

# Pearls &

JANUARY/FEBRUARY  
2021

Mini Mag to Inspire Today's Urban Girl

**Hospitality  
101:  
7 Tips to  
Remember on  
Your 1st  
Job**

**Jada Smith  
Thankful In The  
Pandemic**

Room Design  
It's your  
Bedroom  
Make It Yours

# GEMS

*girl  
boss*

**Ciera Hodges  
"CiCi's Haircare"**

**MAKAYLA FREEMAN  
WE DID IT!**

**Quiz and Goal Setting**

# Don't Stop Dreaming!

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Don't Stop Dreaming

**PEARLS & GEMS  
MINI-MAGAZINE**

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**PEARLS & GEMS**

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You are God's Exceptionally  
Made (GEM) Girl! Designed for  
destiny, empowered with  
purpose. Encouraged to dream  
as we inspire you to soar!



*Hey There  
Girls!*

Happy New Year!  
2021WON is here!! As  
we celebrate, we  
acknowledge new  
leadership in the  
White House as well  
as making history.

Can we say

congratulations Madam Vice President, Kamala Harris, the  
first woman and woman of color to hold the nation's second  
highest office? It is Pure Beauty GEMS mission to let you  
know that each of you are Designed for destiny,  
empowered with purpose. And we continue to encourage  
you to achieve your dreams as well as inspire you to soar.

In this issue we want to welcome three awesome and  
beautiful young ladies who are our contributing authors for  
this issue. We have our "**Girl Boss**" entrepreneur, Ms.  
Ciera Hodges as she provides tips on **Healthy Haircare**.  
You will be inspired by Ms. Makayla Freeman article "**We  
Did It!**". Finally, Ms. Jada Smith asks the question "**What  
are You Thankful for in the Pandemic?**" If you are  
thinking about getting your first job or you may already  
have one, read 7 tips to Remember on Your First Job.

Of course, we still have the "other stuff". Devos, coloring  
pages, the book club and something new in this issue, an  
opportunity for you to write your goals for 2021. We really  
hope you enjoy the issue. Until next time, ladies!

*Celena*





# What Are You Thankful for During this Pandemic?

By Jada Smith

**M**y name is Jada Smith; I currently am a senior at Clarion University, majoring in Psychology.

As my undergraduate career comes to a close, I would like to obtain a **Masters of Clinical** Mental Health Counseling at Clarion University. I am also a student-athlete and a part of the Women's Basketball Team. Recently, living in a pandemic I have grown in many ways mentally and spiritually.

The Coronavirus (**Covid-19**) has changed many lives around the world. Over thousands have been impacted or killed due to the virus. The hardships of the Coronavirus have taken over mental health, finances, everyday life, and employment. While facing hardships and struggles I have still been blessed with plenty of opportunities during the pandemic. I have been very thankful during the pandemic for not having any close family killed from Covid-19. I am very thankful for health and being able to wake up every day. I have learned to be thankful for the little things even more since the pandemic.

I am very thankful for the growth of

my nonprofit. During the pandemic I have expanded my services and my impact has reached beyond my community. I have had several speaking engagements for organizations in multiple states. In 2019 I created an organization called **Scholars With Athletic Goals (SWAG)**. **S.W.A.G.-Scholars With Athletic/Artistic/Academic Goals** is an organization dedicated to motivating, uplifting, encouraging, and helping young women

reach their goals through mentorships, workshops, and scholarships. Through SWAG I began to raise money so that I can provide more services and resources. Through the pandemic, I was interviewed about my nonprofit and my journey of life with LivingStrongConsulting, YBC-Youth Building Conversations, Queen of Diamonds, and PrayerTours.

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*"Each year for the past 8 years I have awarded a girl the Jada J. Smith Athletic Scholar Award."*

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Despite living in pandemic, I was still able to give my own award out to a young student-athlete. The award I created in the 9th grade of high school is for a 7th grade girl who made the honor roll while being a standout athlete. Each year for the past 8 years I have awarded a girl the Jada J. Smith Athletic Scholar Award. Each girl receives a plaque and a scholarship that is applied to their 8th grade tuition. The purpose of the award is to emphasize the importance of academic achievement in athletes and celebrate those who are able to accomplish both. I think it is important to praise students- especially young women- who are able to maintain their studies while being a superstar in their sport. This year, I provided a student with a plaque and a monetary award of \$250.00 for their 2020-



2021 tuition. Giving my award this year was very special because despite being in pandemic it was still a moment to put a

spotlight over the receipt of the award during such a difficult time. I was very thankful to be able to still give my scholarship out and bring happiness to scholar athlete.

