

## IT'S OUR TIME TO SOAR



Greetings to all the saints in the mighty name of Jesus Christ! We have just finished our 28th annual women's conference 2016. We had a wonderful time in the Lord! Our theme was, "It's My Time to Soar" and our scripture reference was Revelation 4:1. We had a tremendous month where various speakers gave their insight into this passage and the theme. We were all

challenged to come up higher and to soar into new levels. There is no limit as to what we can do when we leave everything behind and begin to follow Christ. I encourage all the saints to run with this theme and be all that you can be because the sky is the limit. Don't let everything end with the conference but continue to press, push and move forward. God has many wonderful things in store for all of us. Know that you are like the eagle, created to soar above the challenges and difficulties of life. I encourage you this month to no longer live like the other birds, but know who you are. Walk it, live it, know it, and watch God work in your lives.

Abundant Blessings, First Lady James

But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.

## **Let's Soar Together**

BY JOANNA PIERRE

The LORD'S loving kindnesses indeed never cease, For His compassions never fail. They are new every morning; Great is Your faithfulness.

The Lord never ceases to amaze me. Time after time he watches over and protects my children and family. The Lord has an answer to ever problem that arises and I know that I can trust in Him in my time of need.

This month we have faced many trials but the Lord has brought us through them. From disconnection notices, to a small fire that engulfed my kitchen, the Lord protected us and kept us safe.

God continues to send His angels to guard my children and our home.

Every morning I leave our home at the crack of dawn, usually when the children are still asleep and I pray for the presence of God to stay and dwell in our home, to walk with them and me as we go about our day.

When I came from work the other day, as usual I had a song on my lips as my daughter insisted that we need to praise the Lord all together for what He had done for us and she started singing "God is good, God is good, God is good to me. How can I let Him down, how can I let Him down is so good to me..." All I could think is isn't he amazing!

I can truly say that I am soaring for in the midst of adversity and I continue to praise my God for who He is. Let's all soar together.

#### **SEEKING MORE OF GOD'S PRESENCE**

I often sit back, clouded with thoughts of life in general and I recognize patterns, maybe circles, tunnels, flickers of hope, peeking over horizons!

I see people just like myself, similar in nature and character yet we are uniquely different. Some of us are fully developed, others are going through our development stages, both young and old.

I realize that as individuals we become what we practice and we develop lifetime habits. For the most part we try to develop good ones yet amongst our good, evil is always lurking around us.

Sometimes the negatives seem to shine the brightest while the positive are merely only seen as a flicker or a spark..

pray daily that God will create a clean heart in me and renew my spirit. I trust that His word will take root in my heart that I will not sin against Him!

I must admit that it's a struggle from time to time. Situations, whatever they might be, make it challenging to react the way I should due to my human reflexes.

I've learned that the more I seek the Lord the less I have to defend myself. The more I study the word of God, the less things offend me. The more I trust Him, the less I worry. The more I obey the Word, the more it comes alive in my situations. Proverbs 3: 1-7



# Soar like the eagle and be all that God created us to be



Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! Welcome to the first of our monthly WOK newsletter. I am excited about what God is doing in the lives of WOK. We hope that you enjoy our first issue. It is a compilation of articles from members of the WOK Family. Each month, our women will be coming together to submit articles, recipes, tips etc. for you to enjoy.

The newsletter is a reflection of the strong, talented and gifted women we have among us at RTT. Please support this new venture by encouraging our women and cheering them on as we continue to help strengthen the body of Christ.

The month of October has been a tremendous experience for the WOK family. We were encouraged to soar like the eagle and be all that God created us to be. Knowing who you are in Christ distinguishes you above the rest. The way we perceive ourselves will have a direct impact on how

successful or unsuccessful we will become. Some of us are comfortable sitting on the sidelines, watching others succeed. We secretly desire more for ourselves but the ups and downs of life has somehow tainted our view of ourselves. The Bible tells us that as a man thinketh in his heart so is he. You are what you think and that includes how you think about yourself. A positive self-perception is essential if we are going to be all that God wants us to be

One of the plans of the enemy is to stop you from discovering who you are. He will use family members, friends, co-workers, and sometimes strangers to cause you to have a negative self-perception. He will whisper in our ears, "you are not good enough," "you will never accomplish anything great," "look at where you came from, you don't have the right background, "you are not smart enough." If we listen to these voices long enough and continue to ponder them in our hearts, we will begin

### A positive self-perception is essential if we are going to be all that God wants us to be.

to believe the lies of the enemy.

