

# SPECIAL EDITION INSIGHT

OPTIMUM LIVING FOR THE  
*SPIRIT-LED*  
WOMAN!



## Project Haiti: An Ever Unfolding Reality Check

Wow, I was truly pumped when I found out I would be joining the ten-person project team that would be visiting the building site for the US Green Building Council's (USGBC) envisioned

sustainable orphanage in Port Au Prince (PAP), Haiti. As one of the principal fundraiser's for the project, I was given the opportunity to be a part of the final architectural decisions as we closed out the planning phase of our much-loved project. The orphanage would be the USGBC's first LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) platinum facility in Haiti. Who would be more deserving of this project than the most silent, unseen and vulnerable population? Our children!

Former President William J. Clinton's Global Initiative (CGI) Foundation identified our project as one of its global projects for changing the lives of the world's most underserved and under-resourced communities. This opportunity and recognition sounded exciting, promising and almost like a commercial.

We had great plans for bringing our film crew down to Haiti to capture the before and after

story and give our donors an up-close snapshot of where their money would be seeded. A traditional fundraising process within the States took place first and then reality set in.



For me, exhilaration and excitement soon transitioned to horror on Tuesday, August 16, 2011, and I am still prayerfully dealing with the residual effects of my experience.

Upon arrival in PAP, the heat was a never ending blanket that was compounded by the mass of people jostling us around in the press to get us through customs. From the time we left the airport, we were literally surrounded by armed guards to help us safely navigate all of the locals feverishly pressing to sell us goods or use their guidance. I was overwhelmed by the sheer aggression in their attempts to help us from the airport to our van. From that point forward, we were escorted by very visible armed security for the duration of our visit.

With all of the money raised around the world for PAP, I was astonished to see the state of the city. I asked the driver whether things much improved since the massive earthquake and subsequent hurricanes of 2010. I was told emphatically, "NO!" Pre-earthquake and hurricanes, a drive from the airport was 15 minutes, and now it took hours to get to our compound. We drove through the destroyed infrastructure and passed by completely crumpled concrete buildings with exposed wiring on collapsed roofs.

Housing was comprised of plastic tents with no electricity or internal running water for hundreds of thousands of Haitians. As we drove through the city, we saw folks bathing in the ravines and ditches filled with rain water. Empty spaces were filled with landfill-like trash as the waste management system has not been reconciled for most PAP residences. I saw children and baby goats side by side searching for food and valuables.

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"Tap tap cabs," dangerously overloaded with folks tightly squeezed in and hanging off their exteriors, had no concern for safety as folks jumped off and on. Sometimes the passengers fell, barely escaping being hit in their attempts to get around the city. We passed by a hotel with armed guards posted in the front directly across from the plastic tent cities of despair. I was completely baffled as to how the masses of Haitian people tolerated the minority Haitian elite who still hoarded resources and goods in such close proximity to their despair. We even saw very young children, seemingly babies, on the streets selling water and various artifacts instead of being in school learning.

The orphanages were overrun with beautiful, adorable children but lacked sufficient resources to keep the children fed and clothed. These children of all ages were packed in one windowless concrete room amid the stifling heat. To my amazement, these children were smiling as they ran up to me trying to communicate, in spite of our language barriers. I came with plenty of school supplies from my co-workers, and these babies treasured paper and pen as though they had been given a million dollars. These four and five year olds immediately went to their respective corner of the room to

draw in their books using the paper efficiently as though they knew they may not receive another notebook with paper for a very long time. As you can only imagine, each experience had me bawling in a corner out of the sight of the children who seemed at times to be more resilient than I.

Beyond the need for help in rebuilding, the director shared with me many of their challenges. Of course, they needed building design and material changes to fit with the climate and to insure that true building codes were finally embraced, followed, and enforced. They also needed proper healthcare, clothing, beds, and materials to start school again. The needs were similar in hundreds of other orphanages.

The highlight of my week was meeting my shining star, Emerson, an 11 year old boy who was practically running an orphanage as his Haitian American director worked hard to support several other orphanages. Emerson had taught himself English, which allowed him to communicate easily with us. His smile and ease were infectious as he showed us around. We quickly began exploring possible opportunities for him in the future, but Emerson only cared about the children and introduced them to us as if he were their parent. He raced around feeding handicapped children, showing me the ones who could accept gifts and the ones who had no motor skills.