While COVID-19 was one of the leading and most talked about causes of death this past year, in May the Death of George Floyd shed light on another very conversational issue. This caused a major outrage across the world. Since I could not protest due to still recovering from my injury, I wanted to find another solution to support BlackLivesMatter and the injustices. I produced a film *Can You "See" Me* on YouTube that included my friends and family from ages ten to twenty-one in June. The purpose of the video was to allow each of us to share about each of our perspectives on the injustices in the world. I wanted to create a video to allow them to share and express their truth. Before creating the short film, I allowed each of them to meet through Zoom. The power of the call was so vibrant. Each of them lived in different states, ages, career goals and attended different schools. Despite all the differences each of us were able to come together to make this film.

As 2020 began to come to a close. I was not only thankful for all the opportunities God has given me to help with others, the community, health, and share truth. I was also thankful to be able to stay

focused and finish this semester on the Dean's List and I was inducted into *Psi Chi The International Honor Society of Psychology*). Covid-19 has challenged each of us in many ways in the world, but

Although Covid-19 is still going, there is so much more to be thankful for in life. The blessing of waking up every day is the biggest multitude I could ask for and remaining healthy since the pandemic. I am grateful and thankful for everything that happened throughout the pandemic.

with a lot of faith, prayer, and perseverance I am blessed and thankful that God continued to work in my life despite the circumstances.



## **Who or what is YBC – Youth Building Conversations!**

YBC – Youth Building Conversation's mission is to provide a no judgement zone platform for Pre-teens, Teens, and Young Adults to communicate, listen, and share ideas.

My vision for YBC is to use the content from our platform to strategize and execute additional opportunities (outreach, community service, and internships, etc.)

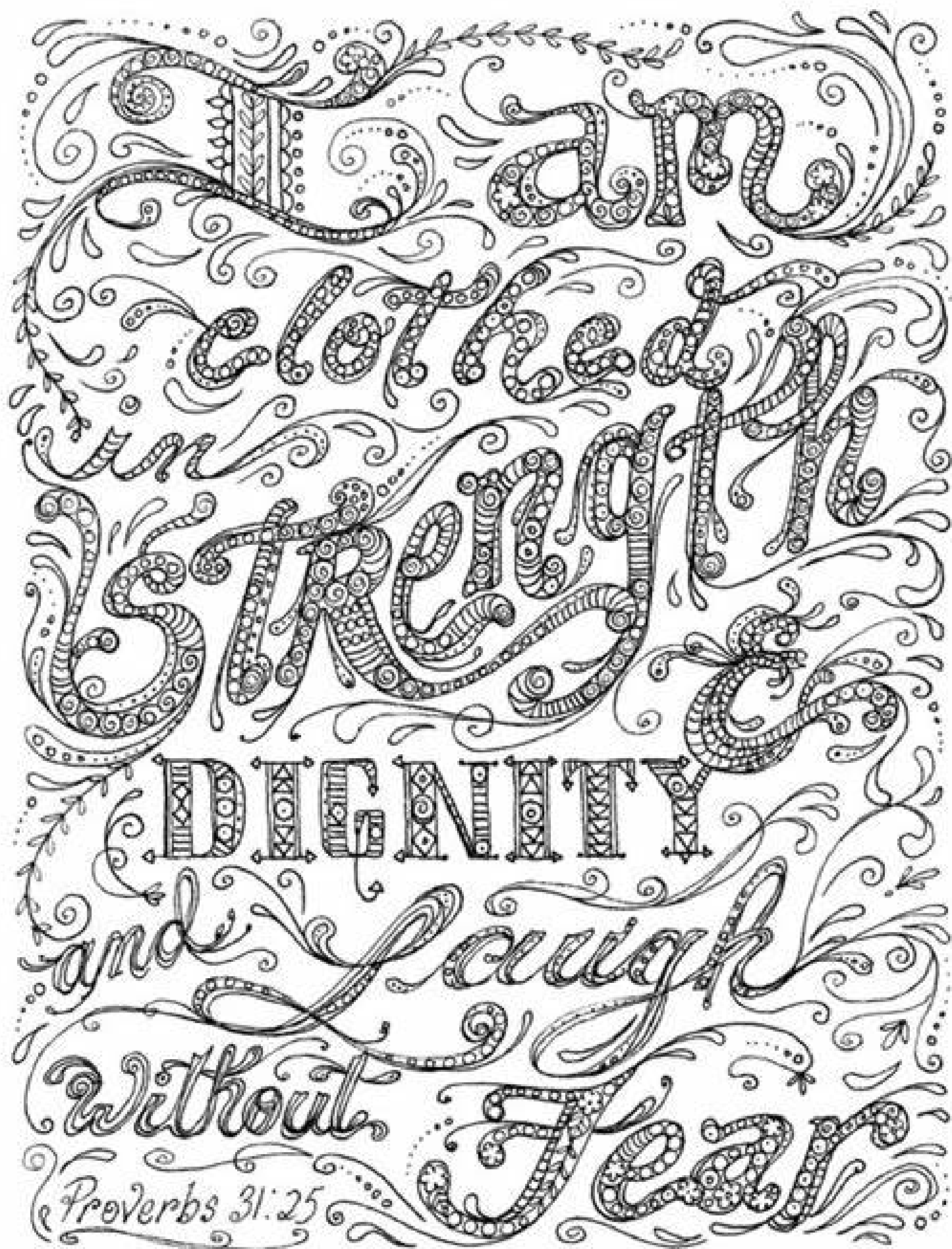
If you are interested in learning more about the platform, please contact me at

