



Welcome to the November 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 a brief excerpt from an interview with Grammy-winning gospel artist **CeCe Winans**, who published a devotional book for young women with Christian author **Claudia Mair Burney** about 18 months ago.

CeCe shares how she balances her high profile career with family time, and Claudia shares details about their writing collaboration.

As we celebrate Thanksgiving and Christmas this year, make an extra effort during this period of economic uneasiness to appreciate what matters most - your family, your friends, your health and life itself. Being blessed with any or all of these is cause enough for gratitude.

***In Friendship and Faith,
Stacy***

Quote of the Month

"When we do the best that we can, we never know what miracle is wrought in our life, or in the life of another."

Helen Keller, Internationally renowned advocate for the deaf and blind

Meet Gospel Artist CeCe Winans

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

This month I mostly have been tied to my laptop writing. I'm working on both a novel and a nonfiction book and will share more details about both of these titles in future newsletters.

When I'm not writing in the coming weeks, I'll be doing much of what you're likely doing as well - preparing for the holidays and closely watching all of the change that is taking place in our country - from the presidency to Wall Street.

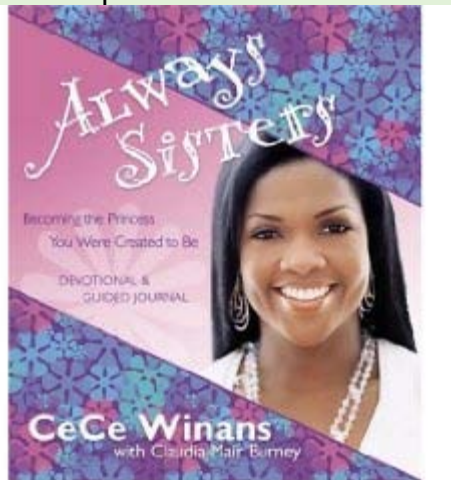
This is a critical season to evaluate our lives and give thanks for the things that work, while pruning the things that limit our ability to walk in our divine purpose. It is a season of obedience and sacrifice that, if viewed from the proper perspective, can draw us closer to each other and to the divine Creator.

CeCe Winans has sold millions of albums worldwide and continues to touch a chord with music lovers from all walks of life with her songs of faith and hope. Her latest CD, ***Thy Kingdom Come***, was released to acclaim earlier this year.

When she's not recording or touring, however, CeCe devotes considerable time to other issues close to her heart - her family and an annual conference for girls and young adult women, called Always Sisters. CeCe developed the national conference in 2005 for females ages 13 to 26.

During the two-day event, young ladies from across the nation receive encouragement and guidance on how to love themselves, honor God and make good choices.

With the help of author Claudia Mair Burney, CeCe penned a book of devotions - ***Always Sisters: Becoming the Princess You Were Created to Be*** - to serve as a companion guide to what the young ladies experience at the conference.



CeCe briefly shared with ***Life Untapped!*** why the conference and the book are important to her, and how she has successfully juggled a demanding career with family life.

Life Untapped!: Why did you write *Always Sisters*?

Winans: When you see those babies come down to the altar (at the conference) and you get feedback that their lives were changed, a joy comes out of that. (My team and I)

Many thanks to the ladies of **Shiloh Baptist Church (New Site)** in Fredericksburg, Va. and **Trinity Baptist Church** in Richmond, Va. for inviting me to serve as a speaker at your recent women's conferences.

It was an honor to join you, and I hope the messages both blessed you and moved you to action.

As you're shopping for gifts in the coming weeks, don't forget to give **a few good books** - mine as well as others that I've recommended in this newsletter. Books not only entertain; they help shape who we are by impacting our thoughts, our hopes and our dreams.

Stacy's Upcoming Events

Saturday, Dec. 6 - 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Barnes & Noble Booksellers
Chesterfield Towne Center
11500 Midlothian Turnpike
Midlothian, Virginia
(804) 794-6640

SAVE THE DATE!

Friday, Jan. 9, 2009

Barnes & Noble - Libbie Place
5501 W. Broad Street
Richmond, Virginia
6:30 p.m.

Join Stacy for "The Someday List" party, a book release reception for this first novel in Stacy's new fiction series. Come meet Stacy, her special guests, and receive tips on how to craft your own "someday list" for the New Year!

What's On Stacy's Bookshelf?

