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# Contributors

This is the day which the LORD has made; Let us rejoice and be glad in it. - Psalm 118:24

In life, we are all too often constrained by time and the chase for money, but if we free ourselves from the limits they impose, we can start to discover more about ourselves. So for this issue of REJOICE, we asked our contributors...

## What makes you **REJOICE?**



**Pastor Erika McJimpsey**  
Contributor  
Family Worship Ministries  
Spartanburg, SC

*What makes me rejoice is being able to impact, through teaching and encouraging, the next generation to be bold and enthusiastic about their worth.*



**Dr. Frankie Felder**  
Contributor  
South Africa

*When I witness the transformation of lives because people have given from their hearts to another; when I see the glistening in a child's eyes because knowledge has lit new pathways, then I rejoice because I am reaffirmed that God is!*



**Apostle Ryan McJimpsey**  
Contributor  
Family Worship Ministries  
Spartanburg, SC

*What makes me REJOICE: \*As a believer, I REJOICE in the Knowledge and sacrifice of Jesus' love for me. \*As a husband, I REJOICE in being in covenant with a beautiful, God fearing woman who daily demonstrates unconditional love for me. \*As a father, I REJOICE in being a pseudo Super hero that's able to raise Kings in the admonition of the Lord. \*As a Pastor, I REJOICE in seeing lives transformed and families built. \*As a dog lover, I REJOICE in having four legged friends who hold all my secrets, get excited every time they see me, and are loyal in every situation. God has blessed me with the abundant life He promised. I simply REJOICE at life, opportunity, and the fulfillment of God's love through covenant relationships. REJOICE*



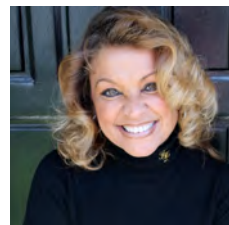
**Donovan A. Smalls II**  
Contributor  
Union, NJ

*What makes me rejoice is having faith that God is the leader of my life. He orders my steps and makes my paths straight according to His will. Knowing that I serve a King who is the provider, protector, and priest over my life makes me rejoice.*



**Corey Saban**  
Contributor  
West Palm, FL

*My wife and kids make me rejoice!*



**Wendy Gladney**  
Contributor  
Pasadena, CA

*What makes me REJOICE - God is on the throne and no matter what is happening He is in control!*

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Inman, SC 29349

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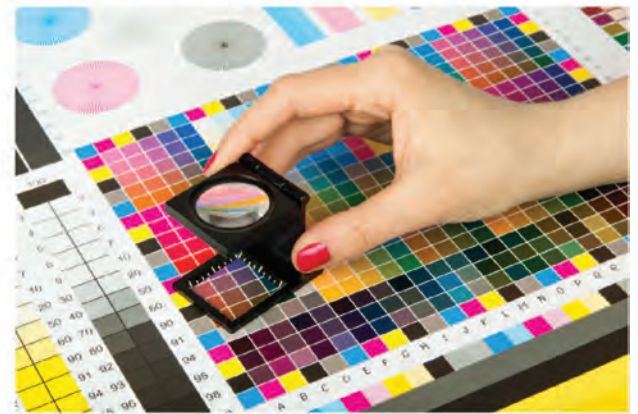


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# Editor's Letter

Charmayne Brown

Welcome back everyone and thanks so much for picking up this NEW issue of REJOICE Magazine. After a 2-year sabbatical, I'm back on course with my God given assignment! This is the RE-LAUNCH issue of the publication. It's the RESTORATION issue of the publication. It's the RESURRECTION issue of the publication. There was an abrupt pause in REJOICE because I had to endure and overcome some of life's hardships. A very wise woman once told me, 'often times, when the call/purpose of your life is so GREAT Charmayne, it (life) ALL falls apart before it comes together. Just keep the faith and trust God!' I believe no truer words had ever been spoken to me. My family and I buried that wise woman 5 years ago (2013). My thoughts: "Ma, you were so right!" But giving glory and honor to the MOST HIGH ~ GOD... I. MADE. IT! ... and so will YOU!



YOU will REJOICE! YOU will get your FIRE back! YOU will get your JOY back! YOU will make a comeback! 'Keep the faith and trust GOD'. For, we know all things work together for the good of those who love the Lord, who are the called according to His purpose (Romans 8:28). YOU have purpose and YOU will fulfill it! Don't you dare give up or give in! DREAM BIG and GO FOR IT!

This re-launch issue of REJOICE is all about the LOVE we share. LOVE conquers ALL! A special "THANK YOU" to all of our advertisers and contributors. Read their articles, visit their webpages, and LOVE them on social media, they would indeed be glad to hear from you. Visit our advertisers, patronize their businesses/organizations, and drop-in at their events, and be a guest at their churches, you're certain to have a warm appreciated welcome and a wonderful time.

Our top feature LOVE story comes from another country this issue, Dr. Frankie Felder writes from South Africa. There is also a LOVE of serving the community by Donovan Smalls, and our closing remarks, the Apostle and Pastor of Family Worship Ministries in Spartanburg, SC. They share the LOVE of God: God, who wants to 'RESTORE' us.

A warm "Thank You" to everyone who kept me uplifted, inspired, and encouraged to keep Rejoicing. You all have been extremely motivational as we continue to share God's works and words; thanks so very much for your support.

"By the grace of God, I am what I am. His grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain."  
1 Corinthians 15:10

Yours truly,

Make it a GREAT day and REJOICE!

*Charmayne Brown*

Editor-in-chief

cbrown@REJOICEMag.com

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# Know Thy Neighbor

20 questions profiling individuals who help make the kingdom REJOICEFUL!



## Barbara Jean Smith

83 years old

1. Where were you born?  
**Callison, SC**
2. Proudest moment?  
**The birth of her children and the moment she learned about God. Dr. said she would never be able to have children and had 2 children. Her first 2 years after the dr. said she couldn't.**
3. What color best describes you?  
**Purple. The color is bright and vibrant like her.**
4. What was your first job?  
**Cashier at Winn Dixie. She started in 1954. Worked there for 4 years.**
5. What inspires you?  
**Being able to be useful and helping others.**
6. Describe yourself in one word.  
**Active.**
7. What is your favorite charities or causes?  
**The Bowers-Rodgers Children's Home and Resale Store. She volunteers with both of our organizations.**
8. What is your favorite food?  
**Lemon Meringue Pie**
9. Place you would like to visit?  
**Jerusalem**
10. What's your advice to young adults starting out in life?  
**Spend time with your children and teach them about God.**



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With doubt and dismay you are smitten  
 You think there's no chance for you, son?  
 Why, the best books haven't been written  
 The best race hasn't been run,  
 The best score hasn't been made yet,  
 The best song hasn't been sung,  
 The best tune hasn't been played yet,  
 Cheer up, for the world is young!  
 No chance? Why the world is just eager  
 For things that you ought to create  
 Its store of true wealth is still meagre  
 Its needs are incessant and great,  
 It yearns for more power and beauty  
 More laughter and love and romance,  
 More loyalty, labor and duty,  
 No chance--why there's nothing but chance!  
 For the best verse hasn't been rhymed yet,  
 The best house hasn't been planned,  
 The highest peak hasn't been climbed yet,  
 The mightiest rivers aren't spanned,  
 Don't worry and fret, faint hearted,  
 The chances have just begun,  
 For the Best jobs haven't been started,  
 The Best work hasn't been done.

