





# ON THE COVER

Congregant Wilfred Crawley flashes a winning smile during his June 9, 2019 photo shoot at CCC.

Photography By: Michael R. Spry © 2019

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# A WORD FROM THE WORD PASTOR REGINALD LELLIOTT

Faith and Courage are

simply different sides

of the same coin Pastor Reginald L. Elliott



# GOODCOURAGE

ourage is a much-admired trait and those who exhibit it are greatly honored. The Bible has much to say about courage, and depicts it as a vital characteristic of a follower of God. There are doubtlessly many ways to define or describe courage. Perhaps the simplest definition is to say courage is a trait that enables one to face difficulty or opposition and still stand firm in their convictions, even when their stance may expose them to severe consequences.

One of the most inspiring biblical passages about being courageous is found in the account of God commissioning Joshua to take leadership of Israel after the death of Moses. God said to Joshua "be strong and of good courage" (Joshua 1:6). He also told Joshua that as He had been with Moses so He would be with him. This passage provides tremendous insight into the issue of courage and highlights the fact that one cannot really live a life that is truly committed to God without courage.

The Bible does not speak of courage as something that comes out of one's natural power, rather it depicts the courageous person as one who relies upon the supernatural power of God to make them strong and courageous. Hence, Joshua can be strong and courageous because he has the assurance that God will be with him.

Courage is activated in one's life when one is relying on, i.e. exercising faith in, the supernatural power of God. Faith is required in order to be courageous. Hence, without faith one cannot be of good courage. The link between faith and courage is clearly illustrated in the story of David and Goliath.

The soldiers in the army of Israel lacked the courage to fight Goliath. Now these soldiers had seen the hand of God work miracles in the past. Some of them may have even participated with Jonathan in the miraculous defeat of the Philistines (1 Samuel 14). They knew what God could do but the size of Goliath robbed them of their faith. David exhibited great courage because he had faith that the God who had delivered him in the past would give him victory over Goliath.

Faith is not a constant unchangeable state. Faith can be great (Matthew 8:8-10), faith can be shipwrecked (1 Timothy 1:19), and faith can be thrown away (Hebrews 10:35). Without faith, one cannot have courage. Faith and courage are simply different sides of the same coin. The presence of one is proof you have the other.

The lesson to us is - fortify your faith daily so you can live a life of good courage.

A Journey & Notabestination

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# LIVING A HEALTHY LIFESTY LE

ourage is the choice and willingness to confront pain, uncertainty, danger, etc. It requires a firmness of mind. Fortitude is also translated as courage and includes the aspects of perseverance and patience.

Being healthy is a lifelong journey. Most of the time it requires us to completely change something that we know is not contributing to our health or at least modify or improve on some aspect. It is not about how fast you are moving, as long as you are moving toward your goal. A lifestyle change may not be easy. It takes slow, practical, small steps. It is going to require us to put certain actions and strategies in place. Here are a few:

## **Physical Wellness**

Eating right, consistent exercise habits, and getting enough rest are essential. Look at your current eating habits. What can you change? What needs to increase? What needs to decrease? What may need to be eliminated altogether? Can you make these changes all at once? NO. Choose one at a time and work on it.

If your daily exercise routine is missing altogether. Don't try to go 5 times a week for an hour. Start with 1-3 consistent 30minute workouts and increase from there.

Seven to nine hours of sleep per night is the goal. Help your brain wind down with a relaxing bedtime routine to increase restful hours of sleep. Prayer, soothing scriptures and music may help. Give the days stressors over to God. He can handle them. "...the race is not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong..." Ecclesiastes 9:11.

### **Social/Emotional Wellness**

A major part of a healthy lifestyle has to do with the healthy relationships in our lives. We need happy, loving relationships with friends and family. Take time to laugh and enjoy social interactions with others. Focusing on the needs of others is also healthy for us. How can I help someone in need? It may not be financial, but just a friendly call or card to say I am thinking about you. Compassion is part of a healthy lifestyle. Forgiveness is also an important part. Harboring ill will or negative feelings toward others robs us of joy and creates undo stress in our lives. "But if you forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses" Matthew 6:15.

## **Spiritual Wellness**

Spiritual wellness will be achieved when we depend on the Holy Spirit for inner calmness and peace. When we realize that we can't do this thing called life alone, and we don't have all the answers and solutions. Learning to turn our cares over to Him is also a process which we must grow to develop. Start trusting God for the little things in life so that when the big things hit we are already in the mode of leaning on Him for guidance and deliverance. "Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you" 1Peter 5:7.

Developing a pattern of healthy living means both mental and physical health are in balance. Not an over night destination, but a lifelong journey, aided by our own inner courage and determination and the guidance of our God who wants only the best for each of us.

