



Jacob's Ladder



A NEWSLETTER OF BURNS UNITED METHODIST AND HAMMITT HILL UNITED METHODIST CHURCHES

Rev. Christopher C. Diggs, Pastor

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A Message To The Youth

by Clarence H. Franklin

*You can be anything and everything you want to be;
You can see anything and everything you want see;
You can go anywhere and everywhere you want go;
You can know anything and everything you want to know.*

It all depends on you; anything you feel like you might want to do.

God made us to be anything we want to be;

To be free to be who we are; to be free to be who we are;

A blessing to us all, sent down from the Almighty . . .

I am sure some of our more seasoned members remember the words of the song above from the early 70's by Harold Melvin and the Blue Notes, "To Be Free To Be Who You Are." That song has an incredible inspirational spiritual message to it. Today, we hear so much negative talk from so many people, particularly young people, and regrettably, young people of color. "I can't do this!" "I can't do that!" "It's too hard!" Sadly, you cannot do anything that you do not believe you can do.

There is certainly no place for this kind of thinking in the church, in the Body of Christ. PHILIPPIANS 4:13 says "I can do all things through Christ which strengthens me." God has already given us the tools to be whatever we want to be. Being ordinary or being mediocre is a choice we make whether consciously or unconsciously. This is certainly not what God has in mind for us. He wants us to be our best in whatever we do. "Whatever your hand finds to do, do it

with all your might" according to ECCLESIASTES 9:10. We never know what God might call us to do, so it is incumbent on us to strive for excellence, so that we will be better equipped to carry out His wishes.

Young people, I want you to understand that there is nothing you can't accomplish; nothing you cannot achieve. There is no limit to what you can accomplish if you accept what God has laid out for you. Where do you begin you may ask? First, MATTHEW 6:33 says ". . . seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added to you." This means that we are to seek the things of God as a priority over the things of the world. Primarily, it means we are to seek the salvation that is inherent in the kingdom of God because it is greater than all the world's riches. Secondly, you have to believe that whatever God has promised, He can deliver. MARK 9:23 tells us that "if you believe, all things are possible."

We have learn to stand on the promises of God. This means that we have to get into His word, the Bible. We can't stand on promises we know nothing about, so what are some of these promises. Begin with the promises in PHILIPPIANS 4:13 AND MARK 9:23 stated above. We continue with LUKE 1:37 "For nothing will be impossible with God." If you can conceive it, and if you believe it, you can achieve it. And nothing can stand in your way. ROMANS 8:31 says "if God is for us, who can be against us?" You have to have faith. MATTHEW 17:20 reads "[Jesus] said to them, because of your little faith. For truly, I say to you, if you have faith like a grain of mustard seed, you will say to this

mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move, and nothing will be impossible for you." There are so many scriptures that highlight the promises of God but this one brings it all home, EPHESIANS 1:19-23, "and what is the immeasurable greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His great might that He worked in Christ when He raised him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. And He put all things under His feet and gave Him as head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all." Anatomically speaking, the body is above the feet, so if all things are under the feet of Christ, and if we, the church, are His body. then all things are also under our feet. God has given us the power and ability to achieve unlimited greatness. We have no excuses. And even though this was addressed initially to the youth, clearly it applies to all of us. All of our futures are literally unlimited. As the song highlights, we really can be whatever we want to be as long as it is in line with God's will. The only limitations we encounter are those we place on ourselves.

Also, think about the marvelous resources that we now have. With this being Black History Month, I am reminded of all the things that we were not allowed to do, or did not have access to. The Internet alone opens the whole world up to us, and it is free.

Everyone has access to it through our computer or smartphone. If you don't have a computer or smartphone, you can go to the library. On the Internet, you can get a college education. You can learn how to tie a tie, repair your refrigerator, washer or stove. You can even find step by step instructions on how to replace almost any part on your car. You can have the Bible,

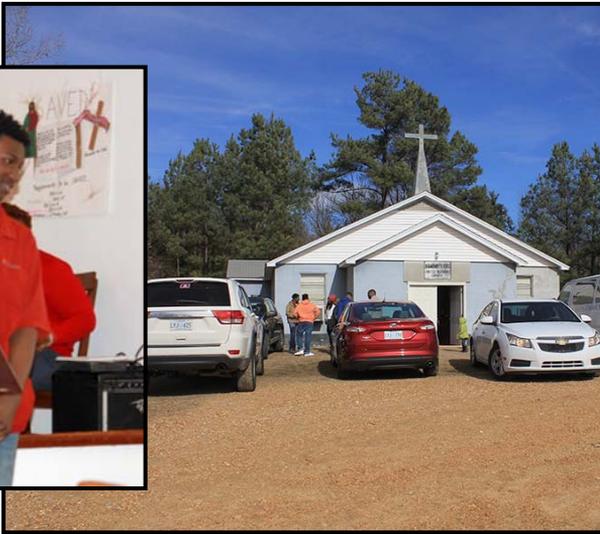
in multiple translations, at your finger-tips at all times. And the Internet is just one of the many resources we have available to us today.

Finally, since this is all based on scriptures, we have the ultimate promise found in PSALM 119:160: [God's] word is true and endureth forever.

And The Children Shall Lead . . .

On Sunday January 24, 2016 , the children and youth of Burns and Hammitt Hill United Methodist Churches led the Worship services. The following is a pictorial review.





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