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**Apostle Levon Smalls** is the founder and overseer of Christ Temple Church Incorporated, a ministry that teaches apostolic reformation. For more than three decades Apostle Smalls has been dedicated to the teaching, training and developing of prophetic and apostolic ministry and the advancement of God's present-truth purposes in the earth. He and his wife Dianna have three children and six grandchildren.

Apostle Smalls currently oversees 3 locations between Charleston and Colleton Counties in South Carolina.

**Christ Temple Church North Charleston** : 1309 Sumner Avenue in the Charleston Farms neighborhood. Pastor Kenneth Grizzard serves as campus pastor.

**Christ Worship Center**: 5570 Woodbine Avenue North Charleston, where Reverend William and Evangelist Rebecca Davis serve.

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In addition to overseeing Christ Temple, Levon Smalls is the author of "A Second Look at the Old Testament through New Lenses".

A review of the Old Testament will reveal that the Old Testament does not need defending; it stands on the authority of God, yet it is clearly overlooked and frequently neglected in the preaching and teaching ministry of the church. This neglect is very baffling when its claims and rights to be received as the dominant word of God are just as high as those of the New Testament. Therefore it is of great necessity that we hear the voice of the Old Testament's case for itself once again.

You can purchase the book on-line on Amazon, Barnes & Nobles and [www.outskirtspress.com/lsmalls](http://www.outskirtspress.com/lsmalls). You can also purchase a book and/or book Apostle Levon Smalls to speak or minister at [ctc1309@comcast.net](mailto:ctc1309@comcast.net)

*A Second Look  
at the  
Old Testament  
through New Lenses*



LEVON SMALLS

# Joy to the world

*Reclaiming everyday joy in our lives and our world*

*by Bradley Davidson*

Is your daily life filled with joy? Do you wake up each morning with gratitude and joy about life? Or are you more often glum, indifferent or sad? Regardless of your answer, let me tell you a story.

It was my weekly piano lesson. My piano teacher, Mrs. Shuller, sat patiently beside the big grand piano that presided over her living room. We were preparing for the annual Christmas recital. As a seven-year-old, I sat perched on the piano bench and, holding my tongue just right, I methodically tried to peck out the melody to “Joy to the World”. My young love of music was, unfortunately, not matched by my love of preparation. To be blunt, I did not like to practice. As a result, my rendition of “Joy to the World” was sounding pretty joyless. As each piano lesson passed, we were one week closer to the big Christmas recital. I still wasn’t ready to play my song and I was becoming more and more anxious.

Finally, the evening of the big recital arrived. Momma got me all washed up, hair combed, and dressed in my dapper blue suit. Kicking and screaming, my little brother Bart was also suited up. Daddy drove us into town to Mrs. Shuller’s big house on East Seneca Street. As our little family walked up the sidewalk to Mrs. Shuller’s front door, the butterflies in my stomach became bigger with each step down that long walkway.

Mrs. Shuller’s beautiful home was lit from stem to stem with twinkling Christmas lights. From the front porch, we could hear the talking and laughter of a crowd of recital-goers inside. As we walked through the front door, the sights and sounds of the holiday season festively beckoned us inside. The decorations of

holiday greenery, red ribbons, and golden bells along with the smell of hot spiced cider would have been a welcoming feast to the senses of anyone else but the butterflies in my stomach were now pigeon-sized and they were swirling wildly. I was beginning to feel sick. My nervousness was now in full control of me. Was I ready for this recital? Was my lack of practice going to result in a musical disaster in front of the world?

Eventually, after what seemed to be an eternity to a nervous seven-year-old, the crowd of parents took their seats in the folding chairs that had been lined up in Mrs. Shuller’s living room. The recital began. Sitting in my jitters, I waited my turn to play for the assembly of grownups. Finally, the time arrived. Feeling weak in the knees, I managed to walk bravely to the grand piano- which seemed so much bigger than it did during my piano lessons – climbed onto the bench, held my tongue just right, and pecked out the melody of “Joy to the World”. Before I knew it, it was over and the crowd broke into applause. All other miracles seemed to pale in comparison to the miracle of my being able to get through that song. Finally, the dreaded recital was over.

At the reception following the recital, surrounded by family and friends enjoying the Christmas treats, my pigeon-sized butterflies had escaped my stomach and my world was, once again, joyful. As friends complimented my song and congratulated me on my performance, I suddenly remembered that all the people in the room were my friends and family who loved me. I began to feel silly about those weeks of fear and worry about playing the piano in front of them. Although I wished I had practiced more, the joy continued to grow in my heart when I realized I had

Smiling is infectious,  
You catch it like the flu,  
When someone smiled at me today,  
I started smiling too.  
I passed around the corner,  
And someone saw my grin,  
When he smiled I realized,  
I'd passed it on to him.  
I thought about that smile,  
Then realized its worth,  
A single smile, just like mine,  
Could travel round the earth.  
So, if you feel a smile begin,  
Don't leave it undetected.  
Let's start an epidemic quick,  
And get the world infected.

# Smile



Don't you have a similar experience before? Where you saw a stranger having a happy smile on her face and before you knew it, you were grinning for no apparent reason too. Then someone saw your grin, and he smiled too. You probably felt a little silly for smiling without any reason at first, but when your smile brought a smile to someone's face, you knew that it cost nothing to brighten up someone's day. May you freely give away your beautiful, happy smiles!

*May you freely give  
away your beautiful,  
happy smiles!*



somehow done it – I had played “Joy to the World” without messing up.

As I think back to that famous Christmas recital, I realize that event was not the only time in my life in which I had allowed something to steal my joy. If we reflect on our lives, each of us can probably identify times that we lost our “everyday joy”. What kinds of things rob you of your joy? An even better question is “what causes you to be joyful?”

reason for which something is made or done.” God created each of us for a special and unique purpose. He also creates circumstances, opportunities, and even audience for us to share our gifts, talents and purpose to uplift others and bring glory to Him. Sometimes, instead of seeing these situations as opportunities, we see them as chores – things we must do for other reasons. When we understand His purpose in situations – seeing the opportunities He creates for us



*Joyful people are more likely to be healthy, live longer, and are more likely to attain important goals God has for their lives.*

#### The Source of Everyday Joy

As Christians, we know that God is the author and composer of the world and our lives. Ultimately, He is the source of our happiness and joy in life. But, in what ways does God give us joy? What does He use to bring us joy? The Bible is full of examples of how God has brought joy to His people. We can also look to the findings of dozens of modern-day researchers to understand what causes us to be more joyful. The wonderful news is the science is now affirming what God has taught us about being more joyful people. The source of joy can be found in:

**Relationships** – Relationships with family, friends, and God are a key source of everyday joy in life. One of our greatest needs as human beings is to know that we are cared about and loved. Amidst all the preparation for my Christmas recital, I seemed to have forgotten that all the people who would be in my recital audience were people who loved me and wanted me to be successful. Had I remembered that all along, I might have enjoyed my preparation for the recital. (I might have even enjoyed playing for them.) Both the research and God’s word tell us that God created us to be in loving, supportive, and nurturing relationships with others. He also wants us to be in an intimate relationship with Him. When we are in healthy, loving relationship with Him, joy springs forth in our lives.

