

The **Good News** Letter

A publication of Today's Ministry Achieving Tomorrow's Triumphs

Summer 2010 Volume 7 Issue 2

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Good People
*G. Morris Coleman,
Renaissance Man*

*The Spirit of the Lord is on me,
because He has anointed me to preach
Good News to the poor. He has
sent me to proclaim freedom for the
prisoners and recovery of sight for the
blind, to release the oppressed, to pro-
claim the year of the Lord's favor.*

Luke 4:18-19 (NIV)

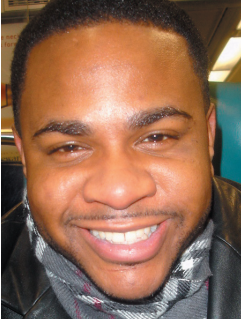
Today's Ministry Achieving Tomorrow's Triumphs (TMATT) is a faith based non-profit organization geared toward the betterment of men, women and children. Our commitment is to love, encourage and empower through various charitable programs. There are several programs in place including Stay in Shape Saturdays, Health Walk, The Sisterhood Brunch, In His Image and The Good Newsletter.

The views expressed in TGNL are those of the writers and do not necessarily reflect the positions of TMATT. Also, please use discretion when purchasing any products advertised or following any advice (medical or otherwise) given in TGNL.



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"Complacency is the enemy of success."

Anonymous



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"A woman's heart should be so hidden in Christ that a man must seek Him first to find her."

Anonymous



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Contributing Writer

"Where there is no struggle, there is no strength."

Oprah Winfrey



Vonnetta Hughes
Contributing Writer

"Love talked about is easily turned aside... Love demonstrated is irresistible."

Dr. Stan Mooneyham



Tracylee Coleman
Editor-in-Chief

"We do what we have to do in order to do what we want to do."

James Farmer, Jr.

EDUCATED ENTREPRENEUR HOTEL EVENTS

Friday, July 30th – Sunday, August 1st

PRICING INFORMATION:
\$350 per person
Includes Hotel, Conference Room, Workshops, and
(excludes dinner on [redacted])

RESERVATIONS:
[redacted] your space
[redacted] \$100 deposit.

Tarrytown, NY 10591
www.StarwoodHotels.com

For more information, call
G. Morris Coleman at (914) 5[redacted]

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Congratulations to Xavier White on being accepted to Coastal Carolina in Myrtle Beach. Way to go!

Congratulations to Janay Moody on being accepted to St. John's University. Way to go!

Congratulations to Temarra Porter and Donnis Jones on their engagement! Best wishes!

Congratulations to Donna Powell as she embarks on her new role as Assistant Pastor at Bethesda Baptist Church. Best wishes!

Congratulations to Donna Powell and Joseph Owusu-Ansah on their recent engagement. Best wishes!

Happy Birthday to all those born in June, July and August!

UPCOMING EVENTS

6/6 Perfected Praise Anniversary **7/24 AFCOM Summer Outreach**

Call (914) 668-7292 for details Call (914) 664-9492 for details

6/20 Happy Father's Day

6/26 Women of Worship All White **7/30-8/1 "2-to-1" Marriage En-**

Affair (Ladies Only) *richment Conference 2010*

Call 917-714-9287 for details Call (914) 563-9959 for details

detach here

Prayer Requests. Announcements. Upcoming Events. [Form with 8 horizontal lines for text entry]

A MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

TRACYLEE COLEMAN

As we go through this journey called life, there are some life lessons that we should discover along the way.

try harder and to be better!

What I have learned...

So with that in mind, there are some things that I have learned and I'm still working on the other stuff!

God is my vindicator!

What I am learning...

What I have learned...

To let go and TRUST God.

God is truly my source. Without Him I CANNOT do anything meaningful or purposeful. He is my EVERYTHING!

What I have learned...

What I am learning...

Though life may not always be all that I dream it to be, it will be everything I need it to be.

What I have learned...

Our loved ones can be here today and gone tomorrow. So we need to cherish every moment (good, bad or indifferent) with them.

answers. Then we don't have to wonder if we made the right choice.

What I have learned...

We reap what we sow.

What I am learning...

What I am learning...

Be careful of what you sow; Harvest time is guaranteed to come.

