

MESSAGE

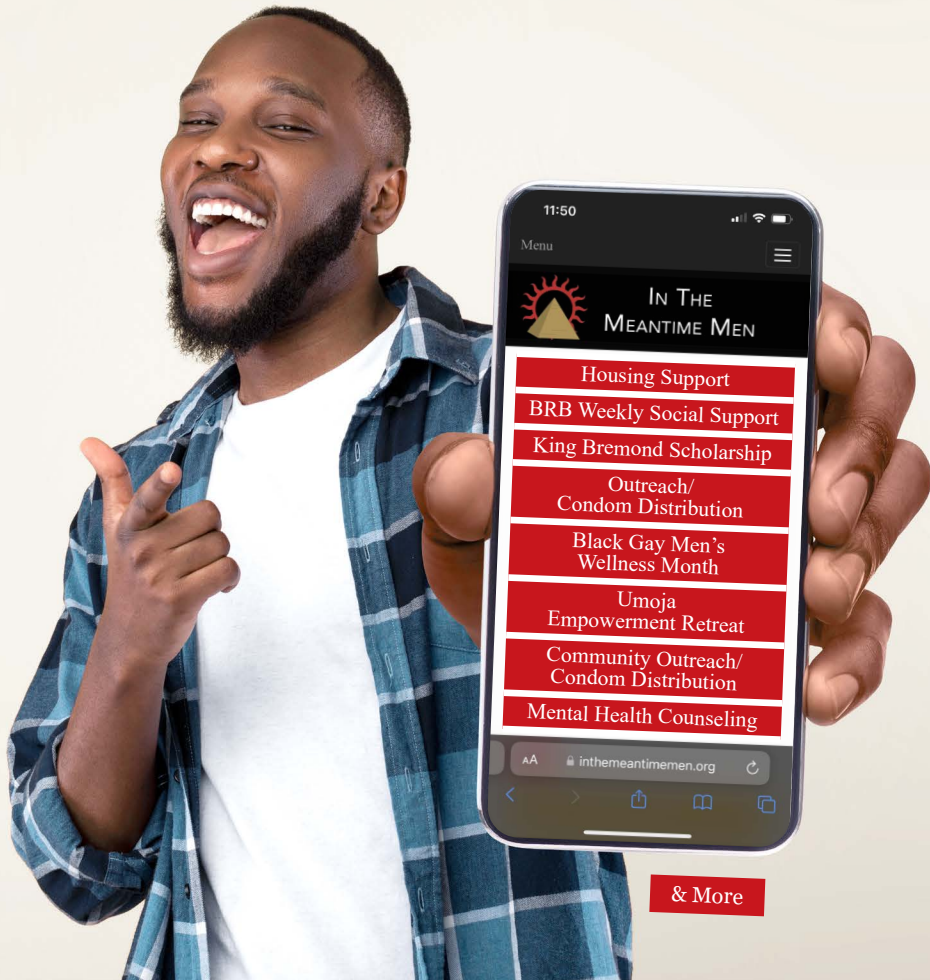
Spring 2023



We got you @ In The Meantime

inthemeantimemen.org

  @inthemeantimemen



Contents

Spring 2023

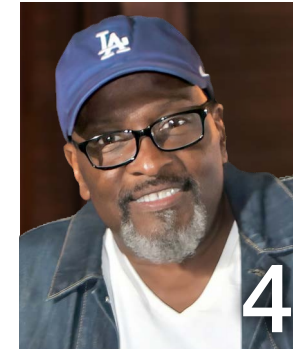
EDITOR AND PUBLISHER
Jeffrey C. King

ART DIRECTOR
Alan Bell

PHOTOGRAPHY
Jeffrey C. King
Steven Williams

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Joel Byrd, M.D.
Ronald Jackson
Stewart Jones
Jeffrey C. King
Earl Wooten

ON THE COVER
Jeffrey C. King
and Rabia Dahal



- 4** Planning for the Future
- 6** God Will Provide
- 11** ITMT 25th Anniversary Celebration
- 14** ITMT Annual Kwanzaa Celebration
- 16** ITMT National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day Celebration

Message is published quarterly by In The Meantime Men's Group, Inc., 2146 W. Adams Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90018-2039. Mailing address: P.O. Box 29861, Los Angeles, CA 90029-0861, 323-733-4868, inthemeantimemen@aol.com, www.inthemeantimemen.org, Facebook @inthemeantimemen

© 2023 In The Meantime Men's Group, Inc. All rights reserved.

