

NEWSLETTER TO THE

Women of the Restoration

FROM THE RESTORATION WOMEN'S COUNCIL, CONFERENCE OF RESTORATION ELDERS

THEME: “*Be Still and Know that I am God*”

Psalms 46:10

Be Still and Know That I am God

By: Nicole Capps

Do you remember the story of Alma and his people being enslaved by Amulon? It occurs in Mosiah chapter 11 and when the afflictions became overwhelming, the people cried mightily to God (verse 57). Amulon commanded them to stop crying out to God and if anyone continued, they'd be put to death. So, Alma and his people didn't vocally cry out, instead their voices were stilled, and they poured out their hearts to God and He knew their thoughts (verse 59). I love verse 64 which says, “Yea, the Lord did strengthen them that they could bear up their burdens with ease, and they did submit cheerfully and with patience to all the will of the Lord.”

Surrender means to submit and yield to another. Usually, when I think of surrendering, I think of hesitation and a loss of control. I am somewhat of a control freak and the idea of giving God all power and control is something I've struggled with in my life. The verses in Mosiah remind me how there is joy in surrendering. God is so trustworthy! The people were enslaved, yet they surrendered to their current situation and trusted God no matter what the outcome.

Being still and surrendering are such nice ideas and topics frequently discussed in the church setting. How do we make it a reality? How do we become still in our lives? How do we surrender to God?

I wish we were sitting together, just you and me, and could share our thoughts and experiences on these questions. God has revealed so much to me about stillness over the past year and I'm still not very good at it. It's a practice and a daily choice. Stillness doesn't even necessarily mean sitting down for an hour with the scriptures and a journal. We are all in different seasons – maybe you're a mother with little ones to keep up with and you have no clue how to find stillness right now. Maybe you're working full-time and barely have the energy to find time to shower. Maybe you're struggling with depression and anxiety and the thought of stillness stirs up those struggles on a deeper level. When I slow down and am still, I am often reminded how alone I am. So, I pack my schedule full and try not to think about how lonely I am. In that choice, I decide God is not enough because he's promised we are never alone. Wherever you are, God has promised to be with us wherever we go or through whatever season we're in (Joshua 1:9).

Surrender is also a daily decision. I can take back control at any moment. Jesus had the same choice. He could have chosen his will to live, but instead he surrendered and said, “not my will, but thine be done” (Luke 22:42). He knew God so intimately and trusted God's will and plan. Do we know God (not just about Him) and





trust His will for us? Where do you struggle to surrender? I once heard an example of our lives being like a house and there are some rooms, we allow God to visit and often there may be one or two rooms we hide and lock so He cannot enter, Maybe I trust him with my career, my safety, my provisions like a place to sleep and food to eat, but then I don't trust the He's enough to fill my loneliness. He blesses others and not me, so maybe His love for me is less than His love for others. How many rooms do you have locked in your house?

How many places in your heart are you holding back from surrendering?

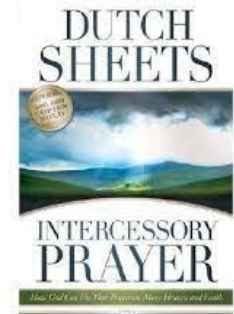
My challenge to you, my dear friend, is to have a conversation with God today. Ask Him to show you how to implement stillness in your daily life. Ask Him what areas you still need to surrender or maybe you already know so your question could be focused on asking Him **how** to surrender those areas. I am praying for you and ask that you pray for me as well. Until we surrender to God, we cannot truly become a people of one heart and one mind.

Book Review

Intercessory Prayer: How God Can Use Your Prayers to Move Heaven and Earth by Dutch Sheets

Reviewed by Bethany Eggenberger

So, I have been in the midst of reading quite a few books here lately on prayer and how important and vital our prayers are to God for the benefit and uplifting of others, to the moving of God's Holy Spirit on behalf of those struggling, those we love, or our enemies for protect and the changing of one's heart. One particular book that has grabbed my attention and is affecting the way I pray, is by an author Dutch Sheets called Intercessory Prayer: How God Can Use Your Prayers to Move Heaven and Earth. This book examines the prayer life of Jesus Christ and many others in scripture who were men of prayer like Daniel and Joshua. This book takes an in-depth look at how God designed prayer; the life-altering-changing POWER in prayer, the relationship it builds, the communication between the Father and us, and what prayer is made of. There is so much in this book, I warn you, it is a deep read for the wisdom shared in it, and worth the time to study. Tons of scripture shared, testimonies, humor as well for those of you who like to laugh. I greatly encourage this read to all who want more, want to learn more of how to be an intercessor for others here on earth; for Christ intercedes on our behalf to God. Let us be praying to intercede on one another's behalf. Blessings my friends.