My mind was racing to figure out how we could get Emerson to the United States on a scholarship or sponsorship. He was so smart and personable. I was crushed again with disgust because Emerson is not eligible to be adopted or sponsored since the volunteer Haitian American director of the facility where he



lived was not properly certified. Red tape would now prohibit all of the children in that facility from being adopted. I was furious! As we parted, I hugged Emerson and promised that we would meet again. Amazingly, he has an email account. Oh, by the way, Emerson is HIV positive and has no access to consistent medication. When the children around him get sick, he feels it the most, but I was told he never stops serving or doing. I was crushed by this revelation and wondered if he knew what the sickness meant for him. I was informed he was completely aware, but he does not allow his condition to interfere with his devotion and service to the orphanage.

Although I could not speak their language, the children's joy for the simple things in life transcended linguistic differences. When I pulled out school supplies, candy, and things we take for granted, such as nail polish, I was surrounded by them and their obvious excitement and gratitude, so verbal communication was unnecessary.

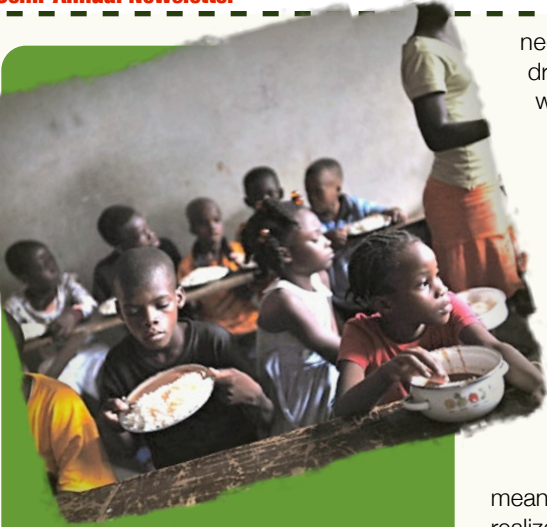
The little girls were delighted with their colored nails and the time I spent just holding and loving them. I could have spent a year there, yet I could not have left more quickly as I was overwhelmed

with all that was needed to be done there. Haitians have been exploited by so many people including their own; yet they remain a very proud and a caring people.

**"They call us the "t-shirt" groups — people who come with their mission t-shirts, but ultimately do not generate a lasting impact..."**

**Is YOUR LIFE making a LASTING IMPACT?**  
*Live on Purpose TODAY!*





Haitian children prepared to eat dinner recently at the Foyer of Patience orphanage in Port-au-Prince. Foyer of Patience is like hundreds of places that pass as orphanages for thousands of children in the poorest country in the hemisphere.

Photo: Lynsey Addario for The New York Times

## How Will YOU Help?

In my role as a minister, I prayed for every child and covered every room with my anointed oil in a very quiet way. I was there for my job, but the Voodoo element was all around. Once it got out that I was a minister, I began to hear, once again, disheartening stories of all the churches that have come and left without having an impact, just the immediate gratification of coming, seeing and leaving. They call us the “t-shirt” groups—people who come with their mission t-shirts, but ultimately do not generate a lasting impact on improving the quality of life for the masses of people who are still suffering from decades of hardship, neglect, and exploitation.

Our Presiding Bishop, Dr. Monroe R. Saunders, Jr., challenged us at this past Convocation to examine ourselves and to have compassion for those in need, near and far. Bishop Izett Scott has been working tirelessly all over this world creating impact, but he needs help. When I went to the altar during Convocation in recognition that I needed and wanted to be a part of the solution, who could have predicted that the Lord would create an immediate opportunity for me to see firsthand why we

need to be compassionate, action-driven, and move beyond our church walls, like yesterday!

I am still working through processing my PAP experience, my reality check. We still have another \$300K to fundraise before our Project Haiti orphanage will be finalized. I am convinced that the lessons I am learning will empower me to align Project Haiti with the efforts of the United Church of Jesus Christ (UCJC). However, I still am learning and grappling with the complexities of the real meaning of impact and how it can be realized. Prayerfully and through our collective efforts, we will achieve our intended outcomes because our children are living in horrible conditions and dying daily. Time is precious, and every day of inactivity results in a lost life and a missed opportunity to show our children Jesus through our meaningful outreach to and impact on them.

