THE SANCTUARY AT KINGDOM SQUARE

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Mission Statement... Our mission is to promote the spread of the Gospel, the winning of souls to Jesus Christ, the changing of lives, and establishing the presence of the Lord in the world through evangelizing, biblical teaching, economic development, and community outreach. With faith in Almighty God, we seek to be a church preparing born-again believers for the Kingdom of God.

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Remembering and Reflecting: 9/11 — Never to Forget

by Carlette Jameson



Two lives. One unforgettable morning. A story of survival, remembrance, and moving forward.

Some memories never fade.

Twenty-five years after September 11, 2001, the images, sounds, emotions, and stories of that day remain deeply etched in the hearts of those who experienced it. For Pastor Pam and her husband, Deacon Bruce, September 11th is more than a date in history. It is a day they lived through—two people, in two different places, whose paths were connected by an extraordinary series of events that ultimately brought them safely home.

Their story is one of fear and uncertainty, but also of faith, courage, love, and remembrance.

Deacon Bruce: "Let Me Get Over There"

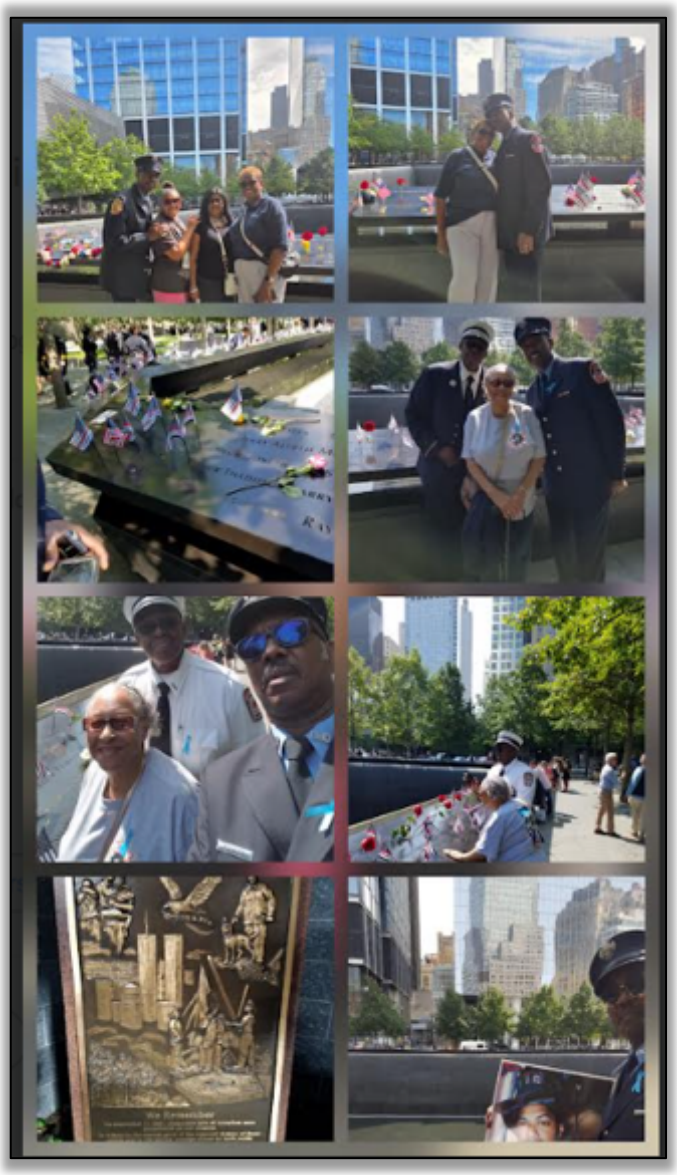
In 2001, Deacon Bruce was a New York City firefighter with 19 years on the job. At the time, he was working in Staten Island and had recently undergone foot surgery, which placed him on light duty. His assignment that morning was to collect broken tools from neighboring firehouses and take them to Long Island City for repair. He was at a firehouse that morning when the tone alert sounded. The dispatcher announced that Rescue 5 was being sent to the World Trade Center.

For a firefighter, hearing a call like that immediately gets your attention. But this was different. "Obviously, an incident where it's going to be rather unusual," Deacon Bruce recalled. "We don't get planes into buildings very often." He and the other firefighters ran downstairs and watched Rescue 5 respond.

From Staten Island, Bruce had a view of the Manhattan skyline, including the Twin Towers. Knowing that Pastor Pam worked in the World Trade Center, his thoughts quickly turned to her. He knew she did not like large, uncontrolled crowds. If the buildings were being evacuated, he knew thousands of people would soon be filling the streets. His thought was simple: "Find Pam. Get her to safety."

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Deacon Bruce took a fire department vehicle and headed toward Manhattan. As he crossed the Verrazzano-Narrows Bridge, he had a view that he would never forget. He witnessed the second plane strike the South Tower. The sight stunned him so badly that he nearly lost control of the vehicle. "I jerked my wheel without even realizing it," he recalled. "I was stunned by what I was seeing." He continued toward the World Trade Center, but access was eventually blocked. Bruce stopped near the Brooklyn Bridge and listened to the fire department radio transmissions.



The voices coming across the radio were firefighters calling into the commanding battalion chief from inside of the towers. Reports came from firefighters on various floors. Some reported having dozens of people with them. Others called for help. Deacon Bruce listened. Then someone approached him and said that one of the buildings had collapsed. At first, Deacon Bruce didn't believe him. "I have coworkers working in there," he remembered thinking. "That's not funny." Eventually, Deacon Bruce and other off-duty firefighters were able to make their way toward Ground Zero. They entered a nearby hardware store and borrowed tools before continuing into the area.

What Deacon Bruce encountered was difficult to describe. Although the day had begun bright and sunny, the dust from the collapsed buildings had transformed the area. "It made it seem like it was 12 o'clock midnight," he said. "It was that dark, quiet and eerie." Deacon Bruce and the other firefighters remained there through the night. They watched as building number 7 came down and waited for instructions from the officers on the scene. In the days that followed, firefighters continued returning to Ground Zero, hoping to find survivors. They did not know who they would find—or who they would never find.

