some great potential in this aspect of being a Community Builder are ex-offender's re-entering society. Every ex-offender who has overcome the systematic stigma has risen above the limitations that degree of social disability brings, are living replica's in action of that self-sufficient human spirit. Walking testimonies to what is possible. They are the role model that has the awe of the youth. As the trend in this day is that life of crime. The 'rite-of passage' is doing time. Ex-offenders have a lot of influence for those who think they want to emulate such a life. The silver-lining behind this grey cloud is only those who've come thru the struggle, can demonstrate how to stay out of it. The youth can be saved from this choice when they see people not living that life

of crime. Words are not needed. The pattern has to be set, by the life that has been lived. There lies the impact of influence. Now comes the role model performing his role. As he saves himself from the revolving door that leads to prison, he's saving some youth on the edge of his periphery outside of his immediate focus, but captivated by the magnetism of his influence.

Just because most choose to be follower's doesn't mean they can't be led to learn that everyone in life comes equipped with a natural leader. That being themselves. Follower's have to be raised to lead themselves. This becomes the number one role for the modern-day role-model.



-WHAT IS COMMUNITY ENTITLEMENT?-

-As a state of mind-

(According to the World Book Dictionary-Published 2001); Community & Entitlement is defined as:

Community- All the people living in the same place and subject to the same laws; the people of any district or town... Likeness; Similarity; Identity.

Entitle (ment)- To give a claim or right (to); provide with a reason to ask or get something...

To all the good people that read this work, especially the MEN who seek to apply these principles as a development formula, it is the writers' heart-felt intention that you will gain a strong sense of your neighborhood and communities, as being nothing less than extensions of yourselves, families, and homes. In addition, for the things you know you are personally entitled to that you discover the need to transfer that sense of entitlement to and for your community. This is what is meant by: Community Entitlement.

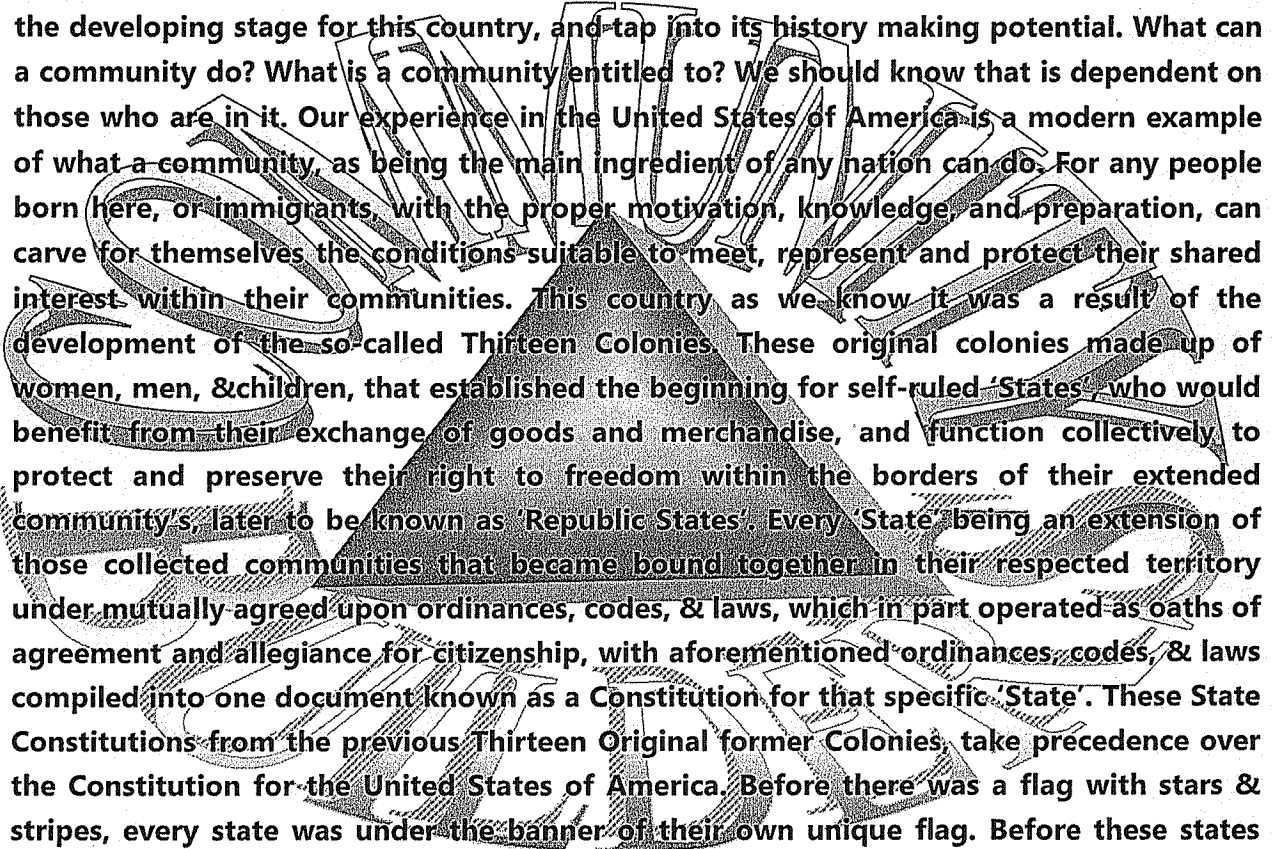
There are certain conditions that will provoke lesser minds to believe their present reality is an accumulation of varied coincidences. However, from the far reaches of the unknown outer space, thru the oceans' abyss, to the center of the earth's core; everything is established to function in order. Moreover, it was ordained that the natural human body be a summation of the larger more expansive universe. The condition that these

