



The Scroll

Spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ and equipping the People of God through the written word.

Word of the Quarter—Moving in Courage

The Editing Team

In the fall issue of *The Scroll*, we began a new overarching theme, “Submitting to the Spirit of God” with the topic “Hearing the Voice of God.” In the winter issue, we continued with the subject, “Coming Out of the Shadows.” In this issue, we continue the overarching theme with the topic “Moving in Courage.”

The *Miriam-Webster* dictionary defines the word *courage* as, “mental or moral strength to venture, persevere, and withstand danger, fear, or difficulty.” When the editing team met to outline the overarching theme, we thought Mary and Joseph were perfect for the “Women of the Bible” and “Men of the Bible” sections, particularly the courage they needed when they had to flee to Egypt. The Bible is full of many other examples of people moving in courage because of the confidence they had in God.

We are sure you can look at your life and see examples of everyday people moving in courage and making huge impact on the world around them.

When the editing team met a few issues ago, we each talked about a time when fear, insecurity, and self-doubt threatened the courage we needed to walk

boldly through doors God opened.

One editor shared about starting a youth choir. She had been dreaming, asking, seeking, and knocking. She had made connections, and she had support. When everything fell into place and the door opened, she realized that getting to that point was not enough. It would take courage to put aside and navigate fear, insecurity, and self-sabotage and courageously walk through the door with faith that God had equipped her. Today her choir, Lifted Youth Gospel Choir, has grown substantially and is a nurturing community that empowers young voices and hearts through music.

Another shared when writing opportunities began to come. She thought of a million reasons why she should not pursue them. In the end, it was fear. Fear of opening her writing and words to criticism. She decided that she would rather be someone who had the courage to create. She

also felt like part of her responsibility as a writer was to give a voice to the voiceless by putting into words what someone felt

but could not find the words to express. Today, she continues to seek and create new writing opportunities as well as expand into the area of social media and corporate communications.

Another shared when she was getting married for a second time. She was afraid of getting into another relationship, and she wondered if she could make it work this time. She felt like she was not ready and that it was too soon, but God spoke to her. He told her to go ahead because this marriage was ordained, and He would be with her. She felt she could rely on God’s voice and not her own feelings or past. Now she is celebrating 53 years of marriage with a vow renewal service. In addition, she and her husband answered the call to begin a ministry that will celebrate 30 years in 2025.

We will all have moments of extreme fear. Moments where we must decide if we will settle for the status quo or reach down for the courage to move into the position that God is calling us to. When God opens a door for us, it is our opportunity to release doubt, accept the blessing, and walk confidently and courageously in our calling.

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Editor's Corner—Moving in Courage

Sister LaTonja Brown

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One thing I know today is that I want everything God has for me.

We would like to extend our warmest, most sincere welcome to the newest members of PCC. †

When I was little, I was afraid of a few things: *The Wizard of Oz*, holding sparklers on the Fourth of July, and Brutus—the Doberman Pinscher who lived behind us. In retrospect, I am not sure where some of the fear stemmed from. I understood my fear of Brutus, and it was a fear shared by all the neighborhood kids—the dog was a menace. The movie—perhaps the flying monkeys. The sparklers—perhaps my young mind thought it was fire.

It is such an odd thing because there were so many other things I should have been scared of that I wasn't. In the main, children tend to be carefree and wild until parents or life teaches them to fear. According to *Psychology Today*, we are not born with fear. Fear is something that is developed over time, and we don't demonstrate fear until 8 to 12 months. It is something we learn by conditioning, having a negative experience, or taking on someone else's fear.

I won't go deep into the woods about the types of fear. What I want to hone in on is addressing fears that keep us in bondage, from reaching our full potential, or moving to the next level, which delays our progress. One fear or anxiety I developed after a car accident is fear of driving on the freeway. After talking to a therapist about this, I learned about exposure. So, I would drive on the freeway for two exits just for exposure. Then I went on longer drives. If I got spooked, I would get off.

