

insight

*Optimum Living
for the
Spirit-Led Woman!*

An Inspirational Thought

Blooming in Unfamiliar Places: Brighten the Corner



Some years ago, my husband, Bishop Lorick, Sr., brought home a few amaryllis bulbs which he planted in the front yard. When spring came, we watched as the tiny plants pushed their way through the soil and then opened in full bloom. In time they began to multiply and bring forth an abundance of vibrantly colored flowers which were admired by the neighbors and others who passed by. The bulbs multiplied very rapidly which allowed us to share them with family and friends.

When we moved to another neighborhood, most of the bulbs went with us. They were planted along the side of the house and in the spring they would burst into a beautiful border that was greatly admired by others. Then one year, our spring yard show was not as beautiful. The flowers were smaller, the stems not as sturdy and the burst of color less intense. They did even worse the next year.

Having worked with plants for many years, my husband, Bishop Lorick, came to the conclusion that the bulbs needed to be separated and then replanted. With this in mind, he dug up all the bulbs and put most of them into a container at the corner of the house; the other bulbs were left on the ground next to the container. His intentions were to re-cultivate the flower bed and then replant the bulbs. However, he got involved with another project and the flower bed was put on hold. Spring came and the bulbs were still in the container and on the ground where they were placed.

As the weather warmed, Mother Nature prompted the bulbs to do what they were created to do. The amaryllis bulbs decided to bloom right where they were. Even though they didn't have much soil, they bloomed anyway. Some were on their side and some were upside down, but they still bloomed. Even though they were cramped and the blooms were not very large, each amaryllis bulb had a flower... because

life was still on the inside of each bulb. Blooming was their nature, their job. Their God given assignment was... to bloom. The amaryllis, though not in the familiar flower bed, bloomed where they were and beautified that corner of the house.

In thinking of blooming in unfamiliar territory, this account should remind us that there is no place that God cannot use when His spirit is alive within. Many of us may have had a situation in life where we find ourselves in unfamiliar territory. Our lives have been turned on its side, or even upside down. But because we have the Spirit on the inside we still can "bloom" where we are. We, too, can be like the amaryllis and allow our Christ nature to prevail over our situation. Even in unfamiliar territory, we can multiply our faith and share it with others.

Jesus said in Genesis 1:28 (KJV) "Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth..." Most of us see this statement as instruction about getting married and having children. However, after God has blessed us to be fruitful and we have multiplied ourselves by having our children, we need to replenish the earth. The human race is in desperate need of people who will be willing to let God use them in a special way to:

- **Replenish** the earth with love, good morals, and the sanctity of marriage.
- **Replenish** the earth with respect for life.
- **Replenish** the earth with an honest desire to pray and worship the Lord God almighty.

Romans 12:3b (KJV) tells us that "God hath dealt (given) to every man the measure of faith." In order to share our faith, we must first multiply it. Then, just like the amaryllis we can bloom even in an unfamiliar place and brighten the corner where we are!

Mother Elsie Lorick
Columbia, South Carolina

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Harmony in Marriage



A Threefold Cord is not Easily Broken

It is the dream of most young ladies to one day walk down an aisle to meet her knight in shining armor and have him take her hand in marriage. It doesn't take long before the dream becomes a reality and she finds marriage is not just a ceremony but a covenant. A covenant is between two people who commit themselves before God to a life of faithfulness and enduring love. At the center of this covenant God must be the force binding the two together as one.

Marriage is a journey of endurance and growth. The threefold cord (white, purple, and gold) is a symbol of strength and is used in some marriage ceremonies. The white cord represents the bride; the purple, the groom and the gold, the Lord. At the end of the cord a gold ring holds the strands together and it is called the "God-knot". The potential for a broken cord in our relationship generally comes when we find there is a lack of harmony or unity with God, ourselves and those around us.

The challenge of forming a relationship rests in the task of bringing together two persons who see and think differently. The male mind and female mind don't always operate the same. Author John Gray speaks to this alien relationship in his book, *Men Are from Mars, Women Are from Venus*¹. So much of our growth process is learning to speak the same language as our alien covenant partner speaks. We must also keep falling in love over and over again instead of growing apart or outgrowing each other, as many do.

