

Abiding Truth Ministries, Inc. Women of Vision Monthly Newsletter

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“Living for the Little ‘i’” by Pastor Juanita Green

While driving through the park one Sunday morning, I was listening to a message by Charles Stanley who was speaking about putting God first in our lives. He spoke about God being the “Big I” and that he should be number one. However, when thinking about his message, I began to wonder about the mindset of so many believers who tend to live for the “little i” rather than the “Big I”. Thus,

life is all about us and what we want, instead of who God is, and what he wants for us. Matthew 6:33 encourages us to “Seek first, the kingdom of God and his righteousness and all these things shall be added unto you.” He’s speaking about those things we need, desire and want. I want to encourage you to live for the “Big I” (the Big I AM, God). Remember, God is able to meet any need and do anything. Believe

on him and put him first in your life today.

Flower for the month of May



Lillie of the Valley

“Like a Thief in the Night!” by Sis. Tamara Brownlee

We don’t know the day or the hour; it is a Biblical term used to describe when God comes to rapture the church. It is also an earthly term. We humans are not promised to wake up each morning. Whether you’re a believer or non-believer, you still don’t know the day or the hour.

On May 13, 2015 Amtrak train number 188 derailed shortly after leaving 30th Street Station. Eight people were killed and more than 200 were injured. The Transportation Safety Board confirmed that the train was traveling at a speed twice the limit for the section of the curved track, where the accident occurred. Train number 188 left Washington, D.C., heading for New York City. They were fathers, mothers, sons,

daughters, brothers and sisters. Their life was taken like a thief in the night; all on their way to or from some place and they never made it. Killed by some mishap; I can’t imagine what these people were doing, during their last hour on the train. As I watched the news, it showed a young boy holding a picture of his father and asking if anyone had seen him. He stated that his father left for the train following his game. I can only imagine what’s going through that boy’s head right now. He just might be blaming himself, thinking that if his father didn’t come to his game, he might have caught an earlier train. The next day his father was found dead. Then there was Derrick Griffith who was Dean of Affairs at Medgar Evers,

a college in Brooklyn, who also lost his life. His son stated that he was a dedicated dad and he regretted not telling his father how proud he was of him.

After watching these events on the news, I began to think of my life and the lives of people around me. It made me realize how so many people take life for granted. None of us, regardless of the color of our skin, gender or religion are guaranteed to wake up the next day. A lot of people go through life without being grateful for existing in the “here and now”. NOW is the time to start showing gratitude. People need to be more thankful for each second, minute and hour that they’re still breathing. If you’re the type that goes to bed upset with someone at night, you should

make it right before hand; you just might not wake up. Stop procrastinating and tell people how you feel while you can. As I read in my oldest son’s book, “Everyone who has life, has life until death; but how many of us actually live until we die?” Because we don’t know the hour or the day, start living life to the fullest and don’t let death sneak up on you *like a thief in the night*.

Scriptures for the Month

Exodus 13:14

Psalm 24

**“We may encounter many
defeats but we must not
be defeated.”**

Maya Angelou

Inside this issue:

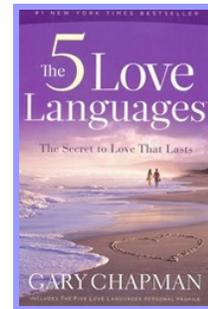
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Book Review for the Month by Bro. Clinton Williams

Although I have yet to finish Dr. Gary Chapman's "The 5 Love Languages"; I have found this book to be very intuitive and enlightening. While reading this book, I can deduce that the information delivered from this literature can be positively crucial to a married couple's plan to learn more about each other, and/or kindle a greater love for one another. As a single Christian man with a desire to allow God to develop and grow my courtship with the woman He has for me, and a desire to be married in the future, my position in reading this book is quite different. One reason I wanted to read this book involved me wanting to inquire more about myself and how receptive I can be to different levels and displays of love. I believe that in order to love

someone else, you must have love to give, and that love comes from God. With that love I possess, I wanted to know more about myself so that I may learn how to handle the levels of love I have; and so far, this book has done just that, allowing me to recognize my "love languages" according to Dr. Chapman's terms. In addition, learning how to love the woman God has for me on a heavier degree is very beneficial to understanding how receptive she is to various forms of love. I would recommend this book to anyone that may have similar desires as it pertains to self and relationships. Most importantly, I believe the Word of God should continue to be the number one source. Concerning true love and the revealing identity therein, but possessing this

piece of supplemental literature would be an absolute blessing to anyone as I would encourage it.



