

"FUN"!
"FUN"!

"FUN"!
"FUN"!

AS WE LEARNED
AND

"LIFE & KINGDOM"
"VACATIONED" IN THE

LESSONS

"SON" !!!!!!!

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TENNESSEE



PRAISE THE LORD !!!

O.K. Brothers! WHERE DO I BEGIN?

Five (5) action-packed days AND (4) "BLESSED" nights of pure "FUN", in the "SON" that I (Sister Meagan), will never, Ever, E-v-e-r, E-V-E-R forget. **Let's See if you agree!**

Day One- Departure from Birmingham at 8:00 a.m., (same day arrival to Gatlinburg, Tennessee). We rented a "beautiful" Chalet up in the Mountains. **Day Two**- Friday Morning. The young women prepared and served your Classic Breakfast: **Biscuits, sausage, Toast, Cheese grits, Eggs; Is your mouth watering, yet? LOL! (Anyway, Sister Tammy cooked them on order, in any style you wanted them: scrambled, hard eggs, sunny-side-up, etc. and she was the BOMB!) orange juice, milk, etc.** Then we headed to "Dolly Wood Splash Park". **YEA!!!! DOLLY WOOD!** **We had a BLAST!** I got on the 75 FEET HIGH WATER SLIDE,



The Mountain Scream,



The Water Roller Coaster,



2- Inner Tubes,



and other water rides that I can't recall the names of.



We rode the Water roller coaster for the first time ever, it is actually a roller coaster that is guided by water! It was so FUN! We returned in time to get dressed for “The Murder Mystery”



Dinner Theatre. It was hilariously entertaining! God really showed us favor everywhere we went and the “FOOD” was really great! **Day Three-** The Men prepared breakfast (starting at 6am): Ham and cheese eggs, delicious hash browns, bagels and cream cheese, pineapples, strawberries, sliced peaches, orange juice and milk. So, after we ate **BRUNCH** (inside joke 🤪), the men

discovered that the women had “**secretly**” confiscated their neatly prepared water balloons that they had planned to storm us with. They had taken time to strategically **HIDE** them **OUTSIDE**, all around the Chalet! UMPH-UMPH-UMPH! Won't God tell



on you?! (**Amos 3:7**) They were clearly **out numbered**, but they put up a really good fight. We whipped them with their OWN water balloons! (People, I'm sure the male version of this story, will not sound anything like my account). LOL! The Men are convinced that they won the water fight. That's OK. We will bow out gracefully and say, “that is the **ONLY** event that they “won”. And, that is because Pastor Carmen helped them AND Minister Willoughby had a great Big, secret weapon! A HUGE WATER GUN with a lot of Barrels to it! But, they **did**



not win at bumper cars.



They did not win at laser tag.



They did not win at Go carts. Ha-Ha-Ha!



ALL LAUGHS!! There were a few “**SORE LOSERS**” but WE HAD SO MUCH FUN!! We came back to the Chalet and dressed for The Smoky



Mountain Grand Ole Opry Show.

All I can say is, “**WOW!**” **God, you did it, AGAIN!!** I have never experienced so much



Lion King Broadway, Acrobatics, Comedy, Circus, Ballet, Country, Gospel, and etc. And, when they sung Jesus is on the main line, tell him what you want and “HOW GREAT THOU ART”, we felt like it was about to be “LIFT OFF” for the Rapture! Then, there was the Best Juggling Comedian that we had ever seen! His name was “**SLIM CHANCE**”. Mr. Chance, thank you for a life time of memories! God gave you that gift, now you keep on giving it to the world. Laughter does good like medicine. It sure did ‘good’ for us! Also, we took pictures with the “**Famous**



African White Lion” named TSIMBA-VAATI.

He knew that he was famous, too. He had ATTITUDE! **He refused to “Profile”**

unless he was rewarded. (each time). We attended THE ISLAND, where some rode a gigantic Ferris wheel.



We came back home and enjoyed the rest of the night in the Chalet reminiscing about our wonderful evening that God had BLESSED us with. We watched the MOVIE “Temptation”. What “sad” but “factual, true life reality lessons to learn from it. Every body needs to see it, “BEFORE THEY GET MARRIED”! I think it is the BEST movie that TYLER PERRY has done. **Day Four-** This was Sunday. A “**GOD ORDAINED DAY**” that TOPPED all other



days. We all went to the Gatlinburg Strip! Some went shopping and others went to the Aquarium.

Pastor Carmen rode the



Trolley all by herself, ya'll!!

And, get this! She even rode the "MERRY-GO-ROUND", too!



The only problem was that NO MATTER HOW HARD SHE TRIED, she could not get her **horse** to go any **FASTER!** Even the spectators laughed! **It really was cute.** After leaving the strip we went to Pigeon Forge to ride bumper cars, go-carts, sky scrapers and etc.



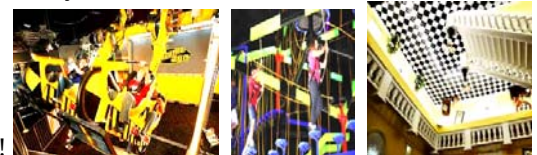
Now, **Sister Tomyia and I** rode the Skyscraper.

Pastor Carmen stayed on the ground and prayed and cried out to God for us! WE



HAD A BLAST! We also visited the **"Wonderworks" Building**, an **"upside down house"** that you walk straight into and have some of the BEST fun of your life! There were scientific skills and

And, Yes! You are looking at



Rides that flipped you, held you upside down, reversed you, and etc. Space Walks!



And, yes! A **"Bed of Nails"**. This really hurt! I could go on and on and on!! But I'll end it by saying that this was one of the **"best trips"** I have had in a while. **To God be the Glory** for the great things He has done and will continue to do. God really showed out and gave us a trip to be remembered. Thank You all for your prayers. I was about to end but one more thing! **The Hatfields and McCoys Dinner Show** with the best **"HO-DOWN"** tap dancing and yodeling you ever seen or heard... **It was all the way LIVE!** And, to think that I almost missed this **WHOLE trip**, all because of a nasty, bitter spirit, and a pride-filled, unrepentant, unforgiving **"COCKY"** attitude... up until the very morning of the trip! So, I know I was NOT about to Blow it by having a **"FOOL SPIRIT"** ON this trip! Oh, What **AGAPE' Love** and Mercy my God showed unto me! **Love Ya, Sis. MEAGAN**



Now, Brothers! HERE ARE A FEW OTHER ACCOUNTS OF OUR VACATION. Each view is different. AS LIFE GOES, YOU WILL SEE THAT **"FOR SOME"** it was a Vacation, to others a TRIP, and to others a JOURNEY! But, however you look at it, you will see that everyone experienced **"THE SON", (JESUS)** in one way or another. Ready? Read ON.....