The slogan "Creating Unity and Affirming Our Common Bond" is a trademark of In The Meantime Men's Group, Inc. Views and opinions expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of ITMT. Publication of the name or photograph of a person does not indicate the sexual orientation or HIV status of the person or necessarily constitute an endorsement of ITMT or its policies. Message is designed for educational purposes only and is not engaged in rendering medical advice or professional services. Some photographs in this publication use professional models.

Planning for the Future

A Deeper Love Requires a Deeper Responsibility

By Jeffrey C. King



Happy New Year, Family, and welcome to In The Meantime 2023. Our theme for the year is, "A Deeper Love." In The Meantime will explore ways to organizationally operationalize our theme through the leveling up and delivery of our programs and services.

As I remain present and committed to the work of In The Meantime, I also feel a deep sense of responsibility for our future. Thus, I have been working on our plan for succession.

I will never retire from service. However, I will evolve and transition from my current position as Executive Director of In The Meantime at some point. In 2022, I met with board members and advisors to discuss what succession might look like for a guy like me. I spent the balance of 2022 meditating and consulting the source of every good and perfect gift. I got an answer, and I would like to share it with the community as it firms up, evolves, and one day will manifest.

First and foremost, I will never walk away from In The Meantime. That would be like abandoning my child. I will always be connected to the work that I was given to co-create and facilitate.

Secondly, there is no one identified person who is slotted to step into my current position. I envision transitioning to a consulting position that will support the future development and infrastructure of the operations.

There are a few important facts that many people may not be aware of:

1 In The Meantime has been a stand-alone 501c3 non-profit community service organization for the past 25 years and counting.

2 In The Meantime has a committed board of directors

that has supported, advised, and protected the integrity of the organization for many years.

3 In The Meantime has always maintained its own CLIA waivers for its storefront and mobile HIV testing.

4 In The Meantime's bookkeeping and accounting have been maintained by two individuals who have been integral to the formation and development of the organization. Both individuals are a part of the advisory group positioned to assist with succession.

5 In The Meantime has been gifted with relationships with some of the most brilliant and supportive people in Los Angeles County. They have been identified, and all have agreed to support ITMT's board of directors at the time of succession.

As part of In The Meantime's succession planning, we have developed a long-term advisory body that will support the board of directors when the time comes for the current leadership (me) to transition.

As a guy who paid for his cremation 20 years ago and has completed his living trust, will, health directives, and retirement plan, I feel strongly about leaving In The Meantime and the world a better place, whenever that time comes.

I see a long, prosperous, and healthy life for myself as I move into my senior years. This journey continues to be breathtaking and filled with incredible moments of light, love, laughter, and a longing for more. I have no regrets, and today I continue to celebrate the unfolding of God's master plan for my life and the life of In The Meantime.

Jeffrey C. King is Founder and Executive Director of In The Meantime Men's Group.

God **Will** Provide

25 Years of In The Meantime Work in Our Community is Living Proof

By Jeffrey C. King



In The Meantime celebrated 25 years of community service at the Millennium Biltmore Hotel's Gold Room on Saturday, December 10, 2022. Jeffrey C. King, In The Meantime's Founder and Executive Director, delivered a compelling narrative highlighting the intentional birth, development, and implementation of In The Meantime Men's Group, Inc., as we know it today. His words follow.

Twenty-nine years ago, I told God that I wanted to live and that I would do whatever it took to stand up and be a better version of myself. It was my intention to heal the broken, the wounded, the scared, and the vulnerable.

And then God!

