

"A---L---O---H---A"



AND LOOK WHO IS DRIVING THE "SHIP" !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

"ANOTHER BATTLE WON"



(MATTIE PATTIE)



by Sister TOMYIA aka



Praise the Lord Men of God! **AND, YES!! THE CAPTAIN ACTUALLY LET ME DRIVE THE SHIP!!!** Wow, another vacation!!! I had so much fun in Florida. With my *busy schedule*, I needed that. I could have stayed another week. **(OR TWO)**. The 85 degree SUN felt "so good" in my face and the house **(A MANSION)** was just **AWESOME!** My Father (God) keeps on amazing me! It doesn't matter how long I've been saved, I could never get bored with MY GOD. How could I get bored, when he keeps giving me opportunities "to laugh" like he gives me. For instance, in FLORIDA, I was too "BUSY" laughing at **Brother Bobby**. He was **CHOSEN** to **dance with the "HULA" Girls at THE DISNEY HAWAIIAN POLYNESIAN LUAU**. WOW! What a sight for sore eyes! *(you had to be there)*. They were trying to teach him the Hula Dance and show him how to "**Shake his Hips**" like they were doing! Poor thing! From the neck down, he was as "**STIFF AS A BOARD**"! **(LOL)**. And, y'all he was just "smiling" like he was **REALLY** doing something! Now, at "**Fun Stop**", **Brother Freddie** got on a "**KIDDIE ROLLER COASTER**" where 5 year olds were allowed to ride. He screamed SO bad, until I had to lean over and **TOUCH HIM!** **(YES! I was riding it with him! But, ONLY for his comfort)**. **LOL!** The **5-year olds did not even scream!** They were looking at him like, "What is wrong with HIM"? It was **SO-so-so-oooo FUNNY!!!! (LOL)**. Now, last but NOT least, **(THE REV. AL SHARPTON) a.k.a. Minister Willoughby!** Sister Meagan asked him, "Why you got to sound like **AL SHARPTON** every time you say "**BUMPER CARS**"? See, when he be **BRAGGING ABOUT "HOW" HE IS GOING TO "BEAT US FEMALES" IN THE BUMPER CARS**, we can't tell whether he be **PREACHING** or **TALKING!** He sounds just like **Rev. AL!** **(LOL)!** Of course, concerning the "Bumper Cars", he **lost AGAIN!** While "shooting pool", **HE lost AGAIN!** **AND GET THIS!** This "**SUPERCILIOUS EXPR T**" **LOST TO HIS OWN "swimming" STUDENT!** Ha- Ha ha-ha! He taught Sister Meagan how to swim, beautifully! Then, Pastor Carmen asked the teachers to race their **OWN** students! Minister Willoughby was "winning" against Sister Meagan, **for REAL!** But, he got **TOO COCKY!** **We were ALL watching!** **I was right there in the water!** **And, Brothers, I saw it ALL!!!** (That is why "Mattie Pattie" is reporting live, as an eye witness, from H.O.P. News!) **LOL!** Y'all, just when he was **so sure** that He was on a **home stretch**, and figured that he would just **COAST** on in **past Sister Meagan**, he turned over on his back and "back stroked". Yes, I said "Back Stroked". He literally stopped swimming! **He did NOT see her "WHIZZ" past him, nor did he EVEN REALIZE that she had ALREADY WON!!!** When he got to the finish line and **saw her already there**, "**Y'ALL SHOULD HAVE SEEN HIS FACE**"! He could not believe that he **LOST!** **Pastor Carmen could NOT believe** that Sister Meagan really beat him, even after **SEEING IT FOR HERSELF!** So, she **ASKED HIM, "MINISTER WILLOUGHBY, DID YOU REALLY TRY? OR DID YOU JUST LET HER WIN"?** Sadly but truthfully, he answered, "**No, Ma'aam, I did not let her WIN. I really tried.**" But, hey y'all, he just got overconfident! Let's take a moment of **SILENCE** for him! Maybe he will **WIN** on the **NEXT TRIP**, O.K.????!! "**D-O-U-B-T I-T**" !!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Ha-Ha-Ha!!! O.K., I am having **TOO MUCH FUN** at my Brothers' expense, right? So, let me give them some credits!!!! God used all of these men "**So Awesome**"! All of them! Minister Willoughby, We can never be the Same again after that "**FOOT WASHING SERVICE**" around the pool! Thank you for "**OBEYING GOD**"! **Brother Freddie**, All of those "**ANOINTED**" **PRAYERS** that caused us all to get our "**Break Through**", thank you for your **humility** and **sincere brokenness!** Don't lose your "**Child like FAITH LOVE and COMPASSION**". O.K., remember in the *newsletter* about the Tennessee trip, I told you guys about "**ME**" overcoming fear? **Well, THIS TIME another great victory happened.** I was so afraid of the water, that I used to walk around with a life jacket on "**dry land**". This is really "**TRUE**"! Ask Pastor Carmen! She even laughed at me! But, my fear was real. **I didn't even like water to splash in my face!** See, when I was a little girl **I almost drowned** in a swimming pool, which put a "**fear of water**" in me so deep that I never thought I could overcome it. I use to get teased about it, all the time. Can you imagine that? Me! The same person that **will run towards the devil and put him in a choke hold (in the Spirit)** but would almost "cry" when I just thought about my head going down in water? I was determined to conquer all fear, both naturally and spiritually. Fear comes from the devil!! and Love conquers **ALL FEAR!! I Can Swim like a Fish,**