[youthbc3@gmail.com](mailto:youthbc3@gmail.com).

Be sure to follow us at IG@ybconversation, Facebook Group, and You Tube YBC-Youth Building Conversation.

Luana V. McMurray-Hodges, Founder/CEO

***"Young People Let's Talk!"***







*By Ciera Hodges*

# CICI'S *girl boss* HAIRCARE

Before I talk about healthy hair let me tell you about myself. My name is Ciera Hodges, and I am the owner of **Cici's Haircare**. I started my business in November, and I sell hair products that help with hair growth and promoting healthy hair. I started my business because there are a lot of women and men that struggle with finding healthy products for their hair. My personal journey towards healthy hair started when I got into high school. My hair had heat damage when I first started high school. It took me a while to learn how to take care of my hair and how to make sure my hair stayed healthy. My hair wasn't completely damaged, but my curls weren't healthy. In this reading I will tell you how to get your hair healthy again.

- **Oil-** Using oil is good for promoting healthy hair and hair growth. Oils moisturize your hair to keep it healthy. When your hair is moisturized it will not become dry and break off. Oil also adds shine and softness to the hair.
- **Deep conditioning-** using a deep conditioner helps hydrate your hair. Deep conditioners help strengthen, moisturize, and repair your hair. With using deep conditioners your hair is less likely to become damaged.
- **Cutting split ends-** cutting your split ends help get rid of any chance of your hair getting damaged. When you have split ends, the hair that is split will continue to split until it gets to the root. When the hair gets split at the root it becomes damaged. So only trim your ends when you have split ends.
- **Water-** water moisturizes the hair and moistures hair leads to healthy hair.
- **Rice water-** this is the last thing I am going to talk about. Rice water is one of my favorite products to use when going through a hair growth journey or healthy hair journey. Rice water is a protein treatment that helps any type of hair grow longer, stronger, smoother, Shinier, and healthier. I just like anything I mention in this reading. I use the rice water. The rice water helped my hair grow and stay healthy through that process.

I make rice water. My business is called Cici's Haircare. If you would like to buy rice water from me and/ or see what other products I have coming out, follow me on my Instagram.

**Instagram: @cici\_haircare**





**JAN/FEB  
DEVOS**

# **WHAT YOU LISTEN TO MATTERS**

**Romans 10:17 NLT**

***So, faith comes from hearing, that is, hearing the Good News about Christ. – Romans 10:17 (NLT)***

Have you noticed how what you listen to is important? Imagine that you have checked into your online class and your teacher is giving instructions about an assignment. Instead of listening, you are talking and laughing with your friends.

Later that night, when you start working on that assignment, you realize you don't know what to do. Why? Because you didn't listen when your teacher was explaining what to do. Instead, you heard what your friends said instead of the teacher.

Hearing the right thing is important at school and when it comes to things of God too. What you listen to matters.

## ***Today's Truth: What You Listen To Matters***

verse tells us that faith comes when we hear the good news about Christ. But we can choose to listen to other things. We can listen to our mom talk about how she doesn't have enough money to pay the bills. We can listen to the news tell us how bad and crazy our world is.