I set out on a journey of self-discovery, sobriety, spiritual exploration, and retooling myself for the marketplace. I worked a full-time job, attended to my academic studies, attended recovery meetings, managed my internships, and funded In The Meantime out of my very shallow pockets. It was my intention to create a better life for myself, to help others, and in some little way make up for the time that I had lost in the wilderness.

And then God!

I interned at a number of organizations working with various populations struggling with a number of critical life issues. My friends were continuing to get sick, and many had already disappeared into the silence feeling ashamed and unworthy of God's love. I began to work behind the scenes helping to raise money for the AIDS Walk and making donations to organizations like Minority AIDS Project LA. Struggling with my own internalized homophobia and traumas, I wanted to remain invisible working in the background. And then, the time came when I had to answer the question, What are you doing In The Meantime? As I struggled to manage my own survivor's remorse and to give meaning to the Why me? and the

How did I get to still be here? and, In The Meantime, what's next?

And then God!

Through the introduction of my spiritual gurus, including Archbishop Carl Bean, Jenenne Macklin, and Michael Bernard Beckwith, I began a daily practice that opened up the windows of my faith and a belief in the infinite possibilities that exist and to the idea that I, too, could be a changemaker in a world where few hearts survive. In a culture plagued by sarcasm and cynicism, fear, and self-hatred, I saw beautiful Black gay men struggling just like me to find their way through this long and winding pathway called life. And so, In The Meantime, we began the work, stepping into the unknown with a sense and confidence that God is either everything or nothing all.

For the past 25 years, I have been awakened at 5 a.m. by an urging and flow of prayer and ideas. It was on one of those early mornings that I wrote a mission, a vision, and a challenge.

OUR MISSION

(written 25 years ago):

We seek to create a safe and supportive environment for men of African descent. We focus on issues that directly affect our community: relationships, health, spirituality, and economics. We encourage a relaxed social environment respectful of sexual orientation. Our goal is to enrich and empower lives.



VISION

(written 25 years ago):

We envision the creation of a physical space specifically for In The Meantime. This space will become a cornerstone for learning, networking, socializing, and personal growth, while providing service-related programs for our community.

CHALLENGE

(written 25 years ago):

We challenge ourselves to achieve a greater sense of responsibility to our ancestry, ourselves, and to those who will follow. We strive to become better brothers, better sons, better fathers, better lovers, better friends, better role models, and better people in the meantime and until the end of time.

When a path has been set, God will provide the wind beneath your wings that will allow you to fly even higher than you could ever imagine. Incredible people will appear, like Carl Highshaw, Earl Wooten, Joel Byrd, Stewart Jones, Gary Gregory, Roger Quinney. Great mentors and teachers like Michael Weinstein, Cynthia Davis, Jewel Thais Williams, and Claudia Spears who continue to extend a hand and provide

incredible resources to lift us up. The list goes on and on.

We are thriving today beyond the recession, epidemics, and pandemics because you continue to support and feed into this intention that goes far beyond myself. It includes thousands of Black gay men who have entered into the love and care of In The Meantime. So here we are tonight celebrating 25 glorious years as a stand-alone 501c3 non-profit community service organization.

And then God!

Thank you all for coming out tonight and know that I love and respect each and every one of you. We could not imagine celebrating this milestone without you being here beside us. In closing, take a look around the room. Now, repeat after me.

Look at God!

OUR REIMAGINED MISSION

In The Meantime Men's Group, Inc., is purposed to enrich, empower, and extend the lives of intergenerational Black men, respectful of sexual orientation, through social, educational, health and wellness programs and services.

Jeffrey C. King is Founder and Executive Director of In The Meantime Men's Group.

