





# ON THE COVER

The smile on James Forrester's (CCC Minister of Music's) face that he so readily gives seems to reflect the inherent joy and song in his heart.

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# A WORD FROM THE WORD PASTOR REGINALD L.ELLIOTT

He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the

Lord require

of thee, but do do justly, and to love mercy, and to

walk humbly

with thy God?

Micah 6:8, KJV

# WALKHUMBLY

alk humbly is a phrase often identified with the prophet Micah and his words to ancient Judah.

What exactly does it mean to walk humbly and how do we do it in our daily life? Simply put, we know that when we walk humbly, we will please God and reflect His likeness.

However, is humility a character trait of God and should it be thought of as one we should

strive for in our desire to be like Him? Thinking of it in that manner would be a misunderstanding. God tells us to walk humbly not to imitate Him, but to instruct us how to live in right relationship with Him. Living in right relationship will result in us reflecting the likeness of God.

From the beginning God required a certain lifestyle of those who claimed Him as their God, and He promised to bless them as they remained faithful to Him. However, instead of obedience, they chose to

live in rebellion and then blame God for the consequences of their rebellious behavior. God's

rejection of them and their worship is not teaching that their behavior would merit them blessing. Rather it was a call for them to live out the reality of their faith in everyday living. Such living will be manifested in acts of kindness, mercy, justice and compassion, and will reflect the likeness of God.

...walking humbly
does not mean
to think less of yourself...

Pastor Reginald L. Elliott

So, it was in ancient Judah, so it is today.

The fundamental basis for walking humbly with God is a recognition that we cannot live without Him. We can try but will not find life and that more abundant without Him. Further, walking humbly does not mean to think less of yourself, to constantly berate yourself as unworthy. To walk humbly is to walk in obedience, to walk in faith, faith without which no man can please the Lord. Let us walk humbly.

# CHRISTIAN COMEDY CORNER CAROLYNJACKSON

# "A merry heart doeth good like a medicine"

Proverbs 17:22 (KJV)

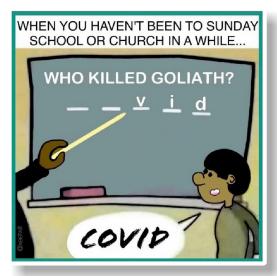
What did the mom tell her son after he asked her for McDonald's Grand McExtreme bacon burger meal with large fries, salad, medium drink and McCafe cinnamon roll?

She said "You better ask Jesus for some McDonald's money!"



**Exercise?** I thought you said Extra Fries.





I'm on two diets. I wasn't getting enough food on one.

**Apparently RSVP'ing** to a wedding invitation "Maybe next time," isn't the correct response.

**Don't irritate old people.** The older we get, the less "Life in prison" is a deterrent.

# "You will hit every cone on the highway

before I let you merge in front of me because you saw that sign 2 miles ago like I did."

I told my wife I wanted to be cremated. She made me an appointment for Tuesday.

**Confuse your doctor** by putting on rubber gloves at the same time he does.

Blesssings 2U, Sister Carolyn Jackson Brother Collin Dunlap



# ATTITUDE ADJUSMENT ... humility

"It was pride that changed angels into devils; it is humility that makes men as angels"

-- St. Augustine --

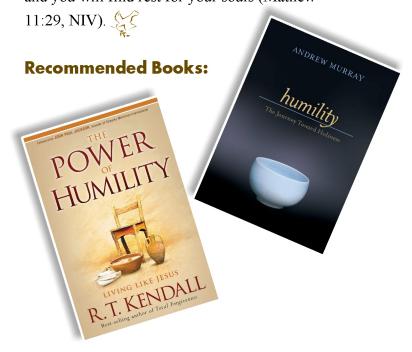
t the most organic level, the Bible defines humility as God-centeredness and pride as self-centeredness. Humility is essentially in recognizing God as Almighty, the Alpha and the Omega, and the Great I am. Recognizing that God owns everything and everything belongs to Him, and without Him we are nothing and can do nothing is a start. This God-centered understanding of humility is obviously absent from the world we live in today. Our secular image of humility is wrought with images of passivity and weakness, yet our greatest example of humility was Jesus the Christ. Jesus paid the ultimate price of death on the cross for our sins and endured humility out of obedience to the Father.

"And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father" (Philippians 2:8-11, ESV).

Humility is our friend, humility frees us from our pride and arrogance, humility helps us understand our need for God in our life. Living a life of humility helps us focus on our blessings and rise above our circumstances and most importantly, can act as a catalyst to change the attitude of our heart so that it is aligned and consistent with the fruits of the Spirit -- love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control (Galatians 5:22-23).