"If you can't fly, then run. If you can't run, then walk. If you can't walk, then crawl. But whatever you do, keep moving forward." Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



# CHRISTIAN COMEDYCORNER CAROLYNJACKSON COLLINDUNLAP

# "A merry heart doeth good like a medicine"

Proverbs 17:22 (KJV)

**Skinny Jeans:** People nowadays have courage to do new things and try new stuff. People who wear skinny jeans especially have courage because I don't know how they wear them. One time I wore them for ushering and it felt like my circulation was cut off.

# **Courage from the Pursuit of Animal:**

Mack: So there I was riding my

horse with giraffes on both sides and a lion right on my heels.

Jack: Oh my! What did

you do?

Mack: Hung on for dear life until the merry-goround stopped.

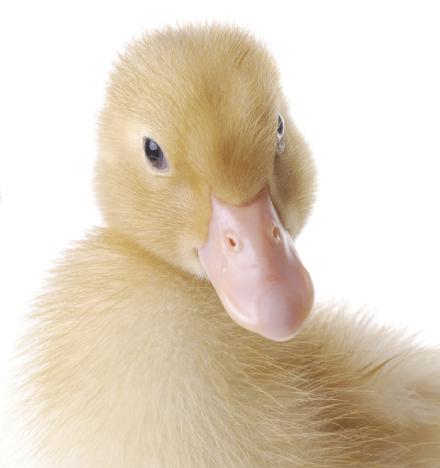


**Church Notice:** Please do not leave your purse, watch, mobile phone, husband, wife, boyfriend, or girlfriend unattended. Others may think it's an answer to their prayers.

A Duck with Courage: A duck walks into a restaurant and asks the waiter, "Do you have duck

food here?" The waiter says no and the duck leaves. The next day, the same thing happens. On the third day, the duck enters the restaurant and the waiter asks, "What do you want this time?" The duck asks once more, "Do you have any duck food?" "No!" yells the waiter. "We don't have any duck food. If you come back and ask me again, I'll nail your feet to the floor!" The duck leaves and comes back the next day and asks, "Do you have any nails?" The waiter says, "No." The duck then asks, "Do you have any duck food?"

# Laughter is medicine...Take some!!



# ROCK THE**BOAT**WINNIELGFRANCE-CHAMBERS

omplacency is the enemy of courage. When things are going well, we can sometimes feel like being courageous and stepping outside of our comfort zone will *rock the boat*. We have to realize that we are holding ourselves back from living our best life! Do not ignore that feeling of urgency to step out on faith and be of good courage along the way.

I remember when I started to feel like the career path I was on was no longer a fit with me. Once I hit the five year mark and secured a leadership role I began to wonder what would be next. Many suggested that I just wait for the manager to retire, but who knew when that would be? I decided to go to a different organization, thinking that would reignite my desire within the field—but it didn't. It actually made things worse. There was a loud voice in my head, encouraging me to transition into a different career, but I continued to ignore it. As miserable as I was in my role, I kept applying for the same job at different organizations because that was what I was comfortable with, and had be successful at. As time went on things at work started getting looney to the point where I had to laugh to keep from crying. It was like I was in a dramedy, waiting for someone to hop from around the corner and tell me everything I was going through was a prank. It took a long time, but I finally decided to take that big step and start applying for something different. After being rejected a handful of times, I decided going back to school would give me an advantage. Working two jobs and squeezing in school was a

challenge, but I kept telling myself that it would be worth it in the end and that God was going to get me through it with flying colors, and He did! Once I completed my program, I expected job opportunities to come pouring down like rain from the sky. Instead, I faced more rejection and slipped into a depression. I felt like I had done everything within my power; I read every book, went to every seminar, listened to every podcast and nothing was working. Throughout this time I always prayed to God, but now I was praying more frequently and being very detailed in my prayers and I started to feel better. The Lord told me to be of good courage, keep applying, and that it was okay for me to quit my job. Quitting my job without having another one lined up was one of the most courageous things I have ever done. I still had my part-time job, but that was pocket money in comparison to what my full-time job produced. Although I had no idea how things would work out, God filled me with so much peace. I knew my miracle was coming and no one could convince me otherwise.

