

INSIGHT

Newsletter



Optimum Living for the Spirit-Led Woman

Time to Reflect, Time to Renew

As 2012 quickly draws to a close and we begin to look toward 2013 and all it will offer, it's important to assess where we are and where we want to go. Did you

accomplish all of the goals that you set for yourself this year? Did you go back to school, start that exercise class, develop a more fervent prayer life, or join that ministry? Or are you like so many of us who will look back over the course of the last 12 months and realize that you are not as far as you thought you'd be or even worse, that you never began working towards your goal. No matter where you find yourself, determine today to make changes that will guarantee that 2013 will be the year when you accomplish your goals and move with purpose toward your destiny. Every day we receive brand new mercies (Lam 3:22-23); it's our opportunity to repent and move forward. The Scripture

tells us that we who are in Christ are new creatures; we are to forget those things that are behind us and press towards the mark. Because of Christ we don't have to stay the same, we can walk in newness of life. Let's determine to renew our way of thinking so that 2012 will not be the same as 2013.

To begin, take the time to take a real honest assessment of where you are. Reflect on this last year and ask yourself: why have I not met my goals, what does the Word say about my current situation and am I willing to make a decision to turn my life around? The difference between continuing to live a life filled with unmet goals and being on the path to fulfilling your God given destiny rests with a decision. The decision you make today will determine your tomorrow.

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We can change how we think and, thereby, change our lives. We change our outcome when we renew our minds (Rom. 12:1). Our minds are continually renewed when we, on a daily basis, seek God and His presence. It is only in the presence of God that true change can be actualized in our hearts and minds. It is up to you to daily guard your heart, govern your mind, harness your thoughts, and discipline your behavior. Choose to renew your mind and focus on changing your future and fulfilling your destiny. Choose to believe that this time will be different. Our destiny changes with our thoughts; we shall become what we believe. Our habitual thoughts correspond with what is manifested in our lives. Our destiny is decision oriented. Let's look towards 2013 with a renewed determination. Let's determine that 2013 will be our greatest year yet.

Min. Stephanie Polk, Harvest United Ministries Waldorf, Maryland

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Recession Stress

Today we hear about different types of stress. However, the one that affects almost everyone directly or indirectly is "recession stress". I know you may be hearing about recession stress for the first time, but you are not the only one. A large number of people are becoming ill and doctors blame it on this condition.

Recession stress affects everyone from business owners, students and the unemployed. However, it has a larger impact on younger people according to studies, and they are feeling the brunt of this recession. Younger people between ages 15 and 24 years old have more difficulty finding jobs. The unemployment rate for this age group jumped the highest in eleven years to 14.8%. With residence fees, tuition and car insurance all increasing, many are asking themselves if they will find a job this summer.

Losing your job can be one of life's most serious stressors. However, you can stay mentally stable by staying on top of your game. Catching early signs of stress is very important and you can save yourself from more serious problems such as anxiety and depression.

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COMPASSION

What does it mean to have compassion? We must be ready and open for God to use us in whatever ways He wants to. However, if God were to tell us what He wanted us to do before the task, most of us probably would not do it because of the sacrifices that would be required.

Two personal stories that illustrate this point come to mind. On one occasion, I was an assistant teacher, and the teacher I was working with was having problems connecting with the students. After I found out that she was having a number of personal challenges, I asked God, "Am I going to have to take her step by step?" The answer was "yes." Sometimes, showing compassion for people will cost us time, energy and money. I offered her and her children the option to stay at my house. When people told me it was too dangerous, the Lord told me to keep on going. As a result of my obedience, eventually this woman was fully restored. The Lord knows what gifts we each have. Whatever God wants us to do, He will show us how to do it.

"Sometimes, showing compassion for people will cost us time, energy and money."

In another example, God wanted me to help an elderly woman who belonged to my church. She had been away from our church for over a year, and I helped her to move from her senior citizens apartment building. As a result of the stress, I had a hard time sleeping. But many times we have to put ourselves in another person's shoes in order to keep

going. I said, "Lord, this is an impossible situation." She was very depressed. I had to know this was in God's plan. Eventually, everything fell into place including her family's cooperation. She was even able to get a senior's apartment near me.