**DESIREE COLLINS** 

Do as the Bible says, "Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls (Mathew



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# WHEN DISASTER STRIKES

# FEATURED ARTICLE

am enamored thinking about the vintage gospel song that talks about looking back over my life. Without going too far back, I think about the arduous past three years dealing with medical issues that apparently were there but, I was somewhat not bothered. Yet, the issues somehow found their way

into the focal point of my daily life. Along with the debilitating health issues came the pandemic and with the pandemic I was able to identify with Abraham when, "The Lord had said to Abram, 'Leave your country, your people

and your father's household to the land I will show you" (Genesis 12:1 NIV). Although I did not leave my country per se, I did leave my household (home), my people, and my familiarity of independence for more than fifteen months and still counting. In doing so, the message of God I reckoned to, was when Jesus said to His disciples, "the harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field" (Matthew 9:37-38, NIV). Not really knowing where I was going, for what time period, and most importantly, why I ended up in a place that still feels very foreign indeed, I had asked for harvest. Job 7:1 (NIV) asks,

"Do not mortals have hard service on earth? Are not their days like those of hired laborers?"

Yet, not having any real clarity and definitive answers in the natural sense didn't mean I didn't have a sense of what my Father in heaven was doing. One thing for sure and two things for certain,

I'm sure there is more to this puzzle, and that I fit into called life beyond what I can see with my natural eyes and senses. I have at least three very clear purposes into which I was directed.

The first was with

every trial there are lessons to be learned, cultivated and will be made fruitful if we allow and carry them into fruition. In other words, do not get weary, do not faint and falter in hard times. Then, we will mount up on wings like eagles and soar. Not fly, we will soar.

Secondly, when you can't see where God's hand is leading trust His heart. We know without a shadow of a doubt it is God's good pleasure to lavish upon us His blessings. Every good and perfect gift is from above. If it didn't come from above it's not perfect and guess what, I don't want anything to do with it. NOTHING! Satan appears as an angel of light. No thank you.



Thirdly, a scripture I would often share, "You do not have because you do not ask God" (James 4:2). This verse became and is my motto. The problem is when we "have" it's not always that tough to ask for more but, when we "have not" the struggle is real and in some cases excruciatingly difficult to ask people who treat us with crassness and abruptness. Truly, this journey has been a "humble walk." Literally! In the past three years I've had to ask for assistance, help, advice, support, encouragement, food and

"...when you can't see where God's hand is leading, trust His heart..." Kim Odoms-Bolden

more. My motto, "You have not because you ask not (God)," found the new friend, friendly scripture, "Do not forsake your friend or a friend of your family, and do not go to your relative's house when disaster strikes you – better a neighbor nearby than a

relative far away" (Proverbs 27:10, NIV). No pun intended.

The Word of God is like a balm in Gilead. It is true, and although written more than 2,000 years ago "God is (IS) our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble" (Psalm 46:1, NIV).

My takeaways include but are not limited to: James 4:10 "Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up." (James 4:10, NIV); Isaiah 66:2 "These are the ones I look on with favor: those

who are humble and contrite in spirit, and who tremble at my word." (Isaiah 66:2, NIV); and, "Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth" (Matthew 5:5, NIV).

The way I see it today is that I will ask in the matchless, magnificent name of Jesus my Lord. If I ask who the Lord directs me to I simply say, "the ball is in Your court Lord." In other words, I've done You and now over to You Lord. So when I get to heaven there will never be blessings upon blessings stored in some dichotomy and I'm told these are the blessings the Lord had for me but I

never asked. Not my story. As painful as it is this humble walk has been clear. WHEN disaster strikes, "is it" that you have not because you do not ask God?

# HEALTHY SUMMERLIVING

raise God for the progress we have made moving forward through the pandemic. Praise God for the scientific advances that have allowed men and women of science and medicine to develop vaccines that have slowed this deadly virus. Praise God for those who have remained virus free, those who became infected and recovered, and we pray for strength and comfort for those who lost loved ones. As we move forward, still remain vigilant. Covid may not be a thing of the past for some time.

Please become fully vaccinated. If you have reservations, educate yourself. Read information from credible sources. Pray to God to give you peace and confidence that you are doing the right thing for yourself and those you love.

Still avoid crowded places as much as possible, social distance, and wear a mask if appropriate.

Also, let's not forget the usual healthy practices for summer:

Physical activity is important. The CDC recommends young children (3-5 years old) need activity daily for growth and development.

Children and adolescents 6-17 need 60 minutes of moderate – vigorous intensity physical activity daily.

