

March 2013

Volume 5, Issue 1

The City Temple Times

THE Cowardice of Complacency

By: April Jones

One week after the Ravens won the championship game that led to their Superbowl opportunity, a coworker and friend of mine traveled to Pittsburgh, PA with his girlfriend to attend a concert by a local artist. While dressing for the concert, his girlfriend decided she would wear her Ravens jersey. Well aware of the bitter antagonism between Steeler fans and Raven fans, my friend respectfully (if not urgently) pressed her to change her clothes; informing her that he did not pack his running shoes for this trip. When I asked him why he would have his girlfriend change her clothes rather than confront any undue animosity, he said it is best to avoid conflict where you know conflict can occur.

On my job, they call this a "workaround": a short-term fix for a long-term problem. While the workaround will certainly allow you to complete your task, you have addressed the symptoms and not the problem. The problem remains—so you have to deal with the problem or accept that you will endure the steps of the workaround permanently.

Blacks in America continue to concede to the "workaround" approach today. For many reasons; laziness, resignation, or because we're just plain tired of fighting; we have built workarounds to live our lives.

We tell our loved ones which neighborhoods to avoid driving through alone.

complacency and make our lot in life even harder. Black teens are still being shot under the guise of the Stand Your Ground law that serves no other purpose than to make legal the murder of our people (remember the lynchings of 1900s?). Black men and women still have to work harder, learn faster, and endure more hardships in the workplace to earn the positions our white counterparts inherit through nepotism and cunning. Our youth are still killing each other and innocents whether you avoided a slaying yourself or not.

Yet no one has dared enough to blow a whistle and say enough is enough. No one dares to stand up and demand to know why Trayvon Martin's killer is not in prison. Not enough of us have the courage to approach these gangbangers and demand to know why only they have the right to wear white, or red, or whatever and why exercising our own rights forfeit our lives.

Maybe we are tired of fighting. Perhaps that's why we keep quiet and continue to allow ourselves to be bullied into



We suggest that we not wear our hair natural. If traveling through gang territory, we make certain not to wear red or black or green depending on the gang. We do all of these things to avoid confronting cultures that threaten to annihilate our own way of life.

The problem is the workarounds never solve our problem. In fact, they feed our

continued on **P5**

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Between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Mondays-Fridays

Together We Can Make A Difference

ministries in motion

upcoming events

MALE MINISTRY

The Male Ministry will host a Fish Fry following Good Friday worship service on Friday, March 29. The ministry has done an outstanding job with its previous fish fries, but the best part about this one, is that they are GIVING AWAY dinners! That's right, you read correctly. As a thank you for supporting their efforts and in honor of the Good Friday tradition, all dinners will be free while they last! So come on out for service on Good Friday, and feast your souls with some good word with the seven last words of Christ, then fill your bellies with some good food!

GOSPEL ENSEMBLE

The Gospel Ensemble choir will be traveling to Wayland Baptist Church on April 28 at 4 p.m. Please support the choir with your attendance!

S.W.A.G.G.

The Youth Ministry, now named S.W.A.G.G. (Students With A Great God), have three fun-filled activities planned! For youth ages 5-10, we are attending an overnight stay at Port Discovery on Friday, April 19 – Saturday, April 20! Port Discovery is a highly interactive children's museum with exhibits and programs designed for children ages 2-10. The cost to participate is \$38.

For youth ages 11-17, we are traveling to Misty Manor Riding Stables in Mar-

riottsville, MD for a one-hour trail ride on Saturday, March 16. The cost is \$25. See Crystal Wright or April Jones for more information on either trip.

On Friday, March 22, the youth leaders invite you to bring your youth out for a Prayer Dinner. With so much going on in the world today, we know you'll agree with us that we need to stay in prayer over our youth. Please plan to attend. S.W.A.G.G. has several exciting adventures and activities planned. Stay tuned...you don't want to miss out on a thing!

CTDC

City Temple Development Corporation will host a series of workshops on financial literacy on April 20, 2013 from 9:00 am -3:00 pm. So save the date, because you just might learn a few ways to save some \$!

