

JOURNEY

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(A Special Edition)

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HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!

- 2011 -

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Sisters...Let's Run

Together...(Continued)

For a long time, we have been guilty of using what we had to do ministry, manage our businesses and organizations, but if the truth be told, this approach hasn't allowed us to keep up with the fast paced world in which we live.

Now is the time to put forth the added effort in aligning our ministries, businesses and organizations to the place where they will thrive and survive into the next generation.

Now is the time to position ourselves by getting the necessary financing, licenses, education, and business partners to help take our ministry and businesses to the next level. Our God is a God of order, and if we are to be successful in Him; we are called to do it His way. - Selah!!!

SISTERS....Let's Run Together!!!

By: Min. Soundra Simpson

Happy New Year to my precious sisters all over the world!! Thank you once again for taking time out of your schedule to continue another journey with Paths Crossed. We're excited about what lies ahead in each of your futures, and the fulfillment of God's promises in your lives.

Now is the perfect time to assess the successes of those things that went especially well, and to do some nitty-gritty soul searching of those things that brought about a few challenging situations. Don't spend too much time dwelling on what didn't go according to plan, but use those obstacles as learning opportunities and building blocks as you continue pressing towards the plan of God for your lives.

Rest in knowing that you have the intelligence, skills and talents to walk in your place of destiny. This is your time and your season to experience the manifestation of God's promises. In this issue, we will peep inside your toolbox to see if you're using the right tools for the right job.

-Continued on Next Column

Starting Your Year With Jesus

-2011-



PATHS CROSSED YOUTH ON THE MOVE



Candra Brianna Walls

One of the things I've noticed with the coming of every new year is the excitement as family and friends share goals of what they plan to accomplish by year-end. I typically encounter two kinds of people which include those with very detailed plans that are well thought out and include specific timelines. On the contrary, I meet others who share the same energy, but only have a verbal commitment of what they plan to achieve.

As you go forth into the New Year, I would like to encourage you to put your dreams in writing as found Habakkuk 2:2. One of the benefits of doing so allows you to keep a visible plan before you as you make progress throughout the year. This plan becomes your tangible check-off list of accomplishments.

Secondly, considering making Matthew 6:33, as one of your foundational scriptures. Often times, we become so immersed with our own thoughts and plans that we fail to include Jesus. Take a step back and allow Him to be the head of your life as He will bestow upon you ideas, dreams, visions, strategies, relationships and finances as your dreams become reality.

BRIANNA WINS HOSA SPEAKING CONTEST

Hats off to Candra Brianna Walls on taking fifth place in the Health Occupation Students of America (HOSA) public speaking contest, in November. Brianna's topic was, "The Hearts that Believe are the Hands that Achieve." Brianna had the honor of competing against high school

students across North Carolina. Brianna is in the 9th grade and attends Phillip O'Berry School of Technology. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Tyrone and Audrey Walls and has one brother, Christopher. Brianna will complete in the national competition in Greensboro in March 2011. Paths Crossed is very proud of Brianna considering this was her first time competing.



Congratulations to **Arianna Rene Simpson** who received the Most Improved Student Award for first semester. Arianna attends Albemarle Road Elementary School. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Chico and Lucretia Simpson and is 6 years old. She has two brothers, DJ and Michael.

RE-SKILLING... ..PREPARING FOR THE NEXT LEVEL!!!

By: Min. Soundra Simpson



What's In Your Toolbox?

Each year, I personally look forward to sitting down with my manager in completing my annual evaluation. This time is set-aside to discuss achieved professional and personal goals. As we check off those competencies that either exceeded or met expectations, I can't help but to have a sense of overwhelming accomplishment.

However, it is sometimes painful and disappointing to identify those areas where developmental opportunities exist. As I make a list of goals and behaviors to focus on for the next year, I make a concerted effort to discover what tools and resources are available to help me improve, and ultimately meet goal.

As we watch the direction in which our world is going, and if we are to compete successfully, we must assess our financial records, educational background, skills and talents to determine where we are and what we need in order to stay abreast of current trends.

Being rooted and grounded in the Word of God serves as our foundation and guiding principle in everything that we do, however, there is a need to add to what's in our spiritual and natural toolboxes. Let's be clear that it's God's desire that we're wealthy, engaged in healthy relationships, have thriving ministries, and growing businesses. Let's established further that living in lack is not the plan of God for our lives.

Re-skilling simply means to improve existing and/or to acquire new skills. An age old quote says, "In order to get what you never had, you will have to do what you've never done." Yes, re-skilling will require that you give of yourself through efforts of

personal sacrificing of eliminating unnecessary spending and only purchasing those items that are truly needed. Or, it could mean working all day while attending school at night to finish your high school diploma or college degree. The bottom line is knowing that re-skilling is going to come with a cost, but the ultimate benefit will be a satisfying reward in accomplishing your personal goals.