Another way to conquer fear is to vocalize it. Sister Rachel recently talked about shame, and I found her remarks spot on. Shame keeps us in fear. I have learned two things about vocalizing fears. One, for some reason, voicing fears reduces the power they hold over me. Two, I have found that, once I share, I learn how many people also share the same fear. I was surprised how many people I know that have anxiety around driving, driving on the freeway, driving during rain, driving at night, etc. And

people facing their fear and driving anyway gives me the courage to continue to face mine as well.



The Bible is filled with verses about not fearing and not being afraid, which leads me to believe that God knew it was something we would struggle with. If you are dealing with fear and anxiety, you are in good company. I also believe that God doesn't want us to live our life in bondage because of fear or anxiety. We can take our fears to God. As mentioned above, we can also practice exposure and share our fears with trusted people—be it a therapist, pastor, or close friend.

I attended a Be Bold Be You conference some years back, and a speaker shared a quote she used for inspiration. The essence of the quote is to be afraid but do it anyway. It is in line with another saying, which says courage is not the absence of fear but the ability to act despite it. When God gives you a vision, you can do it even when fear tells you that you can't.

I'm currently in a season of reflection, and I've been thinking about opportunities I didn't take because I talked myself out of because of a mixture of fear, lack of courage, and uncertainty. One thing I know today is that I want everything God has for me. I don't want to let anything cause me to miss anything, especially anything God has given us authority over!

This issue is about moving in courage, and our fears keeps us from that. Look at your life and begin tackling whatever is holding you back. Remember Deuteronomy 31:6, which says, "*Be strong and courageous. Do not fear or be in dread of them, for it is the Lord your God who goes with you. He will not leave you or forsake you.*"

Finding Hope—Holding On

Sister Amy Pemberton

Two days after my wedding ceremony, lies my husband had told me months before were uncovered. Confronting him with my discovery, I was force fed additional lies as he tried to cover up his guilt. So desperate to shake his responsibility, he resorted to an attempt at placing the fault of it all in my hands. Decades later, I would learn the term for what he was doing was gaslighting. At that moment, all I knew was I had made a huge mistake in marrying him. I was in over my head, and I was barely away from the shore. Instead of doing the sensible thing, which would have been making my way back to land, I continued swimming further out where the water would only become more dangerous.

The physical abuse didn't begin until our son was born. Stitches from the episiotomy were still fresh when he pounded his fists into my thighs as I sat on the sofa in our living room. My mind scanned over everything I'd recently said and done, searching for a reason to support his fury, but I could come up with nothing. The bruises on my legs would last weeks. The scars he left in my mind would remain.

It's difficult for those who have never lived through abuse to understand why anyone would tolerate it. The answer is often multilayered. It tends to begin slowly. Sometimes a lack of finances keeps people frozen in place. Sometimes it's a desire to create a protective wall between the abuser and children. As abuse progresses, self-esteem plummets because of the steady stream of lies we are told about our significance. These things were all true in my case, beginning with a choice I made as a teenager. I believe I had decided I could never come back from it. I was certain God would never forgive me. My knowledge of Him was

of anger and wrath. I imagined He was happy to know that someone who had done something so grievous was being punished daily. I accepted what was being inflicted on me because I didn't believe I deserved anything better.

My husband told me he would kill me if I ever tried to leave. It makes no sense to me now as I look back. Why wouldn't he want to be free of me when he frequently said I was a worthless burden? While in the thick of it, I could barely get my head above water for air. It was all I could do to tread water. Trying to escape, by making it to shore from where I was, seemed an impossible task.

Then one day I heard, "You cannot do what I sent you to do as long as you stay where you are."

It was a cold but sunny day in March of 2017 when I took a phone call from a stranger. The conversation began simply enough, consisting of

things I had heard in church when I had attended with my grandmother. My mindset was the same too. "They wouldn't bother trying to talk to me if they knew what I'd done. I'm a lost cause."

And then the most extraordinary thing began to happen. The voice on the phone became distant and the image of Jesus' feet at the foot of the cross was in front of me! I was there, standing in His blood, weeping! I felt the burden of what I had made myself carry for almost 30 years lifted from me and the most inexplicable feeling of love and peace flow through me! I immediately knew I had been mistaken about God. There was no wrath waiting for me. There was forgiveness. I knew I could set down

my self-inflicted punishment and walk into His arms.

For two more years I prayed God would salvage my marriage.