Praise the Lord Brothers,

This is **Sister Tammy**, one of the "Warriors of Praise". For months, I was excited and on **"READY!"**

"On your mark, Get Set, Get Ready, Go!" I did not *ride in the van* but a car and the ride down was "good" until I had to drive! At first, everybody was awake, talking, poking fun and having a Holy Ghost party in the car. But as soon as I had to drive, everybody fell asleep. Now, I know that the Mr. Holy Spirit who lives in me, brings peace in my environment, but Men, that wasn't the time! LOL. **They all got TOO MUCH PEACE!** Even to the point that the "devil" put (2) of the same color vans as the one I was trailing, in front of me with bags and pillows and etc. packed to the windows. (the same as ours). So, I ended up following the **wrong van** until I screamed, **"EVERYBODY WAKE UP!"** LOL! Well, Minister Willoughby woke up with **one-eye barely open**, and answered, **"NAW! Sister Tammy, that's not it"**. Good thing the Lord hid us from the Po- Po because now I'm pushing the petal to the metal as if we were on the movie, **"SET IT OFF!"** Just trying to catch up to our correct van! Thank God we finally caught up with the others, without getting a traffic ticket. Men, the Chalet was very big, nice and comfortable. It was so-o-o comfortable that I got rebuked for not wanting to do nothing. **Yeah, I was called Lazy and everything.** I didn't care! We had already been warned that there had been quite a few "sightings" of BEARS, coming out of the mountains, wandering around



the CHALET'S, looking for food. Well, after that drive, I was not even thinking about NO bears. I was about to do what the bears do,

"HIBERNATE"! I felt like I earned that REST. Everybody needs some alone time and I said to myself, "Self, you're going to stay in and not go to the water park or anywhere else." **So, that is when deep- sleep called to deep- sleep.** I just got in that bed and laid there with not a "bill" on my mind, "who I had to pick up", not hearing: "will you please baby-sit my child." And not even hearing the phone ringing. I needed some alone time with Jesus so I could hear from Him. (smile). You see men, my whole purpose was to go and get away and also get as much "rest" as possible. Because I knew once I got back home, **it was OV (over)**, (back to the same daily routine). Now men of God, don't think I stayed in the house the whole time, because I did get out and fellowship with MY sisters and brothers, after I got some MUCH NEEDED SLEEP. While we were there, we went to a **Mystery Dinner Show**. I tried to focus my attention on solving the mystery but when that food came out and I bit into those mashed potatoes and real green beans (not canned) and two (2) choices of meats on "one" plate, **I was not studding no mystery or "who killed who"? Instead, I was trying to eat that food EXTRA slow (to savor the taste). My mystery was, "Is there ANYMORE food"?** So, I asked the waitress, "Can I get some more?" and she said: "We only have one serving per customer". You know men, God will make a way. My sister doesn't eat pork and she gave me hers. I was overjoyed! (*Men, don't throw away your food, if you don't want it, give it to your brother*). **LOL.** (By the way, wouldn't you just know that God through Pastor Carmen **did solve the mystery?**) In closing, on that **last day, my Father dropped a Praise** down that was SO awesome, through Pastor Carmen, that it shook Heaven and all of the Hell out of me. Now, this wasn't just any **ordinary praise** you might be used to. It was like a "**bomb**" went off and exploded and where there is a Holy Ghost bomb there's Holy Ghost fire! God spoke through Pastor Carmen, and He said that He was pushing the "**RESET**" button back in us, again. That Praise kept me from listening to "whispering spirits" that was telling me to sin! God's Praise helped me to resist satan and all of his lies, plots, traps and schemes. Be "**Blessed Men of God**" and let brotherly love continue and remember you have the power to Submit yourself unto God and resist satan and he must flee. (**James 4:7**). **Just grab a Praise on the inside! God Bless You, Your Sister- in- Christ, Sister Tammy**

The trip started out wrong, because instructions **were not** followed. We were told to pack "duffle bags". Because of disobedience, there were issues because there was too much luggage and hardly no where to store it. I enjoyed the ride there, as there were no incidents, accidents or mishaps. God down loaded through Pastor Carmen one song after another one and we prayed all the way there. **The Lord was truly with us! Once we arrived, the door was opened for all sorts of demons to enter and rebellion (witchcraft), disobedience, whispering demons, backbiting demons, touching God's anointed and gossiping were present. God allowed Pastor Carmen to just sit back and watch and silently pray. She never addressed any of the issues.** Many of the saints forgot that we were supposed to "Always Pray and never faint". They spent so much time having fun, until they forgot to continue to pray! **I confess that I allowed satan to have a place in me, too!** When we forget God, we open the door to allow satan's evil works, confusion and strife in. All he needs is a crack. By Saturday evening, I was ready to head home. Satan took advantage of the fact that, as humans, sometimes our perception of things can be flawed. Instead of assuming we know someone or what is going on, we should heed the word of God.(Prov. 3:5-7) God is never wrong and if we lean not to our own understanding and follow Him, everything will go well. Overall, I really enjoyed the Opry Theatre. It was such a great experience. Finally, on Sunday morning **before day**, God had Pastor Carmen to gather all of us together and address all of the issues, through the Word of God. During the prayer Monday morning, before we departed, God dropped down an "**explosive**" Praise and Prayer of total deliverance through Pastor Carmen. It was for anyone who truly wanted it and reached out to God for it. I received it and I truly thank the Lord for my deliverance and my guidance, as he helps me to hold on to it. My advice for everyone is to "guard your heart " with all diligence, for out of it comes the issues of life. (Proverbs 4:23), And Read 2 Peter Chapter 1. Some things we just do not have to go through, if we do what God's Word says to do. Be blessed my Brothers ----- **Sister Barbara**

