

The Testament

October 2026

Lincoln Memorial Baptist Church

Durham, NC

A timeless message from the archives...

The Truth Unbridled

- by Bro. Dean Jernigan

For those of us who read *The Carolina Times* during the period that it was being published, we were informed in each edition of news of interest to our community, important reminders and a review of interesting community and social events. Greeting us high and center on the paper's front page was its motto - ***The Truth Unbridled.***

The motto stood out to me upon my first reading of the paper. Through my interaction with Vivian Edmonds, the publisher when I arrived in Durham, and my overall interest in the paper, I learned that *The Carolina Times* became an important voice in the Black community during the struggle for equality and equal rights. Initially published during a time when the outlet for the Black voice was limited and restricted, *The Carolina Times* stood as a representation for the truth regarding racial inequality and disparity.

Unbridled means "uncontrolled", "unrestricted" and "unconstrained". In essence, there are no impediments standing between the reader and the words written on its pages. It brings to mind what happens in a court of law when a person places his or her hand on the Bible and swears/affirms to tell "the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth".

As Christians, truth is an essential component of our existence. Truth is so important to God that He wrote it into the set of laws given to Moses on Mt. Sinai - *Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor. (Exodus 20:16)* God is instructing us to be truthful and not to lie. Throughout His Word, He reminds us that nothing should ever stand in the way of the truth. *These are the things that you shall do: Speak the truth to one another; render in your gates judgments that are true and make for peace. (Zechariah 8:16 ESV)* And as a testament to the ultimate value and power of the truth, He sent His only begotten Son to guide us along the bridge that leads to eternal life. *Jesus answered, I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. (John 14:6 NIV)*

There's no getting around it. Living a

truth-centered life is God's desire for us.

Loving the truth as much as we do, it can be more than a little disturbing to witness the distortion of the truth by those officials elected to the highest offices in our land. Even more alarming is the obstruction of the acquisition of the truth by our nation's president. Allergic to the truth and treating it like an infectious disease, our current president has succeeded in portraying truth as the enemy and in the process, convinced a significant mass of individuals that institutions long revered for their truthfulness are no longer worthy of high regard. This is an incredibly concerning state of being for our nation.

Fortunately, for those of us connected to God's Word, we can take a measure of comfort in knowing that God is in control. Despite whatever frustration or anxiety arising from our current environment, we have to remain vigilant in our belief that if we follow His instructions, then His grand plan will see us through to a glorious expected end. We may not understand the why's or the how's, we simply have to pray and give it all over to God. *Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4:6-7 NKJV)*

So pray for our country, for our leaders and even for our enemies. Pray that the peace of God will find its way into the consciousness of those whose hearts have been hardened to the truth. Pray that the impediments to the unbridled truth will be dismantled all across this land and that together we will come to recognize and appreciate what love is and what it is not. *Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. (1 Corinthians 13:4-6 ESV)*

Being truthful during our walk along



Please Vote!!

The 2026 General Election Season is now upon us. It is extremely important that everyone eligible to vote does so in this critically important election. Please understand that your vote is so important, that there is a highly visible effort to prevent you from voting.

To avoid long lines on election day in November, please take advantage of the **Early Voting** window:

**Thursday, October 15th -
Saturday, October 31st**
8:00am - 7:30pm (Weekdays)
8:00am - 3:00pm (Saturdays)
2:00pm - 6:00pm (Sundays)

If you have not registered to vote, you can register at the Early Voting location.

Save The Date!
LMBC "Souls to the Polls"
Saturday, October 24th
10:00am

If you miss Early Voting, please make plans to vote during the General Election:

Tuesday, November 3rd
6:30am - 7:30pm

Please vote! Too many lives have been lost in the struggle for voting equality to sit-out the vote if you eligible to vote. There is a reason that an effort is being made to hinder and impede the voting process. ***To counter that effort, we need every registered voter to vote!***

life's highway is not an option - it is a commandment from God. Despite whatever evil spews forth from the jaws of man, let's remain true to the values of our faith and the teachings of Christ. *Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior, and my hope is in you all day long. (Psalm 25:5 NIV)*

Around Lincoln...