I sometimes take life (and myself for that matter) too seriously. I need to relax and take time to smell the gerberas daisies!

My journey is far from over; so I leave you with this: "Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." (Phil. 3:13-14)

What I have learned...

Disappointments are inevitable.

What I am learning...

They [disappointments] challenge me to

"God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things that I can and the wisdom to know the difference." --Reinhold Niebuhr

The decisions we make today can and will determine our tomorrows.

What I am learning...

To seek God first for all

Goaltending
G. Morris Coleman

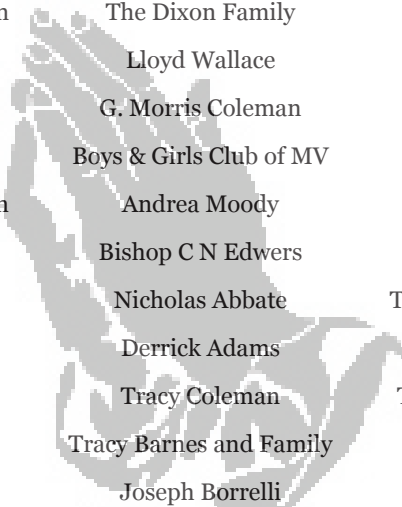
Most famously used in the basketball arena (but widely used in other sports including soccer and rugby), goaltending is a term that is defined as “the violation of interfering with the ball when it is on its way to the basket (or goal) and it is (a) in its downward flight, (b) entirely above the rim and has the possibility of entering the basket, and (c) not touching the rim” (Wikipedia). Most anyone who knows me is aware that I am not a sports aficionado; however, I do have an understanding of most games and when “provoked,” I don’t play too bad either.

There are those who stand at the goal and wait for the perfect shot just so they can block it while it is in “downward flight.”

In basketball, goaltending is the result of a defensive player (either intentionally or unintentionally) making an attempt to stop the offensive player from attaining the goal. This move is considered illegal, but will go without penalty if unseen or unnoticed by the officials or referee of the game. It is a result of (in my estimation) fear of the offensive team reaching the desired goal. The prospect of the opponent reaching his or her goal threatens the rival in such a way that he or she resorts to illegal methods (either intentionally or unintentionally) of stopping the other team or individual from advancing.

As Christians, we too are players who are ambitiously attempting to reach our desired goal. In contrast, however, the game we play is called life and the stakes are incomparable to that of a sporting event. Paul states in Philippians 4:14, that we “press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.” Daily, we “run the race that is set before us” (Hebrews 12:1) ultimately desiring to attain the ultimate prize of eternal life. Yet somehow, we unrealistically believe that our strides toward making it to the winner’s circle will not be met by the defensive moves of our adversary. Contrary to that belief, consistently we struggle and wrestle with oppositional forces (some external; many internal) that are designed to block our shot and our attempts to win the game. There are many who stand at the goal and wait for the perfect shot, just so they can block it while it is in “downward flight.”

Somebody Prayed For Me...



City of Mount Vernon	The Dixon Family	Janay Moody
The Obama Family	Lloyd Wallace	Letitia Hughes
US Government	G. Morris Coleman	Xavier White
Donna Powell	Boys & Girls Club of MV	Vonnetta Hughes
Joseph Owusu-Ansah	Andrea Moody	Devon Matthews
Emma Gibson	Bishop C N Edwers	Marie Novelli
Emma Matthews	Nicholas Abbate	The Covington Family
Tamara House	Derrick Adams	Deborah Abbate
Pastor Paul Weaver	Tracy Coleman	The Coleman Family
Kimberly Crawford	Tracy Barnes and Family	Donnis Jones
Ana Frias-Curly	Joseph Borrelli	Temarra Porter

Our Father...

Dear Heavenly Father, Father of our yesterdays, our todays and our tomorrows. We come before You, just to say THANK-YOU! Oh, Father because You are so good and we are so grateful. Lord, if we had a thousand tongues, we just could not thank You enough. You have been a present help in the time of trouble. You have been a healer, when we were deathly ill. You have been a comforter to those who are mourning. You have been a Father to the fatherless. You have been a companion and a friend to the friendless. You have been a transformer and have transformed lives. Lord, You have brought us out of darkness into the marvelous light. You have been a burden bearer, to those who have been burden down. For in your word, You say, cast all our cares upon You, for You care for us. You also state, come unto me all those who are heavy laden and You will give us rest. What an awesome God You are! You are a provider to those who have nothing. And you are a Shepherd, for we want for nothing. Lord, we are eternally grateful! We will continue to bless Your name because you are so worthy of all the praise! We’ll forever be chasing after You because Your loving-kindness is better than life. We love You, Lord! In Your Precious Name Jesus we pray, Amen! VH

In His Presence...