**Purpose** – The dictionary defines “purpose” as “the

to serve Him and others – we cannot help but feel joy. **Goals** – Having goals that are aligned with our purpose and our values is an important component of a joyful life. These goals help us ensure that we are making active progress toward living out the purpose for which God has created us. When our goals are aligned with the values God has instilled in us, the feeling of harmony with His will brings joy to our lives.

#### How Do I Get My “Everyday Joy” Back?

Having joy in our everyday lives is important in many ways. Recent research shows that joyful people are more likely to be healthy, live longer, and are more likely to attain important goals God has for their lives.

#### Can We Regain Our Everyday Joy?

The answer is an emphatic “Yes”! Several decades ago, psychologists believed we were predisposed to a certain level of joy in our lives. In other words, it was believed that we had a “set-point” of joy and couldn’t become significantly more or less joyful than that set-point. More recently, however, scientists are refuting that theory. Growing research is showing that our level of joy and happiness can be increased. As Christians, this shouldn’t surprise us because, throughout the Bible, we are reminded of all the ways God brings us even greater joy.

**How Can We Position Ourselves to be Open to Receiving Greater Joy in our Lives?**

# We Are Our Stories

Real life stories are filled with pain, hurts, doubts, setbacks, conflicts, and no short supply of challenges.

These stories are yours and ours, and they are real. But we also experience joy and laughter, friends and family, and times of awe and wonder.

Life's gifts give our dreams hope.

For faith is a powerful substance, the essence of all things yet unseen in our lives.

*That's the real story.*



# REJOICE

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**Everyone has a story... Rejoice would like to know yours.**

We're in the midst of a new adventure, building "a community of stories." A good friendship begins simply in the sharing of stories and we'd love to get to know yours.

Connect with us in our next issue as we profile individuals who make our community "rejoiceful". If you know of someone who is a good inspiration to others send us an email at [info@rejoicemag.com](mailto:info@rejoicemag.com) with that person's contact information.

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**M**y background is not unlike many other Americans today that come from a mixed heritage. My mother is white and my father is African American. However, as a child I was abandoned by my mother and I experienced sexual abuse by my father. Over the years, through the help of the Lord, I developed strategies and steps that helped me learn how to forgive and heal.

The steps and strategies God gave to me broke down the walls of hurt and pain and allowed me to become victorious in both my personal and professional life.

Please stay with me as I share ways to help you embrace happiness, experience joy, and live a fulfilled life without baggage and hatred.

Let's first start with the basic definition of a word "forgiveness." According to Webster, it means to give up resentment against or the desire to punish. There are many scriptures that share the importance of forgiveness (Genesis 50: 15-20; Matthew 18:21 and II Corinthians 2: 5-11) to name a few.

# 1

## STEP 1: Prayer

Prayer is the communication between oneself and God. I have truly learned that if you are praying about a situation or for an individual, God will soften your heart and help open the process of healing. You will either begin to forgive the other person (and sometimes the other person may be yourself), or you will stop praying. Remember, God never uses an answering machine. He answers every call (prayer) personally. A scripture to consider: Matthew 5:44.

# 2

## STEP 2: Counsel

To seek Counsel means to seek advice. In some communities or cultures people shy away from seeking the professional help they need. They feel that it will put a blemish on who they are or that people will feel they have a problem. The truth of the matter is we all have problems. I'm sure you've heard the saying life is like a storm. We're either going into a storm, in a storm or coming out of a storm ... either way, we all need help. Scripture to consider: Psalm 73:24

# 3

## STEP 3: Confront

To confront a situation means to bring face to face. When one looks into a glass they see others, but when they look into the mirror they see themselves. Michael Jackson once sang the song about facing the man in the mirror. Sometimes to clear up a situation we have to start with ourselves, while other times we must have the courage to confront others. Scripture to consider: James 5:16.

**Wendy Gladney believes it is important to do the best with what you have and to make the best with what is handed to you. Over the years, Wendy has developed strategies for healing that have broken down the walls of hurt and pain, which enabled her to be victorious in her life.**

# 4

## STEP 4: Release

To release means to set free. People don't realize that when we hold onto past hurts and pain we are destroying our own health and our own lives. It has been proven there are several diseases that can be linked to stress and holding onto past grudges. Ball your fist tight, count to ten and then slowly open up your palms. The tingling you feel releasing is like the toxins we release when we let go. Scripture to consider: Isaiah 43: 18 & 19.

# 5

## STEP 5: Forgive

To forgive means to give up resentment against or the desire to punish. Remember, he that is without sin cast the first stone. The question becomes will you "pardon" (forgive without strings attached) or will you "parole" (with conditions) the person you say you are willing to forgive? Scripture to consider: Matthew 6: 12-15.

# 6

## STEP 6: Attitude

The definition of attitude is the manner showing one's feelings or thoughts. It's not our position in life, but rather our disposition. Do you see the glass as half empty or half full? When deciding to forgive, you are choosing to look at life as half full... full of potential. Scripture to consider: Ephesians 5:20

# 7

## STEP 7: Joy

Joy is a very glad feeling that's internal. I think it is important for us to try and achieve the balance of joy & happiness. When we have joy, it is based on how we feel on the inside that no one can take away. Happiness is determined by what is happening or going on around us on the outside. When we learn to have a balance between the two we can stay centered and find our core when things go wrong. Scripture to consider: Galatians 5:22

# 8

## STEP 8: Goals

A goal is an end one strives to attain. People don't plan to fail, they fail to plan! If you don't put it down on paper it's just a dream. Turn your frustrations and pain into dreams that can make a difference. Scripture to consider: Philippians 3:14.

# 9

## STEP 9: Give

To give means to pass along or share. No matter what you've been through, you always have something to share or give. Your time, your resources and or your money are all ways you can give to help another person. When we take time to help others, it takes our mind off of our own problems and sometimes we may see that our situation may not be as bad as what someone else may be experiencing. Scripture to consider: Acts 20:35

# 10

## STEP 10: Live

To live means to enjoy a full life. Live most of your life before most of your life is gone. At the end of the day forgiveness and living a productive life is a CHOICE. What will you choose to do? Stop feeling sorry for yourself, pick yourself up and turn your stumbling blocks into stepping stones! Scripture to consider: Jeremiah 29:11

To learn more visit Wendy at: [www.forgivingforliving.com](http://www.forgivingforliving.com) or [www.wendygladney.com](http://www.wendygladney.com)



# ONLY *Through* LOVE

Dr. Frankie Felder

If I could speak all the languages of earth and angels but didn't love others,  
I would only be a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal.