Once I submitted my notice of resignation I received many calls from other companies wanting to interview me. One call in particular sparked my interest because the company has tuition assistance. I asked God to place me there and I was offered the job on the very same day I interviewed and started the following Monday. It took me two years to change my career and a lot of ups and downs, but GOD made a way for me once I took that first step and believed in Him for the miracle. Be of good courage! Let God be God, and trust in Him!



od-Centered Courage (GCC) is a choice and a big part of having GCC is having Faith. We can't have GCC without having faith. They go hand in hand. God knows we tend to be fearful creatures. When someone sneaks up behind us and says "Boo" we jump out of fright, it is in our nature. But, have "no fear" our Lord and Savior has a remedy for that. "The Lord is my light and my salvation--whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life--of whom shall I be afraid" (Psalm 27:1, NIV)? Our sword, the Bible, is packed with examples and scriptures of those who overcame insurmountable odds and challenges. Those who may have stumbled, but yet, got back up--and the key is "getting back up! GCC relies upon the supernatural power of the Holy Spirit to do what we as human beings cannot do with our own might and will power. This power gives us the inner strength to stay the course, to make the right choices and to live for Christ. GCC requires a total commitment to everything God is, does and says. It is quite literally putting our lives and our eternity on God's trustworthiness. GCC begins by challenging our faith by daring to believe God more and more and by acting on that truth! "For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of

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God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 8:38-39, NIV). "Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord" [1 Corinthians 15:58, Common New Testament (CNT)]. Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ is our ultimate example of Courage! When He sacrificed Himself on Calvary He overcame sin, death and hell for you and me.



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# WIND, WAVES, & NOISE

lailing arms over swells two teenagers, Tyler Smith and Heather Brown both aged 17, fought for their lives. It began earlier that day when both decided to spend their "Senior Skip Day" swimming in the ocean at Vilano Beach near

Jacksonville, Florida. Shortly after the day began both encountered a riptide and were taken approximatel y 2 miles away from shore. The



two teenagers fought against the wind, the waves, and beaming sun for more than two hours desperately trying to make their way back to shore. Both were shivering in anxiety, pale from exhaustion, and weakened by their inability to gain traction back to shore. As they fought against the waves to hold each other up the teenagers stated they began to feel hard pressed for a "miracle". Both teenagers began to pray to God. Tyler Smith called out to God, asking God if He had a plan for the both of them to "bring something".

Above the noise, the waves, the reverberating

sound of the ships engine and relentless wind almost 200 yards away Captain Eric Wagner, owner of the boat, heard what he believed to be a loud scream. Searching for where the scream initiated he saw what he believed to be "flailing

> arms over swells." His crew was alerted and they began to move toward the two teenagers. Wagner stated, "It was kind of surprising we

heard them. Especially when they were...almost 200 yards away."

Once on the boat Captain Wagner shared with the teenagers his boats name "Amen." Both teenagers began to cry. Heather Brown's first response was, "There is a God." Captain Wagner of Amen stated, "There were too many coincidences, in my opinion, for this to be a coincidence. I truly believe it was divine intervention. It had nothing to do with me. I was just put there at the right place at the right time, and I did the same thing anyone else would have done, pulled them aboard."

# FEATURED ARTICLE KIMODOMS-BOLDEN

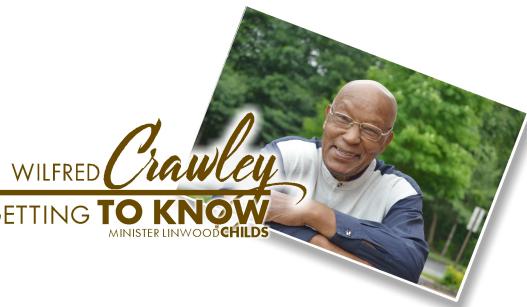
2 Corinthians 4:7-9 states, "But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us." If we feel "hard pressed on every side", we are not "crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed."

When Tyler prayed to God he asked for God's plan for their lives to be fulfilled. In 1 Chronicles 28:20, King David counseling his son stated, "Be strong and of good courage, and do it: fear not, nor be dismayed: for the Lord God, even my God, will be with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee, until thou has finished all the work for the service of the house of the Lord." If God would "bring something" for Tyler Smith and Heather Brown, He will do the same for you.

A man or woman in God's will is immortal until God's Will is fulfilled. No wind, no wave, or noise can thwart God's plan for your life. Be of good courage!!!

they
began to
feel
hard pressed
for
a
"miracle"
Kim Odoms-Bolden

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hroughout human existence there has never been a time where courage has not been needed. The late President John F. Kennedy wrote a book entitled, *Profiles In Courage*, where he lays out people whose personal and national sacrifice can aptly be described with the word courage.

Psalms 27:14 reads, "Wait on the Lord and be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart, wait I say on the LORD." One Hebrew word captures the four English words, "be of good courage", and lifts this verse to memorable heights. The verse thus instructs believers, in spite of opposition, to move with David-like courage because they, like him, have put their ultimate but active hope in the LORD, in who He is and in His counsel to them.

God has placed his people near and far who, through faith, are examples of biblically defined courage. I spoke with such a believer recently, Wilfred Crawley.