lesser minds find them in is due to a lack of knowledge. It is a law of life that not everyone understands things at the same time. This being another reason why it is important that good men guide, aid & assist those who can't see, until they can open their own eyes to the realization there really is no such thing as coincidence, or chance. Even in the midst of seeming chaos, there is a degree of harmony in that all occurs according to the order of sowing and reaping. Many of our present realities are results from our either actions or in-actions. It is also possible that we've inherited the action and/or in-actions of our parents & forbearer's. In that case, we have to be ready to raise our thinking to realize and envision all we are entitled to. Not what's been left to us? When we see ourselves in our communities/neighborhoods/'hoods, a lot of our self-esteem is lowered to what surrounds us, the things we see, the crime-rate, homelessness, un-sanitary conditions in such areas as; Overtown, Miami, Florida; Berry Farms, Washington, D.C.; Del Paso Heights, Sacramento, California. We would love to live in places like, Bloomington, Minnesota; Buckhead, Atlanta, Georgia; Park Avenue, New York, New York. Where it seems the grass is greener and the air is cleaner (2), where people are successful. However, the same thing that entitles those people, 'hoods and communities to clean streets, less crime entitles our areas to the same up keep and treatment. As long as we know this, then we can begin to make it a reality. We know we are entitled to earn and own the things we work for. Never would we allow anyone or anything to take that away from us. In the same way everyone in the world is entitled to a good life. By being alive we all have earned this right. The sun shines for everyone the same. But how everyone makes use of that sunshine, will decide if one is able to grow, or feel like they have to seek shelter. The entitlement of life naturally depends on ones state of mind. Not on any conditions or seeming coincidences and chances. Accountability again ties in, with the universal cord which binds those principles one to another, regarding the choices that become our action and/or inaction. It is possible for people to perform activity that bears no fruit. As if they weren't doing anything to begin with. Something like someone who's blind-folded setting out on a journey but going nowhere, only in a small circle because they can't see which way to move forward. With this, a sense of positive expectation is required, to expect thru the magnetism of anticipation those things we know we are entitled to. As unfortunate as it may seem, if you don't have that expectation, basically you got nothing coming. Personally, we all expect to have a cell-phone, a car, nice clothes, shoes, and a flat-screen HD or 3-D television in the house. We take these entitlements for granted, because it's a common thing. But within the bounds of the natural order, what so ever we expect in life becomes an entitlement. Our expectations can work to sow the seeds which will bring in our harvest which magnetic anticipation will guide the choices that father our actions. And our circumstance will exemplify a greater entitlement. We just need a sense of expectation.

Marcus Garvey was quoted as saying, "A man without confidence is twice defeated in the race of life". Why this 'twice defeated'? Simply, not only will the opponent defeat him, but even before he leaves the starting gate, he's defeated himself. One's state of mind ultimately is the deciding factor in all one's endeavors. As progressive Community Builder's, our state of mind must be grounded in positive determination as that driving force behind our expectations that is reflected by our magnetic-anticipation. Such determination is rooted in confidence. And words are not enough; they are only the catalyst to promote creative thought behind wise choices and actions. The wisdom of our universal ancestors is the best guidance for humanity. In an age when the world is beguiled by certain technology that seemingly has arisen anew, many are seduced into the philosophy that there's no need for the old; let's do something different... Why? Is all I want to know; for what purpose under the sun, when there's nothing else that's changed, other than modern man's relation to and with himself and environment. Man's mind has innovated into some kind of un-naturalness, as if he's stricken with amnesia, as to his position and relation in the universal order of things. Old fashion is the best fashion if the new fashion is guided by feelings, and not rationality. Not necessarily referring to clothes, although.... Let me touch on some ancient wisdom again, which has been passed onto us. Have you ever heard of that three-step ladder that true builders use to guarantee their entitlements? Well, the first step is all about belief. What one 'thinks', may be, could be true. The second step is faith. What one knows to be true. 'Aint nobody got to tell you nothing about that second piece, it's a given. The third step is the highest, it's called manifestation, which ties in whatever was believed and known to be true, coming into being. Every Community Builder is prepared to build on the rock of Gibraltar with this simple Three-Step Ladder. To build the true structure meant to last eternally, like the Great Pyramid of Giza---This is THE RESSURRECTION.

-WISE CHOICES BRING BETTER ACTIONS-

Entrepreneurs who look to have their business enterprise last hundreds of years into the future are ever eager and prepared to make the best investments of their time and money now. No price is too much when a chance presents itself to be able to corner the market of the future. Are we prepared to take our communities into the future? Does the reader think the foregoing comparison is out of line, or even far-fetched? How can there be any likely comparison between a business enterprise and a community? When we graduate from the mini-me mind set and evolve to the holistic view, we transform from an 'ice-cube', to an 'ice-berg'. There is greater potential in ones community then in an individual. Just as an ice-berg can move more things, and an ice-cube can melt. Individual