We all enjoy the rich benefits of technological advances whether that means using our mobile devices, surfing the world wide web (internet) in communicating with family and friends all over the world, or doing banking from the privacy of our living rooms.

However, there are still a large number of people who lack basic computer skills. Acquiring these skills will not require getting a four-year degree, but it may demand that you enroll in a workshop program that is offered through your community library or local college. The cost ranges between \$100-\$150 for an average of 4 to 6 weeks of intense study.

As we take our position in the marketplace, having excellent communication skills in being able to express our ideas both verbally and in writing are priceless talents. To be honest, these skill-sets will help in opening additional doors of opportunity. When sitting among your ministry and/or professional peers, the gift of being able to effectively express your ideas in an intelligent manner will be most appreciative and definitely noticed.

10 SKILL-SETS TO DEVELOP

- Be a Visionary - Always have a goal in mind and work relentlessly in accomplishing your goals.
- Be Adaptable - Be willing to create and define new methods and procedures while keeping your vision and goals before you.
- Passion & Planning - Combine passion and enthusiasm with planning and execution. You must have a personal zeal for your vision, otherwise your ideas will die.
- Establish Relationships - Identify the right people that can provide the information needed to help improve your personal life, grow your ministry and business.
- Be aggressive - Be willing to take calculated and "gut wrenching" risks. But first, do your homework and gather as much information as possible. Before stepping out have your facts in hand.
- Be Persistent - You must have a personal drive and be unwilling to give up on your vision. You will never know unless you try.

(Continue on Page 4)

Writing Your First Book.....It's Time to Tell Your Story



How many times have you committed to finally putting your thoughts and experiences in a book for others to enjoy? Now you're three years down the road, and you have yet to put your words to paper. Just with anything, settling down to write your first book is extremely time consuming, and is going to come with an investment of you committing your time to seeing your dream come to reality. "It was hard for me to get started because I didn't consider myself to be a writer," said, Min. Brenda Jackson. "Actually, it took me about two years to finish my first book, Yet I Wait." Min. Jackson is currently working on her second book which she expects to release in the next twelve to 18 months.

The truth of the matter is writing your first book will demand more of you than just a desire. In order to produce a quality product, every writer must have good writing, researching, editing, computer and/or typing skills. No worries, if you're not the best writer, this is a skill-set that can be learned over a period of time, if you're willing to make the investment. The more you write the better you will become in creatively expressing your ideas and thoughts. As a word of caution, make the investment to hire a professional editor to proof-read your work for grammatical errors, and to ensure you're presenting a quality product. Don't be offended if your editor returns your work more than once to make needed changes.

One way in which to begin writing your first book is to start out slowly, by choosing to write one page per day and at the same time each day. Consider this your personal dating time with destiny. According to Apostle Dr. Ann Jackson, she was compelled to write her first book, "Standing Among the Dead Branches" after suffering domestic violence, and being left alone to raise her children. In order to finish your writing project, it will be essential for you to eliminate all distractions (i.e., email, phone, and social engagements) in being completely focused until your book is finished. Dr. Patty Meyers, professor at Pfeiffer University knows what it means to be personally inspired and motivated to write, for she is the author of seven books, several articles, songs, and poems. Dr. Meyers' inspiration comes from the Holy Spirit, and it's her way of giving back of the gifts and talents in which she has been bountifully blessed. Know that distractions will come in the form of writer's block, but keeping a notepad and pen handy will prove helpful in jotting down thoughts and ideas as they come throughout the day. More importantly, before going full speed ahead, pause by first praying and allowing the Holy Spirit to be your guide from the beginning to.....The End.

Meet Our Authors



Min. Brenda Jackson



Apostle Dr. Ann Jackson



Dr. Patricia A. Meyers

10 SKILL-SETS TO DEVELOP

- Do Things Differently - Be willing to apply new techniques or slightly make changes to an existing model. It's okay if your vision looks differently than others; remember this is a God kind of idea.
- Learn Everyday - Be committed to learning something new everyday and becoming a life long student. Keep learning new techniques and strategies to help improve the work that you're doing.
- Avoid Complacency - Fail to become satisfied with where you are and with what you have accomplished. Surround yourself with others who have gone before you and have accomplished what you desire to do.
- Develop Communication Skills - Become an expert in your verbal and written skills. Your ability to effectively communicate will command the attention of others.



Making U-Turns

in LIFE

By: Min. Soundra Simpson

By a show of hands, how many times have you been speeding down the highway of life and all of a sudden there was an internal uncton that clearly said, check your rear view mirror, slow down or better....turn around and go the other way?" Did you listen or do you continue driving knowing you were headed in the wrong direction?

