



The Christian Connection™



A Quarterly Newsletter from Christian Resource Network, Inc.

SOARING COMMUNICATION FOR CHRIST

God Will Meet Your Need When You Least Expect It

By: Joan M. Blake



I am sure that at one time or another, you faced financial issues. You lost your job and used credit cards that resulted in significant debt; you feel lost and lonely and are at rock bottom. Maybe, you didn't face financial issues. Instead, you faced either divorce, separation, the death of a loved one, disappointment, rejection or the empty nest syndrome. You feel lost not knowing what to do, where to go, who to turn to and how to raise yourself from this position.

You have become depressed, lonely, lethargic, not wanting to communicate with God or with friends and family. No one understands you. Everyone is blaming you for not opening up or being friendly. You are bitter because you feel no one cares. If someone cared, he or she will reach out to help you. You turned inwardly to self-pity and finally realized that you are sinking deeper into depression. What do you do now? As these writers expressed, you turn to God, the only One who can bring you out.

In this edition of *The Christian Connection*, Pastor Francis Balla discusses how important we are as God's temples; Mother Elva Nesbitt discusses tools to deal with loneliness; Apostle Wynell Freeman discusses the importance of self-reflection and re-evaluation; and Dr. Jacki London showed us that we are fearfully and wonderfully made and that we need to stand on God's promises.

Saints, since we know and understand our position in Christ, who has blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places (Eph. 1:3), can we afford to sit sadly in a corner while God is stirring our hearts? No. We must believe on the Lord knowing that He is able to do exceedingly, abundantly, more than we can ask or think (Eph. 3:20). He promises never to leave or forsake us (Jos. 1:5) and will meet our need (Philippians 4:19) when we least expect it.

May God continue to bless and keep you.

In Christ,

Joan M. Blake
Editor/Publisher

The Christian Connection is published by the Christian Resource Network Inc., a non-profit 501 (c) 3 organization whose main mission is to provide support to those who are experiencing emotional pain. Other related services include women's small group training and mentoring services.

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PRAYER AND MEDITATION

Finding Comfort, Hope, and Purpose in the Midst of Your Storm by: Joan M. Blake, Author.

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Standing on His Promises

Finding Comfort, Hope, and Purpose in the Midst of Your Storm by:

Joan M. Blake, Author.

Joan Blake writes about leaving her native island of Trinidad and Tobago and embarking on the greatest mission of her life—going to America alone. She shows by her personal testimonies how life deals out times of great joy, as well as crises. When such crises come, it is so easy to crumble under one's storms and turn inwardly to loneliness, anxiety, fear, anger, un-forgiveness, and bitterness, but it is only by having an intimate relationship with Jesus Christ, God's Son, Who has all the answers, and by committing every detail of one's life to him, can we find rest. Rest is standing on the promises of Jesus and putting one's trust in Him.

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Letters To The Editor

If you were blessed by the articles published in this edition or previous editions, we want to hear from you.
Please email: jblake@christianresourcenetwork.org

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PASTOR'S CORNER

EXCERPTS FROM

REVEREND FRANCIS BALLA'S JULY 17TH SERMON

"THE BATTLE FOR TRUTH"

The main theme of the book of Colossians is Christ; the title "Christ" appears twenty six times. Apostle Paul greets the believers as saints (holy) and faithful. Because of Christ's sacrificial death and the work of the Holy Spirit, they were not only declared holy but were encouraged to be obedient to the truth as faithful believers. It is interesting to observe that in all his thirteen letters Paul's greetings contain two words, Grace (in Greek *Chaires*) and Peace (in Hebrew *Shalom*). These words indicate that Paul's readers were from both Jewish and Greek backgrounds. If Paul were to write a letter to our Church he would write, "I Paul, to the *saints* (holy ones) and *faithful* brethren in Christ who are at ECCOA, Grace and Peace from God our father. Are you surprised to know that you are a saint and you are faithful? When we look at ourselves we tend to have a negative self image, but God sees us as holy and faithful, not because of what we have done, but because of what Christ has done and is continuing to do for us.

What does it mean to be holy? The word holy both in Hebrew and Greek means set apart, sanctified, or consecrated. Its fundamental meaning is separation for the purpose and the service of God. In the Old Testament, both the tabernacle and the temple were meticulously built. They were set aside for only one purpose—for the presence of God to dwell. Nothing impure was used for constructing the tabernacle and nothing unclean was to enter into the place where God dwelt. The Bible tells us that due to Israel's sin, the glory of God (His presence) left the temple once, returned once, left again but never returned until the time of Jesus' appearance on the earth many centuries later (Ezekiel 10). In John 1:14, "The word became flesh and made his dwelling among us." The Greek for "made his dwelling" literally means tabernacled. This verse would have reminded John's Jewish readers of the Tent of Meeting, which was filled with the Glory of God in the form of a cloud (Exodus 40:34-35).