Remembering Leon

Among the people Bruce continues to remember is his friend and fellow firefighter, Leon W. Smith Jr. of Ladder Company 118. Leon was among the 343 firefighters who lost their lives that day. His remains have never been recovered. That loss is one of the reasons Deacon Bruce continues to return to Ground Zero. He has gone nearly every year on the anniversary of September 11, with only a couple of exceptions when a previously scheduled vacation prevented him from attending. For The Deacon, the annual visit is not simply a trip back to a place where tragedy occurred. It is an opportunity to stand alongside Leon's mother and family and remember a son, friend, firefighter, and fellow member of a close-knit fire department family.

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Leon's mother is now 92 years old. He shared that her greatest wish is to know what happened to her son and, if possible, to have something to bring closure to her family. Deacon Bruce continues to hope that advances in DNA technology will one day help identify Leon's remains. For him, remembering Leon is personal. It is also a promise.

Pastor Pam: "See You Later Doesn't Mean You Will"

While Deacon Bruce was preparing to respond, Pastor Pam was inside the World Trade Center. Working at the World Trade Center was something she had always considered special. "I thought it would be really cool to work at the World Trade Center," she said. "That was the epitome of my career." Her office was on the ninth floor of 5 World Trade Center, the building's highest floor. As usual, Pastor Pam arrived early that Tuesday morning. She turned on the lights, entered her office and began her normal workday. Then, at approximately 8:46 a.m., everything changed.

The impact of the first plane shook her building. "The building literally shook and the lights flickered," she remembered. A coworker came running out of his office. He could see smoke and debris outside and knew something was terribly wrong. People began trying to understand what had happened. Then someone told them a plane had hit the building. The workers began making their way toward the stairs. But Pastor Pam remembered something. Her purse. Her cellphone. Her MetroCard. She started back toward her office. Then she stopped. She thought about Deacon Bruce and remembered his warning about never going back into a compromised building. As she stood in the stairwell, Pastor Pam said she experienced what she believes was divine intervention. "The Holy Spirit said to me in the staircase, 'Go back in the office and get your bag because you're not coming back in this building.'"

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She went back. She opened the door to her office, grabbed her bag and prepared to leave. But then she remembered something else. Her oatmeal was still in the microwave. She went back to unplug it. This may sound like a small detail, but years later, that bowl of oatmeal would become an important part of her story.

A Stranger in the Stairwell

Pastor Pam continued down the stairs. She began praying the Lord's Prayer because, in that moment, she said she didn't know what else to pray. When she reached the bottom, she encountered a group of people who were struggling to get through the doors. Then something unexpected happened. From a landing above them, a person appeared wearing what she remembers as gray pants and black boots, resembling a security worker. The person told them to follow him/her. Pastor Pam and others followed as the individual led them through offices, cubicles, and other stairs, until they reached a door leading into the lobby. Pastor Pam has never forgotten that person. She doesn't know who it was. She doesn't remember a face. She doesn't know whether the person was a man or a woman. And she doesn't know whether that person ever made it out. But Pastor Pam believes that person may have been an angel. "They said, 'Come with me. Follow me. I can show you guys how to get out of here,'" she recalled.

Once she reached the lobby, she realized just how serious the situation had become. Emergency personnel were rushing into the building. People were being carried out. Debris was falling. Police officers were telling everyone to run and get away. Pastor Pam made it outside and immediately began looking for her coworkers. Once she knew they were accounted for, she knew she needed to get home. She lived in Staten Island. Her cellphone wasn't working. Transportation was shutting down. And the city around her seemed almost unreal.

The Ferry Home

Pastor Pam eventually made her way to the Staten Island Ferry. The terminal was packed. People were shoulder-to-shoulder, trying to get home, trying to contact loved ones and trying to understand what was happening. Then the ferry began moving. Through the glass windows, she and the other passengers could see Manhattan. They watched the enormous cloud of dust and smoke move across the city. And something else struck her. The boat was unusually quiet. If you know anything about New Yorkers, they are loud and always talking. It was absolutely silent! Everyone was trying to process what they were seeing. When she reached Staten Island, the scene remained surreal. Cars were stopped in the middle of the street. Buses were no longer moving. People were standing outside their vehicles, listening to radios and trying to figure out what had happened. Pastor Pam decided she would walk home from the ferry rather than board another form of transportation. She still had no idea where Deacon Bruce was. She had not spoken to him since that morning. She didn't know whether he was safe. And he didn't know whether she was safe.

The Briefcase and the Backup Tape

About a week after the attacks, Pastor Pam returned to the briefcase she had carried out of her office and had thrown on her bed. She turned it upside down and emptied it onto her bed. A computer backup tape fell out. She had a routine: Every Monday, she backed up the company's computer system and took the tape home as a precaution. She had learned the practice while working for Head Start. She had no idea that the tape in her bag would become so important. When she contacted the company's IT staff, she learned that the backup had been made on September 10, 2001, one day before the attacks. The tape contained the company's files.

Because the office was gone, that backup helped the organization begin rebuilding its work. Pastor Pam's coworkers even began telling people the story, and she became known as the person who had saved the company's information. Pastor Pam, however, doesn't view herself as a hero. For her, it was another moment in a day filled with circumstances she could not have planned. She simply says: **"It's only God."**

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Twenty-Five Years Later

Today, 25 years after 9/11, both Pastor Pam and Deacon Bruce continue to carry memories of that day. For Deacon Bruce, there is still the question of Leon. He continues to hope that DNA technology will eventually provide answers for Leon's family. For Pastor Pam, there is gratitude for survival and remembrance of the people who did not make it home. She remembers the people she passed in elevators, the security guards she saw, the people she recognized only by face or routine. She thinks about the people whose names she never knew. "I don't think it's something that you ever forget," she said. "I think it's something you always remember with bittersweet memories." She also remembers the lesson that has stayed with her all these years: "See you later doesn't mean you will." Those words have taken on a meaning far greater than they had on an ordinary Tuesday morning.

