
Press On!

Second Anniversary Issue

Webzine

Renewed Commitment

Excellence vs. Mediocrity



Renewed Praise

Have we lost it?

Renewed Focus

Getting Back to the Basics

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EDITOR'S NOTE



I was at the traffic light and a man approached my car dressed in costume representing a tax service company. I rolled down my window as he handed me the company's advertisement. But before I could roll my window up, he asked me if I go to cabarets. I said no, and rolled my window up. He then went onto the next car.

As I made my left turn, the Holy Spirit convicted me. Why didn't you ask him if he went to church or believed in God? You see, I was so focused on my destination that I missed that 20-second opportunity to share my faith.

I was reminded that we can become so caught up in everyday life that we don't realize we need to slow down and renew our focus regarding our faith, praise to God and commitment to develop our gifts and/or talents.

In the article, "Renewed Focus," you can read how James Ellis, III, (one of my Facebook friends) encountered God at 20 years old. Did you know that there are roughly 100 million unchurched Americans? Why aren't we reaching them?

Also, what does praise look like? Some of the survivors of the earthquake in Haiti visually showed us that it is expressive and always appropriate. In the article, "Renewed Praise," you can read how our praise can dwindle down and what we may be subconsciously doing to help it.

"Renewed Commitment," points out the example the late Michael Jackson left. His legacy reminds us about the importance of developing our gifts and/or talents and how to operate in excellence.

And the article "Young People, Don't Keep It Bottled Up," tells about the suicide of Brianne Matthews and addresses some of the pressures young people have and how they can overcome them.

These are just a few highlights of this webzine's contents. Please forward a copy to your friends and family. If you have any questions and/or comments, e-mail me at pmoore@pressonwebzine.com.

Happy second anniversary family! ■

Phenola Moore

Unless otherwise noted, all scripture is King James Version

I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. Philippians 3:14

We want to hear from you! E-mail your comments to pmoore@pressonwebzine.com or write to Phenola Moore, PO Box 7744, Largo, MD, 20792-7744. Include your full name, address and telephone number. Submissions may be edited for length and clarity.

And, if you haven't become one of my Facebook friends, what are you waiting for? Log onto www.facebook.com/phenolamoore and request to be my friend!

Renewed Focus

By Phenola Moore

James Ellis, III, encountered God at age 20 while visiting a friend's church outside of Washington, D.C. one cold Sunday morning.

"I grew up in an environment where no one in my family, immediate or extended, knew God," Ellis said in "Encountering God – Does Your Witness Precede Your Witness?" Seminars' Sermons. "My parents didn't drag us to church during holy week or any week. We simply never went to church and didn't have a church home. We never prayed. We never talked about God. We never did anything even remotely associated with Christian living."

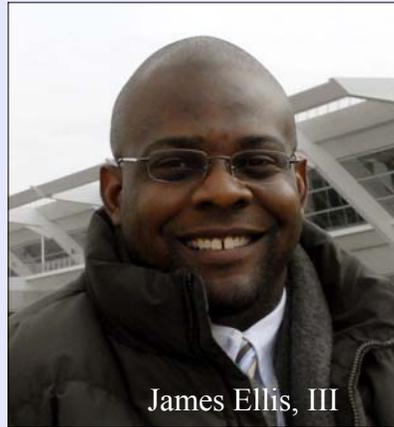
How do we reach the unchurched with so many outside influences grappling at those who do not know God?

According to the article, "Unchurched Population Nears 100 Million in the U.S.," there are thousands of people today who have never been to church. When these statistics are projected across the aggregate adult population, the numbers are staggering. An estimated 73 million adults are presently unchurched. When teens and children are added, the total swells to roughly 100 million Americans." (www.barna.org)

What can we do to reach those 100 million Americans alone? First, we should be mindful on how we conduct ourselves privately and especially in public. So when we talk to unbelievers about our faith, they won't be turned off by our actions and/or lifestyles.

Second, remember that every human being is important and should have a chance to hear the gospel. If we keep this in mind, we won't overlook opportunities to tell others about God.

