



OAK GROVE CHURCH NEWSLETTER 1

SPONSORED BY WOMEN'S MINISTRY

June 2011

Pastor's Corner

(This is the notes from Sister Downing's presentation at the women's Luncheon in May.)

“What Kind of Woman Are You in Christ?”

Let's go to the beginning of time.....to creation,

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. And the earth was without form and void. The first day, he created light and said it is good. 2nd – the firmament, 3rd day seas, land & vegetation, 4th heavenly bodies were create and that was good, 5th day – the animal life of sea and land, and he said it is good but on the 6th day- man and said it is good. But he took a step back and said this is not good, it is not good for man to be alone. So on the sixth day he saved the best for last. God's solution to the “not good” was to make him a helper suitable just for him. He made WOMAN...And behold she was very good and beautiful. She was His last and crowning act. Of his stupendous creations, she was heaven's best and last creation. When she received the breath of life the work of Omnipotence was finished. There was nothing more to be done. Job 38:7 reads God saw that all was perfect and complete and then the morning stars sang together and all the sons of God shouted for joy! So from this creation we can say that God made it clear back in Genesis, in the beginning, that women are valuable. Whether men admit it or not they need women. A husband needs his wife. Statistic show that married men live longer and have less stress induced illnesses than single men. God's design is that the man and woman complement one another so that in a synergistic relationship the sum of two is greater than the sum of each individual apart. This is God's design and the woman

is part of it being uniquely crafted by God. It is no wonder that in Proverbs 18:22 states, “He who finds a wife finds a good thing.” An excellent wife who can find her? For her worth is far above jewels.” In a battle, those in the forefront usually get the glory but if it were not for the support troops behind them, the fight would not be won. As one writer wrote it is true that the role of a woman is usually a support role but if it were not for the columns holding up the roof where would the house be? So women you are important. We can look down through the Bible and find important contributions that women have made. Miriam led the women in worship and praise after crossing the Red Sea in Exodus 15. Deborah was a prophetess and a judge of Israel. She along with Barak, led Israel in a military victory over Jabin, king of Canaan. In the same campaign it was Jael, a woman, who ended up with the victory over the general of Canaanite army, Sisera. Huldah was the leading prophetess at the time of Josiah and gave him counsel (2King22), Anna who was the 84, had lived most of her life as a widow and yet she served the Lord in the temple. Paul counted women as his co laborers. He specifically mentions Phoebe, Priscilla, Mary, Tryphaena, Tryphosa and Julia in Romans 16. Women.... you are important in the body of Christ. Was it not a woman that first learned of Jesus' coming? And was it not woman that first praised the Lord because of it? At Jesus' crucifixion who was it that stayed there the whole time? “Women.” Who was there when He was first buried? Who was the first at the grave? Who was the first to know Jesus had been resurrected? Who was the first to proclaim it...a woman. The Lord has placed a unique value upon women. Women you are important to the body of Christ.



OAK GROVE CHURCH NEWSLETTER 2

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The true worth of a woman centers on her faithfulness in knowing and following the will of God. God created us to be special. But are you a woman that leans to her own understanding? How many times have we gone against God's wishes for our lives? How many times have we messed up situations in our lives by not praying and seeking God's will for our lives? It takes only a second for you to yield to sin and alienate your heart from God. Many of us don't pray and seek answers from the Lord. The Bible tells us if we want wisdom, ask the Lord. Many of us are so busy running to seek answers from our girlfriends, a minister in the church or a co-worker that we miss the blessings that God has for us. We want confirmation from everyone instead of saying, Okay God if that's what you want me to do than not MY will but YOUR will be done.

Are you a woman that causes confusion in the church? Nothing is ever right unless I'm in charge. Do you get on the phone as soon as church is out or sometimes you don't even make it off the church grounds to discuss what should have taken place in your eyesight or what should have been said or what wasn't said? Or why in the world is the Pastor doing that? Don't you think the Pastor hears from the Lord? You go to the Lord and tell him to let you know the Pastor's heart.