Remembering, Reflecting and Moving Forward

Pastor Pam and Deacon Bruce both returned to Ground Zero for the 25th anniversary. For her, this year's visit was especially meaningful because she wanted to accompany Deacon Bruce, Leon's mother and their friends and family. They also attended a special tribute honoring Black firefighters who lost their lives on 9/11.

For Deacon Bruce, returning to Ground Zero is part remembrance and part fellowship. The New York City Fire Department is a close-knit family, and the annual gathering gives firefighters an opportunity to reconnect with people who share memories that few others can fully understand. For Pastor Pam, the experience remains

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bittersweet. The 9/11 Memorial & Museum also holds a special place in her heart. She encourages people visiting New York to make time to experience it because, for her, it is more than a museum. It is a place where history, memory and personal stories come together.

Twenty-five years later, Pastor Pam and Deacon Bruce say 9/11 remains a part of who they are. They remember the people they knew. They remember the people they didn't know. They remember the firefighters who ran toward danger. They remember the families who waited for loved ones who never came home. And they remember the grace that carried them through a day they never could have imagined. Some memories are painful. Some are bittersweet. Some remind us how fragile life can be.

But remembering also reminds us to be grateful for the people beside us today.

September 11, 2001, will always be a day to remember.

Never to forget.

MISSIONS MINISTRY

129th Annual Session of the Lott Carey Baptist Foreign Mission

by JC McCreary

The 129th Annual Session of the Lott Carey Baptist Foreign Mission was held August 10-14, 2026, at the Hyatt Regency in Atlanta, Georgia. Bishop Anthony G. Maclin, Pastor in Succession Brandon Maclin, and other representatives from The Sanctuary at Kingdom Square (TSAKS) attended.

Some History–

Born into slavery in Virginia in 1780, Lott Carey later purchased freedom for himself and his two children. His ministry led him to co-found the Richmond African Baptist Missionary Society, which sent missionaries to Africa. His service in the United States (U.S.) and Africa inspired African American Baptist leaders, including Reverend C. S. Brown, to establish the Lott Carey Foreign Mission Convention in his honor on December 16, 1897, in Washington, D.C.

Today–

Reverend Dr. Jesse T. Williams Jr. is the President of the Lott Carey Baptist Foreign Mission. There are currently 500 church partners. These church partnerships strive to assist people in need, whatever that need may be – shelter, food, clothing, bill assistance, transportation, securing employment, and disaster relief. Countries assisted under the umbrella of Lott Carey Missions for disaster relief include: Ethiopia, Ghana, Guyana, Haiti, India, Jamaica, Kenya, Liberia, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Zimbabwe, and the United States.

Session Overview–

The Lott Carey 129th Annual weeklong gathering focused on global mission engagement, worship, leadership development, and collaborative ministry impact. This year's theme and foundational scripture for the conference were: "Missions Transform the World for God Through Empowerment."

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"*And they that shall be of thee shall build the old waste places: thou shalt raise up the foundations of many generations; and thou shalt be called, The repairer of the breach, The restorer of paths to dwell in,*" Isaiah 58:12 (KJV)

Dr. Williams stated, "We are firmly convinced that an important part of our mission is to empower God's people to be able to accomplish new goals, dream new dreams, envision new possibilities, and then be able to put tangible resources and human capacity behind them. We must always spread hope and believe that we can do all things through Christ who strengthens us." Approximately 800 attendees took part in dynamic worship services, mission-focused conversations, and leadership training sessions designed to inspire and equip individuals and churches to deepen their engagement in God's work worldwide.

Notably, TSAKS was recognized as Lott Carey's 12th leading contributor in financial support! That's amazing! To God be the glory!

Following in JESUS' Footsteps

TSAKS's ministry leaders who attended this year's session in support of God's mission were: Tonga Peterson, Lott Carey National Operations Manager; Missions Ministry Leader, Minister Charlene Anderson; and Missions members Sherrie Crim, Joyce Madden, and Veronica Hughes-Cotton. Minister Lydell Hagans and Chief Operating Officer Tonya Holmes attended the youth track of the Lott Carey International Youth Department. This track provided children and youth with learning, fellowship, and mission engagement opportunities.

Morning and evening worship services framed each day, with business and education classes held in between. The education class used Aaron Abramson's book, "*Mission Design: Leading Your Ministry Through Organizational and Cultural Change*," a practical guide for ministry leaders navigating organizational and cultural change.

At the opening morning worship service, Pastor in Succession Brandon Maclin explained how churches impact the Lott Carey Mission through their generous financial support. He then led the offertory appeal, expressing gratitude for the Mission's past achievements and future success.

Throughout the convention, there were also opportunities to connect and to serve the

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Atlanta community. Interactive breakout sessions highlighted global mission partnerships and practical ways to engage through service, advocacy, and financial support. Minister Charlene has had the opportunity to attend the annual conventions for the last 12 years. This year, one of the highlights that she and Missions member Sherrie Crim had was the opportunity to serve food to over 65 men at The Shepherd's Inn Men's Shelter. Minister Charlene noted that it was so gratifying knowing that they were there doing God's work, making a difference in the lives of others.

> *"If you help the poor, you are lending to the Lord—and He will repay you!"*
> Proverbs 19:17 (NLT)

No *Peach Cobbler*–

The search began almost from the moment Minister Charlene landed in Atlanta. Her thought while packing, getting to the airport, landing, and arriving at her hotel was *peach cobbler*. After all, this is the state of Georgia, right? She loves *peach cobbler* and had an urgent taste for what she believed would be the "real thing." She truly believed that Georgia peaches would mean the chance to taste some authentic *peach cobbler*! She searched high and low and asked everyone who was anyone whom she thought would direct her to the restaurant, food truck, or local Mom & Pop diner that would have the best *peach cobbler* in town. What she found out was that peach cobbler was a "southern thing." The place to get *peach cobbler* was not in the city of Atlanta. You had to travel to the "outskirts," the "country," to get that awesome dish that she craved. Mind you, anyone who spends time around Minister Charlene knows she maintains a healthy diet. While most of us are snacking on chips, cookies, and ice cream, she is enjoying fresh fruit, nuts, and all things with natural wholesome ingredients; so, her quest for a sweet treat was a serious one.