"The Hat Tradition" by Sis. Sharell Wilson



The hat tradition for black women is said to have been originated from First Corinthians 11:5-6 in which Apostle Paul talked about women's heads needing to be covered to truly honor herself.

"But every woman that prayeth or prophesieth with her head uncovered dishonoureth her head: for that is even all one as if she were shaven. For if the woman be not covered, let her also be shorn: but if it be a shame for a woman to be shorn or shave, let her be covered."

During times of slavery and overt racial segregation many African American women wore worn out clothing or a specific uniform; with Sunday mornings being the only time they could be individualized by wearing their best outfit, which always included a hat. Though this hat may have been the only hat she owned, however, on Sunday this hat transformed into a fitting accessory with her Sunday's best outfit, which could've included the addition of a fresh flower, lace or ribbon.

In this day and time, African Americans as a people have triumphed over centuries of adversity by the grace of God. The African American women now have the means and freedom to crown her head with an assortment of extraordinary hats, which is not only a representation of her individuality, but also confidence and independence. So on ATM's official Crown of Glory Day please wear your crown in honor of the "sistah" who wore it before you.

A Weekend at Sandy Cove



Preparing for Praise and Worship.....



This was our last day. We truly enjoyed ourselves and look forward to our next anointed, spiritual, inspiring and enjoyable retreat weekend.



...and the Anointed word of God!



“Free on the Inside” by Sis. Tamara Brownlee

It was January 16, 2007, and I had to go see my probation officer. Since I was put on probation for a DUI, I was unable to report in. The person assigned to my case was always out. I didn't know then but, I know now to see somebody no matter what. After I finally, was able to talk to my worker on the phone, she instructed me to come in. It was on a Tuesday, I went in and she did some “magic thing”. The door behind me opened and two Sheriff Officers entered the room and ordered me to stand up and place my hands behind my back. I was then taken to a holding cell while I awaited transportation to the county prison.

While I was in the prison, at the holding cell, there was a book lying on the bench. Every time they moved me I ended up back in the same cell with this book. I thought to myself, if I end up in the same cell one more time with this book, I was going to take it to the block with me, so I did. My thoughts were that I would just be reprimanded and released back into the streets. Now the wait to see the judge began. There was no word about when I would see the judge. I was stopped by the cops up in Frankford, because my head-

lights were off. The cop said your headlights were off but your high beams were on. I didn't even smoke anything that day. I had just been up selling and making some changes to my house. I began to pick up the Bible I took from the holding cell. It was called “Free on the Inside”. I started reading it and praying and I continued to pray. Then I began to address my questions directly to God. One night as I prayed and was talking to God, there came a voice that whispered clearly, “Pause, hypocrite, before you pray, God's sweetest blessings go to hands that serve him here below.” It was then I realized my purpose for being there. It was then that I realized that I had been using God's name in vain. Before I got arrested I would leave my house in the North East of Philadelphia, where I sold drugs and ran an escort service and I would say; while I am gone don't let anyone in, not even if Jesus Christ knocks, don't let him in. I then cried out, “Ooh my God, forgive me!” How could I ask for blessing and didn't even want the only one who could bless me in my house? I began to pray for forgiveness and ask God to renew a righteous spirit within me. I began to read

my Bible from one end to the other. I began to see a change and a breakthrough in my life. My youngest son found me a lawyer. I paid him, and off to court we went. The Judge was saying a lot of things, and when I was asked if I understood, I looked at my lawyer and asked, “am I going home?” and he said “yes”. At that point I was able to tell the Judge that I understood.

As I returned to the prison to await my release, I had a glow of gratitude. I felt that in Jesus' Name God had forgiven me. I felt that my prayers were answered and God was renewing a righteous spirit within me. My spirit was now clean. I learned that you can not be clean on the outside, if you're not clean on the inside. I also learned that if I wanted God to continue to bless me, I must serve him here below, and never be ashamed of the God I serve. Today God is welcome wherever I am. I vowed to never use God's name in vain again, but will glorify his name. I learned that if I want to remain free on the outside, I will have to be **free on the inside**. In Jesus Name I will always pray.