If we only listen to those things, we will have faith in the wrong thing. Instead, choose to listen to God's word. Remind yourself of who God is and the good news of the gospel. Jesus died to provide us freedom. Choose to believe it and walk in it today.



# Ms. Celena's HOSPITALITY 101

## 7 TIPS TO REMEMBER THAT WILL HELP YOU ON YOUR FIRST JOB

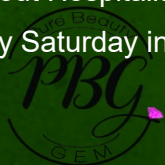


Although some of you may be working after school or during the weekends, there are many of you who may have their first job experience this summer. Your job may be working in a fast-food restaurant like McDonalds, or a retail store like Forever 21 or H&M. Your first job could even be helping cater an event. Whatever your job may be, it's important to know that Hospitality is key. What is hospitality? In simple terms, it's treating people the way you want to be treated. Giving them the best service, you can.

I have been in hospitality for a long time and I want to share with you my seven tips that will help you go a long way in maintaining a good job relationship and a great future.

- Being early is being on time.
- Leave your problems at the door.
- Encourage yourself.
- A smile goes a long way.
- Listening is golden.
- Do it without asking.
- Respect...why not?

Learn more about Hospitality during my workshop every Saturday in March.







Pure Beauty GEM LLC Presents

[www.purebeautygem.com](http://www.purebeautygem.com)

# "Hospitality: More Than Service With A Smile"

A 4-week Online Job Readiness Workshop for Teens



Miss Celena Pillow  
Instructor

**4  
Weeks  
\$35**

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**Workshop Titles:  
The Success Attitude**

**Hospitality 101**

**The WOW Factor in  
Customer Service**

**Business Etiquette &  
Effective Communication**

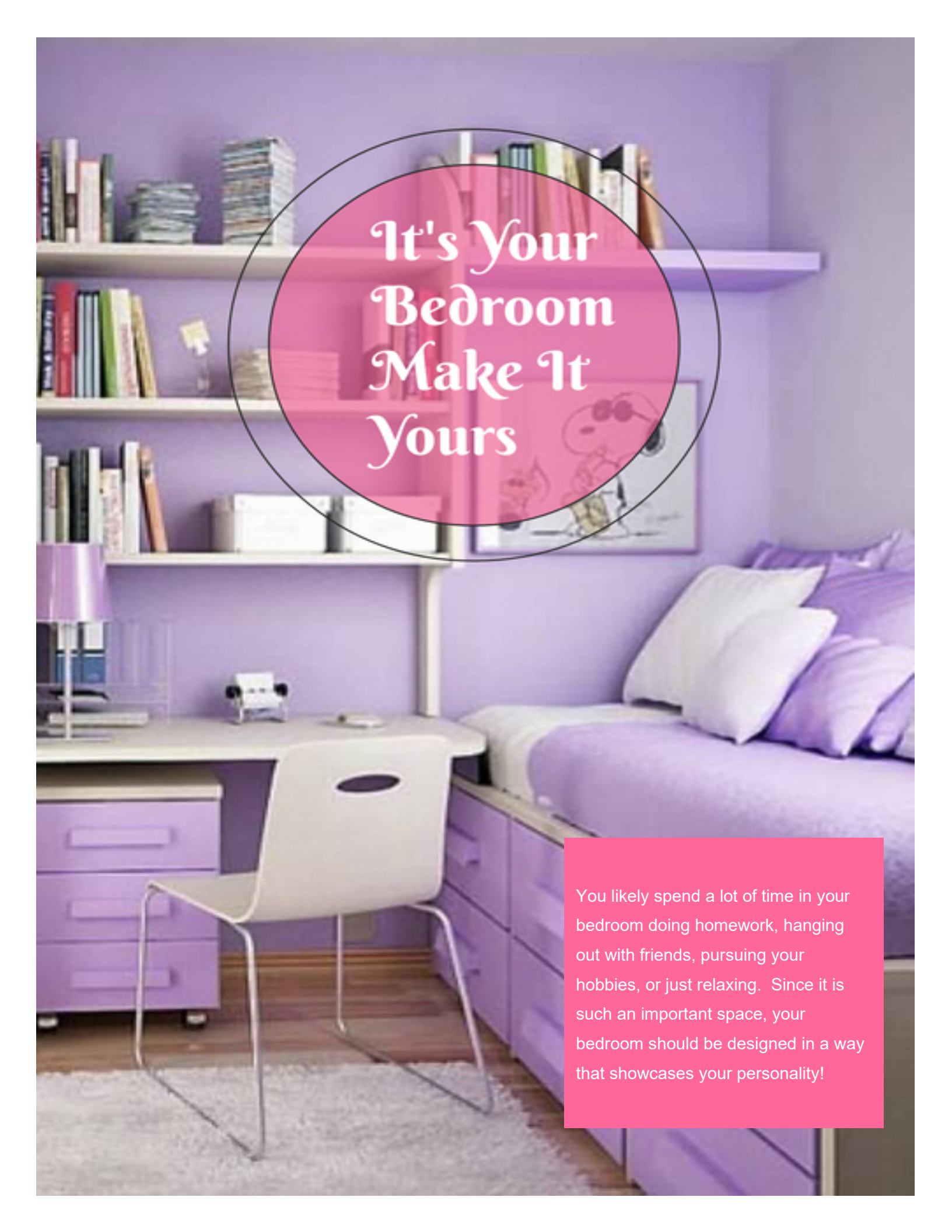
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**Every  
Saturday  
Mar 6th -  
Mar 27th  
2021  
1PM - 2PM**