After six days in Atlanta, she returned home without ever tasting the delightful dessert known as *peach cobbler*. On one of the last days of the convention, a local attendee brought her three fresh Georgia peaches! She would return home satisfied with those.



SELAH: Reflection, Reset and Restoration

by Christa Bennett

Dear Faithful Readers,

"For I have given rest to the weary and joy to the sorrowing" Jeremiah 31:35. During the month of July 2026, the people of God at The Sanctuary at Kingdom Square (TSAKS) celebrated Selah (*pause, reflection, recommit, consideration and restoration*). It was an opportunity for the faithfuls to rest, consider, reflect, reset, recharge and prepare for what God has in store for them. Bishop Anthony Maclin and Pastor in Succession Brandon Maclin, in perfect harmony, set the stage for delivering powerful Selah messages to the congregation that were divinely guided by God. The messages clearly resonated to live the way we pray, to consider, pause, reset, recommit and reflect, and "study to show thyself approved unto God" (II Timothy 2:15) during a moment of rest. Below are brief summaries of the Selah series.



7/5/2026: Psalms 3 Season of Successive "Selah"

"He makes me lie down in green pastures, He leads me beside quiet waters, He refreshes my soul". Psalm 23:2-3. With a captivated audience, Bishop Maclin passionately reminded all, that having a connection to God will give us peace, salvation and a spiritual transitioning. Faithful believers should redeem themselves through a moment of rest, reflection, restoration and a reset for a spiritual movement that is about to happen in their lives. Paraphrasing Bishop Maclin's uplifting sermon, "Simply put, Selah written in the Bible is an invitation in both the spiritual and natural to pause, reflect, consider and digest what the Spirit of God is saying to the disciples of the church. Seasons of Selah are vitally necessary for the people of God to listen and refocus on the purpose of serving Him in their lives. The bishop graciously reminded all that faithful believers do not seize the moment to truly basked in God's glory. They are too much in a hurry to do other things and don't take the time to enjoy His glorious work. Likewise, they don't pause long enough to hear God's voice and listen for His direction. Because of this ineffectiveness, believers will miss Heavenly Father's instruction and have no clear understanding of the next steps He has for them. Faithful believers should know that God's victories are always accompanied by His voice and promises." Bishop Maclin encouraged the congregation to stop, pause and consider what God has for them, to take a knee and pray and open their minds to all spiritual realms of greatness from the Lord.

7/12/2026: Mark 6:30-35 Now That You Have Rested

"God trust that everyone hears His sweet whispers of quiet comfort and gentle direction in a loud world." Bishop Maclin followed up with another powerful Selah worship experience through a message of instructions and reassurance from Heaven. He professed again through his message to take time and listen to God's gentle whispers of grace. He reminded all to be in step with God's divine purpose; learn how to

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disconnect from things; turn off and away from negative things; separate from unhealthy activities; learn how to put things in perspective and live for yourself. In summarizing his message, "if you want to pull closer to God, you must lean in, move past the noise and distractions of daily life to pause, rest and listen to what God has to say to you. Everyone should give themselves enough time to accept the experience that will impact a season of rest and reflection. God will allow the faithful to live through experiences as waiting periods and tests to build spiritual trust, strength and character to prepare for His next divine purpose for them." Bishop Maclin gave three major experiences impacting Selah and a deeper appreciation of rest, which were: 1) rejection (*as a child of God being dismissed or devalued–Mark 6:1*), 2) responsibility (*disciples of God should understand the limits of his/her authority–Mark 6:7)* and, 3) wreck (*a test or question of one's faith during unfortunate circumstances–Mark 6:14*). If the people of God do not take the time to pause and reflect on the word of God, their connections to God will lessen and keep them from truly lessen and keep them from truly knowing what He has done and the wonderful victory He has for them.

7/19/2026: Genesis 6:11-13 When God Resets the Good

"More than enough has God done for the children of the world. He saw that everything He made and it was very good." Pastor in Succession Brandon Maclin declared in his message to the faithful on Sunday, July 19, 2026, that when God looked at everything, He had done, it was just not good, but "very good." But the enemy inched in and stirred up a pot of iniquity requiring God to do a divine reset and rebuild to His original design. Pastor Brandon Maclin put it this way from a theological standpoint, "the people of God need to clear up activities allowing for a reboot, restart and restoration of their lives to work as it was originally designed by God." In summarizing his message, "Christians' normal living becomes status quo allowing for unfavorable changes to take center and prophetic progression take a back seat. A hard reset is needed to build upon Christian faith and to let God intervene and declare powerful changes for the future. He related the story of Noah that teaches us God's divine intervention and reset for life with this summary, "after the flood receded, God made new beginnings with Noah and his family after a later waiting period of 40-days before leaving the Ark. The story teaches us kindness, patience, long suffering and expectations of rules. The Father affirmed with Noah that good will reign once again, lead to purification and a restart and that His people will embrace and His people will embrace and follow Christ, Jesus' teachings." Pastor Brandon Maclin declared for the saints to reset; disconnect from impurities; let God take the reins to make new beginnings; listen and be prepared to withstand the powerful changes that are about to happen in their lives. A new spiritual transitioning declares that the faithful should not stay connected too long to their ark for God has a plan for everyone. They should release from dependency on comfort zones; listen to prophesizing of good things about to happen in life (foretelling/forth-telling); prepare for things that might be uncomfortable and trust God to lead and light their path to new things through a reset. For all things, work together for the good.