DANCE MINISTRY

The God's Gifts (tot) ministry will minister for their second time on March 17 during the morning worship service. They will be in rehearsal every Saturday from 11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. until then. Please keep them (and especially Min. Marshall) in prayer as they prepare to show you how they love the Lord!

YOUTH CHOIR

The Youth Choir will sing on the second Sunday in March due to the Palm and

Resurrection Sundays falling on the fourth and fifth Sundays. Please make note of the change and be sure to come out to support our youth on March 10!

TEMPLE CHOIR

Calling All Voices! The Temple Choir is actively recruiting new members. We are blessed at City Temple to have a music ministry that brings us traditional and classical religious music of anthems, hymns and spirituals. And our choir specializes in all of these genres. Please join us so that we can continue to "Let Heavenly Music Fill This Place!"

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

Our annual Women's Ministry Fellowship Service will be held on Sunday, March 17 at 3:30 p.m. at City Temple. This year, we will present the dramatization *Women in the Bible*. The Women's Choir will also sing some inspiring songs of praise. We ask that you begin to pray God's will for this service. It is truly a beautiful thing to see when "sisters come together to worship and celebrate the goodness of the Lord." The attire for this service is a white dress/suit with a purple scarf; however, if you do not have white, then black attire or whatever you have will work. We welcome your presence and participation. If you wish to participate in the processional, meet us as we gather in the lower auditorium of the church at 3 p.m. so that we can process in as a group.

"Reputation is what men and women think of us; character is what God and angels know of us."

Thomas Paine

Making Marriage WORK



In celebration of Valentine's Day, I asked several married couples in our congregation to share what makes a successful marriage. Our youth are living in an age ruled by gang violence, bullying, poverty and neglect; and one of the chief culprits for this is the breakdown of the black family. Mothers are getting younger and homes are increasingly single-parent run.

For generations, our communities have been so wracked by failed marriages and the live-in boyfriend/girlfriend, it's no wonder many have forgotten the reality called 'marriage'.

I hope these lists, tips, and portraits of marriages will inspire every child and young adult to entertain the notion of marriage; learn that there are benefits to marriage; and understand how marriage is vital to the success of the black family and community.

Greg & Vonda Reed

Married 16 Years

In staying connected and overcoming life challenges in our marriage, God has been and still is a real presence in our marriage and in our life. Needless to say, in any marriage, there are good days and bad days, but we rely on God to get us through the difficulties we might face. Prayer and patience, communication, and respect for one another are very important. Even though we may have our own idiosyncrasies and habits, which might get on the other person's nerves, it is important to laugh and not take ourselves too seriously. And, during our "heated fellowship" moments, we give each other space.

Our home is our sanctuary, so it is important that we not bring anything that would disrupt the sense of peace and balance into our home. Our life together is

a priority to us and we treat it as such. We have learned through the years that it is important to stand together and be there for one another no matter what. It is also important to be supportive of each other in our individual endeavors. Gratitude is also an important part of our relationship.

Another one of our secrets to making our marriage work is spending time together doing fun things, such as Saturday movies dates, traveling, and even going to the gym working out together. We have lots of common interests, but we also have individual interests and gifts that we share with one another. It is a gift from God to be married to your friend, someone you can talk and laugh with, grow with, worship and pray with, pray for and share a special love with. We always believed that it was God who brought us together. We recognize and acknowledge that God has truly blessed us with a very special love relationship and we don't take it for granted. We encourage others to make your spouse and your marriage a priority. Remember to keep God first and He will guide you through it all.

Grady & Patricia Yeargin

Married 13 Years

When Pat and I talked about this list, we both clearly understood that this list is about what has worked for us. We do not think of them as secrets but rather as things that are important to us in our relationship. The list is in no particular order in terms of importance. It is very simply a list of what we believe helps to make our relationship work.

• Communication

There is every likelihood that if you are not communicating with one another, you will never really know each other.

