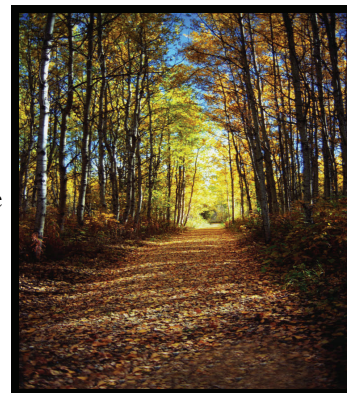


# JOURNEY-OCTOBER 2008

A Publication of Paths Crossed Network Ministries, Inc., Charlotte, NC 28236

## Let's Walk Together

I'm so delighted you have decided to continue our journey. The last time we were together our temperatures were in the 90s. Within the next few weeks colder temperatures will begin settling in, and we will start unpacking our favorite cardigan sweaters. Personally, I'm looking forward to a cool evening chill.



Our change in seasons take me back to Ecclesiastes 3:1-11, where the scripture speaks of times and seasons. Yes, there is a time for everything under the sun. This passage not only references changes in the natural, but it lends credibility to the nature and character of God. One way in which He perfects our lives is to allow many spiritual shifts. Times of change demonstrates the love and faithfulness of God even in the smallest or worst kind of situation. By now, surely we have come to know the faithfulness of God.

If everything about your life is in control, raise your hands and give God some praise! But if things *appear* to be out of control, stay prayerful and continue to wait patiently on your season. You have my word.....it's coming!! Be encouraged and know you have God walking along side you every step of the way! This is not a journey you have to walk alone. Selah!

### Volume 1 - Issue 2

### Foundational Scripture

#### In this issue:

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Trust in the LORD with all thine heart;  
and lean not unto thine own  
understanding. In all thy ways  
acknowledge Him, and  
He shall direct thy paths.

Proverbs 3:5-6

## Make Your Vote Count!

### To Register You Must Be:

A citizen of the United States, a resident of North Carolina, a resident of the county in which you currently reside for the last 30 days, 18 years old, and have your rights of citizenship restored if you have been convicted of a felony. Also, you must not be registered in any other county or state. Remember, others have fought and died that we may exercise our right to vote!!!



November 2008

A PUBLICATION  
OF PATHS  
CROSSED  
NETWORK  
MINISTRIES, INC.,



*"Women from all  
Walks of Life Called to  
World-wide Ministry."*

**Newsletter Team**

**Editor**

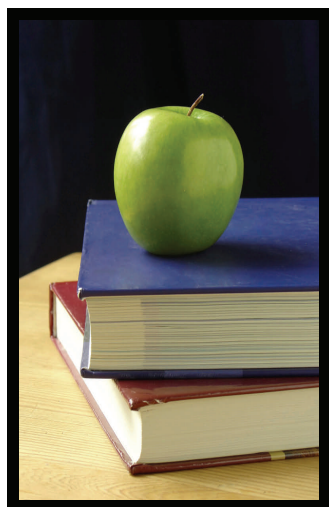
Min. Soundra R. Simpson

**Youth Writers**

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Charlene Mills



Please email your  
favorite book to:

SoundraS01@aol.com

**A Judah Celebration—A Miracle Service**

**Guest Speaker**

Apostle Bettie A. Clay

Refuge House of God  
Deliverance Ministries

Charlotte, North Carolina

Saturday, October 25th

**\*\*6:00 PM\*\***



Preaching the Word of God

Praying for the Sick

Prophesying to Encourage

**JESUS IS OUR LION OF JUDAH**

And the children of Israel arose, and went up to the house of God, and asked counsel of God, and said, Which of us shall go up first to battle against the children of Benjamin? And the Lord said, Judah shall go first.

Judges 20:18

**THE BOOK EXCHANGE**

One of my favorite past times is reading a really good book. Whenever I come across a good inspirational read, I like to share it with others that they maybe encouraged. Enjoy this passage from our author of the month.