Will you help? Support the UCJC's efforts. Give and give now of your time, treasure, and talent—a child is waiting for whatever you have to offer, no matter how insignificant it may seem to you. “For little becomes much, when you place it in the Master's hand.”

Please, please pray for the children of Haiti!

*Minister Kimberly Lewis*  
Harvest United Ministries  
Waldorf, MD

## 3rd Episcopal Diocese Convention Brooklyn, NY

*Bishop Leslie J. Barnes,*  
*Diocesan Bishop*

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Episcopal Diocese Convocation was a wonderful time of renewal and fellowship for saints of the District and visitors from as far away as Canada, England and the West Indies. The theme for the meeting, held from Wednesday, September 14, 2011 through Sunday, September 18, 2011, was “The Church Prepared for Change.”

Throughout the event, anointed speakers and teachers expounded God's word to effect the growth and rejoicing of the saints; as well as the conversion of the unsaved. Memorable messages came through messengers such as Pastor Vivian Grubb, Brooklyn, New York, Bishop Devon Brown, Jamaica, W.I., Presiding Bishop Monroe Saunders, Jr., Baltimore, MD, and Bishop Dolbert Clarke, Grand Cayman Is, W.I.

Pastor Grubb revealed that there's no preparedness without a plan and that God is a dynamic God who doesn't change but His methodology does. He also stated that God has, fortunately, given us the plan that is equipped for the changing methodology. That plan is the Holy Ghost – equipped for change, and the only thing that can address the challenges of today.

Through the exposition of Bishop Brown, we were reminded that the Church is powerful, that it transforms, and that for Zion's sake, we cannot hold our peace. He also said that, as ambassadors for Christ, we have been given a commission to reconcile the world to Christ, and it is time for us to war against sin.

Bishop Saunders stressed “Unity” and the need for all of us to change to achieve the oneness for which Jesus had prayed. The Spirit of God moved mightily among us and, at the end of his message, saints responded overwhelmingly to a call to approach the altar – a demonstration of their willingness to stand together in unity. Bishops, pastors and laymen alike, gathered together for a special prayer for unity.

In one of Bishop Clarke's stirring messages, he told us we are chosen to change the atmosphere. We heard that, not until God gives us power over the demonic forces that rule over our area, can we have revival. We were also encouraged to stand in these days to challenge the enemy.

No matter which teaching or preaching session one attended, the presence of the Lord was rich and the blessings of the Lord were evident. Attendees surely knew God was moving as souls were baptized with the Holy Ghost and, still others dedicated their lives to Him as they were baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Certainly, this convocation was a blessing and we thank our God for faithfully visiting us, even in these days.

*Evangelist Patricia Watson*  
Triumphant Community Church  
Somerset, NY

# Helping People is Not Complicated if You Have a Compassionate Heart

The theme of Convocation 2011 was "Compassion-Driven Ministry" and I was truly blessed by the speakers, W.O.R. seminars and discussions. I have attended many convocations in recent years but this year, it made a tremendous impact on my life. Many days after I returned home from the Convocation, I had to do a self-examination. I began to question if I was doing my reasonable service to affect the lives of people in our church community. In addition, I kept asking myself if the financial donation that I gave in response to Bishop Saunders' request to support foreign missions was reasonable. And yes, Dr. Gibson, I gave the extra pairs of new shoes that I was not wearing to people in desperate need of them.

As my church members and I made preparations to host our regular Friends & Family days, I felt the urgency to reach out to the less-fortunate in our communities, to witness one on one to parents – with the intent to recruit children to attend Sunday school at our church. At first, I was lacking the courage but the Holy Spirit kept pushing me to move into purpose. God is able to equip us to make a difference in the lives of children and to be a witness to the parents involved.

The children and parents in this community have become my heartbeat as I am with them almost every weekend. A strong connection with the parents and children has developed in a positive sense. I make weekly phone calls to the parents, not just to enquire about the well-being of the children, but to reinforce the fact that our church is a place of refuge and that they can depend on us at any time.