So make it your business to talk to each other. Talk to each other about any and every thing. The more we talk, the more we reveal about who we are, what we think and feel, what matters to us, what motivates and inspires us, what frightens us, what we like, what we dislike and our hopes and dreams. It is the means by which we come to know one another and by which we come to be known by one another.

• Listen To One Another

Listening is very much a part of communication. If we are not listening to one another, we are not communicating. If you feel like your partner is not listening to you, there is nothing wrong with bringing it to their attention that you do not feel like you are being heard. To put it another way, there are few things worse than feeling like you are being ignored or that what you have to say is unimportant.

• Accept Your Partner for Who They Are

If the relationship is what it should be, we should be helping each other become who we really are. It is never our responsibility to impose on our partner what we want them to be. Hopefully, when we fall in love, we fall in love because of who the other person is. Part of the purpose of our relationship is to help each other to realize even more of who they really are.

• Never Take Lightly the Value of Your Trust in One Another

In matters of the heart trust seems to come so very easily and quickly. It tends to happen that way because we want to trust each other and we want to be trusted. But the breaking of that trust can happen even quicker and once trust is broken it is difficult if not impossible to

THE Cowardice OF Complacency

continued from P1

not living our lives as fully as we would like.

Tired or not, it's time for our second wind. As black people, our freedom and livelihood hang on the edge of a knife. If we do not fight, we risk losing all the ground gained by the sweat, blood, tears and lives of our forebears to those who think so little of our lives' worth.

Too much is at stake. The future of our children. Our careers. Our pride. Our lives. We are called to a higher purpose than that. Now more than ever it is time for us to be who we say we are. If we are indeed people of "the way", it's time for us to lead the way and show that way to others.

Making Marriage WORK

continued from P4

get back because the problem with regaining trust is that you have to trust when you have little or no reason to trust. So never treat the trust you have for one another cheaply or take it lightly.

• Be Honest with One Another

To put this as simply as it can be put: this is not about being as honest as you can be with one another; this is about being honest with one another. Without honesty, you can never know who the other person is.

Gary & Michelle Hamiel

Married 28 Years

- Put God first
- Be sure to be best friends
- Communicate everything
- Trust each other
- Listen carefully
- Make sure whatever you did to get your spouse, you do to keep him/her
- Never let the romance die
- Never go to bed or leave the house angry
- Be your partner's mirror

- Be open to change
- Grow together
- Have fun, enjoy each other, act silly, don't take everything so seriously, laugh with and at each other

Everette & Charlotte Richards

Married 10 Years

We examined our first marriages and thought about what we could have done differently. We realized that our biggest mistakes came from not communicating and compromising. When we decided to marry each other, we decided that we did not want to make those mistakes again.

Everette and I think one of the most important things now is to grow together mentally and spiritually, and that's a very important part of making our relationship

"We may not have agreed with every decision that has been made by each other; however, we feel it's very important to be supportive of each other and that's what being in a marriage is all about."

work. Although we may not be in the same place spiritually at the same time, our goal in this relationship is to get as close as we can.

Our personalities are totally different, and we joke about that because for our relationship to work that has to be. Everette has a free-spirited attitude and nothing worries him, while my personality is outgoing but not as worry free.

While this has been an adjustment over the years, one of our beliefs is that a person should be allowed to be who they are. Do not try to change the person you are with to the way you think they should be. Just accept and love them for who they are.

We may not have agreed with every decision that has been made by each other; however, we feel it's very important to be supportive of each other and that's what being in a marriage is all about.

Everette and I believe when you have love, trust, honesty, communication, forgiveness and loving the Lord in your relationship, you can get through almost anything. And that's where we are now.

Randy & Emily Tilghmans

Married 31 Years

- Pick your battles
- Don't go to bed angry
- It helps when both are interested in church and is involved
- Have two separate TVs (aside from the bedroom) to avoid hoarding
- Order an extra remote so that each of you have equal access to the TV
- Husbands should teach their wives the rules of football to make watching the games more entertaining for the wives
- Always have an open mind regarding all important topics regarding anything—COMMUNICATION
- It's okay to say "I'm sorry" and "I love you"

Charles & Delores Davenport

Married 55 Years

After being a couple for almost 55 years, we first give thanks to God for being blessed individually and collectively as husband and wife.

