

# Family Matters

Apr/May/June 2012  
Volume 4, Issue 5

Official Newsletter of the Gillyard-Johnson-Mahoney Family Reunions  
www.gillyard-johnson-mahoney.com

## Editor's Corner

### *Purpose*

According to God's master plan, we all have a purpose; and that includes us collectively as a family unit. In the very beginning God provided foundational guidelines for the family that would keep it solid and keep it strong.

Each of our acts makes a statement about our purpose. When we come together every two years at our family reunion, that simple act builds on our family's purpose and the strength of our family.

August 2-5, 2012, we will be "Honoring Our Past, Celebrating Our Future." We will recall times past and create memories for tomorrow.

We've developed a collective sense of purpose with our commitment to "pay it

forward." Remember when we pay it forward; we are passing on the kindness and gratitude of our ancestors. Look for updates on our website regarding locations and times where we will serve our communities on August 2, 2012.

In the Spotlight, this issue is Pastor Johnnie Griffin (see below). Rev. Johnnie, as I call him, will be our Keynote Speaker for our Dinner Banquet on, August 4, 2012.

I have been so excited about diving into the 1940 U.S. census. I expect that many unanswered questions regarding our history will be answered. The Beatitudes Of A Family Genealogist on Page 2 describes how I feel. It has been an 8 year journey of purpose to discover and uncover all I can about our family.

(Continued on page 4)



## Inside this Issue

Editor's Corner (Purpose)	1
Upcoming Events	1
Family Spotlight	1
The Poetry Corner	2
Healthy Living	3
We Connect, Family Happenings	3
Scholarship Recipients Update ...	4

## Family Spotlight



Pastor Johnnie and Cassandra Griffin

This edition of Family Matters shines the spotlight on **Pastor Johnnie Griffin**. Pastor Johnnie R. Griffin currently serves in the capacity as Associate Pastor and Minister of Music for the True Believers Missionary Baptist Church in Dallas, Texas, where he has served faithfully for 7 years. He also assists in teaching Sunday School as well as preaches in both, the Sunday early

morning and Wednesday night hour of Power service. He has over 20 years preaching and teaching experience. Pastor Griffin was called into ministry in 1976 while serving in the U.S. Army. From 1973 to 1983 he toured several countries; serving in Europe, Korea, Japan; and stateside in Hawaii. He attended Wichita State University in Wichita, Kansas from 1981 to 1983.

After leaving the military, Pastor Griffin wanted to focus on what God would have him do and immediately began his seminary studies in 1983 at The Southern Bible Institute. He is a 1987 graduate of Southern Bible Institute of Biblical Studies in Dallas, Texas and plans to continue his education in Advanced Theology.

Pastor Johnnie Griffin has a passion for the word and God's people. He has been employed at AT&T as an Operations Administrator for 11 years.

He is a family man living in Seagoville, Texas with his wife Cassandra Mitchell-Griffin,

(Continued on page 3)

## Upcoming Events


April 2012  
Reunion Fundraising Event

May 2012  
Reunion Fundraising Event

August 2-5, 2012  
the 5<sup>th</sup>  
Gillyard-Johnson-Mahoney  
Family Reunion


Check our website and your email frequently for all the latest information on the 2012 Family Reunion

## Beatitudes Of A Family Genealogist




Blessed are the great-grandmothers,  
who hoarded newspaper clippings and old letters...

For they tell the story of their time.




Blessed are all grandfathers who filed every legal document...

For this provides proof.




Blessed are grandmothers who preserved  
family Bibles and diaries...

For this is our heritage.




Blessed are fathers who elect officials  
that answer letters of inquiry...

For some...they are the only link to the past.




Blessed are mothers who relate family traditions and  
legends to the family...

For one of her children will surely remember.




Blessed are the relatives who fill in family sheets  
with extra data...

For them we owe the family history.




Blessed is any family whose members strive  
for the preservation of records...

For theirs is a labor of love.



Blessed are the children who never say...  
"Grandma, you have told that old story twice today."



Source: *Prairieland Pioneer*, *Prairieland Genealogical Society*,  
Summer 1995 Edition

For this edition of Healthy Living, we share information on family member, Kaylon Marshall.

Kaylon Marshall, son of Pamela Marshall and the grandson of Inez Marshall, remains in the Ochsner Medical Center in New Orleans. With his heart only operating at 18%, doctors at Ochsner informed Kaylon and his family that he was in need of a heart transplant.

