

March 2015

Volume 7, Issue 1



The City Temple Times

broken pieces.

By: Mary Williams

[*Matthew 6:22*

Your eyes are
like windows
for the body.
When they are
good you have
the light you
need.

But when your
eyes are bad,
everything is
dark.

If the light in-
side of you is
dark, you are
surely in the dark.]

I was in the dark;
the deep end of darkness
a darkness that was forced upon me as a little girl
and over-shadowed me well into my adult life.

My soul was dark and void.

I was emotionally and physically controlled by darkness.

I didn't know who God was.

But through all that pain I called out his name.

[*Ephesians 1:18*

Paul's Prayer

My prayer is that light will flood your hearts. And that
you will understand the hope that was given when God
chose you.]

God heard my calling out to him.

He saw my suffering and brought me out from the valley
of molestation and held me in his arms.

He scooped me up from the valley of rape and dried my
tears. He placed his finger on my heart and took away
the pain.

He held me close to his bosom and shared the joy.

He reached down into the pit of darkness and pulled me
up to where there is light.

To God be the glory.

Now you may be wondering 'why would she write this?'

My answer is that this is my Gift to God so that others
can see how he has set me free.

I am no longer a victim of darkness.

To God Be the glory.

God showed me a vision of two thrones:

One sat high at the end of a long, long road;

The other sat low at the end of a short road.

He asked me which one would you rather sit under. I
chose the higher one.

[*Isaiah 42:9*

Behold, the former things have come to pass...]

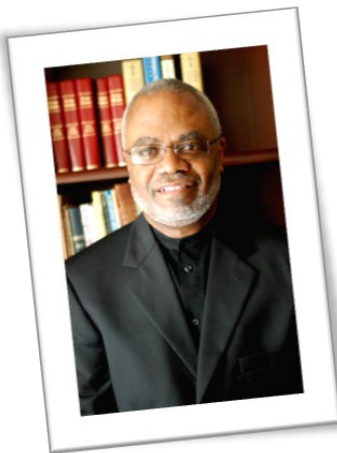
A soft voice said look on the phone directory under
churches.

continued on page 5



O Lord our Lord
how excellent is thy name
in all the earth!

PSALM 8:9 | BELIEVERS4EVER



the pastor's corner

The chances are that by now the movie “Selma” is no longer showing at movie theaters around the country. If you did not get the opportunity to see it before it left the theaters, I hope you will be able to purchase it when it is available on DVD or rent it through Redbox or any other service provider.

Pat and I knew when we first heard about the movie that we would make it our business to see it as soon as humanly possible. So on Friday evening, January 16, we went to see the movie.

I hope that the movie did the same for others who grew up during the 1960's and the height of the Civil Rights Movement that it did for me and for Pat. Both of us confessed that the movie ignited the memory of listening to the news reports of two of the events that were portrayed in the movie. The first was the bombing of the 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, Alabama on September 15, 1963. That church bombing took the lives of three four-year-olds, Cynthia Addie May Collins and one eleven-year-old girl, Denise McNair.

At the time, I was fourteen years old. While the death of common place these days, such mon in those days.

The second was the merc-enforcement officers of African tempting to register to vote in bama. The day is known as



©Paramount Pictures

this event that served as the inspiration which gave birth to the movie and, to my way of thinking, it captures a piece of the heart, the soul, and the spirit of the Civil Rights Movement.

As I thought about the movie, I felt a sense of sadness. The reason for my sadness is the fact that there are those among us who seem to have little or no awareness of or appreciation for the importance of the Civil Rights movement in our lives. There are those who seem to have no desire to know about this piece of our history as if it does not matter. There are also those who feel that our nation has moved beyond racism and prejudice and we need to leave the past in the past.

The truth is we are not beyond what happened then and obviously such events are not just in the past. The recent occurrences of police brutality and justice based on the color of one's skin remind us that we still have a long way to go. When the first African-American President is not given the same respect as any previous president and when a man selling single cigarettes on a street corner is choked to death for doing so, we have not yet fully over come.

I urge even now, if you have not done so, make the effort to see the movie. If necessary, buy it and make it a part of your movie collection. It is a piece of our history that reveals a people of courage and character, a people of hope and determination, a people of love and faith in God.