The vacation trip to Gatlinburg was much needed and memorable for many reasons. God chose His people of all ages to attend. It did not go exactly like some of us thought it would. Which goes to show us that God is truly Sovereign. We tend to think we gotta have certain things to really enjoy ourselves (like lots of money). Money was not the issue in Gatlinburg! Because we are His children and represent Him wherever we go, He watches and protects us very carefully. **He also tests us to see how we will get along with each other and if we will work in unity. Nineteen (19) people lived in the same house (Chalet) for 4 nights.** It was very interesting from beginning to end. Great is His Faithfulness! **Memorables:** 1. All the Dinner Theatres (3) went from Mystery to Broadway to Comedy). **Great showmanship!** 2. Water fight (with a gun, balloons and trash can) between the saints in the house (**don't know who won**). 3. Seeing sisters **Meagan & Tomyia** on the Skyscraper ride was really hair- raising. They are some brave sister "soldiers"! 4. Minister Willoughby rolled with the punches (**a real trooper**) and had great fun 5. God honored **Mrs. Willie Bell Cameron everywhere we went for her 77th birthday**, along with a dinner at the Chalet, cake, homemade ice cream (deliciously made by Minister Gardner), cards, money, etc. **Sister Bell was delighted and a delight!** 6. I pray **we all** learned valuable, life long lessons that we will not ever forget. **God "Bless You, Sister CORLISS**

Greetings and Blessings! I attest to the **Awesomeness** of God, in this Newsletter! Therefore, I desire for all of the recipients of this month's Newsletter, to know that, regardless of how hard your life has been in the past years, or how hard it may seem right now, that there is nothing "**TOO HARD**" for our God. **Indeed it is I, Cedric Willoughby**, your brother in the faith who once was bound, (as you are now), but I am now liberated by the power and might of the Almighty God. Yes, I was bound in the state penitentiary some thirteen (13) years ago. Praise God, I am restored and replaced back in society for a Godly ordained purpose. **As I share excerpts from my Tennessee trip, I admonish you to "please don't give up on God's Good pleasure for you".** From my recent experience in Gatlinburg and PIGEON FORGE TENNESSEE, I am an even more firm believer in the truth, that **God will express His Good pleasure to you, too!** He will cause you to have a "due season", that will bless you to have the greatest time of your life. Although *I had the time OF my life, I also had a major deliverance IN my life. This is so important for me to share! See, I didn't know how the enemy had lured my soul into a "mildly catatonic state" of "rigid apathy". This had occurred from the "inflexibility" of my transition, from prison to society. That is..... until I underwent My Supernatural Fun Time in Tennessee!!* I had lost reason to believe, that true happiness was for me. (Prison has a way of doing that to you). **At this point, I had conformed to believe that fun and true happiness no longer existed for my present adult life. It seemed to be at a "far distance", if it was ever to be at all! Certainly, it did not seem at all possible to reach any time soon.** Men of God, my Heavenly Father gave me 'genuine' happiness. I'm not talking about **a shallow happy**, where you experience a momentary "smile" by chance! Or where you just feel good for a moment and it makes you smile for a brief time. I'm talking about, A happiness that comes from God's good

pleasure that supernaturally gives your soul and spirit an in-depth wonder of freedom,! **Freedom from the BUILD-UP of soul pains, stressors, and frustrations of the hardness you had to endure in life. I tell you my friends, a football game could not give me what I experienced in the 4 days I had in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee with House of Praise Church!!** My fellow believers, **I didn't just have a vacation – I had a Resurrection in the depth of my soul, from the pain of hard times that had made me moderately dull and numb all of these years!!** This supernatural fun, that came by God's good pleasure, liberated my soul through the thrill of having a water balloon fight with my sisters and younger brothers, through the thrill of enjoying the rushing water rides at Dolly Wood Splash Park, through racing in **Go-Karts**, through having friendly driving competitions against my sisters(in bumper cars), virtual hockey, & laser tag. Simply but wonderfully enjoying myself. Spending quality time in unity with the team members, while we were greatly entertained at **3 dynamic Stage Shows**, in addition to spending the Sunday morning at the Aquarium, observing the beauty of “God’s Aquatic Sea World and etc. **I must say that I especially enjoyed the “Movie and Restaurant time” that me, the older and younger men had together.** All of this gave a New and specific meaning to, **“ALL THINGS working together for my good (Romans 8:28).** The combination of all these activities was the plan of the Father to fulfill Psalms 23 **“JUST FOR ME”!** **“HE RESTORETH MY SOUL!!!! Men of God He did that for me! And guess what? He has NO respecter of persons. He wants to do the same thing for you! See, it is Father’s good pleasure to give you the Kingdom, right down here in this present (FREE) world! (Luke 12:32-33).** David said that he would have fainted long time ago, if he had not believed that he WAS going to see the GOODNESS of the LORD, Here, in the LAND OF THE LIVING! (Psalm 27:13). THE ABSENCES OF “DIVINE PLEASURE “ IN THE LAST 16 YEARS OF MY LIFE WAS GRANTED TO ME IN AN ENORMOUS WAY, IN THE PERIOD OF **JUST 5 days and 4 nights.** God made me to feel like a “KID” again! To the glory of God I declare, that he who the **Son** makes free - is free indeed! Amazingly, **God uses the FUN in the SON** to make you free indeed!!! **Praise the LORD!! and Shalom!!!** **-----Minister Cedric Willoughby**

