



# Triumph Life Center & Spiritual Connections Café

'Welcome to the Tree of Life'

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## Newsletter for September & October 2020

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*From The Desk Of Our Executive Editor, Nadia Gapur*



For the first couple of months of 2020, the world seemingly stood still because of the COVID-19 pandemic. But at the same time, all across the nation, more and more Black Lives Matter protests occurred as an outcry against increasing police brutality towards black people. We pay our respects to the families of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor and Ahmaud Arbery, among many others. The fight to get the justice they deserve is far from over and we shall continue the fight.

October marks a very important time in Triumph's history. On October 20, 1897, our founder, Bishop Elias Dempsey Smith (1865ca – 1920ca) had a life altering experience while in prayer. This experience awakened Smith's consciousness to a new understanding of God and the mission of the Church. He believed the Church to be an agent of liberation for oppressed peoples throughout the world. Smith was committed to establishing communities of faith centered in an affirmation of life in all its aspects.

On October 18, 2019, Triumph Life Center & Spiritual Connections Café opened in Canarsie, Brooklyn. At Triumph Life Center, we strive to provide a safe space where all conversations are welcome. We are an inclusive community and open to all opinions as we build upon a foundation that affirms life.

As we approach November, it is important to do our civic duty and vote during arguably one of the most important elections in the United States' history. It is also necessary to educate marginalized populations and young people on how they can use their voice to become better represented. We have provided various resources in this Newsletter. Note that since there is a pandemic, absentee and early voting policies have been widely expanded but with the ongoing USPS delays, please plan accordingly.

We should all look forward to these next couple of months and the changes they will hopefully usher in. There are still the holiday's to celebrate, all while still getting used to Zoom meetings being the new norm in lieu of face-to-face interactions.

In this first edition of our bi-monthly newsletter we share some highlights of September and October with photos and memorable quotes. We also have a section for pure inspiration with sacred writings from our Triumph team. In addition we have included our calendar of events for the coming months.

On behalf of our Senior Bishop Milton F. Britto (Emeritus), our Board of Trustees and our Triumph Life Center Team we hope you will be inspired by this first edition of our bi-monthly Newsletter!

Nadia Gapur, Executive Editor

## Featured Sunday Virtual Gatherings VIA Zoom and Facebook Life

Featured Guest September 6, 2020  
Kim B. Miller  
Poet, Artist and Motivational Speaker  
Theme: End of Summer Creative Art Expressions



Kim touched our hearts with her Haikus and inspired us to live our best lives with her Kimisms. She recently co-authored a book called: *The Ultimate Guide to Self-Healing, Volume 2*. Find out more about Kim, upcoming events and purchase her artwork or books at:  
<http://www.kimbmiller.com/>

Featured Guest October 4, 2020  
Nikiya Mone  
Minister, Author and Motivational Speaker  
Theme: Healing & Discovering Purpose after Trauma

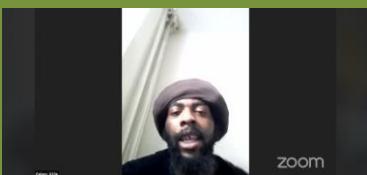


Nikiya inspired us with her story of personal transformation and healing after trauma. She shared with us, "No matter what the truth is, no matter how the truth looks, feels, or sounds; live in truth. It is only in truth that the change, outcome, direction of life will shift." Nikiya is a contributing author of *When the Soul Cries*; she is also the host and producer of the The Muzzle is Off Podcast.

*"You cannot divide  
yourself into fractions to  
make someone else whole."  
A Kim-ism ---Kim B. Miller*

Triumph Life Center & Spiritual Connections Café  
A Ministry Of  
Triumph, The Church of the New Age – International  
P.O. Box 2157, Newark, New Jersey 07114

## Sacred Writings



*Off The Ground  
By, Travis Milton Mills*

*I want you to fly  
But I see you are  
comfortable with walking  
I want you to fly  
But you don't want to  
spread your wings  
I want you to show off your  
scars  
But you are afraid of  
judgement  
I want you to take off  
But you too busy worrying  
Don't look down  
I want you to look up!*



Welcome to the Tree of Life

## A Spiritual Encounter with Conscience Visionary Leaders

Held Tuesday, October 20, 2020 – Virtual Via ZOOM & YouTube

Topic: *Father E.D. Smith, the 'Man' his 'Vision & Forward looking; what's next?*