As women, we must hold very tightly to our golden strand because we are emotional beings and, as we learned from Bishop T.D. Jakes - A husband may understand what we say but our Lord understands how we feel. How awesome it is for a woman to be in a harmonious relationship with her lover and her Lord! However, how sad it is that one in two marriages end in divorce.

The divorce rate in America for first marriage vs second or third marriage

50% percent of first marriages, 67% of second and 74% of third marriages end in divorce, according to Jennifer Baker of the Forest Institute of Professional Psychology in Springfield, Missouri².

After 40 years of marriage, what a joy it was for my husband and I to renew our wedding vows in Paris, France. The example of our parents and grandparents and how they lived before us, as their children, has had much impact on our search for harmony in our relationship. This April, if God spares, my parents will celebrate their 69th wedding anniversary. My mother in law, Mother Alberta Saunders, was married 61 years before her beloved husband and our Dad, Chief Apostle, was called home. We know God is a keeper but marriage is a job and we must work on it 24/7 - 365 days a year. There is no easy road. Regardless of our hurried lives and many responsibilities, after we have prayed and cried and given our all, we still have to continually enrich and keep our relationship renewed. That's why it is so important for women to make pamper time for their own physical and spiritual renewal.

How do we avoid being together and finding somewhere down the road that we have lost each other? Just a few tips we have used to help keep love, harmony and peace in our marriage:

- We must talk and touch every day (holding hands, brushing our cheeks)
- We must give. It may be a small gift but give something special to bring a smile, a glow to tickle the other's soul.
- We must spend time together outside of church. Find a common activity to do together. Then, have some "me" time and some "we" time.
- Check to see if there is something we need to change in ourselves, instead of always trying to change our spouse. Take it to your golden strand in prayer and trust God to work it out.
- As we go through seasons and cycles in this journey of life, ask God for wisdom to navigate the two of you through the most difficult times. Understand that sustaining love is all about staying power.
- Lastly, demonstrate a godly character by being a woman of grace. Although there are times we must use our strength and courage as warriors for our families, we must never lose our femininity!

We are so privileged and favored to have the golden cord of God's grace, love, forgiveness and faithfulness woven into the fabric of our marital journey and even though there may be some crushing, like grapes, we come out as fine wine. The Lady, her lover, and her Lord - perfect three part harmony.

Lady Winsome Saunders
Baltimore, Maryland

"The threefold cord (white, purple, and gold) is a symbol of strength..."



Passion Power

Ladies, what is your passion? Passion usually implies a strong emotion that has an overpowering or compelling effect towards an object, cause or activity. Passion exudes excitement, enthusiasm, and zeal while producing strong, ardent, and intense fervor to undertake and accomplish that which at times has appeared to be seemingly impossible. Passion gives faith its energy, liveliness, vigor and oomph.

Ladies, today I entreat you to discover your passion - that obsession, dream, aspiration, desire, vision that you have buried deep within your heart and spirit. That nagging and sometimes overwhelming emotion that encroaches upon you when you least expect and speaks to your inner being to "seize the moment". It shouts, "now is the time". It declares that, "today is the day" to pursue and bring the vision to fulfillment. It's that, "one moment in time" when you can "be all you can be". PASSION POWER not only transforms you, but the lives of others and the world.

Therefore, let's resolve to:

Make 2012 a year where you let "PASSION" rule your every decision and celebrate every milestone. Live each day to give your best because your finest day is yet unknown. In order to taste the sweet, you must bear the pain, and even though you rise and fall, you are not alone. You must choose to be your best; there is no time for less. As you seize that "one moment in time" and as you race with destiny you must "MAKE IT SHINE."

Sis. Ethel Stewart
Baltimore, Maryland

are you in?



Who, Me?