For too long we have been listening to, and coming into agreement with the wrong voices. To drown out the negative chatter in our minds, we must replace it with something else until is totally diminishes.

How do we do that? We do that by going to the word of God to find out what He says about us. The Word of God is used as a weapon against every negative voice. If the voice we hear, doesn't line up with what God says about us, immediately dismiss it and replace it with the truth.

Feed on the truth (Word of God) until you completely believe it and it takes root in your heart. Once it is in your heart, the devil cannot snatch it away.

Know that you are created with awesomeness on the inside! There is no stopping you, when you know who you are. The devil is threatened by who you are, so don't allow him to steal your identity. Stay rooted and grounded in the Word of God and watch what God will do in your life.

God bless and Have an awesome November! Pastor Bridget

### Scripture of the Month

Scripture for the Month: Psalm 1:1-3 AMP

Blessed (happy, fortunate, prosperous, and enviable) is the man who walks and lives not in the counsel of the ungodly [following their advice, their plans and purposes], nor stands [submissive and inactive] in the path where sinners walk, nor sits down [to relax and rest] where the scornful [and the mockers] gather.

2 But his delight and desire are in the law of the Lord, and on His law (the precepts, the instructions, the teachings of God) he habitually meditates (ponders and studies) by day and by night.

3 And he shall be like a tree firmly planted [and tended] by the streams of water, ready to bring forth its fruit in its season; its leaf also shall not fade or wither; and everything he does shall prosper [and come to maturity].

Pastor Bridget

#### **PRAYER CORNER**

BY MARGARET MCKENZIE



There are many storms that we must go through as Christians. When the Women conference happens each year, we are timely reminded of our rewards laid up in heaven.

Our topic this year is another reminder, Revelation 4:1 John was told to come higher until he could see what God has to show him and he was able to let us know about it.

Jesus tells us in the scriptures the same truth. "These things I have told you that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye have tribulation but be of good cheer for I have overcome the world" (John:16:33).

We have much to learn about how we can get up higher. Always remember we cannot get higher until we have learned how to be humble and study the scriptures daily.

# \* Woman of the Month

Each month we will be showcasing one of our WOK members. We believe that it is important to acknowledge the women in our church who contribute to the success of the ministry. It doesn't matter what capacity you serve in, we know that without each and every one of you, RTT would not be where it is today. We love and appreciate you all!

This month we would like to show our appreciation to Sis. Plummer who has worked diligently in the ministry for many years. She first gave her life to Christ over 40 years ago. For the last 20 years, she has been a dedicated member of RTT. In the year 2000, Bishop James felt impressed to install her as one of the Church Mothers of RTT Durham and she continues to impart her wisdom to those she encounters. She also works as an altar worker and as an usher.

She understands the importance of her role. As an usher, her responsibility is not to only collect offering, but she contributes to the smooth operations of the church. Her gracious smile and calm demeanor greets you when you walk through the doors of RTT Durham. She makes our visitors feel comfortable and at home. As an altar worker, she provides support to those in need of prayer. She is there to comfort, intercede and encourage others. She is always there when you need her most.

We would just like to take a moment to say Thank you for all that you do. Nothing goes unnoticed and we appreciate you greatly.

God Bless, Your WOK Family



And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up. ~ Galatians 6:9



In the News:
this world
is not our home

Can you say the names Hillary Clinton or Donald Trump and not get people talking? Even the average 7 or 8-year-old is aware of who these people are. The US election has captivated many people around the world, and even more so now that the election is just a day away. People either immensely love one of the candidates or dislike them both. They simply want the election to be over and a smooth transition of power to begin.

I have spoken to both believers and non-believers and have heard a worrisome tone about the possibility of what would happen to Canada or the world if either candidate wins. However, I am reminded of the sermon I heard from Rev. Keith McCormack, that God is sovereign. Our God knows who will be the leader of the greatest country on earth. He has ordained him or her for such a time as this and there is nothing that he or she can do that will be surprising to Him. An interesting note from Rev. McCormack's sermon was that in the past God ordained evil leaders to bring his people back to Him, as in the case of King Nebuchadnezzar or Pharaoh. So, rest assured, if these candidates have agendas that will move their country or the world further away from God, then we as Christian should never worry, but pray. We should constantly be praying that God's will, will be done on earth, as it is in heaven (the Lord's prayer). Whether we like what is

happening or not, this world is not our home, and even though the media may make us feel fearful, the sun will still rise and the earth will still rotate the day after the election, unless Jesus returns.

