

**Don't Let Discouragement
Take Your Strength**
by Pastor Carter Conlon

TSC MISSIONS
Breaking Chains of Poverty
with Love

From Inmate to Innovator
How Jemuel Lampe Is
Brewing Second Chances

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by Pastor Tim Dilena



Prayer Points 2025

FOR OUR CHURCHES

- We believe for a fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the pulpit and the pews.

FOR OUR CITIES

- We believe for God to raise up a gospel witness all over our cities in schools, universities, and the workplace.

FOR OUR COUNTRIES

- We believe for God to raise up Daniels, Esthers and Josephs in gov't offices around the world that will be a voice from heaven to the nation.

FOR THE WORLD

- We believe for God to save 1 billion souls.

Don't Let Discouragement Take Your Strength

by **Pastor Carter Conlon**, *General Overseer*

Are you battling discouragement? If so, you're not alone. Discouragement is one of the enemy's most effective weapons—used time and again to sap the strength of even the most faithful believers. But I want to speak directly to your heart today: don't let discouragement steal your strength.

Some of the greatest heroes of the faith went through dark, discouraging times. David, Joshua, Paul—they all battled moments of despair. And so will we. But the beauty of God's Word is that it prepares us, strengthens us, and brings us through the fire.

Discouragement doesn't mean you're weak—it means you're human. It means you care deeply. It means you've hoped greatly. But God meets us in that low place. He doesn't abandon us there. He speaks to us with understanding, gives us the strength

we lack, and renews our weary hearts. Isaiah 40 reminds us that those who wait on the Lord "shall renew their strength. They shall mount up with wings as eagles."

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Waiting on God doesn't mean sitting in silence. It means intertwining your life with



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Don't Let Discouragement Take Your Strength (continued)

His. Trusting that His plan is higher than yours. That His strength is enough when yours is gone. It's laying your thoughts, your dreams, your fears—everything—into His hands, and saying, "Lead me, Lord."

You are not forgotten.
You are not finished.
And this is not the end
of your story.

Sometimes discouragement comes because there's something God wants to deal with in us. Just like Joshua learned in the Valley of Achor, our strength can fail because we've hidden something God told us to surrender. But when we deal with it honestly, God restores us—fully.

Discouragement can also come from the consequences of our sin, like David

experienced. Yes, there is forgiveness, but there are still wounds. Still grief. Yet even in that place, God is still merciful. He doesn't leave us in shame—He lifts us up, breathes life into our brokenness, and begins again.

Others feel discouraged because of the failures of people around them. Like Caleb, maybe you've waited years in a wilderness that wasn't your fault. But here's the truth: if your heart stays fixed on God, your time is still coming. He has not forgotten you.

So what do you do when you're too tired to keep going? You cry out. You trust again. You let the Holy Spirit breathe fresh life into your soul. And you remember: you were never meant to do this alone. His strength is made perfect in your weakness.

This season of discouragement won't last forever. But you must choose to believe again. Choose to rise. Choose to wait on God and let Him renew you. Let Him turn your valley of trouble into a gateway of hope. Let Him restore your vision, your family, your future.

You are not forgotten. You are not finished.
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Breaking Chains of Poverty with Love

Our ChildCry Ministry Partners in Ocna Mureș, Romania

In the rolling hills surrounding Ocna Mureș, Romania, hope is rising in a community long burdened by hardship. Among the Roma settlements—places like those where young Samira and Karina live—our ChildCry ministry partners are writing a story of transformation. One meal, one hug, one gospel message at a time, they are breaking chains that have bound generations.

The Roma people (often referred to as “Gypsies” in the region) face challenges that most of us can hardly imagine. Caught in cycles of generational poverty, they endure persistent social stigma and discrimination, limiting their access to employment, education, and essential services. Many live in marginalized settlements, disconnected from the broader economy, surviving through subsistence farming or informal labor that offers little stability.

And yet—into this difficult reality, God has opened doors for the gospel through something as simple as a meal.