Blessed with Christian parents, being raised in Christian homes with brothers and sisters, growing up old-school with stern parents, listening, and watching gave us both an idea of what marriage and family was all about. We are the products of our upbringing, and we two have become one. Having said that, we love, trust and respect one another; and most importantly, we communicate with one another.

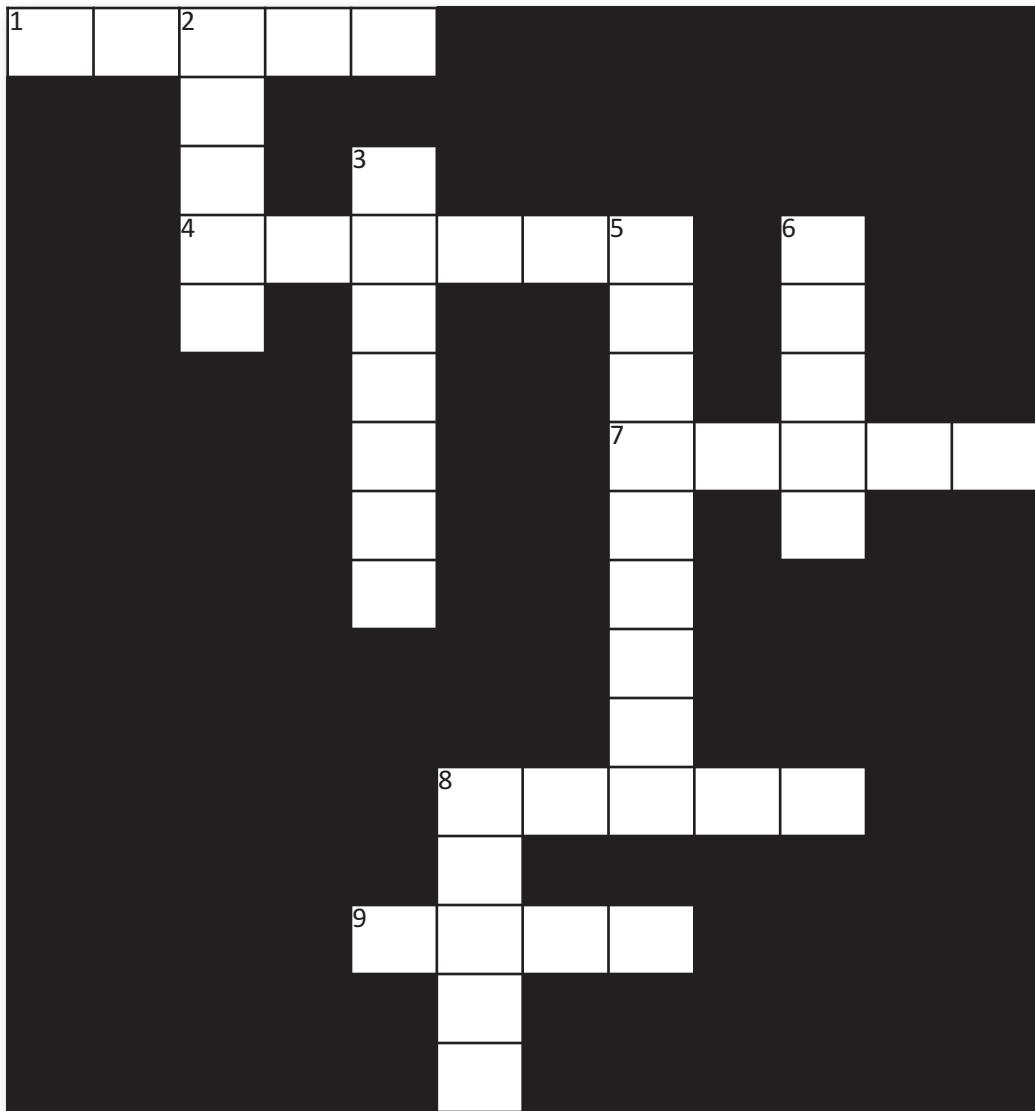
When we face challenges in our lives and in our marriage, we don't allow others to interfere with our growth as husband and wife.