I never thought in my lifetime I would live to see that an African-American would be the US president or even the possibility of a female US president. Tomorrow, I will be watching, along with the rest of the world, to see the outcome of the long awaited results from the election. But, no matter the outcome, my hope will not be in a candidate to bring economic stability or peace as my God is in charge and will never let me or my family beg for bread.



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# GREATER IS HE

BY: KATHY LEWIS

It was the usual Sunday, church. However, this was the Sunday after my beautiful cousin's, Lorna Mae, funeral. I was drained. I was drained by all sorts of emotions: losing my cousin, and the arrogance of a few so-called family members. I got up at 5:30 a.m., approximately, prompted by the Holy Spirit to pray. I stumbled downstairs in obedience, down to the basement, my unknown war zone, to kneel before the throne of grace. I Prayed. I poured out my inner being, the best way I knew how. It flowed, and I luxuriated in the presence of the Most High God. For me this was a moment of truth and reconciliation; I confessed my pain, my anger, my frustration, my possible shortcomings, and my honours.

My husband must've heard me, or he must've missed my presence in bed, for I heard familiar creaks of heavy footsteps heading my direction. None of our children would wake up so early in the morning, not even to the banging of two thick stainless steel duchy covers; the loud clattering that as children we would hear from a distance when the lid fell off a pot in the kitchen or the rattling sound it made being flung at us because of our refusal to listen. My husband asked why I was up so early, and I said praying. We chatted for a while until he said he was going to get ready for work.

I fell asleep once more as I was awakened by the same set of footsteps charging down to the basement followed by calls: KATHY! I shuffled unwillingly. It was my husband once more. He was surprised to see me in the same position he had left me in, sprawled out on the couch. I felt blindly for my phone on the centre table, hoping I didn't miss morning service

It was 9:44 a.m, and with concealed happiness, I asked my husband what he was doing home so early, and his response was something along the line of "work dead," not busy. Now, my little one heard us talking downstairs, and, knowing it was time for church, she declared she was staying home with daddy, so I asked her to wake up her siblings, and, of course, they too protested..

I didn't bother opposing. After much delays, I made my way upstairs to get dressed for church eying my husband flipping through the weekly flyers for sale items. Finally, I was ready to head out the door, but I could not find my Bible. My older daughter heard me and said, "Mommy just use the Bible App on your phone," so I left for church.



There is something about being in the house of God. David said, "I was glad when they said unto me let us go into the house of the Lord." I was happy to be in God's house. I found my way to my usual seat; I sat for awhile until the Holy Spirit prompted me to write down my thoughts, and, in obedience, I moved to the last seat in the same row for privacy. Just before I sat, my eyes glanced a gold Bible; I didn't know if it was a subconscious recognition, but I picked it up. I flipped the cover, and to my surprise, it belonged to me: K. Stewart, 797 Jane Street, Toronto, Ontario. I sat in awe at the subtle might of my God. He works in such mysterious ways, incomprehensible to the human mind. He is a cloud by day and fire by night for all who trust and obey Him. He treads our path protecting us from the Pharaohs of our lives. This address was the first apartment my husband and I moved into when I was pregnant with my first child. The ripped pages represent years of tradition, placing an opened-Bible in the crib or bed when the child sleeps to ward off evil, and I did the same for my second child except in a different apartment, same crib and the same for my third child.

