

MESSAGE IN THE MEANTIME

4th Quarter 2007

Greg Wilson
Garth M. David
Jammie Hopkins

*HOT
CHOCOLATE
SINGLES
IN LOS
ANGELES*



Victorious

by Jeffrey King
Founder & Executive Director

In *The Meantime 2007* continues to unfold. This year has proven to be one of the most eventful and fruitful years in our history. Operating within our seventh year as *In The Meantime*, we have developed new programs, and hired and developed seven new brothers to facilitate this scope of work.

We have expanded our Board of Directors that now even more accurately reflects the diversity and brilliance that is a fact of our community.

We have hosted a myriad of community cultural events that were designed to educate, celebrate and affirm our people.

Our advocacy on both the state and county levels has made us heroes to some and yet despised by those divisive, ego-driven individuals in places of relative power. Our voice was heard by the State Office of AIDS and yet we continue to be challenged by those who would see Black people die and clumped into categories that minimize our existence. Our recommendations for Black gay men have been met to some degree by the Los Angeles Department of Public Health Office of AIDS Programs and Policy. We have spent countless hours in conferences and meetings to help develop the new HIV/AIDS prevention plan for 2008.

We have strengthened our current programming that includes the NIA Project, The MY LIFE MY STYLE project, The POWER Project and the GAAME Plan. It is our plan to further develop these existing programs and to diversify our funding sources. We have exceeded all of our programmatic goals for all of our programs and continue to challenge ourselves on how we might

better impact Black gay men of all ages.

Both the Wellness for Life Black Men's Health Conference and the Umoja Retreat were clearly defined and have taken on lives of their own. We have a new location for our Wellness conference and both Kwanzaa and King Day have become even more impactful and inclusive as we continue to share our rich history and culture with the larger Los Angeles community.

We are here because we are supposed to be here. We continue to do the work that is required because we are supposed to facilitate this work. We continue to stand up to the perceived adversities that ego-driven individuals continue to present because it makes us stronger.

We enter into 2008 with the theme VICTORIOUS. It is our truth, based on a PURE intention to facilitate good work. We KNOW that our community is better because of *In The Meantime*, and that others who have seen through us what is possible will also emerge and will join us in VICTORY.

"Wake up everybody no more sleeping in bed. No more backward thinkin time for thinkin ahead. The world has changed so very much from what it used to be so there is so much hatred war an' poverty. Wake up all the teachers time to teach a new way. Maybe then they'll listen to whatcha have to say. Cause they're the ones who's coming up and the world is in their hands when you teach the children teach em the very best you can. The world won't get no better if we just let it be. The world won't get no better we gotta change it yeah, just you and me."

SMILE because you have reason to smile. In *The Meantime*, we wish you peace, power and prosperity.

Jammie Hopkins



Jammie Mack Hopkins is a 25-year-old brother, born in Los Angeles and raised in and around Pasadena, California. He was

an undergraduate at UC Davis, earned a master's degree from Cal State Fullerton, and is currently working on his doctorate at UCLA School of Public Health, majoring in Health Services. Jammie also works as a certified fitness trainer and health educator. Jammie is currently serving on the Board of Directors of *In The Meantime* as Secretary.

***In The Meantime* asked Jammie Hopkins to tell us about himself, and this is what he said.**

Growing up, my mentors were my parents, Annie and Mack Hopkins. They instilled in me the value of working hard for what you desire in life, and their relationship served as a constant example of the sacrifices and commitment required to cultivate and maintain true love. My professional mentor is Dr. Antronette Yancey. Her guidance, encouragement and (sometimes tough) love will be instrumental in my development as an "out and proud" scholar and professional.

Right now, my interests and hobbies are owned by the UCLA School of Public Health. When I don't have my head in a book or in front of a computer screen, my favorite thing to do is dance. The freedom of expression and beauty of human motion is amazing to me. I also enjoy reading a good book, mixing drinks, having thought-provoking conversations and working out.

I actually don't date much. I look for three main things in a man: a brilliant



mind, a generous heart, and a positive, healthy outlook on life. I am a very driven, passionate person so I definitely prefer men that have defined goals and are actively achieving them.

What are the key concerns for Black gay men today and how might we address them?

