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### Message from the First Lady

Sis. Ellen P. Barney



Praise the Lord for taking us through a very cold winter! And now that we are entering the spring and summer seasons, we can relax our minds... no more icy conditions, snow, or layered clothing to protect us from the elements. Spring brings a sense of refreshment—new growth, new beginnings, and lighter clothing! Summer brings relaxation with vacations to the beach, spending time with family and friends at barbecue feasts, amusement parks, and of course, no more heavy wool coats!

What about your time with Christ during these seasons? Will it be seasons of busyness or seasons of relaxation? Will the spring and summer seasons involve periods of fasting and praying? Will we also seek His will during hectic and busy times? Will we take time to enjoy His presence? His word? Or will the above be on hold until fall?

Our Lord doesn't take a vacation, for He is on call 24/7! And thank Him for being on call 24/7 to protect, provide, secure, refresh, comfort, and love us, His children. And not only is He watching over His own, but He is controlling and watching the entire universe! Wow, what a God! Indeed, He is Jehovah Jireh, He is God the provider, He is El Shaddai, God almighty! Omnipotent! Omniscient! And Omnipresent! His attributes speak of His provision, His power, knowledge, and presence! And His attributes do not need to take a spring break or summer vacation because He is God, **there in every season!**

Ladies, please enjoy this edition of the Becoming Whole in Christ newsletter. If interested in submitting articles, please get in touch with Sister Chanel Trussell, as listed on the back page.

## Spirit-Led Acronyms

By Sis. Pat Johnson

Romans 10:17 (NASB) says, *So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.* Hearing the message of Christ grows believers, and it also reaches unbelievers when their hearts are open to receive Him. God speaks to His children personally through His Word.



As I walk and talk to the Lord, I also listen. My mother used to write poems about how the Lord spoke to her and she even had them copyrighted. Perhaps, God has given me a similar gift. Instead of poems, God speaks to me through my thoughts and through the acronyms He places within my spirit. I write about the ways He talks to me, and how those words shape my faith. An acronym is a word formed by taking the first letter of each word in a phrase and combining those letters to create a new word. God often gives me words that come to my mind, and I believe He places them there with purpose. These particular words from Scripture strengthen my faith and give me something meaningful to share with others. For example, you may have heard or not heard of the acronym for **BIBLE: Basic Instructions Before Learning or Leaving Earth.**

God has given me other acronyms, such as:

### **TRUST—Total Reliance Upon the Savior's Truth**

Proverbs 3:5-6 (NASB), *Trust in the LORD with all your heart And do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He will make your paths straight.* We must trust God and rely on Him in all our ways. We may not always understand His ways, but we must trust Him completely!

### **PEACE—Precious Evidence Attaining Christ's Embrace**

Matthew 11:28-30 assures us to *Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.*

Psalms 16:11 also declares *You will make known to me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; In Your right hand there are pleasures forever.*

And Psalm 29:11 also gives evidence that *the LORD will give strength to His people; the LORD will bless His people with peace.* With that we can rest. We can tell Him all about our struggles. The Lord will be there! He will lift you! The joy of the Lord is our strength to go on, to move on, to believe and trust that God is with us and will see us through anything! His presence comforts us. We are never alone. The Lord is always there. He has resurrecting power to give us peace. As believers we are to pray to Him always and be still and know that He is God!

## Treating My Sister with Love

By Sis. Ruth Stepney



Love – what is the meaning of love? Well, we can summarize the meaning of love as God. He loved us so much that He gave His Son Jesus to die for us. Jesus knew no sin but became sin for us. That is love. God demands us to love. Love is the basis of God’s greatest commandment (Matthew 22:37).

Sometimes, it’s hard to love your sister in Christ, but I am determined to keep in my mind that with God, nothing shall be impossible (Luke 1:37, KJV). You may have that one sister that gets on your last nerve. We all have one. I know I have had one. We must start learning to love that sister by asking God to help us see that sister through His eyes. When we ask that question with sincerity, He will show us. You will be surprised at what God shows you about that sister and how to love her in spite of. Here are a few recommendations on how to love your sister in Christ. What you do with them depends on you and the God in you.