Book: Understanding Your Potential / Author: Dr. Myles Munroe

Potential is always present, waiting to be exposed. It demands that you never settle for what you have accomplished. One of the greatest enemies of your potential is success. God wants you to maximize the potential He has given to you. You are not yet what you are supposed to be-though you may be pleased with what you are now. Don't accept your present state in life as final, because it is just that a state. Don't be satisfied with your last accomplishment, because there are many accomplishments yet to be perfected. Since you are full of potential, you should not be the same person next year that you are this year. Your primary problem is that you do not think like God does.

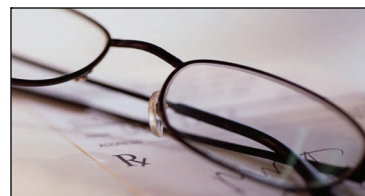
Book Store: The Bible Factory Outlet, Concord Mills Mall, 704.979.1040— \$6

# LEADERSHIP 101 & MINISTRY

## Leadership 101 & Staying Vision Focused

*"Leading God's People from the Frontline."*

By: Min. Soundra Simpson



**Paths Crossed** allows me the pleasure of talking to so many friends and ministry partners. Over the years, I've come to know that all of you are bursting with dreams and visions inspired by the Holy Ghost. I'm honored to know the passion each of you share for pregnant teens, prostitutes, the homeless, battered women, the prison population, children, food pantries and providing much needed counseling. This list doesn't scratch the surface for what God has placed on the hearts of his beloved daughters.

I'm sure you can testify that your passion can turn into frustration because you're waiting on God to give the green light or because your vision is bigger than your budget. What budget? My point exactly! You may be asking yourself how do you give birth to your vision when there isn't enough time, talent or resources?

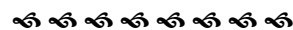
Focusing on your vision will prove to be beneficial to those you serve, and ultimately impacting your overall success. As Leaders, we must carefully develop programs that will meet the needs of those who attend our ministries, conferences or workshops. The following points will provide foundation in helping you focus on those you serve.

Start Small/Develop a Prototype— One key factor to keep in mind is the importance of starting small. You always want to remember that if nobody shows up, you alone can successfully implement your program and move forward (ouch!!). Take a moment to talk with those who will benefit from your services or training. Times and situations are totally different today than 20 years ago. Also, before presenting your vision to your audience, create a prototype or do a test-run with a smaller group. This will help you identify flaws and make adjustments before introducing to the masses.

Develop a Vision & Business Plan— For every project you create it's important to develop a vision and business plan. Your vision plan will provide insight as to your WHAT (your key objectives) and your business plan will speak to your HOW (your strategic plan). Your business plan will define specifically how you will finance your vision. As your vision continues to grow and additional financing is needed, your Bank will ask for a copy of your business plan.

Develop a Budget— As Leaders you must be realistic about your time, talent and resources. Develop financial guidelines as to how much cash you actually have on hand. Never plan an event with promised or anticipated revenue (offerings or registrations). Be creative and do as much of the work as possible. Utilize the creative talents of those around you....delegate a job or task to your team. Don't be afraid to ask others to volunteer their time and talents. Plan your event with cash on hand.

Develop a Timeline— As Leaders it's important that we develop manageable and realistic timelines. Avoid waiting to the last minute and create a project work plan that outlines every single tasks (no matter how small). Your work plan will assist you with delegation, responsibilities and deadlines. Review your project plan weekly to make sure you stay on track to meeting your upcoming meeting or project.



*Let them praise His name in the dance. ~ Psalm 149:3*

Do you have a passion for demonstrating your adoration to God through praise dancing?  
Paths Crossed is now taking applications for its Praise and Worship Dance Team.

Previous dance experience preferred, but not required.

Ages 12 to 18 / Must have reliable transportation

If interested, please call 704.392.6887 or send an email to SoundraS01@aol.com.