The movie gives us a good sense of the price that has been paid for you and me to be able to exercise our God-given right to vote and to fully participate in the inalienable rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

less beating by local law Americans who were at-1965 in Montgomery, Ala-“Bloody Sunday”. It was

years old and Pat was nine persons so young is rather deaths were terribly uncom-



at The City Temple of Baltimore (Baptist)

Dfree® is "living debt free;" a lifestyle that promotes discovering more about yourself than you do about money. Dr. DeForest B. Soaries, Jr. set out to help people address and conquer the greatest barrier to stress-free living and wealth creation: personal debt. He further considers the **dfree®** lifestyle an evangelistic tool; a lifestyle adjustment. Training for that lifestyle involves 12 Weeks (or 12 steps) of guided instruction. **Dfree®** further stands for freedom to make deposits, earn dividends and possess deeds that represent ownership.

The **dfree®** Lifestyle Campaign is based on the following biblical values:

- | | |
|----------------------|---|
| ROMANS 13:8 | "Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another..." NIV |
| PROVERBS 22:7 | "The rich rule over the poor, and the borrower is servant to the lender." NIV |
| LUKE 14:28 | "Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Will he not first sit down and estimate the cost." NIV |

The three principles of **dfree®** are:

1. No debt
2. No delinquencies
3. No deficits

To date, this program has already launched in numerous African-American churches across the U.S. with the goal to help 125,000 people pay off \$1 billion in debt. The **dfree®** Lifestyle Campaign here at City Temple was launched in March 2014, under the sponsorship of The City Temple Development Corporation (CTDC), with 14 registered participants. Since the launch, two training sessions have completed with 12 graduates.

Training sessions scheduled for 2015 are:

- | | | |
|-------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------|
| • Saturdays | March 7, 2015-May 30, 2015 | 9:30am-11:00 a.m. |
| • Tuesdays | June 3, 2015-July 27 2015 | 6:30pm-8:30 p.m. |
| • Saturdays | August 28, 2015-November 21, 2015 | 9:30am-11:00 a.m. |

To register for training sessions, please leave a message on the registration line (410-633-8932), visit our web page (www.dfreebaltimore.org), or see Deacon Willie Simmons and Bobbie Jean Hargrove.

Our team consists of several roles – Program Administrators (Willie Simmons, Bobbie Jean Hargrove); Trainers (Marlene Jones, LaNette Davis, Chianti Jackson Harpool, Alan James); Champion (Adrian Harpool); Ambassador (LaNette Davis). The program is currently recruiting trainers and technical assistants.



MANY CHURCH CHOIRS ARE DYING. HERE'S WHY.

By Cathy Lynn Grossman/Religion News Service

Cross Pointe Worship Team rocks out during a performance. Photo courtesy of Cross Pointe Church.

(RNS) James Merritt spent years as senior pastor of an Atlanta-area megachurch that featured a mighty choir. Then he changed his tune.

At 50, he left First Baptist Church Snellville to plant a new church — 200 people in a rented space at a high school 12 miles away — focused on reaching a young generation.

There was and is no choir. And that puts Merritt's current congregation, [Cross Pointe Church](#), right on trend.

The newly released [National Congregations Study](#) finds church choirs are on the downbeat in white Protestant churches across the theological spectrum.

Choirs stand strong in black Protestant congregations, where 90 percent of regular attendees say there's a choir at the main service. The same is true for three in four (76 percent) Catholic worshippers.

But among white conservative evangelicals, only 40 percent of worshippers say they hear a choir at services, down from 63 percent 14 years ago.

For those who attend liberal or moderate Protestant congregations, there's a similar slide to 50 percent in 2012, down from 78 percent in 1998.

Sales for the music for choral anthems, slipped so deeply four years ago that the United Methodist Church's publishing arm, Abingdon Press, stopped buying new anthem music, said Mary Catherine Dean, associate publisher.

Merritt, a former president of the Southern Baptist Convention, is quick to say, "I'm not knocking choirs."

A lot of thought went into eliminating the choir at Cross Pointe.