If I had the gift of prophecy or if I understood all of God's secret plans  
and possessed all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains,  
but do not have love, I am nothing." 1 Corinthians 13

**A**mid the excruciating reminders of the cruelty and inhumaneness of apartheid – ended only 23 years ago here in South Africa where I have been for eight weeks now – I can see the hand of God moving across the country, touching lives as only He can. I am repulsed by the daily headlines in local papers that depict a government steeped in corruption and heartless towards the citizens of this young democracy; a government that has begun to rot from the inside. I am angered by the history I learn about in the museums that tell of the realities of apartheid. I can smell the stench of prisoners not allowed to bathe for days even without a respectable way to relieve themselves. I hear the moans and wails of bloodied freedom fighters thrown into solitary confinement. I feel the pain of children losing their parents in the struggle for human dignity and the hopelessness of families watching their homes with all of their earthly belongings being bulldozed to the ground to seize their land for the whites of Europe who wanted to build near the oceans. The struggle to return this country to all of its citizens –

for black and “coloured” South Africans to reclaim their rightful places in this society – with equal and full educational and economic opportunities, has been a struggle that continues despite the birth of a democracy nearly a quarter of a century ago.

South Africa is a nation of 11 official languages, with no language being the “home” language of more than 23 percent of any of its residents. The human diversity and cultural variation is as broad as the diversity of plants and animals that inhabit this country – reportedly more than 1000 indigenous trees, 299 species of mammals and 858 species of birds; all told more than 100,000 species of plants, animals and fungi claiming South Africa as home. The beauty of this country is unsurpassed, boasting the most spectacular coastal drive in the world, Chapmans Peak (where my husband and I happen to live). No one could possibly deny the existence of God after viewing the majesty of the South African landscape and natural habitat, all which exist in perfect harmony according to God’s laws for nature. Yet, the alarming dissonance between the South African people and

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## *Democracy in South Africa was borne out of faith.*

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(CONTINUED ON PAGE 21)



Here are a few steps we can take that will prepare our hearts and minds to receive the joy Christ wants to bring us:

**Prayer** – Prayer is our primary connection to God; the lifeline of our relationship with Him. Prayer is as much about listening and being still as it is about talking and asking. Are you spending regular, quiet time in fellowship with God through prayer?

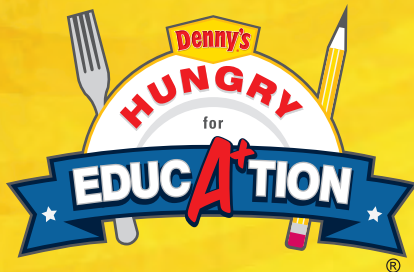
**Fellowship with Others** – God intended us to be in relationship with other people – people who have our best interest at heart and who love us regardless of what we’ve done. Do you have relationships like this? Do you cherish and nurture these relationships and commit quality time to them?

Seeking His Purpose – Finding

**Opportunities to Serve** – God calls us to be His hands and feet in the world. We are to find opportunities to serve and give. The act of giving has been shown to have a strong correlation with the feeling of joy.

**Setting Goals Based On Our Purpose and Values** – Another key step to reclaiming our everyday joy is to set goals for ourselves that are linked to our higher purpose. Do you have long-term as well as short-term goals that you are focused on achieving? Are those goals aligned with what God wants for your life?

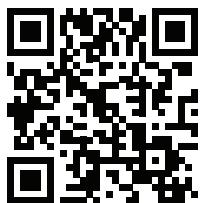
As we enter into this season of joy, I am making a commitment to keeping my “everyday joy” alive. Will you do the same? Together, we can reclaim the everyday joy in our lives and bring even greater Joy to the World! **R!**



## SCHOLARSHIPS OPEN SEPTEMBER 1!

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their clashes of perspectives can best be described as several locals have politely summed it up to me, as “complicated.”

Democracy in South Africa was borne out of faith. Nelson Mandela, Oliver Tambo, Steve Biko and countless others of all racial classifications relied on faith – in God and in humanity – throughout imprisonment, exile, writing of a new constitution and holding of the country’s first democratic election. Their faith was strong enough to “move” the “mountain” of apartheid. A new government was formed; but, without love, it is nothing.

Dominees, priests, bishops, rabbis and parishioners of churches – Anglican, Dutch Reformed, Baptist, Presbyterian, Catholic, Jewish – conversed in advance of, and some participated in, CODESA (the Convention for a Democratic South Africa). They ensured representation of all the languages and perspectives of the country, and, by so doing, professed knowledge about how to write a new constitution. Out of many, a new constitution was borne; but, without love, it can only be “a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal.”

As I lay awake several nights considering what story to try to tell of my experiences here in the country, my mind constantly flooded with dispiriting recollections – the education statistics, the abject poverty, the beggars, the state of the economy, and all the other negative realities of this new democracy. I have been struggling to find the ray of sunshine in these majestic mountains and internationally-renowned wine-producing valleys. But as all believers know, God moves in mysterious ways, and we certainly do not understand his “secret plans.”

Our housekeeper, Lena, invited us last Saturday to her church’s market in the “coloured” township in which she lives. We had already attended church with her one Sunday, so of course, we wanted to support their efforts. At the market (church “yard sale” to us), I purchased two items: one, a

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 22)

SPRING 2018 /21



BBC DVD, *Jerusalem, the Making of a Holy City*, and, two, a book, *Great South African Teachers*, by Jonathan Jansen. The book was a godsend. In it I found the story that I'll briefly recount below, which undergirds what I need to tell. It is uplifting. It reflects 1 Corinthians 13 in a marvelous way, and it immediately evoked in my mind the days that I did not cry about the country's ills, but I rejoiced in the people that are making a difference here.

In 1975, one great South African white teacher, Mr. Alastair Weakley of St. Andrew's College, taught a young white South African what it meant to recognize and acknowledge the prejudices that he grew up believing to be acceptable. By creating St. Andrew's first class in Xhosa (the home language of 16 percent of black South Africans), the teacher boldly began to "provide a glimpse of the world of black people" to Hamilton Wende, the former student who submitted the tribute about Mr. Weakley's influence in his life. It was "a revelation" to him, and a much needed one, as he began to question his own "world," but more importantly, his own "heart." Mr. Weakley was ambushed 18 years later and murdered, along with his friend, by four black Africans angry at the killing by a white man of one of the revered

black South African revolutionary leaders. By that time, Hamilton Wende had become a journalist, and he covered the funeral of the slain freedom fighter, Chris Hani, and the amnesty trial of the accusers. At the trial, he witnessed one of the guilty boys apologize to the families and "to all of those affected" by the murder. Wende explained that because of his teacher, he was able to "look beyond [his] own despair, and to believe that there was another way for South Africa, that [South Africans] would overcome those days that had brought [the country] to the edge of horror." Wende ended his tribute to Mr. Weakley with the saying, "hamba kahle mfundisi wami," (Go well, my teacher, go well.) Wende learned to speak the language of Xhosa by the gumption of his teacher. By the grace of God, his teacher's foresight also led him on a path to critical discernment, forgiveness, and perhaps, love.