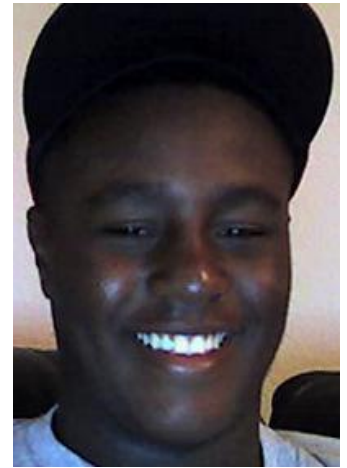
Since its inception in 1984, the Ochsner Multi-Organ Transplant Institute has performed more than 3,500 life-saving liver, kidney, pancreas, heart and lung transplants, making it the Gulf South's leading transplant center. For more than 50

years, the Ochsner name has been synonymous with high quality, multi-specialty care.

Kaylon's mother Pamela who remains in New Orleans with him says that she has to "give thanks and praises to God because He's taking care of everything. I'm thankful for everybody. The love and action has been awesome. I'm grateful for all the prayers."

Let us corporately remain prayerful and stand in agreement for the complete and total restoration of Kaylon's body. We have the VICTORY!

You can send cards and love offerings to Pamela Marshall c/o Inez Marshall, 7201 Classic Circle,, Shreveport, LA



Kaylon Marshall

**Family Spotlight**

(Continued from page 1)

the daughter of James and Lurenner (Gillyard) Mitchell; and their son, Joh'Shun Mitchell-Griffin. Joh'Shun will graduate, May 26, 2012, from Dr. John Horn High School in Mesquite, Texas.

Pastor Griffin has been blessed to minister in preaching and/or music in Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, Michigan, Arkansas, Virginia and Louisiana as well as overseas during his tour of service in the Armed Forces.

His accomplishments include past chairman of Youth for Christ for the Dallas Oak Cliff Ministers Alliance, a delegate to several Baptist General Conventions of Texas, and Sunday School BTU Congress USA Conventions, Texas. In 1975, Johnnie was instrumental in organizing the first Armed Forces Gospel Ensemble at Fort Hood, Texas.

*We are pleased to announce that Pastor Johnnie Griffin's light will continue to shine on us. He will be the Keynote Speaker during our Family Reunion Dinner Banquet, August 4, 2012.*

**We Connect  
Family Happenings**

Submitted by: Family History Team

**February 2012**

**Carvin and Inger Daniels** welcomed the newest addition to their family, son **Caleb**; born on Feb 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**May 2012**

May 20<sup>th</sup> - **Margie Williams**, will graduate from Los Angeles Bible School with a Diploma in Biblical Studies.

May 25 - 27<sup>th</sup> the **Guion/Thomas Family Reunion**, Shreveport, Louisiana

May 26<sup>th</sup> - **Joh'Sun Griffin**- will graduate High School from the John Horn H.S. in Mesquite, Texas

May



Congratulations to all Graduates!



June 2012



We Connect!

Family Historian  
bettiegillyard@aol.com

**Family Reunions  
Mission:**

*To focus on the things that shape us rather than the circumstances that divide us; to strengthen and preserve family as God orders our steps. We value God's Plan, Family, Tradition, and Service.*

**We're on the Web!**  
www.gillyard-johnson-mahoney.com

**KaNesha Gillyard**, a sophomore at Spelman College and one of the three recipients of our first GJM Scholarship, will travel in June, to Cape Town, South Africa. KaNesha and classmates will study at Cape Town University, doing research for a cure for cancer.



(L to R: L'Anthony Davis, Decarius Gillyard and KaNesha Gillyard)

**Purpose**

(Continued from page 1)

In Healthy Living (page 3), we share the information on Kaylon Marshall and his need for a heart transplant

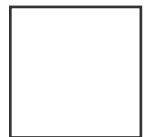
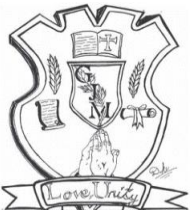
Family is no accident. So I thank God for creating and loving family. *"Everything, absolutely everything...got started in Him and finds its purpose in Him."* (Colossians 1:16). May we all fulfill the purpose that He created for us.

The 5<sup>th</sup> Gillyard-Johnson-Mahoney Family Reunion takes place Aug 2-5, 2012. Refer to [www.gillyard-johnson-mahoney.com](http://www.gillyard-johnson-mahoney.com) for all the details.

We all can purposefully be there. Until then,

Enjoy Your Blessings,

*Bettie*



**RECIPIENT NAME  
STREET ADDRESS  
ADDRESS 2  
CITY, ST ZIP CODE**