expectations and entitlements are cool, but community expectations and entitlements can be massive. Like that entrepreneur who invests in the futures market guarantees a longer return; it will be good to invest in our community to guarantee a greater holistic return. One that has the potential to affect the "whole" community. When we act on these expectations, we know no price is too great to tap into the potential that lies dormant waiting to be developed. What potential? Let's go back, to another age that proved to be the developing stage for this country, and tap into its history making potential. What can a community do? What is a community entitled to? We should know that is dependent on those who are in it. Our experience in the United States of America is a modern example of what a community, as being the main ingredient of any nation can do. For any people born here, or immigrants, with the proper motivation, knowledge, and preparation, can carve for themselves the conditions suitable to meet, represent and protect their shared interest within their communities. This country as we know it was a result of the development of the so-called Thirteen Colonies. These original colonies made up of women, men, & children, that established the beginning for self-ruled 'States', who would benefit from their exchange of goods and merchandise, and function collectively to protect and preserve their right to freedom within the borders of their extended community's, later to be known as 'Republic States'. Every 'State' being an extension of those collected communities that became bound together in their respected territory under mutually agreed upon ordinances, codes, & laws, which in part operated as oaths of agreement and allegiance for citizenship, with aforementioned ordinances, codes, & laws compiled into one document known as a Constitution for that specific 'State'. These State Constitutions from the previous Thirteen Original former Colonies, take precedence over the Constitution for the United States of America. Before there was a flag with stars & stripes, every state was under the banner of their own unique flag. Before these states compacted to unite as these United States of America, before certain foundational documents were drafted like, The Articles of Association, Articles of Confederation, Bill of Rights, Declaration of Independence, Constitution for the United States of America, the aforementioned 'Sovereign States' had united separately within their territory to declare their rights on the basis of their communally shared interest. This is what a community can do, and what a community is entitled to.

When we look at our communities through these lenses, we get a glimpse to their potential. Kind of like the way a farmer would secure the land with expectations of a plentiful harvest, it would be best if we see our community's with a similar sense of expectation for the future that lies with our families and children. A secure foundation for all children begins with the parents, then the home, with the home outside of home, being that neighborhood/community. From here it is easy to see the importance of schools

which serve our communities, while on the flip-side, how our communities inadvertently function as schools as the primary place of learning and influence on the ever so impressionable minds of our youth (not to mention the adults). Whether we choose to face it or not, our communities are the schools where our young pay the most attention. And have the highest attendance. In some places, we can't get our youth to go to school for a few hours out of the day, for five days a week, yet the youth hang in the streets all hours of the night seven days a week.

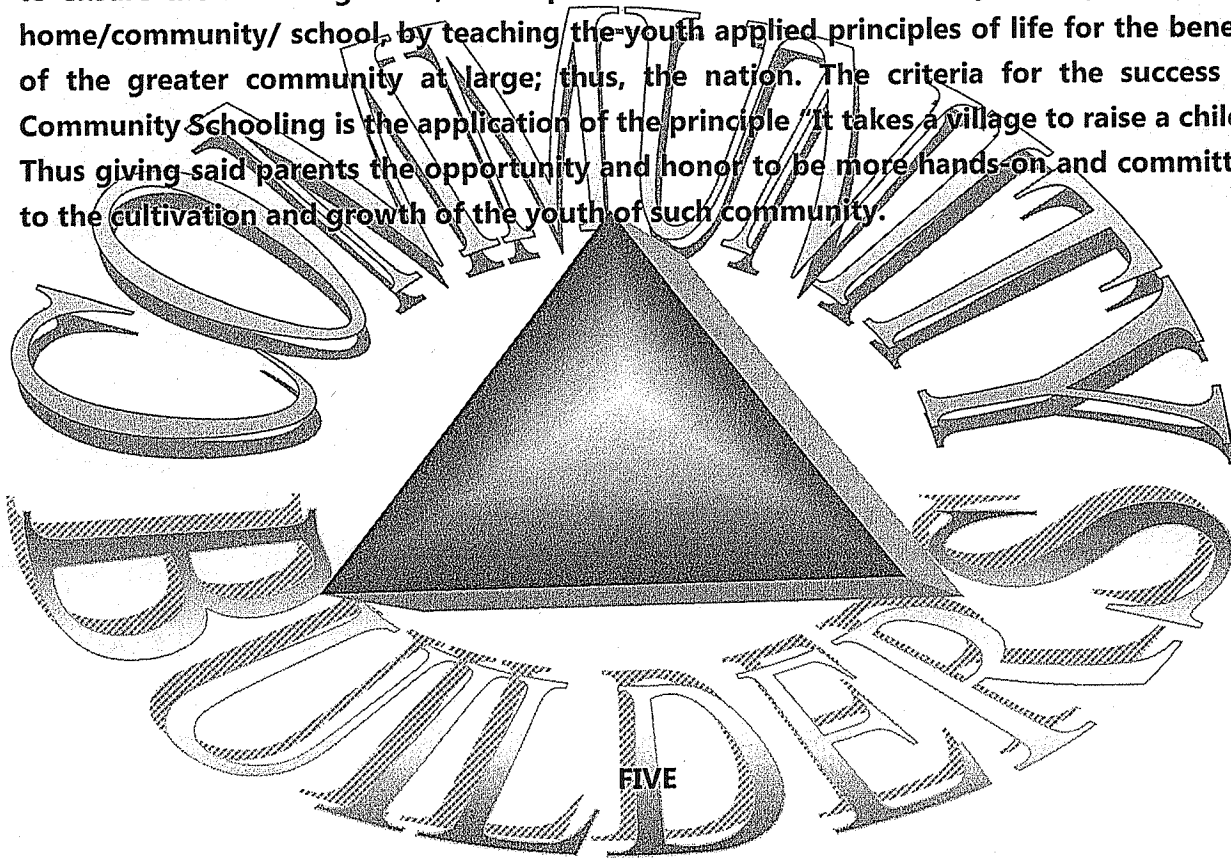
Quite a few states and municipalities have examined their Public-School system, and found it to be lacking, not suitable for mental consumption. In a lot of places, Private Schooling is the order of the day. It goes without question that families are prepared to pay for what they think is best for their youth's education. It's evident many are accustomed and comfortable with this separation between their home, communities, and schools. As if each is something unique and separate from the other. Herein lays the problem, if our youth learn more in our communities/streets/'hoods, then in the schools, then what's needed is to pinpoint just where a 'separation' should take place. Chances are, we need to separate our youth from whatever educational curriculum not meeting the requirement to ensure their growth and development. Let's go back a little more, because if our youth learn more in our communities/streets/'hoods than in our homes, then let's separate ourselves from the non-sense or that lack of energy and commitment we fail to use, that's needed to guarantee our youths growth and development.

