

Christian Chronicles

June 2009

Special Graduate Issue 55

BMBC's '09 High School Graduates

Make a new beginning in your life graduates—*Geordon Breedlove, Sarah Burroughs, Deanna Collymore, Darius Colter, Damion McCarthy, and Simone Porter*—be aware of important things you didn't learn in school. Pursue your dreams and take time to help and serve others, even if doing so slows you down a little. Explore and develop your unique talents, remain humble, realizing that your special abilities are gifts from God. As life hands you challenges, welcome them as ways to become smarter and stronger. Know that your most important possessions are honesty, integrity, and the desire to make a difference.

Congratulations, graduates. May your new path take you where you want to go and bring you pleasant surprises!

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.
—Psalm 119:105

Geordon Breedlove is a graduate of Roy C. Ketchum High School. He was an active member of the Sunday School Ministry and a voice in the BMBC Youth Choir.

Sarah Burroughs, a graduate of Newburgh Free Academy, will attend Dutchess Community College and transfer to Liberty University in Lynchburgh, Virginia. At Bethel, Sarah participates in the Sunday School Ministry.



Deanna Collymore, a graduate of Lourdes High School, will attend Mt. St. Vincent in Riverdale, New York. Deanna has participated in the Sunday School Ministry, and Christmas program.



Darius Colter, a graduate of John Jay High School, is an active member of the John Jay football, swimming, and multi-cultural organization Down for Christ (DFC). He has also participated in the A.I.D.S Walk and volunteered at the Cancer Walk action sponsored by Wicoppee Fire Station. At BMBC Darius participates in the Teen Center and sings in the Youth Choir. At his former church, Greater Zion Hill Baptist Church, Mr. Colter was active in the Usher Ministry and Big Brother and Big Sister Program. In the fall of 2009, Darius will attend either South Carolina University in Columbia, South Carolina.



Damion McCarthy a graduate of Roy C Ketcham High School, is a member of the BMBC Youth Choir, dances with Liturgical Dance Team and participated in step for 2008 Easter program. He is also a member of the Audio Recording Ministry, in which he helps with recording Sunday worship services. Damion assists with anything else that is asked of him to do. Mr. McCarthy runs track and participates in the Greater Southern Dutchess Chamber of Commerce Youth Leadership program. He was accepted into Seton Hall, but will attend Dutchess Community College for two years, then transfer to Seton Hall University in South Orange, New Jersey as a Communications major.



Simone Porter, graduate of Roy C. Ketcham High School, has served on the Usher Ministry for eight years and held the office of youth president for two (2006-8). She has participated in the Liturgical Dance Ministry for 10 years as dancer and choreographer, as well as used her vocal talent in the Youth Choir for eight years. From 2007-2008 she was president of the choir. In addition to teaching and attending VBS, Ms. Porter has taken part in the former Pioneer Club, and currently, participates in the Teen Center. In the fall of 2009, Simone will matriculate to the historically black college, Spelman College in Atlanta, Georgia as a Liberal Arts Major.



...Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go. Joshua 1:9 (NIV)

A Word from the Graduates

Each high school senior was asked to submit an essay regarding their faith and their education. Here's what education and faith means to them.

God Makes the Impossible Possible

By Sarah Burroughs



Education is a road map and a ladder that guides and directs my journey through life. It allows me to climb new and unforeseen heights, while opening doors of opportunity. I feel that my life will be more, when I set goal for myself and have a particular mission in mind. Striving to make something of myself comes by praying and believing God will do great things in me, for me and through me. With God and education, I can overcome any obstacles that life might bring my way, climb any mountain, and turn the impossible into the possible.

As Rev. Jesse L. Jackson, Jr. quotes, "Always know that there is unlimited power in a developed mind and a disciplined spirit. If your mind can conceive it, your heart can believe it, you can achieve it. Suffering breeds character; character breeds faith and in the end faith will prevail."

Using God's Gifts to End Racial Discrimination

By Deanne Collymore

Racial discrimination is a crucial issue that most concerns me. The Webster definition of racial discrimination "is difference of people on the basis of characteristics." My view on racial discrimination is injustice and stereotyping people for their ethnic background. Even though the African American community has aggrandized in American society, from fighting for equal rights to having an African American elected president, we are still faced with the obstacles of being able to be the "All American." We are restricted by stereotyping, discrimination, and inequality. Racial discrimination is not an issue that pertains only to the African American community, but to all minorities, but as an African American it concerns me that an elected African American president may increase racial discrimination.