In a wonderful display of sisterly love and support, several members of the Lincoln family joined Sis. Janice Byers for breakfast to celebrate her birthday, and to also provide comfort following the passing of her husband. Her youngest daughter, Erin, attended as well. We pray for the peace that surpasses all understanding for Sis. Byers during this time.



Sis. Adrienne Jernigan enjoys the moment while playing with friends during a performance of Gospel music at Lucky32 restaurant in Greensboro.



Ready for some football! Surrounded by their mom, Sis. Jennifer Crawford, their aunt, Sis. Kathy Williams, and family friend Sis. Pamela Jernigan, Bro. Kyrie Stone and Sis. Chadae' Hambric prepare for an exciting day of playing and cheering for football!



***Deacon on Duty for the
month of October:***

***Deacon Robert Brodie
(919) 593-3743***

Prayer Is My Daily Weapon Of Choice

Recently, I've had reason to refocus on that sometimes habitual thing that I do known as prayer. Be it morning prayer, evening at church or, on behalf of a friend or seeking guidance in and out of a difficult situation, I have come to realize my prayer life could and should be much better. I am reading an old fashioned good vs. evil novel, where the good is actually all about angels and the bad about demons. Their battle is all about controlling us for the victory where their allegiances lay, ultimately God or Satan. The revelation about my prayer life comes with an enlightenment of where our focus should be.

For we are not contending against flesh and blood, but against the principalities, against the world rulers of this present darkness (Ephesians 6:12.) Now this is not a doom and gloom column making a statement about today's politics. It is merely a commentary about the things I pray about.

I usually don't pray about governments, world leaders, the coming of a new age and so forth. My prayer life tends to be a little more close to home and more about the people I love. To make my point, let me use the term "prayer cover." In the book that I'm reading, the angels are constantly asking each other if can they win the next battle and the answer is always not unless they get more prayer cover. They need more people praying in order to achieve victory. And the specifics of the needed prayer revolve around folks calling upon the name of Jesus. You see everything changes, the tide gets turned, and the odds get stacked up against the pro-Christ gang. Now, I know for a fact that many a friend, family member, church acquaintance and others have provided me with plenty of prayer cover. I also know it was and has been my intent to provide cover for those closest to me. You just pray for people you love and all they are going through.

We hear the phrase "our thoughts and prayers go out to..." too many times these days for people caught up in nonsensical violence, terror, war and my favorite, man's inhumanity to man. And it doesn't appear to be slowing down at all. Now back to my prayer point. If I look at prayer as a weapon in the eternal life and death struggle, then I am arming myself and others who are caught up in the eternal challenges of the day. I am providing cover. It's a military term. Scripture says it's not always about flesh and blood, but things some of us don't pay too much attention to.

Principalities, local, state, national and world leaders might need some prayer cover. Others just need prayer. The way I'm thinking now is that prayer just might be my daily weapon of choice.

It's kind of a new perspective to think your prayers are ammunition for the work God wants done by you. Prayer makes you stronger and the enemy weaker as a result. The interesting thing about the book is that it forces you to look at the enemy in a different way. The enemy is doubt, fear, crimes against your person, complacency, fear of success, spiritual poverty, and apprehension about the world and its direction. So, for me, tomorrow I'm arming myself for the battles of the day and the days after with a good dose of prayer and will happily share a few bullets for you. The victory is ours and Jesus has already won this thing. He provided all the prayer cover we need. All He has ever asked you to do is take that knowledge with you and share it with the world.

May God bless and keep you always.

*James Washington
www.blackpressusa.com*

Black History Spotlight

Historically Black Colleges and Universities Series



Wilberforce University

Wilberforce University, located in Wilberforce, Ohio, is the nation's oldest private, Historically Black University owned and operated by African Americans. Its roots trace back to its founding in 1856, a period of American history marred by the physical bondage of people of African descent. It was also a period when the education of African Americans was not only socially prohibited but was illegal. There was nothing about the prevailing social and cultural ethos of the era that suggested that African Americans might or should be taught or could learn. Yet a powerful idea assumed life and Wilberforce University was born.