Obviously, the growing prevalence of HIV/AIDS is a huge concern. There are too many of us infected and affected by this tragic disease. Another concern for our community is our severe lack of SELF LOVE. There is far too much jealousy, animosity, "shade throwing" and pessimism involved in how we treat ourselves as Black gay men. Society at large does a great enough job of putting us down. If we truly expect the world to start loving us unconditionally, we must love ourselves first.

What matters most to me in life is living up to my purpose. I honestly feel I was put here to do great things, so my top priority is to be the best man, son, father, mentor, lover, educator, professional, teacher and husband I can be in order to fulfill my purpose.

Calendar

Brothers Reaching Brothers Discussion Group

Every Tuesday, 7:30-9 p.m.
4067 W. Pico Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90019
(Secured parking in Catch One lot)

NOVEMBER

Tuesday, November 6: **The ADODI Project, What's Up With You?** An interactive intensive session that is designed to make you think and or re-think the way you live your life. Facilitated by Spencer Collins.

Wednesday, November 7-10: **U.S. Conference on AIDS, Palm Springs, Calif.** The Brothers of In The Meantime will be there. We hope to see you there. Its time for Black men to stand up and represent for themselves.

Tuesday, November 13: **The Future of the Black Gay Man.** This topic will explore how men see their future as Black gay men in the maturing process. We will identify ways to better integrate men of all ages into society. Panel Presentation.

Tuesday, November 20: **Meet the Men of In The Meantime.** The brothers of In the Meantime will share experiences about their lives, loves and challenges as Black gay men. They will explain why they do this work and what motivates them to stand out front and "represent" on behalf of Black gay men; how they have helped to shape the future of the Black SGL community; where they come from and where they are headed. Panel Presentation.

Tuesday, November 27: **Frederick Smith Book Release Celebration.** In The Meantime will be the first to launch Fred's new book. Don't miss it! Meet Fred here. "The Right Side of the Wrong Bed" sounds hot! Book description: "Breaking all the rules. At 33, Kenny Kane seems to have it all: good looks, a great career as a university administrator, a silver BMW, a sprawling home in the tony hills

of Monterey Park, and a hot firefighter for a boyfriend—that is until he cheats on Kenny with a woman!"

DECEMBER

Tuesday, December 4: **World AIDS Day Community Forum. A United Nation.** Young men from the Black, Latino, API, White and Native American communities will come together for an evening of dialogue that will identify distinct challenges, seek common ground and celebrate the resiliency of young gay men. 7-9:30 p.m.

Facilitated by Shannon Jones and Donta Morrison. Sponsored by In The Meantime and Gilead Sciences

Tuesday, December 11: **Release to Receive.** This workshop will engage brothers in a dialogue to explore the spiritual aspect of "releasing and letting go" of the things in life that no longer serve us. The facilitator will present ways to become open and willing to receive the new for 2008. Facilitated by Otis Nelson.

Tuesday, December 18: **Stepping into Me.** Candle Light Meeting. This evening of reflection and introspection is designed to prepare us for the close of another year and to position us both individually and collectively for the opening of a new and promising 2008. Join us for refreshments and holiday cheer provided by Teddy's Chef Services.

Tuesday, December 25: **Home for the Holidays.** Closed

Sunday, December 30: **Kwanzaa/ Anniversary Celebration. A Combined Celebration: VII.** This year's theme: Victorious. Vintage Hollywood, a new restaurant and bar, 4000 W. Washington Blvd. at 10th Ave. Parking adjacent to the club. Drumming. Live DJ, dancing, no host bar. 5-10 p.m.