Are you a woman who is constantly murmuring and complaining? Haven't you seen women that complain all the time? Are you one that comes to church to find fault in everything? The church is too cold, the church is too hot, I can direct the choir better, I can lead the usher board better, I can read announcements better, why didn't they ask me to speak, I can speak better. Hey, but I'm doing all this complaining in

the name of the Lord. Amen. Do you think the Lord is pleased, can He look at you and continue to say "it is good" as he did when he created this special being... WOMAN. The Bible tells us that God is not the author of confusion, so why is there so much confusion in the church. The church should be the last place that I dread coming. It should be a refuge of peace. If we confess to be Christians ... we have to change some of our ways. The murmuring reminds me of the children of Israel, when God got them out of bondage, they complained about the food, they wanted meat, they wanted water and at one point even wanted to be back in bondage. Numbers 11: 1 reads ... "And when the people complained it displeased the Lord and the Lord heard it and his anger was kindled."

If you are a busy body in church...into everything and succeeding at nothing STOP Find yourself one or two organizations and let the others go. I know we have some Christian that are sincere and don't want to see a program fail so they step up to the plate. But I am referring to those that are into everything and can't complete one task that is given to them. If you are in too many organizations at church and attend meetings every night of the week then something is going lacking and it might be in your home.....what kind of woman are you in Christ.?

What is a Woman's High Calling; in the book we are studying in Women's ministry it states 10 essential for Godly living:

1. The first is that we should live in godliness.. that means that we should live in such a way that others should see God reflected in our lives. We should have reverent behavior, make sure we always have good thoughts of others, walk uprightly before God



OAK GROVE CHURCH NEWSLETTER 3

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June 2011

and man, a voice through which God speaks, a heart through which God loves and a hand through which God helps.

2. The second is godly speech....Titus 2:5 states, the older woman are to be...not slanderers that means our speech should not be harmful....our speech should not tear down but build up Gossip should never come from our mouths Gossip destroys.
3. The third is personal discipline...I Timothy 3:11 states God wants us free of addictions, calls us to be sober, to be controlling of ourselves, to be a woman of self control. We are to be doers of the word not only hearers.
4. We should be encouragers, Titus 2:3 states women are to be teachers of good things to other women, things that are good, virtuous, right and noble. We are to teach others by example. You can't teach me about being kind, if you are not a kind person.
5. Titus 2:4 states ...admonish the young woman to love their husbands....We are to love our husbands as our best friend, as someone we enjoy being with, to spoil him, to think of him, to pray for him, to encourage him, to nurture a deep friendship with him.

The last essential element that we should all have in this Christian life is wisdom. Wisdom is the ability to use the best

means at the best time to accomplish the best ends. A wise woman knows her priorities, knows her spiritual needs, knows what her family needs, and knows each of her children's needs. Is wise when it comes to her finances, Is wise in knowing that she can do nothing without being in God's will and asking his for guidance. A woman using wisdom knows her priorities ...and practices them. A wise woman is balanced in every area of her life. So again I ask you.... What kind of woman are you in Christ? Are you the kind of woman our young ladies would want to imitate...let's bring it home are you the kind of woman your children want to be like.

Ladies we are precious in the sight of God. We've got to pray and seek God's purpose for our life. We've got to love one another more and encourage one another more.

Food for Thought

Accept people as they are. Stop trying to change people into who and what you want them to be. And stop changing yourself to fix other people's ideas of who you should be. God is the only one that can change people. We are not God. You can share the Word and your opinion, but people will be who they are until God change them. Maybe the flaw is in you.