Y O U C A N H A V E I T A L L



BoiRevolution

LA'S HOTTEST URBAN SOCIAL CLUB

Young Black Gay Men 18-29 Years of age

@BoiRevolution2017 @inthemeantimemen

323-733-4868

- Quarterly Social Events**
- Community Outreach/Condom Distribution**
- MyLife MyStyle**
Health Education Empowerment Series
- Throw It In The Bag**
Drop-In Social Discussion Groups
- LIFE**
Personal and Professional Development Trainings
- The Bridge**
Resource Linkage and Referral Service
- In The Meantime Get Tested**
HIV Testing and STI Screenings/Peer Navigation

This project is supported by funds received from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health, Division of HIV and STD Programs

Reclaiming OUR Pride

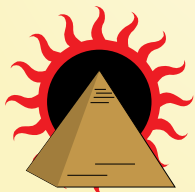
In The Meantime's Annual
Black LGBTQ+ Pre-Pride
Juneteenth Celebration and Love-In 2023



Sunday
June 18, 2023
2-5 pm

The Carl Bean House
2146 W. Adams
Los Angeles 90018

Free
to
All



Art, Music, Culture, Food, Dancing,
Games, Entertainment,
Wellness Station,
Vogue Contest, Spades Tournament

ITMT 25th Anniversary Celebration

December 10, 2022

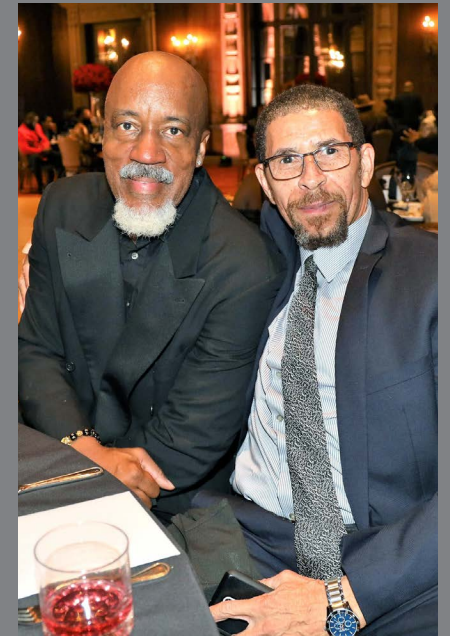
In The Meantime's Executive Director, Jeffrey King, and long-standing board member Earl Wooten wove an honest and potent narrative of In The Meantime from its inception over 25 years ago. King shared the intention of the organization that was set to be a Black/Black gay malecentric holistic grassroots movement and focal point for personal and professional development.

The opulence of the Gold Room at the 100-year-old iconic Millennium Biltmore Hotel was warmed and elevated by the attendance of iconic figures in the Black/LGBTQ+ community including the likes of community mother Jewel Thais Williams, Rev. Freda, Michael Weinstein, Rev. Russell Thornhill, Jenenne Macklin, Mother Devine Gorgeous Gucci, and powerful leaders who have stood alongside and assisted in the development and support of In The Meantime such as Steven Simon and Carl Highshaw.

The electrifying B. Thompson music medley was a full spiritual experience, and everyone felt it. Virtuoso pianist Byron Smith opened our hearts with his gift as only Byron can. The dedicated staff of In The Meantime came together to celebrate the journey of 2022 with all of its ebb and flow. There was great food, and DJ Ben was, as always, *amazing!* Everyone walked away with a luscious Balmori Balmori candle.

A special thanks to Adriono Aldridge who made the flow as smooth as butter. The banquet staff were consummate professionals of the highest standard.

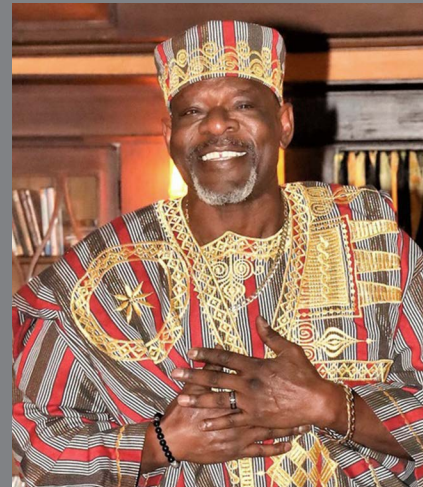




ITMT Annual Kwanzaa Celebration

December 27, 2022

In The Meantime's Annual Kwanzaa Celebration returned to the Carl Bean House after a brief COVID pause. The room was filled with a great sense of warmth and connection. Community members enjoyed a hearty meal. Libation was poured after the elders gave permission to begin the celebration. Ronald Jackson layered the spoken word with the delicate beating of the drum as selected community members lit the seven sacred candles on the Kwanzaa Kinara. Dorothy Randle Gray spoke on the theme "Intentionality." As we closed an incredible chapter of 2022, we opened the door to the infinite possibilities awaiting us in 2023.