5-6 p.m. Hosted champagne reception

6-7 p.m. Kwanzaa presentation/lighting of the candles

7-10 p.m. Buffet feast and dancing

Greg Wilson

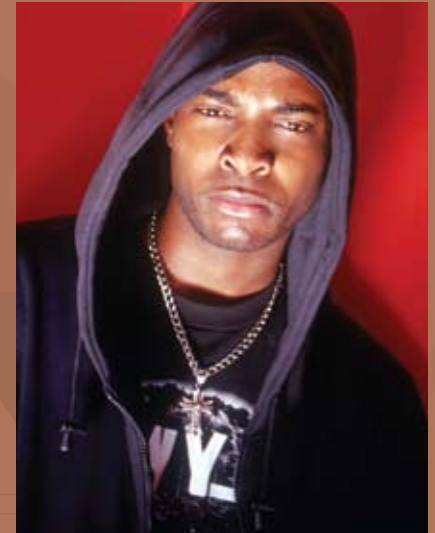
HOT
CHOCOLATE
SINGLES

Greg Wilson is a 26-year-old African American man who has been very instrumental in the Black gay community through his position as a Project Coordinator/Health Educator for In the Meantime's NIA (Purpose Prevention Project).

Greg started as the original Project Coordinator for In The Meantime's MY LIFE MY STYLE program. Through great strides, he has built and established relationships with the young men between the ages of 18-29 in the community. At 195 pounds, this 6'2" individual truly demands attention and respect, and by the responses he is getting from the community, it looks like it is not too hard for him to get it.

Greg has strong family values, and friendship is extremely important to him. Through friendship he has established an extended family and respectfully states that his support structure comprises his mother and three best friends. Another addition to Greg's extended social family is the Legendary House of Ultra Omni, which he joined because they were honorable, classy and gave back to the community through canned food drives and community service activities.

Greg writes lyrics, music, poetry, scripts and is focused on completing his first book by early 2008. Musically, he loves R&B and gospel. One of Greg's hidden passions now is photography. Greg can be adventurous, and said that he is willing to try most things once. Greg then stated, "You've got to live life to the fullest, and enjoy each moment as if it'll be your last!" Greg's also a Christian man who believes that through God all things are truly possible.



Greg is open-minded and he truly strives to respect everyone's individuality. "You have to be comfortable with who you are, and everyone has the right to be who they are!" A giver and helper, Greg is genuine, sincere and loyal.

Greg doesn't date often, but has a lot to offer a potential mate. "Can I find a man with the whole package? I mean handsome, intelligent, sexy, fun, goal-oriented/successful and capable of having great conversation? Is that too much to ask?" he says laughing.

Greg says he's open to dating a wide range of men. He is attracted to men who are comfortable in their own skin, with nice eyes, a pretty smile and sex appeal. Being tall, Greg leans more toward men who are also tall, and at least 23 years old.

When asked how he feels about being single, Greg said, "Until I find someone to share my world with, I will continue making this world a better place to share."

Garth M. David

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Six feet tall, 47 years old, works as a finance executive for an entertainment company. Garth M. David in a nutshell.

But there's more.

A lot more. Garth enjoys reading, going to movies and live theater, especially African American productions. Dinner with close friends and good conversations are always a plus. In his quiet time he likes reading good novels, chilling with some relaxing music in the background and a glass of his favorite red wine.

With his MBA and BA in Business and Psychology, Garth is happy to have achieved his goals but also realizes it is not always about degrees, it's about opening your mind and being able to be positively transformed by your experiences. Some of the smartest and brightest brothers around are not all formally educated, he says, yet they bring to the table a wealth of knowledge.

Garth describes himself by saying: "I have distinguished-looking salt-and-pepper hair, an athletic build, a charming and dynamic personality, the ability to connect with people on all levels." He also adds, laughing, "and I have a sexy West Indian accent."

What do you look for in a potential date?

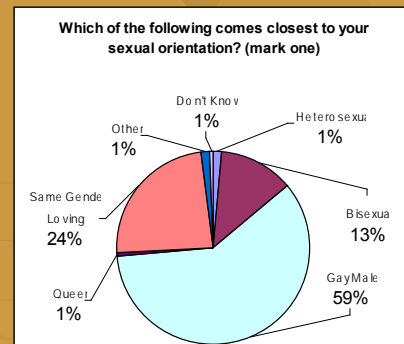
I look for someone who is honest and comfortable in their own skin. I feel that my own life experience has afforded me the ability to have a discerning spirit. So I know when someone is just "running lines" or being real.

Describe your idea of a romantic date?

My idea of a romantic date is going to an unknown place for a bite or sitting



in my car on a moonlit night overlooking the ocean, or watching the sunrise in early morning with that special someone.