We can love our sister by giving them our full attention. We connect with the Lord and others when we listen. It's also a simple way to care. Have you ever been talking with someone when they aren't really paying attention and are constantly interrupting you? It's hurtful, right? Maybe you've done that to someone? I think most of us have. Well, in Proverbs 18:13, we are told that it is foolishness to answer before listening. Let's not be foolish but instead listen. Again, I say this is God's second greatest commandment - to love your neighbor as yourself. Listening is a part of that. Just as we want to listen to what God has to say to us, let’s give our sisters the love of listening.

Another way to treat our sister with love is to remember that God created all people. Yes, God did it! We created no one. It’s hard to be kind when someone annoys us, isn't it? As I said before, we all have that one person who can be annoying. Well, something that can help us is knowing Genesis 1:27, which says that all people are made in God's image. When we see our sister, we can remember that God designed and created each person, and that will help us have more grace toward our sister. When that sister is being difficult, sometimes we must look a little harder to see Jesus in them. Some sisters are probably coming to your mind right now. It helps to remember that these sisters also need the love of Jesus.

Matthew 5:14-16 tells us that we are to be lights in this dark world and that light will shine when we love others. Verse 16 says to let your light shine so they will see your good deeds and glorify God. That sister may just come to know the Lord just by seeing your light shine and seeing the Lord work through you!

## Is Diversity, Equity/Equality & Inclusion God's Will?

By Sis. Carla Tucker

**GO YE  
INTO ALL  
THE WORLD,  
AND PREACH  
THE GOSPEL  
TO EVERY  
CREATURE.  
MARK 16:15**

God is the orchestrator of Diversity, Equity/Equality and Inclusion. He said in His Word, *Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love, being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as also you were called in one hope of your calling; one God and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all* (Ephesians 4:1-4, 6, NASB, 1995).

God gave us specific instructions to have tolerance for one another in love and to preserve the unity of the Spirit. To have unity of the Spirit, we all must be on one accord. *And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation* (Mark 16:15).

**All means all.** *Learn to do good; Seek justice, Reprove the ruthless, Defend the orphan, Plead for the widow* (Isaiah 1:17 ). *He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you But to do justice, to love kindness, And to walk humbly with your God?* (Micah 6:8) *Then He will answer them, 'Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me'* (Matthew 25:45).

We are supposed to stand up for and help the marginalized. *He who oppresses the poor taunts his Maker, But he who is gracious to the needy honors Him* (Proverbs 14:31).

As African Americans, we have endured long suffering. Our ancestors, as well as other marginalized racial groups, have endured what the Hispanic Americans are experiencing presently. Because our history has been erased and distorted, other minority groups and some unknowing Caucasians could not understand the plight of the African American story. Even so, many of today's young generation apparently do not understand the anguish and the racial segregation of our ancestors and others. Now we are seeing it unfold right before our very eyes. If you do not know your history, you are bound to repeat it.

African American schools and businesses originated from the church, where unity was the norm. There is an uptick in the number of churches closing. Churches should extend an open invitation to the parishioners regardless of their ethnic background. Many churches need to pull their resources together to help the community at large, especially during these harsh economic times.

*'There is one body and one Spirit, just as also you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all* (Ephesians 4:4-6).

God is indeed the orchestrator of Diversity, Equity/Equality, and Inclusion for all through the tolerance of His love through the unity of Spirit in the bond of peace by His people.

# 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.

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## NABCOR Women’s Ministries

**Intercessory Prayer  
Ministers’ Wives’ Fellowship  
Diamonds in the Rough Ministry  
Jewels for Jesus  
D.R.I.V.E.N. Ministry**

**S.W.E.E.T. Ministry  
Wholesome Warriors  
Bodies of Clay Dance Ministry  
Newsletter Ministry  
Greeters’ Ministry**

**Card Ministry  
Women’s Fellowship  
Comfort Ministry  
Grief Support Ministry  
Women’s Prison Ministry**