Finally, don't give up. If you've asked someone and received a no response, give the person some time and ask again. ■



James Ellis, III

Unchurched Statistics

[The Unchurched Next Door – Dr. Thom Rainer](#)
(www.backtochurch.com)

1. Most people come to church because of a personal invitation.
2. Only two percent of church-going people invite someone to church in a given year. That means 98 percent of church-goers never extend an invitation in a given year!
3. Seven out of 10 unchurched people have never been invited to church in their whole lives.
4. Eighty-two percent of the unchurched are at least somewhat likely to attend church if invited.
5. The top "rational" reason adults seldom or never attend church is they don't agree with organized religion or what they preach (24 percent).
6. The top "practical" reasons for hardly attending or missing church altogether, 21 percent said they don't have time or they don't get around to it.

Meditation:

"Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me."

Revelations 3:20

Renewed Praise

By Phenola Moore

As I watched the news unfold about the Haitians who were pulled from the rubble after the devastating earthquake January 12, I was in awe because most came out giving thanks to God.

You mean to tell me that a person who's been buried for days and sometimes weeks, suffering from injuries, dehydration and, in some cases, malnutrition, takes the little energy they have to thank God? Yes, they say that 90 percent of the Haitians practice voodoo, but what does that say for believers who are not practicing. If we were put in that type of situation, would we come out praising God?



Also, there were televised scenes of Haitians marching and singing praises to God. This was after losing loved ones and homes, sustaining injuries and holding only on to hope. Yes, I was elated that their exclamations of praise were televised for all to see, but I thought would we have done the same?

We need to ask ourselves a few questions:

1. Do we boldly give praise to God or cower under what is going on in our surroundings? We can't spend 24/7 in a comfortable environment. So how do we handle uncomfortable situations? Do we go in with a big stick telling everyone "thou shalt not" or do we remain calm hoping those who come in contact with us will see a difference in our lives?
2. Have we become overconfident and adopted an "I knew God would do it" attitude? There's a thin line between confidence and being puffed up. Yes, we should be confident that God is going to deliver, but when He does, are we too arrogant to give Him the praise?
3. When we are in church service, are we focused on getting into God's presence? There are so many distractions that can take our eyes off God and if we are not careful, our church services can go from a life-changing experience to a social gathering.

Just compare what we do at social settings. We get into deep conversations with others, watch television, use cell phones, play games, etc. Sometimes we can operate on a scaled down version of these things in church and lose focus on why we assemble together.

Finally, let's not become complacent and lose appreciation for praise. If the enemy can put diversions in our way, he can steal our praise. ■

Meditation:

"I will bless the LORD at all times: his praise shall continually be in my mouth." Psalm 34:1

Renewed Commitment

By Phenola Moore



On June 25, 2009, pop icon Michael Jackson died. As I listened to the stories told on television about his life, what stood out to me was his commitment to developing his gift and operating in excellence.

How can we take this example and develop our gift or talent in an excellent manner?

Very few are like gospel recording artist Darwin Hobbs. His voice is regularly compared to the late R&B artist Luther Vandross. Hobbs artist profile states, ... his vocal gift wasn't a product of endless hours of choir practice or Sunday performances; it just dawned on him that he could sing. "I had no working knowledge of the fact that I could sing," Hobbs admits. "I wish I could make it more difficult, but I opened my mouth and I could sing. I never had formal training." (www.newreleasetuesday.com)

Unlike Hobbs, we may need to take classes, study under an expert or seek guidance from a mentor to develop our gift or talent. Although Jackson had a great gift to sing and dance, he perfected it by studying others like the late James Brown who possessed a similar gift.

Who are you studying? What do you admire about their presentation? Are you willing to make the sacrifice to reach your potential?

Reaching your potential may mean self-denial. Jackson said he wasn't allowed to go out and play like the other children in the neighborhood because he had to practice with his brothers. Even when he was preparing for what was going to be his final tour, he didn't leave the details to his staff.

Reports said he was at the rehearsals until the wee hours of the morning rehearsing and perfecting the show. He never stopped. Just because he had reached star status, he continued with the same work ethic he had from the beginning of his career.

Could we say the same or would we have shown up late in the game, hoping that everything would fall into place? That's called taking a chance and not operating in excellence.