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Using God's Gifts

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President Barack Obama has received more hate crimes than any other president ever elected. Since he has been elected, hate crimes have had an increasing effect not only in African American communities but also in Caucasian communities. People have looked past the fact that he is an intelligent man who graduated from an Ivy League school and has America in mind, not only the African American people

If in my life I was given the opportunity to change one thing that would impact global society, it would be to overcome ignorance by education. The typical stereotype for an African American would be a basketball player, drug dealer or rapper who dropped out of school with no education. The media has portrayed a positive role model as athletes or music artists, but through out history we have contributed more through education and we need education to deplete the ignorance.

My understanding of the Christian mission is that God has given each one of us special talents and gifts that make us different from one another. I plan to use my gifts as a Registered Nurse to first be an example of an African American who defied the stereotype given to African Americans. I plan to travel abroad and volunteer in third world countries that are in need of improved healthcare and education of medicines and certain diseases that pertain to them. Diabetes, A.I.D.S, and heart disease are of higher risk in the African American community. Statistics show that for instance, A.I.D.S within the African American population, 64% were men. In America, 11,540 African American men were diagnosed with A.I.D.S compared to 9,267 Caucasian, and 5,388 Hispanic. I want to take my studies as a nurse and inform communities. I hope to reach out to other countries like Asia to help expand global healthcare and make it affordable.

To excel in my goal of becoming a nurse I need to focus. I have selected small private schools where your professors know you by name instead of a social security number, who are there to help you, and schools that also provide special programs like peer tutoring that give me one on one attention which is needed to help me concentrate more on my selected career. These schools are specialize in nursing and will help me succeed. After college, I will take what I have learned and help educate and improve the health ministry at my church and hopefully my community and beyond.

My crucial issue is racial discrimination, and it can be overcome and hopefully ended through education. I plan to accomplish these goals by using the gifts God has given me.

God Plus Education Equals Success

By Darius Colter

Every since I was young, I was always taught the three most important things in life: God first, family and education, as well as setting goals in my life. And without these three aspects, I feel my goals will not be accomplished. There is a saying that has passed through the generation of my family: “God plus education equals success.”



While living in a household where education is important, the importance of it had become a part of me. For as long I can remember my father would always say to me that I will be the one to carry this family to the next level. Being young at the time, I really did not understand the concept of what was said to me; however as I grew older, I gained a complete understanding of what needed to be done in my life. Me carrying this family to another level, means I would have to be a prime example for my sister and my family as well. It also means I must be strong enough to face negative circumstances in my life and to overcome them and to push toward and to achieve my goals.

The convention of education in this world, to me, is mandatory for those who want to succeed in life. Education is referred to as a key to doors for different opportunities and without that key those doors will remain closed. During the process of education, there are some negative things that could un-align you from reaching your goal. For example temptation, peer pressure, loss of focus, and distractions, among other things. Many of these negative things in life, I have already faced and will face in the future, but I have learned that you have to go through some things in life that will make you stronger. Throughout my four years in high school, I've compared my education experience to football. In football, there is a defensive line [to prevent the other team from scoring] and in life there are defenders, in the world, who will try to make you fumble or want to give up. These defenders try to grab hold of you and make you fall, but you must continue to fight and push forward to the higher calling, which is success or in football "a touchdown."

In my family's generation God and education is always the two most important things in life and without these two aspects, life remains meaningless. I believe now that I am older, God has shown me that with his guidance and the gift of education, I will be able to conquer any obstacles or negative circumstances because I know who lives inside of me and with knowing this I know I will succeed and be victorious.

What Education Means to Me, My Goals & Aspirations: *Trusting in the Lord*

By Damion McCarthy

What education means to me is the key to my success. Education contributes to financial, spiritual and mental success. Continuing my education means that it's only bettering me for the career path I choose to take. Education however doesn't necessarily have to limit itself to school; learning can happen anywhere. I believe a great education comes from in the classroom and outside of it. Believe it or not, watching the news, listening to the radio or talking amongst your peers is a form of education. If you learned something that you did not know before you are educating yourself. Educating yourself causes you to become less ignorant on a subject. I believe ignorance is the worst trait in humans. I feel if you want to voice your opinion on a subject, you must be educated in it.