"Practically, if a choir is going to be top shelf, people have to come at least one night a week and rehearse at least two hours. Then, a top-shelf choir is going to want to sing every service and do Christmas cantatas

and special events," said Merritt.

"That takes staff, an orchestra, a big enough stage. That costs money. When we were starting up in 2003, we decided we would be better stewards not to invest in that."

Philosophically, said Merritt, "We saw where the culture was headed. The younger generation doesn't gravitate toward choirs."

Today, Cross Pointe, with nearly 2,800 people in weekend worship, is "a very contemporary, very band-driven church," serving a multiethnic, multigenerational congregation at two campuses.

Merritt's reasoning mirrors that of experts who see choirs shrinking, if not falling silent.

People are reluctant to perform.

Mary Preus, choir director at [Our Saviour's Lutheran Church](#) in Minneapolis, blames "our culture of performance and expertise. We don't sing anywhere else in our lives the way we once did. I grew up singing in home, in school and church every week. Now, people think they are not good enough to sing," she said.

People move.

Alan Purdum, minister of music for [Howland Community Church](#) near Youngstown, Ohio, said, "Our choir survives because some of my friends and my wife are in it." On Sunday mornings, eight to 12 people and a hired soprano sing for about 80 people at services where, 40 years ago, a choir of 30 voices sang to hundreds in the pews.

The recession was a blow.

"Music is an area that can be cut when dollars are scarce in the (offering) plate," painful as that may be, said Terre Johnson, national chairman for music in worship for the [American Choral Directors Association](#).

Thirteen years ago, when Joey Lott became been di

rector of worship arts for [Maples Memorial United](#)

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broken pieces cont.

by: mary williams

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I found the number to City Temple Baptist Church. I called and left a message. The message said "Hello, my name is Mary Viola Williams. I am looking for a church home."

I did not know at that time the pastor was traveling through the valley of death mourning the loss of his daughter.

Even though I didn't receive a call back, the Lord led me to the church. There, I was greeted at the front entrance by this little lady with a great big personality by the name of Geraldine White.

Now this usher is truly one of a kind. She made me feel as though I was a part of the congregation.

As I entered the sanctuary, I felt a sense of relief. A force was pulling me toward the front.

Suddenly, a voice said, "The doors of the church are open." The voice called out "come give your life to Christ."

So I nervously walked down what seemed to be a long, long walk and gave myself to Christ.

And I thought to myself "this is

the vision that God was showing me."

Two weeks later, Rev. Dr. Grady A. Yeargin, Jr., baptized me. That was the year 2001.

To look at me now, you would have never known just how broken I was.



To God be the Glory.

I am grateful that my redeemer has shown me that the ways of this world do not define who I am as a person.

Romans 12:2 informs us that God has a plan for us. His will toward us is good and acceptable and perfect. But we must renew our

minds. Since my baptism, I have joined the City Temple family. I have served on many different ministries. I am singing on several choirs. I am currently attending Sunday School for adult women.

My transitioning has not come to a stand-still. There are many mentors here at City Temple. I am grateful for Deacon Maelena Holman whom I met during my very first foot washing ceremony. While I was going through my birthing pain, she ministered to me day and night.

To God be the Glory.

I am grateful for Deacon Henry Womack who allowed God to speak through him to suggest that I read scripture during rehearsal time. He said, "the fact that you are willing to do it and let God use you, you will be just fine."

I am grateful for the many positive people here. It's truly an honor to be among so many of you.

Now I know what it means to say "To God be the Glory." May God bless all who have heard or read my testimony. Amen.

CONGRATULATIONS

Submitted by Min. Patricia Yeargin

On February 15, the Baltimore Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority awarded City Temple with a certificate of recognition for our ongoing commitment to community service.

The outreach efforts, which are supported by the membership, continue to be a source of inspiration and support throughout the Baltimore community.

City Temple, you are to be commended as we continue to strive to do as Christ has commanded by helping those who are in need.

PUBLICATION DEADLINES

Articles for **The Times** are due no later than the 3rd Sunday before the month the issue is published. The next **Times** will be published on June 7, 2015.