At various points in our lives, God brings us to situations or people

that He wants us to show compassion towards. Despite whatever inconveniences these situations might cause, if we are obedient, the Lord Jesus Christ will continue to use us in marvelous ways that we never thought possible.

Betty L. James
Transformation Church
Baltimore, Maryland

Words from the Green Carpet:

Sustainability = People + Planet + Profit (Triple Bottom Line)

The triple bottom line (TBL) measures organizational (and societal) success: economic, ecological and social. The Social leg of the TBL (PEOPLE) is just as powerful in living a more sustainable life as the environmental commitment and economic conservancy.

I have a co-worker that was recently trained in her church ministry to work with victims who have survived human trafficking, slavery and sexual exploitation locally, nationally and globally. She had the opportunity after much prayer, fasting and training to meet and work with victims who had survived sexual oppression and human slavery here in Washington, DC. The experiences this young woman spoke of changed her life forever and she shared with me her process and her commitment to fighting oppression and injustice everywhere.

Living in this country it is hard to believe that such inhumane crimes and acts still occur but it is an everyday reality for women and children around the world. As we struggle in our local ministries to define our sphere of influence we must not omit our responsibility to speak out, serve and act on the behalf of those who are oppressed and in need of justice here and around the globe.

Most recently PBS had a nation wide launch of the book *Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide*. The book is a New York Times bestseller telling the story of global oppression of women and girls in the developing world.

Pulitzer Prize winning authors Nicholas D. Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn report on their journey through Africa and Asia to meet the extraordinary women struggling there, among them a Cambodian teenager sold into sex slavery and an Ethiopian woman who suffered devastating injuries in childbirth. *Half the Sky* shows how a little help can transform the lives of women and girls abroad; it shares the spirit of hope and triumph in the midst of oppression. These stories reveal that the key to economic progress lies in unleashing women's potential and it's also a strategy for fighting poverty here and abroad.

This book is a great read for empowering our young women to service in non-traditional channels.

The International Justice Mission (IJM) has a system for supporting ministries committed to working in support of justice.

From the IJM website: As your church steps forward in the adventure of following this call to justice, we believe that you will discover that this work is truly a journey. And, like any journey, we believe your trip will be most successful if you have prepared spiritually for it, and if you have the right tools to use along the way. IJM's Church Mobilization staff is here to help you as you take this journey – we have the gear to get you going, and we want to support you in this work.

While no two churches are the same, we have found that this justice journey usually involves three phases – Educate, Explore and Engage. In the Educate phase, we invite you to learn about injustice and how God calls us to respond to it. In the Explore phase, you will give this information context as you learn about the justice issues of your congregation, your community and your world – and about the specific skills your church community may be able to bring to this battle. In the Engage phase, you will put this period of prayerful study and investigation to action as you discover the specific way in which your church will contribute to the work of justice in the world.

If you are interested in researching additional resources to inform your ministry here are a few that you can use to find ways to connect to broader and global justice campaigns:

Websites:

Be the Love www.bethelovecampaign.org
 The A21 Campaign www.thea21campaign.org
 Polaris Project www.polarisproject.org
 International Justice Mission www.ijm.org
 Human Trafficking.com www.humantrafficking.org
 State Department Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons www.state.gov/g/tip/

Articles / Reports:

State Department's 2010 Trafficking in Person's Report www.state.gov/g/tip/rls/tiprpt/2010/

United Nations Toolkit to Combat Trafficking www.unodc.org/unodc/en/human-trafficking/publications.html

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The Spiritual Fruit of Self-Control

Some of the greatest characters in our Bible have lost control. For example, Moses lost control of his emotions when he struck the rock as opposed to speaking to the rock. David lost control when he saw Bathsheba bathing on the rooftop and Adam and Eve lost control when they ate the fruit that was forbidden. Noah lost control when he drank too much wine and lay uncovered. Losing control is a part of our human nature, and we all are liable to lose control. For instance, we sometimes negatively respond to situations with harsh words of violence. We also over indulge ourselves by eating and spending too much. Such behavior is followed by feelings of remorse. Then we make promises to ourselves not do it again; yet, we find ourselves repeating them. It is at these times that we feel powerless over these behaviors and we spin out of control.