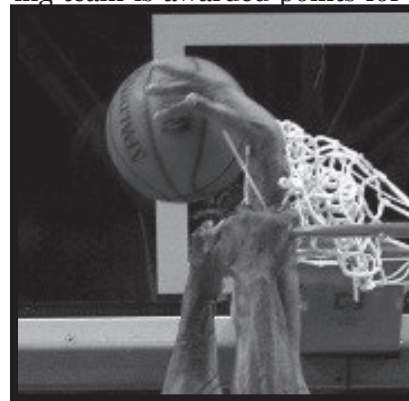
Got joy? When we are following the road map for our lives, which is the word of God, we have Joy. I often hear people testify and say that, “the world didn’t give it and the world can’t take it away.” Because of what He did and who He is, Jesus is the center of our joy. One cannot follow Christ and not have joy. Even when we endure hardships, He promises us joy... “weeping may endure for a night, but joy comes in the morning.” “Moreover [let us also be full of joy now!] let us exult and triumph in our troubles and rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that pressure and affliction and hardship produce patient and unswerving endurance.” (Romans 5: 3) He tells us throughout His word, we will experience joy, if we just delight ourselves in Him. In His presence alone there is fullness of joy. If you do not know of this joy (unspeakable joy) I am speaking of, try Jesus!

June	July	August
<i>Rejoice</i>	<i>Joy to the World</i>	<i>Joy Unspeakable Joy</i>
Psalm 5:11	1 Chronicles 16:27	Psalm 4:7
Psalm 16:9	Zephaniah 3:17	Isaiah 12:3
Psalm 90:14	Psalm 16:11	Jeremiah 15:16
Philippians 4:4	Romans 15:13	John 15:11
		Romans 5:3

Compiled by Vonnetta Hughes

Unfortunately, these defensive players come in varying forms. They come in the form of family members, friends, co-workers, and yes, even self-proclaimed Christians. But what is most important to remember is that we need not preoccupy ourselves with figuring out the motives or intentions of those who are not in our favor. Essentially, there is but ONE Enemy. Ephesians 6:12 states, “our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realm.” Despite the package that it may come in, the same force is behind it all. And interestingly enough, as much as we despise the persistent attacks of the enemy, God uses (not to be confused with causes) these situations to strength us and fortify us and ultimately make us stronger after the fight than before. (Romans 8:28, And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God to them who are the called according to His purpose).

The good news is that when the goaltending violation is made, the shooting team is awarded points for the field goal as if it had actually been made.



In the spirit realm, we must remember that the same is true. God promised that He would be our avenger. “Avenge not yourselves... for it is written: vengeance is mine, says the Lord, I will repay.” (Romans 12:19) Unlike the referee in sports, God never misses a play. He sees every injustice, every wrongdoing, and every attempt to block your blessing. As such, we need to focus solely on pleasing Him and complet-

ing the course that has been set before us. What God has for me is for me! And what He has for you is certainly for you!

Despite the attempts by adversaries or THE adversary, we win in the end! The game is fixed! Just stay in the game; don’t quit and don’t throw in the towel. “Perseverance (produces) character; and character, hope. And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out His love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom He has given us.” (Romans 5:4-5) So, as we continue to “press toward the mark,” let’s remember that in spite of the attempts of some to thwart the plan of God, “no weapon formed against us will prosper!” (Isaiah 54:17)

Good Word



The Book of Joshua is the sixth book in the Hebrew Bible. This book stands as the first in the first prophets covering the history of Israel from the possession of the Promised Land to the Babylonian Captivity. The book of Joshua contains a history of the Israelites from the death of Moses to that of Joshua. After Moses' death, Joshua, by virtue of his previous

appointment as Moses' successor, received from God the command to cross the Jordan River. In execution of this order Joshua issues the requisite instructions to the stewards of the people for the crossing of the Jordan; and he reminds the Reubenites, Gadites, and the half of Manasseh of their pledge given to Moses to help their brethren.