This tribute reminded me of the most uplifting experience I have had since being in South Africa and that was a trip into Cape Town and to Johannesburg to meet the incredible team of staff and volunteers who, for twelve years now, have uplifted more than 1200 black "vulnerable and orphaned children" served by Tomorrow Trust. Meeting the program's



founder, Kim Dobrin, and seeing these children's responses to the extra tutoring and mentoring in the Saturday and Holiday School program brings tears to my eyes also, but a different sort of tears – tears of hope and of possibility. This is a program that serves from the heart. These are teachers and staff, volunteers and alumni who do what they do to uplift children from some of the most heart-breaking of circumstances, not because they have knowledge or faith, but because they have love.

I believe it is only through love that South Africa

will reach its destined potential, and I have faith that South Africans will seize the opportunity and master the challenge to love. To govern from their hearts has to be the only way forward! Hamilton Wende and Tomorrow Trust personnel reflect the type of people that will help this country become its best. They are persons to behold. They have love. And to them, I say, “Ndiyabulela lokubonisa uthando lukaThixo” (Thank you for reflecting God's love.) You are the examples the country needs. **R!**

<sup>i</sup> <https://www.sanbi.org/biodiversity-science/science-policyaction/biodiversity-information-management/south-african-species-> “South African Animal Species,” last updated June 12, 2014.

<sup>ii</sup> Jansen, J, Great South African Teachers, 2011, pp 55-56.



# Crossword

REJOICE in your pastime

## Rebuilding The Wall

# NEHEMIAH



### Bible Word Search: Nehemiah

contributed by Linda Beals

All the words listed below are in the puzzle - left, right, up, down or diagonally. Find each word. After you have found all the words, circle the leftover letters in the correct order to form the **mystery answer**.

A B U H S A H A I B A H S A H  
D T E K O I T E S R H A N U N  
A I N A N A H V T R U C C A Z  
I H C U R A M A L L U H S E M  
O R E H U M X L E P J A H R I  
H A N A N E E L B M E L A I M  
E S O R R O W E O T D I L F A  
J L R X E U A Y A B A A L T L  
C N E F Z R B G H E I H U N C  
H S P V E A H A I N A N N A H  
I N H R I S T T V J H G N N I  
S A A T I T M E L A S U R E J  
L S I F U N E H E M I A H V A  
E I A S B I H S A I L E A O H  
U N H S E T A G G N U D T C E

Artaxerxes, Bavai, Benjamin,  
Chisleu, Covenant, Cupbearer,  
Dung gate, Eliashib, Ezer, Fire,  
Fish gate, Gates, Hachaliah,  
Hananeel, Hanani, Hannaniah,  
Hanun, Hashabiah, Hashub,  
Hattush, Jedaiah, Jehoiada,  
Jerusalem, Levites, Malchijah,  
Maruch, Meah, Meshullam,  
Nehemiah, Nisan, Rehum,  
Rephaiah, Shallun, Sorrow,  
Tekoites, Valley gate, Zaccur

MYSTERY ANSWER:

Page 31

# I REJOICE

Our reader's personal testimony



## *Lindsay's story:* *A Superwoman At Heart*

It takes a special person to care for others with cancer, whether it's providing treatment or simply being there to listen. That special person is Lindsay. As an oncology nurse, she never imagined she'd be on the other side of the conversation when she received a stage III colorectal cancer diagnosis at age 33, just five months after she gave birth to her daughter. It was a surreal moment for Lindsay, who remembers thinking 'Oh, so this is what my patients feel like.'

**"I've been in those conversations so many times. I've shared a plan of care so many times. I've explained this stuff so many times."**

Lindsay knew she wanted to be a nurse from the tender age of five and, as her family can vouch all these years later, she never changed her mind. Now as a passionate oncology nurse battling her own cancer diagnosis, she's gained a new perspective. "It made me so much more aware of how much my patients hang on to every word I say. And how important it is to let them get everything out."

**"I've always taken pride in my job and taking care of my patients. I have always tried to put others before myself."**

On weekdays, you can find Lindsay at the cancer center where she works, tending to her patients while juggling her own treatment in between. "I do have a bit of Superwoman syndrome...figured I have to come every day for treatment anyway, so I might as well work!"

Along with caring for her patients, Lindsay's selflessness carries through to her role as a mother of two young children. On the good days, Lindsay can go without taking a nap and is able to make dinner and enjoy bath time. On the bad days, her husband takes charge. Over the past few months she's learned to accept these days are an inevitable part of her new life with cancer.

**"I think your mind immediately goes to your children after being diagnosed with cancer. You wonder...am I going to be able to lift my daughter up after surgery? Am I going to be able to cook them dinner and get them up in the morning?"**

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 31)



# LIFE Beyond January

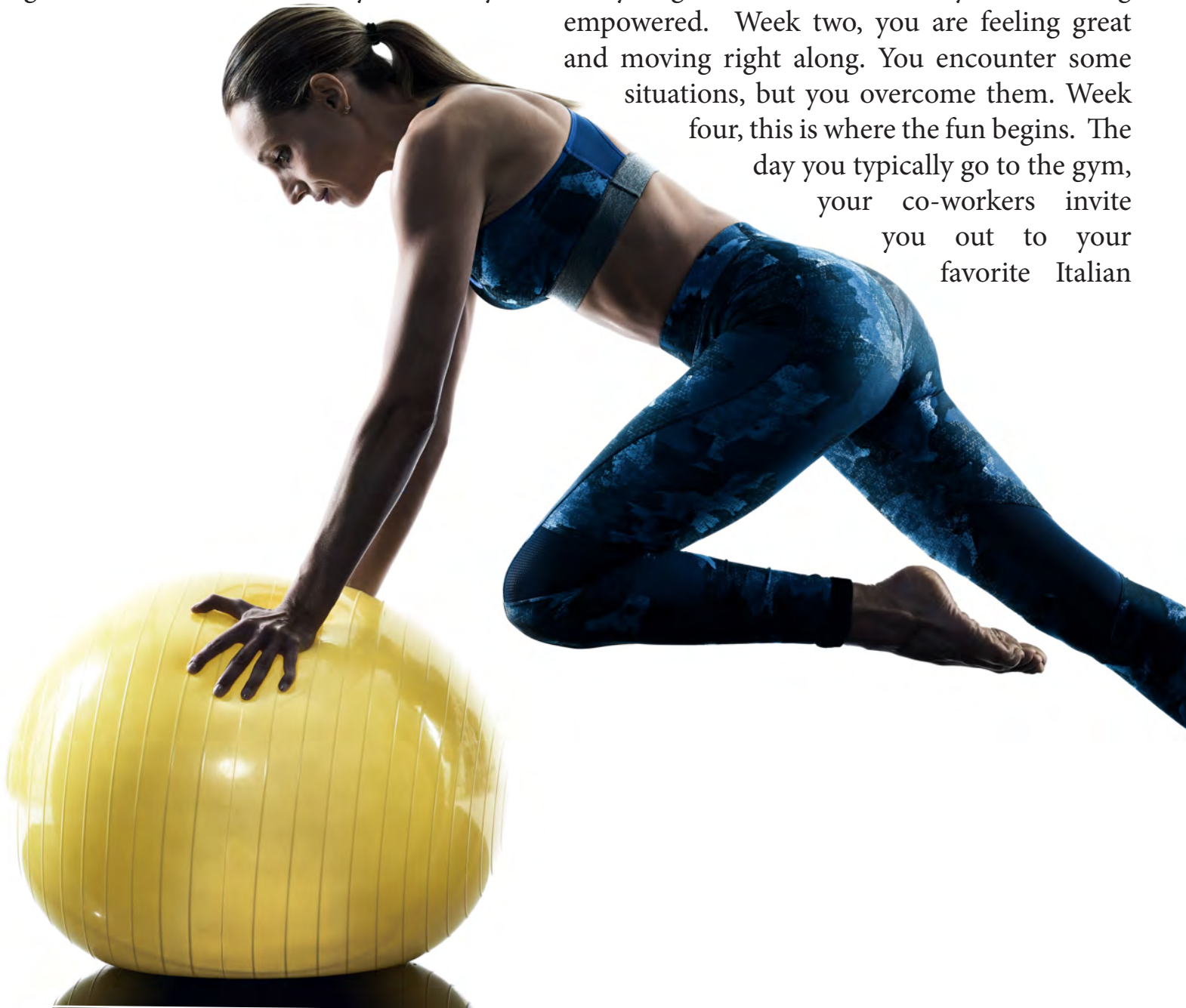
I know. You have already begun writing your list of New Year's resolutions. You've created your list and have gotten prepared. One of the top New Year's resolutions is weight loss which has a ninety percent abandon rate.

