

**WOMEN
OF
PRAYER, POWER,
AND
PURPOSE**

Winter Issue
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GREATER APOSTOLIC FAITH TEMPLE'S

PURPOSE Magazine

GAFT Women's Ministry



Get Drunk in the Lord and Rest!

Acts 2:15-17 - For these are not drunken, as ye suppose, seeing it is but the third hour of the day. But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel; And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams:

Joshua 1:9-11 and 13 - Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the LORD thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest. Then Joshua commanded the officers of the people, saying, Pass through the host, and command the people, saying, Prepare you victuals; for within three days ye shall pass over this Jordan, to go in to possess the land, which the LORD your God giveth you to possess it.

Remember the word which Moses the servant of the LORD commanded you, saying, The LORD your God hath given you rest, and hath given you this land.

Praise the Lord and Happy Holidays!

It's our last issue of the year and PURPOSE has this message for you – Get Drunk in the Lord and Rest! This year has had its blessings and tests and now as we put it all behind us, we need to focus on the New Year to come. It is our prayer that you will take what the Lord has said and shown you in 2009 and truly trust Him to see you through to victorious living in 2010.

Start off the year with true consecration. Allow the Holy Spirit to speak to you and through you like never before. Take time for the Lord. No popcorn prayers and five second scriptures! Immerse yourself in the Word of the Lord and remember the days when you first received His spirit when all you desperately wanted was His presence and His power. It's the New Year...Get drunk with HIS Spirit!

Then rest, dear sister. Rest in the knowledge that your path is already paved, your ending is already written and the Father is well capable of providing for you. You are already victorious! In the scripture, Joshua told the people to prepare their victuals (their food / sustenance) and get ready to pass over Jordan and into the land that God gave them to possess. Some of us have been waiting for a new day, a new blessing, the revelation of what we have been hearing from God. He has it all under control, so relax. All you have to do is grab your food (The Word of God-The Daily Bread) and hold on to it as you pass over the old and walk into your new place in God!

We love you and pray you have a very Merry Christmas and blessed New Year!

Sonya Farmer

PURPOSE Magazine Editorial Staff

PURPOSE Magazine

GREATER APOSTOLIC FAITH TEMPLE 4735 W. FORT STREET DETROIT, MI BISHOP LAMBERT W. GATES, SR, SENIOR PASTOR

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Money Matters

Our Five Favorite Gifts for Loved Ones in this CRAZY Economy

In these crazy economic times, holiday shopping may be difficult for some. Then sometimes you feel guilty buying expensive gifts for loved ones that really need so much more. Here are some great gift-giving ideas that make sense when there are only a few dollars!

- ◆ Grocery Store Gift cards – Everyone loves a gift card. You can go and buy what you want. But rather than a card for a flashy store or another perfume boutique, give them a gift that can really be a blessing. They won't be able to say, I was hungry and you fed me not!
- ◆ Pay \$\$\$ towards someone's heating or electric bill – Be a light in the world... literally! Give a gift that is truly warm. Create a gift certificate or write it in a card. That you have donated funds to their heating or electric bill!
- ◆ Free baby sitting – Do you know a single parent or a couple that could really use some time to themselves? Give the gift of Peace on Earth! You determine how many hours of your time you will donate and together come up with the perfect time. The trick is to actually follow through!
- ◆ Pharmacy Gift card – The cost of medication is ridiculous! If you know someone that even with insurance is riddled with co-pays, purchase a gift card to cover some of their medication this year. Jesus was a healer but he was also compassionate. What Would Jesus Do?
- ◆ Care packages – This is a neat idea for a student, a senior, large family or new mother. Give a gift basket of laundry and/or dish detergent, dryer sheets, bleach all in a nice laundry basket. If they live in an apartment or use the laundry mat, throw in a baggie of quarters! Minister to the whole person by taking care of one our every day needs that can be a real chore!

I AM...Working On It by Crystal Farmer

We have all seen the books, watched the videos, and attended the seminars that focus on finances. We have heard the gurus that say they have discovered the secrets to complete wealth and are wondering what is taking us so long to do the same. Well, I come to you with a totally different perspective. Like Paul said in Phillipians 3: 13-14, "Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." I do not have all the answers, I haven't perfected the budgeting process but I DID however make the decision that a life of debt and poverty does not only contradict the plan that I have for my life, it does not line up with the will of God.

