



## FACING YOUR GIANTS

**MAN UP** A column by Minister Nagash Clarke



*"...Be not afraid neither be dismayed for the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest." Josh 1:9*

A few years ago as I was preparing for work, I noticed something flying around the living room. Upon further investigation I realized it was a bat. Fear gripped me and I ran towards our bedroom. My wife Charissa, who was in the bedroom asked me what was wrong. When I told her she immediately closed the door and yelled for me to get it. Great, I was on my own. Images of blood sucking, count Dracula (way too much television) filled my mind. I wanted to run into the room myself and start to scream, but who would get the bat? I was the man of the house. It was up to me. I grabbed a blanket to cover my head, and a broom. I crept into the living room, and started swinging. I eventually hit it. It fell, stunned. I quickly used my broom stick to shove it out onto the balcony. It was December,

and thus very cold. If it wasn't dead, it would certainly die of frostbite. In a few minutes it got up and flew away. Charissa told me I looked funny, with the blanket over my head wielding a stick. I imagined myself as an Old Testament warrior like Joshua or Jonathon. I was deathly scared, but I got the bat out of the house.

Though the bat was significantly smaller than me, it still managed to immobilize me with fear. In effect it became a "giant" in my eyes. As we begin this New Year, there are "giants" we all face. These may include that home improvement project that you have been putting off for years. Or that smoking habit that you think no one knows about. You have just been diagnosed with a deadly disease. A toxic relationship that you cannot shake. What about that course that you have failed twice already, but you need it to graduate? Or the child who consistently brings home bad grades? The list is endless. What may seem small to one person is gigantic to another. Let's remember we serve a God who is concerned about every aspect of our lives. So face your giants in the name of Jesus and watch them fall.

## 40 Days of Prayer – New Year's Resolution

by Traci L. Buckner



Many of you have probably made decisions or resolutions to improve or work on certain areas of your life in 2009. While you are focusing on dropping certain habits, I encourage you to pick up a new one. Why not add "I will pray more in 2009" to the top of your list. Some of us struggle to meet the other goals on our list and quit before January is over. However, if you mix prayer with your effort, you may find that you are more successful this time around.

### Why am I bringing this up?

First of all, prayer should be common, not foreign to a believer. If Jesus had to pray, then we that believe in Him are going to have to pray too! Also, we will participate once again as a church family in the 40 Days of Prayer initiative. This will take place during the Lenten Season which starts February 25 and ends April 5, 2009. CLFMI does not have an assigned slot at the moment but I will be sure to keep you updated and let you know when you can sign up to pray. Of course, you don't have to wait until then to pray. You should start today!



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Ministries International

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Sun. Morning Prayer 10:10am  
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## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Children's Drama Ministry** Registration will be held Sunday January 11<sup>th</sup> after service in the old preschool room. Everyone interested in participating in any way (acting, directing, props & sets, writing) Please stop by and leave your information. Or contact Renee Hayward at rthaward@comcast.net or 734-218-5209.

**A Love Supreme, An Evening of Jazz** Sponsored by Christian Love Fellowship Ministries International's Brother2Brother Ministry January 17<sup>th</sup>, 7PM-10PM in the Fellowship Hall at CLFMI. 1601 Stamford Rd., Ypsilanti, MI. Donations of \$3 per person requested Please join us for an evening of Fantastic Music, Food, Fellowship, & Fun.

**Choir Auditions** Attention Family! The CLFMI Mass Choir is now open for auditions for ages 12 to adult! Please note the following dates: Thursday, Jan 15, 22 and 29 between the hours of 6:30PM to 7:30PM. Please see Sis. Monica Hartman or Sis. Tamika Morton for more details.

**Thunderous Grace Open House** Join CLFMI's Thunderous Grace Dance Ministry Open House January 24<sup>th</sup> at 1PM. For all ages starting at age 4. Don't miss this opportunity. Contact Minister Charissa Clarke for more information at 734.276.3914

**Marriage Enrichment** Our first Couple's event will be held on February 7<sup>th</sup> with a seminar called "I Still Do" from 9AM to 12PM and returning at 5PM to enjoy a wonderful dinner and a "I Still Do" renewal of vows ceremony. Sign Up begins, Sunday, Jan 11. Only \$20 per couple

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

William Davis January 1  
Teretha Gibson January 1  
Tamarrah Morgan January 3  
Esperanza Andrade January 4  
Hershal Brown January 4  
Ryan Kupiec January 4  
Betty Thomas January 5  
Donna Marshall January 6  
Cynthia Sidney January 6  
Veronica West January 6  
Steve Billingsley January 7  
Harry Hunter January 7  
Sylvia Spikes January 7  
Rhonda Vorhoff January 7  
Pamela McCoy January 8  
Sharon Wallace January 9  
Jennifer Barnes January 10  
Denese Brown January 10  
Antonice Strickland January 10  
Alanae Odom January 11  
Vanessa Davis January 12  
Apostle Robert Hill January 12  
Tasha Russell January 12  
Michael Tillman January 12  
Pastor Barbara Hill January 13  
Destini Hill January 13  
Norah Meekins January 13  
Chris Battle January 14  
Malina Moffett January 14  
Trevor Hayward January 15

Minnie Bradford January 16  
Stefanie Thacker January 18  
Imani Johnson January 19  
Michael Belin January 20  
Linnea Wallace January 20  
Paula Chick January 21  
Garfield Graham January 21  
Maren Benn January 22  
Kim Johnson-Billingsley January 24  
Juanita Campbell January 25  
Salena Baldwin January 26  
Carl McIntyre January 26  
Daniel Pereira January 26  
Sheryl White-Barnes January 26  
Jennifer Brown January 27  
Tabrina Rieves January 27  
Jeanette Corgial January 28  
Amelia Lundy January 28  
Printed on: Friday, January 18  
Kalaya Thomas January 28  
Terrell Wiley January 28  
Leverta Massey January 29  
Laverta Massey January 29  
Joe Rieves January 29  
Lamar Ashford January 31  
Kyle Hunter January 31

### ATTENTION GIVING MEMBERS OF CLF

The 2008 giving statements will be mailed the week of **January 12, 2009**. If you have moved in the past year please make sure the church has your current address on file. Please submit a **change of address form** to the secretary's office as soon as possible.

Thank you,  
**The Deacon Board**

## Classifieds

Do you have an interest in visual communication?

Then CLFMI has an opportunity for you. The Video, Media and Marketing ministries have available positions that may be suitable for you. We will train you on the latest graphic design and web software, PowerPoint presentations, you'll also learn about print management, advertising, duplication and packaging, video editing, and videography. Don't miss out. See Sis Kim Johnson-Billingsley, Monica Reynolds and or Victoria Brown for more information.

Do you need childcare?  
Please contact Shirley Cooper at 734.930.1548 for more information.

**Lights! Camera! And You!!!**  
The video ministry needs your help. We will train! Please see Victoria Brown for more details.

Pick up your *Weathering the Storm 2-Day Sermon* on DVD or CD in the library today. Buy **1 Day and Get the 2nd Day for Half Off!**

Post Your Ad, Announcement,  
Article or Event to the  
PlumbLINE! Go to  
[clfmi.net/plnews.html](http://clfmi.net/plnews.html)

February issue deadline:  
**Wednesday, Jan. 14th**