A burst of strong thunderstorms had recently ended, and gilded clouds revealed the sun's retreat. Pleasantly now engulfed in the evening air we sat outside. Positioned a stone's throw away yet parallel to the moving traffic, we remained seated in the comfort of his SUV. Wilfred Crawley and I

talked.

**Wil Crawley (WC):** This is the video from last week.

**Linwood Childs (LC):** [Note: Brother Crawley shared his phone video of a recent event]

**WC:** We go there every third Sunday afternoon, first to Fallsway and Central Avenues, with our second stop being Fayette and Front Streets. Then every fourth Monday we go to Park Heights to The Langston Hughes Community Center.

Wil showed me one of his many videos of the work his company does every month. An outreach ministry he heads up.

WC: We bring support to the homeless and needy in Baltimore. Everything you can think of in terms of clothes. There is a table for just about everything they need: personal hygiene products, and other tables with just foods, prepared and needed fresh fruits of all kinds, with healthy snacks like granola bars. We are able to bring shirts, pants, jackets, coats, shoes, sweaters, under garments, toothpaste, toothbrushes, hot beverages in the winter and cold in the summer. And all of it is donated. I called it, God's Giving Hands Corporation.

(Continued on Page 11)

went back
to my
doctor

ו אושוע

what to say

Wilfred Crawley







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**LC:** [Wil started this charted non-profit company to provide direct neighborhood help to the homeless and needy in Baltimore]

WC: We have a lady who volunteers with cooked meals, sandwiches, baked cookies, brownies, and cakes. She lives in Glen Burnie, but I just pick them up from her. She prepares all kinds of food items and puts them in plastic sandwich bags, so all I have to do is pick them up.

LC: Your locations, are they held for you and your volunteers? Are others competing for your space?

**WC:** No indeed! I tell the people this is *God's* work. This is not man's work. I tell people we're doing God's work. When we first went there some were complaining saying the police don't want you down here. I told one lady, if they don't want us down here, then it's a funny thing, because the police are donating to us!

Wil showed me a picture of full tables before and then the tables after the people gathered what they needed. He, with a growing group of volunteers, man these table every month with all the things being donated each month. What made you get this started?

WC: A lot of people don't believe it. But I would say it's like a vision that was brought to me way back in 1999. I was living in New Jersey and working in Bally's. This came to me when I came down here looking to find a church to go to when I came down here to visit my family. So, I asked a friend of mine to take me to a church that was preaching the Bible. We went to a lot of churches. When we came to Columbia Community Church, I said this is it! There were a lot more churches they had planned, but I said, this is it. This pastor is preaching from the Bible. Every time I came down here, from then to now, he hasn't changed! He still preaches the Bible.

LC: Wil revealed a bit more of the back story here...

**WC:** My nephew and my nieces started this outreach. I said to myself, now if they can do *this* kind of stuff and not all this other stuff they could be doing, then I should get involved! That was the thought I had in my mind. Now I had my plans, and I had planned to come down here after I retired, but the Holy Spirit had other ideas.

LC: Wil laughed as he heard himself speak of his former plans. It seemed as though he was forced to realize how senseless his own plans were.



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WC: The Holy Spirit told me to come down here now! So, I came down here and saw what they were doing. After watching a little bit, I told them, what you're doing is not completing what you started. You're giving them a sandwich, a bottle of water and a bag of chips. We got to finish it. Back then there was only one table. I told them you need to do the whole thing, just what it says in the 25th chapter of Matthew.

the wedding attendant's parable, the parable of the talents, and Jesus talking about separating his sheep from the goats in the last judgment. In this last section Jesus, as a ruling king says to the sheep, welcome and but to the goats, depart. The reason the King gives for His edict is based on how they personally treated Him. Each group mystified at His analogy, asks, "When were You hungry, or thirsty, a stranger or naked, or sick or in prison?" His reason to both groups was identical, "In as much as you have done it unto the least of these you have it unto me."

**WC:** So, I went on and opened up **God's Giving Hands Corporation.** 

LC: There seems to be opposition everywhere you turn, especially when you are trying to accomplish

something worthy.

WC: Yes! Opposition from everywhere. My sister's place needed a lot of work, completely needed to be renovated. She needed a decent place to live. Many family members told me I could not renovate my sister's house and give her a good place to live. "We don't have the money." "You can't do it!" "You're just wasting your time." Well I told them...

**LC:** Wil has a way of making himself very clear.

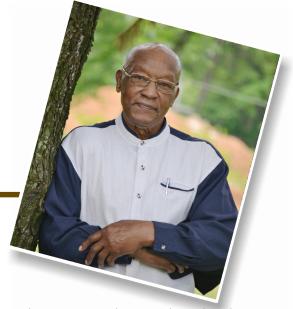
WC: Here is what I said to them: It's going to happen, either with you or without you. God has already shown me the finished work. So, it is going to get done. Everything. I tore out the furnace, the electrical, the plumbing, the walls, the floors. I basically gutted the place.