PRAISE THE LORD, BROTHERS! This was not a Vacation to me, as much as it was a “PURGING” exercise. (JOHN 15:2). I believe that God was using this “trip” to purge and try me. (We all know that I am truly not a group person). I have always been a “loner”, always preferring to be to myself. Well, when you go on a trip, you are never alone. *This was a very trying test. I am NOT really sure if I passed it as well as I should have but I know that I tried. Even when the enemy tried to come in and cause me to be upset and discouraged, I was still determined to make the best out of an uncomfortable situation. It was also a test to see if I would stand up for right or compromise with sin.* God has been teaching and warning us about this “lying and deceptive” demon, for a while now. Well, we went to do this activity, where they said, “Your income had to be a certain amount in order to participate”. *Well, I knew that my income was not quite that amount and some of the others were not that amount either (some didn’t even have an income).* So, I spoke up and said, “I am sorry, I can’t participate, my income is not this amount”. Well, **one of the saints tried to convince me** that my income was the stated income. *But, I quickly told her she was incorrect.* And even if she was correct, the portion of my income that she was referring to, could not be included, **(per the company’s policy).** *That was manipulative lying!* Well, when I said that, the other saints seemed to agree, because they did not sign up for the activity either. O.K., another activity came along and had the same guidelines. But, the facilitator told the saint, that certain things *could be used* as income and to just explain that to the people. (he was just trying to get a commission). I didn’t feel comfortable with that, either. *See, Pastor Carmen was not with us, but God was!* **And, Pastor Carmen had just finished preaching to us about that old demon of “underhandedness”.** I cautioned the saint to pray about it, because the enemy uses many forms of deception to get us to lie. **And, what was a few hours of enjoyment, compared to an eternity in “HELL”?** Honestly, I don’t know if it was my place to say something, or not. But I felt it was lying, so I spoke up. Of course, satan came against me **HARD** through that sister. It hurt my flesh, but my Spirit felt clear! **Here is another short testimony.** A couple of us had made plans to do a **specific activity** one afternoon. I was truly looking forward to do this. See, I thought it would be very relaxing. *Well, as my group was preparing to leave, another group decided to join us but they had different plans than we did. Plus, they wanted to do their activity 1st. (that SAME demonic spirit that had jumped me before when I refused to lie about my income).* Well to make a long story short, it was decided that they would do their activity 1st and then we would do our previously scheduled activity. Well, I was not happy about this at all. In fact, I was truly upset. **It felt like I was just being walked over.** I mean, they were not even thinking about **going anywhere until** we said we were leaving. *Well, I just decided to stay on the van while they enjoyed their activity. I sat and just talked to God for a little while and then I just enjoyed the sun. They were only supposed to be an hour and then we would be able to go on and do my activity.* Well, after the others finished, it was **too late** to do the activity that we had initially planned to do. They not only ran **over time**, but because the place we had planned to go, would take quite some time to get there and back, we would only have a few minutes to enjoy the scenery. This is because we had to be somewhere else that Pastor Carmen had arranged for us to participate in **(which was AWESOME, by the way!!).** But still, when I realized this, my heart sank. *I began to cry and just shake my head. My flesh really wanted to lash out. I really wanted to get some people told. But really, what would that have accomplished? Nothing!* **But me blowing my witness and possibly “winning” me a trip to hell. Don’t get MAD, get DELIVERED! Die to the FLESH! So, I did my best to keep calm. Thank God for prayer!** I had to pray later that day (on the phone) with my prayer partner, who did not come on the trip. So, I had to make sure that my mind was clear; which honestly, it was a struggle to do. **But I remembered, Pastor Carmen had taught us that, “The way that you pray for others is how God is going to move for you”.** So, I put Shea on the back burner and went to God. And God moved, although I didn’t realize it right then, BUT it was very evident the next day. The next day was a **very full day.** It was **an exciting day!** I should have known that it would be, and that **God was up to something, when Pastor Carmen got dressed and stated for everyone to be on the van, at a certain time. She did not say, “Thus said the Lord”.** However, God tells us to know those that labor among us! *This woman of God does nothing, say nothing or go no where, unless God orchestrates it. I got dressed and ready to go, quickly. All of this time, Pastor Carmen had been just sitting back, quietly, watching all of the stuff that was going on, day after day. Just watching and praying. She refused to allow her heart to get infiltrated with the devil’s mess.* Thank God for WISDOM and DIVINE TIMING. Can you believe that some *fool spirits* still mumbled, “I am NOT going”? Pastor did not become enraged, upset or argue. She said, *“Everyone that said you did not want to go, get off of the van”.* Then, we left. God really showed himself to be “Strong”! I got to do the activity that I had missed out on, the previous day. **It was SO--o-o relaxing and refreshing. Then, after that, God treated us**

—through Pastor Carmen, with a day of adventure, (whether we had money or not, regardless of the cost). Me and the others that were obedient participated in quite a few actions. However, I did not involve myself in many of the **daring activities**, but I still enjoyed watching the others have fun. **I was at peace!** And then, I even had the opportunity to be **by myself** for a little while. God blessed us to do things that others only dream of doing. **Some asked, “Why didn’t we have as much fun as you all did?”** That is EASY! The ways of a transgressor is hard! And, **obedience** is better than “sacrifice”. **You know what the cure is? (2 Peter 1) “Admit you are WRONG and REPENT” quickly and sincerely!** Brothers, I am not really sure if this is what God intended for me to share with you or not. But, I can truly say that, what the enemy meant for bad (where I was concerned), God came in and turned it around for my good. Hallelujah! He **showed up** and out did Himself, again! Be encouraged Men of God! **Sis. Shea**



In the 1st picture above, Dr. Doug and Sis. Sharon, took a picture with the White Lion. In the middle picture, from (L to R), is Sis. Sharon, Minister Willoughby, Sis. Cathy, Brother Sheldon, and Sis. Shea). They were chosen to participate on stage. **BRAVO!!!**

Praise the Lord, Men of God! Regarding our trip to Tennessee, *I knew in my heart from the very onset, that it was **not** going to be **JUST** a vacation. They never are.* I remember telling God that I felt that this was going to be a **multi-purposed trip**. That it would be only partly for our **enjoyment and relaxation**. I believed that most importantly, He wanted to observe how we responded in different situations together and individually. *God has been telling us to get wrapped, tied and tangled up with Him, loving Him with ALL of our hearts, souls, minds and strength (Mark 12:30).* During this time, He showed me where I needed to do better. Even though I spent some time with Him, I should have spent more time in His Word. Also, He has been teaching us over and over to work on perfecting our love walk (Ephesians 5:2). This time of living with others was also a test to see how we would work together as a team, to see how we would interact with one another. Again, I’m sure, we all must do better. However, in spite of our disorder, as always, still, God truly blessed us!!! He protected us from harm, danger and unforeseen situations. We originally planned to go to a water park on Saturday of that week, but ended up going on Friday, **Praise God!!!** We had a wonderful time, and the weather was **BEAUTIFUL!!!** Had we gone on Saturday, we would not have been able to enjoy our time there, because it stormed most of that day. Finally, some of you may or may not know that I tend to be “very” serious most of the time, and not nearly “Cheerful” enough. Nor do I laugh a whole lot. (Not because I am sad). I’m working on changing this, because “*a merry heart doeth good like a medicine*” for our minds and bodies (Proverbs 17:22). Truly, I really enjoyed myself and laughed a lot on this trip. As medicine, it did me **MUCH GOOD!!!** But, my greatest enlightenment was the lesson that God taught each of us, about ourselves, on this trip. May God continue to bless and keep you all, is my prayer, in Jesus’ Name. **Sister Sharon**

