

Archon John C. Moore

Alvetta: Who is going to buy it and who is going to read it?

John: Family will buy it and that's enough.

Thus went the conversation when Archon John C. Moore told his Archousa that he was going to write a book about the odyssey upon which the two of them had just embarked. Each of them knew how this journey would end, and they thought they knew how much time they had to spend on it. Archousa Alvetta had just undergone palliative surgery after being diagnosed with an aggressive, incurable type of brain cancer to which most succumb within six months. Now she and Archon Moore were on a 1,100-mile drive from Florida back to Toledo.

ALVETTA

By Archon John C. Moore
Alpha Phi Boulé

iUniverse, 2008

Reviewed by:
Archon Jason Ofori
Grapter, Alpha Phi Boulé

Moore and contributions from Archousa Alvetta herself, family, friends and health-care workers. There are numerous touching anecdotal recollections of events – commissions and omissions, both ordinary and transcendent – that form the pillars of the couple's fifty-one years of marriage. The reader gets an insight into the impact, for better or worse, that offers of help, cards, flowers, visits, words of support

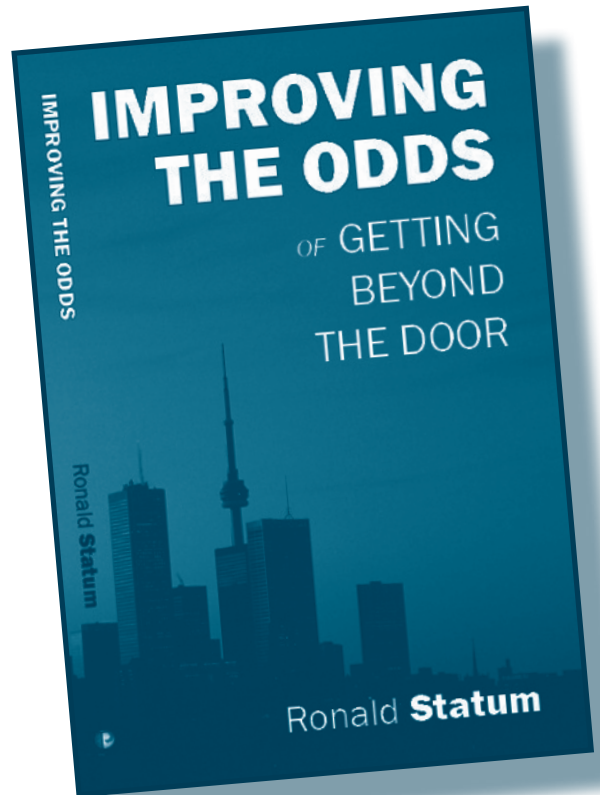
and best wishes have on the patient and surviving spouse. The book is neither a survival guide nor a template for coping with end-of-life issues, but rather an invitation into an open house and heart, from which one can develop one's own road map for coping with the complex issues of the long and sometimes arduous journey into the sunset. The contributing writers bring multiple perspectives that help fulfill one of the book's main objectives.

Author Archon Moore is a retired university administrator, banker and motivational speaker whose first book, *A Positive Attitude Is a Muscle: A Managed Stress Survivor's Manual*, is the basis of his seminars. *Alvetta* is available through national distributors Barnes & Noble, Books-a-Million, Amazon.com and iUniverse.





Archon Ronald Statum



In this book, Archon Statum takes a hard and revealing look at many of the bumps and barriers one encounters in his/her quest to climb the corporate ladder. Now, unlike many of his contemporaries, Archon Statum in identifying these bumps and barriers travels down paths that are, for the most part, only discussed in private. In so doing, he provides information and guidance that aids in

smoothing the bumps and avoiding the barriers. He also raises the veil on why a sufficient number of African Americans are not being mentored and, more importantly, sponsored by other African Americans that have, in some cases, reached the pinnacle of their professions. Getting beyond raising the veil

however, he leaves readers with the challenge (and guidance on how) to change the way they think, if African Americans (as a group in corporate America) are to ever enjoy (as whites do) a level playing field.

Archon Statum is a member of Delta Alpha Boulé. He recently participated as a facilitator in Sigma Pi Phi's Inaugural Young Adult Career Symposium in Denver at the 49th Biennial Grand Boulé. During that symposium he provided each attendee and fellow facilitators with an autographed copy of *Improving The Odds of Getting Beyond the Door*.

For more information about the book or to discuss/share your views on issues you have encountered in your quest to be a full participant in corporate America, visit www.improving-theodds.com.

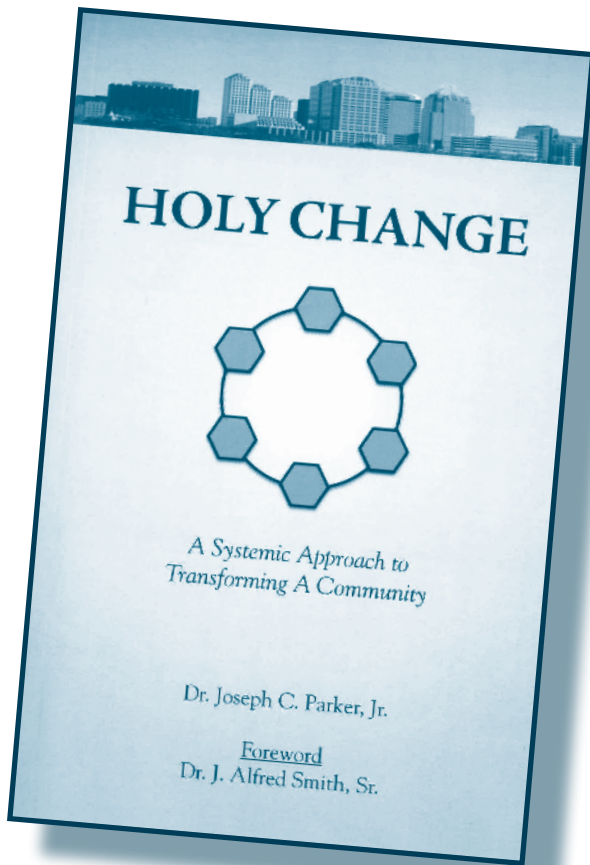
IMPROVING THE ODDS
Of Getting Beyond the Door