**LC:** Did *you* do all that work?

**WC:** Oh yeah, I was in construction. I've been taught by the best. I started small.

LC: Some people despise small beginnings.

**WC:** Here's how it started. Two drug addicts, a nephew and myself, that was it. The one drug addict, he was a carpenter by trade. The other drug (Continued on Page 13)



addict was a roofer by trade. The carpenters, my nephew and myself, we started gutting the house out. Then my heart went out to help my own people. My nephew said he knew some brothers that would help us clean and clear out the house. I told him to bring them. He did. They worked that next day and I paid them. One of them told me that he could not depend on the other ones to bring him, he needed this job because his wife was pregnant. So, he'd rather catch the bus than miss the work. I asked how much he needed for transportation and gave him that and more and told them all to be here no later than 9:00 am the next morning.

The next day. Nobody showed up. So, by 11 o'clock a nephew working with me, said I can take

you down to Broadway and Banks, there are Hispanics that you can hire. I went down there and got those Hispanics and brought them over, and they worked and worked, and were finished by the time the original group finally showed up, at 1:00 pm.

**LC:** Oh, if you could see the absolute irritation on his face, not to mention hearing it in his voice.

WC: When they showed up I told what the Hispanics did because they didn't show up, and then let them know they did not need to come back--I didn't need them. Well, the next group I hired was from Honduras. They went through and cleaned the next section that I needed done. They

...IT'S LIKE A VISION
THAT WAS BROUGHT
TO ME WAY BACK
IN 1999

Wilfred Crawley





did such a great job! Whew, you could eat off the floor.

Next the drug addict carpenter framed the entire house. Then the roofer completely replaced and laid down a rubber roof in one day. I actually sat up there and watched. Later when the city inspector came, he was shocked. He said this is sweet. We passed every inspection and he told us we saved at least \$20-\$30,000. He said a contractor is going to love this. So, a licensed contractor finished the house. The contractor was from the Middle East and did a fantastic job. I have him in the background waiting for the next phase God has for us.

I took pictures of the stages of the early work as it went along and showed it to the people that God directed me to. God opened up hearts to help us fund the work to give my sister a place, as is turned out virtually a brand-new place.

**LC:** God tests us to bless us. Here's what this rehab challenge established for Bro. Crawley...

**WC:** Here's what the Lord showed afterwards. Here's the plan He gave me: hire four contractors, one Black, one Hispanic, one White; and the guy from the Middle East (he's going to be over this

group). That's how it came to me and that's what I'm going to do. Just like we went from one table serving the needy to regularly filling eight tables in three locations all with donations every month for the last 5+ years, God will send the needed funds to start to create jobs through our real estate efforts. We want to provide shelter for the people we've been serving. God will let me know when it's time for me to know. And some things I don't need to know. So, I'm going to depend on Him. I tell Him: I'm in your hands! Wherever You send me, I'm going.

**LC:** God has sent Bro Crawley across this region and even to Facebook.

WC: I've had no real reason to use Facebook until now, in raising donations. I send out pictures of each event and location to show people the need and the response. Some people who I thought would surely keep their word and give, gave nothing; and people I was sure would give nothing gave abundantly. I don't know how God is going to get it done, but that's alright, because it's not about me. It's about God.

One man told me he wanted to donate some shoes to me. I said ok. But when I went to pick them up, I could not believe it. He gave me 37 pairs of shoes.

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Many were designer shoes whose names I can't pronounce...37! Another person gave me ten suits. After one Facebook posting, a woman drove two hours on a Sunday to meet us, just to give so we could give. We give everything free. I tell them we cannot satisfy your wants; you can never satisfy wants, but if you need something, pick it up. If not, then let that be for next person.

**LC:** This was a surprising testimony.

**WC:** One of the guys we help spoke this to me. "We see a lot of people come here and were grateful and then we don't see them again. But you…I don't care *what* kind of weather is it, you are always down here!"

Oh, sometimes a family member or volunteer would become worried about the weather. But no matter what the weatherman says, this is God's work. I tell them we're not worrying about nothing. No matter what the weather they are still hungry, we'll be fine!

One day it did rain. Unknown to any of us as we arrived, a brother showed up with tents! He set them up and they stretched a whole block long. I say it and say it, "This is God's work we're doing, and I'm not worried about nothing!"

One normal Sunday afternoon a guy just showed up. He said he drove from Philadelphia. He was a Muslim. The whole back seat of his car was loaded down with pizzas. He said with a humble voice, "Brothers I have daughters down here. I saw you on Facebook as I was coming down here to visit my daughters. Would you mind if I donate these pizzas to you?" I told him he was welcome here. I saw history being made as a Christian and a Muslim stood together serving our homeless and needy families.