If we are truly honest with ourselves, everyone at some point in time has continued driving in knowing that we should have pulled over, slowed down or simply turned around to travel in the opposite direction. In sharing my mother's wisdom, she was notorious for saying, "Listen to your first mind, it will never lead you wrong." This is a simple, but wise practice that I have learned to follow over the years.

Fortunately, for some of us, we were able to quickly recover even after making the wrong decision to move full speed ahead. For others, there were decisions made that come with a heavier price that had to be paid. I often shiver at reading stories of people who were at the wrong place and at the wrong time, while something tragic happened.

Nevertheless, I want you to get excited because you have an opportunity to start from where you are by turning around, and heading in the right direction. I recall, many years ago finding myself in a terrible situation and plagued by fear of the unknown. My turning point came when I realized how much God loves and cares for me. My faith level grew by leaps and bounds in knowing that He would never leave me nor

for me. Even in the midst of my disobedience, I was still confident of God's saving grace and His willingness to forgive me of all unrighteousness. It was at my lowest point in life where I stepped out on faith. It was on a cold day in October that God's Word became alive in me and one that would change the path that I would walk from that day until this one.

The Word of God says that we can cast (throw/turn over) our cares upon Jesus because He cares for you and I. (I Peter 5:7) Regardless of the path that you have taken, and no matter how hopeless your situation may *appear*, God has given each of us a way of escape. (I Cor. 10:13) Your turnaround begins with you trusting in God, and having a made up mind to move from where you are to a better place in God and in life.

Starting Over in LIFE



L: First recognize that starting over in life is not a bad thing or situation. It's time.

L: Decide that you are not a failure, but an over-comer.

L: Admit that bad things happened, but release all anger and bitterness.

L: Start forgiving yourself and others of the harm they have caused.

L: Surround yourself with positive people and activities.

L: Find a place of worship that feeds your spirit, soul and body.

L: Stay involved with special projects...keep busy!

L: Read self-help books.

L: Don't allow your past to rob you any longer of your present or your future.

The Walk of Life

By: Brian Gearheart

As I was walking, down the road of life; I was met by frustration, sorrow and strife. I ran into loneliness and saw it's need; to be loved and wanted, such a sad plead. I talked with heartache, about love gone bad; to see it's pain, left me sad. And there was evil, so cold and mean; it's violent intent, was clear to be seen. But finally came kindness, so warm and dear; never asking for anything, unconditionally clear. And last there was love, so warm and true; a gift from God, to me and you.





By: Min. Soundra Simpson

STARTING YOUR OWN

Ministry • Small Business • Book Club

STARTING A WOMEN'S MINISTRY will yield much fruit in seeing the people of God being saved, healed, delivered and set-free from years of bondage. As you work unto the LORD, you will experience the manifested glory of God as you go about preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ and making disciples of women and men .

Before getting started, I encourage you to reflect upon God's plan for your life. Determine the path in which you feel God is leading you to walk. Spend quality time in prayer to clearly see and hear the vision in which God is speaking to your heart. Meditate on your vision until God releases you to go forth in sharing with others.

As God speaks make a list of your goals and objectives. This list will help you stay focused and on tasks. Others will come with "good ideas," but your goals will allow you to stay spiritually aligned. More importantly, be willing to discuss your ministry idea with your pastor in order to see how he/she wants you to go forth and how the two of you can work together.

Based upon your goals and objectives, and after creating a schedule, begin inviting others to join your meetings. Have a specific plan for how you will invite others to join your meetings.

Your first communications should clearly explain what your group should expect. In addition, create an agenda of what should occur during your allotted time together. No one should be surprised after arriving.

Consider allowing your group to have some input as to what they would like to discuss during each meeting. If possible, create a detailed schedule of meetings, speakers, activities, dates and times at least 6 to 12 months in advance. Best wishes for a time of celebration and high praise!

STARTING A SMALL BUSINESS - A Few Tips...

- Choose and register your business name.
- Decide on the legal form.
- Write a business plan.
- Establish a banking relationship, consult legal, and other business relationships.
- Meet all legal requirements.
- Obtain licenses, permits and insurance.
- Order products and establish price list.
- Determine and obtain necessary financing.
- Obtain space, equipment and supplies.
- Set-up detailed record-keeping and management systems.
- Creating a marketing plan.
- Hire employees.
- Create a daily mgmt. plan.

Learn More...www.IRS.gov

STARTING A BOOK CLUB can be one of the most enjoyable activities for you and your women's group to remember. There is no substitute for enjoying the traditional book club experience where you all come together to share your thoughts, to laugh and yes, to even cry.

Below are a few tips to help you get started...