But the abuse increased because, as my husband often reminded me, "You're a Christian. You must forgive me."

I still hesitated to leave because I was afraid of the way my life would change. Where would I go? Who would hire someone whose husband hadn't allowed her to work for 25 years? I wanted answers before I moved forward. Then one day I heard, "You cannot do what I sent you to do as long as you stay where you are."

That was it. God spoke, and I listened. After accepting the gift God had given me, why wouldn't I give up what I was holding onto so I could more firmly hold onto Him? How could I not wholly trust the only true security I had experienced? I let go of my patchworked life and am embracing what God has planned for me, facing my days with courage because God pulled me from the sea I was drowning in, and I know He will never let go.

Recommended Reading:

- **Luke 1 & 2**
- **Matthew 1 & 2**



Women of the Bible—Mary

Sister La'Shandra Perkins

Name: Mary

Meaning: *Obstinacy*

Her Character: *She was a woman of faith and obedient to God's will for her life.*

Her Sorrow: *The details around her pregnancy were met with disbelief, and she had to witness her child being crucified.*

Her Triumph: *Mary remained steadfast and prayerful, and she has been an inspiration throughout the ages to people who face difficult circumstances.*

Key Scriptures: *Luke 1 and 2, Matthew 1 and 2*

The crucifixion was the pinnacle of Mary's journey of courage. In a moment of profound pain, Mary's courage was unyielding. Standing at the foot of the cross, she bore witness to her son's suffering with a heart full of sorrow yet unwavering in strength. As a mother, Mary couldn't save her son from His fate. She had to watch Him be tormented and abused, but her courage was unyielding. She birthed Him into the world and watched the light go out of His eyes, but she had to have the courage to stand by and watch. Mary's influence did not end at the cross. Her example of bravery and devotion continues to inspire people today.

Mary had to put away childish and girlish behavior at an early age. It was now time to protect this precious child she was blessed with—no matter what; it was no longer about her. It was about making sure this child fulfilled His destiny. The early life of Jesus was fraught with danger, prompting Mary and Joseph to undertake a perilous journey to Egypt. This flight was a stark testament to

Mary's protective love and her courage to move into the unknown, trusting in God's providence.

Mary was a wise and courageous woman who faced many challenges in her life. Upon their return from Egypt, Mary's life was one of constant movement. She knew that Jesus was special, and she prepared herself for what was to come. She raised Jesus amidst the rhythms of ordinary life, yet she was always conscious of the extraordinary path before Him. Despite not knowing when her son's ministry would launch, she prepared Him and herself daily for what was to come. The presentation of Jesus at the temple was a moment of joyous affirmation and a sobering prophecy. Still, Mary's wisdom and courage overtook her fear and helped her raise her son.

Through it all, Mary remained steadfast and prayerful, inspiring others who faced difficult circumstances.

As Jesus began His public ministry, Mary remained a source of strength and support for Him, always there to guide and encourage Him on His journey. Mary's role transitioned as Jesus got further into His public

ministry. She became a silent witness to His teachings, miracles, and the growing opposition He faced.

Through it all, Mary remained steadfast and prayerful, inspiring others who faced difficult circumstances.

Her example of faith and courage has moved throughout the ages, inspiring countless believers to face their own journeys with the same bravery and faith that she embodied throughout her life. Mary teaches us to walk with courage and bravery—no matter what negative things are at our heels. She shows us to love and have kindness through the pain and the hurt. She teaches us—that no matter how hard life gets—to trust in God and to follow His guidance even if we don't understand. Mary's consent set in motion the incarnation of Christ and marked the beginning of her remarkable pilgrimage and events that changed the world.



Prayer Requests:

- ♥ Pastor and Minister Jo Ann
- ♥ National and local leaders
- ♥ Military and their families and veterans
- ♥ Youth, families, singles, and marriages



Men of the Bible—Joseph

Sister Cassandra Broomfield

Name: Joseph

Meaning: God shall add

His Character: He was a man of faith, and he was kind and tenderhearted.

His Sorrow: His betrothed was with child.

His Triumph: He covered and protected the Messiah.