**LC:** And yes, he sent out those pictures on his Facebook also.

WC: I tell you, that you can't figure out God. A woman came one day and asked the volunteers where she could find Wil. They pointed me out to them. She said, "I cooked all this food for another event but when I saw you on Facebook, I changed my mind. Can I give it to you? I can't stay but maybe I can just leave it with you?"

**LC:** [I found myself at a loss for words]

WC: Opposition comes and can make you feel that you're getting tired. I always pray, "Father strengthen and guide me", again and again. I take a scripture verse and read the whole chapter and meditate on it. Before long, all that stuff that was in

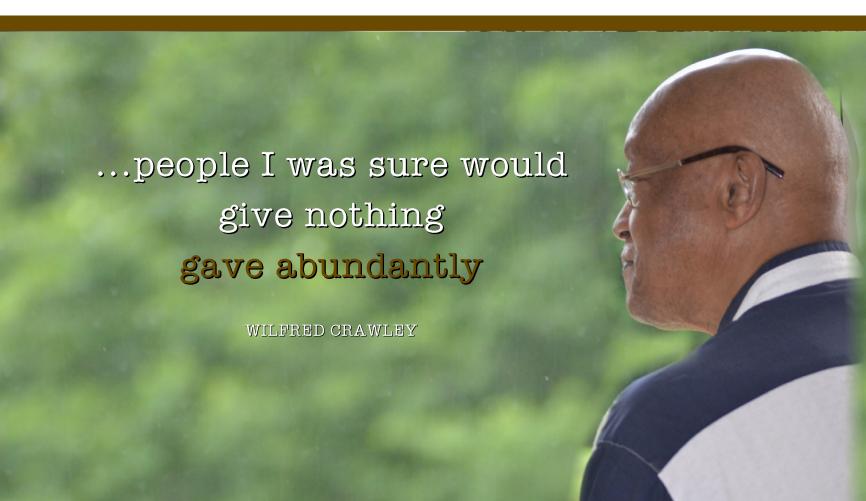


front of me is gone. God moves all that negativity. Just like the Word of God says, resist the devil and he'll flee from you. I tell everybody else too, call on him. Father strengthen me and guide.

**LC:** So, you don't need a special place to pray.

WC: Anywhere. You don't have to pray out loud. Say it in your mind. God knows all about you. If you're sincere and you go to God, He's going to answer you. I'm a living witness. Years ago the doctor said I had cancer. I told the doctor he had

lost his mind! I'm going to go to your doctor, but when I come back you are going to be shocked by the medical report. Also the doctors, for a time, had me on medication for high blood pressure and high cholesterol. I prayed to God, "Father I am not going to stay on this medication for the rest of my life. I know you can cure me of anything I have. So, I'm putting myself into your hands. Lord if I go down, I'm going down holding on to Your Word." That's been 12 years ago, and I haven't taken any blood pressure or cholesterol medication. And I went (Continued on Page 17)





back to my doctor, he didn't know what to say, because as he looked at my medical records I didn't have prostate cancer. I'm a living witness.

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Do like the word of God says, in everything give thanks. When you thank Him for everything, it drives negativity away. God's word is out there, letting you know what to do when you're confronted with anything. He tells us, all that He wants us to do is believe.

**LC:** How do you see the future of your work?

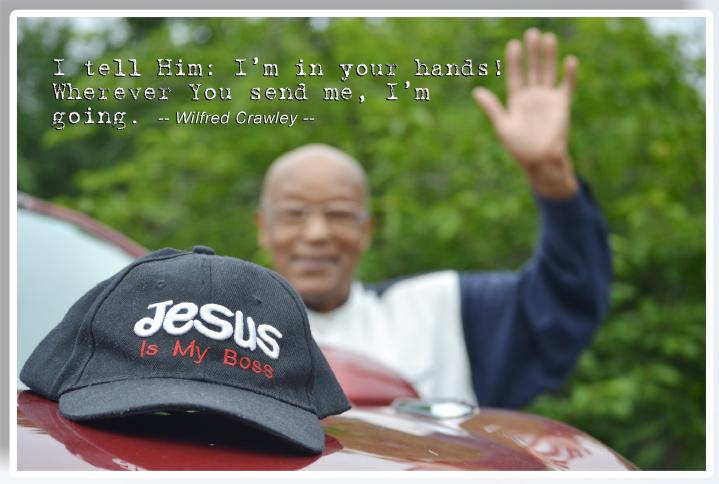
WC: God has already given me the plans. Just like when we started, God is going to supply <u>all</u> we need. Columbia Community Church has donated and still donates. People I worked with in New Jersey are donating. One business has just told me that a percentage of their business sales will be coming to us monthly. It is in the plan to use real estate to support our work with the needy. God is going to send in His way and in His time, because it's not about me it's His work.