2012 WOR Conference

Yes, we have you in mind. The 2012 WOR Conference has been planned in response to your suggestions. You will have workshop **choices** this year. On **Thursday, June 21, 2012** there will be six workshops in all. You will be able to select and attend the two that speak to your interest and need. Do any of these topics appeal to you?

- “Crossroads: Do They Build or Destroy Unity?”
- “Favor Isn’t Fair”
- “Woe Is Me”
- “Expectations and Boundaries”
- “Trading Secrets”
- “What’s Love Got to Do With It?”

Singles and married couples, we have heard your call. Workshops will be provided for you on Friday, June 22, 2012. These sessions will be attended by males and females. A third workshop will be provided for conference attendees not interested in those topics. Workshop offerings for Friday morning of the WOR are as follows:

- “Restoration: Becoming One”
- “Laugh Your Way to a Better Marriage”
- “Singles Workshop”

Friday morning will be closed out in a plenary session with the charismatic, fiery and musical **Pastor Kimberly Ray** of Church on the Rock in

Matteson, Illinois. She is well-known nationally and most of all, a woman for our times, completely sold out for God and Kingdom ministry. No one can afford to miss this session.

Although we have addressed the day sessions of the WOR, Convocation’s first evening service is always **“Women’s Night.”** Our colors are shades of green with cream or ivory accessories. If you sing on any local church choir, we ask that you join our **100-voice women’s choir** for that opening night service. Sister Chishan Charles will inform you early about the musical selections and there will be **one rehearsal** Wednesday afternoon, June 20, 2012 during the Convocation.

Bringing the message for opening night is a returning speaker to the United Church of Jesus Christ and she is none other than **Evangelist Joyce Rogers** of San Antonio, Texas. She is an anointed and appointed speaker who has addressed both women’s conferences and youth conferences in the apostolic tradition. Expect to hear from the throne of God!!!

Convocation 2012 and the WOR Conference are grand celebrations of God’s goodness in the life of the United Church of Jesus Christ, Apostolic, and your attendance must be a priority. Register early to avoid late fees (\$55 before April 15th - the early bird special and \$75, the actual Convocation registration fee, April 15th and later). Daytime snacks are included in your registration. Most importantly, come expecting to receive spiritual uplifting, guidance, renewal and power for another year. See you there!!!

Co-Pastor Ernestine Lewis
Waldorf, Maryland





WOR Word Search

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

- | | |
|--------------|-------------|
| BARRIERS | FAVOR |
| BREAKING | HAGAR |
| BRIDGES | LOVE |
| COMPASSION | MARTHA |
| CROSSROADS | MARY |
| EXPECTATIONS | NAOMI |
| FAIR | RESTORATION |

DEMAND RESULTS

Have you ever prayed and did not get an answer? Have you prayed desperately only to be misunderstood, or even considered a little unstable because of your desperation? I am reminded of the story of Hannah; a woman whose desire for a child was greater than her desire to live. She could have been driven to a place of desperation by various circumstances in her life. It could have been the many negative comments about her self-worth. During Hannah's lifetime barrenness was seen as a curse, so perhaps many were eager to pronounce a guilty verdict on her. Perhaps her feelings of desperation came from the desire to publicly express the shared love of her husband by bearing a child. Or, Hannah may have felt incomplete because of her desire to fulfill God's commandment to be fruitful and multiply. The only explanation in the word for Hannah's desperation is: the Lord had shut up her womb. (1 Sam. 1:5) **How awful it feels to be left out of the promises of God!**

The story of Hannah always intrigued me because of my own personal difficulty to have children. (Praise God he answered my prayer after ten years of marriage with two beautiful daughters.) Just like Hannah, we may be driven to desperation because of negative feelings of self worth, guilt, the desire to impress others, or feelings of being incomplete. **Desperation demands results!**

When our request to the Lord seems to fall on deaf ears, the tendency is to respond in negative ways. Self esteem issues usually dominate the negative feelings that drive us to desperation. We may think "it must be something wrong with me that the Lord has not answered my prayer". When you make yourself the enemy, your attention focuses on your negative experiences. Unfortunately, your personal interpretation of these experiences is often flawed and inaccurate.