By Archon Ronald Statum
Delta Alpha Boulé

Outskirts Press, April 2008

Reviewed by:
Archon Robert Jordan
Grapter, Delta Alpha Boulé





Archon Joseph C. Parker, Jr.

In *Holy Change: A Systemic Approach to Transforming a Community*, Archon Joseph C. Parker, Jr., of Atlanta's Kappa Boulé provides a firsthand, biblically based, analytical account of a case study for neighborhood planning and community development in the urban core of Austin, Texas.

An ordained minister, Archon Parker makes assertions

HOLY CHANGE

A Systemic Approach to Transforming a Community

By Archon Joseph C. Parker, Jr.
Gamma Gamma Boulé

Trafford Publishing, 2008

Reviewed by:
Archon Robert Michael Franklin
Kappa Boulé

that are informed by his theological training and early experiences observing his parents' participation in the founding of Alabama's Montgomery Improvement Association (MIA), headed by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and considered the catalyst for this country's modern Civil Rights Movement. It is im-

portant to note that the MIA was largely the creation of the black church in Montgomery. Archon Parker also identifies Morehouse College as a major influence on his understanding of civic responsibility and community transformation.

Archon Parker contends that cities, though now established by governing states, are the conceptual and original creations of God that date to the period following the fall of humanity in the book of Genesis. He further states that the

city holds a special place in the ministry of Jesus Christ and is featured prominently in all of the gospel narratives. *Holy Change* suggests that it is in the context of the city that war and peace, and good versus evil, are experienced. According to Archon Parker, cities are "spiritual war zones" with a history of battle dating to biblical Jerusalem and other ancient municipalities. He highlights the dichotomy of righteousness and unrighteousness in the holy city by acknowledging that "Jerusalem had the presence of God . . . , but also [was] a place of violence and rebellion."

The dualistic nature of the city caused Jesus to pay unparalleled attention to such urban centers and consequently calls Christians to develop robust urban ministries in order to transform all urban communities into cities of God. According to the book, successful urban-community transformation is a task that requires the participation of the church. Archon Parker states that the church must love the community as Christ loves the church. The seminal cause for Christianity, according to Christ's mission statement in Luke 4:18, is "to proclaim freedom for the prisoners, heal the brokenhearted. . . ." I note the word *prisoner* is derived from the Latin root *prehensio*, meaning the act of seizing. *Holy Change* asserts that citizens of the city are seized by prodigal and wasteful living, and that freedom is obtained by the transformation or "renewal of the mind," as defined in Rom.

Archon Robert Michael Franklin, Ph.D., is the tenth president of Morehouse College. He is the author of three books: Crisis in the Village: Restoring Hope in African American Communities (2007), Another Day's Journey: Black Churches Confronting the American Crisis (1997) and Liberating Visions: Human Fulfillment and Social Justice in African American Thought (1990).

12:2. An authentically free community, Archon Parker emphasizes, can be realized only through spiritual change. He argues that urban-community transformation is at its core a process of reclaiming “prodigal communities” imprisoned by sin and is hence a mandate for church intervention.

While the church plays an integral role in the transformation of communities, Archon Parker concedes that this work must be done in concert with the affected citizens, local government and community-development agencies. Involvement in the problem-assessment and planning stages of the transformation process allows all community participants to discover barriers to change, and ways that respective members can assist in overcoming those barriers. The author cites the black-church norm of wearing one’s “Sunday best” as an example of a barrier that’s often identified in church practices in impoverished communities.

In the case of the Austin’s Chestnut neighborhood, the team of community transformers used a hexagon-chart model to identify the myriad systemic barriers – sociopolitical and economic complexities – facing the determined group. By charting those challenges and opportunities, the team highlighted the interrelatedness and interdependence of the community members. The process afforded the team a clear strategy for the creation of a comprehensive development plan consisting of the multifaceted considerations, requirements and resources of citizens, church and government. The model also

established a system for long-term planning, broader engagement, and ongoing measurement and evaluation.

Holy Change is a useful guide for effective neighborhood and community development. In the tradition of the nineteenth-century French historian Alexis de Tocqueville, Archon Parker not only points to the impact of American volunteer organizations on the shaping of holistic communities but also lauds the transformative potential that these efforts offer. In addition, he declares that the church, the vastest volunteer organization in America, has a unique obligation to become “community-conscious” and engaged. He envisions the town square where the secular meets the spiritual to create what Harvard political scientist Robert Putnam calls social capital: the active connections between people and institutions that build trust, mutual understanding and shared values, as well as behaviors that foster cooperation, progress and, yes, transformation. Finally, *Holy Change*, a theologically sound manual calling Christians to evangelistic outreach for healing the physical and spiritual needs of urban communities, is an affirmation and a testimony that cities disfigured by sin can be transfigured by the transforming power of the church.

“Bring my soul out of prison, that I may praise thy name.”
– Ps. 142:7. Ω