We need to be clear about this, when it comes to the youth, the home, community and schools are not separate. They all work together and serve as the 'soil', 'sun' & 'rain' for the best place of germination, cultivation, and development for our youth. If we fail to ensure the best of these for our youth, we limit ourselves, families, communities & nation. And by maintaining this state of in-action, we are only entitled to shock, dismay, and failure.

Home schooling is an alternative many families have chosen as a means of separating their youth from the sub-par curriculum of the modern Public'Fool'System. Home schooling is definitely a plus, yet therein lies a possibility that the child may be sheltered to an extent, that once they are no longer 'sheltered' they may make questionable choices that only bring a greater amount of havoc and disappointment.

Are we prepared to take it the next level? If not then we need to prepare to get prepared, and be ever ready to move out. What is the next level? In light of where we are, an idea comes to mind. Remember, old-fashion is the best fashion if it still works. You know the saying, 'If it 'aint broke, don't try to fix it'. Moreover, this leaves us on better

common ground of Community Schooling. **THIS IS THE RESSURECTION.** The time is now! Community Schooling is public to the youth of the community, while being private from all interest, which do not serve the community. We are talking about a community threshing-floor to produce whatsoever said community needs for its prosperity to secure its entitlement. Community schooling maintains the potential for an exclusive curriculum to ensure the holistic growth, development & maintenance of the youth by way of the home/community/ school, by teaching the youth applied principles of life for the benefit of the greater community at large; thus, the nation. The criteria for the success of Community Schooling is the application of the principle "It takes a village to raise a child". Thus giving said parents the opportunity and honor to be more hands-on and committed to the cultivation and growth of the youth of such community.



COMMUNITY ENFRANCHISEMENT

-WHAT IS COMMUNITY ENFRANCHISEMENT?-

You've come this far, and now the road is clear as what's ahead is easier to see. You're not only seeing with the physical eye, as you read you're inclined to tune your imagination to set the vision in order. The path ahead of a Community Builder has to be viewed with the mind's eye, as a Community Builder is a visionary architect set to bring his blueprint to life. Just what is his blueprint? It's a reflection of the needs, and

aspirations of his community. The Community Builder builds from the common ground of his community with those tools, which will ensure success.

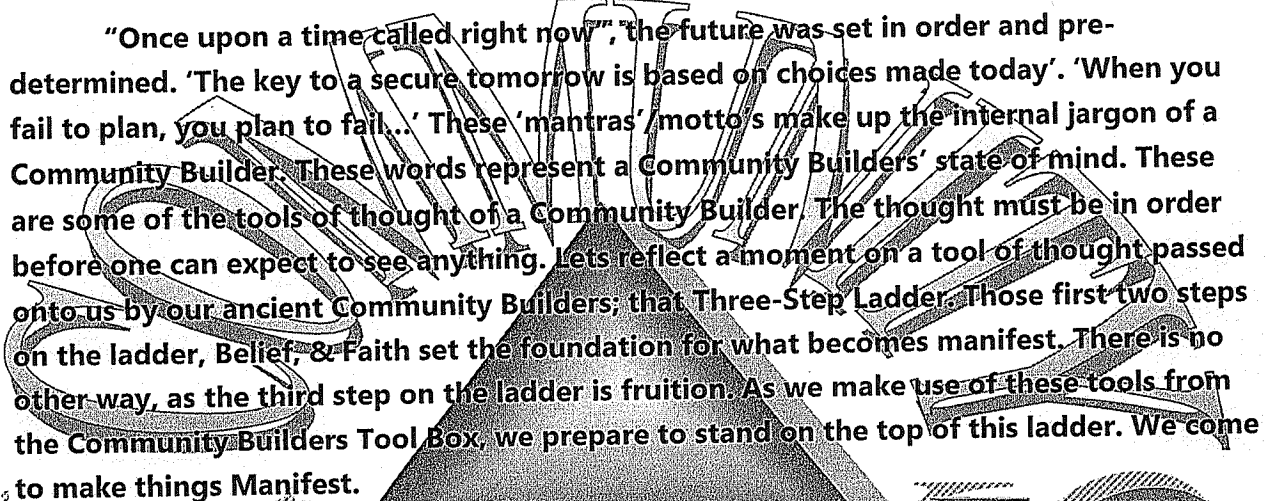
Community enfranchisement is sound economic community development, finding the dominant need of one's community and with the necessary business entity, accommodating that market. This view is nothing to disregard or even take lightly as we may absentmindedly financially contribute in the support of businesses in our neighborhoods such as laundry mats, dry-cleaners, corner & grocery stores not owned by anyone from our neighborhood and community. Moreover, often times, the proprietor's of these seeming irrelevant businesses, do not even come from this country by birth. Whether we realize it or not, we are accountable for our own disenfranchisement. Whether we understand the immediate repercussion of our finance that doesn't have the chance to circulate in and out of the pockets of our own neighborhood and community residents; presently, too many of us within our neighborhoods and communities bear the brunt of the economic disadvantage that such disregard, and absentmindedness carries with it. This community economic disadvantage is kept re-occurring when the money we work hard for has no way or medium to work for us. By spending on and with businesses who have paramount interest outside our communities, we can expect in no way to see our money work for us, or to see it circulate at least 3 to 5 times in our community.

