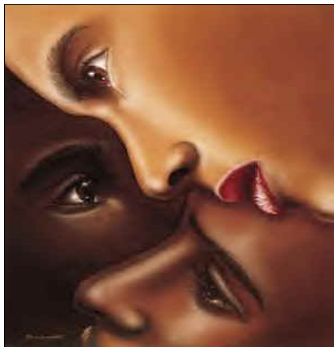


It is clear that our hu-

Becoming Whole Women In Christ

By First Lady Ellen P. Barney



man nature is innately sinful (Job 14:4; Jeremiah 17:9; Romans 7:5,17). Therefore, the transformational process of becoming whole is slow. Of course, we would like for the process to be swift, with no suffering.

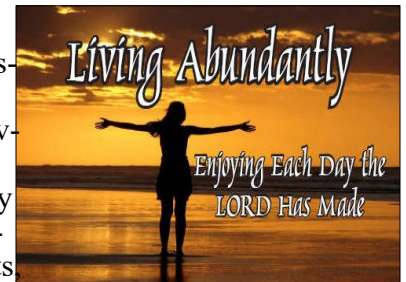
Nonetheless, for our benefit and for His glory, God transforms us in a timely manner. According to 2 Corinthians 3:18, NIV, we are reminded, “And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's **glory**, are being **transformed** into his likeness with ever-increasing **glory**, which comes **from** the Lord, who is the Spirit.” This particular Scripture

notes that our faces reveal God's ever-increasing glory (cf. 4:6). The ongoing reflection is evidence of the Lord's glory, which means that it is eternal. Our eternal reflection of the Lord's glory is accomplished through the ministry of the abiding permanent presence of the Holy Spirit (4:17). And, as we give continual evidence concerning the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22), we are being transformed into the likeness of Christ (1 Corinthians 3:18). Unlike Moses' glory, which was a thinning luminosity (2 Corinthians 4:7, 13), our glory is progressive.

Becoming whole in Christ is simply no easy task. Let's face it — who enjoys change? In spite of this, our transformational process is not stagnant. It must be constant and dynamic. Change demands a willingness to be transformed. Thus, we must

be willing to allow the Spirit of Christ to transform our character, however difficult. Nevertheless, the process must occur, whether by trials, tribulations, suffering, disappointments, losses, etc. Voluntarily or involuntarily, we will be changed. Therefore, Women, prepare yourselves for change. God promised that our change is necessary in order to become whole in Him (1 Corinthians 15:42-58; Ephesians 4:13; Philippians 3:20). Consequently, when we stand before Him, face to face, we will behold **His glory**—transformed and whole women in Christ, **at last!**

Our First Lady...



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Becoming Whole Women In Christ

Getting Intimate With Jesus *By Sis. Angela Dickerson-Wright*



THE SEEDS WE
SOW TODAY
DETERMINE THE
KIND OF FRUIT
WE'LL REAP
TOMORROW

Intimate-(adj.) closely acquainted, private, personal, detailed, thorough. (n.) very close friend.

You get closely acquainted with someone by spending quality time with them. This is not achieved by infrequency but by repetition and set aside one-on-one time that you deliberately and intentionally want to share with that person. The intimacy grows as you share, reveal, explore, seek understanding, and allow yourself to be open to love (both giving and receiving).

Intimacy is private because it is an exchange between you and that person, in a place where there are no distractions, and your focus and attention are solely on them. So why not get intimate with

Jesus?

You share all of yourself when you are being intimate. You are open, honest, and detailed about your feelings, thoughts, likes, and dislikes. Because you are exposed and vulnerable, you trust this person as your very close friend....so why not Jesus? In John 14:20, Jesus said *"I am in my Father, and ye are in me, and I in you."* Jesus died for us so that we can be reconciled to God. No more separation. Now we have full access anytime, so connect with Him!

I'm reminded of this song by Lashun Pace called *"Close to You."* At a time of distress in her life, where she thought she was going to die, she sought her Ultimate Spiritual Friend. The Lord told her in their intimacy that "He was

just as close to her as her very next heartbeat." I thought this was so awesome because we do forget that. Jesus is so close but sometimes we place Him far away instead of realizing He desires our intimacy with Him.



Getting Fit For Jesus *By Sis. Carole Shipman*

Led by Sis. Cynthia Evans, the mission of the NABCOR Walk/Run Gospel Aerobics Fitness Ministry is to connect women together for the purpose of increasing their level of physical and spiritual health in a small, non-threatening environment. The Ministry provides women with a safe place for healing in the area of weight management and wellness. Walking, running, strength training, cardio-respiratory training, and stretching are part of the classes that are held twice weekly with AFAA certified instructors. The NABCOR Walk/Run Gospel Aerobics Fitness Ministry equips women to feel better and accomplish all that God wants them to do, with good health.