This moment is a trigger; a wealth of memories come rushing through, a floodgate of beautiful memorabilia. It marks the beginning of my journey in Canada and the faithfulness of my God, my Abba. It alludes to the moment when I ventured out on my own as a teenage mother despite unfavourable, distasteful pronouncements of others. God had already trodden my path. He had already scouted out my land and told me it was safe to inhabit. In the same way, he picked me up from my seat and put me in the back in a safe, quiet space to write down my thoughts, preparing the content of this message. He had already prepared the language of my voice, my written voice. Likewise, He charts our course. Obedience is our compass. Listen to the voice of God and follow instructions and miracles will happen. For me, this moment isn't only a trigger of memories, but it is a realization that God cares about the great things and the small things in our lives

We need to understand that, with God small means great. This concept doesn't fit conventional wisdom; however, it is a grain of a mustard seed that moves a mountain. Further, Christ said, "Whoever is the least among you is the greatest." God had already prepared the content of your life before you were born. His subtleties are great. They move masses. One person says He uses the foolishness of the world to confound the wise, a donkey jaw bone to defeat an army and the saviour of humanity, of Adam's fallen race, nailed to a cross redeeming generations and generations, times over. Scholars still marvel at this concept..

God cares about the great things and the small things in our lives.



Some think it is too minute; it is too simplistic; it is too superficial. However, they fail to understand that our minds cannot reason God out. He is beyond our reasoning. God requires, as the Psalmist states, "A broken and a contrite heart." He requires our willing obedience, a removal of loftiness from our hearts and all animosity against each other, staying true to ourselves and our walk by staying true to His word. "His truth shall be your shield and buckler." It is the truth of our ways that will navigate us through stormy seas, and even if we fail or falter, we must not give up. We are all significant in His sight. "Greater is He."

## IN THE SPIRIT OF NAOMI

# God Made You Uniquely Amazing!

BY LEILA SPRINGER LIFE COACH, AUTHOR AND PUBLIC SPEAKER

"It is important that we learn how to be truly present. Many of us have never given this a second thought - we already believe that we are in the moment."

For many years when anyone would ask, I would tell them that my favourite colour was green. That is, until one day I took the time to examine my belief system and ask myself some hard questions. While taking inventory of my life, I realized that green was not my favourite colour, it was my husbands favourite colour and I took it on as mine.

I was very young when I arrived on the shores of this beautiful nation. I came to join my fiancé and when I arrived he had found a new apartment and already furnished it. Everything was green - green chairs, green rug, green drapes, green table mats, green table cloths, green bedspread, green bathroom. Everything was green. When I asked him why, he told me he loved green and that it was his favourite colour. Unknowingly I took it as my favourite colour too.

If you took inventory of your life right now, I wonder how many things you would discover that is not really your belief but someone else's. Many of the things we believe and hold to were imposed on us by others and perhaps it is time to take inventory and change some of those things to what you truly believe. It is time you begin to bring harmony to your inner self and start to live your amazing life. We were never put on this earth to be mediocre, we were placed here to live out our abundant life that Jesus taught.

When I was in elementary school I learned how to split my brain which enabled me to listen to or not listen to you while doing something else.

What I didn't know was that it would affect me throughout my life until I learned how to unlearn that terrible habit.

God made each one of us a Masterpiece

It is important that we learn how to be truly present. Many of us have never given this a second thought - we already believe that we are in the moment. The importance of being in the moment is that we learn how to be aware of what is happening now, not tomorrow or next week, or next year but we be cognizant of our present situation and begin to live from the position of now. Remember you are fearfully and wonderfully made. We probably would not realize that until something goes out of wack.

One day in 2008 I came home from a trip to Niagara Falls and developed an excruciating pain in my face. Never had it before, it just hit me with a jab as though someone had just stabbed me. The pain was so excruciating that I could not even touch that side of my face that was affected, I could not wash my face. Sometimes even the brush of wind would bother me. That pain lasted for one whole year. It was then that I realized it was the nerves in my face and what I had developed was trigeminal neuralgia - a type of pain that you would never want to experience. Since then it happened again and was debilitating. I learned a lesson that I shall never forget. God put us together very uniquely, every area, every fibre every joint and marrow is fits jointly into place and when something is wrong, our bodies react to the change.

Let us always remember that God made each one of us a Masterpiece and there is no need for us to be someone else. We are all complete in Him and no selfadjustments are necessary.



### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Grand Market Bake Sale - Sunday November 13th, 2016 - immediately after service

Women in the Word is scheduled the last Friday of every month.

Women in the Word is scheduled the last Friday of every month. The next session will take place on Friday November 25th, 2016 at 7:30PM. The Bible study will run until 8:45PM.

We look forward to seeing all the ladies there

If you'd like to contribute to this newsletter please email wokdurhamnewsletter@gmail.com



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