In the Old Testament the presence of God dwelt in the tabernacle and temple, and in the New Testament, the presence of God dwelt in human form, in Jesus. Jesus made references to himself as the temple of God (John 2:19). In the 21st century God's presence dwells when we God's people come together to worship Him. The Bible states in Matthew 18:20, "For where two or three have gathered together in My name, there I am in their midst, (*in that place*). Additionally, God's presence dwells in each of us, His saints.

The best analogy that Paul gives in describing God's people is a temple. Apostle Paul states in I Corinthians 3:16, "Do you not know that you are a temple (Sanctuary) of God that the Spirit of God dwells in you? If any man destroys the temple of God, God will destroy him, for the temple of God is holy and that is what you are." Apostle Paul addresses the saints of God as holy, meaning that just as the Tabernacle and the Temple were set apart for God's presence to dwell, all born again children of God too, have been set apart as dwelling places for God's presence. Our bodies become the temple of God; we are the walking temples of God. We can take God's presence with us wherever we go.

(cont'd on page 5)

(Pastor Balla's message continued from page 4)

It is an awesome privilege to be called "Holy" or be set apart, but with that comes an incredible responsibility to keep this temple of God Holy and pure so that his presence can continue to dwell in us. Apostle Paul makes reference to this in 1 Corinthians 6:19, "Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you whom you have from God and that you are not own? For you have been bought with a price, therefore glorify God in your body." Firstly, our body is God's temple in which His Holy Spirit dwells. Secondly, our body is not our own; we have been bought with a price-the blood of Christ. We are not the owners but stewards of our bodies. Thirdly, we are to bring pleasure to God or glorify him in our body; this is a command. We are to offer our bodies as living sacrifices to God but sin hinders us from doing so.

We sin when we disobey God's commandments. Sin enters little by little. When we don't deal with little sins, in the end, they have the potential to destroy our lives. When we obey God's commandments and learn to honor God in our bodies, then we become God's dwelling place and his presence remains with us. We are holy. We no longer are controlled by the sins of our past. Our desire is to know Christ. To know Him, is to love Him, to love Him is to obey Him! Amen.

Rev. Francis Balla, is the senior pastor of Evangelical Congregational Church of Atlantic in North Quincy MA. He served with Youth With A Mission in Hyderabad, India for twenty years. He holds a M.Div in Urban Ministry from Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary. Please checkout the Church Website. www.eccquincy.com. The Church is located at 65 Newbury Ave, Quincy, MA 02171. Sunday service is at 10:30a.m.

LONELINESS



Mother Elva Nesbitt (Speaker)

Hosting the table talk on loneliness was Earnestine Harris of New England World International Church, First Lady, and wife of Senior Pastor Rodney Harris. The table talk was held on Saturday, August 20, 2011, at the Boys and Girls Club on Talbot Ave, Dorchester, MA where the church holds its weekly Sunday service. Mrs. Kaisha Palmer introduced Mother Elva Nesbitt, the speaker. The moderator was Sister Velma Waldron and panel speakers were Anna James, Cherryl James, Doriel Maynard, and Mother Elva Nesbitt. Following Sister Nesbit's message, the panelists were present to give advice and answer questions from the listening audience.

City of Palms Prayer and Table talk was truly inspiring. I left the seminar with a fresh look knowing that in my times of loneliness, I am not alone if I truly make God my companion and entrust Him with my burdens.

(loneliness continued from page 5)

Mother Nesbitt delved into all aspects of loneliness and challenged us to look to God for our needs. The following is a summary of her message.

She explained that loneliness is a "deception of the enemy." It results from the need to have companionship or the feeling of rejection experienced in one's past. Some singles as well as married people feel lonely. Loneliness is real and could lead to depression. She goes on to say that, "Whatever God wants you to have, He will put it in your heart. He knows the timing. Wait for God. God promises to give you the desires of your heart."

Mother Elva used Sarah and Jacob's first wife, Leah, as biblical examples of women who received God's promises. She explained that "Sarah believed God. When it seemed impossible, God still kept His promise, giving her a child in her old age. If it wasn't too late for Sarah, it is not too late for you. Believe God. If He said it, He will bring it to pass." She referred to Jacob who worked an additional seven years for Rachel, although she was given to him after he had spent seven full days with Leah. Leah felt rejected because of Jacob's love for Rachel, but God removed the feeling of rejection from her by allowing her to bear three children including Judah, whose name meant "praise."