Adults need 150 minutes per week of moderate intensity activity such as brisk walking.

Regardless of age, some physical activity is better than none.

**Apply a broad spectrum sunscreen** with at least SPF 30 for sun safety.

**Eat a healthy diet**. Explore some summertime fruits and vegetables to make your meals healthier.

**Stay cool/stay hydrated.** Extreme heat can be dangerous for everyone, but especially for people with chronic medical conditions. Drink water instead of sugary drinks. Be aware of heat exhaustion and heat stroke that can be deadly.

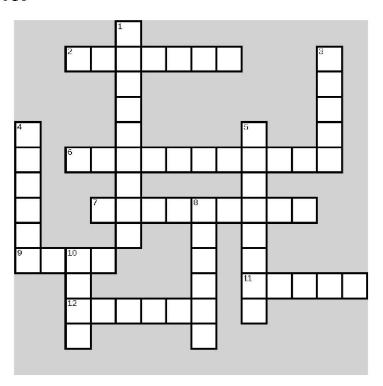
# Some signs of heat danger are:

- \*Headache, dizziness and confusion
- \*Hot, red, dry skin
- \*Heavy sweating
- \*Nausea/vomiting
- \*Muscle cramps

Praying for everyone to have a safe and blessed summer!

sorb new gerr

# Bible Trivia



#### Across

- 2 After the flood, what sign did God give that He would not destroy the earth with a flood again?
- 6 What river was Jesus baptized in? (HINT: Add river to the end of your answer)
- 7 What job did Jesus' earthly father, Joseph, do?
- 9 What is the name of Jesus' mother?
- 11 Who was the son of Abraham and Sarah?
- 12 How many disciples did Jesus have?

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#### Down

- 1 What did Simon Peter do for a living?
- 3 Who denied Jesus three times?
- 4 What did King Solomon ask God to give him?
- 5 How many books are in the Bible?
- 8 How many brothers did Joseph have?
- 10 Who did Boaz marry?

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# GETTING TO KNOW



umility. The greatest book of all time teaches this about humility, "Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed in humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble" (1 Peter 5:5, KJV). Humility is not a destination, but a journey with God's grace and where much grace is given, is also much required. This quarter we look at the ongoing journey of James Forrester, our church's lead musician.

**Linwood Childs (LC):** What would you want people to know about you?

James Forrester (JF): The one thing that I would want people know about me is that I am a God-fearing man, seeking to share wisdom, inward wisdom that can be shared with those who see that sincerity within me. I move slowly but surely because I do take life seriously.

LC: Was there a time when it was a challenge to take life seriously?

JF: Oh yes. I have walked a pathway that could have led me in a much different direction because of the company I was keeping as a youngster growing up. My life has taken shape because of the discipline of my parents; they had a strictness to the values they were teaching, and I had to learn to

resist those temptations from those outer sources. This had made me into the man that I am today.

**LC:** Which parent was more of a disciplinarian?

JF: Oh, my mother. She was a very strict, church going woman. Both of my parents were church-goers. No matter where I went or what I did, I would come home and mom would teach me the values of right versus wrong, so I wouldn't stray, and that helped me a great deal.

**LC:** Were you in the church when you were younger and then came back into the church when you got older?

JF: No, I was always in church, they kept me in church, even my other siblings. Every Sunday, two days out of the week, and choir rehearsals on Saturdays. We were always there, services nightly, all day on Sunday BTU (Baptist Training Union) on Sunday afternoon, Sunday School before morning service -- we were in all of that.

**LC:** Looking back, in general, they were good places to be.

**JF:** Yes, they were, looking back on it. There were times that I did not want to be there *[laughing a]* 

(Continued on Page 11)

am
a
God-fearing
man

seeking to share wisdom

James Forrester







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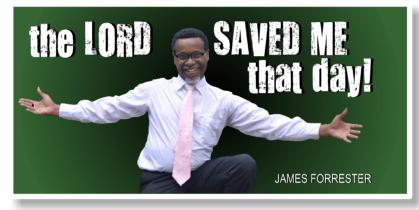
bit]. I wanted to stay home and watch TV or listen to music or what have you.

I wanted to hear at that time. He didn't hold my attention.

LC: I have to agree, there were times growing up in which there were struggles to keep that pace.