Feelings of powerlessness are not exaggerated because man in his natural state is controlled by desire. The main objective of the natural man is to satisfy the flesh instantly which pits man's will against God's will. It was said during the time of the judges that every man did that which was right in his own eyes (Judges 17:6KJV). Sinful man will seek to satisfy sinful desires. Indeed we are living in an age where we do whatever feels good to us as far as the law allows. Paul said "... the carnal mind is enmity against God, for it is not subject to the law of God nor indeed can be so. Then those who are in the flesh cannot please God" (Romans 5:8KJV). Therefore the natural flesh of man cannot and will not be controlled but will always seek to satisfy his desires which often conflict with God's will for our lives and will eventually lead to death (Romans 8:7KJV). Therefore, in order for man to please God he must have God's Spirit.

Lack of self-control is not only detrimental to us, but it also has a negative affect on God's Kingdom. Being uncontrolled emotionally, particularly in outbursts of anger and wrath, often leads to health complications such as high blood pressure, heart attacks and strokes. Not to mention the fact that it damages our relationships

with others. Additionally, emotional instability often leads to uncontrolled eating habits. Obesity is an epidemic in American society and particularly in the church. Food becomes our drug of choice to numb pangs of sadness, anger, feelings of loneliness and inadequacy.

Overeating affects our health in the same way as being emotionally uncontrolled but in addition to health concerns previously mentioned, thyroid conditions, asthma, circulation problems, arthritis and diabetes are a few additional concerns.

Moreover, obesity can cause us to have low self-esteem, and low self-esteem can prevent us from achieving goals, fulfilling our purpose and living our best life. Like overeating, out of control spending keep us in bondage of worry and depression because we are not able to pay our bills and other financial obligations. This also affects the church, because it cripples the sower



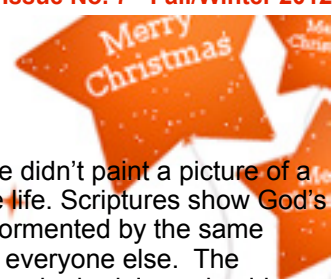
from being able to invest financially into God's Kingdom. Poor health will inhibit our praise, worship and service for God. When we are healthy emotionally, physically and financially, we can not only praise God longer but we can do more in service for him.

The solution to our lack of self-control is submission to the leading and guiding of the Holy Spirit. It is only through the Holy Spirit that we can control ourselves. 2 Timothy 1:7 states "for God has not given us a spirit of fear but of power and of love and of a sound mind" (KJV). According to the American Heritage dictionary, the adjective "sound" means unshakeable, financially secure, sensible, correct, thorough, complete and unbroken. Thus, God has given us the ability to be of unshakeable, financially secure, sensible, complete and an unbroken mind. A "Sound mind" is a mind that is self-

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WOR 2012

Fear Factor



One experience that I had at retreat still crosses my mind. I was 17 years old and simply enjoying day number two at my first youth retreat, and here was the blackest nightmare I could imagine. Why would such a terrible thing happen at such a glorious event? Why would such a life changing thing happen to me?

The bible didn't paint a picture of a fear-free life. Scriptures show God's people tormented by the same fears as everyone else. The disciples, who had Jesus beside them, seemed constantly fearful of storms, of crowds, of poverty, of armies, of the loss of their leader. The disciples found themselves in a fight for their lives as the ship was tossed on the waves. Even when they saw Jesus approaching on the

water, they were terrified. They thought He was a ghost! They let fear get the better of them.

As I grew older, wiser, stronger in the Lord, my fear met faith, and today I am delivered!

We all have stories of the power of fear, but we know Satan's power was totally broken over us when Jesus

hung on the cross. That changed everything. Fear and death have no power at all outside of the lies and distortions of the deceiver.

