

Life Untapped!™

January 2007

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

I'm honored to feature in this issue author, talk show host and radio commentator **Tavis Smiley**, whose books have spent considerable time on the New York Times bestseller list in the past year.

This issue also features acclaimed author **William Henry Lewis**. It's my prayer that these first weeks of the New Year have renewed your hope and revived your efforts to improve your life in some way. Stockbroker and author Chris Gardner said it so well in last month's newsletter that I have to repeat it: "*Baby steps count too.*" Start today!

Stacy

Tavis Smiley - What He Knows for Sure

Tavis Smiley believes everybody has a story, but when Doubleday Books asked him to pen his autobiography, initially he balked.

"I didn't know what made my particular journey unique," said Tavis, 42. "I eventually decided to write it, because there's something about each of our stories that can

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.

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[Photography by Rachel Valenti](#)

Stacy's News

This newsletter is arriving a little later than usual because I've been working on one of my goals - to become more Internet savvy!

I'm excited to tell you that I've accomplished my mission with two new features that might interest you:

I'm now on **My Space!** Click the link at the bottom of the page to find me there; and

empower other people.

Life is really about who and what infused you and how you share what you learn from other people. We ought to share, if it can help others live better lives.”

X When he embraced that notion, Tavis partnered with renowned biographer David Ritz to pen *What I Know for Sure: My Life Growing Up In America*. The book was released in October 2006 and graced the New York Times bestseller list within a week.

The memoir details Tavis’ religious upbringing and the challenges he faced as one of ten children. He shares how he overcame various struggles and decided to trust the vision he crafted for his life.

Tavis sought a career in politics. To his surprise, that dream morphed into political and social activism through the spoken and written word.

Today, Tavis shares his views on a weekly PBS show called *Tavis Smiley*, in twice-a-week radio commentaries on the Tom Joyner Morning Show, and on syndicated independent radio stations across the nation.

He is the founder and host of the annual State of the Black Union conference, which will be held in Hampton, Virginia Feb. 9-10, in commemoration of the 400th anniversary of Jamestown.

As he plunges full speed into 2007, Tavis continues to pursue his goals in the fashion he always has – with

I've created an interactive blog called *If I Had Written This Book*. Visit the site (the link is below) and tell me what you liked, hated or questioned about the characters in *Speak To My Heart* and *Nothing But the Right Thing*. Share your thoughts and opinions about the excerpt that's posted from the first chapter of *Speak To My Heart*.

Between now and September, I'll post a new excerpt every month to jog your memory about the characters or introduce you to them, in preparation for the October release of the third and final book in the series, *Watercolored Pearls*. Please stop by the blog and participate! This should be fun, plus you'll be eligible to win a **\$25 gift certificate** once a month!

[If I Had Written This Book...](#)

Featured Book Club of the Month



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Book Club Name:

Women of Color

*

Location:

Clarksville, Tennessee

faith and intention. He hopes it's a practice that others will embrace.

"Every one of us has a gift," he said. "When God gives you a gift, He creates for that gift a corresponding need.

"Folks throughout history who have made significant contributions were gifted in a unique way. Recognize that you are gifted and that there is a need for the gift you have," he said. "When you do that, know that you are walking in your vocation. You're not walking through life looking for a job; you are walking in your purpose."

What is Tavis' gift?

"I've been blessed on radio, in print, on the lecture circuit," he said. "All of these platforms provide me with the opportunity to empower people with information to help them live better lives. Through love and service, I try to empower the lives of everyday people."

Note: Next month's newsletter will include a link to my Richmond Times-Dispatch interview with Tavis about the soon-to-be-released *The Covenant in Action*, the sequel to 2006's bestselling *The Covenant with Black America*.

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Book preferences:

Literary and commercial fiction, women's fiction, Christian fiction and a variety of nonfiction titles.

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Benefits of Membership:

"Because we agree to disagree, we have grown, in that our disagreements are not personal, and we take what is said into consideration. We have bonded together as sisters and as friends, and each of us has grown by being able to come together and discuss all kinds of topics. None of us expected the love, friendship, and sisterhood that our book club gives."

If your group is interested in being featured in the monthly Book Club section, please email me the 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've been reading a range of page-turners this month, both fiction and nonfiction. These are authors and titles you don't want to miss:

Abraham's Well by Sharon Ewell Foster

The Stones Cry Out by Sibella Giorello

Chasing God and the Kids Too: Balancing a Mom's Most Important Pursuits by Cheryl R. Carter

Tangerine and **If the Shoe Fits**, two new releases by Marilyn Griffith

Quote of the Month

"The world needs dreamers and the world needs doers. But above all, the world needs dreamers who do."