**JF:** I didn't take God seriously as a

youngster at that time. We all still had that play in us. We want to hang with the boys, our church buddies, in some cases our little church girlfriends. But when I was there I was with my church buddies. Sometimes, after we sang on the choir we would sneak out, if my mother didn't see me. We would sneak out because there was a little confectionary shop across the street from the church. I would go over there when the pastor would be preaching and eat candy, then I would come back when I thought he was finished! I was sure nobody would notice me missing! Now at that time, I enjoyed the worship service, but not the worship word. It wasn't that I did not enjoy the worship word at all. He preached, but he was not speaking to me at that time. He was an old-school preacher, a good man too! He had a good heart and I thank God for him. But he was not speaking what



LC: Describe what changed? What caught your attention and made you say I'd better think about this?

JF: Well, the

"metamorphosis" began more so in my late teens. I began to think...I need to recognize who God is, because I was still straddling the fence, going to parties and the sort. I was thinking about God but not as I should. Now the real change took place in my 20s. It was one day in the locker room I believe it was after a Phys-Ed class. The security guard and I always spoke, hi/bye type of stuff. But one day he walked up to me and asked me if I knew Jesus Christ as my Savior. My response, "Well I go to church, and I enjoy church." Then I had to think about what he said for a minute. I slowly said, "I...really...don't...know...Him..." He asked firmly, "Are you SAVED?" I replied, "I thought I was." That's when he took my hand and prayed with me, pled the blood of Jesus over my life. Then he told me to confess with my mouth the Lord Jesus Christ. The Lord saved me that day!



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LC: Yes!

JF: I've been on a road less-traveled, ever since that day! Even with the trials and tribulations that still tested, BUT I was leaning on the Lord's side now.

**LC:** Awesome, there you go!

**JF:** At that point, I felt that my life was now changing. I knew that there were things I needed to do, and things I needed to give up in order to really regard the Lord Jesus in my life.

**LC:** What happened next?

JF: Not much later I passed a church recently started by this young minister on North Avenue and Druid Hill. Yes, it was Walter Scott Thomas. Then he had a head of hair and fancy side-burns.

**LC:** Now that's been few years ago.

JF: He spoke to me. He took the old school and made it contemporary. He showed how all those old things in the Bible that happened are still happening right now. That's what I enjoyed and that's when I really got hooked to the Word.

**LC:** I'm not going to ask you what year that was.

**JF:** You must be looking at all the "dust" on my face and beard!

LC & JF: (laughing)

**JF:** I'm not ashamed, it was the late 70's.

LC: Tell me when did you get interested in music?

**JF:** I just knew you would get around to asking me about music!

**LC:** Yeah, you knew it "weren't too fer a 'ways!"

JF: You could say really as a youngster, about 9 years old or so. I enjoyed musical TV shows, cartoon music and, the church musicians inspired me. But oddly enough, music was not my first love!

**LC:** Really, what was?

**JF:** My first love was art.

LC: Art?

**JF:** I could sketch and I could sit down and do portraits, I used colored pencils, and various grades (Continued on Page 13)

of lead pencils. I did buildings and used to do lettering, getting really into it with posters and banners for my church. I really enjoyed doing that.

I remember at about 16 or 17, there was advertisement everywhere for this art school. Just draw this pirate and you could enroll in this art school, the art school in Minneapolis. I kept talking to my mother about it, telling her that I would love to get into that. I sent off the drawing of the pirate but I never heard back from them, which deterred me since they were so slow in responding at all.

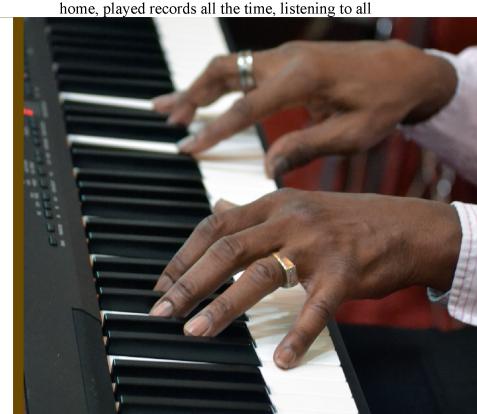
To this day, I regret not keeping up with the old works I completed early on. There was a commercial artist that had his own graphic arts

business that I passed by regularly. I wanted to talk to him and learn things, but I could never catch up with him. I finally caught up to him one day, but I kind of think he didn't take me seriously, he chucked me off a little bit. And later his business moved.

I went on to college and majored in art. But let me tell you how music came about. I was torn between the two – I enjoyed art. Back in grade school I also acted and did pantomimes, and really thought I should go into art. I even wrote for the school newspaper in grade school. But I stopped after graduation.

