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Message from the First Lady

Sis. Ellen P. Barney

Praise the Lord for a New Year, 2015!

When I look back at 2014, 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 assures refuge!

Scripture makes it clear, 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 2015 with peace and trust.

Also, I would like to encourage you to take the time to read this Winter edition of *Becoming Whole Women in Christ (BWWC) Newsletter*. If you are interested in submitting articles, please contact BWWC ministry leaders listed on the last page of this edition.

May you rest in God's peace as you trust Him throughout 2015!

Fizzling Out?

By Deborah T. Conaway

Do you feel like you've lost your fizzle or your zeal for the things of Christ? You were once very active and excited about getting involved in ministry and serving the people of God. You couldn't wait to get into the house of the Lord. What happened? What has burst your bubble? What has caused the slow drag to your commitment? Whatever the reason is: discouragement, manifold trials or even gossip, it is time to gird yourself up and get reactivated.

You know how sometimes when you are working on your computer and maybe you have several applications running at the same time, then all of a sudden the screen locks up on you and you can't do anything. It is at that point that you must reboot or reactivate your sessions. That can happen to us spiritually as well. We sometimes have to get "rebooted" or "reactivated" because we have too many things going on that cause us to slow down or even stop us in our tracks.

The cares of life, family issues, money problems, broken marriages, wayward children, job loss, sickness, death, depression, oppression, loneliness, backbiting, gossip, and the list goes on and on as to what the enemy can use as a hindrance to our faith. These things can rob us of our joy if we let them. Before you know it, you stop coming to church, you stop praying, you stop giving, and you stop fellowshipping on a regular basis. We let these things take our focus off our Chief Operating System -The Father, The Son and The Holy Spirit – and before you know it, you are on overload and you crash!

"How do I get reactivated," you may ask. You start by "*Practicing Praise*." Remember from where the Lord has brought you and where He is taking you. Instead of murmuring and complaining, speak phrases of praise such as:

"Thank you, Lord, for saving my soul. Thank you, Lord, for another



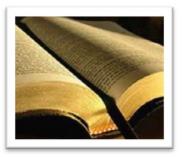
day. I love you, Lord. Thank you for the privilege to serve You.

Once you get started, your heart begins to overflow with joy, and before you know it, your "Operating System" is back online, but you have to keep practicing. No musician, athlete, or doctor can be proficient in their work unless they practice daily. Therefore, you must practice getting into His Presence every day so that you can be effective in ministry and become a **Proficient Praiser**. Get your Fizzle back!!!!

Upcoming Women's Classes

By Chanel Trussell

New Antioch Baptist Church of Randallstown has a wonderful menu of Women's Classes beginning on February 16 at 7 p.m. Get ready to learn and grow in the Lord!



There are subjects that will whet anyone's spiritual appetite. First on the menu is *L.E.A.D. II* (*Lay Encouragers And Disciplers*). This is the second class in the series of *L.E.A.D.* classes. This class is for those who have successfully completed *L.E.A.D. I.* It digs deeper into what it means to be spiritual friends.

Upcoming Women's Classes (continued)

Next on the menu is a class for singles called "S.A.S.S.I.E" (Saved And Single Satisfied in Elohim) ~God is Mindful of Me~where participants discuss being single (and single again), saved, and satisfied.

The last item on the menu is a class called "Faith over Fear," where participants identify specific fears and discuss what the Word of God says about our fears. We

hope you will select one of these and continue broadening your horizon and satisfying your appetite for Christ.

For more information about the upcoming classes, please visit the website, www.newantiochbc.org, or call the church office.

Who's Driving the Bus?

By Chanel Trussell

We were on a 55-passenger charter bus for a 3-hour ride on a rainy, somewhat chilly day. We prayed, as we always do, before we begin any traveling.

Early on in our trip, our driver had to brake suddenly to avoid hitting a tractor trailer who decided that he/she must have been the only person on the road--so it was OK to travel across three lanes of traffic to make the exit. We were grateful to have avoided such a near miss and that the brakes on the bus worked so well.