We can rest in the assurance and find liberation from fear when we trust God. Yes, God is victorious and so are we. Now, whenever fear tries to grip me, I find strength in Joshua 1:9 "Be strong and of good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the Lord thy God is with thee wherever thou goest." I hold on to this with all my heart with all my strength because I know the Lord is on my side; I will not fear. What can man do to me?

Joyce Jones
End-Time United Church
Norfolk, Virginia

I was standing during praise and worship, hands lifted up and mouths filled with praise, when at that moment the most eerie, evil, and strange, presence gripped me and latched onto me with great determination to not ever let go. Caught in the enemy's clutches I felt death and not life. This spirit was not playing; it was, no doubt, a force to be reckoned with. It closed in on me like a blanket, rendering me helpless. There was no doubt in my mind that if I wanted to live and break free from this horrible force that I would have to fight for my life. The turmoil was not anything I could ever describe. The terror, fear, and helplessness caused my knees to weaken and my strength to fail. There I was, paralyzed with fear.

There's no feeling quite like the icy grip of fear, and it comes in so many varieties. Yet fear is a part of what God equipped us with. It's a basic survival instinct that enables us to protect ourselves from the unexpected. Yet, the fear I experienced built power over me; it shackled my hands and kept me from doing routine things in life – working, playing, living, and serving God. I gave into the slavery of terror for a while.

Joshua 1:9 "Be strong and of good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the Lord thy God is with thee wherever thou goest."



INSIGHT Newsletter



“In God’s economy there is no recession...”

INSIGHT Newsletter

(Recession Stress continued from page 2)

COMMON SIGNS OF STRESS	SIMPLE WAYS TO MANAGE STRESS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fatigue <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chest Pain <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Insomnias <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Irritability <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rapid Heart Beat <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Suicide <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Using Alcohol or Drugs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Identify what causes you stress ✓ Breathe from the diaphragm not the chest ✓ Exercise and take care of your body. It clears the mind of negative thinking. Walk, jog or do aerobics ✓ Eliminate as many sources of stress as you can ✓ If you can't remove the stress, remove yourself. Slip away once in a while for some private time. ✓ Remember, sometimes it's okay to do nothing. ✓ Take the positive approach to life ✓ Change your attitude even if you can't change your financial situation ✓ Finally, do not lose hope (success does not come immediately)

In God’s economy there is no recession and God has promised to supply all of our needs.

Dawn Redway
First Church of the Newborn
Toronto, Canada

(Green Carpet continued from page 3)

Movies:

- * Trade
- * Taken
- * Born into Brothels
- * Dying to leave
- * Not for Sale: The Documentary
- * The Selling of Innocents
- * Children for sale (by Dateline TV)
- * Child Camel Jockeys (By HBO)
- * Frontline: The Dancing Boys of Afghanistan

Activities to raise awareness:

- * Fundraise (Car wash, bake sale, ask for donations, etc...)
- * Plan movie nights (show one of the listed movies)
- * Host a book club

I hope that this information provides another lens for you to view sustainability and the role of ministry. Just as the Lord requires us to be good stewards of this earth and its resources; we must also answer the call to be the voice for those who are silenced and can't be heard because of culture and oppression. I hope to have some great conversations with many of you at the 2013 Convocation on how you are actively weaving in social justice campaigns to your evangelism and outreach ministries.

Kimberly Lewis, President
WOR Harvest United Ministries
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-- and

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A Survival Kit for Single Parenthood

First of all I was taken by surprise when I was asked to write. "Me?" What can I share with other single parents? Foremost, I would like to thank God for His awesomeness. I thank God for the precious gift of motherhood. I thank God for the allowance of having two great parents and my dearest friend Cordelia Jennings who have been there to help me raise my two children. It takes loving individuals to assist in raising good, godly children. Proverbs 22:6 says, "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it". Rearing children begins at home, and then goes abroad. The children may be your sons, daughters, nieces, nephews, or whoever they may be, but you have to teach them to love God first because God is love.

