

# NEW DIRECTION

Formerly *New Beginnings*

July 2009

## What's Happening?

### August 1

Women of Power and Success (WOPAS) is hosting a one-day empowerment production that will motivate and inspire women of all ages and all walks of life who are looking for new ideas of excellence and are seeking to achieve and succeed with their dreams.

The event is from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. (doors open at 8:30 a.m.) at The Worship Center 8001 Silver Star Road, Orlando 32818). To reserve tickets, call (321) 331-0469 or visit [www.echeinternational.com](http://www.echeinternational.com).

### August 22

FarMor's own Elizabeth M. Kershaw will sign copies of her 228-page autobiography, *The Tests: Releasing the Beauty Within* at Christian Supplies bookstore (3101 West Colonial Drive, Orlando 32808) from noon to 3 p.m. For more info, call (321) 460-8558.

You can purchase *The Tests* for \$12.95 at [www.farmorphublishing.com](http://www.farmorphublishing.com) or through Christian Supplies and Long's Christian Book & Music Store in Altamonte, FL.

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### Passage to Life:

*"And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not. As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.*

– Galatians 6:9-10 (KJV)

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It's Saturday, June 27, and I'm writing you from the funeral of my high school classmate Damien Lavon Croskey (West Orange, '01). Damien died of a heart attack on Father's Day, which was hard to fathom since he was a father himself of two children.

I was sad at first and could not stop crying after entering the church. However, I soon realized that the tears were tears of joy and not sadness. *It was his time.* I remember a friend telling me that he spoke to Damien two weeks prior to his death and that Damien was going to church and said he was getting his life together. Sudden as his death seems, it was God's timing. *How do I know?*

As I sit in the pews awaiting the arrival of the family, I hear this song playing, *He whom the Son sets free is free indeed.* I can't believe my ears. Why would that particular song play the week before the July 3 Independence Celebration?

*Why?* Because the song, like the event, is about setting the captives FREE. It's about 'living' while we still have breath! Those lyrics are based on John 8:36—the scripture that ties into the theme for the event, "I'm Free...Walking in the Delivering Spirit."

I jumped up and went to the back of the church to ask the sound person the name and artist of the song. He told me it was called "Free to Worship" by Eddie James from his "Ultimate Call" CD.

After I returned to my seat, the song started to play again. *He whom the Son sets free is free indeed. I'm free to worship...free to praise...free to lift up Your Holy name.* The Holy Spirit was telling me that Damien is okay. He's FREE!!!

Damien loved to laugh, and his smile and fun-loving spirit were contagious. His love for life, his family and friends were evident in the huge turnout he received from those who wished to bid farewell to a man who treasured each moment on earth.

The Bible tells us that Jesus came so that we may have life and have it more abundantly (John 10:10). So enjoy each day. Love, laugh and live your life to its fullest.

Be blessed,  
*Suzette Farquharson-Morgan*  
Editor & Publisher

## The Freedom in Me

By Timotha Hughes

"Life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. These three were in the forethoughts of our founding fathers while creating the United States of America's Declaration of Independence which helped to shape our great nation even then and also today. Bonded together they form the pillars that support our society, however, the greatest of these is liberty. What is life without freedom and can you truly pursue happiness lacking its most basic element? When Liberty is born then life has meaning, and happiness can be discovered.

In order to truly discuss the concept of freedom I must journey back to the birthplace of my athleticism, Chester, South Carolina. Chester is a very small town very close to North Carolina. There, where entertainment is very scarce you must find activities to keep you busy, so the children play in the vast grassy fields, rocky dirt roads, and busy side yards. We played kickball. Kickball and many other sports [that] you did not need much equipment to play, helped to develop a love and passion for sports in me, and they helped to shape me into the established athlete that I am today.

Freedom allows me to be able to play these sports successfully. Not many decades ago women were denied the opportunity to participate in sports activities in high school, let alone where my dreams lie, in college, and professionally was certainly unfathomable. To parallel that freedom also allows me to be educated and able to attend the school where I can play these sports. Education is one of my first priorities. Also not too long ago, women were not allowed to attend schools or colleges and they were definitely not able to further their education. Without education I would not be the person that I am today.

Education is so powerful; it can transform a young child that knows nothing into a neurosurgeon or an airplane fighter pilot. Education is everywhere. It surrounds us everyday. It is in the trees, it is in the unending sky, and it is in the millions of classrooms spread across the nation. Education is not and will not always be conventional, and it can teach us everything we need to know about something that we really do not need to know anything about.

However, we do have the freedom to be educated on all that we choose to learn. Freedom to be educated is one of the greatest gifts we have in our beloved country. Therefore, true freedom is being able to look into a troubled youngster's eyes and to tell them that they can be anything they want to be through education.

*What does it mean to be free?* Freedom means that I can be a female athlete and freedom means that I can play the sports that I love. Freedom means that I can get an education. Freedom means that I can be anything that I want to be through the power of education. Freedom means that I can go wherever I want to go. Freedom means that I was able to travel to Washington, D.C. in January to see the inauguration of the forty fourth president of the United States of America. Freedom means that I am an American.

Freedom is in me and I am in it. Therefore, I am freedom.

**Copyright © 2009 by Timotha Hughes**, a senior at Jones High School in Orlando and the First-Place (\$100 Cash Prize) Winner of the "What does it mean to be free" writing contest sponsored by FarMor Entertainment—a nonprofit organization committed to enriching the lives of individuals within our communities through the performing arts and education.