“Health and Welfare...HIV and AIDS”

HIV and AIDS are not new medical conditions; in fact, over the years it appears as if the stigma of either diagnosis being a death sentence has diminished. With the emergence of community programs which offer testing, counseling, education, resources, medical case management and housing options for someone living with either condition, HIV and AIDS appear to have been addressed, right? Wrong!!!

For Instance: Stats for HIV/AIDS Cases in zip code 19143 are:

- Female 32.1%
- Male 67.9%
- Black 88%
- White 7%
- Hispanic 3%
- 25-44 years of age 35%

- 45 years of age 60%

Taking these stats into consideration, it is safe to say HIV/AIDS has not been “addressed” it continues to be contracted in this community and among our people.

What we should know...

HIV, Human (can only infect humans), Immunodeficiency (weakens immune system by destroying important cells that fight diseases; immune cannot protect), Virus (only reproduce itself by taking over a cell in the body)

AIDS, Acquired (not inherited, develops after birth), Immuno (system to include all the organ and cells that work to fight off infection or disease, aid.gov, 2015), Deficiency (immune system is lacking, not working as it Should), Syndrome (collection of symptoms and signs and disease, complex

- Testing exist for HIV only
- AIDS is developed when someone's blood count falls below a certain level, which does not happen to all individuals who are HIV positive (Opportunistic infections are Direct signs of one progressing from HIV to AIDS: lung infection, skins cancer, CMV-eye infection, Candida-fungal infection that can cause thrush)
- HIV is transmitted through blood, vaginal fluid, semen and breast milk of an infected mother
- ART (Antiretroviral therapy) medications designed to slow the progression down of HIV, allowing one to lead a longer/healthier life
- There are two noted cases in which people have been cured from HIV (There are NO noted CURE DRUGS for HIV)

Health & Welfare (cont'd)

Prevention

- Avoid sharing needles, practice abstinence from sexual intercourse/wear condoms
- One of the biggest ways to prevent the transmission of HIV/AIDS is to KNOW OUR STATUS, GET TESTED!!! Confidential HIV/AIDS test are completed by various community resources, such as:

Philadelphia FIGHT (FIGHT)

1233 Locust Street, 3rd Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19107
Ph: (215)985-4448

AIDS Activities Coordinating Office (AACO)

Coleman Terrell, Acting Director
1101 Market Street, 9th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19107
Ph: (215)685-5600

Action AIDS

1216 Arch Street, 6th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19107
Ph: (215)981-0088

HIV/AIDS Awareness Month is June, keep an eye out for several free community events taking place sponsored by Philadelphia Fight and if you cannot attend please pass this important information on.

Submitted by: Sis. Sharell Wilson

illness)

ATM/Plus...Up Coming Events

June is Evangelism/Let's Grow Month!

**Sunday, June 14th — Crown of Glory/Fancy Tie Day
Flag Day**

Sunday, June 21st — Father's Day!

Summer Begins!

**Wednesday, June 24th — Bible Study Cancelled for
the evening**

**Friday, June 26th — Friday Night Corporate
Prayer**

Bible Study every Wednesday, 7:30 to 9:00pm

For further details pertaining to the above scheduled events, additional events or any changes to the schedule, please view the church's website; atmchurch.org and listen out for our weekly Sunday morning announcements.

**Let's give special honor to our father's as we
celebrate Father's Day!**

Some suggestions:

- Take your father to dinner
- Maybe a sport's game
- A nice tie

Test Your Bible Knowledge



- I. When Jesus walked on water, what did his disciples mistake him for? _____
- II. What did Jesus say would happen after Peter denied Him 3 times? _____
- III. How was John the Baptist killed? _____
- IV. Who of Jesus' disciples was a tax collector? _____
- V. What does Jesus' name, Immanuel, mean? _____
- VI. Who replaced Judas as one of the twelve disciples? _____
- VII. What did Simon the Sorcerer think he could buy from Peter and the disciples? _____



If you would like to submit tips or suggestions for the Women of Vision newsletter, please call the church office to leave a message for Pastor Juanita, send email via the church website at atmchurch.org or present written information to the office in care of Women's ministry. Thank you.



Test Your Bible Knowledge (Answers)

1. A Ghost; 2. A cock would crow; 3. He was beheaded; 4. Matthew; 5. God with us; 6. Matthias; 7. the Holy Ghost