NATIONAL CONFERENCE 2017
COVERED
WITH SPEAKER RHEA BRISCOE
MARCH 3-5
HYATT REGENCY
NORTH HOUSTON

A LOOK INSIDE...

Page 2: President’s Address
Page 3: Celebration United
Page 4: Focus on Prayer, Partners Make a Difference
Page 5: God’s Hand at TAC
Page 6: A Thank You to Celebration
Page 7: Conference 2017 Announcement
Page 8: Calendar

Don’t miss out on our summer Celebration United event! See pg. 3 for more details!

www.celebrationministries.org
At a recent event for graduating senior women at Houston Baptist University, I had the privilege of speaking to these impressive young ladies.

The Lord put it on my heart to share about one of the fun parts of graduation, besides the diploma, is receiving gifts. We showed three beautifully wrapped gifts. They represented three meaningful gifts that Jesus had for these seniors at HBU that would impact the rest of their lives!

Here are the highlights of the three gifts we shared that day:

1. Love
   Jesus calls you His friend! He loves sharing time with you.
   He knew about you from the foundations of the world and put you together in your mother’s womb.
   He truly knows and understands you. Because of His love for us, He wants us to live in close connection with Him so we can produce fruit for the Kingdom.

2. Peace
   These words from Jesus still ring true today, for both young and older people.
   “Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid. I have told you these things, so that in Me you may have [perfect] peace and confidence. In the world you have tribulation and trials and distress and frustration; but be of good cheer [take courage; be confident, certain, undaunted]! For I have overcome the world. [I have deprived it of power to harm you and have conquered it for you.]”
   Philippians 3:6-7 tells us how to walk in that much needed peace.
   We are “to be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”

3. Purpose:
   It doesn’t matter what age you are, we all need to know that God’s thoughts for us are for good and not for evil and that He has a hope and a future for us.
   We need to be reminded that we are His workmanship, recreated in Christ Jesus, born anew that we may do those good works that God planned before hand for us, taking paths which He prepared ahead of time that we should walk in them!
   Our part in finding our purpose is to lean on, trust and be confident in the Lord, with all our heart and mind and not to rely on our own insight or understanding.
   In all your ways know, recognize and acknowledge Him, and He will direct and make straight and plain your path.

As we closed our time together with these young women, we realized that this word was not only for them but also for us.

We are all striving to go from glory to glory, knowing that we are loved, given peace, and that there is a purpose for our lives. This knowledge helps us run the unique race that we have been given. Trust in the Lord with all your heart!

Selah!

Love,

Judy
CELEBRATION UNITED

A woman-to-woman ministry event
- food for your body & soul -
Uniting women of all ages in the Christian faith

August 13, 2016 • Beaumont, TX
9:45 am - Noon

Edison Plaza - Dogwood Room | 350 Pine St., Suite 400

LUKE 4:18-19
“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because He has anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor;
He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted;
To proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind;
To set at liberty those who are oppressed;
To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord.”

Register at www.celebrationministries.org
For more info, call Sheila (409) 363-2372
or Email, register@celebrationministries.org
Focus on Prayer

Stealing Time for God

Modern technology is wonderful. It allows us to keep in touch with our family and friends even if they live far from us. Events around the world can be watched in real time instead of on taped delay. A meal can be cooked in a matter of minutes. Bills can be paid with a click of a button. All of these modern conveniences should free our time so that we can spend more time talking and listening to God. However, if you are like me, we find our days are filled with busyness of our lives. Work, family, friends, social obligations, and even church activities, fill up our time. So how do we carve out some alone time with God?

“There isn’t a single motivation, thought, act, or word that has slipped out of your being and escaped the full, undivided attention of God.” Bill Hybels, author of “Too Busy Not to Pray.”

God even hears our short, spur of the moment prayers. God is waiting to hear from us. We are reminded in Psalms 34:15, “The eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and his ears are attentive to their cry.” So look for those small moments that you can speak to God.

