



My Spiritual Journey
by Amali Lloyd

I would describe my spiritual journey as tough, but walking with God helps. It's tough because at times there is temptation to do the wrong thing. Walking with God helps me in several ways. A few ways walking with God helps is to pray, read bible devotions, and ask my parents and spiritual teachers to explain things about God I don't understand. I enjoy my spiritual journey because it helps me learn about Jesus and what he wants me to do. I encourage other children to learn more about Jesus too!

"But I'm Just A Teen ..." Tips
Age is Just a Number

Jeremiah 1:6-8 says "Ah, LORD God," I said, "I don't know how to speak because I'm only a child." The LORD responded, "Don't say, 'I'm only a child.' Where I send you, you must go; what I tell you, you must say. Don't be afraid of them, because I'm with you to rescue you," declares the Lord.

We all think we have time; we think we have time to give our life to the Lord. We watch those closest to us who may have never been to church and wait until they get older to finally give their life over to Christ. So we think "what's the rush? Why can't we enjoy our lives while we are young?"

But who says we can't enjoy our lives as a young adult and live for Christ? Plus, tomorrow isn't promised to us. So start today! Furthermore, we don't have to do everything the traditional way. At Franklin Avenue, our amazing pastors are creating ways for our Youth and Young Adults to express themselves through Christ. Take advantage of this. The Lord will give you everything you need to become a strong teen in Christ.

Newsletter Team

- Pastor Will Lloyd, IV: YCYP Pastor
- Lori Jackson: Coordinator
- Alexia Pierre: Editor
- James Ewers Jr. Ed.D.: Advisor



The Spiritual Journey

FABC'S Children Through College Newsletter

THE IMPORTANCE OF FEBRUARY AND MARCH by James B. Ewers Jr. Ed.D.

February and March are two of the most important months in the lives of African Americans and women. These months over time have been designated to celebrate the achievements of the previously mentioned groups. I believe it is important for our children and grandchildren to know they have a proud and rich history.

Interestingly, Black educators and the Black United Students at Kent State University in Ohio initially proposed Black History Month in February 1969. According to the history books, the celebration of the first Black History Month took place at Kent State University in 1970.

President Gerald Ford recognized it during a program which honored the United States Bicentennial. As we know, the celebration of our history started out as a week-long event. Black History should be imbedded in America's history. We should not have to dig for it, should not have to search for it and should not have to wonder about it. It should be easily available and accessible. Textbooks, references and media should all be melting pots for Black History. Just as we know about Denzel Washington and Halle Berry, we should also know about actors, Ossie Davis and Ruby Dee. Just as we know about Michelle Obama, we should also know about Barbara Jordan, the first woman and African American to be elected to Congress from the state of Texas.

We must be strong advocates for our history and not just receive snippets of it. Black people are accomplishing great things. Celebrate them and let people know. Women's History Month started off in much the same way as Black History Month. It began as Women's History Week in 1978 in Sonoma, California. It was proposed by a school district there and was held around the second week of March. It was not until February 1980 that President Jimmy Carter officially designated the week of March 8th as Women's History Week. In his address, he mentioned leaders like Susan B. Anthony, Sojourner Truth, Lucy Stone, Lucretia Mott, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Harriet Tubman and Alice Paul.

These women and many others blazed the trail for equal rights. There are numerous opportunities for girls now because these women were risk takers. They stood up and spoke out against discrimination. The Equal Rights Amendment was the 27th Amendment added to the US Constitution. Congress used March 1987 as the beginning of Women's History Month. Maryland, New York and Oregon were some of the first states to ensure that information was provided for students in their school systems which talked about the achievements of women.

So now in 2018, programs and activities are spread throughout the country so that this important month can be celebrated for women. We must not lose sight of the sacrifices that women have made to make this country what it is today. February and March are important months for all of us. Let us celebrate and take joy in them.



Sr. Pastor : Fred Luter, Jr.



Children : E. Williams



YCYP: Will Lloyd, IV

Spring is a wonderful time of year because along with amazing weather we celebrate Resurrection Sunday. Jesus' victory over the grave has given every Christian resurrection power to one day see our savior face to face. When we transition to heaven we will experience a restoration of what God desired for mankind in Eden. Take some time think about heaven, since the surrender and worship we give now is the beginning of what we'll give in heaven. Begin to live authentic now, so when you get to God's judgement, He'll welcome you home.