Today, more than 300 children are part of our feeding program in Ocna Mureș. But what they receive goes far beyond food. Yes, they enjoy hot, nutritious meals and receive bags with snacks and small treats—items that would otherwise be considered luxuries. But more importantly, they discover something life-changing: they are not forgotten but deeply loved by God.

Childhood should be filled with wonder and joy. For many of these children, it's been marked instead by hardship and rejection. But through our ministry partners, that is beginning to change. When Samira and Karina arrive at the feeding center, their eyes brighten—not just because of what's on their plates, but because of the love, dignity, and attention they receive. In a world that has pushed them aside, they are seen. They are known. And they are cherished.

The impact goes beyond the children. Parents who once stood at a distance are drawing near, encountering Christ's love for the first time.

They see how our partners serve without conditions, how they love without judgment. This simple but radical expression of the gospel is opening hearts across families and generations.

Children are giving their lives to Jesus—not out of obligation, but out of hope. They're learning that Christ came not only to save the world, but to rescue them from shame, exclusion, and despair. Through His blood and the faithful presence of our ministry partners, these young lives are being made new. They're growing in their faith, discovering their identity as beloved sons and daughters of God, not outcasts of society.

While food may open the door, it's the message of Jesus that transforms.

Each meal becomes a moment to share the gospel.

Each bag of snacks becomes a reminder: you are not alone.

Each gathering is a glimpse of God's Kingdom in action.

What makes this ministry so powerful is not only what they do, but how consistently and authentically they do it. Week after week, our partners return. They show up with food in hand and love in their hearts. They're breaking down generations of division and despair, proving that the love of Christ knows no boundaries.

Through your faithful prayers and generous giving, you are part of this transformation.

You're not just helping to feed hungry children—you are helping rewrite the story of an entire community.

You are reminding children like Samira and Karina that they are seen, valued, and chosen by God.

Thank you for making this possible. Thank you for partnering in love.

From Inmate to Innovator

How Jemuel Lampe Is Brewing Second Chances

When Jemuel Lampe was just 13 years old, he was arrested for the first time. Growing up in one of The Hague's toughest neighborhoods, trouble seemed like the only path in front of him. Over the next ten years, he went in and out of prison six times. But today, Jemuel is no longer defined by his past. Instead, he stands as living proof of God's grace—an award-winning social entrepreneur, a gifted barista, and the founder of Zuivere Koffie (Pure Coffee), the world's first prison-based coffee roasting company.

His story is close to our hearts, not only because of how powerfully God transformed him, but because Jemuel has been part of our Times Square Church online congregation. He has even served as a volunteer on our online platform, pouring into others with the same servant's heart that drives his mission back home in the Netherlands.

Jemuel's life is a testimony of grit, grace, and the God of second chances. His turning point began with a simple encounter at a juice bar. A customer looked him in the eye and spoke words he had never heard before: "You have so much potential." Jemuel says, "He really saw me." That seed of encouragement began to change his life. He later took a job scooping ice cream—ordinary work, but a doorway into new relationships and a new way of thinking. Still, it wasn't instant. He stumbled again and found himself back in prison. But this time, something shifted. "It was 58 days of reconsidering my life," Jemuel remembers. "That's when I decided to change for good."

Ironically, Jemuel wasn't even a coffee drinker when God opened the door that would reshape his future. A broken coffee machine at work sparked his curiosity. With help from an Italian expat, he learned to brew—and discovered a gift he never knew he had. He went on to place sixth in the Dutch Barista Championships and train others who went on to win. But even as opportunities opened across Europe, his heart stayed with those still behind bars.

Inspired by Gordon Ramsay, Jemuel asked himself a question: What if prison could be a place of recovery, not just punishment? In 2014, he launched Zuivere Koffie inside a Dutch prison. At first, prison directors struggled to trust a man with his past. "But I kept showing up," Jemuel says. And God kept opening doors.

Today, Zuivere Koffie employs about 70 inmates at a time across the Netherlands. Their products are even served in KLM Royal Dutch Airlines business class. Through the company's Street University, more than 200 former inmates have received training and found work in restaurants and catering after their release. The impact is powerful—lowering recidivism, restoring dignity, and rebuilding community.