It's as simple as that, many seeming complex social issues, problems and dilemmas can be easily resolved when we learn the value of sound economic community development. It's definitely not rocket science. However, there is a science to being a Community Builder. The formula for Community Enfranchisement in a perfected state has the potential to be self-sustaining and reproductive, ensuring the longevity of community benefits and interest.

Before we look in our Community Builders toolbox, let us look in a place we are supposed to keep our personal tools: The Mind. We as Community Builders need to look inspectingly into our minds, because too many are stuck in '*gaze mode*', caught in '*awe*', by the sight of other people's dreams in manifest... You see, there is another side to the story of the Tortoise and Hare. Not only did the Hare feel secure to win the race due to his speed and ability to cover more ground then the Tortoise. Not only did the Hare feel comfortable to the point of procrastinating to cross the finish line. The greatest lesson was that the Tortoise stayed in the fight, '*thirsty*' so to speak. He wasn't ever satisfied or comfortable. He was always moving, regardless at what pace or how slow. Many are intangibly disenfranchised because of a false sense of security. The comforts of material possessions have us asleep on the side of life's racetrack. Asleep on the sideline with the utter audacity to complain because we're not in the race, or going to win the race. Those

in this state fit the role of the proverbial Hare. In order to be a Community Builder, one has to employ the mind-set of the proverbial Tortoise. Have to stay never satisfied, ever moving, and forever thirsty. "Fur-Eva Baby!" This is Community Enfranchisement. This is Community Building. This is The Resurrection.

-COMMUNITY BUILDERS TOOL BOX-



"Once upon a time called right now", the future was set in order and pre-determined. 'The key to a secure tomorrow is based on choices made today'. 'When you fail to plan, you plan to fail...' These 'mantras' / motto's make up the internal jargon of a Community Builder. These words represent a Community Builders' state of mind. These are some of the tools of thought of a Community Builder. The thought must be in order before one can expect to see anything. Lets reflect a moment on a tool of thought passed onto us by our ancient Community Builders; that Three-Step Ladder. Those first two steps on the ladder, Belief, & Faith set the foundation for what becomes manifest. There is no other way, as the third step on the ladder is fruition. As we make use of these tools from the Community Builders Tool Box, we prepare to stand on the top of this ladder. We come to make things Manifest.

Within the definition of 'enfranchisement', is the right to full citizenship status. The right to vote, and be counted amongst those who choose to maintain their right to self-determination. Either we choose to stand as men, and be responsible and accountable for the seeds we plant, protect the course of their development; or weep like women for things we choose not to correct and were not man enough to defend and maintain.

An international language takes no words to translate. It's called 'money', and all the merchandise and commerce which accompany it. Capitalistic oriented businesses rule the market where the world meets. Can this be the reason why almost every nationality in the world resides in this United States of America? Some don't know how to speak English, but they know the language of dollar's and have the 'cents enough to find their way here. The importance of maintaining a secure finance is not even a question, as many foreigners are so apt to demonstrate within their communities; their communities are built and maintained with various business enterprises. To reiterate the point, they've come, found the market, accommodated it and gotten rich. 'Aint that something.

Every Community Builder knows how to start a business, as the business is one of the corner stone's in the building of the community. In most cities, a Business License can be attained from the Municipal Building. Some areas may vary, but the license is a primary requirement. A Business Privileged License usually carries a small fee. They differ and are determined by what will be sold, where its being sold, etc, for instance, most cities

in areas where there are existing restaurants, have certain ordinances prohibiting food truck vendors from working within 50 to 60 feet of a restaurant selling the same food. So with every license are specific particulars. When applying for a license you must be specific about the type of license, you want, the kind of business etc, Always keep in mind that the biggest business could get its start from a simple vending stand. It could be a cold drink stand on a hot summer's day, or some daily newspapers in a downtown business area.

Having a simple Business Privileged License can act as a key to open many doors and lines of communication with other well known prosperous businesses, and initiate the means to establish credit for your business. Having a Business Account with a local Bank can establish credit through a Compensational Checking Account. Once Banks and other businesses know there's another business in town, they're all ready to do business with you, to establish a lasting network, because business helps to stimulate the economy exponentially, by making the money move.

Credit for your business is very much needed. Let's say you're doing subcontracting as a residential home renovator, and you won't get paid until your work is complete, but you need supplies to finish the job. So you pull up in an industrial hardware store, with a simple Business Privileged License, and they offer you a direct line of credit, instantly. Simple expectations of getting money attract money in the world of business.

To be professional in your business endeavors, to protect yourself and move your business towards the top of the food chain, Bonding and Certification are required. Bonding in and of itself is basic Governmental insurance. Some clients and other businesses mandate their associates be Government Bonded. Certification is official recognition of your business with the required authority to do whatever business you say you do. These can be gained thru your Secretary of State.