NOW, Y'all !!!!! Now devil! In your face! Whoa-a-a-a!! ANOTHER BATTLE WON!! Now, I am going to tell you **"how"** it happened! But first, let me just say, **"I thank God for Brother Bobby"**. Pastor asked who were **"EXPERTS"** at swimming? Now, wouldn't you just know that the **first hand up** was Rev. Al's, (ooops), I meant Minister Willoughby's? (smile). And, he was so **"superciliously"** professional about it, too! (Brothers, this is homework, look that word up!) But, I must say that, even though he acted in a **supercilious manner, THE BROTHER HAD SKILLS AND IT SHOWED THAT HE KNEW WHAT HE WAS DOING!** Then, slowly, but quite matter -of -factly, (in a **MORE modest way**), Brother Bobby raised his hand! **MR. Holy Ghost** in Pastor Carmen is very wise. He knew which one of these **"EXPERTS"** I needed, because He already was aware of my fear! So, HE had Pastor to assign Sister Meagan to Minister Willoughby and me to Brother Bobby. We were the only two, at the time, that was dressed and ready to learn. **Well, you could tell that Brother Bobby did not want me as a student.** I was acting **too fidgety** (scared), for him. At first, his attitude was very **brash, hasty and impatient** with me. To be honest, I felt like CRYING in that water and I wanted to SLAP HIM! **Plus, I did not TRUST HIM, either.** See, as diminutive as brother Bobby is, I didn't think he had what it took to teach me, in Him (LOL). All I could think of, in case I started to drown, was that I needed someone **THREE (3) TIMES HIS SIZE, WEIGHT AND HEIGHT!!** That was my idea of **"HELP"** for me! So, this lesson seemed to be off to a **"Rocky-Start"** but after learning what had happened to me, as a little girl, I saw his **"entire"** attitude change **for the better.** He allowed Father to use him to teach me **"how to swim"**. I had to let my guard down and humble myself, though, in order for God to use him for me. **Praise God! Brother Bobby didn't give up on me! He was right there as a protector.** It was then that I really was able to **"Thank God"** that **the Army had taught him not to EVER leave a wounded man in battle.(LOL)** Suddenly, he became **gentle and caring.** He didn't LET NO BODY RUSH ME! (Even when there was pressure from others for me to hurry up). He worked on my confidence with every little step and he taught me how to breathe and just **"get used to the water"**, first. I could not have asked for a better instructor! Let me say this, if you don't trust Jesus he can't help you! I had to look pass all **"OLD HURTS and BATTLE WOUNDS"**. I could NOT put my FAITH in **Brother Bobby** but I had to TRUST the Jesus in Him. I remember a practical lesson that Pastor taught us once. We, each, had to stand behind each other, while the one in front of us had to just **literally "FALL BACKWARDS"**! All we could do was HOPE that the person behind us would catch us! The bible tells us NOT to put our confidence in man, but Brotherly Love requires that we trust the Jesus inside of each other. (where there is UNITY, there is STRENGTH!). **IT'S WHO YOU THINK NOT!** Just watch who you are always at odds with! **That's the very person that God will use, to help you FIGHT AND CONQUER THE DEVIL, on this Christian battle ground.** They are the one's who will be there to catch you when you **"FALL"**! It's not easy but in order for us to make it to Heaven (with each other), and to live together in Heaven, (after we get there), we must FIRST make it down here on earth (with each other). **"Let Brotherly Love continue."** Men, I challenge you to trust God first and believe in the **Jesus in each other!** STOP trying to find all of the FAULTS IN EACH OTHER THAT YOU CAN! Yes, as Pastor Carmen says, it may seem like GOD IS **"NIT- PICKING"**! But, He is doing it to SAVE US FROM SELF- DESTRUCTION! ALLOW YOUR **"BROTHER"** TO HELP YOU CONQUER ALL FEARS! God loves you and so do I. **I CAN'T WAIT FOR THE NEXT TRIP.** Until then, I intend to **KEEP ON "Swimming like a fish"** in the Natural and in the Spirit, in the name of Jesus! **LUV YALL!**