**zoom**

[https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/  
tZwpdu6gqDspHtywgYgdhcjX8Mrtwb57B-Rv](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwpdu6gqDspHtywgYgdhcjX8Mrtwb57B-Rv)



# It's Your Bedroom Make It Yours

You likely spend a lot of time in your bedroom doing homework, hanging out with friends, pursuing your hobbies, or just relaxing. Since it is such an important space, your bedroom should be designed in a way that showcases your personality!



**HERE ARE SOME IDEAS** you may want to consider when decorating your room. This would be a fun mother/daughter project...Think about it.

- What's your favorite color?
- Do you have a theme in mind?
- What do you want your room to look like when you are finished? (your personal design)?

Whatever it is, it is a part of your personality. What will your room tell us about you?

**COLOR. COLOR. COLOR.** What makes a big change in a room is **COLOR**. Although painting a room pink is often the go to color (and there is nothing wrong with that. I happen to like pink myself). However, change is sometimes good. What about blue, purple, green, or even yellow. Maybe mom can help you decide.

What is your favorite color? \_\_\_\_\_

**THEMES ARE GOOD TOO.** Weather you love princess Elsa, Wonder Woman, Hello Kitty, or dream of traveling to a place like Paris; having a theme decorated room is an awesome idea!

Are you into having a theme inspired room? If so, what is it? \_\_\_\_\_

**ACCESSORIZE.** Nothing says your own personal style and adds a personal touch to your room like Accessorizing. Think about adding fun pillows, rugs, picture frames, create a study space or a reading nook.

How would you accessorize your room to make it special? \_\_\_\_\_

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Now, what does your ideal bedroom look like? \_\_\_\_\_

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**IT'S YOUR BEDROOM...MAKE IT MORE  
FABULOUS AND FUN IN 2021!**

# WE DID IT!

**By Makayla Freeman**

First person of color female VP! Do I need to say it again for the people in the back? We have the first women of color as Vice President Elect!



I think all of us are waiting for that special day when Biden takes his place as the 46<sup>th</sup> President of the United States. But I am even more excited to have Kamala Harris as our Vice President. I'm sure some could ask why is she so special? Why should I care who the Vice President is? Because Kamala made history when she and Joe Biden won this election. This historic moment had an impact moment for me. And I know a lot of women and young girls are excited to have a Vice President that finally represents us.

This election was so important and a matter of livelihood for some groups. If Joe Biden and Kamala Harris had not won this election, it would have been tragic for the LGBTQ+, for people of color and for me. We needed this win! So, we came together, and we made it happen. And I personally feel euphoric at the thought of having a women VP. Yes, there is still so much to do when it comes to women's rights, but this is a huge step. And I feel proud to be female.

I want to talk about Kamala's path to the White House because as someone who thinks about being in politics one day her journey is inspiring. Kamala's parents both were big on education and fighting for human rights and equality. Often, they took to the streets to protest and brought Kamala along in her stroller. She was raised to make history! Her mother would tell her, "Kamala, you may be the first to do many things, but make sure you're not last." Kamala went to Howard University and then on to law school. She graduated with honors. She became Attorney General then a Senator. And now the Vice President elect of the most powerful country in the world. Kamala once said, "The American dream belongs to all of us." It seems like she always knew who she was destined to be.