But for Jemuel, it's about more than coffee and jobs. "We forget that a person in prison is still a person," he says. "Everyone has a story. Everyone deserves a second chance." In 2023, the Dutch Government honored Zuivere Koffie with its National Innovation Award, recognizing it as one of the most transformative initiatives in the country.

Yet the true heart of Jemuel's story is not innovation—it's redemption. The world often discards people because of their past, but God never does. In Christ, no one is beyond His mercy. The same Jesus who forgave the thief on the cross is still reaching into prisons today—and into hearts—with the power to restore, rebuild, and make all things new.

Jemuel's testimony is a reminder to all of us: when grace is given and received, when someone is truly seen, and when the love of God is allowed to do its work—no past is too broken for a brand new beginning.

Just like Jemuel, we invite all to be a part of Times Square Church Online, a community that stretches across the world. Join us every Sunday and Tuesday live on YouTube and tsc.nyc platforms and interact with us in the chats.





Scars Tell Stories

by **Pastor Tim Dilena**, *Senior Pastor*

Look at your body. Somewhere on it, you've got a scar. Maybe it's from childhood. Maybe it came from something foolish—or from someone else. But one thing is certain: scars always tell stories.

Some stories are silly. Others are painful. But the deepest scars—the ones you can't always see—speak the loudest.

Let me tell you about my friend Kevin. Years ago, a man broke into his home in the middle of the night, looking for drug money. Kevin was stabbed 37 times—in the face, neck, and stomach. The police later said they couldn't even recognize his race because he was so covered in blood. But somehow—miraculously—Kevin survived.

He tells people he heard an audible voice in the midst of it all: "Get up. They still need you." And he did. He got up—holding his intestines in—and made it to his neighbor's house. No one knows how. The police report showed his bloody footprints—but none leading back to the neighbor's house.

Today, Kevin carries six feet of scars across his body. But every inch tells a story. A story of healing. A story of forgiveness. A story of a man who now ministers on death row—telling people they still matter. That's the power of scars.

You can minister with scars. You cannot minister with wounds.

A wound still bleeds. It still hurts. It still brings bitterness. But a scar? A scar shows what God brought you through.

Joseph in the Bible was betrayed, falsely accused, and imprisoned. When he saw his brothers again—years later—he didn't seek revenge. He didn't list the betrayals. He said: "God sent me here." Four times in that conversation, he mentions God—not his brothers. That's how you know it's a scar, not a wound. Wounds point to people. Scars point to God.

Before God elevates us, He often wounds—not to destroy, but to prepare. Joseph's life shows this clearly. Betrayal, false accusation, broken promises—these were his classroom. You might be in that classroom right now. Don't quit.

Hezekiah was another man with scars. As a child, his own father handed him over to be sacrificed to a false god. That little boy was rejected by man—but accepted by God. Later? He became one of the greatest kings Judah ever knew—a revival king.

Even your scars—emotional, spiritual, or physical—cannot disqualify you. They might be the very reason God wants to use you.

Some of us still carry wounds—from a parent... a pastor... a ministry leader... a betrayal. Let me say it clearly: you don't have to keep carrying it. You don't have to return to bitterness, brokenness, or shame.

Let Him take it. Let Him turn the wound into a scar. And then let Him robe you in purpose again.

Because when God heals, He also promotes. You may walk out of prison like Joseph—but into purpose. You may be scarred like Kevin—but still stand as a testimony. You may be like Hezekiah—rejected by your earthly father—but crowned by your heavenly one.

Whatever your scar—whether from childhood pain, ministry betrayal, or personal failure—God doesn't recast you. He doesn't throw you out. He rewrites the script.

Let Him. He's the Author—and the Finisher. And He's not done writing your story.



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Times Square Church was founded in 1987 by Pastor David Wilkerson, author of "The Cross and the Switchblade." It is an interdenominational church located in the heart of New York City.

CONTACT

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237 West 51st Street | NY, NY 10019

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with
Tim Dilena

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