# 2008 Paths Crossed Remaining Calendar

NOVEMBER  
Apostle Rodney Fairey  
**“Dressed for Battle: Spiritual Warfare”**  
Kingdom of God Christian Fellowship Ministries  
Charlotte, NC  
5:00 PM



DECEMBER  
Min. Soundra R. Simpson  
**“A Jewel in His Crown”**  
Paths Crossed  
Network Ministries, Inc.  
Charlotte, NC  
5:00 PM

## The Importance of Ministry Evaluations By: Min. Soundra R. Simpson

For those of us who work in corporate America at the end of every quarter, an employee's performance is evaluated. Such performances become critical because they typically dictate the percentage a person will receive for their annual salary increase. More importantly, an employee's performance is measured against established goals that were set at the beginning of the year. The importance of creating goals or a Scorecard is that it holds employees accountable for driving specific results and demonstrating professional behaviors. The bottom line is that evaluations keeps everyone on track and eliminates any possibility for surprises at year-end.

One of the key elements missing from ministry is that we as Leaders fail to implement such measures that allow for structured conversations. In using evaluations it's important to create a job description that speaks to the position, job requirements and skills-sets. If we're going to hold someone accountable for driving results or demonstrating a specific behavior, we must give them a blueprint that will get them from point A to point B successfully. One benefit of using evaluations is that it allows an opportunity for you to have personal time with those that labor faithfully with you in ministry. So often, we allow ministry helpers to go from year to year in the same position without performance conversations. We typically have these conversations after something goes wrong.

Performance evaluations will help you determine if you have the right person in the right job. If you have someone performing above and beyond, they maybe challenged in their growth to take on more responsibility. High and productive performers have a tendency to become bored quickly. Not only are evaluations needful for individual performances, but also for team projects. You may want to ask the following questions: (1) How well did they work together (2) How well did they delegate responsibilities and (3) Was the project completed on time and within budget? Also, this will give you some indication of who works well together for future projects and ministry events.

Ministry evaluations are based upon results and not emotions. The evaluation conversation should focus on: (1) Identify Successes/what's working well (2) Identify Challenges/what's not working well (3) Demonstrated Behaviors (4) and Next Steps/a specific plan of action to drive for desired results. Keep the evaluation to a one page minimum and focus on one or two behaviors to improve upon. Remember the purpose is to help develop, grow and build up those that labor among us. It's a great idea to revisit your member's performance within 6 to 12 months. When your people grow, as Leaders, you grow!

By now, we all know ministry cost money. To do the smallest project can run into hundreds or thousands since we're committed to delivering a service of excellence. There are many organizations looking to invest in your ministry (hallelujah)!!!! Nonprofit organizations that do not have structured ministries run the risk of being turned down by donors who would ordinarily contribute to your ministry or project. These donors want to know their giving to worthy organizations with well-trained staff members.

For more information on evaluations, go to [www.createvaluations.com](http://www.createvaluations.com)



# *AMERICA Speaks Out.....2008 Presidential Election*

"For some, I think the 2008 election has evoked an interest in politics like never before. Our voters hear a voice that is speaking to America about the things they value and are hopeful a change will come. Then there are those that hear the same familiar voice, but will disregard it and make their decisions based purely on race and gender." - Tanya 43

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"The 2008 Presidential election is very important to our country because for the first time in history has an African American or a woman been able to seek the highest offices in the world. Finally, my country has begun to live up to it's promise that all men are created equal. This election validates that my son and daughter can too aspire to reach this dream of one day becoming the head of the greatest nation in the world." Audrey 45

## *Thank You Paths Crossed Family*

What a wonderful year for Paths Crossed Network Ministries. A very special thank you to my family, friends and ministry partners for your prayers, love and support. I truly appreciate every act of kindness and your unselfish sacrifices. I pray daily for each of you that God will bless you a thousand fold for your giving. A special thank you to my faithful team who upholds my left and right arms....Audrey, Katrina, Christopher and Brianna. You are invaluable and oh so precious!! Please pray for Paths Crossed Ministries. We wish you a happy and blessed holiday season. Our next issue of Journey will be released in January.....see everybody next year!!!! - Love you more, Min. Soundra