Hey Y’all !! *Let me tell you about my trip to the Smoky Mountains!* God allowed about twenty of us to go on the trip. It was such a beautiful sight. The mountains were so high until it seemed like you could get in a certain area and touch heaven. As we rode and looked around, the scenery was gorgeous. **As I was enjoying myself, the enemy came in and whispered in my ear. And I allowed him to trick me. (that old python snake spirit).** When he heard me at Elmore talk about watching out for whispering spirits: right then, he started setting a trap for me. On one of those days, my body was feeling very worn and my spirit most vulnerable. So this was his opportunity to say, you need rest, and the headache will go away. Well, Pastor Carmen had planned to bless us on a particular tour. I got in her face (like a fool) and said, “I’m not going.” **She looked at me and said, “okay”.** (Any body that knows Pastor Carmen, should know that she is not arguing with you about NOTHING! She simply say what God gives her, and the rest is up to you!) As others were preparing to leave, I went down stairs and told a couple of others “I’m not going”. (influencing others to rebel). I laid down. Pastor Carmen sent one of the sisters to tell everybody to be on the van at a certain time. Reluctantly, I obeyed and got on the van. **When Pastor Carmen came out she said, “All of you who don’t want to go, get off, now.”** She said, “Min. Gardner, get off the van.” Then another sister got off. **Some that should have gotten off, did not! This was STILL lying!** That then opened the door for other **Fool spirits to circulate to others, on the van.** I went downstairs and laid down and “OH”, did I get it! My head started pounding worse and my body felt like it was coming apart (consequences for rebellion). **Proverbs 29:1 communicates:** “He, that being often reprov’d hardeneth his neck, shall suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy.” Later that night, Pastor Carmen called a meeting. It lasted until about 4:00 the next morning. Did that feel good? No. We had to get ready to come back to Birmingham. Check out time was 11:00am. So, I repented to God and to Pastor Carmen. *I want you brothers to know that, whatever we preach on, whether it is healing, deliverance or pride, we will be tested on it. So, being stupid, stiff-necked, pride-filled, stubborn, rebellious and conceited will cause us to get into trouble. It is written in the word of God, Hebrews 13:17: “Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, (they must give an account for your soul).* “I pray that this testimony will help many, as, **I tell it, in Jesus’ name. Minister Gardner**

Praise the Lord Men of God! This is Sister Tomyia, A “Warrior of Praise”. What a time I had in Tennessee. I was glad Father allowed us to go. Whew!!! I needed that break from the same hustle and bustle of everyday life. Everybody need a balance, even Saints of God. Father is so awesome. He knows us so intimately, to the point that He sent His word ahead of us, to prepare us for the devil’s antics and attacks. If ya’ll don’t know by now, we, members of House Of Praise are a “powerfully peculiar” group of people. Hand picked by Mr. Holy Ghost, Himself. (I am not trying to pat ourselves on the back), I am just stating the reality of the revelation. You see, ordinary people (term used lightly) can just pick up and decide where to go, what to do, how, when, and who with, any time they choose. But not us! Everything we do has to be strategically prayed about, thought out and carefully planned by Mr. Holy Ghost! The reason is because we have an adversary who loves to pop up when we’re not guarded. **You see, in times past, I used to allow the devil to use me and I had to “put up” with the devil using**

others when we went on trips. But not this time!!! I set my MIND and HEART to adhere and absorb the Word and warnings my Heavenly Father gave us before this trip. Oooooooo, he (the devil) tried to attack my mind before I went! I mean, even to the point that I didn't want to go. But look at Jesus! Some of us had to work, so we couldn't go down with everyone else. But, God had allowed me to already send my son ahead of me, so I couldn't renege! Then, he allowed me to confess to my sister, the things that had my heart heavy and together we tag teamed that devil and put him in a choke hold.... **Thank God for the Holy Ghost in Sister Shea!!!!** God used her to check my "attitude" concerning a brother and I was glad she did. I had a Ball!!!!!! This was the first time I was able to sleep in peace without being attacked when we go on vacation. Men, I'm weird like that. I'm the type of person who can only get a good night's sleep, at home or a place that I'm familiar with. Hey! **But on this trip, I became a kid again. Yep! Laughter doeth good like medicine.**

(Pastor Morris, you look so much better when you smile)LOL.. Thank God for Sister Christie. God through her helped me to overcome my fear of water and Father blessed me to enjoy the Water Park. **We slipped and slid our way to fun.** Oooooo, ya'll, Sister Meagan and I got on the this ride that even Pastor Carmen don't like to talk about. She was in the van, looking WAY UP IN THE CLOUDS AT US, and praying the whole time. She heard us screaming but we were having the time of our lives! **This ride ain't for the weak!** (Ha-Ha Ha!) At first, I turned it down because of the price and I must admit that at first, a *little fear* set in, but something in me just wouldn't allow me to let my sister ride by herself. Believe me, she was grateful! Pastor Carmen had challenged her to get on this ride because she did not really think that she would do it. I saw and heard a sigh of relief from Sis. Meagan when I changed my mind. I refused to allow fear to keep me from enjoying what Father has put on this earth, besides Father heard me when I said I wanted to get on this particular ride when we passed by it. So He honored my request! **I ain't backing down from nothing, devil! I had so much fun ya'll. Listen, Men of God, as I was writing this, Father pointed out to me that we can do so much damage to hell when we are in UNITY. While you're reading my take on the trip, you will find that I couldn't do this alone. It took help from others to help me have fun and conquer the devil. Even though my mind was set to have fun and not allow the devil to use me, it took unity and love to see it come to pass.** Just because we minister in the fore front, that does not mean that we don't have faults or that we don't need each other. Even I, had to put aside hurts and run with my sword to help out.(in the spirit). This is what Father is calling for. If the devils and demons can hate each other and "still" join forces together against the sons of God, How much more damage can we do to Hell if we join in UNITY and Love?! **Hey, Brothers, y'all tell Minister Willoughby, "WE WON"! (LOL). Your sister in Christ, Sis. Tomyia**