Know who you are in Christ and the divine power that he has given us in II Peter 1:3-8. We cannot allow "haters" and "trash talk" to interfere with what the Lord has promised for those who love him. When the attack is levied on our self worth, remember that we were fearfully and wonderfully made. **We were made in his image. We are royalty!**

Hannah was in great "bitterness of the soul" and wept (1 Sam. 1:10). How many times has your heart been so heavy because of an unanswered prayer that all you could do was weep and pray? Hannah wept but she also prayed. In spite of her previous pleading and seemingly unanswered earnest prayers, she continued to pray. **Never stop praying!**

The scripture does not say why God did not give Hannah her request the first time she asked. Maybe Hannah needed to know that no matter what her adversaries were saying about her barrenness, they did not have the final word. We need to remember that our God always has the final say and it is not contingent upon time, or people, or circumstances. **Keep passionately pursuing the heart of God!**

The scripture does not say that God demanded anything of Hannah but Hannah placed a demand on herself. When we unselfishly release to God what is so precious to us, He cannot deny our petitions to him. Your answer to your prayer may just be waiting for you to release to God what is so precious to you. You may need to spend some time in the temple as Hannah did praying until you pour out your soul before the lord. **When you seek him with all of your heart, he will answer your prayer!**

Many things in our lives can be changed by earnest prayer. It may seem that God's timing does not agree with our agenda, but his timing is perfect. He also knows what is best for us. Faith in God will make the impossible, possible. **We must walk on by faith each day.**

There is no greater joy than when that which was withheld from you is released to you by the hand of God. When your prayers are answered by the Lord, his favor surrounds you, his peace overshadows you, and his blessings are beyond your imagination. **Desperate prayers demand desperate results.**

Elder Elect Debbie Boone
 Baltimore, Maryland

Desperation demands results:

Your answer to your prayer may just be waiting for you to release to God what is so precious to you.

Peace

"The LORD will give strength unto his people; the LORD will bless his people with peace. Psalms 29:11

Peace – What is it? It has been defined as harmony, freedom from strife, annoyances, distractions anxiety, or an obsession, tranquility, stillness, silence.

Jesus told us in John 14:27 "I am leaving you with a gift—peace of mind and heart. And the peace I give is a gift the world cannot give. So don't be troubled or afraid. (NLT). Earlier in verse 26 Jesus told the disciples about the gift of the Holy Spirit. These two very precious gifts- His peace and his Holy Spirit- are available to us just for the asking.

In 1972, songwriter and performer Johnny Nash wrote a song with these lyrics: "I can see clearly now, the rain is gone, I can see all obstacles in my way. Gone are the dark clouds that had me blind. It's gonna be a bright (bright), bright (bright) Sun-Shiny day." He further sings about how all the bad feelings had disappeared and the rainbow he prayed for has now appeared. During the 60's and 70's even secular songs carried messages of hope and a faith in God.

Like it or not, our society is moving further and further away from a reverent fear of God and moral standards. To navigate through these storms of life we do need clear vision. We cannot see through blurred spiritual lens. They must be cleaned daily from all the debris that causes vision to be distorted. There must be times of spiritual refreshing and renewal.

It's a fact, in this life there will be many storms. What are my dark clouds? They are issues, distractions, weaknesses and chaos that appear to be bigger than the Son in our lives. We must encourage ourselves. In verse 18: "while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal."

How do I maintain my peace? Set your priorities. First, accept your reality and put God first in all things. Second, live in right standing with God. How we live our lives is our gift to God. Third, guard your hearts against offense and walk according to the Word of God. God knows what is best for me. My environment is of His choosing. His plan is to draw me into close communion with Himself, to build my faith, my character and complete dependency on Him.

My prayer for my sisters is stated best in Cornell's refrain of Wonderful Peace:

Peace, peace, wonderful peace,
Coming down from the Father above!
Sweep over my spirit forever, I pray
In fathomless billows of love!

Deaconess Paulette Pace
Baltimore, Maryland

The Road to Financial Peace

During these tough economic times, having financial peace may seem more like a dream than a reality. However, after participating in Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University, I have learned some valuable lessons on the road to obtaining financial peace.