Being a single parent has its stresses and sometimes you feel isolated. You feel overworked and out right tired. In these times you need to enlarge your circle; network and speak to other single parents. Get feedback, some of the responses may surprise you. Know that we are not perfect and are all subject to error. Seek counsel and pray daily whenever you need help, and even when you don't. Talk to God about your problems and your feelings because He's always there to listen. Allow your young ones to have happy and healthy relations with the other church youth and take an active part in decision making. I have always placed value on raising my children. But let's not forget to pamper ourselves on occasions. Let us love ourselves too. Strive to be endearing in your rearing. God bless.

Missionary Jacqueline Jones
First United Church of Jesus Christ
Detroit, Michigan

Christmas Word Search

K	F	C	G	J	E	S	U	S	M	A	N	G	E	R
P	O	E	E	S	S	D	D	A	L	S	N	S	X	D
R	L	V	F	L	N	F	R	R	D	A	W	G	E	P
O	L	I	N	B	E	Y	A	E	E	A	M	S	E	R
P	O	T	C	I	C	B	P	M	D	H	U	I	I	L
H	W	S	H	R	N	P	R	D	I	O	P	B	N	C
E	E	E	R	T	I	R	L	A	P	L	B	E	A	A
C	T	F	I	H	K	I	O	S	T	O	Y	M	H	Y
Y	A	Y	S	Z	N	X	E	B	N	E	E	A	O	S
A	R	R	T	G	A	B	E	T	H	L	E	H	E	M
S	O	R	M	J	R	M	E	L	A	S	U	R	E	J
W	C	E	A	D	F	I	M	M	A	N	U	E	L	E
O	E	M	S	G	N	I	P	P	A	R	W	U	T	W
B	D	H	O	L	I	D	A	Y	R	O	I	V	A	S
H	P	E	S	O	J	T	R	A	V	E	L	N	E	M

ANGEL	JERUSALEM
ANIMALS	JESUS
BETHLEHEM	JEWS
BIRTH	JOSEPH
BORN	MANGER
BOWS	MARY
CAMEL	MEN
CELEBRATE	MERRY
CHRISTMAS	PROPHECY
DECORATE	RIBBON
ESPOUSED	SAVIOR
FAMILY	SHEPHERDS
FESTIVES	WADDLING
FOLLOW	TRAVEL
FRANKINCENSE	TREE
HOLIDAY	WORSHIPPED
IMMANUEL	WRAPPING



Book Review...

A Life with Purpose: Reverend Rick Warren, The Most Inspiring Pastor of Our Time

By George Mair, Berkley Books 2005

Most contemporary Christians have heard of *The Purpose Driven Life*, Reverend Rick Warren's best-selling book that takes readers on a 40-day journey to discover their ultimate purpose in life: serving God. Fewer people, I surmise, are familiar with *A Life with Purpose*, the compelling story of the man behind *The Purpose Driven Life*: Pastor Rick Warren. Warren is a phenomenal example of a person who has led his life to please God, and I commend author George Mair for uncovering the story behind this fearless and visionary man of God.

Rick Warren is pastor of Orange County, CA's Saddleback Church, a thriving ministry with upwards of 16,000 members. His influence in the development of the modern church cannot be overstated. *The Purpose Driven Life* and *The Purpose Driven Church* have sold millions of copies worldwide. Additionally, Saddleback has seeded hundreds of ministries into the kingdom of God and is actively working in Africa and Latin America to train pastors how to evangelize and build dynamic congregations of believers.

In *A Life with Purpose*, Mair paints a vivid portrait of Warren: a humble man with mustard-seed faith who began ministering at his high school, took cues from his father and mother who were evangelists and pastors, and has studied and pursued evangelism and "church growth" since he started college. For those of us who desire to see souls won for Christ, Warren's life is a case-study, a blueprint for how to maximize our own potential within the social contexts that we live.