Spiritual education plays a very important part in my life. Going to church and Sunday school helps makes me spiritually smarter, which is a key to many aspects of my life. Spiritually educating myself increases my morals, teaches me discipline, and gives me wisdom on making difficult life decisions. Having spiritual and academic education, along with life experience, ensures that I will be the best person I can be.

My goals and aspirations for five years are to study Communications and choose a career in that major. I believe God put me on this path because of my interest and skills with graphic design, computers, and my ability to communicate with others. I feel I can help the public and will contribute greatly to the field of Communications in the years to come. I have started pursuing my goal by interning with companies that are in the field of Communications. By having this experience, I am prepared as to what goes on in the industry. At my internship, I was educated in programs that I have never used before. In this instance education outside of the classroom is preparing me for the future. After college, my true goal is working with a big time ad agency, or in the broadcasting spectrum of Communications, or at a big time radio station or TV station such as ABC, and NBC.

With all my goals and aspirations in order it's up to me and the Lord to go through with these plans. If Communications isn't the career path for me after all, I trust in the Lord to guide and direct me to whichever path is best for me.

Know What to Do? *Do It*

By Simone Porter

"Knowing is not enough; we must apply. Willing is not enough; we must do." —Johann Wolfgang von Goethe.

Often, out of a fleeting passion to do good, hands are raised in unison when asked, who will volunteer to raise money for the needy, feed the hungry or serve hot dogs at a school function? However, many high school students today are unavailable to actually help based on prior commitments like extracurricular activities, after school and weekend jobs and hanging out. And these are poor excuses, when it comes to truly serving a community, and attaining knowledge; one must not only raise their hand, but show up and take part. This is what education means; knowing what you have to do and applying it.

In November of 2007, I chaired the youth program to honor the 25th Pastor's Anniversary. The task required leadership, a promise to be responsible and an understanding of church procedures. Organizing an entire program was a challenge I took seriously. The duties included: finding youth to commit and to participate, scheduling rehearsals and reserving rehearsal space and getting broadcast services for rehearsals and the program, as well as writing and designing announcements, formatting the program, as well as, planning refreshments and decorating the church. The success of the program was in my hands. The weight of doing a great job laid on my shoulders. An adult served as my vice chair; however, in her infinite wisdom, she relied on me to make the decisions and guided me through the process. Hours were spent sprawled out on the floor calling people, who were also my friends, to remind them of their role. Some people would not get back to me to say either "yes", or "no" to participating in the program. Planning the service took a lot of time daily. It was very frustrating, but I had confidence that Jesus would help me through it.



Planning the program gave me a new perspective about my life, the goals I plan on achieving and the way I think as a young, striving African-American girl. Although, chairing the Friday night youth program was a frightful process, letting people down are not words in my vocabulary. I am the type of 17-year old who likes to please people, and help myself in the process. That is what I have accomplished, and what education can acquire.

In the end, everything still sums up to, "Knowing is not enough; we must apply. Willing is not enough; we must do." In my situation, everything I did, I sought knowledge, and

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Know What to Do?

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carried it out. I used determination, leadership, and responsibility to help me succeed. All those are characteristics of achieving your goals, and truly knowing how education can help throughout your life. I promised the Pastor he would have a program from the youth by the youth; a promise I kept. Now, I am often asked to lead because I am committed to the service. The Pastor's gratitude made me feel like I can do anything, and I am ready to learn more, and reach for those high goals God has set for me.

*Don't let
anyone think
less of you
because
you are young.
Be an example
to all believers
in what you say,
in the way you live,
in your love,
your faith,
and
your purity.
1 Timothy 4:12
(NLT)*

Scholarship Luncheon

Reaching Back and Moving Forward

Sunday, June 14, 2009, 2 p.m.
Villa Borghese
Wappingers Falls

Guest speaker
Michael Brown

Ticket \$35 for adults
\$22 for seniors and students
Free for 6 and under

See Scholarship Ministry
members for tickets.

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