

The Religion Corner

God Provides Great Opportunities for Each of Us — But it’s Up to Us to Take Them

By Lyndia Grant
Special to the NNPA from
The Washington Informer

“For it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose.” — Philippians 2:13

Great opportunities come along for each of us, and often what could become an exciting chance comes our way several times during our lifetime. However, we second-guess it, and most decide not to try. How can you know if it was the right thing to do or not if you never made an effort?

We don’t create those unexpected opportunities; they just happen. Just as day becomes night or spring switches to fall, everything that comes our way is part of God’s plan; we are His vehicle.

The real meaning of life is so simple that we often miss it

God created us to be smarter than the animal kingdom; we’re not like the wildebeest that uses force to teach newborns. When the babies are born, they immediately, out of necessity, must learn to walk within minutes after birth and within days are able to keep up with the herd. What would happen if one of them decided “I’m not walking now, and quit!” They can’t quit. The mother won’t allow it. She knows the lions and tigers are waiting in the tall bush to snatch one of them up for lunch!

Scripture in Hebrews 2:8 reminds us “You gave them authority over all things.”

If we had somebody over us the way the

mother wildebeest does her baby calves, pushing us and forbidding us to quit, we too would get the job done. The real meaning of life is so simple that we often miss it. It is to please God, to glorify Him, honor Him, and love Him. And He desires for His unique creation, mankind, to freely love Him.

Back in 1983, while living in the Los Angeles area, God provided me with an amazing opportunity. He gave me the idea to start my own small business. The idea came out of the mouth of a young Caucasian receptionist at an employment agency.

During my job search, the receptionist noticed me counsel another Caucasian lady, who sat next to me. She had not worked for a while and was extremely anxious about having her agency interview. She began to share with me and then instinctively I poured into her life providing guidance. Her resume was not well-written, but as I looked it over, questions about some of her previous duties came to me. That exercise caused her to feel better about her interview.

Here is where God provided me with a unique opportunity: After this woman was called into the office, I sat there, not giving a thought to what just happened. The young receptionist said to me, “You were really good with her! Have you ever thought about starting your own business?” She continued, “You could really help a lot of people!”

Yes, I had, but couldn’t quite figure out what service to provide. Here was my golden opportunity. God provided me with my break; the rest was up to me.

That inspiration from the young receptionist became a message, a starting point in my life; it took root that very moment. The rest is history.

Glad I listened that day. Have you had such an opportunity but you ignored God’s voice? He will be with you, every step of the way, as He was with me.

Legacy Wellness Fair



PHOTO BY JERRY FOSTER

Manishia Menefee, a support specialist for Legacy Emmanuel’s Trauma Nurses Talk Tough program, assists with bike helmet fittings at the Legacy Emmanuel Family Wellness Fair. The Aug. 8 event included hula hooping, CPR demonstrations, the chance to explore emergency vehicles and healthy food demonstrations.

The Black Church’s Shifting Stance on Homosexuality

Special to the NNPA from the
Houston Forward Times



Bishop TD Jakes

Bishop T.D. Jakes thinks it is “absolutely” possible for the LGBT and black communities to coexist.

Jakes, who joined HuffPost Live on Monday, opened up to host Marc Lamont-Hill about his thoughts on the relationship between these communities.

“I think that it’s going to diverse from church to church every church has a different opinion on the issue and every gay person is different,” Jakes said.

While Jakes believes churches are allowed to practice and preach values shared by their respective leaders, he also advocates that LGBT people attend a church that aligns with their own beliefs and values.

And although he admits that his individual stance on homosexuality is both “evolved and evolving,” he said all LGBT people should be treated with tolerance and respect.

“LGBT’s of different types and sorts

have to find a place of worship that reflects what your views are and what you believe like anyone else,” he said. “And the church should have its own convictions and values.”

Jakes also reaffirmed that members of the LGBT community, like all american citizens, deserve equal protection under the law.

“Once you begin to understand that democracy, that a republic actually, is designed to be an overarching system to protect our unique nuances then we no longer look to public policy to reflect biblical ethics,” Jakes said.

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