



ISAAC — DOING JUSTICE

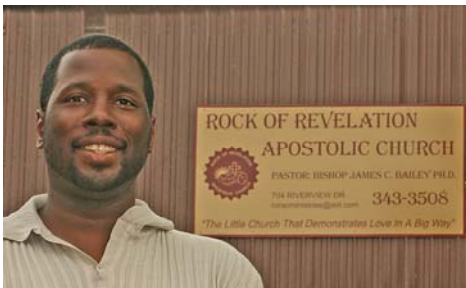
*An interfaith organizing network of congregations and strategic partners
working together to build a more just community*

Sept 2008

Minister Maxwell's Story Impact of ISAAC training

The training ISAAC sent me to was like the Fourth of July—fireworks in my soul!

When I went to training I found out there was a movement going on, and I wasn't aboard. I needed to get aboard and be involved. God



Minister Edward Maxwell who went to Gamaliel training (African American Leadership Commission) in June
Photo: Amy Peterson

cares about *humanity*. *Justice for all*. It set me on fire.

I was raised in a home where we didn't vote. All our energies went to surviving. I never knew there were people out there fighting for things like health care for everybody, for old people who can't afford it, like my mom.

I didn't excel in school, so I was always told I wasn't going to amount to anything. But at training,

At training, I felt the leader in my spirit. I felt the leader in my spirit. I gained the knowledge that you have the power to make anything happen, if you just work together.

I came home and helped organize the Eastside Public Meeting. It

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Business owner & Care-A-Van rider
Rick Hume. *Photo: Amy Peterson*

Rick Hume's Story ISAAC's impact on transit

I've been riding Care-A-Van since its conception, a good 20 years ago. Being visually impaired and not able to

drive, I needed to come up with a ride to get to my business. I have a congenital disease that causes low vision in your youth and 20s then loss of vision in your 30s. You're left with only light perception, can't recognize a face. You have to adapt!

Care-A-Van is adaptive transportation. It's wonderful to have that independence. Door-to-door service means I've been able to get a ride to my work for over 20 years. I can go and visit my dad in Plainwell. I can even work out after work.

I always thought it was a pity that Care-A-Van wasn't more solidly funded like other

cities. It's a really good move to fund transit with county-wide funding. It's an extremely impor-

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ISAAC 2008 PUBLIC MEETING

Thursday evening
October 23

6:00 Registration & Music
7:00 Program

Galilee Baptist Church
1216 N. Westnedge Ave.

COME!

**Support solutions for our
community:**

- Jobs/Economy/Transit
- Youth Violence Prevention
- Early Childhood Education

Spread the word!

*Help us get
1500 people there!*

ISAAC

*Interfaith Strategy
for Advocacy & Action
in the Community*

Gamaliel Foundation Affiliate

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Min. Maxwell *from page 1* was like my own little baby. We put forth a lot of effort and we accomplished something. We brought the people and the officials together, and we got a response. It brought a lot of pride and hope.

I felt the leader in my spirit again when I was talking to the Mayor from the pulpit at the Eastside Public Meeting. Here I am, once called a nobody, talking to the Mayor! I heard my voice on the news! This is something that God is doing.

I'm excited about the direction God has put on my life. Whatever we set our minds to we can do—we just need to be about God's business."

The Eastside Public Meeting that Minister Maxwell helped lead was organized by ISAAC congregations, Rock of Revelation Apostolic and Open Door Ministries COGIC, guided by ISAAC



Chief Hadley and Bishop Bailey (Rock of Revelation) talking at the Eastside Public Meeting in August at Open Door Ministries. *Photo: Yolanda Thrash*

organizer Jomil Wells. 35 volunteers knocked on 400 doors to do a Community Needs Assessment. The top 3 concerns they heard became the agenda for the meeting, with public officials' responses: 1) Drugs, Speeding and Loitering - Lt. Stacey Randolph & Chief Hadley agreed the police would do one-on-ones with 30 residents a month to build cooperative relationships.

2) Abandoned Housing - Kalamazoo Anti-blight Manager Tim Muelenberg agreed to work with

Rick Hume *from page 1* tant service. It's one of the things people look for when they decide whether to live here. The new longer hours makes it even more valuable. It's real imperative to keep supporting public transit for the county!"

ISAAC and the Disability Network together founded Friends of Transit for Kalamazoo County, which has been working for the creation of the county-wide transit system that Rick Hume and so many other people in our county need--to get to jobs, medical care, education, shopping, recreation and religious and civic events.

ISAAC, through Friends of Transit, has helped in the creation of the Kalamazoo County Transit Authority, the addition of the three new Portage bus routes, and the expansion of evening and Saturday hours.