I remember when I was a young girl my mother would always be singing or talking as she was doing daily chores. I asked her one day to whom she was singing and talking. She replied, “God”. I have taken a cue from my mother and started looking for all those times I could steal for talking to God. While hand-washing a few dishes one day, I began to think about the people or places of which these items reminded me. I began to pray to God about these people and places. I began to think of other times that I could steal for God. Folding laundry, sweeping the floors, and my morning drive to work are now some of the time I steal to talk and listen to God.

So I challenge you to be creative and look for time you can steal for God. He is listening!

Psalms 65:2: “O You who hear prayer, To You all men come.”

Partner Update

Partners Make a Difference

Kim was a struggling young woman searching for direction...

“I was a broken child of God and chose to attend Celebration’s National Conference last February. The conference was such a blessing. The main message couldn’t have been more relevant to what I needed. 2 Timothy 1:7 God has not given us a spirit of fear but a spirit of power, love and self-control. After the Conference, I am now, finally, living for God and it feels so great.”

Kim is just one of the many women, young and old, blessed by the love and healing power of Jesus Christ through Celebration.

Consider becoming part of this great ministry as a Celebration partner and help others like Kim to live their lives in victory and peace.

As a partner in Celebration, you share in the work and victories in women’s lives.

When someone accepts Jesus as her Savior – you are part of that experience.

When someone is healed – you are part of the miracle.

When someone is freed of fear, rejection, heaviness, etc. - you are part of that victory.

As a partner, you join us in seeing Luke 4:18-19 evidenced in women’s lives. We thank you!

To become a partner in the work of Celebration, contact Linda Johnson at treasurer@CelebrationMinistries.org or go to our website www.celebrationministries.org.

You can become a sustaining partner for as little as $19.00 a month. Be a blessing and join!
We had a packed house for our Celebration Luncheon at the Texas Annual Conference on Tuesday, May 31st in downtown Houston. We were blessed to have over 35 churches represented that day. For many attendees, this was their first experience with Celebration. We had a powerful time of worship followed by an amazing message by our special guest speaker Rev. Jessica LaGrone. Jessica gave us fresh insight into Jesus’ first miracle at the wedding at Cana. She reminded us all that miracles are always preceded by desperation and to cling to Christ especially in hard times.

David Horton and his wife Brandi Tevebaugh were to be ordained in the United Methodist Church on Tuesday night at TAC. David had a health issue and they took him to the Celebration Prayer Room for prayer and medical assistance. Because he missed Ordination Ceremony, and was recovering, Bishop Huie decided to ordain him in the Celebration Prayer Room. Bishop Huie stated this was a first for her, but was happy that she could ordain this fine young man into the ministry of the UMC. His wife, Brandi, was also ordained in the Prayer Room.

Celebration was honored to meet Dr. Raul Garcia de Ochoa, retired United Methodist Church Bishop from Mexico. He stopped by our booth to hear more about our ministry and history. In 1996, Bishop Woodrow Hearn had returned from a trip to Mexico. There had been a powerful move of the Holy Spirit in that country. Within weeks, the founders of Celebration had a meeting with Bishop Hearn to introduce the concept of a new ministry for women. He liked the idea and we were voted into the TAC in 1999. Bishop Garcia was delighted to hear this story and invited us to come to Monterrey, Mexico.
Five years ago, in April 2011, I attended my first Celebration National Conference. To borrow from John Wesley, on Friday night of that conference, as I worshiped with a hundred women I’d never met before, as I heard Rhea Briscoe preach a good word of God’s everlasting love for us, I felt my heart strangely warmed. I could not have imagined the journey that was beginning for me.

As I left that Friday night session, I knew God was calling me to lead women in worship. I was unequipped to do it. I was scared to do it. And, unbeknownst to me that night, I was entering a season of turmoil—a season of emotional, physical and financial desert. But throughout that season of pain, one thing held true: the only time I felt whole and happy was when I worshipping, whether on Sunday morning in church or alone in my prayer closet.

And then I got a call from Judy Graham. I suspect many of you have a Celebration testimony that starts in a similar way!