"This election year has been one of the most electrifying elections I have ever seen. It is critical that we listen to the candidates and understand their plans to help the country move forward. We are facing some tough economic times and other problems that will impact us and the world from a global standpoint. I believe that Barack Obama is absolutely the best candidate to be the next president of the United States. He is better equipped to handle and address the issues that impact all Americans – education, healthcare, jobs and social concerns. It is wonderful to witness this country finally putting aside some of our prejudices and stereotypes while being on the verge of electing a person of color to hold the highest political office in this country. I am very proud and thankful to be able to witness this election and I truly believe that now is a time for change to be implemented." Ann 50

"I think the 2008 Presidential election is nothing short of historic to say the least. I didn't think I would live to see the day when there was a realistic chance for an African American to become the most powerful man in the free world. I didn't think the minds of the majority were open enough to accept that race shouldn't be the overall determining factor as to whether someone was qualified or not. Although Sen. Obama's platform is "Change," it's apparent that change has already begun in the minds of the American citizens. Get out and vote and let's do our part to make sure our voices are heard and Barack Obama becomes the first African American president." Tyrone 45

**We Want to Hear From You.....**

Thank you for taking time out of your busy schedule to continue your journey with Paths Crossed Network Ministries. We pray you read something that blessed and encouraged you to keep on keeping on!!! If you would like more information regarding our ministry, or if you have comments to share, please send an email or write to: Paths Crossed Network Ministries, P.O. Box 36681, Charlotte, NC 28236 , SoundraS01@aol.com or call (704) 392.6887.



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## Sharing My Journal—*Pastor's Notes*

Every journey, regardless of your destination requires that you keep a personal journal. How priceless to invest a few moments of your day to record your life events. I promise in the days, months and even years ahead, these same words will encourage and bless you. I would like to share a few notes taken while attending the T.D. Jakes Pastor's and Leadership Conference in Washington, DC.



### Speaker, Bishop T.D. Jakes

1. Every Pastor must be able to do more than ministry if they are going to affect the communities in which they serve. You must have a specific plan to help you reach the un-churched.
2. As Leaders, you must not define your ministry by where you are today. Appreciate the place, the people and the season that you're in.
3. Decide whether you're going to be apart of a dying Moses or a young Joshua. Moses and Joshua were linked together, but they were not the same.
4. The worst thing a Pastor can do is fall in love with the flock he/she is supposed to be feeding.
5. Go and do what God called you to do, and let the chips fall where they may.



**Happy 60th Birthday!!!**

Apostle Bettie A. Clay

August 2008

## *Down South Cooking....."It's Something to Talk About"*

### *Pork Chops & Rice*

#### Ingredients:

Pork chops (as many as needed)  
Instant white or flavored rice (as much as needed)  
1 ½ Cup Water  
1 Tbsp. butter (optional)  
1 Envelope dried onion soup mix

#### Instructions:

Brown pork chops. Into large casserole dish, place rice, water and butter (if needed, add ½ cup extra water). Add envelope of onion soup mix and stir. Place pork chops on top; cover and bake 30 minutes at 350 degrees (baking time may vary). Hint: Add more water if you cook extra rice to prevent drying out.

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### *Simple Sweet Potato Pies*

#### Ingredients:

4 lbs. Potatoes, (boiled in skin, peeled and mashed)  
2 lbs. 6 ozs. Sugar  
3 ozs. Flour  
½ oz. Nutmeg  
1 egg  
11 ozs. Milk  
22 ozs. Margarine  
1 Tbsp. vanilla



#### Instructions:

Mix all ingredients; pour into three prepared piecrusts. Bake 350 degrees approximately 45 minutes.