We are happy that at this stage, we can pass on some of our experiences to our children who are both parents and have children of their own. We are grandparents of three whom we dearly love and cherish as gifts from God.□

kid's fun page

games, puzzles & trivia

Easter crossword



Across: 1. Bread 4. Thorns 7. Risen 8. Slept 9. Love Down: 2. Empty 3. Hosanna 5. Sacrifce 6. Cross 8. Stone

ANSWERS:

CAN YOU see me

By: Mary Williams

Would you like to know what love feels like?
Do you want to know what love looks like?
Close your eyes and free your mind
And see with your heart.
Now follow me
Let me show you what love looks like
Can you see me?
Standing on the highest mountain preaching the gospel of the kingdom seeking to save the lost
Can you see me?
Walking through some of the lowest valleys healing sickness, diseases of all manner while chasing

demons out of tortured souls.

Can you see me?

Kneeling to pray in the Garden of Gethsemane

Look closely, the Roman soldiers have come to arrest me.

Can you see my troubles as they lead me into their fortress?

Watch as I am being stretched and tied between two posts and beaten about the head and whipped as they try to strip away my dignity.

Can you see me?

As my knees buckle from under me as the flesh is torn from my back.

Can you see me as I am made to carry this cross that was not meant for me?

Can you see me?

Stumbling on narrow, rocky roads uphill carrying this cross that outweighs my body weight through crowds who hate me

Struggling through the humiliation of being spat upon and beaten with fists and kicked to the ground while the crowds yell crucify, crucify him, constantly slapping my face

Can you see me?

As they nail me to the very cross that I was forced to carry.

Can you see the tears

streaming down my blood-stained face as they pierced my hands and feet?

Can you see my love for you?

Even at a time such as this I am waiting for you to receive my love.

There is no greater love than me.

Can you see me?

I am praying for your forgiveness

Can you see me?

As I cry out father, father why have you deserted me

Can you see me?

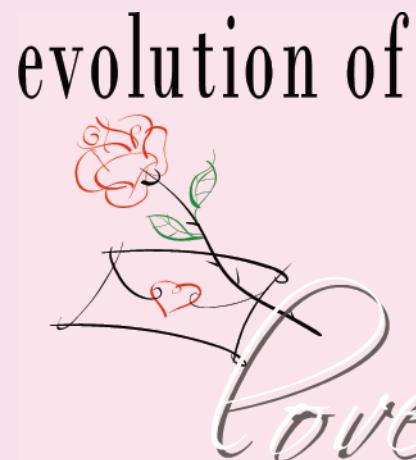
As I hang my head and take my last breath

Can you see me?

This is what love looks like

*In the beginning, we were unsure
Had to protect our hearts
“Am I ready to give up my freedom?”
“Can I trust I won’t be hurt anymore?”
Cautious, yet we followed our hearts
In spite of the doubts and fears
There was something we knew for sure
God allowed our paths to cross
At that moment, for a reason*

*Since that day our love has grown
Stronger with each season
Nurturing our love
With care and attention
We look to God
Through prayer and intercession
Though trials and storms
We sometimes weather
Our love is still intact
We’re in this thing together
God is in the midst of it all
The evolution of our love
Is still a work in progress*



By: Vonda Reed

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PUBLICATION DEADLINES

The deadline to submit any articles, pictures or other content for publication in our June 2013 issue is Sunday, May 19, 2013.

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See the latest and past issues of The Times in color at <http://www.thecitytemple.org/times>. The Times can also be e-mailed to you. Send an e-mail to times@thecitytemple.org to join our e-mail list!

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