Sarah Ban Breathnach, Author

Meet Literary Author William Henry Lewis

I had the pleasure of meeting William Henry "Hank" Lewis several months ago when his book was selected by the Richmond Public Library for "GO READ," a program that serves as a citywide book club.

X Hank is an English professor at Colgate University and the author of *I Got Somebody in Staunton*, a short story collection that weaves the past into contemporary American issues.

Interestingly, the short story that bears the same title as the book isn't even about Staunton - it's about the character's *journey* to the city, and in a sense, his journey to an untapped life.

"It's a story that happens in a car; it's about the trip," said Hank, whose book received the American Library Association's Black Caucus Fiction Honor Award and garnered him a finalist slot for the PEN Faulkner Prize for Fiction.

"It's a journey he's taking into the

Register Now for Cruisin' for Christ!



Bestselling Christian fiction author Kendra Norman- Bellamy is hosting the **Cruisin' for Christ**, a week-long cruise that will feature some of the most gifted Christian authors and gospel artists in the industry.

The cruise sets sail from Port Canaveral, Florida on August 25 and returns September 1.

Don't miss this chance to connect with some of your favorite authors and gospel singers. You're sure to be blessed!

[Cruisin' for Christ](#)

Faith-Lift with Stanice

Want to hear a dose of inspiration via your computer, Ipod or MP3 player? Check out author Stanice Anderson's Faith-Lift podcasts.

[Faith-Lift with Stanice](#)

past to empower himself to make decisions. It's definitely about remembering a lot of journeys that came before his."

Hank shared his thoughts on the writing process:

LU: What are the most important elements to capture when you're writing?

Hank: The essence of story is important; the way a story rolls out, the way it's told. I was very fascinated in the first person stories (in my book) with how when someone tells a story, that, in a way, is creating what readers know of that person. I've been pleased... when people have a reaction to the sound of the stories. The oral traditions in storytelling are important to me. I want the sound and cadence of the stories to be foremost. Then, when you're in that space, you might be moved by an issue or remember something that's historically important.

LU: How do you hone your craft and keep growing as a writer?

Hank: Poetry has been important for me, both the reading and writing of it, (as well as) reading the work aloud. There's an old sports saying, 'The more I practice, the luckier I get.' The more that you notice that sort of thing in other work - the more you notice lyricism in music, in language, in speeches, in sermons and in articles - it opens you up to be able to do that yourself. The skill is knowing what's useful on the page and what's ego.

LU: What do you want readers to take away from your book?

Join Me on The Talking Book Show!

On Thurs., Feb. 1, I'll be interviewed on **The Talking Book Show** by Precious Memories bookstore owner Linda Pate on the topic "**Empowering Yourself and Others through Writing.**"

Near the end of the Internet show, author William Henry "Hank" Lewis will join us to discuss the process of writing and share more details about how he crafted his award-winning short story collection, *I Got Somebody in Staunton*.

To participate in the discussion:

Visit www.talkshoe.com (see the link below), register for free, pick a PIN, and optionally download the TalkShoe Live software.

Type "Talking Book Show" in the Search function.

Between 6:45-7 p.m., log onto the website.

Then click the purple 'Talk' bubble that says, "Listen, text or talk live." (Sign in if it prompts you to and then click the Talk bubble again. Follow the on-screen instructions.)

I'm looking forward to chatting with you!

[The Talking Book Show](#)

Buy Stacy's Books



[Speak To My Heart * Nothing But the Right Thing](#)

Stacy's Links

- [Visit Stacy on My Space!](#)

Hank: I want readers to feel like these are stories they need to return to. I want people to come away thinking about how and why the story was told, and make sure the reading experience is as much about that as (the fact) that it was an interesting story. I'm always pleased when readers bring something to the story that's important to them, and I hear what they got out of the stories that I didn't intend.

Those who live in or near Richmond can meet William Henry Louis when he returns to the city on **Thursday, Feb. 8 at 7 p.m.** for a discussion and signing that is free and open to the public. The event will be held at **St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 815 E. Grace Street** in downtown Richmond. Visit "GoReadRichmond.com for more details.

Abundant Blessings! Stacy

Stacy Hawkins Adams
ClayWork Enterprises

email: publicist@stacyhawkinsadams.com

web: <http://www.stacyhawkinsadams.com>

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)

- [Participate in *If I Had Written This Book...* Stacy's Interactive Blog](#)
- [Visit Stacy on Crosswalk.com](#)
- [Visit Stacy's Website](#)