To get to the final destination of financial peace I must first make major changes in how I handle my finances. Dave explains that for a little while I must "live like no one else" i.e. tighten my financial purse strings, so that I can later "live like no one else" i.e. live a debt free life and have wealth. To achieve debt free living, it is paramount that I recognize that I cannot keep spending money in the same way.

First, I must remember that I am always to give to God first. Too often, when people feel the financial walls closing in they stop tithing. This is never the right answer and will always lead to worse troubles. You will never obtain financial peace without first giving to God. Besides, what money you do have was given to you by God, give Him what He requires of you.

Next, I learned that I need to have an emergency fund of at least \$1000.00 (\$500.00 if you make less than \$20k per year). Eventually, the emergency fund should equal 3 to 6 months of my expenses. The purpose of the emergency fund is so that I can be financially prepared for any unexpected occurrences that would otherwise disrupt my budget. Too often, when an unexpected event such as the transmission needs to be repaired, the loss of a job or a new roof needs to be put on the house, the tendency is to reach for a credit card or stop paying other bills. An important lesson on the road to financial peace is to be realistic; it's not a matter of if an emergency will happen but when. Establish an emergency fund to be prepared.

Finally, I need to focus my attention on attacking all existing debt. I achieve this using the snowball effect. It is difficult to have peace when I am faced with what looks like insurmountable debt. To begin paying off debt I must first establish a budget. I need to account for every dollar that I receive each pay period and every dollar must be spent in order to have a balanced budget. It is up to me and my spouse (if you are single you need to have an accountability partner) to determine where each dollar should go.

To utilize the snowball effect, I must list all debt, excluding the house in order. My priority is to pay off the smallest amount first. Paying off the smallest debt allows me to accomplish two things, having a quick victory which keeps me focused on getting out of debt and using the money that I was paying and combine it to pay the next bill quicker.

The road to financial peace may not be a quick trip and may have many twists and turns; but knowing that my final destination is debt free living and wealth gives me the stamina to keep on moving. Let's all meet on the road to financial peace.

*** To learn more please visit daveramsey.com

Minister Stephanie Polk
Waldorf, Maryland

Spiritual Vitamin

WOMEN OF A CERTAIN AGE...

And Single

So I'm one of those 'women of a certain age'. You know, the stage where one feels more than vaguely uncomfortable singing with the youth choir (for example), but can almost appreciate every new drum lick and bass line the band plays.

Allow me to paint a clearer picture for you: I am one of those Christian, childless, ministry-minded, single-and-trying-to-stay-celibate-until-marriage (or death, whichever comes first), women of a certain age. You know - the kind that is observed as an anomaly by 'the others' although there are so many of us!

It's also the stage where one secretly begins to wonder "Did I make a mistake?" That particular statement of wonder is a possible follow-up to several men-memories, like the one whose proposal you turned down, or the one who was torn between you and another and you set him free to 'choose' the other, or the semi-arranged one your grandmother had in mind that you refused 'on principle', or even the Pentecostal Pimp that had you thinking you were 'the one' until you found out he counts in batches of 10.

After a while, even the most confident of us sometimes ask: Is there a tree growing in my face? Am I too fat? Too skinny perhaps? Do I dress badly? Do I smell? ...

We get to witness barely-legal girls get married, have children, and sadly get divorced before the rinse we use to cover our grays can set in properly! Can I get a witness?

Some questions, such as "When are you getting married?" become more and more difficult to answer without hitting someone or biting our tongue until it bleeds.

We go to these Singles events presumably to edify and strengthen each other, but the single guys don't even bother showing up because - let's face it - in our circles all they really have to do to get a wife is to want one!