I learned several lessons from Warren's life through reading *A Life with Purpose*:

- 1) **Run towards not away from your spiritual ancestry.** Warren was blessed to be born into a household where serving God was his parents' passion. Still, Warren never stumbled or took that foundation for granted. He loved working in ministry with his parents, and even when he was a young man in high school he started a Christian club, finding ways to bring unbelievers to Christ.
- 2) **Study and show thyself approved.** Warren's success was not an accident. Mair interviewed his high school and seminary teachers and discovered that Warren knew he was called to evangelize and, especially, to build the kingdom with new converts. While he was in college and graduate school, he pursued his studies with a passion, often knowing more about the topics than his teachers did, because he never stopped researching and organizing his ideas.
- 3) **Be humble and approachable.** According to Mair, when he visited Saddleback Church Warren "looked like he was part of the sound crew" not the preacher (6). He wears Hawaiian shirts and sneakers to church, and is an affable, unassuming man. What Mair reveals is that these patterns are not accidental. They are part of Warren's core beliefs that material possessions can be a distraction from the central gospel message and "turn off" the unchurched. Warren's humility is more than skin deep. According to Mair, "He drives an old truck...and the proceeds from his successful books have been used to pay back his salary over the last twenty-five years (80). Additionally, he has made an intentional choice to remain off of the air waves, preferring to focus on hands-on aspects of his ministries.

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For those of us who desire to see souls won for Christ, Warren's life is a case-study, a blueprint for how to maximize our own potential within the social contexts that we live.

The ULTIMATE Weight Loss Program!

Ok, so throughout the summer we usually hear about all kinds of weight loss programs that fitness centers and experts have to offer. And especially if you live in the United States, these ads pop up again after the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays. Many times people put on extra weight and after a while become tired of carrying it. The extra pounds slow them down, cause them to be unhealthy and may even for some, come with shame and embarrassment. Many diet plans offer a "quick fix", but some are only temporary solutions to a seemingly permanent problem. And of course, most people like to choose the weight loss plans that allow them to still eat the foods they love, without having to give up the foods that give them comfort and make them feel good.

However, I have a weight loss program that I want you to try. Now, I'm no dietician, nurse, doctor or personal trainer. This weight loss program doesn't apply to the physical man, but rather the spirit man. Today, you may be carrying extra weight. Unhealthy relationships, guilt from your past, low self esteem or frustration because you want to be further along in life than you are, bitterness, anger, etc. All of the above mentioned things (and more) can weigh you down by making it hard to pray or hear God's voice.

The above mentioned issues (and more) may also leave you feeling ashamed. But, there's hope! How do you get rid of your burdens, that weight that you've tried other "diet plans" to drop and they don't work? Cast your cares on the Lord, He cares for you (1 Peter 5:7)! How do you do that? Follow these steps:

- 1) Tell God what's really on your heart, tell Him what's bothering you. He knows anyway (Psalm 139:1-4). Unload on Him, He can handle it!
- 2) Once you ask God to handle a situation, don't keep going over it in your mind. And don't keep talking about it over and over. That means you've picked the burden up again.
- 3) Focus on your future and how bright it is! Forget your past and move forward! (Jeremiah 29:11)
- 4) Cut out all people, habits, places, etc. that have gotten you into trouble before. Those situations should no longer have a place in your life.
- 5) Rejoice! And be confident in the freedom Christ has given you! (John 8:36)
- 6) Get into the Word to see what God says about you!
- 7) Repeat steps 1-6.

Like any weight loss program, you probably won't see results overnight. But trust me, eventually you will start to see the "pounds" melt away from your spirit, you will feel lighter and better! This is the ULTIMATE weight loss program!!

Jennifer M. Payne Watson
 Article Taken from Blog: Young Women in Ministry
 Blog Address: <http://ywiministry.wordpress.com>

The Deeper Life in God

The Deeper life in God empowers us to live in the spirit and not fulfill the lust of the flesh (Galatians 5 v 16). This is a life of establishment, knowledge, perfection, peace and much more. We may live in this spiritual atmosphere because God took on flesh, came down from heaven, died, was buried, and then resurrected.

We are free by the Spirit of God to live in this divine realm. Our will should now be the will of God for our lives. In this spiritual realm, Jesus Christ our Divine Head, teaches us how we can manifest in His presence as we acknowledge Him in all our thoughts. We pray and praise, speak in tongues (everyday), read the Word with faith, and allow it to become part of us so that we may live in this place of pureness, spotlessness, holiness and graciousness.