Praise The Lord, Men of God! My name is Sheldon and I am the son of Sister Tomyia (Mattie Pattie)! I would like to tell you of my view of this past month's Tennessee vacation trip. The morning that we took off, it was very early and luggage was everywhere. But, the painful thing was the 4 and ½ hours that it took to get there. You see, I am 6'3 inches tall and 257 lbs. And my legs were cramping in a 15 passenger van. But, THANK GOD for protecting us to get there. The first day, we focused on UNPACKING and Hiding WATER BALLONS outside, to battle the women with. (LOL). To our surprise, they found them and used them against us. Isn't that just like a female? (LOL). **It felt so good to be able to HIT my mom with water balloons, for all of the times that she ever "spanked" me, and NOT get in trouble! Hey! I am just kidding! (LOL). Y'all don't know my mom! She's short but she does NOT play! The next day was fun, too! We went to a SPLASH WATER PARK and a Dinner Show. I thank God for the FUN we had on the rest of the trip. I am 16 years old, and Minister Willoughby was so great.** He acted like BOTH, A FATHER FIGURE and a BIG BROTHER to us younger men. At times, he seemed like he forgot that he was a grown man and he acted like he was our age. But, it was appropriate, believe me! He put us in Check and he did it in "Love". We "secretly" found ourselves wishing that our real daddies were more like Minister Willoughby. Young people don't mind being disciplined, as long as it is with LOVE and RESPECT. I thank God for Minister Willoughby. We had fun! We went to more Dinner Shows and finally, only us males went to a Special Japanese Restaurant where the chef cooked dinner right in front of us. That was a delight, in itself. Then, we men went to the MOVIES to see the new WOLVERINE movie. *It was really good and full of ACTION! The next day, we went to an UPSIDE DOWN HOUSE and had superb FUN! Men of God, I pray to meet all of you, one day. (OUTSIDE OF THE PRISON).* Who knows? Maybe we all can go on a vacation together, too, and have GREAT FUN IN THE "SON"! **God Bless you, Brother Sheldon (I am proud to say that I'm, "MATTIE'S BOY"!)**

Reflections on our ministry trip to Pigeon Forge, TN

First, I prayed a few months ago that the Lord would give us a trip together, as I really enjoy the folks in our group, and it had been a while since we had one. Our history of trips together is that they're always memorable, usually a lot of fun, and there are always lessons that we need to learn from them. So, when it was announced that we would be going to Pigeon Forge, I was excited! From the outset, in the planning meetings, it became plain that this trip would be very different than past ones, as a number of our men would not be going. However, I was looking forward to **spending time with Minister Willoughby and getting to know him better,** and that did happen, for which I am thankful. Prior to going, I was very excited about the prospect of going white water rafting, but because the Lord gave both Minister Willoughby and Sister Tomyia visions of destruction related to that activity, I let it drop, though I won't say it was easy! I really had to humble down to keep from doing it, anyway. In fact, for me at least, that seems to have been the major theme for the trip...humbling down before the Lord. *Truly, before we even arrived at the Smoky Mountain Christian Village, I got a serious dose of humbling...a speeding ticket from one of Tennessee's finest!* In a way, it was actually pretty comical...Sister Tomyia and Sister Shea were pleading to the Lord for mercy while I was reminding them that the Lord tells us to obey the laws of the land...ladies, I'm busted! Please don't bother the Lord about it...I messed up! My next bit of humbling occurred when the men were supposed to have breakfast served at 8 a.m. on Saturday, but because of my mess-up, it was an hour and 45 minutes late So, while the women heated up the breakfast about 3 hours after it was supposed to be served, I ate humble pie! Frankly, that seems to be the major theme between me and the Lord lately, and I sure hope that I learn the lesson soon (yesterday soon enough?! **All in all, I had a good time, with plenty of laughs, great scenery, fun at the water park, and really enjoyable dinner shows, but most of all, I got to enjoy it with my "Beautiful Bride" and my brothers and sisters in the Lord! Amen! Blessings to all! - Dr. Doug**

My name is Trell! I am 12 years old. My mother is Sister Shon and my dad is Brother Aaron. I enjoyed myself on the trip! I really enjoyed

the Country Splash and the Dinner Shows! The most fun I had was “The Water Balloon WAR” with the ladies! They captured me on the enemy’s territory, but my Brothers “BOLDY” came and got me. Brother Sheldon and Minister Willoughby were on my team. I was able to see the Beautiful view of the WORLD from the Ferris Wheel. The guys and I continued to have fun at the “WAVE POOLS”. I rode the BEAR ride with Minister Willoughby. **Man, that was S-O-O-o-o much fun! Minister Willoughby was “Screaming” SO-O-O-O-O-loud on the ride... TOO FUNNY!** (Thank you Minister Willoughby for helping me to have the most “FUN TIME” in my life! Thank you for showing that you care!) The next day, we continued our vacation of fun and laughter at the Dinner Show which included the “WHITE LION”. Now, I really liked that. The fun didn’t stop there. I went to WONDER WORKS WORLD. We played laser tag, rode rides that consisted of pedaling, played Basket ball, Virtual Hockey, Assimilated Roller Coaster Rides, and guess what? We went to another **Dinner Show!** It seemed like I was at a REAL FARM. Too fun and too funny! *Afterwards, that night, we all watched “TEMPTATION”.* It was a very SAD movie. The next day, we all packed our things to return home to ALABAMA! I thank God for being able to go, first of all! Everything I did was fun in TENNESSEE! **God Bless you Men! ----- Brother TRELL!**

From The Desk of Pastor Carmen:

Praise My God who is ALMIGHTY! As you can see, we took a “short vacation” during the month of July. It was indeed a “BLESSING” for everyone, but as you **now** know, **SOME** had more FUN than others! **I sure did have my share of FUN!** (Almost as much as I had in the Elmore REVIVAL). The devil is a lie! He was not “stealing” nothing from me! What transpired in Tennessee, reminded me of a Word that God brought through **Minister Willoughby**, a few weeks ago, in **2Peter 1**. See, just because we are saved, many feel that the road to the KINGDOM stops there! No, way! We must continue to ABOUND, in order to become a **MATURE BRIDE in Christ.. The Apostle Peter wrote the first book of Peter to encourage the Church, who was “ON FIRE” for Jesus, to keep on keeping on.** But, by the time the Apostle wrote **2Peter** he saw that the Church was quickly “falling” into moral turpitude. ***See, the saints were under Demonic persecution by the insane Roman Emperor, Nero. They were being deceived by all forms of satanic practices, heretics, rebellion and apostasy and they were falling for it.***

Saints that had been on fire for God was now “falling”.