I am 26 years old and I have experienced my first year out on my own. This year has taught me a lot about prioritization and stewardship. I also began to understand why my mother would go through the house fussing about lights being left on. I learned how to appreciate store brands and I found out that refrigerators don't refill themselves. I suddenly found myself in a rather impecunious phase of life (that's just a fancy word for broke).

It was right about that time that Bishop Gates introduced a proclamation saying "I AM Wealthy! I AM Prosperous! And

I Will NEVER BE BROKE AGAIN!" My initial thought was "Yeah Right!" But that's when the Lord began to show me something. Being broke is not an amount of money, it's a state of mind. When something is broken it doesn't work properly. For many "broke" people its not that they don't have enough money, its that they are not making their money work efficiently.

This "broken" mentality is much like a vending machine marked "Out of Order". Anyone with any sense would not put money into it because it's gonna take the money and not give anything in return. Well, if we as mere mortals have sense enough to think that way, how much more wisdom would the maker of the universe have. So for those who feel that God should bless them with some phenomenal amount of money that would solve all of their money problems, know that God wants to mend their "broken" mentality first, then truly no good thing will He withhold.

Upon this realization I decided that I needed to learn how to be a good steward. Become a lender not a borrower and walk in the prosperity that God wants for me. I began to listen to Dave Ramsey. I really like his approach to finances. This is a man that went from rags to riches back to rags and then to riches the right way. His philosophy is sound and he explains things in such a way that makes simple sense. I began to read his Financial Peace University books, I even got the workbook. It takes you step by

step showing you the principles of good stewardship and not only tells you what to do but why to do it. He addresses not just the effects of debt, but also the causes of it. There are chapters that focus on the importance of tithing, giving, saving, investing, and prayer and fasting for financial wisdom.

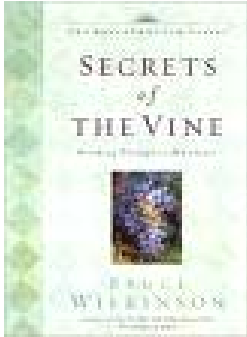
He includes great resources for budgets and methods you can use to make your money work for you. I strongly recommend that you utilize these products and also listen to his radio broadcast. For more information go on his website. www.daveramsey.com . It will definitely help. Truly it has helped me a great deal.

So, does this mean that now I'm rolling on millions? Nope! But it means that now I am making much better financial decisions and I am taking steps to correct the financial sins of the past, maintain my responsibilities of the present and establish financial provisions for the future. I recognize that the choices that I make are more important than the wages I make. Finances aren't about the Book of Numbers as much as the Book of Acts!

So now it's time for you to make a change. Use the resources at the bottom of the page to start a new path of stewardship. God wants us to have peace. It's your turn to walk the long aisle during this financial altar call. Is there one today?



The Reading Corner



"I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser."

— John 15:1

Step Into God's Vineyard

Join the Women's Ministry on Facebook (Gaft Women-Books) for our next Book Club discussion beginning in January 2010. Our featured book *Secrets of the Vine* by Bruce Wilkinson.

Dr. Bruce Wilkinson explores John 15 to show how to make maximum impact for God. Wilkinson demonstrates how Jesus is the Vine of life, discusses four levels of "fruit bearing" (doing the good work of God), and reveals three life-changing truths that will lead you to new joy and effectiveness in His kingdom. Secrets of the Vine will open your eyes to the Lord's hand in your life and will uncover surprising insights that will point you toward a new path of consequence for God's glory.

We are encouraging everyone to leave their comments as they go through the book on our "wall" or email us at gaftwomen@yahoo.com. If we have enough interest then we will plan a final face to face discussion and fellowship.

You have never tested God's resources
until you have attempted the impossible.

Author Unknown

Personal & Professional Development— “Diffusing a Difficult Situation”

Doctors of psychology suggest that we can negotiate difficult situation by learning about each other through perceptiveness, control of emotion and direct communication. Try the following ideas for controlling your own environment and diffusing difficult situations:

- **Don't mirror body language.** Contrary to popular belief, you shouldn't copy or mimic each person you converse with. Should you encounter someone behaving in an aggressive or antagonistic way, you're better off diffusing the situation by maintaining a more calm and under control demeanor.
- **Never embarrass anyone** - Take them aside. Nothing comes off as more aggressive or thoughtless than embarrassing someone, especially in front of others; you give the impression of being insensitive and unable to negotiate. If you must confront or address an issue directly, take someone aside so as to foster common ground.
- **Actively Problem Solving** keeps you thinking of finding a solution rather than the problem itself, diverting the mind into acting creatively rather than angrily. This tactic also allows you to shine as the respectful concerned one, the team player. This will serve to disarm the difficult person and provide you enough time to gain control.
- **Watch your body messaging** - Don't move into personal space to prove an adamant point. If you tend to let stance and mannerisms (inclusive of the hands) take control when you speak, be sure to control what your action says. An aggressive form of communication can turn into a negotiation faux pas.
- **Listen.** There is no better diffuser of difficult traits than being heard and feeling understood. Most heated situations and strained relationships stem from the lack of an open connection. By human instinct, once we are "heard" we are less defensive and can better focus on the issue at hand.