7/26/2026: Isaiah 40:28-31 God Gave Me the Strength I Needed

Pastor in Succession Brandon Maclin preached a riveting message that resonated throughout the House of God. The uplifting message of "God Gave Me the Strength I Needed" brought it full circle for so many faithful believers who paused during the month of Selah. In summarizing the message, many faithful believers realized that they cannot do it without rest, recommitment and proper Godly reset. Bishop Maclin so powerfully stated that "Selah is an invitation in both the spirit and natural to pause, reflect, consider and digest what the Spirit of God is saying to His people. And Pastor Brandon Maclin in unity stated "rest, recommitment and reset are necessary for the physical body as well as these things are necessary for the spiritual body." Paraphrasing Pastor Brandon Maclin, "In truth, everyone must make room for God and let Him be involved in every aspect of their lives. Some believers set limitations and repeat the same cycle daily and miss the opportunity to really focus on and hear what God is saying to them. Limitations and repetition will lead to setbacks, weariness, misery and being powerless. But making room for God to be present allows Him to step in to bring an end to the very things that keep you from living a prosperous life. When God's people become weary, He has a message for them through a spiritual pipeline reassuring to all that He will bring all misery to an end. God gives strength to help power up believers' lives. He helps the powerless to mount up through power, faith and trust in Him. Changes in life are inevitable and if there is ever a moment in time that God's people need to rest and reset it is now in the very presence. The people of God should soar like an eagle and let the wind push you higher than you ever been in your spiritual life during a moment of rest and reset."

Where Do I Belong?

by Christa Bennett

Should I hold my head high while standing on a pedestal with sheer confidence? Or should I hide underneath a rock where I can't be seen? Where do I belong? My faith commands me to stand before God and surrender my whole being to Him, Christ and Holy Spirit without question. But hiding underneath a rock seems more befitting as it shelters me from letting go and let God have His way. I feel compelled to quickly decide before fear creeps in and takes over. The latter seems preferred as it keeps me from accepting that what I know in my heart is right and truth but often question it. *("And, you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free*" John 8:32)

Standing near a rock amid of confusion, I'm sheathed by a haze of so many things that clouds my mind and keeps me from thinking clearly. My eyes are tightly closed and no tears are falling. My head is held in between both hands serving as protection for keeping my head steadfast and unbreakable. In my mind I see bands of white, gold and sparkling silver colors wrapped around a flying horseshoe. My body feels heavy with so much discomfort causing my legs to feel like weak branches ready to snap. The ground is a little shaky. I just want to hide underneath the rock where no one can see me looking confused. Wait, is this reality or me making a choice to become a silhouette of my own fear? Am I justifying my choice to hide underneath a rock? Am I using fear as an excuse to hide from God's truth?

I dropped my hands to reach out to move the rock, but it was too heavy. The ground was firm as if to hold the rock in place. I was desperate to seek shelter under the rock but felt helpless. See, in my mind the rock is symbolic of a shield for keeping me safe and secure. Is it truly fear or not accepting where I really belong…on the pedestal or underneath the rock? Feeling defeated, I assessed my situation and noticed that my surroundings were very calm, the sun was bright and the sky was pure and blue like the sea. White doves circled in the sky with beads of pearls hanging from their beaks. Suddenly, the wind gently blows and whispered in my ear "I got you". "Do not be afraid for I am your Shield and Protector" (*Ephesians 6:10-18 The Armor of God*). At that moment I felt a sense of pressure to let go as fear slowly dissipated; my mind became clear, eyes wide-open with tears flowing down my face, warmth spread all over my body, my head felt strong as ever, hands raised above my head, my legs were firm as vines and my feet started slightly tapping. What is happening?

A shadowy figure in white appears under a glittering arch wrapped in white, gold and sparkling silver colors. The doves were paused above the figure as if they were commanded to do so. The shadowy figure proceeded to walk, stopped by the rock and slowly pushed it away as if it was as light as a feather. A bright light beamed directly at me which captured my attention. I was captivated by the light and unaware of the wind slowly ascending me from the ground until it suddenly stopped. The air beneath me felt so serene and it felt like I was suddenly elevated from fear. As on command, the doves flew above my head and dropped white pearls around my neck signaling assurance by my protector, freedom from fear and knowing that His truth is enduring, reliable and leads to freedom. (*Scripture declares that "Every word of God proves true; He is a shield to those who take refuge in Him.").* Then suddenly the shadowy figure and doves disappeared. I felt alive and enchanted by a spirit I couldn't control. Am I still frozen in fear or am I where I belong? Not here, not there or just anywhere or even underneath a rock, but high on the pedestal with my head high. Holy Spirit gave me permission to spiritually move with praise from mouth and in my heart. I'm no longer afraid because I'm safe in His arms. This is where I belong.

"Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people. Pray also for me, that whenever I speak, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should." Ephesians 6:10-18 NIV

Redeemed Identity

by Nicole Coltrane

(Vision Life Skill & Worship Center)

Being insistent upon the realities that life was not fair and owed me everything,
Constant in the ways that it kept throwing at me just about anything.

Surely disrespectful of the fact that I did not understand why I even existed,
Trying not to resent the reason how things about who I am got so twisted.

Misunderstandings that did not miss my landing,
Far from the life that it was handling,
Battling forces not comprehending that the fight I was in, truly was bigger than the place I was standing.



Crying out to no avail and waiting for the very moment that I could exhale,
Like an inmate tucked away in a cell praying for the day that I could make bail.

Finally, the day came where a change was unexpected, but suddenly,
there came a reason for me to realize that God did want to hear me.

I became wrapped up in His love and affection that totally covered me,
As He whispered, "I been here all the time and you can now fulfill your destiny".

You have been tried in the fire proven tested, redeemed, and found honorable to me,
Proven to be worthy and above reproach but deemed to be rational and free.



Coming into my own and now standing in my truth and loving who I came to be,
Finding strength in my Heavenly Father, relying on His ability,
The joy and knowing Him I have not wasted any time praying fervently.

Being of sound mind, calm spirit and rest without any partiality,
Resting in His peace and overcoming with victory, grateful to God because I found my **IDENTITY**.

Finding Your Center

by Jarin Penn

When I was younger, there was a very specific image of the Christian journey circling around just about every Lott Carey, lock-in, and Vacation Bible School (VBS) I could remember. It was always some variation of two (2) roads: one wide and straight, beautifully paved, a traveler's dream – until it plunged suddenly into an eternal fire that was sometimes simply illustrated as ominous light. The other path paled in comparison. It was narrow, dangerously winding, sometimes with cracked pavement and steep hills. But the light at the end of it was absolutely radiant, a promise of a destination worth the journey, the arduous road, the difficult navigation.