Thought Questions: *What kind of world do you want to live in?*

*What would it take to create that world?*

### *The Takeaway from the Panel...*

*"Christ is the wisdom and power of God! We understood because of Father Smith... that you have to take a look at what we were given as Easter or Resurrection Sunday...when the phenomenal happened, when the stone was rolled away and the women encountered what they encountered; my teaching has been that it was not a man but it was the spirit in the upper reception of consciousness that gave them direction to give to others...at that change, there was no more [the] man Jesus Christ. Then it was Christ Jesus... that was the greater thing... that was the comforter. [W]e have fallen back into a dependency on a man...we are not talking about the essence of us as individuals. There was the first Man Adam, Jesus Christ the second Man Adam... do you realize that you and I are the third Man Adam?"*

---**Elder Tracey Booker**, Triumph Virtual Advanced School of Wisdom; CEO & Founder Tracey Booker Enterprises LLC & Executive Director Metamorphosis, Inc., Oak Ridge, North Carolina



*"What I found that was most unique about E.D. Smith's vision is that it was agency orientated; it was not orientated to an agenda as much as it was towards health and agency of individuals and something flowing out of that instead of something flowing from a written doctrine. If I am alive and if I am connected with the ultimate source then there is something that is from me to you that can only come from me to you unfettered by whatever other rules are around. I need a free agency environment in order for that to happen.... [] What I hear is this notion of agreement and how important agreement is in order to organize. [] At the end of the day it is about distributive justice, clean water, healthy foods... the things Smith was concerned about." ---**James Coleman**, Practitioner at Inner Peace Arts; Author & Thought Leader; Secretary TCNA Board of Trustees*

## Sacred Writings



### Sunlight

By, Brenda Echeverry

*Sunlight doesn't fade.  
I grow like a seed.*

*I grow the seeds I sow.  
Let the leaves soak up the sun.*

*Let me soak up the sun.  
The knowledge of ancestors.*

*I acknowledge my ancestors.  
Their warmth and their shade.*

*Feel my warmth, feel my shade.  
Soak up my skin.*

*Soaked to the skin.  
Heavy clouds in the sky.*

*Heavenly clouds in my sky.  
Sunlight doesn't fade.*



Welcome to the Tree of Life

*"In my studies of mental health, education and psychology I see a lot of how the history of these systems supposedly wonderful beautiful helpful things that are to heal and help our communities are just coming from a very privileged white male wealthy viewpoint which is very harmful because it is just perpetuating capitalism and the idea of power and continued wealth. Even as we educate our young people the kind of content we offer them, the way we chose to share these ideas with them, the people that they see teaching them, in their textbooks and media are a huge influence on their future actions and how they see themselves. So really I think about education and how will we prepare our youth to lead and challenge authority; and challenge the things that are taught to them even when it is possibly from a very loving traditional standpoint from church, family, and school. How can we teach them to question these things, and that it is okay to question these things because if we don't do that how is anything going to change?" ---Brenda Echeverry, Multidisciplinary Artist & Educator; Graduate Studies in Expressive Arts Therapy at Lesley University; Triumph Life Center Administrative Staff; Boston, Massachusetts*



*"We look at the world we are in right now and we are more connected than ever. The Rev. Michael [Bernard Beckwith] has said that for a while we had with the technology and the information age this expression where suddenly everyone is connected... all corners of the earth. And yet from that people are still utilizing those connections to sow division and separation and otherness. They are using it in a way that they could never use it before. However, that's not just what's happening, there has also been created the global heart. People are expanding their compassion beyond the borders of what they previously experienced and explored. ...I really believe we are emerging into a world where every concept or idea, identity that is utilized to separate us is falling away. Even ideas that people excepted as being absolute like gender...the construct of gender is still man made because we added things to it other than simply that there were two beings created. So many other layers placed on what a woman is and what a man is... and there were always men who didn't fulfill that definition and there were always women who didn't fulfill that definition. The limited idea of what is possible is falling away so that what we see and know of ourselves is our divinity... I see a world that works for everyone." ---Rev. Jason Mitchell, Spiritual Practitioner & Minister at Agape International Spiritual Center, Beverly Hills, California*

## Sacred Writings



### This Is Your Home

[Triumph's Mission in Poem]