Character(s): Major: Joshua **Minor:** Caleb

Scripture(s): Joshua 1-24

Significance of Name: The English name Joshua is a rendering of the Hebrew: Yehoshua, meaning "Yahweh is salvation," "salvation," "to deliver/be liberated," or "to be victorious."

Best Known For:

As Moses' apprentice, Joshua was a major figure in the events of the Exodus. He accompanied Moses part of the way when he ascended Mount Sinai to receive the Ten Commandments. He was one of the twelve spies sent by Moses to explore and report on the land of Canaan, and only he and Caleb gave an encouraging report, a reward for which would be that only these two of the spies would enter the promised land.

He was commander at their first battle after exiting Egypt, against the Amalekites in Rephidim, in which they were victorious.

According to Joshua 1:1-9, Moses appointed Joshua to succeed him as leader of the Israelites. The first part of the book of Joshua covers the period when he led the conquest of Canaan.

Ask Ayanna

Why does it say in the bible all we need is a mustard seed of faith, but then in another area its says oh ye of little faith?

This question has been a blessing to me because it opened my understanding that there's much more to God's expectations for His people. With all that God has done for us, He expects us to rest assured in Him. The writer says, "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not to thy own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths." (Proverbs 3:5-6, KJV)

When we walk in Christ Jesus and recognize who God is, to worry, doubt or operate in unbelief is an insult to God. When Christ was teaching on various topics and specifically about worry, He said, "Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which today is, and to morrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith?" (Matthew 6:30, KJV) At another time when the disciples wondered why they couldn't cast a demon out of a young boy but Christ could, immediately, "Jesus said unto them, because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, if ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, remove hence to yonder place: and it shall remove: and nothing shall be impossible unto you." (Matthew 17:20, KJV)

So why does God say all we need to have is a mustard seed of faith and then in the next instance he says oh ye of little faith? A mustard seed is a small grain; it is so tiny, "[they] are among the smallest of seeds. The seeds are about 3mm in diameter..." (Wikipedia) Why can we with such a minute measure of faith move something so enormous as a mountain and then in the next instance be chastised for using only a small measure of faith. I think Peter is a fine example that answers this. When Jesus was walking on the water, Peter had enough faith to ask Jesus to invite him to walk on the water also; he operated in that faith and actually walked on the water. He used the measure of faith that he had to do a miraculous thing! Yet in the same instance, there he was standing in front of God in flesh (Christ Jesus) doing the impossible and yet he looked at the storm, the situation and doubted. "And immediately Jesus stretched forth his hand, and caught him, and said unto him, O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?" (Matthew 14:31, KJV)

God is expecting us to operate completely in the level of faith we have without doubt, unbelief or worry. If you have a measure of faith and fail to operate in it, you will always hear 'oh ye of little faith, why did you doubt?' If with whatever level of faith you have, you believe wholeheartedly, and operate in that level of faith as much as you can, God will say 'with that level of faith, nothing will be impossible for you!' Reader, whatever amount of faith you have, God is expecting you to use it completely. (**Other Scripture references: Rom. 12:3, Col. 1:23, Heb. 11:6, Jam. 2:17. 1 Pet. 5:9**)

COMING SOON!!!

Iron-2-Iron with G. Morris

**A monthly podcast beginning September 1st
streaming from our website.**

www.tmattonline.com

IRON

II

Iron
with *G. Morris*

The show will feature in-depth discussions with leaders and laymen who will use their experience and understanding of scripture and life to sharpen one another and our listeners.

Proverbs 27:17 *As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another.*
(NIV)

At the Jordan River, the waters parted, as they had for Moses at the Red Sea. The first battle after the crossing of the Jordan was the Battle of Jericho. Joshua led the destruction of Jericho.

At Gibeon, Joshua asked God to cause the sun and moon to stand still, so that he could finish the battle in daylight. This event is most notable because “there was no day like that before it or after it, that the LORD hearkened unto the voice of a man: for the LORD fought for Israel. (Joshua 10:14) From there on, Joshua was able to lead the Israelites to several victories, securing much of the land of Canaan.