**My Spiritual Journey:
He's Still In The Business Of Healing**
by Tia Alexander

Women's Month Poem
by Kristen Smith

Young Woman of God
Your name is Beautiful
For you were made fearful and wonderful

Young Woman of God
Your worth is unmatched
To an amazing God you are attached

Young Woman of God
The world tries to confuse you and tell you that you're less
But God has called you Blessed

Young Woman of God
Stand firm on His promises for He loves you more than you know

He hears you when you cry out to Him, just rely on Him and your faith will grow

Young Woman of God
Christ lives in you and you are a light in this world
Know that God cherishes you and you will always be His little girl

Young Woman of God
Remember who you are
Don't let anyone tell you different
God loves you
God cares for you
For you were created in His image

Isaiah 53:5 states, "But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our inequities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed." This scripture rings true for me as my physical health had been challenged towards the end of last year. As of recently, I had taken charge of my health and decided to lose weight. My diet and exercise had changed immensely, and I enjoyed the results a lot. I enjoyed the results so much to the point where I critically limited my food intake and increased my exercise regimen.

My plan was working well, until one day I started having falls. At first, I thought it was me being super clumsy, but the falls became more and more consistent. The falls eventually made it impossible to walk without anyone holding me. My parents brought me to Children's Hospital after not receiving the answers that we needed from other medical professionals at various medical facilities. They immediately admitted me and started a work up on me. Several scans and x-rays later, the doctors at Children's still couldn't give me or my parents a clear answer on why I couldn't walk. A couple of days later, a physical therapist was able to help me get to a point where I could stand on my own and eventually walk down the halls of the hospital with a walker that was provided to me. I was able to be discharged the very next day, but I was still a medical mystery.

Throughout this process, I not only went through a lot of physical pain, but I went through a lot of emotional pain. All of this had caused me to withdraw for the semester from school. I openly wept as I went into my LOLA account to drop my courses for the semester. Not only did I have to drop my classes for the semester, I had to take a long leave of absence from my job as a Tae Kwon Do instructor. Words couldn't express how much I missed teaching my students and taking class with my classmates. Moreover, I couldn't get to my church family for the encouragement that I needed. I was in a big funk until I stumbled across this Facebook page called Kellie E. Lane that reminded me that the Lord was still in the business of healing and performing miracles in His children's lives.

A few days after I discovered Kellie's page, I had my first outpatient appointment with neurology. When she went live on Facebook that morning, she wore a shirt that read "I am healed". Upon reading her shirt, God spoke to me and said that I was getting an answer at my appointment later that morning. Sure enough, I did. Neurology looked at my blood test results and found that I had a severe Thiamine deficiency. This deficiency had caused the muscles to break down in my legs, causing the falls. Thankfully, it was easily treatable with 3 intramuscular shots of thiamine a day. Slowly but surely, my healing process had started.

Through the grace of God and some therapy, I was able to graduate from a walker to a cane, and then upgrade to not having to use anything at all. All in all, I was able to find a new-found appreciation for life and the simple things that come with it. I am back in school and I'm very excited to be able to study amongst my peers. My students at the Tae Kwon Do school are excited to have me back teaching them and are ready to take their training to the next level under my leadership. I have also been able to take my training in my martial arts journey to the next level to compete in our organization's National tournament this March. This journey has been a struggle. I thank God for putting me through it all to be a walking miracle and an inspiration for those around me.

SHOWCASE YOUR TALENT

Myles Johnson



Myles Johnson found his love for basketball at just 3 yrs. old when he was given a miniature hoop set. At 6 yrs. old, he started playing on organized teams at Oakdale Park.

From there on, Myles has been playing basketball ever since. Myles currently plays on Lusher Charter School basketball team. He mainly plays point guard, in addition to shooting guard.

He has received many medals, trophies, and other recognitions. He is particularly proud of his latest, MVP of the Lusher Invitational Basketball Tournament in Fall 2017. Myles dreams of playing basketball in college and maybe one day playing for the New Orleans Pelicans.

He hopes his talents will give him the opportunity to go to school for free. Myles's grandmother, Ethel Rouselle inspires him the most because she is relentless at what she does and always find a way to do anything she needs to do.

He encourages other players to never stop pushing to reach their goal, work hard on your game and it'll pay off. Never stop, never settle!

Student Spotlight

Laila Naquin



Laila Naquin is a 9th grader at Mount Carmel Academy. Her favorite subjects are English and Biology. She enjoys reading, service projects, and participating in the Mime Ministry.

She works really hard so that she may have a successful career in the future. She tries to keep her priorities straight and she doesn't make time for things her schedule doesn't permit.

However, at times she finds it most challenging to stay focused; she sometimes loses sight of her goal from too many distractions. Remembering how Peter began to sink when he took his eyes off Jesus helps her stay on track. Laila has come to realize that due to time constraints, she may not always be able to do everything, so maintaining her priorities are crucial. After high school, she plans to attend college then medical school to become a pediatrician.

She recommends to her fellow youth and young adults to recognize what's important and to establish priorities to prevent unrealistic schedules. In addition, improving academically requires pure dedication and reliance on God.