



# Life Untapped!™

May 2008

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

I'm honored to feature in this issue pediatric neurosurgeon and bestselling author **Dr. Ben Carson**, who has written a new book to help readers take calculated risks and leaps of faith toward their life's purpose.

As we settle into spring and head toward summer, I hope Dr. Carson's words will inspire you to dream bigger dreams and find the courage to pursue them.

Warmest Regards,  
Stacy

### Quote of the Month

***"Each of us should lead a life stirring enough to start a movement. We should yearn to change the world. We should love unquenchably, dream unfalteringly, and work unceasingly."***

Max Lucado, Inspirational Author and Minister

### Meet Neurosurgeon & Author Dr. Ben Carson

Dr. Benjamin Carson is as famous for succeeding against the odds as he is for his world-renowned work as a pediatric neurosurgeon.



Carson, 56, has chronicled his journey from a childhood of poverty and

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

Spring has been busy with writing assignments, speaking engagements and book club discussions. To those of you that I've met in person, thanks for being so welcoming and gracious. To those I've connected with during speakerphone chats, your warmth has flowed through the phone lines. I'm looking forward to meeting more of you at some of the upcoming events listed below.

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I appreciate those of you who have helped my most recent novel, ***Watercolored Pearls***, become a Black Expressions Book Club bestseller. I hope you've been entertained, inspired and blessed by the book. Please keep spreading the word

adversity to being named director of pediatric neurosurgery at the Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions in three books: "**Gifted Hands**," "**Think Big**," and "**The Big Picture**."

He operates on more than 300 children every year at Johns Hopkins Children's Center in Baltimore and is best known for his expertise in separating conjoined twins.

Earlier this year, he released a new book, co-authored with Gregg Lewis. In "**Take the Risk: Learning to Identify, Choose, and Live with Acceptable Risk**," Carson shares the strategy he uses to make wise decisions in his professional, personal and spiritual life. He recently spoke with me about the title.

**LU: Why did you write this book, given that your story already has been shared in your three previous works?**

**Carson:** To give some rational way of evaluating risk that won't leave you saying, 'Why did I do that?' or 'Why didn't I realize there was this opportunity?' People jump headlong into situations without doing rational analysis. Suppose they had done a BWA - best/worst analysis - before doing that? That's why God gave us these fabulous brains, so we could engage in rational thought process. This book also looks at the totality of my experience, plus the experiences of lots of other people on the basis of risk and why they did what they did. It even looks at situations like the Cuban Missile Crisis.

**LU: Why did you focus on the subject of risk?**

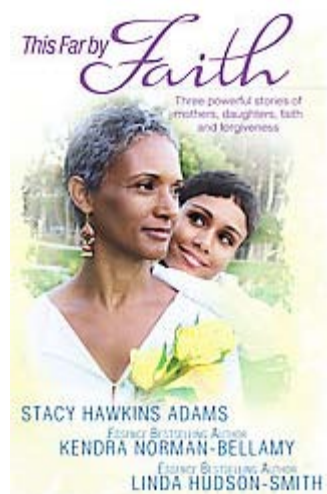
**Carson:** Risk is inherent in my work as a neurosurgeon. In looking at the broader society, I realized that we're becoming risk adverse. When you think about people who accomplish things, they are risk takers. The people who are great explorers or discovered new things in medicine, they are risk takers. The guy who

about this title, and earlier ones in the series, "**Nothing But the Right Thing**" and "**Speak To My Heart**."

Many of you would like this series to continue, but for now, my publisher has charged me with another task: I've been creating a host of new characters for The Jubilant Soul series. The first of these three books, "**The Someday List**," will be released in January 2009, so stayed tuned for details!

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In the meantime, consider picking up a copy of my latest release, an anthology called "**This Far By Faith**." It was published by Harlequin's Kimani Press in April.



My story details the journey of fledgling actress Jessica Drake and Broadway diva Diana Edmonds, who wind up sharing a stage, but little else. Jessica would like to be mentored, or at least foster a cordial working relationship with the superstar, but Diana won't let anyone - especially a beautiful new actress - get close. Before the story ends, one of the women receives a shocking revelation that could derail the other's career.

Get your copy to learn whether faith and forgiveness will triumph over the desire to succeed at all costs.

**This Far By Faith** also features novellas penned by two of my favorite Christian fiction authors, Kendra Norman-Bellamy and Linda Hudson-Smith.

This book would make a great Mother's Day gift!

came up with the polio vaccine, he vaccinated himself and his whole family. Those are the things that lead to progress.

Many people have accused me of being 'out there' with doing some surgery. I always do a BWA (best/worst analysis). If I think not doing anything will lead to a horrible situation, I'll do something.

If you're in a room and there's a hungry tiger getting ready to attack you and you see a black hole behind you, I'm going to go through that hole.

The fact that we're now afraid that some things may happen or that people might sue you, is crazy. We blow things way out of proportion. Then there are people who never accomplish anything, because they take too many of the wrong risks. They don't look before they leap. Faith itself is a risk. Many people in the science arena think faith is something for weak-minded people who don't know enough to explain what's going on. I've made it clear that these great scientific minds can't explain everything either. There was a big bang and all of a sudden (the world) was perfect? That goes against the second law of thermodynamics.