Key scriptures: Luke 1:28-35, Isaiah 7:14, Luke 1:26-38, Matthew 1:19-20, Matthew 1:24-25, Matthew 2:13-14, 16

Joseph was a man of deep faith. He believed a message that he knew would bring him shame and whispers behind his back. Joseph loved a young woman named Mary. He was in every way her husband and she his wife except one. The one thing that could not take place was consummation, which would have to wait until the wedding. When Mary came to him—I'm sure frightened and confused—she had to tell him that she was pregnant with the child of God. He must have been emotionally wounded and deeply hurt.

I can imagine Joseph's horror after hearing the words from the woman that he was betrothed to. I can imagine Joseph questioning how this could have happened. He and Mary were spending every free moment together to get to know one another. He was a carpenter and was working to get all that he needed to start a family. She was being taught how to be a wife. She was making clothing and gathering herbs to dry and preserve for her new home. When would she have had the time to engage in another relationship?

If she had been raped, there was no alternative but to divorce her. I can

imagine Joseph being so pressed down with worry, doubt, love, and fear when he sat down to contemplate all that she had said to him. He fell asleep. The Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and told him to not be afraid to continue with the wedding because the child that Mary carried was conceived by the Holy Spirit (Matthew 1:20).

When her pregnancy was confirmed by God, Joseph understood that he was to protect her and the assignment that she was carrying. He loved her beyond his pride or status and was a man of strength and integrity. He knew that she was a chosen vessel used by God. Once he was able come to terms with the enormity of being chosen to be the literal father of God in the flesh in the earth realm, it no longer mattered what anyone else thought about them. They were now on a mission.

Once you make your own plans, God changes your direction. They were ready to begin the next phase of their lives when Caesar Augustus sent a

Joseph exemplified what it's like to move in courage. We could be ushering in the move of God that will change the trajectory of a lost world.

decree ordering everyone to return to the place of their birth to be counted for the census. Joseph had to return to Bethlehem. The word *Bethlehem* means "House of Bread." Jesus

later declared that He is the Bread of Life (John 6:35).

After the birth of Jesus, wise men came looking for Him. They had followed a star and a prophecy (Micah 5:2). They inquired to King Herod about the child. He told them to let him know where this child was so that he too could worship him.

Herod didn't want to worship Jesus; Herod wanted to kill Him. He believed that this child being heralded the King of the Jews would usurp his authority.

After the wisemen saw Jesus, they presented him with gifts. They were warned by God in a dream that they should not return to Herod. They left, going in another direction. Joseph was warned in a dream to take his family and flee to Egypt. Because Joseph was a man of faith, he was always listening for the voice of God. He understood the magnitude of this assignment. After Joseph left with his family, Herod ordered all male children from the ages of two and under be killed. Because Joseph was obedient to the voice of God, he was able to protect Jesus.

After Herod died, an Angel of God came to Joseph and told him that the one who wanted to destroy them was dead. He was told to go to Israel, so he turned toward Galilee. There Joseph was able to protect and provide for his family. This is where we lose Joseph. He fulfilled his purpose to protect and provide for Jesus and Mary. He is recognized as a saint because of all that he did in securing the Savior.

Joseph is a guide for all of us. He shows us that—no matter the assignment, fear, or opinions of others—we must listen to God's voice and trust that we are on assignment. Joseph exemplified what it's like to move in courage. We could be ushering in the move of God that will change the trajectory of a lost world.

Your Money Matters—Exploring Secondary Streams of Income

Sister Mei-Li Thomas

As Christians, our relationship with money can be complicated. For some of us, 1 Timothy 6:10 and Malachi 3:8-12 foster a potential fear for our financial abundance—as we want to believe Matthew 6:25-26 and Psalms 37:4. We know that those desires of our heart—no matter how basic (shelter, food, and transportation)—all cost money. It is only natural in today's economy that we would begin to consider exploring ways of increasing our (disposable) income.

For this issue's article, I would like for us to meditate on God's word in support of that exploration to aid in achieving what we have been called to do on this earth. John 10:10 says that Jesus came that we might have life more abundantly. Ephesians 3:20 promises an exceedingly abundant life, and the other half of Malachi 3:10 promises blessing that we will not have room enough to receive alongside our tithe. Now that we have rooted ourselves in God's approval of abundance, let's talk exploring a second source of income.