"LIVING THE ABUNDANT LIFE"



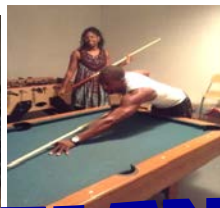
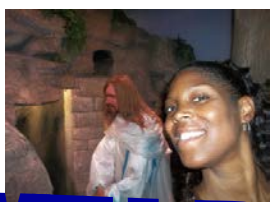
BEYOND PRISON!"



By Minister Cedric Willoughby Shalom! My dear brothers and fellow readers of this months news letter. Indeed, I am your brother, Cedric Willoughby. I have been blessed for four (4) years now to have been translated, from prison to society, by the delivering hand of God. It is an **exciting moment** for me to bring you **"Good News"**! It is a **Must** that I continue sharing with you, some of the astonishing, amazing, and bizarre moments that I encounter, as a free man of God, in society. As I share with you, I pray that it will continue to keep you looking ahead to the bright future that God has for you, too, **OUTSIDE OF PRISON WALLS.** You are obligated to realize that our Father is going to pour into your life

Extraordinary Moments, also. Like me, as you experience these moments, you will not even bother to think about the years of being incarcerated. My fellow readers, what I'm about to share with you is purposed to fill your hearts with **Joy And To Boost Your Faith In Truth.** That truth is, "Jesus has given you life and life more abundantly". **John 10:10.** This is my testimony is about "living the abundant life beyond prison"!! As you can see in this Newsletter, the ministry of House of Praise traveled to Orlando Florida. However, we stayed in Kissimmee, Florida, to be exact! I must say that this trip has transformed my life for the better. This trip was truly ordained by God, for me. We stayed in a most exquisite vacation home! My best guess is that it's value must be at least \$700,000.00 or more. The environment alone gave me such serenity and an air of royalty! It made me feel like a "TRUE KING". This type of exposure elevated my thinking and truly gave me a feel for what I SHALL possess in my near future! You see, my fellow readers, what you need to know is that **you need a ministry** that just does not only preach to you about the word but, that can also, help you to **experience the word.** Hearing the word and **NOT** experiencing what you are hearing is detrimental to your spiritual growth and your **"spiritual longevity"**! It is a sign of what I know to be as **"a form of oppression"** called "spiritual lack"! That, my Brothers is an oppression that one suffers. (NOT to have life and NOT to have it more abundantly). That's another whole topic!! **Luke 18:22; Psalms 34:10; 2Peter 1:9.** I can say "humbly" and to the "Glory of the Father", that through the leadership of Pastor Carmen McCain, this is a strong vein in the House of Praise Church. It is all about having "life experiences" with the WORD of GOD. I'm so grateful to be experiencing "the truth" of the living Word in my life under this leadership. My fellow readers this trip gave me personal experiences of the abundant life, not only in the quantity of things but of Holy Quality. Holy experiences to change me! And, to **refill** me with what **prison took out of me.** I know God ordained this trip for me! Even though I had tremendous fun; eating the finest of foods; enjoying different types of cultural entertainment; sailing on a SHIP (upon the glamorous waters of the St. Johns River), on such a beautiful sunny Florida day-- just breath taking, but STILL my soul was in **more** need of SPIRITUAL RENEWAL! Yes, I enjoyed Florida so much, but even more desirable than "timely fun"--I needed God to visit me like never before! And, He did! I tell you when God ordains something for you Brother's, you can rest assured that it will be so fulfilling, that it will literally **CHANGE YOU FOR THE BETTER!