Shannon Jones

19 and Growing in the Right Direction

As a Los Angeles native, 19 year old Shannon Jones found himself inspired to make a difference in a community that is suffering a great epidemic. When asked about one of the most valuable life lessons he's learned, he said, "Do your best or be bested."

Shannon is the new MY LIFE MY STYLE project coordinator at In The Meantime. Following in the footsteps of his mentor Greg Wilson, the previous MY LIFE project coordinator, Shannon wanted to begin by impacting the community through the young men between the ages of 18-29 that will participate in his program.

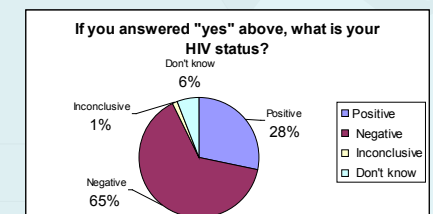
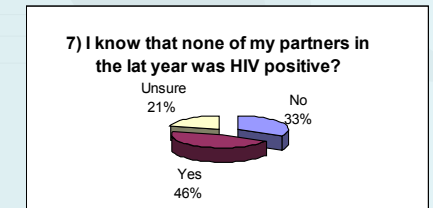
By educating, motivating and inspiring these young men, he hopes to get the young men more involved in the community through group dialogue and discussions, allowing them to have a voice when it comes to issues that concern them. It is important to Shannon to let these young men know that he gets it! He understands what they are going through. Though still adjusting to his position, Shannon has begun building relationships and reaching out to the community.

Shannon enjoys writing, modeling, reading and collecting music. Shannon's varied music collection includes underground Japanese hip-hop and underground music in general. When asked of his dreams, Shannon said, "My dreams are to see the world and make a difference in my community. I want to be remembered for my contribution in the community when I die."

MY LIFE MY STYLE is a program geared towards African American

men between the ages 18-29. My Life primarily focuses on the mental, physical, spiritual and emotional well-being of young men.

The goal of the program is to assist young men with maintaining a healthier lifestyle through education, programming and group dialogue. This is accomplished by providing a safe space and environment where young men can come when they need someone to talk to or somewhere to go. Through group discussions, key topics and issues are addressed, allowing these young men to speak about how they feel and what they are going through. Contact the ITMT office for more information.



In The Meantime Men's Group, Inc.
 P.O. Box 29861
 Los Angeles, California 90029
 323-733-4868
 323-733-4877 fax
www.inthementimemen.org
www.mylifemystyle.net
www.solameth.org

ITMT Programs

MY LIFE. MY STYLE.

**A New Healthy Option
for Brothers Ages 18-29**

- **Bi-monthly meetings**
(open to all gay, SGL, bisexual
brothers ages 18-29)
- **Hot social events!!**
- **Attend empowerment
groups and earn \$100**



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4067 W. Pico Blvd.,
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The NIA Project

For Black Men
of All Ages
Social Discussion
Relaxed Atmosphere
Refreshments

\$100 upon completion
Attendance must be confirmed

4067 W. Pico Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90019
(Secured parking at Catch One)



In The Meantime
Men's Group, Inc.

For more information
323-733-4868
www.inthetimeimemen.org
inthetimeimemen@aol.com

Funded by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and
Prevention and the County of Los Angeles, Department of
Public Health, Office of AIDS Programs and Policy

What 100 Black Gay Men Said about HIV/AIDS, Women and Bisexuals

Should men disclose to their
wives their bi-sexuality?

YES 90% NO 10%

Should people disclose their HIV/
AIDS status?

YES 90% NO 10%

What are the factors that make it
difficult for people to disclose?

**50% Fear of judgment/Lack of
education**

**40% Criticism/ Low self-
esteem/Stigma in the
Black community**

10% Other

Should women be expected to
use condoms today?

YES 90% NO 10%

Should a married woman be
expected to use a condom with
her husband?

YES 50% NO 50%

Should women be expected to
accept bi-sexuality?

YES 60% NO 40%

Do Black women have the right to
be afraid?

YES 100% NO 0%

Have you been involved in a
relationship with a married man or
bi-sexual man?

YES 80% NO 20%

Have you come out to the church?

YES 10% NO 90%

Have you come out to a girlfriend
or wife?

YES 30% NO 70%