OAK GROVE CHURCH NEWSLETTER 4

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June 2011



HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR JUNE

Sis. Carolyn Andrews	1st
Rev. Muriel Maxwell	2 nd
Bro. Donnovin Hayes	2 nd
Bro. Nelson Jones	3 rd
Sis. Anniw Jacobs	4 th
Sis. Ethel Holman	4 th
Bro. James Carson	4 th
Bro. Lloyd Allen	5th
Sis. Anquetta Lee	5th
Sis. LaWanda McNair	5th
Sis. Taneshia Tabron	8th
Sis. Barbara Chapman	10 th
Sis. Desiree Foster	11 th
Bro. Raven James	11 th
Sis. Lou Ann Scott	11th
Sis. Janice Dinkins	12th
Bro. Brady Hudson	12th
Sis. Sarah Lawhorn	12th
Sis. Cassandra Hips	13th
Bro. Martin Bailey	13th
Bro. Antonio Washington	14th
Bro. Donnie Blanding	16th
Sis. Delphine Dixon	16 th
Sis. Cheryl Byrd	19 th
Sis. Rosa Chapman	19th
Bro. Curtis Hudson	19th
Bro. Troy Ketcham	20 th
Sis. Lorena Gripper	21st
RaShawn Gilyard	22 nd
Bro. Tyshan Jones	22nd
Sis. Lynn Woodard	23rd
Sis. Christina Blanding	23rd
Sis. Madlyn Travis	23 rd
Sis Geneva Dean	24th
Sis. Kenia Harrison	24 ^{tj}
Bro. Nathaniel Jones	24th
Sis. Teresa Wilson	26 th
Sis. Shelia Gadson	26 th
Min. Agnes Gibbs	26th
Sis. Christen Wilson	27 th

Sis. Niani Samuel	28 th
Bro. Stanley William	28th
Sis. Deborah Edwards	29th
Sis. LaTonya E. Maxwell	29th
Rev. Sandra W. Wise	29th
Sis. Sonya Jacobs	30 th
Sis. LaTonya Levy	30 th
Sis. Lorraine McNair	30 th

Chris & Kymburle Sims - Wedding
Anniversary - June 11

Congratulations to all celebrating Birthday the month. If yours is missing see Rev. Ball. Some computer files got erased.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Revival June 15th -17th 7:30 p.m.

Missionary Anniversary June 26th 3:00 p.m.

Vacation Bible School June 27th -July 1st 6:30 p.m.

Global Day of Prayer

When: Sun, June 12, 2011 at 3:00 p.m.

Where: Colonial Life Arena
801 Lincoln Street, Columbia, SC

Pastors, ministry leaders and business people from various denominations in the Greater Columbia area invite you to join them in prayer for unity, revival and the well-being of our city, our nation and the world on **June 12th** from **3-5 pm** at the **Colonial Life Arena**. We will gather on the Global Day of Prayer, joining believers praying in over 200 countries. Our sole purpose is that God be glorified in Greater Columbia and throughout the world.



OAK GROVE CHURCH NEWSLETTER 5

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7% - Written by a 90 year old (from email)

This is something we should all read at least once a week!!!!!! Make sure you read to the end!!!!!!

Written by Regina Brett, 90 years old, of the Plain Dealer, Cleveland , Ohio .

"To celebrate growing older, I once wrote the 45 lessons life taught me. It is the most requested column I've ever written."

My odometer rolled over to 90 in August, so here is the column once more:

1. Life isn't fair, but it's still good.
2. When in doubt, just take the next small step.
3. Life is too short to waste time hating anyone.
4. Your job won't take care of you when you are sick. Your friends and parents will. Stay in touch.
5. Pay off your credit cards every month.
6. You don't have to win every argument. Agree to disagree.
7. Cry with someone. It's more healing than crying alone.
8. It's OK to get angry with God. He can take it.
9. Save for retirement starting with your first paycheck.
10. When it comes to chocolate, resistance is futile.
11. Make peace with your past so it won't screw up the present.
12. It's OK to let your children see you cry.
13. Don't compare your life to others. You have no idea what their journey is all about.
14. If a relationship has to be a secret, you shouldn't be in it.
15. Everything can change in the blink of an eye. But don't worry; God never blinks.
16. Take a deep breath. It calms the mind.
17. Get rid of anything that isn't useful, beautiful or joyful.
18. Whatever doesn't kill you really does make you stronger.