You go to the athletic wear store and purchase all the gear. You purchase the latest sneaker because the sales associate, touts it as the best, the latest and the greatest. Like the sneaker is going to do all the work. Then you make your

way over to the local gym to get your brand new gym membership because they have all the newest state-of-the-art exercise equipment and oh yeah, don't forget the thirty-five flat screen televisions you can watch from every machine station. You may even come home and clear out the fridge and cabinets of all the foods you declare you will no longer eat.

January first comes and you are excited and ready to get started. Week one, you are feeling empowered. Week two, you are feeling great and moving right along. You encounter some situations, but you overcome them. Week


four, this is where the fun begins. The day you typically go to the gym, your co-workers invite you out to your favorite Italian

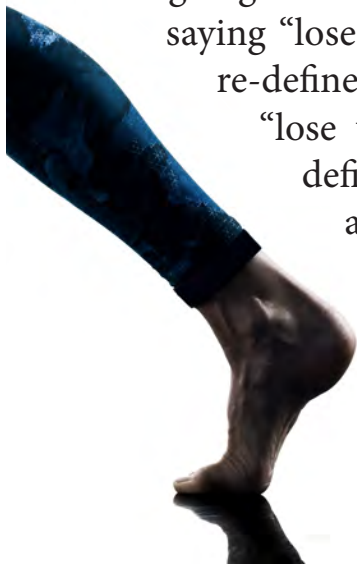


restaurant. You agree to attend because after all, you can hit the gym the next day. Week six, things begin to shift. Your boss asks you to work late a couple times during the week and before long excitement diminishes and your New Year's resolution is now just a passing fancy or dismissed notion.

Where did things go wrong? Where did the breakdown occur? There are a number of reasons why you may have missed the mark, but for the purpose of this discussion we are going to look at the absence of creating a solid goal plan.

We can begin by looking at the foundation of the "resolution" to lose weight. We started from a negative. Losing weight is correcting a negative condition. Let's pause for a few seconds – many people use the New Year as a time to address the negatives in their lives – weight loss, debt, negative relationships and even smoking. But, we are going to shift this perspective from a negative condition to a positive solution. Instead of creating a list of New Year's resolutions, develop a solid goal plan to accomplish your goals. A solid goal plan includes goals, of course, tasks and dates and a clear understanding of purpose. There is an established formula for not only setting goals, but achieving them as well. The SMART goal process is an effective method to assist with planning your goals and beyond.

Continuing with the example of weight loss, we are going to first re-define the goal. Instead of saying "lose weight" we are going to first re-define the goal. Instead of saying "lose weight" we are going to re-define the goal and state it as "fit and healthy". We have moved from a negative position to a positive solution. As you build a clear and solid goal plan there are five components to include. 



**1** Be specific about each goal. Don't use vague terms. In this example create a vivid picture of what fit and healthy looks like for you and include it in your plan. Ultimately, being fit and healthy is more than just weight loss. Writing a clear goal plan will help you to expand and be specific about your goal.

**2** Include measures. Measures provide a way to quantify your goal. Using measures helps to chart your progress and evaluate it at completion. An example could be that a part of your fit and healthy plan is to lower your bad cholesterol or raise your good cholesterol – which should have been specified in the prior step. The measure is the target number you need to reach and should be included in your goal plan.

**3** If you can't commit, then you must quit. Be sure that the goal is attainable. Attaining your goal is not about ability but commitment. Not can you really do it? But "will really do it". Be honest about your commitment to reaching the goal. Ask yourself the question, "Am I willing to commit to what it takes to reach the goal?" In reality, your goals are attainable, but commitment is necessary to attain the goal. We all have some sense of belief in our ability to reach a goal, otherwise we wouldn't consider it in the first place; however, don't measure whether the goal is attainable against your belief, and measure it against your commitment to the discipline necessary to reach your goal.

**4** Let's be real. Goal planning requires a realistic understanding of physical laws and principles. For example, the physical law of gravity does not change. Application of this understanding is a significant foundation for developing realistic goals.

**5** Put a date on it. Apply a date to your goal. We typically find it challenging to commit to a date. Why? We think, what happens if we don't reach the goal on the date specified. Not reaching the goal on an exact date is perceived as a negative. Consider these things. A) Maybe the correct activities weren't applied to reach the goal. B) Sufficient time wasn't allotted to reach the goal. When this occurs, don't sweat it and abandon the goal, just change the date. At the end of the day, you still want to reach the goal.

# Rejoice

## Without Walls Ministry

Donovan Smalls II

***'If you're more fortunate than others, it's better to build a longer table, not a higher fence.'***

It was windy, cold, and raining, but still the call to serve our neighbors is important to The Second Assist. It is our duty to help those who are less fortunate. As the saying anonymously goes, 'If you're more fortunate than others, it's better to build a longer table, not a higher fence.' We traveled to Without Walls Ministry



in Charleston, South Carolina to feed homeless and displaced men, women, and children. "I'm happy to have people to care about the community for real. Lots of people say they care, but they never do anything to help you out," says one woman who has been homeless for two months.