No one ever tells you those curves and twists follow side view mirror logic. They're always much closer than they appear.

And more precarious moments – when the steepness of life's turns lifts the proverbial wheels off the ground, the situations requiring faith that goes beyond your own capabilities – tend to offer an unwelcome, jarring feeling – being adrift.

Adrift. Being a believer, but rudderless. In the boat, but eyes still on the storm and not the Savior.

It's the wilderness, isn't it? Years of motion but going in circles, seeing God's presence and work and promises fulfilled, but not trusting Him through to the destination He has for you. Automatic manna but still navigating manually. It's an instability that mirrors what Paul warns against in Ephesians 4, specifically in verse 14: "tossed back and forth by the waves and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming."

But if you find yourself there, in that place of being adrift, how do you find your way back? How do you unlock (or rediscover) that deeper relationship with the Heavenly Father? How do you bring the wheels back to the road and return to a sense of balance?

You find your center…

I'll never forget Minister Daphne Jones sharing this with me. As she did, she opened both hands, waving them in the air somewhat haphazardly. Then she brought both hands to her center, one directly over the other, both open. Her fingers were pointed outward with no space in between. **Focused. Direct. Centered.** It wasn't until years later that I realized the process of finding your center is one that requires spiritual maturity. It demands learning through the growing pains to become the person God has for you to be. But it's not a journey you take on your own.

Small acts of faith grow more mature and steady through walking with God daily. Small decisions and prayers strengthen the spiritual muscle required to reflexively lean on God's timing and plan not to your own understanding. These things don't just happen. They require intentionality. They require consistency. It's an approach that takes life one day – one decision, one step – at a time, and knows God is already present in the next one. Not just in the big moments and struggles, but in the smaller, more intimate ones, too. The wins that bring a praise dance in the pews and the whispers that bring us to our knees in prayer closets.

Finding your center isn't about finding yourself – that's the trap. Finding your center is re-centering yourself on Christ. It's purposefully framing your day with God's promises. It doesn't happen overnight, and it doesn't happen by accident. It's the small choices that compound into bigger ones, like small weights eventually giving way to larger ones as you grow stronger.

Life is full of noise… Obligations… Distractions… and Responsibilities from all angles and directions.

But when you find your center and put Christ right in the middle of it, you can keep the wheels on the road of your faith journey, regardless of the turns along the way. If you happen to find yourself off balance, you know exactly where to return.

MEMBER ACCOMPLISHMENTS . . .

The Sanctuary at Kingdom Square
News Update – Reverend Betty Carter


Rev. Betty Carter

On September 3, 2026, Reverend Betty Carter graduated from the Called Coach Institute and received certification as a Certified Christian Life Coach! This is a major milestone, and we all pray for her continued covering and blessings in her next season as she equips, empowers, encourages, and coaches with purpose!



Congratulations

Reverend Carter from your TSAKS family!

Where Faith Began, Service Continues:
Dr. Paula Coates joins AAPD Foundation board


Dr. Paula Coates

On May 24, 2026, during the Annual Session of the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry (AAPD) in Las Vegas, NV, Dr. Paula L. Coates was installed as one (1) of three (3) newly elected Trustees of the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry Foundation. Dr. Coates will serve a three-year term on the Foundation's Board of Trustees through 2029.

There is a special kind of joy that comes from watching someone who grew up in our church step into a new season of greatness. TSAKS is incredibly proud of Coates as she begins her three-year term on the Board of Trustees of the AAPD Foundation. We remember Paula not simply for the accomplished professional she has become, but as one of our ow, a daughter of our church whose journey has been shaped by faith, love, hard work, and the encouragement of those around her. Her accomplishments remind us that the seeds planted in our children through faith and community can grow into something truly extraordinary. We are grateful to witness how far God has brought her and pray that He will continue to guide, strengthen, and bless her as she embraces this new chapter of service. Paula, we celebrate you, we honor you, and we are so proud to watch you continue to use your God-given gifts to serve children, families, and your profession!

The Sanctuary at Kingdom Square
News Update – The Cuthbertson's

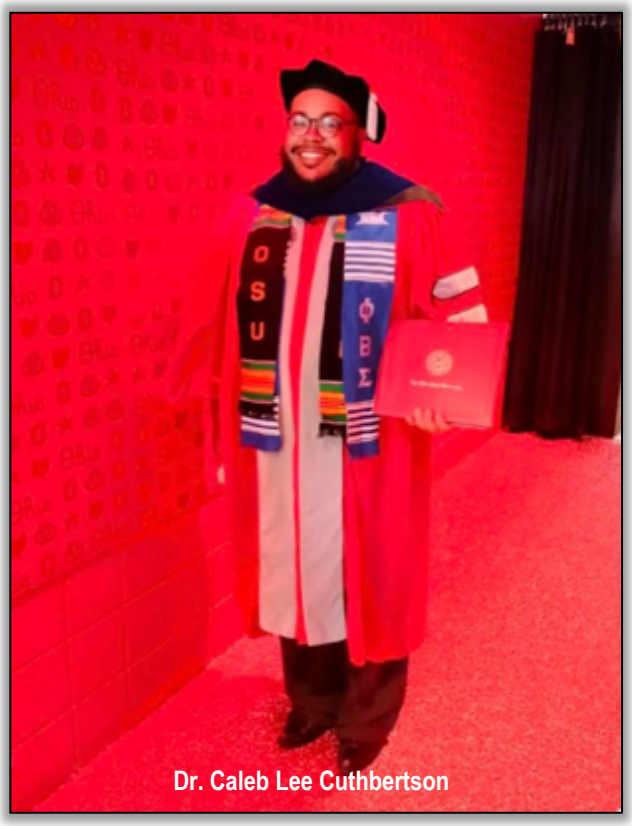
by JC McCreary

Pastor Benjamin Cuthbertson and his wife, Gwenna, are part of TSAKS Nation and were members of the church from the "Glendale Baptist" days! Their family is doing tremendously well. He and his wife pastor two churches – Honoring God Ministries and New Bethel Missions Baptist, both in Morganton, North Carolina.