Here's a big one: Have I wasted valuable 'seeking' time by buying into some twisted male-dominated paradigm of control that suggests I look no further for answers than a verse in scripture that says "Whoso findeth a wife findeth a good thing..." (Proverbs 18:22, KJV)? Is that even used in context? I mean, seriously, Solomon had about 1000 women when he wrote this and polygamy was acceptable then, so at the time women would've had very little reason to 'seek' in the first place! Could it be that because of cultural context, the writer would not/could not even have thought to say, "She that findeth a husband..."? How about the possibility that the 'whoso' simply points to the fact that anyone who gets the ideal spouse (whatever that looks like for the individual) should count himself or herself blessed?

Ok - that's enough ranting for one article. My intention here is not to get 'read out' of church, nor to incite a rebellion among those fitting the criteria, but there's so much to consider! I must pause before I hurt myself, so I'm saying here 'let the conversation begin!'...

Adapted from the blog entry Certain Women of a Certain Age
Posted Aug. 26, 2011
shereewilliams.wordpress.com

Sis. Sheree Williams
Bronx, New York



Proverbs 31 Woman in the 21st Century

As I sat and pondered about the subject matter of this article, one thought continued to resonate in my spirit. How can a young woman in the 21st century exhibit the characteristics of the Proverbs 31 woman? Is that even possible? Is she even relevant? After all, she is a woman described in the Old Testament book of Proverbs, which was written thousands of years ago. Therefore, many young women today may feel alienated from the Proverbs 31 woman and feel that the qualities she possesses are antiquated and not worth striving for.

However, the Bible is the living Word of God. It is always relevant and forever applicable. Who is the Proverbs 31 woman anyway, and why does she need to be studied? If one were to read and research Proverbs 31:10-31, we can see this woman has it all together; she has it all! For starters, she is trustworthy. Her husband does not have to be concerned about her being a spend thrift. She is also willing to burn the midnight oil and isn't lazy. She makes wise fiscal decisions and even shows tremendous entrepreneurial prowess.

Not only does the virtuous woman secure enough resources for her home, she is able to reach out to those in need within her community. And as if all of the aforementioned traits aren't enough, when she speaks, wisdom emerges. She is praised because she fears the Lord!

If you are a married young woman, be an excellent keeper of your home and be a supportive, trustworthy spouse to your husband. If you are a single young woman, the Proverbs 31 woman is still an excellent example for you! Single or married, we as young women should all strive to be diligent, hard-working, financially wise, community service oriented, wise in our speech, and pleasant in our overall demeanor. Above all we should fear the Lord!

Who can find a virtuous woman? This question is asked regarding the virtuous woman before she is actually identified and described. She does indeed exist, but she is rare; she has worth much more than the precious ruby stone! Young women of God, let us dare to have it all! Let us dare to be the Proverbs 31 woman in the 21st century.

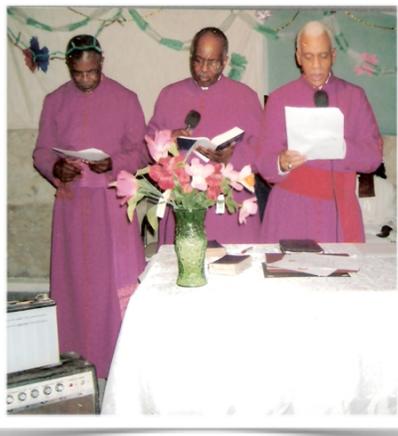
Minister Jennifer M. Payne Watson
Franklin Park, New Jersey



Haiti: We have a Problem



On January 7-8, 2012, Bishop Jones, Bishop Payne and Bishop Scott traveled to Haiti to install Roseline Petion as Pastor of the Nouvelle Alliance Apostolic Church of Jesus Christ in Cottrelle, Marigot Haiti. This pastor and church are now members of the United Church of Jesus Christ. The installation went extremely well. There was jubilation all over the place. Pastor Petion was so elated to know that we took the time out of our busy schedules to come to be a part of this service. What a blessing it was for us to share this momentous occasion. It will always be remembered in our thoughts and hearts.