As a member of the Walk/Run Ministry, you will be part of a group of ladies who truly demonstrate love for one

another. You will also find them to be supportive and encouraging in helping you meet your personal goals. Just remember, you can do all things through Christ who strengthens you. Jesus will never let you down.

Our prayer is that God will bless your efforts, as you surrender your desires to Him. We are confident that He will give you the desires of your heart, as you daily entrust Him with a structured exercise plan.

In addition, the women of the Walk/Run Ministry will on occasion participate in other outdoor activities that benefit different causes. It gives the Ministry an opportunity to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ to thousands of God's children who also participate in such activities. Pictured to the left (top and middle), the ladies participat-

ed in the 2nd Annual 2008 Afram Walk, and also the ladies participated in the Kelly St. Patrick's Day Race (bottom left) which benefits Leukemia/Lymphoma. Other races include: Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Walk, Alliance for Lupus Walk, The Baltimore Marathon, and the Crime Victims' Run. All of these activities are done on a volunteer basis.

The Ministry meets on Wednesday evenings from 5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. and on Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon in Building A. Please feel free to contact Ministry Leader Sis. Cynthia Evans for more information at 410-294-4639.



Be Mature... By Sis. Martha Blizzard

I recently completed a report on what I learned from the book *Be Mature* by Dr. Warren Wiersbe. It is a study on the Book of James.

Be Mature has shown me that it is time for me to grow up. The Book of James was written to Christian Jews who had major problems in the church, a serious problem with the tongue, and the problem of worldliness. These are some of the same problems that I face today. To become the saint that pleases God, I need to move from spiritual immaturity to spiritual maturing; hence, no longer a babe in Christ.

Dr. Wiersbe stated that, when I grow up, my spiritual maturity will look like the following: I will be patient in testing; I will practice the truth; I will have power over my tongue; I will be a peacemaker, not a troublemaker; and I will be prayerful in troubles.

Be Mature has given me the basic knowledge that, no matter what the trials may be on the outside or the temptations on the inside, through faith in Christ, I can experience victory. How I face my

trials is evaluated in the light of what God is doing for me. God has used Dr. Wiersbe to show me that trials help to produce patience, endurance, and the ability to keep persevering when times are rough is a learning state that is difficult for me. As I grow up, I must look at trials as God's means to mature me.

Be Mature explains how I should handle temptations. Temptations appeal to my natural desires which will lead to sorrows and punishments that were initially hidden. The Word of God is the key to saying "no" to times of temptation. The goodness of God is the greatest barrier against me yielding to temptation. God's goodness is much better than Satan's bargains. As with trials, the purpose of any temptation is to teach me patience.

Be Mature has allowed me to take a look at my relationship with God and view just where I am in my spiritual growth. Maturing in Christ is a process that needs God's help. I am truly getting this help from the Word of God. God has clearly used Dr. Wiersbe to refocus my attention to attain spiritual maturity. A systematic study of the

Book of James has enlightened me to what I need to look like in the eyesight of God and those that I come in contact with on a daily basis. The time spent in studying the Book of James, as taught by Dr. Warren W. Wiersbe, has been an experience for me that I am truly thankful. This study comes at a time when I am experiencing trials at work, in church ministries, and within myself.

I've been hesitant to study the Book of James because I've never wanted to hear about the most dangerous weapon that I possess--the tongue. Dr. Wiersbe's teaching method eased my anxiety and showed me what damage I inflict by the improper use of the tongue.

Systematically teaching how to learn to be patient, how to overcome temptation, how to practice what the Bible teaches, how to learn to control the tongue, how to make peace rather than trouble, and how to pray and get results is convicting me to look in the mirror to see if I see spiritual growth and maturity or the old nature. If I am seeing the old nature, it needs to be put to death.

Women's Ministry Calendar

Women's Ministry Highlight

A.C.T.S of *Faith Drama Ministry*

Led by Sis. Nesowanna Brown, glorifying God and presenting His message is the sole purpose of the A.C.T.S of Faith Drama Ministry. The Drama Ministry is an integral part of the Women's Ministry of NABCOR and has ministered during several retreats, conferences, and monthly women's maturing classes. Humorous and dramatic, biblically sound material is used to challenge and cause believers to take an introspective view of their personal relationship with Christ and to reach out and spread the Gospel to unbelievers.

Imprisoned by Fear *By Sis. Sharhonda Ford*

Have you ever stopped to wonder what causes you to be afraid? Have you wondered why you are not following your dreams? Does what God have for you align with the dreams you dream for yourself?