We all have faith; it's a matter of where do we decide to place that faith.

If you want to say there is no God versus there is a God, and want to do a BWA (best/worst analysis) on that, what's the best thing that's going to happen if there is a God and you believe in Him, and the worst thing that's going to happen if there is a God and you don't believe in Him? I'd rather go on the safe side.

### **LU: Why is taking risks important to personal growth?**

**Carson:** Ask yourself what would happen to a person who sits in the house all day long and never ventures outside and doesn't have any interaction with the rest of the world. Can they exist? Of course they can. But they are never going to

### **Book Club Corner**

Many thanks to my book club friends across the country who have connected with me in speakerphone chats or invited me to speak at their literary functions. Special gratitude is extended this month to the:

\* **Women of Character Book Club** of Orlando, Fla. for selecting *Watercolored Pearls* as its 2007 Book of the Year.

\* **New Life Bible Church Women's Ministry** of Fayetteville, N.C. for inviting me to serve as your Women's Month Keynote Speaker and creating a special pearl ceremony based on *Watercolored Pearls*;

\* **The Charlottesville Chapter of The Links** for inviting me to participate in your Virginia Festival of the Book Celebration Brunch; and

**Sisters in the Spirit Book Club**( Fort Belvoir, Va.); **New Bethlehem M.B. Church Women's Ministry Book Club**(Chicago, Illinois); **Circle of Sistas Book Club**(Macon, Ga.); **K&K Book Club**(Charlotte, N.C.), and **Circle of Knowledge Book Club**(Fort Worth, Tex.)

for "hosting" me at your meetings, via a speakerphone chat.

***If your group is interested in calling me during your book club meeting to discuss one or more of my novels, shoot me an email at [stacy@stacyhawkinsadams.com](mailto:stacy@stacyhawkinsadams.com) to schedule a half hour speakerphone chat. I'd love to join you!***

### Stacy's Upcoming Events

**Saturday, May 10 @ 1 to 3 p.m.**

Barnes & Noble Booksellers -  
Commonwealth Centre  
4600 Commonwealth Center Parkway  
Midlothian, Virginia  
(Near Brandermill and Commonwealth 20  
Cinemas) (804) 744-5483

**Tuesday, June 3**

Keynote Speaker  
Youth Life Foundation of Richmond's Hope  
Gala

grow. They are not going to have much of an incentive to discover new things because they are not going to know what the problems are. Unless you expose yourself and challenge those resources that God has provided for you, you mold, you wilt. Unfortunately, what I'm talking about happens to a vast majority of people day to day.

**LU: What's your advice to someone who is preparing to chart a new course in life that requires some level of risk?**

**Carson:** Think about things you have accomplished. Concentrate on those and not failure, and if you have a failure, make sure you learn from it. You'll fortify yourself and you're much less likely to do it again.

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Register Now for Online Writing Conference  
Registration fee (\$10) covers this May 31 workshop, which includes opportunities to ask questions of published authors and other industry veterans. Visit the link below to sign up today.

[Expert Writers Will Be a Mouse Click Away](#)

Abundant Blessings! Stacy

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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)**

Richmond, Virginia

**June 19-21**  
Workshop Presenter  
Black Writers Reunion & Conference  
Tampa, Florida  
[www.blackwriters.org](http://www.blackwriters.org)

What's On Stacy's Bookshelf?

These are some of the pageturners currently on my nightstand:

**Jezebel** by Jacquelin Thomas

**The Truth about Love** by Tia McCollors

**The Battle of Jericho** by Kendra Norman- Bellamy

**When Heaven Weeps** by Ted Dekker

Stacy Speaks - Let Her Inspire Your Group!

If your group or organization needs a keynote speaker for an upcoming event, visit the Speaker page of my website (see below) or email Danielle at [events@stacyhawkinsadams.com](mailto:events@stacyhawkinsadams.com) to obtain a Speaker Request Form. It's an honor to use both the written and spoken word to help members of your organization develop a vision or move forward with the purpose or goals they desire to achieve.

**Feedback from Some Recent Clients**

**\* Grace E. Harris Leadership Institute, Virginia Commonwealth University:**

***"I had heard a number of amazing things about her presentations, books and other work. To experience it for myself left me moved. Ms. Adams carefully considered the theme of the conference and really took the time to create a well thought out speech that was inspirational and motivational and in line with the goals of the program."***

Dr. N. Douglas

**\* New Life Women's Ministry,  
Fayetteville, N.C.:**

***"Stacy was an excellent as well as effective speaker. She ensured that her message was well understood."***

S. Carpenter

**\* Appomattox Regional Library,  
Hopewell, VA:**

***"Her willingness to engage in Q&A brought a warm response from her audience. We also welcomed getting an audience that was more diverse than our usual one. I would endorse her to any other public library for a talk on her work or on the writing life."***

C. Wiegard

[More Info On Stacy's Speaking](#)

Order Your Copy of Watercolored Pearls



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Order New Anthology



[This Far By Faith](#)

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