National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day

February 7, 2022

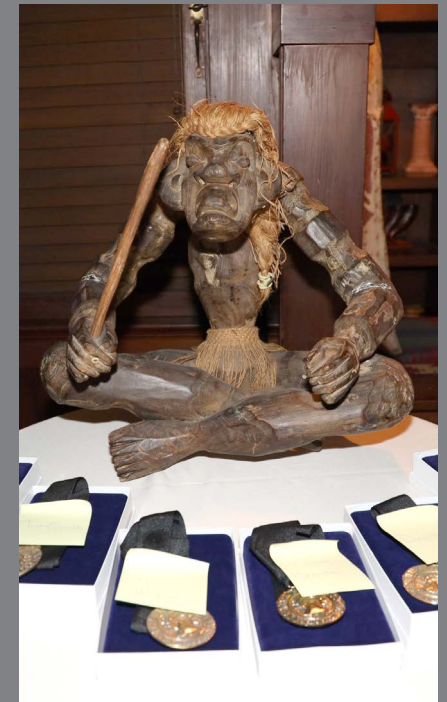
In The Meantime hosted its first signature community event of the year, Preaching to the Choir, on National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day.

The first ever Black AIDS monument was surrounded by 42 candles to recognize 42 years of HIV in the U.S. A stunning all-white wreath was placed alongside the monument that reads, "pouring into each other." The parlor of the historic Carl Bean House was filled with love and light. There is something magical that happens when our people come together to commemorate and to celebrate our own. It is our nature to warm a room and to elevate the vibration of healing through the sharing of food, laughter, prayer, and affirmation.

Jeffrey King said, "As I consider legacy, I will carry with me the incredible feeling of pride and privilege that comes with walking alongside amazing changemakers on the planet—each endowed with super powers and a willingness to share, heal, and uplift our people."

Congratulations to Greg Wilson, Terry Smith, JavonTae Wilson, Donta Morrison, Icon Devine Gorgeous Gucci, and Stephen Simon. Thank you, Ben Carlton, for bringing the evening together as our MC. You wove an amazing tapestry and showed us how it's done. Chef V of Indulgent Catering, So Lynn Staffing, and the small but mighty In The Meantime staff created a platform for this monumental event to build and grow.

www.blackaidsmonument.org www.inthymeantimemen.org #nbhaad
#nationalblackhivaidsawarenessday #itmtmedalofhonor #preachingtothechoir
#uplifted #celebration #blackexcellence #blackhistory #Blackpower
#inthymeantime #inthymeantimemen





READY TO PLAY?

freeSTDcheck.org

AHF WELLNESS CENTER

2146 West Adams Blvd
(855) 783-2434



AHF

▶ FOR
BLACK
GAY MEN
18-29

U ▶ TEST ◀ U

U Test U provides FREE HIV home test kits that you can use in the privacy of your own home. This is In the Meantime's latest effort to support your overall wellness.

YOU CAN

- Coordinate a pick-up or drop by 10-4 p.m. M,W,TH,F, and 3-7 p.m. every Tuesday at 2146 W. Adams, Los Angeles, CA 90018
- Stop by our Mobile Testing Unit when you see us in the community
- Check us out when we're in the clubs
- Call our Mobile Testing Hotline 818-441-1216, 323-733-ITMT

If your
test shows
reactive or
HIV+ call 818-
441-1216 or
323-733-ITMT

This program is supported by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as part of a financial assistance award totaling \$9 million with 100 percent funded by CDC/HHS. The contents are those of ITMT and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement, by CDC/HHS, or the U.S. Government.

