

## **Message From the First Lady**

**New Antioch Baptist Church of Randallstown** 

Praise the Lord for a New Year, 2014! When I look back at 2013, I am in awe! It was by His wondrous grace and mercy that He sustained each one of us. Psalm 124 notes a declarative praise that amplifies God's protection and deliverance. In this Psalm, David makes it clear that the Lord acted on his behalf concerning deliverance. Being said, God is a defense...He is a strong tower from the enemy (Psalm 61:3). In knowing that God protects His people from Satan's destructive forces, I am able to face 2014 with peace and trust. God will take care of His people, for His Word assures us that He will never leave us nor forsake us (Hebrews 13:5). And as one of His, I can thank Him for going through 2014 and removing anything that is not of His will... because He is a gracious God! Therefore, I can trust Him.

Please take time to read this Winter edition of Becoming Whole Women in Christ (BWWC) newsletter. Also, if you are interested in submitting articles, please contact BWWC ministry leaders listed on the last page of this edition.

May your 2014 be filled with love for Christ and for all people.



## **Women's Retreat 2013**

Did you go? Did you miss it? Was it all that you hoped for and more?

Whatever your answer, the almost 200 women surely were in pursuit of Christ's Righteousness. We prayed, we sang, we cried, we left burdens at the resort, we embraced

one another, we learned about our sisters, and we experienced deliverance in various areas.

We ate well and we learned from our Keynotes: First Lady Ellen P. Barney, Dr. Johnny Parker, and Sister Alicia Williamson Garcia. We discussed hot topics and experienced various enriching workshops. The amenities were awesome.

Thank you to the Women's Executive Retreat Planning Committee and all who had a part in the Retreat event. Job well done!



Sis. Ellen P. Barney

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#### God's Word

# Philippians 2:14-16



Do all things without grumbling or disputing; so that you will prove yourselves to be blameless and innocent, children of God above reproach in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you appear as lights in the world, holding fast the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I will have reason to glory because I did not run in vain nor toil in vain (NASB).

### It's Prayer Time

#### **Confessing My Sin**

Heavenly Father, I have sinned against You. I repent of <u>(name the sin)</u>. Please forgive me. Bring to my remembrance the secret faults that I have not repented of or buried. Thank You for Your Holy Spirit who convicts me of my sins, so I can come before You and confess them. Reveal any sin in thoughts, words or actions. Help me not to delay in confessing my sins so that there is nothing impeding my relationship with You.

Purify my heart Lord Jesus. I want to walk in Your truth. Don't let me be deceived by the enemy to hide when I have done something that was not pleasing in Your sight, as well as against Your Word or will. Expose my motives to sin and renew a

steadfast spirit within me (Psalm 51:10). What a love You have for me that You are continually willing to forgive me. I thank You Lord that You are faithful and just to forgive me of my sins and cleanse me from all unrighteousness (1 John 1:9).

Help me to hide Your Word in my heart so I will see clearly and not sin against You (Psalm 119:11). You suffered for me. You died for my sins. Purge me now Lord. Do not hide Your face from me. I want You to hear my cries when I call. You know how to deliver the godly out of temptations. I praise You for making a way of escape.

Break any hold that temptations have on me that would cause me to

be weakened against the enemy. I wish to dwell in the shelter of the Most High. I acknowledge my trans-

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness (1John 1:9, NASB).

gressions. Have mercy on me Lord. Wash me thoroughly and cleanse me from my sin (Psalm 51:2). You alone are able to deliver me. Search me to see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way of everlasting (Psalm 139:24). I thank You and praise Your mighty name. In Jesus' name. Amen.

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#### Can You Hear Me Now?

By Chanel Trussell



Have you ever been in a restaurant or banquet hall full of people where you had to lean in to hear the words of the person next to you?

When loud music is playing and someone is saying something, have you had to lean in to make sure that you can hear his/her words?

In 2002, through clever marketing, Verizon Wireless made the question "Can you hear me now?" very popular. The "test man" in the commercial would walk to various areas where there was normally no reception and check in with the person on the phone to find out if the cell phone reception was still good. He would ask that question, wait a moment and then say "good." The implication was that even in the remotest areas, Verizon phones would still have perfect reception.

Many, if not all of us, have experienced a situation where we had to lean in to hear what someone was

saying. Either we missed the message, needed to gain clarification or we were just plain interested in what the person had to say. If this concept is normal and commonplace for us to communicate with one another, wouldn't the same apply to our relationship with God?

We speak to God when we pray, but He also speaks to us. He speaks to us through His word, through the prompting of the Holy Spirit as well as through other people. I have heard women say, "Well, I know God is speaking, but I cannot tell if it

> is His voice, Satan's voice or my own voice." When you hear the voice that is speaking, one

way to identify the source is to examine yourself.

"Are you leaning in to

hear God's Voice?"

Are you leaning in to hear God's voice? Leaning in means reading and studying His word on a regular basis, praying daily (several times a day), and expecting God to speak to you? James said that if we draw near to Him, He will draw near to us (James 4:8). That sounds like we need to make the first move to really be in a position to hear from God. We need to lean in to hear what He has to say. He may not shout; He may only whisper (I Kings 19:11-13),

so we want to be in the best position to hear Him clearly when He speaks to us.

As we seek the Lord first in all situations and circumstances no matter the size, we need to pray and read the Word and hide it in our hearts so that we do not sin against Him. (Psalm 119:11). When we do this consistently, we are moving into position to get the best "reception" possible.

We know that God does not change; we are the ones who can move outside of His "reception area" and change our focus. Once outside of the area, we no longer can hear clearly from the Lord. However, it is a blessing and is encouraging that He still has us firmly in His sight. We need to do everything we can to remain in the right position to hear Him say "Can you hear Me now?" We want to be able to say "Yes, Lord" so He can say "good."



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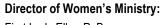
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#### A Church Anchored in Christ



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As stated on the website, New Antioch Baptist Church of Randallstown's Women's Ministry is designed to boost the spiritual, emotional, and physical awakening of women of all ages and life stages. We are especially committed to the salvation and progress of our youth, relationship seekers, and women who have lost their way.

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To contribute articles, email becomingwholewomeninchrist@yahoo.com

#### **Women's Ministries**

Bodies of Clay Dance Ministry
Diamonds in the Rough Ministry
D.R.I.V.E.N Ministry
Ministers' Wives' Fellowship
Women Connected in Christ Ministry

Mom-to-Mom Ministry
S.W.E.E.T Ministry
Titus II Ministry
Walk/Run Gospel
Aerobics' Ministry
Women's Newsletter Ministry

Women's Card Ministry
Women's Comfort Ministry
Women's Fellowship
Women's Grief Support Ministry
Women's Intercessory Prayer
Women's Prison Ministry