When we first arrived in Haiti, from the plane, we could see the beautiful landscape of this tropical nation. As we walked through the airport, however, the atmosphere seemed to change. The buzz, the bustling and the tumult seemed to suggest that we were in a foreign land. Some trepidation began to emerge—whether from actual events or from rumors we have heard is hard to say. As we left the terminal on our way to the car rental station, it started. Everyone starts talking at you. Everybody wants to carry your luggage.

From the fence surrounding the airport grounds people began to beg. “Help me brother!” “Give me something!” “I love you!” It was heart-rending to see and to hear.

The wait for the rental car was unexpectedly long. When it finally arrived, we were on our way to Jacmel, which was a three to four-hour drive from Port-au-Prince through winding, mountain roads. Everywhere we looked, from the capital city to the little towns on the way to our destination, there was one

thing all places seemed to have in common: shocking, startling, grinding poverty. Never in our travels had we been anywhere where scarcity and lack were so blatantly apparent. When we arrived at the hotel in Jacmel, it was like an oasis in a desert. We went from there to Cottrelle where our church is located. The pastor and some of her members greeted us with smiles, hugs and kisses. They were warm and cordial. We spoke to them in French and in the little Creole we knew.

On January 8, 2012, we presided over the installation service. It was an awesome experience. The hunger of the people for God was most apparent, and the worship experience was rich. The people needed no prompting as an aid to praise. Perhaps the only glitch in the worship was the inability of Bishops Jones and Payne, to preach in Creole, or French, the languages of the Haitian

people. Though there was a little struggle with translating our words at points, the ease of worship because of the presence of the Holy Spirit was conspicuously discerned in the worship. Despite the length of the worship service, after the benediction, the



people were milling around wondering and waiting for the next service to start. Not counting what the three Bishops gave, the offering came to forty gourde, about ninety-five cents in U.S. dollars.

After the dedication service, we headed back to the hotel. Bishop Scott saw one of the young ladies walking on the road headed home. From the point where we picked her up to where we dropped her off was five miles. She had walked at least twelve miles round-trip for church. It is not uncommon for people to walk even further. Without naming names and taking prisoners, we all know people who live walking distance from church, or a short drive away, who struggle to get to church on time.



A phrase stated commonly in many one-to-one conversations was “I/we have this problem,” a prelude to asking for money. Sometimes there was begging, but sometimes there was an honest request for aide for a legitimate need, such as books, pens, pencils, a computer, a motorcycle for a pastor to get to church in a reasonable amount of time, and more. Nouvelle Children had adopted a number of children but finances kept them from being able to afford one more, a little elementary school girl named Betty. I, Bishop Jones, enquired how much



would it take to educate and uniform her for a year? I was thinking the response would be something in the thousands of dollars. The cost was a b o u t \$100.00.

Although we were almost out of cash from giving, we mustered up the money to get Betty in school. Bishop Payne and I adopted her, pledging our support for the future for others. Betty and others were given some pens, pencils, notebooks, and reading material. The hugs and kisses given by them made me wonder if we had given them a million dollars.

Space for this article will not permit us to illuminate on the conspicuous structural



Chicken in the sack

poverty in Haiti. We saw people selling empty bottles, fruit, cooked food, used clothes, coal, jewelry, etc., in the hot sun all day long in hopes of literally making a dollar or two, on a good day. I'm told that some people would be blessed if they made a quarter from being in the sun all day. On our way back to Port Au Prince to catch our plane, a chicken was put in a sack and strapped to the top of the rental car. We were scared to ask why. We were informed that the chicken was being transported to mate with a rooster to produce eggs to sell as a part of the owner's business. Oh my God!

The church is building a multi-purpose community center which will help in the long term with its finances. Thanks to Bishop Scott, our Bishop for Foreign Missions. God is positioning us for some great ministry and great opportunities in Haiti. May we be generous in our support for our resilient, hard



Community Center Site

working, hospitable, and gracious brothers and sisters in Haiti. May we be a blessing until we seldom hear our brothers and sisters say, "We have this problem."

Lady Ethel Scott, Ft. Lauderdale, Florida
Bishop Cleven Jones, Detroit, Michigan
Bishop Lewis Payne, Baltimore, Maryland



INSIGHT



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