In the Deeper Life, the Holy Spirit transforms and converts us by revealing all ungodly attitudes and undisciplined traits. We have the authority through the Holy Ghost to put off and to put on. (Colossians 3: 12-17). This action will bring us to a place where we desire to live in that spiritual atmosphere; clothed in the Word of God, and with the anointing that discerns right from wrong. The Deeper Life cleanses us from all human behaviors, then fills us up with the fruit of the Spirit, and leads us back to eternity. (Galatians 5: 22-23) "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance:"

Pastor Cheryl P. R. Turner
 Beulah Church
 Toronto, Canada

Transitioning from Mother to Grandmother

Nana Payne's Viewpoint

I remember receiving a phone call while sitting at my desk at work. It

was my daughter, Jennifer. She said, "Mom... we, Mark and I, have something to tell you and Dad." I thought that maybe they had sold their condominium and purchased a single family home or perhaps they were going to move further away due to job assignments. It was none of these expectations. Instead, Jennifer said, "I am expecting." I said, "Well, finish your statement, what are you expecting to do?" Jennifer said, "Mom, I am expecting a baby and the due date is March 26th, 2012." I was pleasantly surprised.

Well, after hearing the most wonderful news, I had to catch my breath and began wondering what in the world am I supposed to do. Thoughts immediately began to run through my mind. Who's the baby going to look like? What type of personality will the child have, etc. But most of all, I wondered, is Jennifer going to be able to carry and deliver without any problems since she is so beautifully petite. I told myself, "no."

So, I began to express to her all of the precautions that I could think of – wear flat shoes, eat healthy, don't lift anything heavy, get plenty of rest, etc. I was so excited that I couldn't wait. It was the longest nine months of my entire life, well, except for when I was carrying Jennifer.

Well, time went on and finally the baby arrived, March 17, 2012. I was beside myself and we, my husband and I, drove ALL the way (2 and one half hours) to New Jersey on that Saturday afternoon. It was a long trip. (smile)

When I saw Ysabella Grace Watson I said, "stick a fork in me, I am done." I was so happy and also shocked that Jennifer had a natural birth. That amazed me. I believe that all of us shared that feeling.

Now, of course I am a first time grandmother and a senior citizen. What a combination all at once. Well, I did all of the things a new grandmother would do. I let her know all of the do's and don'ts of motherhood. Well, that was an interesting phase. I believe that all of you grandmothers know what I mean.

But overall, grandmother-hood is a wonderful and fulfilling experience. Ysabella Grace is a wonderful bundle of joy, a winning personality and fun to watch. I enjoy having her in our home and babysitting her. What I did not realize was that I would be purchasing

all types of items simply because I couldn't resist the cute clothes, etc. However, I now think an items sabbatical is a thought and perhaps in order - but, who am I kidding?

The truth is, I wouldn't trade this experience for anything. I thank God for my granddaughter, Ysabella Grace. I pray that she will always be healthy, be nurtured in the faith, and be all that God will have her to be.

Lady Violet T. Payne
Word for the World Community Church
Shrewsbury, PA

Nana Watson's Viewpoint

Who makes me smile at the very thought of her? Who

has me transfixed, staring at her when she's around? Who, herself, has that inquisitive gaze and that investigative look as her eyes travel around the room? Who leaves me wondering just what she's thinking, even though she can't express it? Who elicits such love and gratefulness at the wonder of God? My first grandchild, of course – Ysabella Grace!

Through life, we make many transitions, planned and unplanned – new jobs, new homes, marriages, and more. Each has its challenges and, sometimes, there's a sense of loss or foreboding. With the transition to grandmother, I've had only positive experiences. Maybe because I looked forward to it with great anticipation, maybe because my granddaughter is so beautiful and precious (yes, I know every grandmother says that) but, for whatever the reason, the experience has been one of great joy. I find myself looking forward to days when I'll be able to see her grow and make transitions of her own – crawling, walking, talking, growing up and yes, my being able to be reminded and relive the years when my own children were growing up.