I'm Donovan Smalls II, the Founder of The Second Assist and I made a commitment to God, my family, and myself to live my purpose. As Founder of The Second Assist, it was important for me to take time to help those who may need a hand in life, especially during the holiday season. It's a time when families gather and share food, stories, and lots of love. So that's definitely what I wanted others to feel as well. Serving others is a core value of The Second Assist which helps individuals discover their true worth, value, and purpose. I thank God I learned my purpose early—as a graduate assistant.

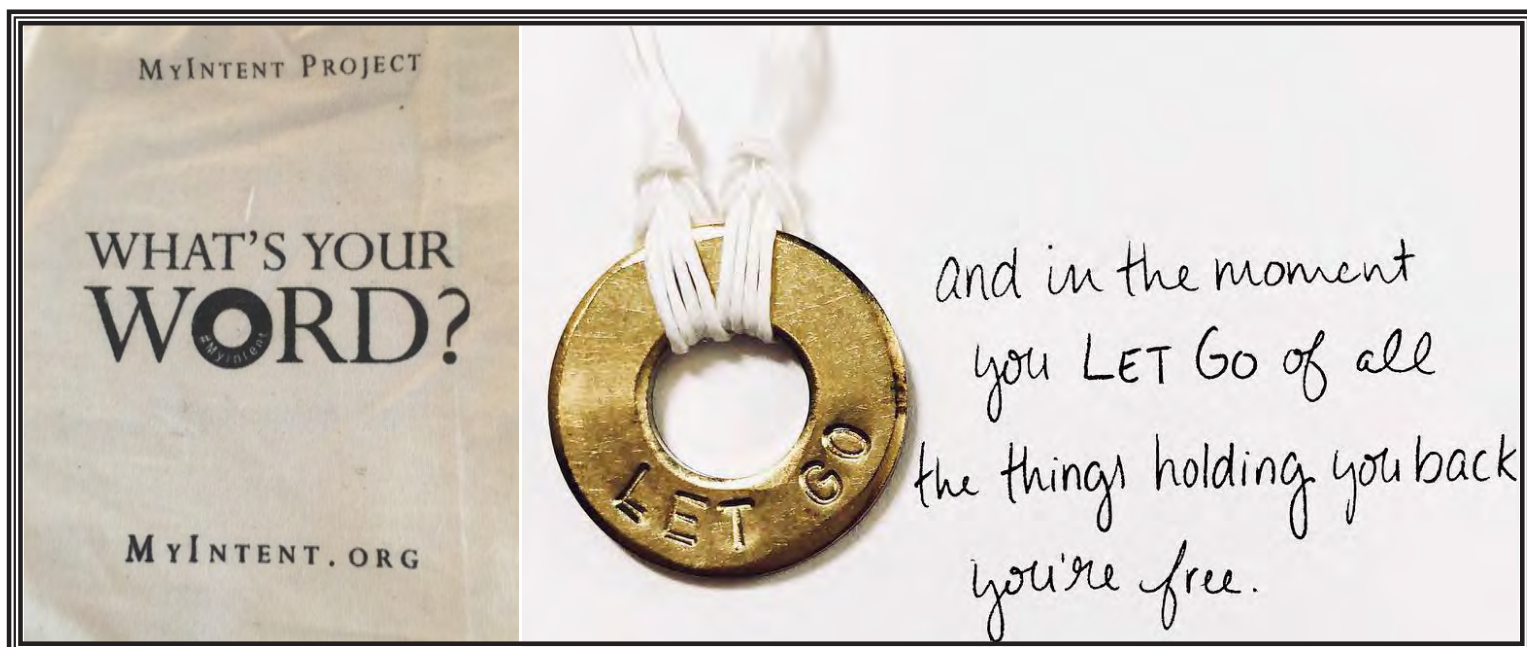
One day, I was teaching a lesson during my student teaching process and the class went exceptionally well. My supervisor observed me during

# Love It!

FIVE things that made us REJOICE

## What's your WORD?

My word is REJOICE! These word bracelets have it on the internet as the latest craze. They are wonderful reminders that we should live our word. The mission of MyIntent.Org is to be a catalyst for meaningful conversations and positive energy.



**Affirmation Jar.**  
This jar has 365 affirmations all guaranteed to start your day with a smile. It's handmade by Shakara Decarlis. The motivation behind such a gift is to inspire everyone to live life happy.

this lesson and afterwards she said, “Donovan, it would be a shame if you didn’t become a teacher.” I never intended on becoming a teacher. As a matter of fact, I rejected the notion of becoming an educator because I wanted to become a college basketball coach. From that point forward, I realized that I have a gift. Being able to analyze a complex issue and deliver a message in a way that is relatable and easy to understand is what God created me to do. I will continue to combine my passion of sports with my purpose of teaching to empower student-athletes with the necessary tools needed to succeed in life after sports. Educating student-athletes about who they are and helping them understand that life begins when the game ends is part of my life’s purpose.

The other part of my life’s purpose is this: serving the community –as The Second Assist. We “Assist” in anyway we can. This volunteer work here at Without Walls Ministry Church taught me more than I could learn on the basketball court. This is service. This ministry is dedicated and committed to supporting economically challenged neighborhoods to bring physical and spiritual blessings. During this event, my family and I participated in fellowship by serving food,

singing songs, and praying with members of the surrounding community.

Thanksgiving is a time where family and friends gather to express their gratitude for God’s blessings. Unfortunately, many people do not have friends, family, or resources to experience a Thanksgiving that others sometimes take for granted. This Ministry equips and encourages churches and organizations to participate in community



involvement and evangelism outside the four walls of the church. At Without Walls Ministries, outreaches, local businesses, churches, and community agencies come together to provide the poor, the hurting, and the forgotten a message of hope, food, free groceries, health screenings, job fairs, haircuts, games and activities for children, and much more.

This was truly an honor, assisting individuals of the Charleston, South Carolina community. Without Walls Ministry Church is making a tremendous impact in the community and I look forward to volunteering and providing an assist in the future. **R**

### THE SECOND ASSIST

The Second Assist is a student-athlete development program that focuses on education, athletics, and leadership. As an educator, speaker, and consultant, I work with athletic programs to empower student-athletes with the necessary tools needed to succeed in life after sports.



CROSSWORD MYSTERY ANSWER:  
FOUNTAIN GATE

Lindsay can vividly recall the day she told her 3-year-old son that she had what she coined a “cancer owie.” Like any child who was just told their mother is sick, he had a lot of questions and valid fears. What Lindsay wasn’t expecting was the connection it created between them. “Mom, after your cancer owies are all gone and you’re done taking your special medicine, you can have a sleepover in my boys-only fort.” How sweet, she thought.

As a dedicated mother and loving wife, Lindsay’s priority is giving her kids as normal a childhood as possible, which she hopes doesn’t have to stop because their mom has cancer.

**“I want to make it a positive experience. And hopefully when my son is an adult he’ll look back and be proud of the way his mom handled it.”**

For now, Lindsay is living for the moment and celebrating major milestones, including her birthday, which now has a whole new meaning for her. It’s not about the extra candle on her cake. Instead, it means she’s not the age she was when she was diagnosed. “There’s so much hope that you’re at a new phase in your life, even if it’s just the next year.”