The founding of Wilberforce University represented a bold, audacious and visionary example of what could happen when men and women of goodwill transcended race and the prevailing social and cultural constructs and norms to pursue a noble purpose.

Wilberforce University was named for the great eighteenth century abolitionist, William Wilberforce who said "We are too young to realize that certain things are impossible... So, we will do them anyway." It was this can-do spirit that infused Wilberforce University with strength to persevere, and the institution met with early success through 1862. The outbreak of the Civil War forced the school to temporarily close its doors. This short set back did not deter the institution for long.

In March 1863, Daniel A. Payne a bishop in the African Methodist Episcopal church, negotiated to purchase the buildings, and the University was re-incorporated in July 10, 1863. Bishop Payne opened the doors of the university with six students and a debt of \$10,000 and became the first person of African descent to be the President of an American Institution of higher learning. Wilberforce University prospered as young African Americans sought to educate themselves as the ending of the Civil War promised a new social order.

Throughout its 167-year history, Wilberforce University has demonstrated a formidable spirit of resilience and triumph and has never wavered from its sacred duty to educate and enrich its students.

<https://wilberforce.edu/about-us/>

The Testament is produced monthly by our Newsletter Committee. Please send articles, photos or other items for publication to newsletter@mylmbc.org by the 3rd Sunday of each month.

Newsletter Committee

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When I Cannot See

*When I cannot see the road ahead,
When every path seems lost,
I lift my eyes beyond the fear
And trust the One who knows the cost.*

*For God is there in quiet hours,
When answers do not come,
He holds my heart through every storm
And whispers, "Child, I'm here. You're not alone."*

*When mountains rise before my feet,
And valleys stretch below,
I need not know what waits beyond -
I only need to know the direction to go.*

*The night may seem forever long,
The dawn may hide from sight,
But faith reminds my weary soul
That darkness cannot overcome the light.*

*So I will walk when I am afraid,
I'll pray when I don't understand,
And place tomorrow in His care,
Knowing my life is in His hands.*

*For faith is not the absence of doubt,
Nor knowing every why;
It is choosing still to trust His love
And to keep my head to the sky.*

*And if my strength should fade away,
If I stumble, fall, or grieve,
I'll rest upon His promises
And find the courage to believe.*

*For God has never left me yet,
Nor will He leave me now.
I may not know the road ahead -
But I know who leads me there.*

(Poem created with the assistance of AI)

Happy Birthday to our

October Celebrities!

Wilma Mayfield (3rd) • Carrie Shaffer (4th)
Bryce Wall (5th) • Brenda Atwater (8th)
Naketa Martin (17th) • Zyra Davis (17th)
Kathy Williams (18th) • Sean Dinguall, II (20th)
Tavera Hodge (21st) • Cynthia Turrentine (21st)
Dollie Israel (23rd) • Doris Mims (23rd)
George Harris (24th) • Dea. Ed Crawley (26th)
Wanda Crawley (27th) • Ariel Daye Dixon (27th)
Pamela Jernigan (31st)

Happy Anniversary!

Deacon Willam and Sis. Wilma Mayfield (6th)
Rev. Linzie and First Lady Marva Atkins (8th)
Deacon Tony and Deaconess Kathy Williams (16th)

Best Wishes For Many More!!

Gospel Cruise

Joining with the Women of Spirit Ministry of Union Baptist Church, several members of the Lincoln family recently enjoyed a wonderful outing of fun and fellowship on the Spirit of Norfolk cruise ship. In addition to the overall positive and uplifting nature of the event, the attendees were also treated to an encouraging and inspirational message from Rev. Dr. Michelle Laws titled, “Anchored in Grace”, during the outing. A wonderful time was had by our church family members!



Revival

Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

Matthew 5:16 NKJV

“Walk in the Light, Shine for Christ” served as the theme for this year’s Annual Revival service. Lincoln family members received words of encouragement to help in our daily encounters with the enemy of our faith. We extend a heartfelt “Thank You” to Rev. Norman T. Umstead, Jr. (Mt. Moriah Missionary Baptist Church), Rev. Georgia Drakewood-Lockhart (Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Church), and Rev. Raymond H. Myers (Bethsada Baptist Church) for their efforts to lift us up and revive us again!