Our Sunday school attendance has improved with 20 new children that attend on a weekly basis. The wise counsel of Bishop Saunders, Jr., Bishop Ludlow Miller and others has constantly advocated that ministry must affect our communities.

As members of a compassion-driven ministry, we seek to reach beyond the walls of Praise Sanctuary. There is no limit to what God can do when we avail ourselves to be used by God. A compassionate heart reflects the intent of Jesus Christ as we seek to be a conduit of His Glory. I can truly say that attending the Convocation was, once again, impacting. *"If I can help somebody as I pass along, then my living shall not be in vain."*

*Missionary Marcia Redway-Bond*  
Praise Sanctuary, Toronto, Canada

# Spiritual Vitamin: Compassion From the Heart

Webster defines compassion as a "sympathetic consciousness of others' distress together with a desire to alleviate it." Oftentimes when we think of compassion in the Bible we consider that scriptures will often say that Jesus was moved with compassion before He healed, delivered or helped someone in need. We also think of the parable Jesus told about the Good Samaritan in St. Luke 10. The Good Samaritan becomes an excellent example of why compassion is important and how we are to move with compassion for those in need.

The story is a familiar one, a man is robbed and left for dead and a priest and a Levite cross over to the other side rather than help him, while a Samaritan not only aids him in his needs but also makes provision for his recovery. The focus in this parable is usually on the actions of the Good Samaritan, but the thought that led to the action is also important. It would appear that somewhere in the heart of the Samaritan, something moved, allowing him to step outside of himself and extend himself for someone else.

The history of the Samaritan people is a troubled one; they were considered outcasts, immoral people and people without heritage and culture. They were a despised race and the Jews looked down on them. One could infer that perhaps this Samaritan was someone who, although successful, was rejected, perhaps pushed aside and hurt. The compassion that emerged from the Samaritan for this man, who was badly wounded, probably emerged from a heart that had experienced deep wounds itself. He understood what it

felt like to be hurt, rejected and abused and perhaps knew what it felt like for others to cross over to the other side, rather than deal with him.

The lesson for us is that when we go through pain, rejection and suffering, we should not close ourselves to the compassion and ministry that God will allow through our circumstances. The enemy of our souls would like to keep us buried in our pain and suffering rather than releasing the fragrance of mercy and grace to help someone in need. The challenge is to allow the Holy Spirit to cause us to rise above our own circumstances and reach out to someone who is in need. Perhaps it is someone who has experienced the same things that we have experienced and because we know from our own experience, we are able to minister love and support.

Let us rise above our current state and allow the Spirit of compassion to emerge from our hearts to help someone in need.

*Dr. Simone Gibson*  
Transformation Church, Baltimore, MD



"IF I CAN HELP SOMEBODY AS I PASS ALONG, THEN MY LIVING SHALL NOT BE IN VAIN."

# Strive to be Healthy

As the holidays quickly approach, it's so easy to think about what will be on the dinner table as opposed to what will land on your waistline. In case you're not born with the genetics where you can eat anything you want and NEVER gain a pound, here are 10 TIPS to beat the holiday bulge. It's time to give away that cute holiday wool sweater, and wear the red and black dress in the back of your closet!