Spring Classes

The women of the Restoration have been very blessed this spring to once again have classes under the leadership of Sister Pat Chadwick and several guest speakers: Monica Moreland, Melissa Herron Susan Freeze, Sylvia Powell, and Monica Twombly. Each month had a theme. The theme for March was "Am I willing to give my whole soul unto Christ?" April's theme was "Am I willing to enter a covenant with my Lord to serve Him all the remainder of my days?" The month of May brought us "Core values and statements by the Patriarchs that will lead us to be a prepared people. We hope you have enjoyed each and every class. Classes will resume in September 2021. We hope you have enjoyed each and every class. You can access all the recordings and handouts in several places: On our Facebook page, on the Oak Grove Restoration website, and on the Conference of Restoration Elders website.

Testimonies

The True Church

By: Vestine in Butare, Rwanda – (typed from a verbal sharing, please ignore the grammar errors)

(Vestine is a very active member of the church in Butare, Rwanda. Her husband has recently been ordained into the priesthood. They owned a hair salon prior to COVID. Vestine experienced much agony with her family and has found so much hope and belonging in the church.)



I want to tell you how I came to know the church. Many years ago, when I was living with my parents, it was a time when I did not know that the Lord existed. Because in our home among all my brothers and sisters, I was the one my parents did not love. I was a problem in my family.



They even said, “I am nothing”. Everything they asked of me, I tried to do. They tried to punish me at times. They did not allow me to go to school. At that time, I went to find a job and got a job in a bar. Many times, when I worked there, the people called me names. The people said mean things about me. I went to do my job and they kept saying things about me. The time came when I wondered why I wasn’t praying. So, I asked the Lord, ‘please help me to leave this job and get a better job where I can find friends who can be kind to me’. The Lord heard my prayer. I got a job, a different job. I didn’t have the training to do hair, but I learned. At that time, I met Jean Claude (who became my husband). And that time he and I were doing the same job. And he introduced me to Jean

de Dieu, and Jean de Dieu started teaching us. And when he shared with us about the church, my heart was not convicted it was the true church. Because I was living alone, I prayed and asked the Lord to help me to be able to get married and become a member of the true church. The Lord heard my prayers. I asked the Lord and told the Lord if I could get married and be in the true church I would, but if that wasn’t the case, I wouldn’t get married. There was a retreat in Kenya. Our brothers from USA came to teach us. We felt the brothers and sisters were good people. Even the people from Kenya we met. There were very good people. And this church is the true church. I found out. It is the true church. Even now I am sure. Because many times I pray and every time I pray and ask the Lord, He hears my prayers and answers my prayers.

When I was living in an apartment, at the time it was hard with my family, even our neighbors were accusing me. My mom was mad because she thought I would not marry and be her only child not married. I was angry. I was still young. I thought I would go and live with my boyfriend at that time, but the Lord would not allow me to go there with him. If the Lord hadn’t protected me, I would have moved in with him. The Lord protected me to not go there. I stayed at home. The Lord kept protecting me. I asked the Lord to give me a family and now I have a wonderful family. I would like to tell everyone this is the true church.



When in Kenya I asked the question, ‘Why do you say this is the true church, the only in the world?’ They told me to pray and ask God. I prayed and asked God and He has answered my prayer. Brothers and sisters, all of you, don’t think that it’s because of Muzungu (white people). Don’t think we are not brothers. We are one people. We are family. Even from Kenya, the same color, we are family. Sometimes tears will come out when are together. This is the true church.



The Lord Will Protect

By: Sue Manning

Before cell phones with GPS, my husband, two young daughters and I lived in a relatively new neighborhood in Florida. One afternoon, I received a phone call for prayers. A church lady in our state was getting gas at a self-serve station and left the driver's door open to hear her small child who was strapped in the backseat. She also left the keys on the dashboard. As she was finishing her transaction at the pump, a young man jumped into her car and drove off with the child in the backseat. Eventually, the young man abandoned the car in a parking lot and took off on foot. The child was safe, and the story had a good ending though the situation stayed on my mind. I knew it was a distressing experience for the mom and her child.

Soon after, my husband went out of town on a business trip. When it was time for him to come home, he accidentally left his keys and some information, including our home address on the bed in the hotel room. He called the hotel from the airport, however the housekeepers said they didn't find anything. That night, we got an unusual phone call. A man said he was a minister and that a friend of ours gave him our names. He wanted to come by and visit with us and he wasn't sure where we lived. He asked for directions. We immediately knew what he was up to. Our street wasn't on the map yet and so the home address that was left behind in the hotel room wasn't enough to get him to our house. We hung up and soon went to bed. We decided to change all the locks the next morning but there was nothing we could do that time of night.

As I laid in bed, I told the Lord of my concerns. I wanted to ask for protection. But who was I to ask for angels to stand guard around our home as we slept. Immediately, the answer came into my mind. The Spirit said, "You know not the number of legions of angels I have in my service." That gave me some peace. I then reminded Him of the lady and small child whose car was stolen. She was a good church lady and while it ended well, it was a traumatic experience for her and her family. I asked God why He didn't protect them. Here I was asking for protection for my children even though He didn't protect hers. Immediately, the answer came into my mind. The Spirit said, "She didn't ask." That was a lesson well learned that night. I have made it a practice to call on the angels for protection for my children when they were small and for their homes and families as adults today.