When he was “old and well advanced in years,” Joshua convened the elders and chiefs of the Israelites and exhorted them to have no fellowship with the native population because it could lead them to be unfaithful to God. At a general assembly of the clans at Shechem, he took leave of the people, admonishing them to be loyal to their God, who had been so mightily manifested in the midst of them. As a witness of their promise to serve God, Joshua set up a great stone under an oak by the sanctuary of God. Soon afterward he died, at the age of 110.

How His/Her Life Impacts Us Today:

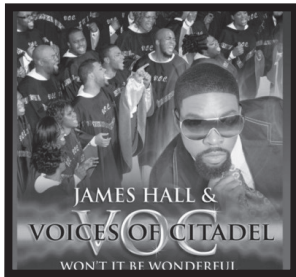
The very reason that Joshua was such a great and tremendous leader in the army of God was the fact that he was a follower! He followed in the footsteps of his captain Moses, and also in the footsteps of his Lord. We, as born-again Christians can be greatly admired leaders and examples simply by being followers of our Lord Jesus Christ. In the writings of Paul we find where he tells us to follow me as I follow Christ. What a testimony these great men of God portray! In order for us to be leaders to a lost and dying world, we must be followers of a risen Savior. Joshua followed God with his whole heart, soul and mind. We must do the same. He was not one to seek his own well being, comfort, or ease. Joshua constantly lived to fulfill the perfect will of God. He never trusted in his own strength and power. Joshua continually leaned on the mighty arm of God.

Researched by Tracylee Coleman

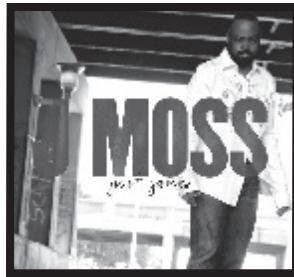
If you have not accepted Christ in your life as personal Lord and Savior, we encourage you to do it now. Just simply say this prayer, “Lord, I am a sinner and I want you to come into my life. I believe that Jesus is your only begotten Son, and that He died to save me from sin. I repent of my sins and ask you to forgive me. Thank you for loving and saving me.”



All in One is the latest release from Karen Clark-Sheard, one of, if not the premiere vocalist of this, or any generation. Evangelist Karen Clark-Sheard has once again proven her endless range, flawless riffs, and classic sound hasn't lost it's shimmer or stamina. At almost fifty years old, All in One is testimony that Karen Clark-Sheard still possesses the same vocal prowess and agility she had when she was twenty. With songs like "Prayed Up," "He Knows," featuring her jazzy sister Dorinda Clark-Cole and "Because of You" bring you into a place of Worship and Praise. She features her niece (Angel Chislom) and daughter (Kierra Sheard) on "Take Me," a song with an R&B vibe. Karen Clark-Sheard happens to be my favorite singer and I would advise all Karen Clark-Sheard fans and music fans period to get this new album by one of the greatest voices in music history. MM



Professor James Hall and Voices of Citadel have done it again with their new release "Won't It Be Wonderful." Voices of Citadel remain the best choir to emerge from New York. Mixing elements of Blues and Jazz into his music, Professor Hall's innovating and cutting-edge style is nothing short of amazing. "Won't It Be Wonderful," "Saved," "Strong and Mighty" and many other songs attest to the vocal power of the Voices of Citadel and the musical genius of Professor Hall. And when combined, you get a great album like this. MM



Just James, by producer and singer virtuoso J. Moss is his latest and perhaps his most heart-felt album to date. After facing numerous personal challenges, J. Moss is back and Restored. "Restored," his first single, is a declaration of reconciliation to God. "Sweet Jesus" and "God Happens," demonstrate Moss's vocal and musical brilliance. Just James is ideal for anyone dealing with adversity or ill-fortune; God is more than able to restore everything that you have lost. MM

It's called Iron-II-Iron with G. Morris and it's going to be about a 15 to 20 minute taping. It's going to be myself and some other person in the community or in the church (not necessarily popular) that will stop by for a chat that you can eavesdrop on. We will discuss topics that are either occurring in current events or in the church community and the whole point is to dialogue about different things so that we can get fresh insight and build each other up.