1. **SHIFT YOUR FOCUS.** Focus on being healthy and not being "thin". Don't get caught up with today's standards of what you should look like. If you're not sure what your personal target should be, consult your doctor and start from there.
2. **GET MOVING.** For beginners, a little activity goes a long way and also burns calories. If you switch the stairs for the elevator and a jog instead of a stroll to the mailbox, you have made the first step.
3. **NEW PLAYLIST.** Music can get stale real quick. Throw in a couple new tunes to help you turn up the pace. "The Prayers" by J. Moss and "Champion" by Darwin Hobbs will help you increase your stride.
4. **10 EXTRA MINUTES.** For more experienced exercisers, challenge yourself by extending the length of your workout. If you usually do 45 minutes of cardio, tack on an extra 10 minutes. It'll tire you out at first, but your heart will thank you in the end.
5. **COMMERCIAL BREAK.** Don't take a deep breath and sigh while you're watching a holiday episode of *Grey's Anatomy*. Instead, take a breath, and do 30 crunches or 15 jumping jacks during the break. Try this in intervals during the commercials, and see how good you feel!
6. **LEFTOVER TURKEY.** Find a healthy way to keep that turkey going after the holidays. Try a spinach turkey salad or turkey soup with fresh herbs to keep that satisfied holiday grin on your face.
7. **REDISCOVER FRESH FRUIT AND VEGGIES.** It's true that the best fruits and vegetables seem to be in the summer. However, make a change and discover a new love for the best that fall has to offer such as Washington apples, pomegranates, acorn squash, and zucchini. A minimum of five servings of fruit and vegetables are recommended for daily intake. If you aim for that, you're less likely to splurge on macaroni and cheese.
8. **QUENCH YOUR THIRST.** Between the holiday punch and auntie's homemade eggnog, you can't quite get enough. So, go ahead and have one glass, and then indulge in a tall refreshing glass of your doctor's favorite...WATER...and keep indulging.
9. **JUST SAY NO.** Sometimes the hardest thing to resist is the desert table. No one is saying to deprive yourself, but know your limits. Think twice before you go for that second piece of red velvet cake.
10. **DON'T STARVE ON THE HOLIDAY.** DO NOT skip breakfast and DO NOT skip your late morning snack, because that will only decrease your metabolism and cause you to pile on first and second helpings.

*Sister Desiree Jones*

First United Church, Detroit, MI

GET HEALTHY... GET MOVING!



## BARN BRACK

### Ingredients

- 15 oz. Cold Tea
- 7 oz. Brown Sugar
- 12 oz. Mixed Dried Fruit
- 10 oz. Self-rising Flour
- 1 Egg (beaten)



### Directions

1. PUT cold tea, sugar and mixed fruit in a bowl to soak overnight.
2. THEN, add flour and egg. MIX.
3. POUR mixture into a lined loaf tin.
4. BAKE at 350 degrees for 1 hour and 30 minutes or until a knife inserted into cake comes out clean.
5. SERVE hot or cold.

*First Lady Beverly Barnett Trubbs*  
True Holy Church of God, Brooklyn, NY

# A Prayer Garden

The Women's Ministry at Family Worship Center (Pastor J. Harley) created a unique Prayer Garden.

The project was the inspiration of the local president, Evangelist Trinda Patterson. The following steps were taken:

1. An area of the church was identified to be used as a prayer garden during this session.
2. The area was filled with plants that were brought to the meeting by each participant. An elaborate garden was created throughout the room that incorporated thick vines hanging from the ceiling giving the effect of a forest-like canopy.
3. A walk-through trellis interwoven with vines was placed in a section of the room. A variety of leafy branches were placed around walls and near

benches or chairs to create a life-like vegetation garden.

4. To complete its beauty, a few large rocks and pine cones were strategically placed around the room along with flowering potted plants and other garden items. Soft sounds of nature, worship music and a gentle waterfall cascading in the background completed the special effects.
5. All participants gathered outside the entrance to the garden. Each person was instructed to ask God's guidance in submitting a request for intercessory prayer.
6. Five to six people were designated to lead the prayers of intercession. Each intercessor was allowed to pray five to ten minutes.
7. After the intercessory prayers were completed in the outer courts, the participants entered the Prayer Garden for a time of meditation and

private time with God. The garden was enhanced with places to sit, kneel or lie down.

The idea was to have each person's plant bathed in an atmosphere of concentrated prayer and showered with the residue of those prayers. After this session, participants were encouraged to take the prayer-saturated plants back to their homes, give them to a hospital patient, or share them with any other person who might need uplifting. The participants could also take other vegetation from the prayer garden for distribution since they were also bathed in prayer.

What a wonderful refreshing atmosphere these plants produced. And as the prayers went up, an abundance of blessings came showering down.