I grew up with music in church, listening to it at









the hits of the day. Or my cousin would bring over an old '60s record he had. We played that one record all day long until I knew it forward and back. I remember when Motown hits came out and that really did something to me. But I first wanted to play because my grandmother had a small organ at home. She was learning using just one-finger to play songs she knew. I got curious, and when she got away from it I would sit down and try to learn the notes using just one finger, too. Now at school they made us play auto-harps and that made me really listen for and know the right notes. That started me learning the right sound as opposed to the wrong sounds. Now I applied that to my little one-finger search on my grandmother's organ. I grew from there on for a while. I got away from it a bit because I started hanging out with my "friends" as I mentioned before. I didn't have a piano at home to practice and wanted to play using more than just one finger. I wanted to know how did these people play with five fingers?? I watched even Liberace; he inspired me, for his flashiness. What he did was like magic. I asked myself what could I do to make magic. Then there was my church organist, he rocked the house, really rocked the house. I was really into it, clapping my hands enthusiastically as he played. I would go home and imitate him on my table in my dining room. Playing on the table thinking I was playing music on an

instrument! My folks thought I was crazy! Little did they know it was in my head – I was envisioning myself making music and letting my fingers go with it. I didn't know what the notes were, but I was making music. I could feel and dream of myself doing it. In between the afternoon and evening service I run to the organ but often the church janitor would come up and put me off, because it sounded like noise. At home we would play church in the back yard. One of us would be the preacher, others would be the choir members, guess who the musician was?! I just knew I was doing something!

In my last year of high school, I was able to take piano at school with an instructor. That's when I learned how to read sheet music and find the notes on the keyboard. Another student also took piano and in between the studies we would have jam sessions. He was in one room and I was in the one right next to him, but we would still have our jam sessions doing stuff that was not on the page during our "practice" time. Often, we would see our instructor slowing pass our rooms watching us, knowing that was not the classical piece we were supposed to be practicing. After that I learned that I really needed discipline, and realized I had to stop and really practice.

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**LC:** When did you first play in a church service?

JF: Oh, I was 19. Everyone new that I was trying to play. One day they came to me and said the church musician, who inspired me, would not be able to attend this service and would I play for them. Now when you're at home and you're playing, you sound like the greats, like Liberace or Billy Preston. But when you're out in public it's a whole different thing. I could not believe that they asked me to play the songs that he played. Well, I was scared...to

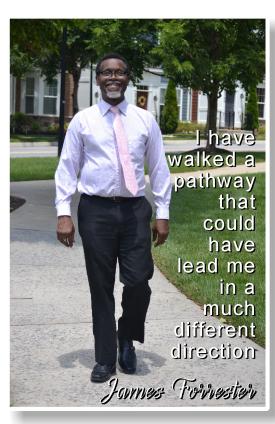
death. I told them that its not going to sound like him! I'm still a beginner. At that service when I sat to play the first chords of the song and play through the song, well my hands froze! My fingers just stayed on the keys and I *could not* move to the next chords fast enough. I was scared! The saints went on through with me and just tolerated it, but nevertheless at that point they watched me grow.

Of course, people laughed, but I didn't let that deter me. Even my family didn't think I was

going to become anything. Now I was still young and I enrolled in college as an *art* major! I thought my art grades would be really high. But once I found out that they had practice rooms on campus, I hung out in the music practice rooms not the art studios. And I was not even a music major. My art grades were ugh...D's and F's.

I had to take a photography class but I could not afford the supplies, it was too expensive and I was a commercial art major. I would have to get a loan

> to pay for the supplies for that class. That discouraged me, and made me hang out more in the music department. The head of the music department saw me hanging out so much until he told me, "Well you need to switch over into music and become a music major". God bless his soul – that man told me the best thing in my life. When I switched over the next semester. I realized that that was what God was calling me to do. My grades shot right up, A's! With all the education, and practice, now my ear was getting even sharper.





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A teaching moment. As musicians we are aural people. What we hear and the vibrations we feel are so intertwined in us with pure notes, that we have to impart it for others to hear, and to understand, to help them know that music is beautiful! And has to be made beautiful through our production of it and the correct tonal production; comparing what's right about it with what's wrong about it.

LC: Why? People approach their talent and gifts from various points of view. Why do you play?

**JF:** First and foremost I play for God. God is first and the head of my life, who has allowed me to

have the talent He has given me, and the talent is to be used for His glory. Anything around it I also love. Yet, the first is His commandment to love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, soul and strength. Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things shall be added unto you. He is the cause and the reason.