Now that you know the market demand in your community, with the necessary business to meet that demand, you now have your initial 3 Degrees of Community Building to Business Networking. ¹Licensing. ²Bonding & Certification. ³Credit. You're ready to build on the rock that is Economic Community Development.

-ENTITY-

What is an entity? Key question that the Community Builder must know, as every business –man is fully aware of, for in the realm of business more than one kind of entity can be used, as one may prove more beneficial than the other, dependent upon what needs to be achieved.

In business terms, an entity has no sentient realness, yet it is 'real' as a recognized fiction with its own measure of existence. It's an organization or business, with a separate identity apart from its members or owners. A Corporate entity for instance exists independently from its shareholders, and it can in its own name, sue, and be sued, lend and borrow money, buy, sell, lease and mortgage property. In the commercial realm, corporations, businesses are vehicles (of relation) that interchange, exchange ideas, goods & services. They are the only legally recognized medium for such exchange. They are ideas unto themselves, and legally recognized as Fictions (not real).

Having control of such a vehicle opens many doors thru which to create, regulate and maintain finance. One just needs to decide which entity they want to use. Which one has the best organizational structure, least tax liability consequence, as although entities have separate legal standing from the real man, the real man can easily be held personally liable for his business/entity debt. At the same time, could pay too much in taxes.

- TYPES OF ENTITIES -

Even small businesses can benefit from knowing the best structure suited to fit their needs and prove to be agreeable to the changing economic forecast, whether personal, national or international.

Sole Proprietorship: Very simple to create and operate the most common organizational structure. As it's owned and operated by one person, still with the flexibility to hire employees. The other popular structure is a;

Partnership: With the same advantages as the Sole-Proprietorship, with flexibility in its operation, they both share the same major disadvantages. Their owner/owners are personally liable for the business debts and any judgments that arise against the business. Creditors can gain access to their personal assets in order to secure payment for business obligations. There's no beneficial tax treatment. With the Sole-Proprietor, there is no separation between the owner and the entity. In other words, a Sole-Proprietorship is not a separate legal entity.

Sound business management is about growth and preparation to meet changing needs. Every day is definitely not the same. Though one may have gained entry to the Private Sector thru a Business Privileged License, one has to be willing to adjust to meet the potential for an increase of revenue, networking and commercial transactions. This is only a portion of the reason why deciding to Incorporate provides many clear advantages. With a Corporation and an L.L.C. (Limited Liability Company), you benefit from that legal separation with the entity and owner(s). Meaning, corporate shareholders, and L.L.C.

owners are protected against liability for company's debts. If the business gets in any serious financial trouble, the law prevents creditors from pursuing shareholders and owners personal assets. As long as the debt was not guaranteed personally.

There's more financial flexibility with Corporations and L.L.C.'s. The potential to raise money thru the sale of stock, bond offerings and loans from commercial sources using corporate assets is non-existent to Partnerships who can't raise capital from selling shares, to investors. Moreover, Sole-Proprietor's finance is limited to the owners' personal assets. Due to the personal liability of Partnerships and Sole-Proprietors, investors are a lot harder to attract. Corporate and L.L.C. owners save on taxes. For instance, a self-employed owner would likely pay 15.3% of their total earnings to cover Medicare and Social Security obligations. Whereas a Corporation or L.L.C. owner pays self-employment tax on only the part of profit paid out as salary.

Credibility paves the way for the business. Just by being in the position to add, "L.L.C.", "Corp.", or "Inc." after your business name warrants respect and credibility, while sending a strong message to your customers, and potential associates, suppliers, and investors. One of the best things about owning and/or taking part in a Corporation or L.L.C., is the longevity principle. Which assimilates in perfect unison with the Community Builder who builds with the design of leaving a legacy? Corporations & L.L.C.'s have unlimited life, beyond any illness or death of its owners. Regardless what happens to the directors or shareholders, the business lives perpetually.

C Corporation- AKA General Corporation

Best Looks:

- a) Without limitations on any amount of share holders or classes of stock, its proper for companies looking to do it big.
- b) Owners can deduct fringe benefits as business expense.
- c) Owners will also be in the position to split corporate profit amongst themselves and the corporation, and pay a lower overall tax rate.
- d) Limited liability from corporate debts.

Disadvantages:

- a) These are more expensive to get going and maintain then the Sole-Proprietorship or Partnership.
- b) You'll get taxed twice as the corporation is a separate taxable entity. Meaning whatever is made from the company gets taxed, along with dividends paid out as part of that persons individual income.

S Corporation-

Best Looks:

- a) Ideally the same as the General Corp., but with a selected special tax status with the IRS, after the corporation is formed.
- b) More ideal for the small business looking to get the advantage of the corporate structure, minus the disadvantage of the double taxation.
- c) Owners are able to benefit in taxes by writing off operating losses on their personal returns.
- d) Owners can save on employment taxes by taking distributions instead of salary.

Disadvantages:

- a) Limited to 75 owners (stock) who have to reside permanently in the U.S.
- b) Only one class of stock, with restrictions of fringe benefits.