This certainly is the easiest transition I've ever made because the reason for the transition, Ysabella Grace Watson, has been such a source of pleasure and pride. I thank God I've been blessed to see another generation. It is true – being a grandmother is better than being a mother – all the fun and rewards without the work. Who wouldn't love that?!

Evangelist Patricia Watson
Triumphant Community Church of Jesus Church
Somerset, New Jersey

(Book Review on page 8)

- 4) **Reach unbelievers and non-church goers.** Warren's passion and calling have been to expand the body of Christ. Therefore, he has focused on how to get people who have never believed in Christ or do not attend church to develop a relationship with God. He has led door-to-door campaigns, conducted focus groups about what keeps people away from the church, and provided abundant ministries through Saddleback that meet people's everyday needs.
- 5) **Encourage people.** Warren believes that preaching practical and uplifting messages helps believers to thrive in their everyday lives and does not detract from the seriousness of their walk. In fact, his mission is to build active believers who are evangelists and ministers in their own right.

There are so many other meaningful lessons that one can take from this book. Several chapters recount the Church Growth movement and explore some thinkers who have most influenced Warren. Additional chapters examine Warren's models of church growth and evangelism. I most enjoyed the connection between Warren's biography and his ministry trajectory.

In sum, *A Life with Purpose* is an informative and inspiring story written in clear, engaging prose. It is a fantastic reading for baby-Christians and for seasoned saints. One can order a new copy from Amazon for as little as \$4.00 including shipping! So, if you are looking to be inspired this holiday, order a copy and watch God reveal to you how you can live your own life with purpose!

Dr. Angela Howell
Transformation Church
Baltimore, Maryland

(*The Spiritual Fruit of Self-Control continued...*)

controlled and God has given the gift of self-control to the believer so that he/she can be steadfast in God's will.

Self-control is a fruit in that it contains the ability to be reproduced in others. When believers exercise self-control daily, then others around us begin to exercise self-control and it has a ripple effect to our children, neighbors and co workers. Finally, self-control is possible when we align our will with the will of God on a daily basis and "...walk according to the spirit" (Romans 8:1 KJV).

Fatimah Washington
True Holiness Church of God
Brooklyn, New York

A Life Changing Event

I begin this with only one thought in mind and that is... "when life gives us the unexpected". Personally, like most people, I thought that certain things would never happen to me or my family. Well, life handed me the unexpected.

My mom was always a very strong lady. She raised three children on her own- one being legally blind- and did what she had to do to make sure we had all we needed. There were times I can remember my mom working two to three jobs at a time. Tired, she held on and raised us with lots of values.

So when in May of 2012, after surviving two surgeries in 2011 and overcoming other health issues, it was life changing to stand in the kitchen of my mom's house and literally watch her have a stroke. She was unaware of what was happening to her; however, it quite taxing on us, her daughters to get help. Moments passing, calls to 911 and tears falling, we began to prepare my mom for what we thought would just be a ride to the hospital and a few days of inpatient care. We never knew that a stroke would have her still fighting for her strength three months later.

So now we are about to bring her home. Emotionally and mentally we are so ready for her to be "in the comfort of home", but physically we know that our home is not equipped for her.

This stumbling block in our life has been one that we would not wish on anyone. My mom has lost ability to use her left side which means the right side of her brain is where the stroke took place. By the grace of God, who reminds us that He will never leave us or forsake us, we are now trusting in Him.

I told my mom that this has made me think of the story of Job and how Satan had not even considered messing with him. Satan knew that Job had all he wanted in life so of course he would serve God. The Lord gave Satan permission to touch everything he wanted to touch in Job's life with one exception... he couldn't touch his life. I believe that with everything my mom has been through, she has had somewhat of the Job experience and this has made her want to serve Christ even the more.

We take so much for granted and we live life so freely, but we need to pay more attention to ourselves. We need to learn to be more proactive in our care.

Cecilia Smith
New Jerusalem Praise Tabernacle
Baltimore, Maryland

WOR Conference 2012 Highlights

INSIGHT Newsletter



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