I've had the privilege in recent years of meeting quite a few self-published authors whose books have kept me turning pages.

I'd like to salute their efforts by spreading the word about some of their work this month. If you're looking for a great fiction or nonfiction read, consider these titles:

just want to put out a lot of products that will aid our girls. **Always Sisters** is a devotion that teaches a lot of things we've been teaching in the conference - to help the girls be reminded of the lessons that they learned about how to be successful and how to (incorporate) those practices into everyday life.

LU: Your son recently graduated from college and your daughter graduates in May. How did you balance the tasks of nurturing them when they were younger and thriving in your chosen career?

Winans: When they were younger, I had great help from my mom and mother-in-law. They were always with people I could trust when I left them. When they got to the pre-teenage years, I took them out of school and homeschooled them for a few years. They went on the road with me. I was determined not to leave town and come back from touring and not recognize my kids. They went back into school for high school. You just make those adjustments.

LU: What is your advice for busy women who are trying to balance family life while pursuing a dream or succeeding at work?

Winans: Balancing is something you have to keep doing. It's not an easy thing. You have to have your priorities straight. I understood that being a wife and mother is my most honorable place. You put God first and then the family, and everything else comes next.

Every stage brings on different restrictions and different things you have to do...(but) you have to spend time together.

I didn't make every after party or this and that, but God continued to bless what I did because I honored Him first. When you do that, God will bless you in your business and ministry.

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Soul Name by Naana Kyreboah

Fear Not: Learning from Your Cancer
by Judy Gattis Smith

Blessings of Purpose by Alicia Hill Jones

Dear Sistahs by Veronica A. McCall

Youths Living in Foster Care Speak

I serve on the board of Voices for Virginia's Children, a nonprofit, nonpartisan child advocacy organization that recently sponsored VOICES FOR CHANGE, a contest in which youths ages 12 to 21 could submit their original illustrations, essays and photographs that depicted their experiences in Virginia's foster care system.

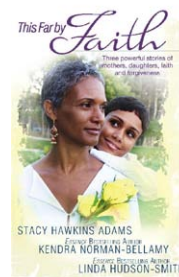
Open the link below to read an online version of the book that was unveiled by Virginia First Lady Anne Holton (honorary chairperson of the initiative) during a recent reception for contest winners. Enjoy, and consider advocating for foster children in your state however you can.

Order Christmas Gift Copies of
Watercolored Pearls Today



[Purchase Watercolored Pearls](#)

Get Your Copy of **This Far By Faith**



[This Far By Faith](#)

Coming Soon - The Someday List!

Meet Author Claudia Mair Burney
Claudia Mair Burney is a prolific Christian fiction novelist (and a great friend) whose books include the well-received Amanda Bell Brown mystery series and the recently released ***Wounded: A Love Story***.



In her "spare" time, Burney was tapped a few years ago to co-author *Always Sisters* with gospel artist CeCe Winans.

Today, she briefly shares details about that experience:

Life Untapped: How did you and CeCe Winans collaborate to produce *Always Sisters*?
Burney: *I went to the Always Sisters Conference and soaked up the blessings, knowledge, and grace. From there I wrote the ideas that seemed to be most important to CeCe. She went over them, and from there we worked in whatever way was necessary to get the book finished.*

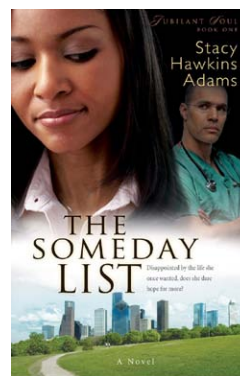
It really inspired me and strengthened my faith to go through the Word, looking for just the right passages of Scripture. The conference was also very interesting.

LU: Have you shared this book with your daughters?

Burney: *Yes, I have. I've got a house full of girls. Bianca is 18, Abbie is 17, Nia Grace is 11, and Aziza is 9. There's a lot there for all of them, and all got their own copy.*

LU: Which form of writing do you enjoy most - fiction or nonfiction?

Burney: *I like both, but I'm preparing to do more nonfiction. Fiction or non, I just love a good story. I believe Jesus was the same way. He used stories to share Truth. Can't argue with His success.*



[Pre-Order Now](#)

Stacy's Links

- [Voices for Change - Foster Youths Speak](#)
- [Visit Stacy's Website](#)



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)