Kamala is a powerhouse, but she is also a human just like you and like me. She is every girl who has a dream. Every person of color who looks to see a face like their own in a position of power. I remember watching the video after the election when Kamala called Joe Biden. She was crying and laughing and telling him, "We did it!" I thought about myself and other young girls like me. But I also thought about women like Susan B. Anthony. Malala Yousafzai. Mary McLeod Bethune. Eleanor Roosevelt. Rosa Parks. Fannie Lou Hamer. Sojourner Truth. Harriet Tubman.

*We did it...*

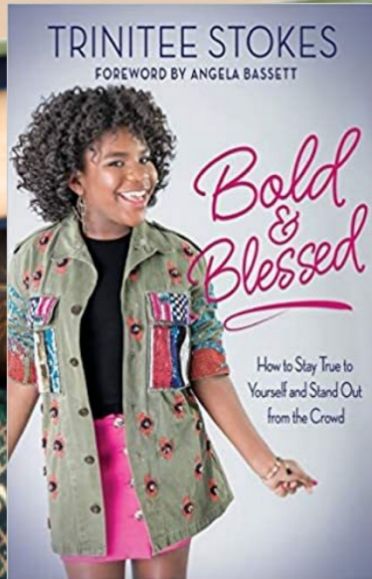


Kamala's rise is the most inspirational moment of my lifetime. Kamala has inspired me about the future. About my future. About what we will do next.

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JAN/FEB

# BOOKS of The Month CLUB







When you think of the future, are you full of hopes and dreams or full of fear? Take this little survey below and see.

1. When you think about the future, what word comes closest to how you feel about it?
  - a. Hopeful
  - b. Fearful
  - c. Indifferent
  - d. Joyful
  - e. Other \_\_\_\_\_
2. What are you most looking forward to in the next three to five years?
  - a. College
  - b. Getting a decent job
  - c. Moving out
  - d. Traveling
  - e. Other \_\_\_\_\_
3. What scares you the most about the future?
  - a. Not getting into the college of your choice.
  - b. No escape from your neighborhood.
  - c. Still having the same old problems.
  - d. Your home life.
  - e. Other \_\_\_\_\_
4. The future will be awesome, if...
  - a. You get everything you want.
  - b. You have plenty of money.
  - c. God helps you.
  - d. Face my fears.
  - e. Other \_\_\_\_\_
5. What is your ultimate hope for the future?
  - a. Getting married and raising a family.
  - b. Living life your way.
  - c. Being with Jesus forever.
  - d. World peace.
  - e. Other \_\_\_\_\_

Has anyone ever told you to dream big? Some people are afraid to dream at all, especially about the future, because they feel hopeless about the present. Do you know some people read the horoscope section of the magazine or see psychics hoping they can solve the mystery of the future? But God only know the future and yours. And He has a plan for you that starts right now. Remember Jeremiah 29:11?

*"For I know the plans I have for you," says the Lord. "They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope."*

In order for your dreams to come true there has to be a plan in place in order to accomplish them. Do you have one? A good plan to get started is "Goal Setting?" Many of you should be familiar it, but if not, this is my definition of what Goal setting is. It's a plan of action towards achieving your dreams that YOU have to start. Here is a fun assignment, think of two goals you would like to achieve this year and on the next page (we even have a goal setting sheet for you) fill it out. Post it somewhere in your room for you to see. At the end of the year, see if you have accomplished one or both of the goals you set for yourself.



TNR MINISTRIES PRESENTS

THE NEXT  
GENERATION **2021**  
**CONFERENCE**

**April 23-25**  
Held at The Westchester Marroitt  
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Tarrytown NY 10591

LAST DAY TO BOOK  
HOTEL ROOMS WILL BE  
MARCH 15, 2021

USE PROMO CODE: TNR MINISTRIES  
HOTEL RATE \$129/NIGHT  
(914)631-2200

# BIG GOALS

NAME:

DATE:

GOAL:

GOAL:

ACTION STEPS:

- 1
- 2
- 3

ACTION STEPS:

- 1
- 2
- 3

SUPPORT FROM PARENTS:

- 1
- 2
- 3

SUPPORT FROM PARENTS:

- 1
- 2
- 3





**Write  
for  
Us!**

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**SHOW YOUR  
CREATIVITY**

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