Six months after that National Conference where the Lord prompted my heart and called me to women’s ministry, Judy Graham called and asked me if I would lead worship at a Celebration National Board meeting. My sisters, it was an unmitigated disaster! I picked songs they didn’t know. My printer ran out of ink and the lyrics on the page were so light you could barely read them. And I was so nervous that my voice shook the whole time. But the Holy Spirit still fell on us in that moment of worship, and I knew I was in the ministry the Lord called me to during that Friday night session at National Conference.

After a few weeks, I was asked to join the board as VP of Praise & Worship. Over the last five years, the Lord has used Celebration to heal my heart, call me to ministry, allow me to find my voice as a worship leader and teach me that the Holy Spirit is alive and active, all in a Spirit-filled, loving, gracious environment. In short, I am proof that Celebration’s three-part purpose of Salvation, Healing & Equipping changes lives!

The Lord has now called me out of my position as VP of Praise & Worship and into a position of worship leadership at Crossroads United Methodist Church in Houston, serving with my husband. Notice I didn’t say I am leaving Celebration; I am only leaving my role as the worship leader for National Board events.

So if you are looking for me at National Conference next year, I will be there. I’ll be the one on the front row, hands raised and eyes closed, singing my heart out because He is worthy.

One last thing…thank you. Thank you for accepting me just as I was. Thank you for encouraging me to go deeper in my faith. Thank you for overlooking the sour notes I occasionally sent your way. Thank you for laughing at my jokes. Thank you for worshiping with abandon. Thank you for showing me the love of Jesus.
He will cover you with his feathers, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness will be your shield & rampart.

PSALM 91:4

NATIONAL CONFERENCE 2017
COVERED
WITH SPEAKER RHEA BRISCOE
MARCH 3-5
HYATT REGENCY
NORTH HOUSTON
**Celebration Women’s Ministry, Inc. Officers:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Judy C. Graham</td>
<td>President</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Linda Johnson</td>
<td>Treasurer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Margie Filer</td>
<td>Secretary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christi Gardner</td>
<td>VP of Praise &amp; Worship</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mary Sneed</td>
<td>VP of Prayer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sharon Wright</td>
<td>VP of Conference</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JJ Sauter</td>
<td>VP of Leadership Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christi Gardner</td>
<td>VP of Special Events</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Celebration Summer Calendar**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Chapter/Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Contact</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>July</td>
<td>Trinity FUMC Chapter</td>
<td>Tuesday, July 12</td>
<td>6-8 p.m.</td>
<td>Trinity FUMC, Trinity TX</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ledbetter34@hotmail.com">ledbetter34@hotmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August</td>
<td>Trinity FUMC Chapter</td>
<td>Tuesday, August 9</td>
<td>6-8 p.m.</td>
<td>Trinity FUMC, Trinity TX</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ledbetter34@hotmail.com">ledbetter34@hotmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August</td>
<td>Celebration United - Beaumont</td>
<td>Saturday, August 13</td>
<td>9:45 a.m. - 12 p.m.</td>
<td>Edison Plaza</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Register@CelebrationMinistries.org">Register@CelebrationMinistries.org</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Celebration United - Beaumont**

Saturday, August 13
Edison Plaza
9:45 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Contact: (409) 363-2372,
Register@CelebrationMinistries.org

**Katie O’Neale**, newsletter editor, would love to add your chapter’s news and events to our fall issue! Please send any information to News@CelebrationMinistries.org by Oct. 1. Or, if you know anyone who would like to receive this letter, they can sign up also by contacting News@CelebrationMinistries.org to be added to our list.

To receive “Sounding the Trumpet” (Chapter and National Prayers), email Julie Puckett at jabpbristol@gmail.com.

To make a donation or payment, contact Linda Johnson at Treasurer@CelebrationMinistries.org or send to Linda Johnson, 4572 Sandpiper Cove, College Station, TX 77845.

**Check out our website for a more detailed list of events!** www.celerebrationministries.org