In all pursuits, motivations matter. There are multiple reasons we seek to increase our income, and both short- and long-term financial goals can come in the form of active or passive income.

Short-Term Active

Considered "active" because it requires your time and attention in real time, these options are best for those who are looking for an income boost for a one-time goal. Selling used items, driving for rideshare companies, or working a retail job during the holiday season normally fit the bill for those looking to pay off terminal (non-recurring) debt or planning for an upcoming vacation.

Short-Term Passive

Considered "passive" because, while the upfront set up may be active, the financial benefits can have a "set it, and forget it" affect. Options in this category could include creating printable templates and selling them on sites such as Etsy, adding ad sales options to a blog or online site you already manage where clicks equal dollars,

or apps that invest the extra cents from purchases you make anyway and grow from interest earned.

Now let's explore long-term options. These options are more for those looking to accomplish short-term goals on top of longer-term goals such as building generational wealth, purchasing a home, or paying off large purchases such as a vehicle early.

Long-Term Active

Think starting your own business or monetizing natural talents like consulting, public speaking, or grant writing. Some of these will have upfront costs that are minimal considering the long-term benefits of securing the necessary trademarks or certifications necessary to get up and running. For those considering if it is worth it to spend hours learning how to create a website, setting up invoicing and scheduling software, and creating an eye-catching logo, sites such as Wix, Shopify, and Canva are great places to start with easy to create templates. If you need biblical motivation to get started, remember the Parable of the Talents (Matthew 25:14-30). God has given each

May we invest (not watch the wind) and sow our seeds in the morning.

of us talents to share with the world. When we do so in the mindset of giving God glory, those talents are multiplied. I

believe the verse regarding being fruitful and multiplying (Genesis 1:28) was not specifically about bearing offspring.

Long-Term Passive

The most common way most people create passive long-term income is through investments such as real estate, stocks, bonds, and angel investing. The barrier to entry is normally education. Dabbling in the stock market can be confusing; it is not often that conversations of investing are discussed in the Black community. For those considering getting started, the following books and organizations may be great places to start.

Books:

- *Your First Million* by Arlan Hamilton
- *Get Good with Money* by Tiffany Aliche
- *Rich Dad's Guide to Investing* by Robert Kiyosaki

Organizations:

- Black Economic Alliance Foundation
- Arlan's Academy (by Arlan Hamilton)
- JP Morgan Chase Investing for Women

If you are reading this and are still skeptical, consider the facts. Entrepreneurship in the Black community has been on a rapid rise since the third quarter of 2020. According to Forbes.com, Black entrepreneurship increased by 28% by the third quarter of 2021 with 38% of those being new businesses, 17% of which were founded by Black women.

Black women are the largest group of new entrepreneurs, and, as that number continues to climb, so are the number of resources and businesses dedicated to ensuring they gain the venture capital they deserve. Check out JP Morgan's campaign "With the Bag to Match." Hosted by former NYSE trader Lauren Simmons, influential women share their stories about wealth, community, and financial empowerment.

As I consider my own financial goals, I meditate on Ecclesiastes 11:1-6. May we invest (not watch the wind) and sow our seeds in the morning. Try it out; you never know which seed will succeed and bear much fruit!

Fit for the Kingdom—Ways to Stay Active

Minister Demetrius Robinson

A 2021 report shows that U.S. adults are more physically active than they were 20 years ago. This is great news! Even though the new year started over four months ago, there’s still an opportunity to rethink about your health. Some of us made promises to start again in January and there is nothing wrong with the need to start again in April. We all must restart sometimes.

But what do you do when you’ve already started and now have a rhythm? It means you’ve established a level of consistency, and consistency is key. Now that you have a consistent flow with your workouts or daily activities, what do you do when you don’t feel like doing any of it? It is not like the Nike slogan, “Just do it!” Sometimes you don’t feel up to it or possibly you’ve gotten bored with the routine.

Recently, I’ve struggled with consistency in my exercise routine. I have woken up and literally had to talk myself into working out. “Come on, Dee, get up. It’s just a few minutes of your day. You can do it!” Listen, sometimes this little pep talk works and sometimes it doesn’t.