LC: Wil has a vision to create his own jobs for people, to provide shelter, and fully support the homeless and needy. We talked a little about young people. He relayed something that happened between him and a nephew.

wc: He had asthma, hooked drugs, and smoking and drinking. His young life was a mess. One day I ripped into him. I made him so mad he eventually stormed off to his room. Before he went, I told him this: If you want to be rehabbed let *God* rehab you, for if God does it you don't have to worry about it. It's done. You can either do it or not do it. Told him he was a [fool] and less than man. If you mean business, go to God and ask God to take the taste of the tobacco, drugs and alcohol, away from you. Otherwise you're a [donkey]!

He stormed off so mad he told me he would never ask me for anything again. He got to his room and lay across the bed. Then he said this thought came to him: You want to quit smoking? Ball up those cigarettes and flush them down the toilet. Don't do like you've done before, break them up, put them in the trash can and then go back after them. He said he got up and balled up those cigarettes and put them in the toilet. He went back and laid down, he said it felt like a weight had been lifted up off his shoulders and suddenly he could breathe really good. He came out of the room, came to me and said, "Uncle, I am so glad you laid me out."

That brother is clean, got married, started his own business and that's been twenty-some years ago. He said he's not going to ever look back. I tell you if



you go to God and you're really sincere, He's going to answer you.

**LC:** What do you tell young people when you talk to them.

**WC:** I point them to the Word. That's their strength, not man. If you get hooked up with God, you're heading in the right direction. That is why the young lady here at Columbia Community Church, Evette Bellamy is preparing Scripture for us. It will be in both Spanish and English and we're putting the Scriptures out there. The Word, if you believe it, will change your entire *life!* 

LC: As we were preparing to depart, I asked Wil how he defined courage. I asked because he never once in our conversation mentioned or made any reference to any danger or perceived danger or threats in working in these neighborhoods these past five years. Think of all that has happened in Baltimore in the last five years. Some could not get passed it, but he seemed to barely see it.

**WC:** Courage...as I see it, is to stand anchored in something and don't waiver no matter what, to me that's courage.

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"The truth will set you free" is spoken commonly in our society. It generally is said to encourage someone to tell the truth or confess a misdeed. The inference being that you will feel better or will be delivered from the burden of your lie if you confess. Recently I chose to look this

sentence up in the Bible and was surprised to discover the real meaning of these words. "As Jesus spoke these things, many believed in Him. So He said to the Jews who had believed Him, 'If you continue in My word, you are truly My disciples.

Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free'" (John 8:30-32 Berean Study Bible).

This is amazing and challenging for us as believers. Like the Jews who were speaking and listening to Jesus, we have thoughts and beliefs that are false; it hinders us in understanding what God is truly saying. When we seek to continue to walk with God we learn the truth of God's Word. The truth being that Jesus is the son of God; He was crucified and died for our sins; then three days later

He rose from the dead. It is belief in that truth that sets us free.

It takes courage to be able to stay in God's Word because it causes us to often be against things that we may have been taught by our parents, other relatives and our society. Those listening to Jesus

responded to him by saying "We are Abraham's descendants. We have never been slaves to anyone. How can You say we will be set free?" Jesus replied, "Truly, truly, I tell you, everyone who sins is a slave to sin. A slave is not a permanent



member of the family, but a son belongs to it forever. So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed (John 8:33-36 Berean Study Bible).

Jesus continued to reveal himself to them, but they could not see the truth in His Words. Eventually, they called Him a demon and attempted to stone Him (John 8:37-59). This passage about truth setting us free has nothing to do with how society promotes it. It is about believing that Jesus is who says He is, accepting Him as Savior and continuing in His Word.

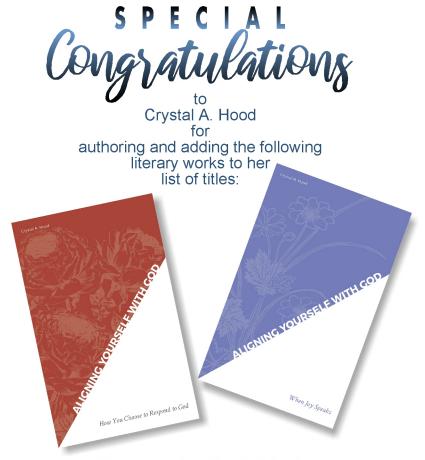


The Bible tells us "...the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it pierces even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow. It judges the thoughts and intentions of the heart. Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight; everything is uncovered and exposed before the eyes of Him to whom we must give account." (Hebrews 4:12 Berean Study Bible). It takes courage to openly and humbly surrender to God and to accept Jesus as Savior. We then need to allow His Word to cut deep into us, by yielding to the Holy Spirit. When we read God's Word the Holy Spirit reveals to us who we really are, what we really think and what we really believe.