When living with cancer, time is always a question that is left unanswered, but what gets Lindsay through—aside from her husband and children—is not thinking too far ahead.

**“Some days you have to do one hour at a time. Some days it’s one minute at a time, but the time passes and then before you know it you’ve reached certain milestones that you were hoping for.”**

The best piece of advice Lindsay has received: “You’re doing everything you can today, and then you’re going to do everything you can tomorrow.” **R**



# Sweet SENSATIONS

*where everything is sweeter*



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# Breaking Bread

Reader Submitted Recipe

## Oreo Cake Recipe

### Ingredients:

4 Eggs  
3/4 cup All Purpose Flour  
1/4 cup Cocoa Powder  
1/2 teaspoon Baking Soda  
1/8 teaspoon Salt  
1/2 cup Sugar  
1/3 cup Vegetable Oil  
1/2 teaspoon Vanilla Extract

### Icing:

50 Oreos  
4 1/2 cup Whipping  
Cream (Heavy)  
2 tablespoon Sugar  
1 tablespoon Vanilla  
Extract

*Bake: 350° 35 to 38 minutes  
Let cool for 30 minutes  
Decorate to your own liking  
Remember to always bake with love  
and a smile.*



# ENJOY LIFE'S JOURNEY

By Corey Saban

It's time to enjoy this life's journey. The holidays mean so many things to different people. Some of us get so caught up in the festivities, the food, and our friends that we forget who we are and fail to reflect.

It's vital to look back at the year that was and see how you have grown, what changes you have made and the areas where you can improve.

Perhaps it's a diet or you resolve to join a gym, but outside of the physical, the mental plays a crucial role in your development.

though you may be thinking it or assuming the other person knows, they don't always know.

Say I love you, say how you feel. As the saying goes "The people who mind don't matter, but the people who matter don't mind".

In the year ahead, think about all of the great things you accomplished, you don't need to hold yourself to a ridiculous standard, but simply applaud yourself for the wins, little and or big. As simple as it seems, it builds up self-esteem giving you the confidence to grow as a

*Self-improvement leads to growth. I try to improve each year with my mental attitude. I also try to learn something new so I can grow as a person.*

Like you, I find myself on the go at all times. It seems like I'm on a hamster wheel. For many, it's weeks going through the same mundane routine; running errands, chasing kids, picking up, dropping off, doing homework, and then finally settling in at the end of the day. Then, waking up and doing it all over again. Where is the fun in that? Get off the hamster wheel, assess where you are and decide how you are going to change. Life is meant to be lived, enjoyed, and it's about new adventures.

We are taught work hard, play hard. Or work for today and then when you retire you can enjoy. But, so often I see retirees having a hard time walking, or with little energy to do the things their younger selves wanted to try. Working all of the time for tomorrow is great, but what happens if tragedy strikes suddenly. If you're on your death bed, you will want to be with the ones you loved and you'd regret not being with them. I'm sure no one's last dying wish was to finalize a project or proposal for bid. Re-evaluate your priorities. Now, I'm not saying run off and fulfill your own needs, no, be responsible; but take time out if you want to smell the roses as cliché as that may sound. Enjoy the everyday beauty you may not see because your blinders are on, channel your inner child and be amazed at the little things. Surround yourself with love and make sure the ones you love know it.

Take the time to share those feelings, because even


person and to ultimately fill your love tank.

I'm sure many of you don't know what I mean so let's put it in perspective. How many people say, "Hey, great job today?" No, often they point out a negative. In the news business, we used to say if it bleeds it leads. The negative is what gets us talking, but boy does that do a number on you in more ways than one. By rewarding yourself and highlighting the wins and seeing the positives in others, you are boosting those around you.

Each year, I draw a line down a page and write out what I did well and areas to improve, notice I didn't say what I did bad. Bad is negative, I don't want to clutter my head with that.

Self-improvement leads to growth. I try to improve each year with my mental attitude. I also try to learn something new so I can grow as a person. One year it was golf, which I am still learning, another year piano, cooking etc. Self-improvement goes a long way to being a well-rounded individual.

Being well rounded gives you the ability to communicate more effectively on numerous topics as well as experience things you never thought you would enjoy.

As humans, we are not perfect; nor, should we strive to be, but if we do the best we can and follow the golden rule it would make the world a lot better place to live. Do yourselves a favor in this New Year—ENJOY IT! 

# Let Us Pray

Prayer is the way we communicate with God

Pastor Erika McJimpsey Family Worship Ministries, Spartanburg, SC



## **Be Encouraged:** **We have the Victory!**

**A**s a follower of Jesus Christ, we have been graced with the ability to overcome obstacles with ease and with elegance. Psalms 18: 33 says that, He will make our feet like hinds' feet, and will set us on high places. Father, we thank you that our feet are like that of a deer, because they are able to move easily and rapidly through the challenges of

life regardless of the difficulty. We decree and declare that although we face obstacles, our confession is that we are victorious because you have already provided to us every victory. For thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory in Jesus' name. Amen.

# Closing Remarks

Closing Remarks

Apostle Ryan and Pastor Erika McJimpsey Family Worship Ministries, Spartanburg, SC

## Be Restored



It is time for the process of restoration to begin in our nation, cities, churches, communities, and our homes. The word restoration means to be made again after a period of destruction or downfall. I am reminded of the words of the Prophet Haggai who prophesied to the children of Israel to begin rebuilding God's dwelling place (the temple) because the glory of God's presence in the new temple would be greater than the glory of God's presence in the former temple.

Our nation has experienced devastation that has hit us at our very core: school shootings (too numerous to number), September 11, and more recently the mass murders at Mother Emmanuel Church in Charleston and First Baptist Church in Sutherland Springs, TX, and the list could go on and on. 2 Chronicles 7:14 states, "if my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and will heal their land."

Let's take a moment to consider one of the three things that needs to take place for restoration to occur: we need God to hear us. How does God

hear us? The late pastor and Christian author Myles Munroe stated that prayer is as simple as respecting God's authority. God's authority in the earth is established through prayer. As we dry our tears, we must never forget the power of Prayer.

Our hearts have been broken and in the midst of our tears and fears we, as a nation, must continue to pray. The principle of prayer was taught and demonstrated by Jesus throughout his life on earth. For many, prayer remains a mystery and something that is as elusive as the wind blowing on a spring day. Regardless, we must continue to build a wall of prayer in our nation, cities, churches, communities, and our homes, so that the process of restoration can truly begin.

Joel 2:25-26 states, "God will repay you for the years the locusts have eaten- the great locust and the young locust, the other locusts and the locust swarm- my great army that I sent among you. You will have plenty to eat, until you are full, and you will praise the name of the LORD your God, who has worked wonders for you; never again will my people be shamed."

Let's Pray. Lord we lift you, and we thank you for your goodness towards us. We decree and declare that as our hearts are returned back to you that restoration will sweep through our land. We thank you that everything stolen shall be restored in Jesus' name. Amen