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As we purpose to read God’s Word daily, here is some good news.

Growing up in a small rural community, we watched the fields being prepared for planting of wheat. The farmer would plow up the barren ground to loosen the soil and add fertilizer to ready the soil to prepare for the seed. Then the seed would be planted. Rains would come, and the seed would grow under the soil. Finally, the green plant would emerge.

That’s how the Word works in us! It is planted in our hearts when we read the Bible, listen to sermons, attend Bible studies and share with other believers. The Holy Spirit will teach us in all truth as we seek Him.

I wanted us to focus on the seed of God’s Word. It is God breathed. The Word God speaks is alive and full of power. It is a two-edged sword. It is a weapon in warfare with Satan and his demonic forces. God says in Jeremiah 1:12, “I am alert and active, watching over My Word to perform it.”

Jesus talked about the Seed in the parable He shared in Luke…being the Word of God. There were four types of soil where this seed was sown.

1. On the path
2. In rocky soil
3. In soil where weeds also grew
4. In good fertile soil

However, Jesus has warnings for us. He said the enemy comes immediately to steal the Word you have heard from getting into your heart. We may receive the word with joy. However, if we do not have a strong root of faith in Jesus and His Word — just as the seed sown on the path or in rocky soil does not have a strong root — when the enemy sends persecution because of the Word, the power of the Word will be stolen from us. We will be discouraged and lose hope. The loss of the power of the Word can bring about discouragement and hopelessness.

Another warning concerns the cares and anxieties of this world, and distractions of the time we are living… “the weeds.” The pleasure, delight, false glamour, and the deceitfulness of riches and the craving and passionate desire for other things, creep in and choke and suffocate the Word, and it becomes fruitless. If we do not heed these warnings from Jesus, we will be robbed of the power of the Word in our lives. There will not be any fruit produced in us. What’s been robbing Jesus’ promises in your life?

The good news is that the Word, as seed sown on fertile ground will produce 30, 60 to a 100 fold return in our lives and for the Kingdom.

When you attend a Celebration event, you will receive the living, active Word of God that will change your life. We are watering those seeds that were sown with fervent prayers and thanksgiving for all those who were with us. In this issue, you will read stories about women’s lives who have been changed by Jesus at our National Conference. They were good soil who received God’s Word and will be a producer of good fruit. Thank you, Jesus!

Celebrating Jesus,

Judy
Happy 20th Birthday, Celebration!
Thanks for giving all women the opportunity to “Experience It!"

In November 1998, 100+ women of various churches in the Houston area gathering at Chapelwood UMC to plan and celebrate the birthing of a new women’s fellowship called “Celebration.” Born out of a vision held by Judy Graham, Susan Jackson, and Marty Scholars, the women’s fellowship model is about enabling women to become “all that God has created them to be” through sharing, encouraging, discipling, and mentoring in the faith. Its focus is presenting the truth and beauty of the message of salvation, healing, and equipping to renew and restore the inner woman.

On Saturday, March 13, 1999, Celebration, with 500+ women, burst forth into the Texas Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church with the first event hosting guest speaker, Joan Epstein (mother of Kathie Lee Gifford) at St. Luke's UMC. During these 20 years, Celebration, under the leadership of president, Judy Graham, has given women the opportunity to “Experience” salvation, healing and equipping. Since that momentous beginning, Celebration has gone national.


Watch the anniversary slide presentation | www.celebrationministries.org/20-years

We Welcome You As A Partner With Celebration!

Your giving makes it possible for us to reach more women with the good news of what Jesus Christ has done and will do in their lives, Luke 4:18-19. At our National Conference, we had 10 women rededicate their lives to Jesus. We were humbled to have 44 women sign up to be Partners with us at National Conference.

As a partner, you get to take part in and hear about the testimonies of God’s grace and power. You are a major part of orchestrating the work of the ministry.

Your partner gift also helps us in many day-to-day activities of the ministry:
- Starting new chapters of Celebration.
- Enabling young women to attend National Conference.
- Keeping you informed through the website, newsletters, and other social media.
- Helping with the operating expenses of the ministry.

Thank you for joining us in this adventure with Jesus as we go forward in 2019.

For contributions, visit www.celebrationministries.org/donate or mail a check to 5161 San Felipe, Suite 320, Houston, Texas 77056.
For further inquiries, please contact our Treasurer - email Treasurer@celebrationministries.org.

We want to pray for you!
We believe in the power of prayer. For personal prayer concerns please e-mail your prayer requests to prayer@CelebrationMinistries.org. God Answers Prayer!
We pray that KNOWN National Conference was as meaningful to you as it was to us. It was our prayer, that you would feel God’s love and our love for you, you would know joy, because laughter is good medicine, and that you would leave with peace in your heart.

We point out some of Rev. Carolyn Moore’s main points of knowing our identity in Christ, so that you can recall them and incorporate their truths into your daily lives. Firstly, remember that by our own merits, we cannot be reconciled to God; rather, we must cling to the Cross of Christ, laying our idols at His feet. Secondly, Carolyn called us to declare TRUE “I am statements”, in light of how Christ sees us. Use this as a tool, to combat the false “I am” statements that arise. Thirdly, we are a “mixed bag” of chosen and rejected, precious and peculiar, disobedient and destined. It is only when our “I am” is connected to His “I am” that we find our true identity.