Devotional—The Theology of Rest by Oswald Chambers

“Why are ye fearful, O ye of little faith?”

Matthew 8:26

When we are in fear we can do nothing less than pray to God, but our Lord has a right to expect that those who name His Name should have an understanding confidence in Him. God expects His children to be so confident in Him that in any crisis they are the reliable ones. Our trust is in God up to a certain point, then we go back to the elementary panic prayers of those who do not know God. We get to our wits' end, showing that we have not the slightest confidence in Him and His government of the world; He seems to be asleep, and we see nothing but breakers ahead.

“O ye of little faith!” What a pang must have shot through the disciples—“Missed it again!” And what a pang will go through us when we suddenly realize that we might have produced downright joy in the heart of Jesus by remaining absolutely confident in Him, no matter what was ahead.

There are stages in life when there is no storm, no crisis, when we do our human best; it is when a crisis arises that we instantly reveal upon whom we rely. If we have been learning to worship God and to trust Him, the crisis will reveal that we will go to the breaking point and not break in our confidence in Him.

We have been talking a great deal about sanctification—what is it all going to amount to? It should work out into rest in God which means oneness with God, a oneness which will make us not only blameless in His sight, but a deep joy to Him.

“The Utmost for His Highest”

Five Tips to Turn Your Room into a Blissful Oasis



If your bedroom is more like a catastrophe than oasis, it may be time to wake up and take on the chaos. Designers and sleep experts agree that your bedroom should be a peaceful refuge, a restful retreat that creates an atmosphere conducive to sleep and relaxation.

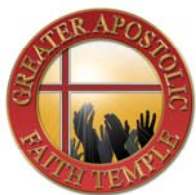
A “tired kitchen or bathroom may be an unsightly inconvenience and a challenge if your selling your house. But a “tired” bedroom can actually impact your mental and physical well being. Here are five tips to turn your den of chaos into an oasis of bliss:

1. Cut the clutter—When you walk into your bedroom are you visually overwhelmed? Whether you have too much decoration on the walls and nick nacks on top of the dresser, or mounds of dirty laundry on the floor, the visual impact can be the same. The more stuff you have in the room, the smaller and more confining the room will appear.
2. Adults only, please.—That’s right: it’s time the baby moved into her own room. Also, eliminate from the room all reminders that you have children. That means any toys the kids have left in your room go into their rooms. Their laundry should be folded and put away in their rooms—never left sitting in a basket in yours. Remember, your bedroom is about you

and your partner. It’s where you decompress after a long day and share moments that are exclusively yours as a couple.

3. Keep the room purposeful.—Our homes have become as crowded as our lives and often our bedrooms do double duty as our home offices. But design and sleep experts agree that you should get the office and computer out of the bedroom if at all possible. A desk and computer detract from the room’s ultimate purpose—to serve as a refuge from the day’s cares. If you simply have nowhere else to put your computer, try to position it so that it’s not the last thing you see before you close your eyes or the first thing you see in the morning.
4. Decorations should be simple but dear to your heart.—The bedroom is no place to try out the latest edgy design trend. Stick with colors, textures and images that are meaningful and relaxing to you. A dramatic centerpiece is OK as long as it inspires a sense of peace. Your focal point could be a massive, four-poster king size bed or a wall mural of a tropical scene or restful garden.
5. When it comes to bed linens, splurge away! - Your skin will be in contact with your linens for six to eight hours every night. You’ll see your bedspread or comforter every time you pass by the bedroom door. Your linens should appeal to your sense of touch as well as vision. You should fall in love with how the linens feel against your skin, as well as how they look on your bed. Good linens can make even the most simple bedroom décor feel stunning.

http://www.rentaldecorating.com/0307/bedroom_oasis0307.htm



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JEREMIAH 8:11, 21-22 (RSV)

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