**LC:** If someone was given you the opportunity to teach voice or piano which would you choose?

**JF:** It would be piano first, then voice. It is said that music is the fabric and sound track of our lives. While we are not perfect God has made music perfect. God made Lucifer perfect with a call to sing and worship with music in himself. Because of pride he lost it and impacted those around him. The Lord giveth and the Lord taketh away. If you don't use it wisely and don't listen then you can't succeed with those he has empowered to instruct you. Each of us has to recognize that He has given us all different gifts. If He has given you the gift of cooking, I wish I could to that but I'm not mad at you. You can show me the ingredients and show me your techniques and I respect your ability to cook. So you can help me present a good meal to my guests.

LC: Amen.

# LET US PRAY ANGELAHUNT BONITTO

wo things to remember in your walk of humbleness: 1. God is great! 2. Man is nothing without God. That's the first step in understanding how to walk in humility. Recognizing that God is the creator of all and if it were not for His grace

where would

we be?

Every day when we rise from our sleep the awesomeness of God's work is evident. He changed night to day. The birds are chirping. The flowers are

He has given us an opportunity

for new beginnings

Angela Hunt Bonitto

growing. But more importantly, He kept us through the night. He woke us up. And, He has given us an opportunity for new beginnings and to share His Word with a lost world, a lost generation.

As Christians, Jesus is our example of a humbled life submitted to the work of God. Philippians 2:5-11, NKJV says, "Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with

God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.

Therefore
God also has
highly
exalted Him
and given
Him the
name which
is above
every name,
that at the
name of
Jesus every
knee should
bow, of those

in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."

If Jesus could come to his earth in the form of a bondservant to carry out God's plan for mankind, what about us? Webster's Dictionary's definition of a bondservant is "a person bound in service without wages."

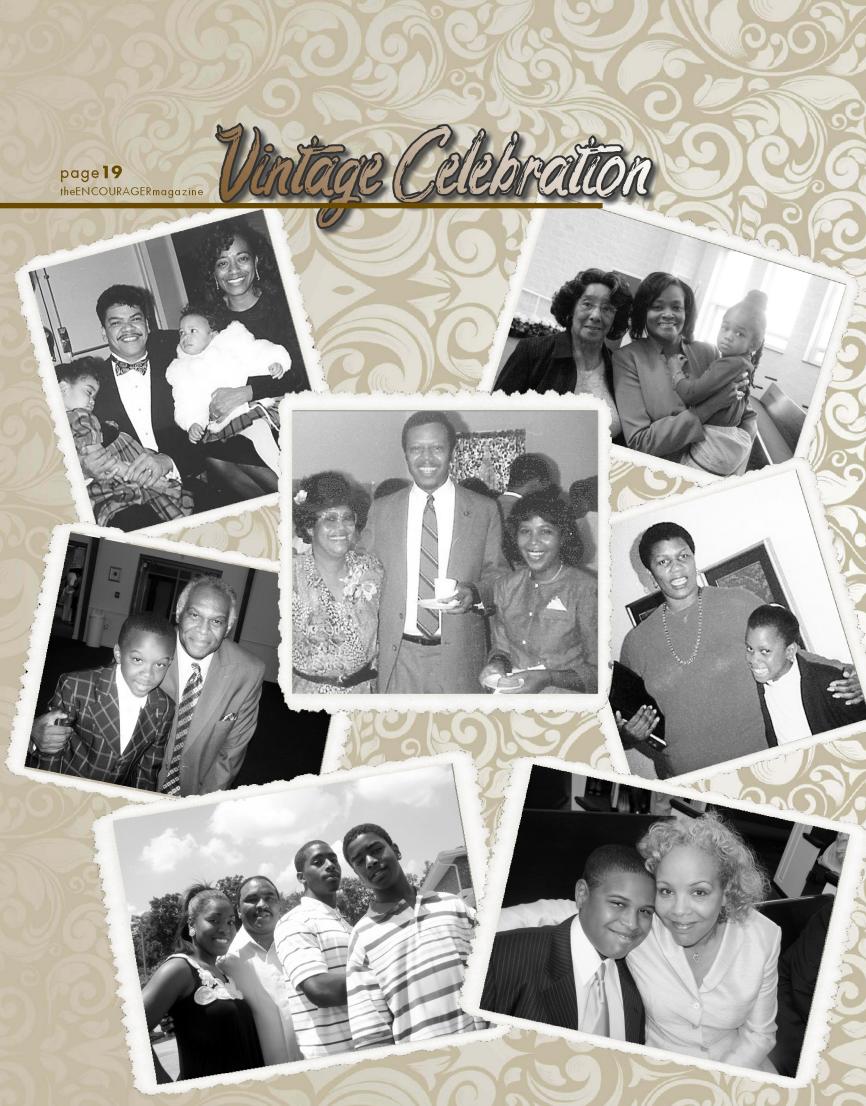
Are you bound in service to Jesus? That should be our first order of business to the one who sacrificed everything for us—service to Christ!