A couple of years ago, my daughter called. She told me of an experience they had the night before. Her baby woke up every night at 1 a.m. The night before, the baby slept through and didn't wake up at her usual time. Soon after 1 a.m., my daughter heard a crashing sound. She and her husband rushed in to see what cause the noise. Apparently, a neighbor was shooting coyotes on his property and a stray bullet went through the glass door and sailed close enough to the rocking chair to splinter the side. This would have been exactly where my daughter and granddaughter would've been had the baby woke up. When I heard the news, I was immediately reminded of the "protection prayers" I often pray over my family. I am truly thankful for a God that is faithful and hears our prayers.





Spring Gathering Review

By: Kristin Barrett

On April 17, we were able to gather in person and on Zoom to worship together under the ministry of Savannah Hawley and Raylene Buckles on how to ‘*Be Still and Surrender to Me*’. Before we had their classes, we were blessed with a devotion by Bethany Eggenberger about Jesus giving rest to those that are heavy laden. She shared Matthew 11:29-30 with us and spoke about the yoke of the world vs. His yoke. Special music was brought to us by Savannah Hawley and Isabel Jordison.



Savannah then brought us a class focused on how to be still and move. We learned that stillness is not passive. Be still means to properly cast down and fall. When we faithfully let go of our worries we can let God be our strength. Matthew 6:25-39 was presented as a cure for our worries if we believe AND follow. This was supported by Philippians 4:6-9, thinking on things that are holy and true leaves no room for worry. In our times of being still and surrendering to Him we are to pray, read, and ask. The stillness of our spirit allows us to hear the Holy Spirit.

Raylene then began her class with a challenge. She gave each of us a piece of paper that had 3 gridded tables. Each table had many columns. We were instructed to write in each table something we wanted to change and the dates. Each day we accomplished that we are to put a mark under that date. The purpose of the challenge is to help us forgive ourselves. We carry around things and beat ourselves up and forget that we have been forgiven and our sins have been blotted out – we are the ones who continue to beat ourselves up for them. She told us the story of Rebecca, Mary and Martha and the woman at the well. She also reminded us of the words to ‘*For Those Tears I Died*’. We ended our morning together with a wonderful lunch and fellowship.



*“You said you’d come and share all my sorrows, You said You’d be there for all my tomorrows;
I came so close to sending you away, but just like You promised You came there to stay; I just had to pray!”*

Chorus:

And Jesus said, “Come to the water, stand by My side, I know you are thirsty, you won’t be denied; I felt every teardrop when in darkness you cried, And I strove to remind you that for those tears I died.”

*Your goodness, so great I can’t understand, And, dear Lord, I know that all this was planned; I know You’re here now and always will be, Your love loosed my chains and in You I’m free; But Jesus why me? **Chorus***

*Jesus, I give You my heart and my soul! I know that without God I’d never be whole; Savior, You opened all the right doors, And I thank You and praise You from earth’s humble shores; Take me, I’m Yours! **Chorus***

Hymn History

The story behind *I Surrender All*

Judson Van DeVenter was born on a farm in Michigan in 1855. Following graduation from Hillsdale College, he became an art teacher and supervisor of art in the public schools of Sharon, Pennsylvania. He was, in addition, an accomplished musician, singer, and composer. Van DeVenter was also an active layman in his Methodist Episcopal Church, involved in the church's evangelistic meetings. Recognizing his talent for the ministry, friends urged him to give up teaching and become an evangelist. Van DeVenter wavered for five years between becoming a recognized artist or devoting himself to ministry. Finally, he surrendered his life to Christian service and wrote the text of the hymn while conducting a meeting at the Ohio home of noted evangelist George Sebring

Following his decision to surrender his life to the Divine, Van DeVenter traveled throughout the United States, England, and Scotland, doing evangelistic work. Winfield S. Weeden, his associate and singer, assisted him for many years. Toward the end of his life, Van DeVenter moved to Florida and was a professor of hymnology at the Florida Bible Institute for four years in the 1920s. After his retirement, he remained involved in speaking and in religious gatherings. Van DeVenter published more than 60 hymns in his lifetime, but "[I Surrender All](#)" is his most famous.



"I Surrender All" was put to music by Weeden, and first published in 1896 in *Gospel Songs of Grace and Glory*, a collection of old and new hymns by various hymnists, compiled by Weeden, Van DeVenter, and Leonard Weaver, and published by Sebring Publishing Co. Weeden, born in Ohio in 1847, taught in singing schools prior to becoming an evangelist and was a noted song leader and vocalist. His tombstone is inscribed with the title of this hymn, "I Surrender All".

<https://www.godtube.com/popular-hymns/i-surrender-all/>

Fall Retreat

September 11-12, 2021
Odessa Hills Campground



Fall Retreat Service Project

One of our service projects for our Fall Retreat will be donations for Hug Packs. These are backpacks for foster children in the Lafayette County and is sponsored by the Lexington Restoration Branch. We are asking that you bring to the retreat a new fall/winter pair of pajamas or sweats outfit for boys or girls, sizes newborn through adult X-Large. We will be adding these items to the backpacks that have already been provided.

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