Their son, Braeden, is graduating from High School in 2027. He has studied concurrently, so he will be headed to North Carolina (NC) State University with an Associate degree. Braeden's major will be Mechanical Engineering. NC State fosters a vibrant "Wolfpack" community focused on hands-on learning, collaboration, and public service!

Cuthbertson's daughter, Kaitlyn Promise, received her Associate degree from Western Piedmont University and started attending East Carolina University this August as a third-year junior. Her major is Music Therapy. During COVID, when the family was still here at TSAKS, Kaitlyn won the church's former "Masked Singer" contest.

Another son, Caleb, earned his PhD in Human Sciences from The Ohio State University this August. To top off all of this exciting news, the Cuthbertson's son, Joshua, is expecting his firstborn, a son, this coming February. What a blessing to celebrate and ring in a new year as grandparents!



Dr. Caleb Lee Cuthbertson

All of us here at TSAKS send congratulations and God's continued blessings to the family.

"Now to our God and Father *be* glory for ever and ever. Amen."
Philippians 4:20 KJV

Kingdom Agents Takeover

by Christa Bennett

And the Angels Sing, Glory Forever,

"Praise the Lord! For it is good to sing praises to our God; for it is pleasant, and praise is beautiful." Psalm 147:1 Oh my, the joy of praising the Lord will exalt the children of God to embrace His enduring love forever and ever.

Imagine a sea of small, beautiful angels of God draped in all His glory. This was evident as the congregation joined in the celebration of the youth and young adults during Sunday service on August 30, 2026, at The Sanctuary at Kingdom Square (TSAKS). Praises and shouts echoed throughout the entire sanctuary, with the congregation cheering on the crown jewels, our children, gifted from our Heavenly Father. Parents, grandparents, sisters, brothers, aunts, cousins, and many more collectively embraced the moment of joy with beating hearts and phone videos capturing the love of God. The saints witnessed the power and love of God flowing throughout the sanctuary on that day of celebration. What a powerhouse of gifted children who rocked the spiritual souls of TSAKS while they seamlessly encouraged all to praise God with so much joy in their hearts. The saints were blessed by God's little angels with praise and worship songs, powerful prayers of thanksgiving and love, praise dancers, encouraging scripture readings, nine family members coming to Christ, and so much more. It was a powerful day celebrating with the youths of the church praising the Lord.

Bishop Anthony G. Maclin, an inspiring man of God, leading with such grace continues to bless and spiritually birth into the Kingdom of God co-laborer disciples, who serve alongside him in forging the path of prophetic progression in 2026. These co-laborers have been elevated to fellowship and minister to God's children by sowing the seed of His Word into their lives. As noted in a previous article, the Bishop continues to cast the net wider and wider, highlighting the need to celebrate with God's loved ones who have been chosen to fulfill His plan. This was certainly present as Minister Lydell Hagans, Jr., stirred up a jubilant and spiritual movement that was nothing short of amazing. He delivered a captivating message from John 15:12-17 on "You Have a Friend in Me."

The moving message grasped the hearts of the congregation and children who were grateful in knowing that we all have a true friend in Christ Jesus. He simply reminded all that no matter the situation, Christ will always walk along with us and encourage faithful believers to be steadfast and unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord (1 Cor. 15:58). The message was sealed with God awakening within Minister Hagans a fire of joy and thanksgiving, illustrating the true love he has for the beloved King of Heaven. In summarizing Minister Hagans' sermon, "Christ Jesus' love and friendship are genuine, and there should be no doubt of His love for everyone. When you have been set apart and chosen for a purpose, God will reveal His will at that very moment using His disciples to resonate the teachings of Christ Jesus." As The Sanctuary witnessed, God will birth into life gifts to leaders, young adults, or the praises of His little angels to minister and sow thy gratefulness of God's blessings and the truth into the hearts and minds of all believers throughout the nation. Thanks to all the youth leaders and children of TSAKS for reminding all that the Lord's favor is always upon the faithful.

WHAT'S THE 411? KINGDOM AGENTS

YOUTH CORNER



by Carlette Jameson

Dakota Ryan Davis is one of TSAKS' young Kingdom Knights Agents and has been a part of the Kingdom Agents for over two years. When asked what he loves about being a part of the Kingdom Agents, Dakota said that he loves the "community and the speeches ('sermons' lol)."

Dakota is 7 years old, is in the second grade, and attends Aunie's Learning Center, a homeschool preparatory school. When he is in school, Dakota says that he shines his light on others by "showing my schoolmates love and giving them grace."

Dakota enjoys school, especially Fridays because he gets free time. He also enjoys learning American Sign Language (ASL). One thing he dislikes about school is getting in trouble. When he is not in school, Dakota enjoys relaxing and sometimes reading.

Dakota has several hobbies and activities that he enjoys. He likes martial arts, especially Hapkido, getting his locs done, spending time with his brother, building Legos, and riding his scooter and bike.

Dakota knows that having a strong relationship with God is important. He keeps his relationship with God strong by praying every day and sometimes reading his Bible. He says prayer is important because "you should pray every day and follow God so He can trust you."

If Dakota could interview anyone in the world, he says he would choose Mr. Beast so he could get his autograph! The top question he would ask is how many subscribers Mr. Beast has on his channel.

Fun Facts about Dakota

- If Dakota could go anywhere in the world, he says he would go to Japan for about 10 years because the futuristic hotels in Japan make him very happy.
- Dakota's love for adventure, learning, family, and fun shines through in all the things he enjoys. Whether he is practicing martial arts, building with Legos, riding his bike, or spending time with his brother, Dakota is always finding ways to have fun and enjoy life!



by Carlette Jameson

Christian Ballard is one of TSAKS' young Kingdom Knights Agents and has been a part of the Kingdom Agents for one year. When asked what he loves about being a part of the Kingdom Agents, Christian said that he loves that "they treat everyone the same."

Christian is 10 years old, in the 6th grade, and attends Phoenix International School of the Arts (PISOTA). When he is in school, he says that some ways he shines his light for others are by "giving them praise for the good things they do" and trying to help others who are in need.