By Travis Mills

*This is a new age.*

*The old ways came to an end.*

*We want to see you Triumph!*

*We want you to grow.*

*Our mission is to give you freedom.*

*We want to rebuild you.*

*We want to make you stronger.*

*If your past brought you here,  
that means it is our mission to  
give you a future.*

*We will assist you on the journey  
of becoming a new you.*

*From healing the mind,  
to healing the body from  
addiction, depression to  
loss of a love one.*

*There is power in accepting that  
you are not perfect and in need of  
repair.*

*We want to help you go into the  
closet and defeat the monster.*

*We want to save the family.*

*We want to save the children;  
from housing to nutrition, from  
counseling to creative expression.*

*Healing is a process and it  
requires one step at a time.*

*And we are willing to help you  
with every step if you allow us.*



Welcome to the Tree of Life

*"We are not here on earth just by chance; we are here by God's design. You can understand that we are now in the fourth human world. ...which is the Everlasting Gospel and God waited until this time to bring us home meaning that we have been selected and elected by God to establish righteousness of God upon the earth.... You have been selected for the righteousness of God just like you stand against wrong. So you have an assignment that God has all of us until we get this message out and get people to believe or buy-in to the righteousness life-style... we cannot be separated from our creator... the creator is greater than what he created... [] In response to: Is there another possibility for how we live in community? "Yes, there is another possibility; I see in our immediate future the day will come when you won't have to go to the doctor's office. I see the day coming when you won't have to be in the hospital. I see the day coming when you won't have any kind of health issues. I see the day coming when there no hearse wheels rolling, when there are no funeral bells ringing... I see that day. This is what Father Smith envisioned for humanity if they would just stay and walk with God. No more fusing, fighting but sitting down being brothers and sisters sitting down around the table of brotherhood reasoning together. Yes, I see those possibilities." --**Presider Emmanuel Smith**, Lifelong Member of Triumph the Church and Kingdom of God in Christ; Presider of Tennessee District; Teacher of 'The Everlasting Gospel,' - 'Triumph: What We Believe & Teach' & 'The Covenant,' Birmingham, Alabama*

You can [watch the full virtual event](#) on our YouTube channel!!

*"We are emerging into a  
world where every  
construct, idea, and identity  
that is utilized to separate  
us is falling away."*  
---Rev. Jason Mitchell

**The Christ In Me Celebrates The Christ In You!  
Together We Will Make Our World Brand New!**

## Spiritual Connections

### Café



Wesley Amorim, Resident Musician

### Reading List

#### *The Places That Scare You*

Author, Pema Chodron  
Harper Collins 2001

#### *Invisible No More Police Violence Against Black Women and Women of Color*

Author, Andrea Ritchei,  
Beacon Press 2017

#### *A New Earth Awakening to Your Life's Purpose*

[10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Edition]  
Author, Eckhart Tolle  
Penguin Random House  
2016

#### *For White Folks Who Teach in the Hood...and the Rest of Y'all Too: Reality Pedagogy and Urban Education*

Author, Christopher Emdin  
Beacon Press 2017

#### *Cultures & Organizations*

Authors, Gerry Jofstede, Gert  
Jan Hofstede & Michael  
Minkov  
McGraw Hill 2010



Welcome to the Tree of Life

## Upcoming Events... November - December - January

#### Triumph Academy: E.D. Smith New Age School of Healing Arts & Life Sciences

- *Virtual Open House & Spring Enrollment on November 21st & December 5th*

#### *Sunday Virtual Gatherings Each Week: 11:45am – 1:15pm*

- *De-colonizing the 'Thanksgiving Holiday' Sunday, November 22nd*
- *Re-imagining Xmas; A Celebration of Life & Winter Solstice*

#### *Triumph Annual Board Meeting & Celebration of Church Anniversary*

- *Wednesday, January 20, 2021 – Saturday, January 23, 2021*

## Find us online!

Click on the link below ...

[TLC Resource guide](#)

Facebook:

[Triumph Life Center & Spiritual Connections Café](#)

[Triumph The Church of the New Age - International](#)

Instagram: [@TriumphLifeCenter](#)

YouTube Channel: [Triumph Life Center](#)

Spotify [playlist](#)

Email: [triumphlifecenter@gmail.com](mailto:triumphlifecenter@gmail.com)

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