Most of us—me included—don’t know how to refresh and push ourselves forward

in working out. One thing that has helped my mindset is simply saying, “I get to work out today.” Looking at it as an opportunity—instead of a chore—immediately changes the vibe in my mind to the positive.

There is hope! During the “I don’t feel like it” times, remember some of the following:

1. Aim small – Running a marathon on day one is not feasible. Push yourself to build up your stamina and strength each day.
2. Take it easy – As we begin the journey of improving our physical health, ensure exercises are done smoothly, steadily, and correctly. Doing any exercise too fast or incorrectly can lead to injuries. Take it easy as you try new or different exercises.
3. Find your motivation – What motivates you? Is it good tunes? Is it the outdoors? Motivation to move comes from within. Use the 10-minute rule. Tell yourself you will only do 10 minutes of your workout. Find what gets you moving and move!
4. Respect your limits – It is critical to know your limits. Knowing your limits and

how far to push it will help to achieve your goals faster.

5. Give yourself credit – Yes, you did it! Give yourself credit for what you do accomplish, even if it’s only 10 minutes. You have the ability and the know how to accomplish what you can. Do that.
6. Give yourself grace – If you didn’t get it done today, get it done tomorrow. Give yourself grace. Perfection in our health journey should not be expected. We do not have to be perfect, thankfully.

Society has tried to make us seek perfection with how our bodies look. “One size fits all?” Not really. I wish I could talk to the 15-year-old version of myself and encourage her to work on loving herself rather than obsessing over any other person’s idea of what a woman should look like. Stop worrying about those pounds or the workout you missed this morning. Instead, focus on the present and do what you can do. Stay positive and motivated. Respect your limits, give yourself credit, and, most of all, give yourself grace! You’ve got this, one workout at a time.

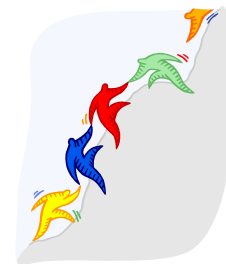
Looking at it as an opportunity—instead of a chore—immediately changes the vibe in my mind to the positive.

The Scroll Editorial Policies

- Members and friends of PCC are encouraged to submit original work, including but not limited to, Testimonies, Book Reviews, Creative Expressions, and Healthy Recipes.
- Please limit your submissions to original work.
- Please submit your material electronically. The preferred format is a Word document.
- Please limit your word count to 650 words or less.
- All submissions will be edited by *The Scroll* Editing Team.

If you would like to receive an electronic version of the newsletter, please send your request to latonjab@hotmail.com.

Empowered by God to Empower Others



Recipe

Sister Amy Pemberton

Quiche Lorraine

8 tablespoons crumbled bacon
1 cup shredded Swiss cheese
2 tablespoons dried minced onion
5 large eggs
3/4 cup heavy cream
1/4 teaspoon salt
1/4 teaspoon pepper
Single pie pastry

Preheat oven to 425 degrees.

Line a pie plate with pastry, crimping the edges. Sprinkle the bacon on the bottom of the pastry, followed by the cheese and onion. Beat the eggs, cream, salt, and pepper until well combined. Pour over ingredients in the pie plate.

Bake for 15 minutes.

Reduce the temperature to 300 degrees and bake 20 more minutes.

Let stand for 10 minutes before serving.

Composed Waldorf Salad

Salad Dressing

1/4 cup sour cream
2 tablespoons mayonnaise
2 tablespoons white wine vinegar
1 tablespoon Dijon mustard
1-1/2 teaspoons honey
Kosher salt and ground black pepper

Combine ingredients and mix well to create the salad dressing. Refrigerate until ready to serve.

Salad

5-ounce package romaine hearts
1/2 small head red leaf lettuce, leaves torn
3 stalks celery, thinly sliced
2 apples, cored and thinly sliced
1 cup seedless purple grapes, halved
1/2 cup chopped pecans
1/4 cup raisins or Craisins

Arrange greens in a large bowl. Top with fruits, nuts, and celery. Drizzle dressing on top or serve it on the side.

Happenings and Events

Bible Study—Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. preceded by prayer at 6:30 p.m.

Family Prayer—Saturdays at 9:00 a.m.

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