If you are not, when you go to God in prayer, ask the Lord to reveal Himself and what He wants you to learn or possess in His Word to you daily that you can pour into others. Our humble walk starts with the Word. The great poet Maya Angelou once said, "When you know better, you do better."

Don't ever quit reading the Word of God. After He lays one foundation and area of lifeinto you then He desires to reveal more of Himself in the same or different areas of growth or maturity. We are the Temple of the Holy Spirit. Let us always be humble, that is, seeing that we always need God, no matter how we think or feel. This attitude will never fail you. Continue always to "ask". God really loves it when we humble ourselves and seek His face. It demonstrates our dependence on Him, the Mighty One, El Shaddai. As we go before the Lord in prayer meditate on this scripture, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths. Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord and depart from evil. It will be health to your flesh, and strength to your bones" (Proverbs 3:5-8, NKJV).

Let Us Pray...Heavenly Father, we ask that You let the Glory of the Lord rise upon us. We ask You Lord to arise over each of us and let Your Glory be seen on each of us. Heavenly Father, we ask You to cover each of us with Your Glory and Your Presence. As we submit to You daily Father, let the words "More of You and less of Us" ring true. In Jesus' name. Amen.

The Lord to reveal Himself"
ANGELA HUNT BONITTO







t is recorded in Deuteronomy 10:12 (BSB), "And now, O Israel, what does the LORD your God ask of you but to fear the LORD your God by walking in all His ways, to love Him, to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul..." This scripture tells us what God requires of us. How do we do this? As humans our flesh constantly wants its own way, all of the attention, and to disobey God. It is by learning to walk humble that we are able to follow what God requires.

David wrote, "Preserve me, O God, for in You I take refuge. I said to the LORD, 'You are my Lord; apart from You I have no good thing'" (Psalm 16:1-2, BSB).

King David was humble before the Lord. He acknowledged to God that anything about him that was good was because of Him. When we walk humble we carry that truth with us throughout our day. We relinquish everything about us to God. Even recognizing that each breath we take is due to His will. As I stated earlier our flesh does not want to be subjugated, especially to God's authority. So, how do we learn to walk humble?

In the last two years the Lord has given me a theme for the year and then has helped me to grow spiritually through that theme. This year has been the year of worship. A piece of my spiritual growth and insight has been centered on adding a set worship time to my life. This time is separate from my daily devotional time. During this hour I play worship music and praise God. This has been a very exciting experience of simply going before the Lord and enjoying His presence. It is also a very humbling experience.

When we enter His presence it causes us to see our inherent nature for what it really is, sinful. When the prophet Isaiah shared a vision that God had given him of heaven, it affected him greatly, "Then I said, 'Woe is me, for I am ruined, because I am a man of unclean lips dwelling among a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of Hosts'" (Isaiah 6:1-5 BSB). Isaiah experienced God's holy magnificence, and it opened his eyes to the fact that he and all people are innately sinners.

The holiness of God is daunting. The truth of what we are is made clear to us when we are in His presence. Our pride, self-importance, self-righteousness and other fleshly exaltations become apparent. God does not leave us in our sinful state. By the blood of Jesus our sins are atoned. When we accept Jesus as Savior we are filled with the Holy Spirit. Worship keeps renewing the Holy Spirit in us and making us aware of our sinful desire to turn from God. Our hearts are then humbled and we are willing to repent. It is through our humbled and repentant heart that God's Spirit fills us, changes us, holds us, guides us, and responds to our prayers.

The Bible says, "...and if My people who are called by My name humble themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, forgive their sin, and heal their land" (2 Chronicles 7:14, BSB).

Walking humble is learning to surrender our whole body, heart, mind, soul, and strength to God's will. When we walk humble before the Lord we experience joy, peace, deliverance, conviction, holiness, and more. Praise God from whom all blessings flow!





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# MESSAGE FROMTHE EDITOR

s I was thinking on this quarter's theme, "Walk Humbly" I came across a story on the Fellowship of Christian Athletes' website entitled, "Walk Humbly with God", by Shane Williamson. In his writing Shane references a book entitled, "The Ideal Team Player", by Patrick Lencioni, who identifies three virtues ideal team players embody: humility, hunger, and people smarts. Humility directed towards the athletes will produce team players that lack excessive ego or concerns about status, are quick to point out the contributions of others and slow to draw attention to themselves, and share credit. Success is defined collectively as opposed to individually.