It's by praising God who has created us, and having intimacy with Him, that we remove the void of loneliness in our lives. Leah spent time with God and brought about a son whose name was "praise." "Spend time with God. Invest your loneliness in praise. Reserve a place in Him. Know God for yourself. Jesus never leaves us. We leave Him." stated Mother Nesbitt. She suggested other ways to combat loneliness including "having a prayer partner, praying for leaders, the President, and others who need deliverance."

Finally, she showed us the benefits of loneliness, reminding us that "we need a time of solitude with God- a time to study and show ourselves approved." "The Word," stated Mother Nesbitt, "is our true foundation. We need to trust in the Word. Loneliness is a blessing which will establish you and bring you to a higher dimension of praise with Jesus Christ."

WHOLE ARMOUR WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

Elder Bessie Brigham of Whole Armour International Church, located in Lowell, Massachusetts, under the leadership of Senior Pastor Apostle Anthony Triplett, hosted a women's conference from Friday August 26, 2011 through Sunday August 28, 2011. The theme of the conference was, "I am fearfully and wonderfully made," taken from Psalm 139:13-14.

The worship team, under the leadership of Elder Darryl Davis, was dynamic. Their anointed songs included, "Halleluiah." After participating in prayer, worship, and listening to anointed messages for three nights, I rested, searched my heart, and applied what I had learned; I was transformed and understood my Godly assignments. I am certain that others felt the same. Apostle Wynell Freeman of Fresh Word Ministries, Cherry Hill, New Jersey, was the speaker for Friday night and Saturday morning sessions, while Dr. Jacki London, Senior Pastor of Pillar of Fire Worship Center, New Bern, North Carolina, was the speaker for the Saturday night and Sunday afternoon sessions. Below are some of the main points each addressed in the conference.

Apostle Wynell Freeman addressed four main areas:

1. Lack of Money in the Body of Christ

She prophesied that "a miracle season of supernatural debt-cancellation" was being released and that the saints of God will walk in "retroactive restoration."

(Cont'd on page 7)

(continued from page 6)

2. The Need for Self-reflection and Re-evaluation

Reflect on who you are "world changers," made in "the image and likeness of God, separate and distinct-a class by yourselves." Re-evaluate your positioning maintaining right connections, and revelation that produces conviction and re-evaluating the people around you especially those who are not conducive to your destiny.

3. Representing Christ in the earth

"God has given you the power to be his representatives in the earth." "You must spend time with Him to understand the times you live in, how to transact business in the earth, and how to thwart the plans of the enemy."

4. Engage your spirit.

Apostle Freeman explained that the time has come to "engage your spirit," by being attentive to the Spirit of God when He calls you in the early morning hours to pray for others, cities, the President or the world, "for God has given you the ability to pray."

Summary of Dr. Jackie London's message on Sunday August 28th, 2011

Prophetess London, invoked the Spirit of God; the spirit of God was present throughout the entire service. As they prayed for one another, people were convicted.

Dr. London prophesied in four main areas:

1. Isaiah 43:19 God is doing a new thing in your life
2. Get busy doing the Lord's work
3. Stand still and see the salvation of the Lord
4. You are fearfully and wonderfully made

1. Isaiah 43:19 God is doing a new thing in your life

She explained that "your test is over" and that God is "doing a new thing" in your life (Isaiah 43:19-20). The time has come for the saints of God to "break away from the restrictions and limitations on their lives-to close doors to old places and old things and move into the supernatural," taking on "assignments" that God has given them, "trusting and believing Him" for the impossible.

2. Get busy doing the Lord's work.

Dr. London sensed "a shift" taking place in the spiritual realm, where God is getting ready to destroy "the yoke of bondage" and deliver the saints "out of darkness." She continued. "Gifts are being manifested; God is getting ready to change your life and release "a divine connection" that will cause you to shift from "broke to bless, from nothing to something, from the bottom to the top. Your children will be delivered because of your anointing. Stand on the word of God even if you don't see the outcome. Stand in the face of God and wrestle with him and say like Jacob, 'I'm not going to let go until you bless me.'"

3. Stand still and see the salvation of the Lord

Dr. London continued. "Spiritual elevation is being released in your life. Work hard for the vision that God has placed on your life. Your life is being shifted into praying and praising and your mind is submitting to the Lordship of Christ. God is turning everything around. Stand still and see the salvation of the Lord. You are under new management! You will walk "in victory" which will be evidenced by "signs, wonders, and miracles."

4. You are fearfully and wonderfully made

Dr. London encouraged us with the following words: "You are God's woman. Somebody is watching you, for you are a voice of triumph. Seek Jesus and His righteousness and all things will be added unto you. This is your moment. God is making you a trendsetter, for you are fearfully and wonderfully made."

In Need of Prayer?

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