FarMor Publishing, a sponsor of the July 3 Independence Celebration, congratulates FarMor Entertainment and PIVOT (Changing Direction for the Youth) for a beautiful night of ministry through song, dance, mime, poetry and spoken word. With the theme, "I'm Free...Walking in the Delivering Spirit," performers from across the state united to uplift others with the gifts God had given them.

Lamar Shealy opened the show with Mary Mary's "Shackles." Recording artist Derek Smith traveled from Tampa to sing his hit song, "Change" (*I'm ready for a change...I want to set my spirit free*) from his "Just As I Am" CD released this year. His song followed the poem, "Change Can," recited by 8-year old Toni Perry, a third grader at Tangelo Park Elementary School.

Debra Ashley, who traveled from Jacksonville, encouraged the audience with her new song, "Do It Afraid." (*Don't give up, just trust in God...whatever your heart's desire...do it afraid!*) Local artist Charlyce Simmons, who had a brain hemorrhage in January and was told she wouldn't walk for another 12 months, 'walked' onto the stage and lifted her voice to "I Believe I Can Fly."

Throughout the night, poets Yves Saintelo, Emma Easter and her granddaughter, Rachael C. Outing (Timber Creek High School) and Randy "R.L." Benjamin (FarMor Recording), as well as spoken word artists Catherine 'Vicky' Clark (One Message) and Tameka Preston (Always Truth Incorporated) blessed us with words from the heart on what FREEDOM means to them.

Too Anointed (girls ages 12, 13 and 15) from Palm Coast used mime to show the audience how to "Encourage Yourself" and their aunt, Devine Purpose, illustrated through mime how to "Stand" (*...when you've done all you can, you just stand.*)

Another Dimension (ages 13, 14, 17) from Lakeland, illustrated through dance that we are "Broken but...Healed" (Byron Cage) and then declared like Kirk Franklin, "This Is It" (*you can't mess with my mind anymore*). Through dance, Bridget Norvell told us to "Let Go," and Jasmine Shand, a 2007 graduate of Olympia, closed the show with "Free" (*free to lift my hands...I'm free to laugh not cry, free to live not die, because of Your [God's] love, I'm free*).

Each artist exemplified a 'spirit of excellence' that night and presented their gifts to the glory of God. May you do the same!

## Christian Liberty

### Galatians 5 (NKJV)

<sup>1</sup> Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage.

<sup>13</sup> For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. <sup>14</sup> For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

<sup>15</sup> But if you bite and devour one another, beware lest you be consumed by one another!

<sup>16</sup> I say then: **Walk in the Spirit**, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. <sup>17</sup> For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish. <sup>18</sup> But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

<sup>19</sup> Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, <sup>20</sup> idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, <sup>21</sup> envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told *you* in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

<sup>22</sup> But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup> gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. <sup>24</sup> And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

<sup>25</sup> If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. <sup>26</sup> Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.

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### Author, Local Entrepreneur Makes Dreams Come True for Authors, Other Artists

**Orlando, FL (July 31, 2009)** — Author, entrepreneur and motivational speaker Suzette Farquharson-Morgan has published a third inspirational book through her company, FarMor Publishing.

Ms. Morgan, a native of Kingston, Jamaica, moved to Orlando at age 6. She attended Tangelo Park Elementary, where she received the Disney Dreamers and Doers Award in the sixth grade. She graduated from West Orange High School in 1991 with a four-year scholarship from Walt Disney World to attend the University of Florida, where she earned her bachelor's in journalism and a minor in sociology.

After receiving her master's in communication from UCF in 2001, Ms. Morgan resigned from her position as web content supervisor at Harcourt (HBJ) in December 2002 and stepped out on faith to write her 96-page nonfiction book, *Living Testimonies*. Unable to afford the costs of a local publisher who accepted her manuscript in January 2004, she worked temporary and part-time positions as a file clerk and then as a proofreader until she was led to establish her own company in October of that year.

After self-publishing *Living Testimonies* in August 2005, she released *Honey for the Soul™: This Is the Season*—the first in the four-book series of poems by Orlando native and resident Anita B. Williams on July 7, 2007. Then in June 2009, she published a third book, *The Tests: Releasing the Beauty Within* by Orlando author Elizabeth M. Kershaw.

With several titles slated for release this fall—including *The Fly and the Hippo* by Joanne H. Dumas, illustrated by Essex James—Ms. Morgan is committed to making dreams come true for others. Yet, book publishing is not the only medium being used in this effort.

FarMor Recording Group—another component of FarMor Group Incorporated, which was established in May 2009—is creating CDs and audio products that give authors, poets, spoken word artists and singers the opportunity to give life to their work.

These artists are then provided a platform through her nonprofit organization, FarMor Entertainment, which hosts concerts throughout the year to uplift and inspire people within our communities to keep the faith and use their gifts to bless others.

“From Ordinary...to Extraordinary,” Ms. Morgan, a single mother of three (Elia, 12; Malcolm, 8; and Tyler, 4), is the guest speaker for GOBA's 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Working Women's Luncheon on Thursday, September 24 from 11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m. at First Baptist Church (Pine Castle), located at 1001 Hoffner Avenue, Orlando 32809. For more information, visit [www.farmorphublishing.com](http://www.farmorphublishing.com) or call Sharon Burrow with GOBA at (407) 293-0450.

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