THE TIMES ON-LINE OR BY E-MAIL

See the latest and past issues of **The Times** in color at <http://www.thecitytemple.org/times>. **The Times** can be e-mailed to you. E-mail times@thecitytemple.org to receive your copy by e-mail.

March

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Veida Harris
Lynda Henderson
Doris L. Hunter
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MANY CHURCH CHOIRS ARE DYING.

By Cathy Lynn Grossman/Religion News Service

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Methodist Church in Olive Branch, Miss., there were 55 voices in the choir. “In 2008 when the recession hit, I lost 15 members of my choir in six months. They had to move elsewhere for work. That started the descent. From there, I am now down to about 25 people,” Lott said. Yet choir leaders adapt and sing.

Preus has spent decades working to “revive the joy of singing” at Our Saviour’s. She does it with creative choices for music and staging. Choir members don’t sit or stand in a special spot. They don’t wear special clothes or robes, said Preus. “They just stand up wherever they are in the pews and sing.”

And because traditional choral music can be challenging for even the most talented of singers, she takes time to hunt down more accessible music, often drawing on music from Africa and Latin America.

Don’t count choirs out, said **Eileen Guenther**, professor of church music at Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington and former president of the American

Guild of Organists.

“Churches are struggling to find the style that is most engaging. But there’s a reason choral music is called ‘traditional.’ It’s been around a while. Contemporary music may not have as much staying power,” Guenther said.

It may be that what is fading away is the “performance choir,” replaced by choirs that lead the whole congregation in song, said **Charles Billingsley**, worship pastor for Thomas Road Baptist Church in Lynchburg, Va., and artist in residence at Liberty University.

“We are in the age of church planting, and a lot of these startups are small. But I see even some of these churches will throw up some risers and have 20, 30, 40 people sing,” he said.

Thomas Road, founded by the late Jerry Falwell, has “a loft full of singers, 300 people in the choir. But their main function,” he said is to “be an army of worship voices leading the people of God into the presence of God.”

Middle Age Doesn't Mean You're Out of the Game!

By: Marsha Reeves-Jews




There are actually quite a few women who are 40 plus still wondering if anyone will ever “put a ring on it” or “back on it!” In today’s world, mature couples have read and reread the “marriage penalty” that married couples face when paying their income taxes; however, the truth is that marriage has plenty of legal and financial benefits, including tax benefits.

Today, many folks are indulging their hearts and making life a little sweeter with someone they love as opposed to being alone.

Last month we were very happy to witness the perfect wedding of Rosalind and Tyres Jones. A beautiful ceremony held in Baltimore on the south harbor waterfront in November. The beautiful fall colors of peach and dark grey were perfect for the brick background in the main hall. The bride was stunning with her beautiful gray hair highlighted by an incredible up swing-braided twists that intertwined with her short veil and flawless makeup. It was a delightful afternoon brunch with a mixture of young and old alike enjoying an afternoon of jazz, loving family and friends and the promise of a wonderful lifetime together.

These two have spent time getting to know one another with truth and dignity. Their love is palatable and their joy was infectious. It certainly was a reminder for all of us single girls: that love is there if you are open to the universe and you choose to put down your guard and allow the universe to attract what you need to you!



FREE SPRING SEMESTER GED CLASS

Registration will be held on March 9 and 11
9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

The City Temple of Baltimore (Baptist)
W.W. Payne Center
317 Dolphin St.
Baltimore, MD 21217

*Classes begin March 25 and are held every M, W, and F
9 a.m. - 12 p.m.*

*Contact Pat Payne (410) 292-7864 between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.
Monday-Friday for more information.*

Gallery



PHOTO GALLERY

PICTURED BELOW: REV. YEARGIN AND DAVINA MORTON POSE TOGETHER DURING THE CHRISTIAN EDUCATION BANQUET WHERE SHE WAS HONORED. MS. MORTON POSES WITH HER DAUGHTER AND CHURCH MEMBERS.



PICTURED ABOVE: THE MEN'S MINISTRY SERVE PATRONS DURING THEIR JAN. 30 FISH FRY. THE MINISTRY POSES FOR A GROUP PIC. TYRES JONES, SR. GETS UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL WITH A PIECE OF TROUT.