Rev. Norman T. Umstead, Jr.



Rev. Georgia Drakewood-Lockhart



Rev. Raymond H. Myers

What Really Counts in Life

Everything else is worthless when compared with the infinite value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord.

Philippians 3:8 (NLT)

Every day when you wake up, you need to remind yourself of what counts and what doesn't count. Don't be distracted by things that are insignificant and petty.

Why is it important to remind yourself of what matters? It's easy to lose your joy over some small thing. In fact, it's usually the small irritations - not the big issues - that cause you to lose your happiness. Somebody cuts you off when you're trying to make a turn, and you lose your happiness. The clothes you put on don't fit anymore, and you lose your happiness. It's the little things that sometimes affect people the most, and yet they don't really matter.

Paul said in Philippians 3:7, “I once thought these things were valuable, but now I consider them worthless because of what Christ has done” (NLT).

What was the most important thing in your life before you met Jesus Christ? Was it your career? Making money? Maybe it was getting a date or being popular. For some believers, the most important thing was collecting possessions or getting ahead or proving themselves.

Paul said all those things are “worthless when compared with the infinite value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord” (Philippians 3:8 NLT).

Here's a good question to ask when you're distracted by worthless things: How much will this matter in 100 years? Many things won't even matter tomorrow, much less for eternity. When you ask this question, it changes your perspective. You understand that all the things you used to care about don't even compare to the joy that comes from having a relationship with Jesus.

When you become a Christian, Jesus doesn't just change your perspective. He changes your values. You no longer want to do the things you used to do. He changes your “wants.”

When God comes into your life, you learn the joy of knowing Jesus. And that's what really counts.

Pastor Rick Warren
www.pastorrick.com

KIDZ ZONE

-submitted by Sis. Earleen Sharrock



Many of the tricks I've seen try to make someone believe something that isn't true. In today's world, it is sometimes difficult to tell the difference between what is fake (a **trick**) and what is real (**the truth**).

For example, television commercials or infomercials promise all kinds of results if we use their products – which many times are discovered to be false claims. What about pictures or videos found on the Internet? They can easily be altered to have the appearance of being real when in fact they are not true at all.

People say many things about God, and what they say is not always true. If you're not careful, the lies can trick you. Here are three wrong things people say about God (**the tricks**) followed by what the Bible says (**the truth**):

☹️ **TRICK** – People say, "Wait until you're older to think about God." But Jesus didn't think you should wait:



TRUTH - "Let the children alone and do not hinder them from coming to Me, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." (**Matthew 19:14**)

☹️ **TRICK** – People say, "There are many ways to God." But the Bible says there's only ONE way to God:

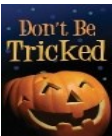


TRUTH - Jesus said, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father but through Me." (**John 14:6**)

☹️ **TRICK** – People say, "Jesus is boring" or "Christians don't have fun." But boredom is not what Jesus had in mind for his followers.



TRUTH - "I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly," He said. (**John 10:10**)



Don't let what people say about God trick you. Allow Him to speak for Himself. The Bible shows us God shares the truth, not tricks. Here are some truths about God:

✚ **TRUTH** – God loves you. Have you seen "3:16" on shirts, calendars or ballpark signs and wondered what it meant? It's a reference to **John 3:16**, an important Bible verse: "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life."

✚ **TRUTH** – Everyone sins. That is, everyone thinks, says, or does bad things at times. The Bible says, "all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." (**Romans 3:23**)

✚ **TRUTH** – Jesus died for our sins. He took the punishment we deserve and rescued us from evil according to God's will. (**Galatians 4:1**) God sent His eternal Son, Jesus, to earth – to become a man, live a perfect life, die on the cross, and rise again. Jesus paid the price for our sins, and God accepted it.

In John 14:6, Jesus declares Himself to be "the way, THE TRUTH and the life." Out of this one BIG TRUTH comes so many other truths. The Lord God Almighty is real and His promises and love are real. Depend on Him, trust in Him, and look to Him for answers and guidance. Isaiah 44:6 reminds us, "I am the first and I am the last. There is no God but Me." There is only One God who can meet all of our needs, who we can depend on, and who we can trust in – the Lord God Almighty.