Shane concludes his thoughts by suggesting that the "we instead of me" mentality should not be new to Christian followers, and that the Bible is full of "nuggets of truths" such as Micah 6:8 (NLT), "No, O people, the LORD has told you what is good, and this is what he requires of you: to do what is right, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God." Additionally, other scriptures were referenced that are noteworthy, inspirational, and merit sharing:

Humble Hearts (Our True Self): "Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up in honor." – James 4:10, NLT

**Humble Minds (Our Thoughts):** "Because

of the privilege and authority God has given me, I give each of you this warning: Don't think you are better than you really are. Be honest in your evaluation of yourselves, measuring yourselves by the faith God has given us." – Romans 12:3, NLT

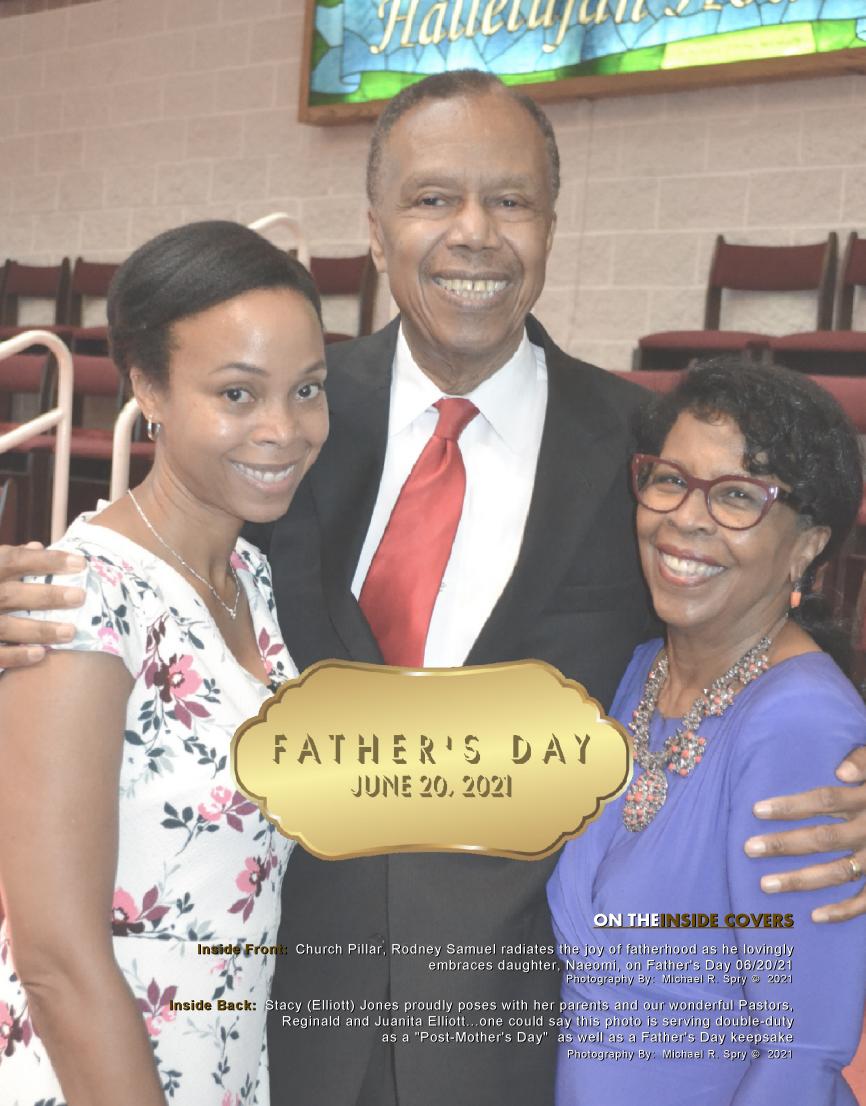
**Humble Hands (Our Actions):** "If you are wise and understand God's ways, prove it by living an honorable life, doing good works with the humility that comes from wisdom." – James 3:13, NLT

As we meditate on these scriptures, intentionally putting them into practice in our lives we will, no doubt, create an atmosphere of encouragement and love wherever we may find ourselves. Let's let humbleness be one of the hallmarks of our Christian existence. In doing so we will trod on the fertile ground of humility and partake of a bountiful harvest rather than feasting on humble pie!

In Love & In Christ,

Reference:

(https://www.fca.org/magazine-story/2018/08/24/walk-humbly -with-god)



#### **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

#### Tst & 3rd Wednesdays:

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