Christian says that he doesn't always love school, but he understands that it is important. Math is his favorite subject because he likes "solving problems and figuring things out." He tries to stay positive, learns what he can, and always does his best. When he is not in school, his favorite thing to do is play sports. Christian enjoys playing sports and video games. He especially loves soccer and basketball and says that playing sports makes him happy. His love for sports is also reflected in the person he would choose to interview if he could meet anyone, living, or deceased.

Christian says that if he could interview anyone, it would be Steph Curry because he is his favorite basketball player. The top question he would ask Curry is, "Who was your favorite basketball player at 10 years old?"

Christian also understands the importance of having a strong relationship with God. He strengthens his relationship with God by praying before his games and reading scripture every day when he wakes up and before he goes to bed. His faith is an important part of his life and is something he carries with him both on and off the field and court.

Fun Fact about Christian

- If Christian could go anywhere in the world, he says he would go to Italy for about one month because he would like to experience what it's like to live in another country and enjoy some authentic Italian food.

TSAKS Pop-Up and Happenings





Continued ➢





Continued ➢

Future, Current and Past Events



Future, Current and Past Events

THEOLOGICAL REFLECTIONS . . .

The Peoples' Reactions to Jesus

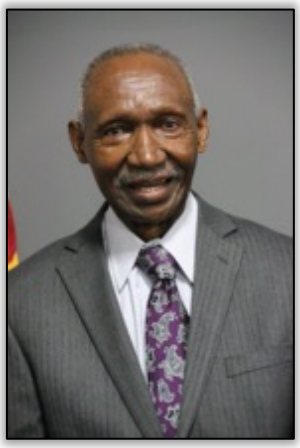
by Minister Robert Hines
TSAKS Minister to the Seniors

But after his brothers left for the festival, Jesus also went, though secretly, staying out of public view. The Jewish leaders tried to find him at the festival and kept asking if anyone had seen him. There was a lot of grumbling about him among the crowds. Some argued, "He's a good man," but others said, "He's nothing but a fraud who deceives the people." But no one had the courage to speak favorably about him in public, for they were afraid of getting in trouble with the Jewish leaders. John 7:10–13.

My brothers and my sisters, Jesus chose his own moment and went to Jerusalem. Here we have the reactions of the people when they were confronted with him. Now one of the supreme interests of this chapter is the number of such reactions of which it tells; and we see them here.

First. There was the reaction of his brothers (verses 1–5). It was really a reaction of half-amused and teasing contempt. They did not really believe in him; they were really egging him on, as you might egg on a precocious child. We still meet that attitude of tolerant contempt toward Christianity. The French novelist George Bernaños, in *The Diary of a Country Priest* tells how the country priest used sometimes to be invited to dinner at the big aristocratic house of his parish. The owner would encourage him to speak and argue before his guests, but he did it with that half-amused, half-contemptuous tolerance with which he might encourage a child to show off or a dog to display its tricks. There are still people who forget that Christian faith is a matter of life and death.

Second. There was the sheer hatred of the Pharisees and of the chief priests (verses 7, 19). They did not hate him for the same reason,



because in point of fact they hated each other. The Pharisees hated him because he drove through their petty rules and regulations. If he was right, they were wrong; and they loved their own little system more than they loved God. The Sadducees were a political party. They did not observe the Pharisaic rules and regulations. Nearly all the priests were Sadducees. They collaborated with their Roman masters, and they had a very comfortable and even luxurious time. They did not want a Messiah; for when he came there political set-up would disintegrate and their comfort would be gone. They hated Jesus because he interfered with the vested interests which were dearer to them than God. It is still possible to love our own little systems more than we love God, and to place our own vested interests above the challenge of the adventurous and the sacrificial way.

Third. Both these reactions issued in the consuming desire to eliminate Jesus (verses 30, 32). When people's ideals clash with those of Christ, either they must submit, or they must seek to destroy him. Hitler would have no Christians about him, for the Christian owed a higher loyalty than loyalty to the state. We are faced with a simple alternative if we allow Christ into our orbit. We can either do what we like, or we can do what Christ likes; and if we wish to go on doing as we like, we must seek to eliminate Christ.

Continued ➢

Fourth. There was arrogant contempt (verses 15, 47–9). What right had this man to come and lay down the law? Jesus had no cultural background; he had no training in the Rabbinic schools and colleges. Surely no intelligent person was going to listen to him? Here was the reaction of academic snobbery.

Many of the greatest poets and writers and evangelists have had no technical qualifications at all. That is not for one moment to say that study and culture and education are to be despised and abandoned; but we must take care never to wave people away and consign them to the company who do not matter simply because they lack the expected qualifications.

Fifth. There was the reaction of the crowd. This was twofold. First, there was the reaction of interest (verse 11). The one thing impossible when Jesus really invades life is indifference. Apart from anything else, Jesus is the most interesting figure in the world. Second, there was the reaction of discussion (verses 12, 43). They talked about Jesus; they put forward their views about him; they debated about him. There is both value and danger here. The value is that nothing helps us clarify our own opinions like pitting them against someone else's. Mind sharpens mind as iron sharpens iron. The danger is that religion can so very easily come to be regarded as a matter for argument and debate and discussion, a series of fascinating questions, about which it is possible to talk for a lifetime and do nothing.

My brothers and my sisters, there is all the difference in the world between being an argumentative amateur theologian, willing to talk until the stars go out, and a truly religious person, who has passed from talking about Christ to knowing him. Amen.

But after his brothers left for the festival, Jesus also went, though secretly, staying out of public view. The Jewish leaders tried to find him at the festival and kept asking if anyone had seen him. There was a lot of grumbling about him among the crowds. Some argued, "He's a good man," but others said, "He's nothing but a fraud who deceives the people." But no one had the courage to speak favorably about him in public, for they were afraid of getting in trouble with the Jewish leaders.
John 7:10–13.

Seeking Writers for the TSAKS National News . . .



If you have a story, or an accomplishment that you have, please see Carlette Jameson. We are looking for writers to share their stories and accomplishments.

Contact Carlette Jameson,
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