*Sister Juwae S. McNeil*

Family Worship Center  
Yemassee, SC



**Down**

1. cake made with treacle or syrup and flavoured with ginger
2. a period of the year characterized by a particular climate or activity
3. central figure of the christian religion
5. decorative; colourful; for parcels or presents
7. a fragrant gum resin obtained from certain trees and used, especially in the Near East, in perfumery, medicines, and incense
9. Snow shaped to resemble human figure
12. the birth of Jesus Christ...
13. a leathery-leaved parasitic plant which grows on apple, oak, and other broadleaf trees and bears white glutinous berries in winter.
14. a cylinder or block of wax with a central wick
16. person who tends and rears sheep
17. a widely distributed evergreen shrub, typically having prickly dark green leaves, small white flowers, and red berries.
18. the purchasing of goods
19. centre piece of a birthday celebration
20. religious folk songs, particularly associated with Christmas
23. mother of Jesus

**Across**

1. things given willingly to someone without payment
2. a fixed luminous point in the night sky. Used to guide the shepherds to where Jesus was
4. a drink consisting of beaten egg, milk, and sugar, nutmeg for flavour

6. a spiritual being believed to act as an attendant, agent, or messenger of God
8. ornaments
10. a long trough from which horses or cattle feed
11. one of the gifts brought to Jesus by the wisemen

15. used to convey good wishes & cheer
19. place of worship
21. birth place of Jesus
22. a day of festivity or recreation
24. earthly father of Jesus
25. the coldest season

Answer Key on Page 10.

*A Christmas Crossword*

## Haiti's Disaster: No Significant Change

It is hard to imagine that it's almost two years since the country of Haiti was devastated by a 7.0 earthquake, leaving tens of thousands dead and hundreds of thousands homeless. Some were fortunate to have gotten a tent for shelter, while there are still others with nowhere to call home. I believe the perception of most of us who have not seen the devastation first hand may be of the opinion that all is well and life is back to normal . . . NOT SO! Tent cities, as they are called, are all across Port Au Prince. These tents were intended to be only temporary shelters, but are still being used as permanent places of residence. It has been estimated that close to a million of these tents, having been exposed to the elements for so long, are now worn and are in bad condition. Many have to be repaired using cardboard and or old plastic bags.

While some government-run schools are back in operation, only those children whose parents or

guardian can afford to pay are able to attend school. There are, however, many local and international church organizations that are providing free education with volunteer staff for some of the children whose parents cannot afford to pay. During my husband's (Bishop Izette Scott) last visit to Haiti, two weeks ago (October 10-14), he had the opportunity to visit both a government-run school and a church operated school. There he saw little children hungering not only for food, but for the good education which our children in this country take for granted. We may send them rice, used clothes and other items for which they are truly grateful. However, if we do not help in the process of educating these children NOW, twenty years later, we will still be sending them rice.

Up to two weeks ago, Bishop Scott said, there were no significant improvements that were noticed, except for repaving what appears to be approximately two miles of roadway leading from the Airport. In addition, there are some (N.G.O.) non-governmental organizations that are engaged in the construction of a few one-room houses. There are damaged buildings still there in very unsafe condition, miles and miles of roadway in deplorable condition,

unsanitary living conditions, and uneven surfaces all around due to separations that occurred as a result of the earthquake.

Please continue to pray and support Haiti in whatever way you can.

*Lady Ethel Scott*

First United Church, Ft. Lauderdale, FL

## Book Review

### Journey to the Well

*Bishop Vashti M. McKenzie*

This inspirational book is about spiritual transformation and change. The author's thoughts and teachings are motivated by the all familiar biblical story of the Samaritan woman's visit to the well where she encounters the life-changer himself, Jesus. Her twelve powerful lessons along with her own personal stories, scriptural quotes, meditational activities, affirmations, and simplified follow-up tasks will help any woman on her spiritual journey to face and conquer the hard times of life no matter which season of life she finds herself.

Briefly stated, some of the issues she deals with are hopelessness, cultural barriers, being open to God; timing, learned ignorance, past issues, excuses; opportunities, self-esteem and purpose. As these lessons are unveiled, you will find yourself somewhere in the mix and will have to make a decision to either listen to the Holy Spirit or turn a deaf ear to His revelations.

Ladies, transformation is on-going, but we must be willing and open to change. As difficult as it may be at times, the results are worth any discomfort such personal disclosure may reveal.

I recommend that you use this book with a women's group or ministry and together experience and discover the power of transformation. Maturity in Christ requires that we are honest about who we are and where we are in our journey and this book will help you transcend your past, enter your today with spiritual integrity, while preparing you for a greater and more fulfilling tomorrow.

