

# Life Untapped!™

December 2006

Welcome to the December issue of **Life Untapped!**™ - a monthly newsletter for readers, writers and others desiring to be enlightened and uplifted.

I hope the information you find here, including profiles of inspiring personalities, books to consider and updates on my writing projects, will encourage you on your journey.

I'm honored to feature in this issue comments from my recent interview with once-homeless father, turned multi-millionaire stockbroker **Chris Gardner**, who is the subject of actor **Will Smith's** holiday season movie, **The Pursuit of Happyness**. Gardner is also the author of a New York Times bestselling memoir, *The Pursuit of Happyness*.

May this month's issue inspire you to make 2007 your best - and most blessed - year ever. The cliché is correct -for every single step you take, God will take two on your behalf!

Stacy

## Stacy Hawkins Adams



*What is an untapped life? One filled with love, laughter, faith, service and hope. One that believes simply because you lived to see this day, all of the possibilities it holds are within your reach. ©*

*Photography by Rachel Valenti*

### Stacy's News

I'm racing through December like the rest of you, with good food, good friends and of course, good books on my mind. :) My two children are ever-present reminders of the joy that makes this season so special. We won't be traveling to Arkansas this year to celebrate Christmas with our extended family, but we'll find other ways to connect with those we hold close to our hearts, in honor of the true meaning of this glorious holiday - the birth of our Lord and Savior. I hope you'll have the

## Chris Gardner's Pursuit of Happyness

I met Chris Gardner, a successful stockbroker and the author of *The Pursuit of Happyness*, in late September and was blessed by his down-to-earth confidence and sense of humor.



Gardner

53, was thrilled to partner with actor Will Smith and bring his life story to the big screen. (**The Pursuit of Happyness** movie premieres across the nation on Dec. 15.) Gardner believes that by sharing his story, he is giving hope to those who fear they're stuck in desperate situations.

Here's more about Chris Gardner, in his own words:

**Life Untapped! Question:** My newsletter, *Life Untapped!*™ encourages people to forge past their fears and embrace their faith in order to live fully and pursue their purpose. Would you say you have lived, or are living, an 'untapped life?'

**Chris Gardner:** I would say I'm living the life I've tried to create. But I like your terminology better – life untapped.

same opportunity.

## Featured Book Club of the Month



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### Book Club Name:

"Restoring the Joy" of New Life

\*

### Location:

Fayetteville, North Carolina

\*

### Book preferences:

Christian Fiction

\*

### Benefits of Membership:

*"The book club has opened the door to healing for the women who have participated. Broken hearts have been healed, hidden hurts have been exposed, and the opportunity to forgive past or present hurts has been a thread that has woven its way through each meeting."*

If your group is interested in being featured in the monthly Book Club section, please email me the

**LU:** Some people just go through the motions in life, without considering a particular destination. Were you intentional about creating a particular reality for yourself?

**CG:** Absolutely! And I wouldn't take nothing for my journey.

**LU:** Tell me about your book (and movie).

**CG:** The book is the story of my life, but it's really a 'book of us,' in that (many) of us had opportunities to become that which was in our faces, none of which was good. But we made conscious choices to go the other way.

The response to the book has been absolutely overwhelming in that regard.

So many people are saying, 'Wow, I thought it was just me.' That's why I think of it as the 'book of us.'

The success of the book has been phenomenal, beyond anything I would have dreamt. I've had to adjust my mindset, my thinking. I had dinner in September with Maya Angelou. If there's one person on this planet that will help you get your mind right, it's Maya Angelou!

I'm from a business background, and in my business, there's only one number that counts – number one. The book got up to number 22 on the New York Times extended bestsellers list. It's a great thing, and people all around me were telling me, 'You need to be excited.' All I could see was that there were 21 guys ahead of me.

But Dr. Angelou said to me, 'Your focus needs to be on, are people embracing the book; are your words helping change people's lives. If that's the case, then all the other stuff will come.' Everybody else was saying the same thing, but when Maya Angelou, who has written 22 books, 15 of which have become number one New York Times

information listed above and a **photo** of club members. Also answer **ONE** of the following questions: "**What makes your book club unique**" OR "**How has participating in this book club helped members grow or change for the better?**"

Send this information to

**publicist@stacyhawkinsadams.com** and include a phone number so that the information can be verified before publication.

## What's On Stacy's Bookshelf?

I was saddened last month by the death of author and journalist Bebe Moore Campbell. I had the pleasure of meeting her years ago, when I was a college student aspiring to write professionally. She graciously encouraged me, so it was fitting last summer that we shared time on a radio book club conference call, during which I discussed my first book and she shared details about her eighth. I admired her talent and her body of work. To honor her memory, I'm rereading several of her novels this month. They may interest you as well.

### Books by Bebe Moore Campbell:

- \* **Singing in the Comeback Choir**
- \* **Brothers and Sisters**
- \* **72 Hour Hold**

## New Christmas Anthology

*Just in time for the holiday season, **The Midnight Clear** is available for purchase via Amazon.com or my website. (See below) This collection of Christmas short stories penned by me, Kendra Norman-Bellamy, Patricia Haley, Tia McCollors and 17 other Christian fiction authors is filled with tales that we hope will entertain, encourage and inspire you.*



bestsellers, looks you in the eye and says, 'Son, you're giving the wrong energy,' all I could say was, 'Yes Ma'am.'

**LU:** You were homeless at one time, and even slept in a bathroom with your young son. When you say you 'wouldn't take nothing for your journey,' why not?

**CG:** I had to go through certain experiences to have the end product become what it is. Being tried by fire definitely has its benefits.

**LU:** What's your advice for individuals who feel as if they're being 'tried by fire' now?

**CG:** You have to go through that. There is no other way. Just keep going forward, keep going forward. My mom used to always tell me that baby steps count too, as long as you're going forward.

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### Quote of the Month

"If one asks for success and prepares for failure, he will get the situation he has prepared for."  
Florence Scovel Shinn, artist and author

Abundant Blessings! Stacy

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## Authors' Holiday Cookie Swap

If you're still baking and need a few new ideas for holiday treats, a group of authors are offering more than books this month. Visit LaShaunda Hoffman's Shades of Romance Magazine website (listed below) and check out the creative cookie recipes provided by nearly a dozen writers.

### [Shades of Romance Magazine's Authors' Holiday Cookie Swap](#)

Have a wonderful and blessed Christmas! Remember, the greatest gift each of us can give is the kind of love we appreciate - sincere and unconditional, given freely with no strings attached.

## Stacy's Links

- [Visit Stacy's Website](#)
- [Bless Someone with Stacy's Books this Christmas!](#)
- [Visit Stacy's Crosswalk.com Blog](#)

The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill,  
and to destroy. I have come that they may have life,  
and that they may have it more abundantly. *John*  
*10: 10 (NKJV)*