19. It's never too late to have a happy childhood. But the second one is up to you and no one else.
 20. When it comes to going after what you love in life, don't take no for an answer.
 21. Burn the candles, use the nice sheets, wear the fancy lingerie. Don't save it for a special occasion. Today is special.
 22. Over prepare, then go with the flow.
 23. Be eccentric now. Don't wait for old age to wear purple.
 24. The most important sex organ is the brain.
 25. No one is in charge of your happiness but you.
 26. Frame every so-called disaster with these words 'In five years, will this matter?'
 27. Always choose life.
 28. Forgive everyone everything.
 29. What other people think of you is none of your business.
 30. Time heals almost everything. Give time time.
 31. However good or bad a situation is, it will change.
 32. Don't take yourself so seriously. No one else does.
 33. Believe in miracles.
 34. God loves you because of who God is, not because of anything you did or didn't do.
 35. Don't audit life. Show up and make the most of it now.
 36. Growing old beats the alternative -- dying young.
 37. Your children get only one childhood.
 38. All that truly matters in the end is that you loved.
 39. Get outside every day. Miracles are waiting everywhere.
 40. If we all threw our problems in a pile and saw everyone else's, we'd grab ours back.
 41. Envy is a waste of time. You already have all you need.
 42. The best is yet to come...
 43. No matter how you feel, get up, dress up and show up.
 44. Yield.
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OAK GROVE CHURCH NEWSLETTER 6

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TALK TO YOUR KIDS

by Doug Fields

“And you must commit yourselves wholeheartedly to these commands that I am giving you today.⁷ Repeat them again and again to your children. Talk about them when you are at home and when you are on the road, when you are going to bed and when you are getting up.” Deuteronomy 6:6-7 (NLT)

If you ever wonder how important it is to teach your kids how to communicate, pay attention next time you go to a fast-food restaurant where teenagers work. How many times have you done that and wondered who taught them how to communicate?

Unfortunately, it's their parents.

The truth is your kids need communication skills. When children don't learn how to communicate, they find it difficult to function in jobs and relationships.

And, Mom and Dad, you're the best communications teacher they have. Kids learn communication skills by talking with adults.

God designed the family as a place where parents would follow God and teach their children how to do likewise. The Bible says, “And you must commit yourselves wholeheartedly to these commands I am giving you today. Repeat them again and again to your children. (Deut 6:6 NLT)

You've got to talk to your kids to pass on your faith to them. The Bible says to talk to them no matter where you're at- whether you're on a journey, laying down, or getting up again. But the key is conversation.

Unfortunately, many kids have learned that the only times when adults want to talk with them is when they're messed up.

How do you turn the tide on that? Resist the urge to comment on everything you hear. Kids don't mean most of what they say. They're just testing you. So allow them to talk without making them feel you're going to jump down their neck.

Make a goal of having more dialogue in your home. Establish specific times for conversations to happen in your home- maybe around the dinner table. And when your kids talk, just listen next time.

Future fast-food customer will thank you.

Scripture of the Month:

“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen” ... (Hebrews 11:1).”

Faith has substance. It is the basic building block of all that you are believing God for. In fact, it is the assurance that your heart's desires will be made manifest in your life. As you act on what you believe by continually giving thanks, making your daily confessions and not allowing any negative words to come out of your mouth, you will soon see the Word come to pass in your life.

Graduations

Congratulations to all that graduated from High School or College. The names will appear in the July Newsletter. If you are a graduate please let Rev. Ball know. If you are attending college this fall let the scholarship committee know.

A special hand clap goes to those that graduated elementary school or middle school. Enjoy your summer and start the new school year rested and ready to begin a new adventure in learning.