The next challenge is to get the County-wide millage approved. Join us in working to pass the November 4 millage and create seamless transportation options throughout the County!

neighbors to prioritize buildings and report back in Sept.

3) Recreation - Mayor Bobby Hopewell, who grew up on the Eastside, agreed to be a champion for an Eastside recreation center with sustainable funding.

Channel 3, Channel 17 and the *Gazette* were all there.

What made such a success possible? The Gamaliel training that ISAAC offers, helping ordinary citizens become leaders.



Eastside Public Meeting *Photo: Y. Thrash*

ISAAC Task Forces

Jobs/Economy/Transit

Co-chairs: Tom Powell, (temp), 1st Congregational and Scott Keeler, St. Catherine of Siena



Youth Violence Prevention

Co-chairs: Wendy Flora, Christian Church - Disciples of Christ and Kim Ross, Rock of Revelation Apostolic Church



Early Childhood Education

Co-chairs: Rev. Carol Richardson, Christian Church - Disciples of Christ and Shay Cobb, Open Door Ministries COGIC



Housing

Co-chairs: Tobi Hanna-Davies, St. John's Guild & Kathy White, Galilee Baptist



CB Alliance of SW Michigan

Co-chairs: Rev. Milton Wells, Open Door Ministries and Chad Miller, Carpenters Union



The task forces formed at the Issues Convention in May have been doing one-on-ones with people with expertise on their issues. By October 23, when 1500 people will be at the ISAAC Public Meeting at Galilee Baptist, each task force will have narrowed their focus to a winnable policy change they will present and ask elected officials to publicly support.

Get *ISAAC-Doing Justice* in full color each quarter, and help us save resources. Send your e-mail address.

Yes! Minister Maxwell's story and Rick Hume's story are powerful examples of the transformation I believe in!

Yes! I share ISAAC's vision of hope, opportunity and God's abundance for all people!

Yes! I am coming to the ISAAC Public Meeting to support *more* solutions for Kalamazoo County!

Yes! I want to support ISAAC to build a more just community!

ISAAC needs the support of people like you in order to continue in our blessed endeavors. Without your contribution, we are unable to bring about changes we believe in.

Did you know a contribution of as little as \$5 a month can make a huge difference? That's \$60 a year, and when that tributary flows in with the donations of others, we have a river of power able to surmount any financial obstacle.

Please consider giving. Because yes, we can create a just community.

Please send your pledge to: ISAAC, 412 E. Michigan Ave, Kalamazoo MI 49007

Become a more powerful leader! Go to Gamaliel Leadership Training

Teaching ordinary citizens to unleash power within themselves to collectively impact social, political, environmental, and economic decisions affecting their lives.

★ **Gamaliel "Weeklong" Leadership Training**

Sun 7 pm-Sat noon Offered four times a year:

Nov 11-17 Techny, IL **March 1-8** West Coast

★ **International Leadership Assembly Dec 4-6** Location TBA

★ **"Ntosake" Women's Leadership Training**

Jan 29-31 St. Louis, MO

ISAAC pays for training for members of dues-paying congregations and organizations.

Meals and accommodations are included.

You only need to pay for your transportation. Call ISAAC, 341-4213

Which scriptures inspire you?

...and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God? *-Micah 6:8*

Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves; ensure justice for those who are perishing. Yes, speak up for the poor and helpless, and see that they get justice.

-Proverbs 31: 8-9

Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke? *- Isaiah 58:6*

So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets.

- Matthew 7:12

None of you [truly] believes until he wishes for his brother what he wishes for himself. *- # 13 of Imam*

Al-Nawawi's Forty Hadiths


Whatever your faith, ISAAC gives us a way to work together to build the kind of community we hope for.



Join us! Be there October 23!

Come and see the difference we can make!

ISAAC President
Overseer Daniel Cunningham

 **ISAAC** — DOING JUSTICE
412 East Michigan Ave.
Kalamazoo, MI 49007-3888

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SAVE the DATE!
ISAAC 2008 Public Meeting
Thursday evening
OCTOBER 23

1500 people standing together
with solutions to community issues

- **Jobs/Economy/Transit**
- **Youth Violence Prevention**
- **Early Childhood Education**



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Oct 23

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**FAITH &
DEMOCRACY**



**Gamaliel
Foundation**

*Stand for Justice by being there!
Give our elected officials
& candidates
your support for change:*

**JOBS/ECONOMY/
TRANSIT**



**YOUTH VIOLENCE
PREVENTION**



**EARLY CHILDHOOD
EDUCATION**