To make an impact upon the world, we have to dedicate ourselves to perfect the gift or talent that God has entrusted in us without slackness. ■

Meditation:

"Wherefore I put thee in remembrance that thou stir up the gift of God, which is in thee by the putting on of my hands." 2 Timothy 1:6

Young People, Don't Keep It Bottled Up

By Phenola Moore

"I don't want to talk about the suicide," Nadia Martinez, who found Brianne Matthews dead at their Anaheim apartment, told FanHouse recently. "And I don't want to talk about what may have led her ... we can only speculate and I don't want to do that. No answer is going to be good enough." (www.fanhouse.com) The Orange County Coroner's report ruled Matthews' death a suicide by ligature hanging.

Matthews had it going on. According to the article she was a high school sophomore, with a 4.0 grade point average and already had a full-ride college scholarship offer to play softball for Arizona after she graduated in 2012. She had many friends because of her dynamic personality and huge softball following.

Why? No one knows and her mother, Martinez, doesn't even want to speculate as she lives through this tragedy. But let's take a look at some of the pressures young people are faced with today and how to diffuse them.



They have pressures regarding getting high scores on school and/or SAT, ACT exams. What college will they get accepted to? Will they get a scholarship and if not, will their family be able to afford to send them? What if they want to go to a trade school, military or immediately start working? How do they tell that parent who has their heart set on them going to college? What about extracurricular activities? Will they be liked in school or harassed by the neighborhood bully?

But young people, it's not safe to keep it bottled up inside of you. If you feel too much pressure, prioritize, prepare, publicize, and most importantly, pray.

1. Prioritize – It's examination time. If everything you are involved in is overwhelming you, it's time to make a list and prioritize by importance. Some things you've gotten involved in because others are doing it. If it is low on your list or you've lost your passion for it, get out of it.
2. Prepare – Organization reduces stress. Keep important dates on your cell phone calendar (if you have one), if you don't get a calendar. This will keep your day more organized and knowing what your schedule looks like from day to day will reduce stress.
3. Publicize – Let somebody know how you feel, whether they agree or not, because others can't always read your body language or mood change as a sign that something is wrong.
4. Pray – Prayer is how we communicate with God. Releasing your fears and/or desires to Him will free up your mind.

Remember, the decisions you make now can always be corrected in the future. Don't put too much pressure on yourself. I know you have goals and dreams you want to achieve by a certain time, but if that doesn't happen, don't fret. You have many years in front of you and plenty of time to get there. :-> ■

Meditation:

"Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you." 1 Peter 5:7

You Can't Stop Me

By Phenola Moore

After a meeting with a CBS News executive producer Byron Pitts said something he had never told anyone before.

“I respect what you’ve said and I respect your position, but please know this: When I’m on my knees praying in my room at night, not once have I ever called your name,” Pitts recalls in his book, *Step Out of Nothing*. “My destiny is not in your hands, not now, not ever. Thank you for your time. I’ll see you down the road.”

The producer had just told Pitts that he didn’t write well enough to be on his news show, that he wanted only the best correspondents and Pitts did not fit that bill.



In *Step Out of Nothing*, Pitts details how he overcame many obstacles, including illiteracy, to build a resume that includes contributing correspondent for *60 Minutes* and chief national correspondent for CBS News.