Limited Liability Company (L.L.C.)-

Best Looks:

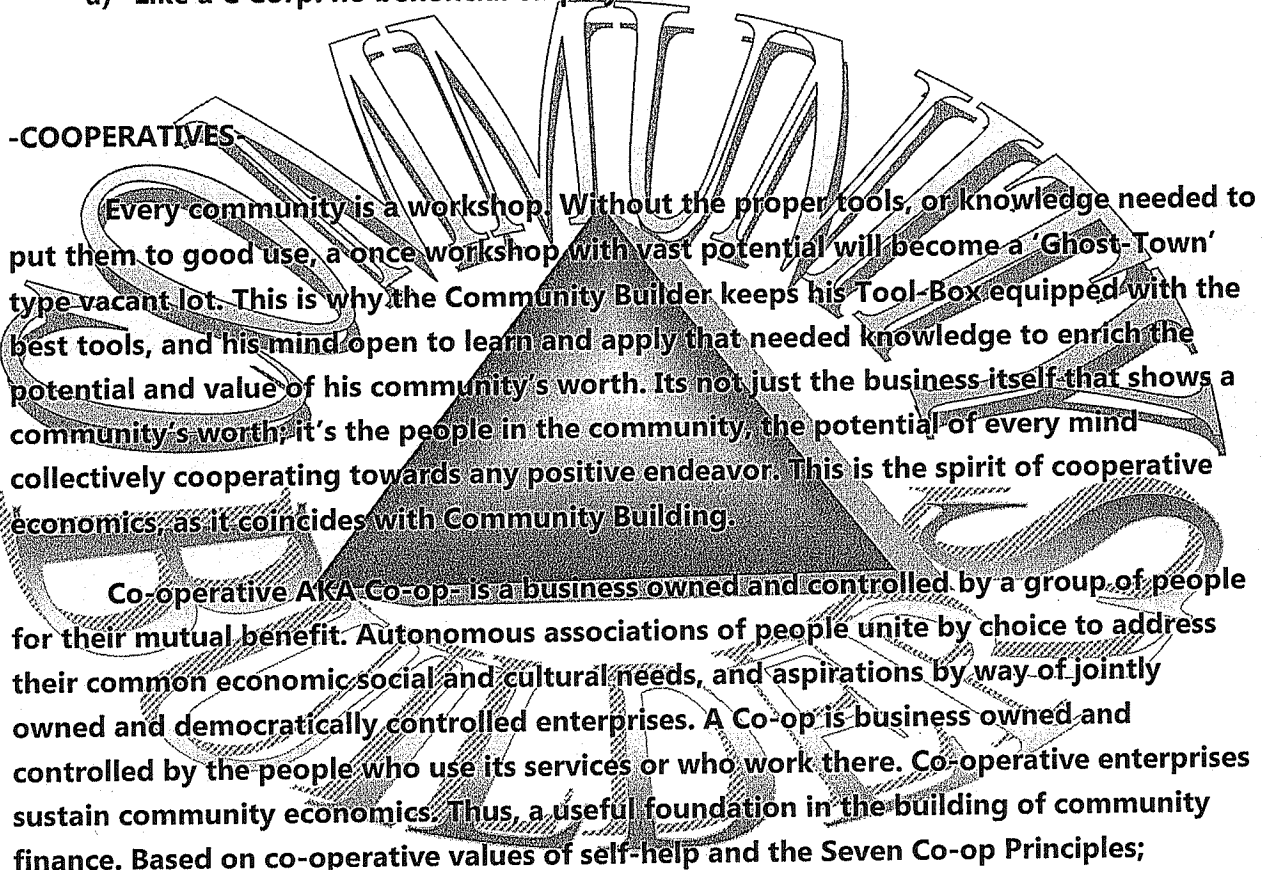
- a) Basically its all good with the L.L.C., as you can create it the way you want it to be.
- b) It merges the best in flexibility of a Partnership with the protection of a corp.
- c) The best of the C Corp. with unlimited owners.

- d) The S Corp. with no double taxation.
- e) The owner(s) can establish their own membership agreements, voting rights and divide income as they choose.

Disadvantage:

- a) Like a C Corp. no beneficial employment tax treatment.

-COOPERATIVES-



Every community is a workshop. Without the proper tools, or knowledge needed to put them to good use, a once workshop with vast potential will become a 'Ghost-Town' type vacant lot. This is why the Community Builder keeps his Tool-Box equipped with the best tools, and his mind open to learn and apply that needed knowledge to enrich the potential and value of his community's worth. It's not just the business itself that shows a community's worth; it's the people in the community, the potential of every mind collectively cooperating towards any positive endeavor. This is the spirit of cooperative economics, as it coincides with Community Building.

Co-operative AKA Co-op- is a business owned and controlled by a group of people for their mutual benefit. Autonomous associations of people unite by choice to address their common economic social and cultural needs, and aspirations by way of jointly owned and democratically controlled enterprises. A Co-op is business owned and controlled by the people who use its services or who work there. Co-operative enterprises sustain community economics. Thus, a useful foundation in the building of community finance. Based on co-operative values of self-help and the Seven Co-op Principles;

1. Voluntary Open Membership
2. Democratic Member Controlled
3. Member Economic Participation
4. Autonomy & Independence
5. Education, Training & Information
6. Cooperation Among Co-ops
7. Concern For Community

In the U.S., co-ops often are organized as non-capital stock corporations, under specific state cooperative laws. However they may also be unincorporated associations or business corporations, such as Limited Liability Companies or Partnerships; these forms are used when members want to allow some members to have greater share or control, or

some investors to have a return on their capital that exceeds fixed interest. Co-ops often share their earnings with the membership as dividends divided among members according to their participation in the enterprise such as patronage, instead of according to the value of their capital shareholdings as done by a joint stock company.

CO-OP GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE

Retailers Co-op AKA Marketing Co-op

- a) Uses members finance to get discounts from manufacturers and to pool marketing.
- b) Common for locally owned grocery stores, hardware stores, and pharmacies.
- c) Members of these co-ops are businesses rather than individuals.