After a few hours, I heard the bus driver calmly say in a normal conversational tone, "Hold on, Ladies." When I looked, I saw

"The LORD is the one who goes ahead of you; He will be with you. He will not fail you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed."

(Deuteronomy 31:8, NASB)

the driver holding onto the pole near his seat while he took an exit curve a little too fast. I thought, "Hmmm, I wonder why he did not slow down into that curve more than he did." I dismissed the thought and went back to my conversation.

I heard once again, "Hold on, Ladies." (Still calm...but a little louder.) As we looked out the large windshield, we saw a small truck that had slowed to a near stop because of the traffic in front of it. As we came out of the curve of the exit at about 30 mph, we saw our driver swerve to avoid hitting the truck that had just stopped. To avoid hitting any other cars, he had to go over the curb median and into oncoming traffic.

He maneuvered through the oncoming cars and got back to the other side of the road before settling on the curb, bringing the bus to a stop. The scene would have made action film directors applaud at such a well carried-out sequence, but we were living this action scene!

When the bus stopped and the driver assessed the situation, he told us the hotel had been called; we were less than a mile away, and three shuttles would be coming to get us, and we should take our belongings. It turned out that the bus had a malfunction relating to the **brakes** that caused various system breakdowns!

The Lord was truly with us on that day! Thinking back, I am still in awe of His presence in that situation and the peace He gave those of us who saw the events unfold. I pondered over the events that occurred before and after and how even the smallest detail was not left to chance. He ordered each step...

Who's Driving the Bus (continued)

Just a few of my revelations from this experience:

- ➤ The bus we contracted for was smaller a 37-passernger bus. The Lord "changed" us to a larger bus so that the driver would respect the size of the it when he drove. This change allowed the driver not to take for granted the smaller bus could maneuver more easily in order that he would not drive faster than he should have in the rain.
- We were supposed to have another driver, but he had another obligation. The Lord provided this driver who **He knew** had the skill **He gave him** to navigate what was ahead of us down the road.
- > The Lord even added the rain and the wet roads to even further underscore that *He was driving that bus* and could keep us from hydroplaning, while maneuvering in and out of cars at 30 mph *WITH NO BRAKES!*
- Even my obedience in spending an hour in His presence on Wednesday, resting in His care played a role. I don't think I would have had peace during this turmoil if I did not spend time plugged into His Power Source the day before. Often our obedience can be a blessing to others just as our disobedience can bring consequences to others.
- ➤ I could not even speak, when I wanted to fuss and yell at the passengers for their questions, but I could speak boldly and confidently when praising the Lord for how *His hand* was all in this entire occurrence!
- God is in control regardless of what we think, and we must take time to see God's presence in each situation and not be so distracted because of our own agendas.
- God got the glory out of this situation, because I am telling this story to anyone who will listen. I am convinced that only by God's grace and mercy that we were not consumed.
- > Controlling the tongue is quite difficult to do, but *it is certainly possible!*
- > The brakes could have stopped working earlier on when we almost hit the trailer that traveled across three lanes....however, the brakes worked perfectly at that time.

I believe what the Lord says, He will never leave us or forsake us. If this testimony is not evidence of the Lord's presence, I don't know what is. *His presence was clearly visible!* It is such a blessing to know that He brought us through this ordeal without any trauma, just *a powerful testimony* to tell others how good *HE* really is!

New Antioch Baptist Church of Randallstown

A Church Anchored in Christ

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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.

To contribute articles, email: chanel trussell@yahoo.com

Women's Ministries

Intercessory Prayer Ministers' Wives' Fellowship Women Connected in Christ Ministry Diamonds in the Rough Ministry D.R.I.V.E.N Ministry S.W.E.E.T Ministry
Titus II Ministry
Walk/Run Gospel
Bodies of Clay Dance Ministry
Aerobics' Ministry
Newsletter Ministry

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