Sometimes we live in fear. We are afraid to allow God to usher us into the plan He has for our lives (Jeremiah 29:11). We run, we hide, we retreat, but we fail to toil in the land that God has given us. Maybe we are uncertain or maybe we are allowing our minds to be saturated with the lies

the enemy has told us pertaining to our future. But the Word of God declares,



“God has not given us a spirit of fear...” (2 Timothy 1:7), and it reminds us that Satan is a liar and the father of lies (John 8:44).

When God orders your steps, there are no wrong paths as long as you follow Christ. When you are in Christ, remember “there is no failure in God.”

My Sisters, we have to learn to move in the power of God. Trust God for His promises for our lives and allow God to make His will for our lives the very core of our dreams, that we may fulfill it as we fulfill His will. Don’t walk in fear—walk by faith! God has great things in store for us. Walk by faith, not by sight!

JOB VACANCY *By Sis. Angela Greene*

Moms' Corner

Title: Mother
Work Schedule: 24/7, Sunday-Saturday.
Required Skills: Incumbent must have the ability to motivate, counsel, cook, clean, drive, teach, discipline, protect, nurture, entertain, minister, and any other duties as needed.
Salary/Benefits: no salary, retirement benefits, vacation or PTO days!

ONLY SERIOUS APPLICANTS NEED TO APPLY!!!!!!!!!!

Who, in their right mind, would ever apply for a job like this? Who, you ask? Myself and so many other sound-minded women. Simply put...motherhood is hard. Motherhood alone comes with tremendous responsibilities and pressures, not to mention the other myriad of roles women have to fill. Society has placed so much value on titles and earning potential that motherhood is no longer anywhere to be

found on the “top” lists of jobs. Sadly enough, the importance of motherhood has been extinguished.

*******News Flash*******

The next time you find yourself doubting how important being a mother really is, think on these things: being a mother is an awesome privilege and blessing received from God. I’m sure we each know someone who greatly desires to mother a child but for one reason or another cannot. Next, reflect on this fact: our Heavenly

Father has allowed you the opportunity to carry and nurture His miraculous creation that was made in His very own image. Lastly, as a Christian mother, God has given us the responsibility to train up the next generation of Christians. WOW! What other job can remotely compare to this?



Keeping Your Faith in College *By Sis. Toni Robinson (Hampton University)*

How can you keep your faith in college? Many people call it “the best years of your life”- no parents, no curfew, no authority - basically no rules. College is four years of football games, fraternity parties, late nights leading to hangovers, and maybe some Statistics homework, in case your parents ask.

Pretty much everything who you are and who you will be is up for grabs. And, for the first time, you're in charge! But what many say are the best years, the church often calls the worst. Research says anywhere from 75 to 90 percent of high school seniors who call themselves Christians will abandon their faith by college graduation.

That's devastating, but it

also makes sense. One invites you to Communion, the other to a game of kings. Jesus says, "I am the Truth," (John 14:6), while college says truth is personal and subjective, if anything at all. College will hold things you've never imagined. You will hear more "isms" (pluralism, Satanism, individualism) than you knew existed and face more addictions (drug, alcohol, porn, eating disorders) than you thought possible.

In order to overcome temptation and stay close to the Lord, we must be “transformed by the renewing of *our* mind” (Romans 12:2). There is no other weapon against temptation except the “sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God” (Ephesians 6:17). Colossians 3:2 says,

“Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth.” If our minds are overflowing with the latest TV shows, music, and everything else this culture has to offer, we will be bombarded with messages and images that inevitably lead to sinful lusts. But if our minds are filled with the holiness of God, the love of Christ, and the brilliance of both reflected in His perfect Word, we will find that our interest in the lusts of the world lessen. But without the Word's influence on our minds, we are open to anything Satan wants to throw at us. Resist the devil and he shall flee!

Striving to be complete in Jesus...



- Generously giving without complaint or seeking anything (2 Corinthians 9:7).
- Trusting in God for a breakthrough no matter how long it takes or how bad it gets (Isaiah 40:31).
- Not relying on temporary quick fixes or counting on someone else to make me feel good (Philipians 4:19).
- When the Lord gives me a directive, no picking and choosing which one I'm gonna do. Do whatever he asks of you (Proverbs 3:5-6).
- Realize, alone, I am not superwoman, but through Christ Jesus, the many hats I juggle and wear will never fall off (1 Peter 5:6-7).
- Being honest with myself and with the Lord in all things and rejoicing in that transparency and intimacy (John 4:24).
- Praising God through the good and the bad, the ups the downs, and the shortcomings and successes (Psalm 34:1).
- When everyday my soul seeks to please Him (Psalm 63:1-8)..
- Prayer! Prayer! Prayer! (1 Thessalonians 5:17).