And I'm reminded of the scripture in Matthew 28:19 that says, "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations..." Some of us will get on the next plane to Africa to achieve that, but I realize that there are so many inventive ways for us to get the Word of God out there. I can now reach Africa from my home. I'm just trying to do my part.

So that's going to begin September 1st and then there will be a new podcast that will be available every first of the month.

And again just to briefly go back to that whole fear thing, I'm kinda pushing myself out of the box. This is something that the Lord placed in me. I

struggled with doing this simply because I know people get a little funny sometimes and I know there are some people who'll say, "who does he think he is?" But the answer is, I'm just somebody who's available to God and when he says move, I move! I'm ready to move forward and I pray that every reader will be listening. You will just have to log onto www.tmattonline.com and right on that homepage you'll see a box that says Iron-II-Iron with G. Morris and all you have to do is press play and sit back and listen to what we have to say.



My e-mail address is morris@tmattonline.com and I definitely would welcome any feedback or suggestions anyone has. My desire is that you would enjoy and that God will be blessed.

Tracylee: Well, I thank you so much again for your time and your commitment to doing this. We're looking forward to hearing more from you in September.



We haven't walked in our anointing. We haven't walked in the Power of God simply because we haven't allowed our gift to be stirred up due to crippling fear within and so I've determined within myself that I will no longer let fear paralyze me.

Tracylee: Amen! As I think about all the things that you do, we cannot forget that you're a huge part of TMATT. You're instrumental in the daily functioning and I just want you to discuss some of the programming that you've started with TMATT.

G. Morris: Sure. Well, In His Image is a program I started a couple of years ago. I basically looked at the state of... I guess the country at this point, but just to bring it in a little closer, I looked around Mt. Vernon and I just saw our young men and was disheartened by what I saw. It was just sad to me. And I realized that a common thread with each of the young men that I saw was a lack of a male presence in their lives, especially a positive one. And as I began to look at that, I realized that there was a need for some type of mentorship. So, In His Image was birthed through that. In His Image obviously referring to being made in the image of God because one of the things that I wanted to make sure was that a part of the program was God. I can't do anything without Him! I know that Jesus is the answer and I didn't want to be a part of any organization where you weren't able to proclaim that.

So, In His Image is for young men from ages 13 to 19 and basically it's designed to provide different workshops, forums, and cultural exhibits to enrich the lives of these young men overall.

And then there is a new project, which I'm very, very excited to talk about. It is a monthly podcast, which is basically an audio clip that's able to be played or streamed online.

ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE

Vonnetta Hughes

Alzheimer's disease is the most common cause of dementia. It is an incurable and irreversible disease. It is a progressive brain disease that slowly destroys memory and thinking skills; and eventually even the simplest tasks are impossible to carry out. Early symptoms are seen in individuals over the age of 60. Experts say about 5.1 million Americans are affected and suffer with Alzheimer's. It is still unknown what starts or causes the disease; however, experts are aware the disease begins 10 to 20 years before any evidence of the disease is seen.

Early Symptoms are:

- Forgetting the names of people close to you
- Forgetting a recent experience
- Putting things away in strange places
- Having unpredictable mood changes
- Decreased interest in activities

Diagnosis:

There is only one definite way to diagnosis Alzheimer's disease and that is through an autopsy after an individual's death. However, doctors do a variety of things to diagnosis the disease such as:

- ask questions about a person's overall health, past medical problems, ability to carry out daily activities, and changes in behavior and personality
- conduct tests of memory, problem solving, attention, counting, and language skills
- carry out medical tests, such as tests of blood, urine, or spinal fluid
- perform brain scans, such as a computed tomography (CT) scan or magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) test

Treatment:

There are a number of medicines that are available to help individuals manage troubling symptoms of Alzheimer's and also improve mental functions. If these medications are given early enough, individuals can maintain their independent lifestyles and prolong their independence in their own homes.

If you have any of these symptoms and are concerned, please make an appointment with your primary care physician. And if you would like more information on Alzheimer's disease, please visit www.nia.nih.gov/Alzheimers/Publications/adfact.htm and www.webmd.com/alzheimers/guide/treatment-overview

Is there anything that G. Morris can't do? From singing to sweeping, he does it all! As I enjoy the great pleasure of interviewing this wonderful man of God (psst...by the way, he is also my husband). I invite you all on a journey from boyhood to manhood as we listen in on what makes G. Morris today's renaissance man...