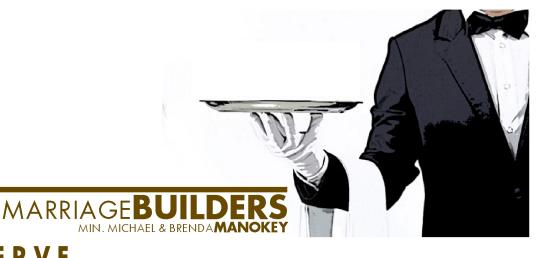
Allowing God's Word to cut into us is painful and tearful. We want to run from it because it hurts when the Holy Spirit shows us our true nature and motives. We want to reject it because its truth goes against our base beliefs about ourselves and life. It is hard for us to admit that what we think or believe is wrong.

Walking with Jesus can be challenging because family, friends and others may respond to us as those that spoke with Jesus. They may call us mean words, slander our name and attempt to do us harm. It takes good courage to continue to stand with God and go against ourselves, those we love and society.

Praise God for He does not leave us alone, but provides for us good courage through the Holy Spirit. Only through the power of the Holy Spirit is our courage strengthened and fortified. He enables us to see the truth in God's Word, know Jesus as Savior, and testify about Jesus to others. Be of good courage. His truth will set you free! Additional Biblical references: John 16:13, Matthew 16:16-17, Acts, Deuteronomy 31:6



Please contact Crystal Hood directly for purchasing information.



# THE COURAGE to S.E.R.V.E.

e as Christians have available, through God's Word, practical guidance in marriage that helps us to value service above self. Pastor Jimmy Evans has outlined through an article entitled, *Five Rules For Serving Your Spouse*, that through using the acronym SERVE we can appreciate God's hand in bringing together two needy people who are willing to stand by one another. There is also a clear need to take on a Christ-like love that encourages service. Jesus said, "But he who is greatest among you shall be your servant" (Matthew 23:11). In service, strength is found and joy will abound. Here are the five rules for serving your spouse:

# **5:** Supply what your spouse needs in spite of what you need, want or understand.

Men and women are completely different and have different needs. When we ask our spouse to meet a need, we want him or her to listen first, then strive to meet that need – whether it makes sense to them or not.

# **E:** Enjoy serving your spouse and do it with a joyful attitude.

The first reason God created us is to serve Him, but the second reason is that God created marriage and us to enjoy it. That is our purpose, which means your husband or wife should never feel like a burden to you. After all, you should serve your spouse happily and gratefully; it is the vow you made.

## R: Reject scorekeeping.

Serve with a spirit of grace and faith; we must remember that Jesus loved us while we were yet sinners, loving us whether we deserve it or not. The grace shown by the Savior is the approach couples should show to one another that leads to redemptive love – giving even if you don't want to give, and trusting God to use your sacrificial love to redeem your spouse.

# **V:** Vigilantly protect the priority of your marriage.

Marriage is so important that it has to be given priority in your life. God created marriage so that marriage comes first. We should tell each other, "You come first. You get the first and best of my energies." That's God's plan and we have to protect it with careful attention.

## **E:** Expect to be blessed.

Remember Jesus' promise? "He who is greatest among you shall be your servant." We have to trust that He will honor and bless us for following His example of sacrificial, redemptive love.

Commitment requires change. If you want to change your marriage, make the decision to start serving your spouse – then trust God for the results.







### **COLUMBIA COMMUNITY CHURCH**

8516 Thomas Williams Way P.O. Box 2292 Columbia, MD 21045

# **SCHEDULE OF SERVICES**

## **EVERY SUNDAY:**

10:00 AM Church School (All Ages)11:00 AM Meditation & Prayer11:15 AM Morning Worship

### COMMUNION SERVICES

1st Sunday of Every Month

## **EVERY WEDNESDAY:**

Noon-Day Prayer 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Noon-Day Bible Study 12:00 PM - 01:00 PM
Evening Prayer 07:30 PM - 08:00 PM
Evening Bible Study 08:00 PM - 09:00 PM

Youth Bible Study 07:00 PM - 08:00 PM

# GENERAL INFORMATION

## **CARE & COMFORT MINISTRY**

Sis. Linda M. Byrd: 410-313-9673 / Sis. Donna Givhan / 410-997-3276 columbiamdcareandcomfort@gmail.com

### **CHURCH CONTACTS**

Phone: 410-465-7040 / Fax: 410-465-0943 Church Website: www.columbiaccmd.org

### **CHURCH LIBRARY**

Open Every Sunday 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM and after service until 2:00 PM