- Decide on a set date, time and place to meet on a regular basis.
- Decide on what you would like to accomplish. This will determine your audience and those who should be invited. Allow the group to establish the ground rules (i.e. inviting guests, roles, responsibilities and communicating).
- Decide on what books will be read, collectively decide on the order in which the books will be read, and who will lead each discussion.
- Decide if refreshments will be served and who will be responsible for bringing what and when. Create a refreshment calendar and email to the group.
- Have a list of questions ready to help get your group moving and have fun!!!

PATHS CROSSED BRIDGE

(Building Relationships, Inspiring & Developing Generational Entrepreneurs)



PASTOR RHONDA FITZGERALD is a short woman in stature, but one who stands tall in boldly proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ. She is a woman who not only loves God, but is a woman of great faith and compassion for the people of God.

Pastor Rhonda, as she is affectionately called, is the pastor of Glorious House of God, which was established by her mother, Overseer JoAnna Fitzgerald in January 2006.

Victorious House of God was a part of Holiness Church of Christ Deliverance Center which is based in Midland, Pennsylvania. This denomination was established by the late Apostle Sam Sallis. Locally, Pastor Rhonda was affiliated with the ministries located in Salisbury and Spencer, North Carolina.

At Victorious House of God, their beliefs and doctrine are based on the Word of God. Pastor Rhonda passionately teaches that everyone has made mistakes along the way, but we can overcome and experience total restoration through salvation, deliverance and strict adherence to God's Word.

Being reared in the Holiness Church of Christ Deliverance Center, Pastor Rhonda preached her initial message in July 1998. In November 2006, she acknowledged her calling, and was ordained as pastor in November 2007.

One of Pastor Rhonda's goals for the New Year is to continue her relationship



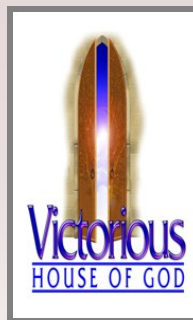
-Pastor Rhonda Fitzgerald

building with area ministries through shared worship services. "We want to let others know that Victorious House is in the community." Pastor Rhonda is committed to the ministry and the vision that God has given to her. She is a woman of love, anointing and commitment to Victorious House.

Contact Information

Corridor Business Park
714-C Montana Drive
Charlotte, N.C. 28216
Phone: (704) 322-3922

website
victorioushouseofgod.org



Worship Schedule

Sunday School - 10:00 AM

Morning Worship - 11:00 AM

Communion (First Sundays)

Wednesdays/Prayer - 7:00 PM

THE



BOOKMARK

Book: "Yet I Wait"

Author: Min. Brenda Jackson

As mentioned earlier to wait on the Lord in the biblical sense means to cease, to stop and to cut out all activities and to put our mind on the Father. This is when we begin to search for, seek for and inquire of the Lord; we are looking for directions or in search of answers. It doesn't mean we just sit down and do nothing while we wait. What it does mean is, while we are waiting, we continue in prayer, and reading, worshipping and all the things we would normally do while we

wait to hear from Him concerning a matter. (Pg. 5)

Book: Standing Under the Dead Branches / Author: Apostle Dr. Ann Jackson - The way we thought, acted and did in the world shows that we are still holding on to some of those old ties and our struggles are becoming more burdensome. We need to change our thought pattern, if we are to be free. We need to deal with some of our old ways and stop our old conversations. Some leaders don't stress the fact that if you hold on to the old things of this world that eventually they are going to wear you down. Yet, we carry them in our bosom daily. It becomes our deep dark secret. (Pg. 22)

PATHS CROSSED NETWORK MINISTRIES, INC.

-2011 CALENDAR OF SERVICES-

Apostle Bettie A. Clay - Overseer
Refuge House of God Del. Min.
Charlotte, North Carolina
January 22, 2011 / 6:00 P.M.

Prophetess Carolyn Moore
Charlotte, North Carolina
April 22, 2011 / 6:00 P.M.

Min. Brenda Jackson
Shekinah Glory Min.
Charlotte, North Carolina
February 26, 2011 / 6:00 P.M.

Pastor Teresa Perry
House of David Worship Ctr.
Charlotte, North Carolina
May 21, 2011 / 6:00 P.M.

Pastor Rhonda Fitzgerald
Victorious House of God
Charlotte, North Carolina
March 26, 2011 / 6:00 P.M.

Pastor Vernice Garrison
Turning It Around Min.
Charlotte, North Carolina
April 15, 2011 / 6:00 P.M.

For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD," plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

-Jeremiah 29:11-



Min. Soundra Simpson
President & Founder

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HAPPY NEW
YEAR!!!

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*"Women from all walks of life called to
world-wide ministries."*