When they were admonished, they replied, “We already know what you are talking about, and we are just as SAVED as you are, so we don’t need to hear NOTHING that you, (Peter), have to say to us”. *However, Apostle Peter did not let these fool attitudes and spirits deter or STOP him from PREACHING to them. Instead, in 2Peter 1:12- Peter said, “I know y’all sick of me but I am not about to “shut my mouth”!* I intend to keep on reminding and warning you of these things, although I am sure that EVERYTHING I say to you, you are just going to say, **‘We already know this’.** (know it all spirits). But, as long as I am in this body, I **MUST** keep on reminding you, especially since I am old now and my death could come at any time now. In the **19th verse**, Peter said, “Y’all would do well to be attentive to what I am saying to you. The **11th verse** says, “I am trying to assure that all of you will be richly provided an ENTRY into the eternal KINGDOM of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, instead of “busting” Hell wide open.

See, just like too many of us Christians today, those saints felt that since they were SAVED, they were fine and that they had ALL that they needed to make it into the KINGDOM. **Wrong!** Peter said, “*Yeah, I know that you have “FAITH” because you had to “BELIEVE” on the Lord Jesus, in order to get saved.* That took Faith. But, Peter pointed out in **verse 5**, “It is for this very reason that you must make every effort to support your Faith”. In other words, Peter was saying, “**BESIDES FAITH**, (in addition to) you must ADD some things! This is why you keep on “stumbling” and “falling”, going up and down like a “see-saw” and **why** you have to keep on repenting for the same thing, over and over. Then, **after so long**, you start to rebel instead of repent.

Pride stands up in you and witchcraft begins to DOMINATE, Control and Manipulate you. **(Yes, witchcraft in the Church).** You must have something MORE to support your FAITH. (to hold you up). Look at verse 2. He said that God has already given us, by his DIVINE POWER, all things that pertain to life and godliness. *These are the needed things to help us live both, in this natural world and in the spirit world, (at the same time), so that we might be partakers of His divine nature.* Listen, the only thing that is going to help us to continue to escape the corruption that is in this world, through lust, is that we must HAVE what we find in verses 5, 6, and 7. With all *diligence*, **we must add to our FAITH**, (7) more important things! Let’s look at them: Besides this, add to your Faith, Virtue, and to your virtue, Knowledge and to your knowledge, Temperance, and to your temperance, Patience, and to your patience Godliness, and to godliness, **Brotherly Kindness**, and to brotherly kindness, **Charity!** **It is Grace through Faith that we are saved.** But see, we stopped at FAITH! This is why we can not seem to succeed at standing up for Christ, even a “FULL DAY” without repenting! **These are the things that WE MUST HAVE!** WHY? Look at verse 9. **Anyone who does not have these things are BLIND!** Blind men stumble and fall as they try to walk by themselves, in the natural. Spiritually Blind men do, too. The 8th verse tells us that if we have these things, and they continue to **increase/abound** in us, then, we will STOP being INEFFECTIVE and FRUITLESS in the knowledge of Jesus Christ! Our prayers need to be effective. **This is why you** seem to pray for years and never see results. And 8

we need to be bringing forth FRUIT! But, **how can we, when we DO NOT EVEN HAVE “Brotherly Kindness” towards each other?** *When is the last time that you offered someone a piece of your Honey Bun? (and you know that person was hungry and didn’t have money on the books). Or, when did you last INSPIRE someone to come to Christ? Or just to come to Chapel with you?* We talk to each other and treat one another like “DOGS”. Yelling and cursing at each other! (yes, Christians). One young man told me last week, “Pastor Carmen, the ones in the Honor Dorm, who are **leaders in the Church, are the NASTIEST ones in this camp**. They are a bunch of snakes! They walk right past me and will NOT even “SPEAK”, **but when you come**, they put on an ACT for you”. **Men of God, I AM NOT GOD!** Listen, **Galatians 5:15** says, “But if we bite and devour one another, take heed that you be not consumed one of another”. **2 Peter 1:9** says, “He that lacks *these things* is **NOT ONLY BLIND**, but the reason that you treat others **SO BADLY**, is because you have forgotten that **YOU** were once Purged from your old sins! That is **EASY** to forget, if you do not diligently continue to **ADD TO YOUR FAITH**. You lose your excitement of getting saved, just like a **NEW CAR** loses it’s excitement and it’s **NEW SMELL**, after a while. So, now, you are acting like “**a dog**” who has returned to his own “vomit”, and you are now looking at everybody else’s faults, sins and failures. **This is what you call “PETTY STUFF”**. Being **PETTY** is NOT worth my **SOUL**. How about yours? You see every body else except yourself! **Why?**

And, guess what else! You remember how when you “**first**” got saved, people used to think you were “Psychic” because you seemed to know everything, **BEFORE** it happened? Not **ANYMORE!** You were not even psychic then! That was **AMOS 3:7**, “Surely, the Lord will do nothing, but He revealeth His secrets unto His servants, the prophets”. Psychic is of the devil’s mess. The devil is a Lie! Witchcraft!! So, **ZION**, what’s the matter now? **You can’t see, the way you used to see?** Why? That is **EASY!** Look at verse 9 again! **He that LACKS these things is Blind and can not see AFAR OFF!** **YES!** We are supposed to see everything that ever happens in our lives, **BEFORE it happens!** God showed me what my marriage would be like, if I married the man that I married; He showed me that I would have (3) children, 2 boys and 1 girl, (**I actually saw them years before they were born**); I saw my precious 16 year old son’s death, how it happened and the events surrounding it (we talked about it); I saw my mother’s death; and so many other things **AFAR OFF!**

One day, the Lord spoke to me to go to the doctor. He said, “You have Pneumonia”. I was not even coughing or nothing. Of course, I obeyed God. My doctor asked me, “*Who told you that you have pneumonia, because I don’t hear a thing in your lungs?*”? I answered, “**God told me**”. She looked up to the ceiling, rolled her eyes and shook her head at my “**fanaticism**”. Then, she called for a tech to take me to X-Ray to take multiple pictures. When the doctor came back into the room, she was no longer *sarcastic*. She looked puzzled, and said, “Well, Mrs. Mc Cain, **you really do have pneumonia**. I just **could not hear it** because it was hidden **way down** here, in your lower lobe but... **there it is!**” (**Men of God, that ‘s called, SEEING AFAR OFF**).