<https://sermons4kids.com/sermons/real-or-fake>; <https://savoringhome.com/>

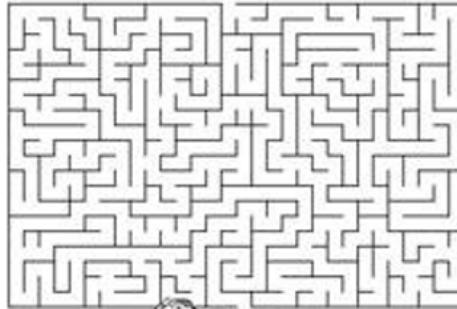
KIDZ ZONE

-submitted by Sis. Earleen Sharrock

"I AM" THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

Follow Jesus, the Light of the World

START



FINISH



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JESUS' "I AM" STATEMENTS

In the Gospel of John, we read that Jesus made seven "I am" statements about Himself, helping us to know Him better. See if you can unscramble the letters below to finish Jesus' "I am" statements. Then, find the words that you wrote in the word search at the bottom of the page.

"I am the _____ of life." (John 6:35)
ARDEB

"I am the _____ of the _____." (John 8:12)
GIHLT RODLW

"I am the _____." (John 10:9)
ROOD

"I am the _____." (John 10:11)
OGOD PEREDHHS

"I am the _____ and the _____." (John 11:25-26)
STONIREURCRE FIEL

"I am the _____, the _____, and the life." (John 11:25-26)
AYW THUTR

"I am the _____." (John 15:5)
NIEV



H	E	T	L	H	D	R	E	H	P	E	H	S
A	G	H	B	T	R	O	W	N	N	T	G	
E	O	G	O	R	T	R	O	R	G	N	U	R
N	O	I	T	C	E	R	R	U	S	E	R	D
E	D	L	E	N	B	A	L	I	F	E	T	Y
U	O	E	I	G	F	I	D	O	O	R	A	O
R	L	V	R	L	N	L	A	R	L	W	E	O

October 2026

“Building the Church in the Community and the Community in the Church”

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<i>*Conference Call Prayer Line: Dial (605) 475-3235 and enter the pin - 20396# after the prompt.</i> <i>To add an event to the church calendar, please contact Sis. Cherelle Lee at cle9195@gmail.com.</i> <i>Please send articles, photos or information for The Testament to newsletter@mylmbc.org by the 3rd Sunday of each month.</i>				1	2	3 Seventh Day Adventist (All Day) 10:00am Trustees 12:00Noon Women of Faith 1:00pm Missionary Min.
4 8:00am Deacons	5 7:00pm Music Ministry	6 6:30pm Sounds of Joy	7 6:00am 12 Noon 6:00pm *Conference Call Prayer Line 7:00pm Bible Study	8 6:00pm Durham MLK 6:30pm Sounds of Joy	9	10 Seventh Day Adventist (All Day) 10:00am Deaconess
11	12 6:00pm Christian Education	13 6:30pm Voices of Praise	14 6:00am 12 Noon 6:00pm *Conference Call Prayer Line 7:00pm Bible Study	15 Early Voting Begins 6:30pm Voices of Praise	16	17 Seventh Day Adventist (All Day) 9:00am Layman's League Time TBA Youth Outing - State Fair
18 All Choir Day	19	20 6:30pm Male Chorus	21 6:00am 12 Noon 6:00pm *Conference Call Prayer Line 7:00pm Bible Study	22 6:30pm Male Chorus	23	24 Seventh Day Adventist (All Day) 10:00am Souls to the Polls
25 Family and Friends Day	26 6:30pm Computer & Technology	27 6:30pm Mass Choir	28 6:00am 12 Noon 6:00pm *Conference Call Prayer Line 7:00pm Bible Study	29 6:30pm Mass Choir	30	31 Seventh Day Adventist (All Day) Early Voting Ends 8:00am-3:00pm

Photos Taken/Submitted by Sis. Pamela Jernigan, Sis. Sabrina Speller, Min. Antoinette Daye and Bro. Dean Jernigan