*Co-Pastor Ernestine Lewis*

WOR President

Harvest United Ministries, Waldorf, MD



**A market vendor covers her face from garbage smoke in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, Thursday, March 17, 2005. (AP Photo/Ariana Cubillos)**

## My Hand in God's Hand

There are many mothers who find themselves in a situation where they are raising a child or children by themselves. This could be the result of a separation, a divorce, a child being born out of wedlock, a decision to adopt a child, the death of a spouse, or various other reasons. Whatever the reason, the job of a single mother is not easy.

Single mothers often live a life of loneliness. They have to make many decisions single-handedly determining what they think is best for their children. Without the help of a spouse, they try to make financial ends meet as the provider for their children. They also try to provide positive opportunities to ensure that their children will have a fair chance of being successful in life.

The responsibilities of a single mother are great. In addition to working, they transport their children to and from different activities. Often, this has to be done in addition to preparing the nightly dinner. They tirelessly help with homework, projects, and attend the Parent Teacher Nights at school.

This article is to encourage each single mother. . . Know that "you are not alone". Although you may feel that you have to walk this path alone as a single mother, you really do not. You do not have to raise your children alone. If you keep your hand in God's hand using His Word as a guide, you will be victorious. Know that God will never leave you nor forsake you. When you draw near to God, and He will draw near to you. Pray without ceasing. So, pray about everything. Take nothing for granted.

Teach your children to love God and obey His Word. Don't even try to raise your children alone. Allow God to guide all your decisions, fill your lonely moments and make a way out of no way. Take an offensive position; anoint your children, daily. If they are away from home (school, military service, etc.) anoint their picture and expect results.

Be encouraged, and know that you are not alone for God is your refuge and strength, a very present help..."

*Sister Joyce J. Hughes*

Transformation Church, Baltimore, MD

### *My Hand in God's Hand*

Mother / Father / Hero  
You were both mother and father  
Shouldering the load alone  
Doing your best

Filling the void  
Washing the clothes  
Earning the money  
Cooking the food  
Making the repairs  
Nursing our wounds

Dealing with our changes  
Wiping the tears  
And correcting our mistakes

Your days were filled with chores  
Your nights were filled with concerns  
There was not much time for you  
It had to be a painful ordeal  
You had every right to be bitter  
But you weren't

Instead you just dove right in  
Showering us with more love  
Mending the tear  
Endeavoring to keep us a family

I can never repay you  
That's impossible  
But I want you to know  
That you are an incredible woman

A true role model  
And my favorite hero

~ Curtis Dodson 1994

## HOLIDAY PANACHE

Happy holidays ladies! I can hardly believe the time has arrived again. Can you? 2011 is about to conclude and 2012 is rapidly approaching. As I reflect on this past year, it has certainly been one of enormous challenges – financially and spiritually. For some of us, it has even been "life-changing."

A friend of mine said to me that on New Year's Eve as she is ringing in the New Year and exiting the old, it is always with trepidation. Will the New Year bring joy, happiness, success or will it bring adversity, hardship and trial? I responded to her that whatever the challenges the year may bring, know that

"it is not important what happens to you but it is more important how you respond."

So, forgetting those things that are behind, let us welcome this holiday and the New Year Season with exuberance, style, elegance and confidence. Let this be seen in the manner in which we entertain family and friends, in how we decorate our homes, the gifts that we give, and the cuisine that we prepare. This holiday season is an excellent opportunity to do something totally unexpected for an esteemed loved one with "pizzazz". Let your "holiday panache" be exhibited in the way you

express yourself. Be creative, new, stylish, extraordinary and perhaps youthful.

Ladies, let us continue "Holiday Panache" throughout 2012. Look positively towards the future; be energized by the accomplishments and successes of 2011 and eagerly expect the prospects of a **PROSPEROUS, REWARDING** and **FULFILLING NEW YEAR.**

*Sister Ethel Stewart*

Transformation Church, Baltimore, MD



## We Are Our Brother's Keeper

In July 2011 our family experienced our first overseas missionary journey within the United Churches. Over the years my husband, Pastor Michael Maybin, and I have ministered all along the east coast, in Canada, the United Kingdom and Jamaica. This trip was special because our children were old enough to minister with us. We anticipated great things.

