

# THE Best IS YET TO COME

## **Dream Within a Dream**

Pastor Lyle Tard & Pastor Ernest Clover

*Your people will rebuild the ancient ruins and will raise up the age-old foundations; you will be called Repairer of Broken Walls, Restorer of Streets with Dwellings.*

Isaiah 58:12 (NIV)

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To continue to unpack this idea of dreaming big, I thought about something Pastor Mark talks about alot - a dream within a dream. I don't know anyone better that lives out that mantra than our friends at the DC Dream Center. Here's Pastor Ernest to give us more.

Good morning family and welcome. I'm Ernest Clover. I have the privilege of serving as the Executive Director of the DC Dream Center. Because of this, I have a front row seat to the wonderful and amazing things our Father does in the lives of those who will give him credit for it.

One thing I have come to learn and appreciate are the stories and testimonies of those who have gone before me, because they are bold dreamers! Two such people are Sammie Morrison and Scott Dimock. They were the face of ministry at the Southeast White House which was the predecessor to the DC Dream Center. Mr. Sammie has a long list of credentials he served in the 82 Airborne, he's a serial entrepreneur, he was the former Deputy Chief of Police of Washington DC, a father, and a friend to many. Mr. Scott, who passed away 4 years ago, was a wildfire Forest Fighter, a Pastor, a Younglife leader, husband, father, and grandfather. I believe that the credential they would hold in highest regard would be...follower of Jesus! One conversation that I remember having with Mr. Sammie was in regards to dreaming big for our community, "Mr. Ernie, we get to live out the gospel here and the one that speaks the most to me is Isaiah 58:12" which reads:

*Your people will rebuild the ancient ruins  
and will raise up the age-old foundations;*

*you will be called Repairer of Broken Walls,  
Restorer of Streets with Dwellings.*

When I was brought on the team in 2012 to help build out the DC Dream Center...it was a pursuit of a lot of head knowledge. From learning building code, to looking at and then understanding blueprints, and can I tell you about the meetings...there were meetings about the meetings we were going to have! What I realized now is that I was gaining a lot of head knowledge which is helpful in understanding the “how to’s” but it wasn’t the whole picture. It wasn’t until I began to reflect on the wisdom of the scriptures in light of my friend and mentor Mr. Sammie that the Lord began to reveal to me the deeper meaning of dreaming big, which is that to truly dream big for the Kingdom you must be in partnership with the King which activates every promise of scripture which makes it Yes and AMEN, in Jesus name!

The next story encapsulates dreaming big for me. Four years ago we accepted into our after school program Deniyah her grandmother Dephanie dropped and picked her up. As we got to love and expose Deniyah to programs like Art, Bible study, and Music, we got to know Ms. Dephanie.

During Covid Ms. Dephanie began to help us distribute meals. Her efforts and those of others helped us distribute over 64,000 meals, over 1 million lbs of produce, and over 100k non perishable and hygiene items. As Dephanie showed up we saw her leadership gifts and when an opportunity came for our partner, Howard University, to hire a peer specialist to work with those who want to move out of Opioid addiction, I couldn’t recommend anyone else, the best was yet to come! Because while working hard her whole life, we never want to give a women's age but lets say she is in her 50’s, Ms. Dephanie never had a salary job with benefits! This story, while unique, has a theme that we see played out time and time again at the DC Dream Center, Jesus empowers us to dream big!

At the end of the day the Lord was opening the eyes of my heart to truly have compassion transforming me into a dreamer for the King and His Kingdom. By quieting my soul I have been made available to be used by Him as His ambassador.

As fellow Ambassadors, go in peace, His peace, the best is yet to come!!!

AMEN!

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*Have you discovered the deeper meaning of dreaming big by partnering with scripture? How can you help someone’s big dream come to pass?*