Scripture Reference

Read: Colossians 2:6-10.

BECOMING WHOLE WOMEN IN CHRIST

Spring 2009

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NABCOR Women's Ministries

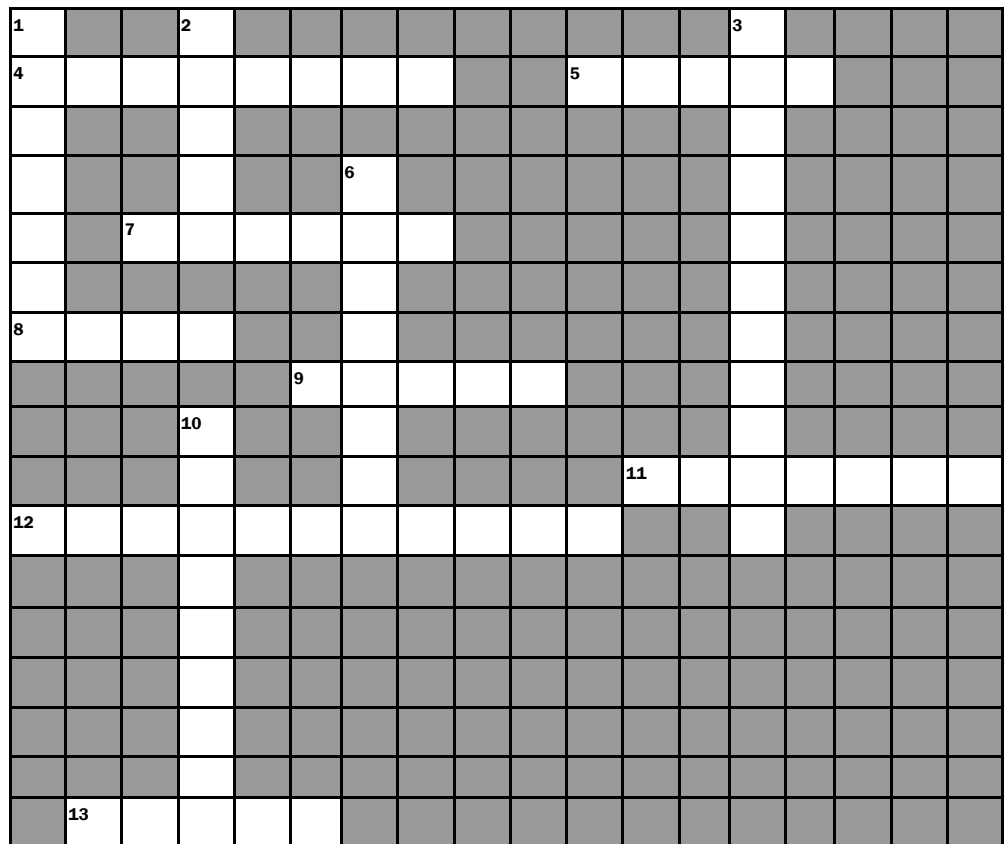
A.C.T.S. of Faith Drama Ministry
Bodies of Clay Dance Ministry
Diamonds in the Rough Ministry
D.R.I.V.E.N Ministry
Ministers' Wives' Fellowship Ministry
Mom-to-Mom Ministry
S.W.E.E.T Ministry
Titus II Ministry
Walk/Run Gospel Aerobics Ministry
Women Connected in Christ Ministry
Women's Card Ministry
Women's Comfort Ministry
Women's Grief Support Ministry
Women's Intercessory Prayer Ministry
Women's Maturing Class
Women's Ministry Newsletter
Women's Prison Ministry

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TIME
410-521-6125
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ACROSS

4. Jesus supports/speaks in our favor with the Father (1 John 2:1)
5. The guided way
7. A spiritual discipline
8. Salvation is a free _____
9. "Lived" backwards or "resist him and he will flee from you" (James 4:7)
11. Reveal one's transgressions
12. God's love (Jeremiah 31:3)
13. If you do this, He promises in His Word that the door will be opened

DOWN

1. Drawing closer to God by denying yourself of fleshly desires
2. We have this to overcome the spirit of fear
3. "And my God shall supply all your needs according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus..." 4:19
6. Your petitions (Phil 4:6)
10. Face to face with God (two words with a space in between)

Across
4. advocate 5. light 7. prayer 8. gift 9. devil 11. confess 12. everlasting 13. knock
Down
1. fasting 2. power 3. Philippians 6. requests 10. coram deo