Our visit to St. Croix US Virgin Isles was intended to be a blessing to Pastor John Briscoe and the saints at Refuge Tabernacle. As we ministered to the people of God, Pastor John was uplifted, refreshed and replenished spiritually. It was a labor of love, standing shoulder to shoulder as our brother's keeper so that he could be rejuvenated for the work ahead. In representing the United Church of Jesus Christ, Apostolic, we assured him that he was not alone and that there were co-laborers willing to encourage and support his Kingdom efforts.

The plane landed on the tropical island of St Croix, surrounded by its beautiful turquoise water. Pastor John and his son, John Jr., were waiting for us. I knew it would only be a matter of time before our children adopted him as family.

There were several activities scheduled during the week including bible bowl, baptism, prayer meeting, and even a funeral. We were willing and ready to fulfill whatever duties given.

The mission began with bible study. I gave a

teaching on the meaning of prayer and its dynamics. The Holy Spirit moved and souls were blessed. We were then led to have everyone minister to each other, dropping a "right- now" word into their prayer partners' lives. It was awesome watching God at work. Seeing the brethren come out of their comfort zones and minister one to the other made me want to burst into a dance of praise to God.

On Saturday, all roads led to the beach. Early that morning the water was troubled, awaiting baptism. The atmosphere was electrified with scriptures, singing and praying. Two candidates came forward. After hearing the baptismal rights and accepting the charge, they were baptized. As they arose, a not so melodious voice started singing "Been Down in Jesus Name." It didn't matter how it sounded, we rejoiced together because a soul was added to the Kingdom. Later that night, prayer meeting became a Holy Ghost revival. Three souls received the infilling in a matter of minutes as on the Day of Pentecost. This caused us to expect a great move of God for Sunday service.

When we walked into Sunday morning service, the atmosphere was charged with the rhythmic sound of well-known spiritual songs with a Caribbean flare. It was wonderful! Our children, Connie, Luke and Thillah, ministered so passionately in song to the extent that young John left drumming and joined them in singing. It was a joy to see both families come

together for the purpose of invoking God's presence.

Elder Maybin preached from the theme, "Rapture Ready", giving practical insight for being prepared for Christ's return. As a result thirty-eight souls came forward and either made a re-commitment or re-dedication of their lives to the Lord. Three additional souls desired baptism and one received the baptism of the Holy Ghost.

After church, we returned to the ocean waters for baptism. It was awesome! The residue of the service still weighed heavily on all of us. We knew to expect the devil's counter attack, but we didn't anticipate an immediate assault. While leaving the beach to go for dinner, the car in which my two girls and I were traveling was involved in a serious accident. Our vehicle was a total loss. However, we refused to give the devil any praise by complaining; instead, we had a Praise Party right there on the side of the road. We gave God all the praise and honor due unto Him because we walked away from an accident in which both cars were total losses, but we only had minor bumps and bruises. Hallelujah, what a mighty God we serve!

In the end, the Kingdom of God and the local church were blessed and the kingdom of darkness was robbed! We have committed to making this an annual trip until God says otherwise. To God be the glory for the great things He has done!

*Co-Pastor Violet Maybin*

Kingdom Seekers Worship Center  
Bluffton, SC



AN OVERSEAS MISSIONARY JOURNEY

# 2011 HOLY CONVOCATION WOR CONFERENCE - CANDID MOMENTS



## INSIGHT

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|-------------------|--------------------|
| 23. Mary          | 25. Winter         |
| 20. Carols        | 24. Joseph         |
| 19. Cake          | 22. Holiday        |
| 18. Shopping      | 21. Bethlehem      |
| 17. Holly         | 19. Church         |
| 16. Shepherd      | 14. Candles        |
| 15. Mistletoe     | 13. Greeting Cards |
| 12. Nativity      | 11. Frankincense   |
| 9. Snowman        | 10. Manger         |
| 7. Myrrh          | 8. Decorations     |
| 5. Wrapping paper | 6. Angel           |
| 3. Jesus          | 4. Eggnog          |
| 2. Season         | 2. Star            |
| 1. Gingerbread    | 1. Gifts           |
- ACROSS**  
**Crossword Answer Key**
- DOWN**



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