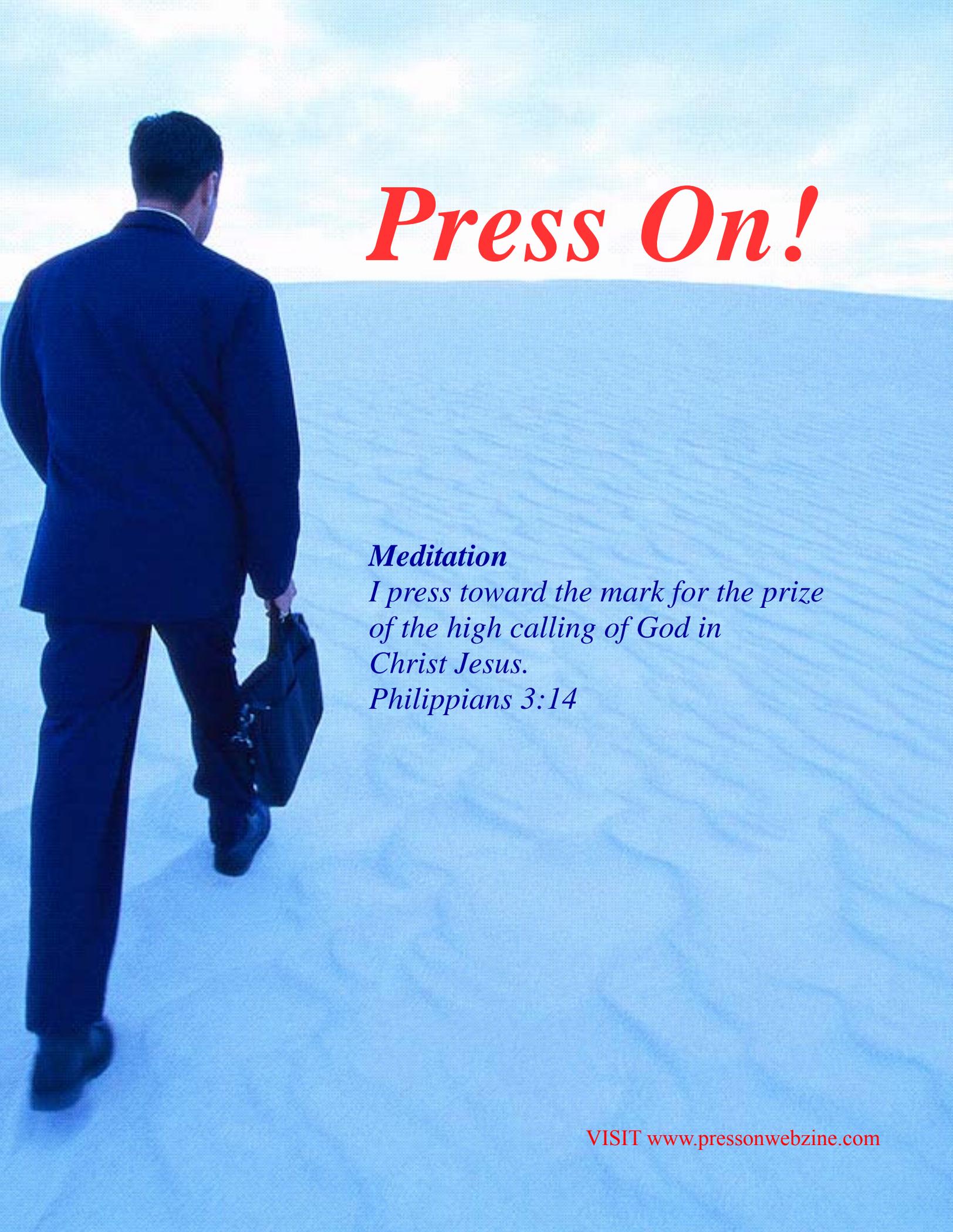
How many times have you heard that you’ll never amount to anything or you are not qualified? How about what you want to do is too hard, will take too much money or has never been done before? Although these remarks may hurt and set you back for a minute, they can’t block you from reaching your destiny.

You may not always be surrounded by well wishers which is why you need a plan.

1. Reflect – Keep the vision in front of you. Work on and/or think about it every day. Create a mantra statement that includes your goals.
2. Research – Find out what you need to do to get where you want to go. Talk to others who are in the same field. If you don’t know anyone, get information from the Internet and pertinent books.
3. Remember - Don’t leave God out of the equation because He is the one who can give you what you need to get to the vision. Get an encouraging scripture to recite every day. Pray that God will order your steps to make wise choices and put the right people in your path.
4. Relate – Don’t fault the naysayers or those who don’t embrace your vision. Sometimes people react negatively (especially family) because they are trying to protect you from getting hurt. ■

Meditation:

“I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.” Philippians 4:13



Press On!

Meditation

*I press toward the mark for the prize
of the high calling of God in
Christ Jesus.*

Philippians 3:14

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