Rev. Madeline Henners also brought some powerful teaching. She exhorted us to operate in the gift of the Word of Knowledge, given to us by God for someone else. We were able to practice operating in this gift, as God gave different people Words of Knowledge for physical and emotional healing. She concluded on Sunday, by pointing us to Christ’s Sacrifice for us, preparing our hearts and minds for Communion.
To all who attended conference, you continue to be in our prayers as you return to your families, your homes, and your jobs.

To all women and youth girls, we look forward to seeing you at National Conference 2020.
A Prophetic Word From Pastor Madeline Henners

“I received it the first day, that your ministry was going to see more growth in the next two years than it has in the last twenty! To get ready for the expansion and increase.

This is a season of acceleration - praying for that increase in the work y’all are doing!”

God’s Presence In This Place

We have been blessed to hear of experiences from National Conference 2019. We appreciate you sharing how Jesus has used Celebration to bring His healing power into your lives:

“I was overwhelmed by God’s peace and presence.”

“My Lord gave me this time to refill, refresh, and renew my faith.”

“A heavy dark cloud has been erased and I am able to feel some joy again... I am in awe of God’s love for us who sends confirmation of love, and mercy through the visions and words of strangers. I cannot verbalize the condition of my heart before and after NC! “I AM” a healed daughter of a mighty King!”

“This year I realized that these conferences present an opportunity to remove the obstacles that have kept me suppressed, oppressed, filled with guilt, pain and loneliness. It is a time of healing and release. Knowing that I am in a safe environment, surrounded by women prayer warriors, women also seeking healing, comfort and help as we all praise GOD and encourage each other. I look forward to the next conference!”

“I loved Pastor Henners’ message of pressing forward - to be unapologetically KNOWN. I pray that I might be able to pour out God’s love into people in front of me.”
Welcome Our New VP of Special Events

Now joining the National Board as Vice President of Special Events is Lynda Zelenka. Lynda has been involved in Celebration for many years and was instrumental in starting a Celebration Chapter at Foundry United Methodist Church of Houston, Texas. In the past, she has served on the Celebration Women’s Ministry National Board as VP of Special Events as well.

Lynda brings a wealth of experience in ministry and serving. She joined the staff of Foundry as assistant to the Associate Pastor in 1999 and received her call to go into ministry. She is now the Pastor of Community Outreach and Women’s Ministries at the Foundry. As a mother of two children and proud grandmother of one, Lynda is also passionate about youth. She is Executive Director of Cy-Hope since its inception in 2011. Cy-Hope brings hope to at-risk children so they will grow into educated and productive citizens.

As VP of Special Events, Lynda assumes the helm for events like the Celebration luncheon at Texas Annual Conference. Welcome Lynda to the team — email her at Events@celebrationministries.org.

KNOWN National Conference 2019
speaker talks on sale soon!
https://www.celebrationministries.org/e-store

Thank you for giving to Celebration Women’s Ministry!

Donations were made in honor of these women:

Barbara Vincent  Judy Graham  Linda Johnson  McCayla Fleming
Barbara Yoder  Julie Cheatham  Lynda Zelenka  Pam Scheyer
Beth Domingue  Julie Puckett  Lynne Blunck  Rylee Free
Christi Gardner  Karen Bidinger  Margie Filer  Sandra Browne
Cindy Masterson  Kim Dugas  Mary Byerman  Sharon Wright
Gail Wilson  Kathy Jungwirth  Mary Filer  Sheila Davis
Helle VerHoeven  Katie O’Neale  Mary Sneed  Tracy Pechenik

To give to Celebration, visit www.celebrationministries.org and click DONATE or make checks payable to Celebration and mail to:
5161 San Felipe, Suite 320, Houston, Texas 77056.

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Celebration Calendar

**July/August**

- **TAC Luncheon**
  
  **Thanks for joining us. Check out the highlights!**

- **7/6 - Nederland Chapter**
  9:15 AM - 12:00 PM
  @ Wesley UMC

- **8/1 - Cypress Trails Chapter**
  7:00 PM - 9:00 PM
  @ Cypress Trails UMC in Spring

Celebration Women’s Ministry, Inc. Officers:

- Judy C. Graham, President
- Margie Filer, Secretary
- Sheila Davis, VP of National Conference
- Lynda Zelenka, VP of Special Events
- Christi Gardner, VP of Praise & Worship
- Kim Bell, VP of Leadership Development
- Beth Domingue, VP of Prayer

Send Chapter news and events to News@CelebrationMinistries.org by July 1, 2019
Refer friends to subscribe to our news by contacting News@CelebrationMinistries.org.
To receive “Sounding the Trumpet” (Chapter and National prayers), email Julie Puckett at jabpbristol@gmail.com.
To make a donation or payment, contact Treasurer@CelebrationMinistries.org.

www.CelebrationMinistries.org