Workers Co-op AKA Producer Co-op

- a) Owned and controlled by its worker-owners
- b) No outside owners, only workers own shares of the business.
- c) Main characteristic is the majority of its workforce owns shares and the majority of its shares are owned by its workforce.

Consumer Co-op

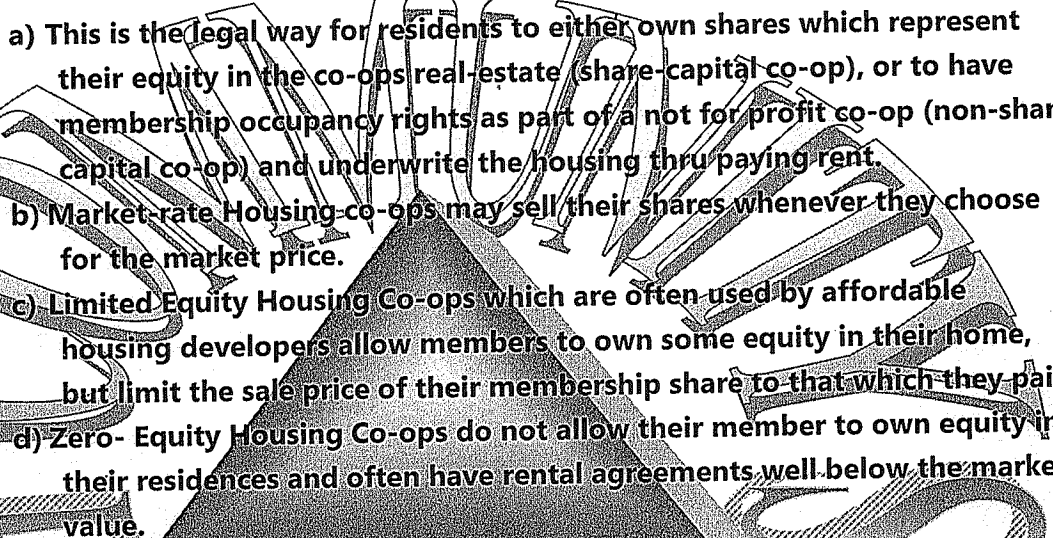
- a) Owned by its customers.
- b) Employees can become members.
- c) Members have majority vote and can elect their Board of Directors from amongst its members.
- d) World-wide, this is one of the largest co-op organizations.

Social Co-op

- a) There are two types; the first brings providers and beneficiaries of a service together as members.
- b) The second brings permanent workers and previously unemployed people together who want to become part of the labor market.
- c) Social Co-ops have legal personality and limited liability.
- d) Their objective is the general benefit of their community and social integration of its citizenry.
- e) Also integrating the disadvantaged into the labor market. While providing health and social or educational services.

CO-OP TYPES-

Housing Cooperative

- 
- a) This is the legal way for residents to either own shares which represent their equity in the co-ops real-estate (share-capital co-op), or to have membership occupancy rights as part of a not for profit co-op (non-share capital co-op) and underwrite the housing thru paying rent.
 - b) Market-rate Housing co-ops may sell their shares whenever they choose for the market price.
 - c) Limited Equity Housing Co-ops which are often used by affordable housing developers allow members to own some equity in their home, but limit the sale price of their membership share to that which they paid.
 - d) Zero- Equity Housing Co-ops do not allow their member to own equity in their residences and often have rental agreements well below the market value.

Building Cooperatives

- a) Members of these co-ops pool their finance and resources to build housing, normally employ mostly their own labor.
- b) Each member is the sole owner of a homestead when the building is complete, and at that point the co-op may be dissolved.

Utility Cooperatives

- a) Type of consumers' co-op tasked to deliver public utilities such as electricity, water, or telecommunications.
- b) Profits can either be reinvested into the infrastructure or distributed to members as dividends based on the members investment into the Co-op.

Agricultural Cooperatives AKA Farmers Co-op

- a) Where farmers pool their resources for mutual economic benefit.
- b) They are broadly divided into; Agricultural Service Co-ops, that provide many services to their individual farming members.
- c) Agricultural Production Co-ops deals with production resources such as land or machinery are pooled and members farm jointly.

- d) **Agricultural Supply Co-ops** aggregate purchases, storage, and distribution of farm inputs for their members. They take advantage of volume discounts and utilize other economies of scale to bring down members costs. They may provide seeds, chemicals, fertilizers, fuel, and farm machinery.
- e) **Agricultural Marketing Co-ops** provide the services involved in moving a product from the point of production to the point of consumption. They often involve a series of inter-connected activities involving planning production, growing, and harvesting, grading, packing, transport, storage, food processing, distribution, and sale. Often promote specific commodities.

Credit Unions & Co-op Banking

- a) Credit unions are cooperative financial institutions that are owned and controlled by their members.
- b) They provide the same financial services as banks but are considered not-for-profit organizations, adhering to cooperative principles.

The use of a cooperative type structure in any community-founded business is clearly the epitome of Community Building. Where every member of the co-op is the boss whose priority is to employ community interest for its financial security. Looking at the co-op types in overview, we see that every facet for self-determining necessities is covered. Foods, clothes, shelter, technology, banking, are all in there. A Community Builder has the wherewithal to not only enhance any community, but if need be, develop any community from scratch. The Community Builder is not intimidated by the seeming state of the world, neither dependent nor waiting on something. A Community Builder is courageous, innovative, and independent for the sake of himself and community.

THIS IS COMMUNITY BUILDING-THIS IS THE RESSURRECTION!!