So Morris...

G. Morris: Well, let me first thank you for allowing me to have this opportunity to be interviewed for the newsletter. It's a little strange being on this end of the interview considering that for the last couple of years, I've actually been conducting interviews with other people and it's doubly interesting to sit and have your wife conduct this interview. So, it's an interesting experience to say the least, but I'm grateful for the opportunity.

Tracylee: Why don't you tell the people a little bit about yourself? What you would like people to know?

G. Morris: Well what is there to know? I believe I would categorize myself, arguably, as a pretty simple guy. God has blessed me with some gifts and talents, and as I get older, I discover and accept what God has placed in me. It took me a while to get to that place and it's still taking me some time to get to that place, but I now do recognize the things that God has for me and the abilities that God has given me. And so I think that I have spent the last couple of years just trying to perfect the gifts that God has placed into me and to accept the things that he has in store for me.

In terms of my background, I was born and raised in "money-earnin" Mt. Vernon (NY)... I'm still working on that whole "money-earnin" part (*laughter*); I'm not sure where that came from, but I pray that one day I will know! I was blessed to have a two-parent household (George Sr. and Julia). Every day was not easy at all, even with two parents, but they made things work. I was raised in Macedonia Baptist Church under the leadership of Dr. Rev. Richard H. Dixon, Jr. and I am currently a member of Emmanuel Pentecostal Faith Temple under the leadership of Bishop Leon Dixon and Elder Dorothy Dixon where I am serving as an ordained Deacon amongst other roles.

Tracylee: I'd like to explain to our readers why some people would call you a Renaissance Man. You do a lot of everything, not even a little of everything, you do a lot of everything! We know, naturally, you are a man, a husband, brother, a son... You're a father figure to so many and you are a Deacon in the church. Anyone who knows you, knows that one of your more obvious gifts is your voice, your singing ability. And we thank God that you're not one to just be showy about it either. But out of all that you do (and the list does go on) what brings you the greatest joy?



G. Morris: You know as you were saying all these wonderful things about me, it's hard for me to swallow that you are talking about me. I really would just group all of these things by saying that I am a minister. And before anybody gets all up in arms, I have not been ordained by anyone and am not speaking necessarily of that type of ministering. When I speak of the word 'minister,' I'm speaking of it in its truest form, which is simply to be a servant. That's what the word minister means. And I believe that's what I do; I serve God and I serve people as well because I think that we forget that we also serve God by serving or ministering to others. You started off by saying that I do everything from singing to sweeping and you're right. And it's because I recognize that singing is no greater than sweeping and sweeping, no greater than singing. The Bible speaks about the body having many members and how the eye has its function and the hands has a function, and the arms, etc. You're not complete without all body parts; you can manage some times, but you are at a significant disadvantage. So there's nothing I refuse to do as long as it's benefiting the Kingdom of God.

But I simply don't limit myself. I recognize what my calling is. I recognize that the power of God has rested on me from a very young age and I was fearful for so long. I was thinking about it just recently and I feel like the majority of my life I have lived in fear of people, fear of failure, fear of success; there's been so many forms of fear that I have allowed the enemy to place on me, but in the last couple of years I've just been diligently seeking God and searching myself and giving him permission to break those strongholds of fear and that they be replaced with the spirit of boldness to just be able to proclaim God's Word.

I was reading over II Timothy 1:7 and it talks about God not giving us the spirit of fear, but of power, and love and a sound mind. And we repeat that so often, but I felt like God, I'm missing something. There's something that I'm missing with the scripture. And God led me to actually connect verse 6 with verse 7 that says, "wherefore, I put..." this is Paul speaking... It says "wherefore I put thee in remembrance that thou stir up the gift of God, which is in thee by the putting on of my hands." And then he goes on and he says "For God hath not given us the spirit of fear..." and I realize that he's speaking to Timothy and he's telling Timothy first to stir up his gift and then he tells him that God hasn't given him the spirit of fear. They are connected. The fact that the gift has not been stirred yet is because of his fear. His fear has paralyzed him. And so I think that's what Paul is trying to let us know is that sometimes our gifts lie dormant simply because of the fear that's within us.