Another time, I let my son, Bonkey, go off on a **Summer Camping Retreat**, with a dear friend’s Church, to the Mountains. It was his first time ever being **AWAY** from home and I was “*visibly shaken*”. I prayed night and day. **One evening**, as I sat in my recliner, God showed me my son falling off of the mountain. When he hit the bottom, I heard him say, “**Please don’t call and tell my mother**”. (**Only his legs were scarred up but he was worried about me**). **Terrified**, I jumped up off of the chair! My phone was ringing. It was my dear friend. I told her about what I had just seen. She tried to comfort me saying that I was just *worried* because this was his first time being away. *I refused to be comforted. I know when God shows me something.* She said, “**O.K. let me call right now and check and I will call you back**”. Five minutes later, the phone rang. It was my son, Bonkey! I yelled, “**Oh, thank God, Baby, you are alright! And, why did you tell those people not to call and tell me, when you fell down that mountain?**”? He said, “Oh, mother, I am so sorry that they called you and got you all worried. I asked them good not to tell you”. I said, “**Bonkey, nobody called me**”. He asked, “Then, how did you know, Mother”? **I told him that God showed it to me.** About 10 minutes *after he hung up*, my friend called me back. She said, “*Carmen, I really do believe that you are psychic.* Bonkey really did fall off of the mountain, but he is alright. He only scarred up his legs a little bit, just like you said God showed you. *And, guess what? They said that the first thing he said when he fell was, “Please don’t call and tell my Mother”!* I told her that she was *too late* because Bonkey had already called me and **confirmed everything!**

(**Men of God, that’s called, “SEEING AFAR OFF”**).

Listen, Brothers, my husband **could not even cheat on me**, without God showing it to me (when, where and with whom). **He finally said, “I just can not compete with your God”**. Men of God, I could go on and on 9

and on! All of my life, God has shown me things (AFAR OFF), **BEFORE** and as they were happening! This is just one of his PROMISES. (read verse 4). You are supposed to be seeing things **AFAR off**, but how can you, if you are BLIND? **Well, you are Blind if you are lacking in any of these things: Faith, Virtue, Knowledge, Patience, Temperance, Godliness, Brotherly Kindness and Charity.** You CAN NOT love your brother and you DO NOT even treat him kindly. How can you say you LOVE GOD (whom you have never seen) and do not even love your brother (*who you see everyday*)? Many say, “I just stay away from them”! “They lied on me”. “They stole from me”. SO WHAT? GET OVER IT! This is PETTY... When someone takes a small subject and blows it out of proportion; it’s **trivial, insignificant, narrow minded and of no consequence**; just **mean and spiteful** in character! Making something otherwise **not worth mentioning** into something **bigger** to suit your own agenda. YOU NEED TO DO LIKE PAUL, “**FLESH MUST DIE DAILY**”! Let it go, so you can “GROW”. **Take a look at yourself and maybe you will look at others differently.**

STOP HOLDING “GRUDGES”. FORGIVE ON PURPOSE !!! Do unto others as you would have them do unto you. God took 10 commandments and condensed them down to just two (2). **And, they BOTH hinged on LOVE!** There is NO getting around it. *Though you give your body to be burned, understand all mysteries, speak with the tongue of men and of angels, and etc., and DO NOT HAVE CHARITY... You are Hell Bound!* It profits you nothing. You will fall! But 2Peter 1:10 says if you have these (7) things and diligently focus on them, **YOU SHALL NEVER FALL!**

Won’t you take a lesson from us, (THE HOUSE OF PRAISE)? See, a wise man CAN profit from a “Fool’s” mistake (If he only will). **Come on! Humble yourself!** The Tennessee trip served to show what was still lacking, in many of our lives! Thank God for His Love, Mercy and Grace. We are “diligently” working to obtain and maintain these “**ELITE SEVEN**” (as Brother Gabe calls them), and DAILY add them to our measure of Faith. **PLEASE LOOK AT THESE (7) WORDS, LEARN THEM AND HIDE THEM IN YOUR HEART.** Then, **APPLICATE** them by **PRACTICING THEM DAILY**, as you die to your flesh!

IT IS “HOLINESS” OR HELL!

DEFINITIONS

VIRTUE - Conforming your life and conduct to God’s moral and ethical principles. Moral excellence.

KNOWLEDGE – all that can be known: all the information, facts, truths, and principles learned throughout time

PATIENCE - the bearing of provocation, annoyance, misfortune, or pain, without complaint, loss of temper, irritation, or the like; putting up with something; waiting it out; standing still.

TEMPERANCE – habitual moderation and self-restraint in the face of temptation or desire; abstinence

GODLINESS – Having great reverence for God; and conforming to His laws, character and wishes.

BROTHERLY KINDNESS – habitual kindheartedness on all occasions; love of others/of neighbors; friendly, generous, compassionate; warmly affectionate; thoughtful; benevolent; considerate; not unpleasant and not harsh.

CHARITY - benevolent goodwill toward or love of humanity; generosity and helpfulness especially toward the needy or suffering; generous actions or donations to aid the poor, ill, or helpless; God’s Agape Love for humanity, or a love of one’s fellow human beings; an act of goodwill or affection.

Just think of how DIVINELY “POWERFUL” the Church (*Body of Christ*) will be, when we diligently add these 7 things to our FAITH and we ALL start operating in these already ordained promises! Then, we will never FALL and we will then REALLY BE ABLE TO HAVE “FUN” in the “SON”! Amen?

We Love All Of You,

House of Praise Church/Hedges and Hi-Ways Prison Outreach

AND

**TO ALL OF OUR BROTHERS BORN IN THE MONTH OF “AUGUST” HAVE A WONDERFUL,
PROSPEROUS AND VICTORIOUS (20th, 30th, 40th, 50th, 60th, 70th and etc.)**

“ H A P P Y B I R T H D A Y “ !