** What he ordains, it **includes him in it and him being in what he ordains,** becomes a Life Changing GLORRRYY!! My brothers although I have been saved for many years, I have finally come to realize, that God often takes you through periods of personal change. These changes effects the quality of your spirit, the perspective of your life, your attitude, your form, your character, and your functions, for YOUR life's purpose and **ultimately for His glory!** If you don't believe me, ask Jacob who wrestled with the Angel. And, may I add whom God LOVED!? God gave him an appointed "life changing moment" – **Genesis 32:28 - thy name shall be called no more Jacob but Israel: for as a prince hast thou power with God and with men, and hast prevailed!** Bottom line! What I'm trying to convey to you is, that GOD sent me to Florida to **CHANGE MY QUALITY IN HIM,** to be more like Him! It was a **DO or DIE** state that I was in. I had to go for broke brothers! Meaning I had to press in to God like never before! When others were asleep, spending quality time in an outside Jacuzzi, under the satin "black sky", filled with stars, in the late night watch UNTIL early morning hours 1-2 almost 3 0'clock in the morning! Getting close to him! Letting him deal with me! Allowing him to change me! My brothers, I just couldn't stay from around the waters of the "swimming pool". The Jacuzzi became my Holy Ground with the Lord! It was so "sacred" to be "free" to worship the Father in private! Yet, in a new place where I had never dreamed that I would be! Men of God, let this infuse inside of your heart, that God has SO MANY GOOD THINGS in mind for you! So, much more than you have ever had the slightest thought, dream or clue about! Let me say that, "The main feature of the trip for me was the **in-house daily bible discussions we had**". Pastor Carmen, by her Holy Ghost led leadership, assigned every man and woman, "A Day" to bring a Word from the Lord (to the discussion). On the first night, which was **Friday, Sister Tammy - shared Psalms 93** where our perspectives was totally centered on "How TO SEE GOD FOR WHO HE IS". What a strong testimony on the **superiority of GOD!** **Saturday,** I shared from the heart of the Lord about His cleansing Grace. (**John 13 and Luke 7:36-50**). He that has been forgiven little, loveth little but he who has been forgiven much, loveth much! The Lord orchestrated a "unified moment" for us to observe the "Lord's Supper" and to **"WASH EACH OTHERS FEET,"** using the swimming pool as Jesus's wash basin! How Powerful! A time of cleansing and renewal of the Father's Love that forgives us enormously! Glory to God! On the following **days others shared, Brother Bobby** shared about the differences between "real love and phony love"! Oh yea!! The Holy Ghost through **Pastor Carmen** backed it up, (out of **Ezra 10:11**) about taking strange wives! Brothers you should have heard the Holy Ghost on that day! Talking about God getting in your business! There was **"major repentance"** that day! God really worked **ON ME** that day, too. **Sister Christie** shared from Colossians 3. "Being risen in Christ". Setting your mind - (affections) on things above and not on things below! **Sister Meagan** shared from **1Peter 5:8-9.** (the need to be sober and vigilant at all times) because the devil, goes about as a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour! Such a timely word. **Minister Gardener** talked about being blind and the need for Jesus' help from **Mark 10:46 -52.** And of course, the Holy Ghost, through **Pastor** took it further about the disciples, James and John, whose **mother was trying to manipulate Jesus!** **It was a Holy Ghost "uppercut" that stunned me.** What a "hit" **to break and humble any one,** to the point of exposing ourselves as to how we try to manipulate God all the time! Ouch!!!! **Brothers there was so much word that it can carry you for a**

life time! One that *really touched my heart* was the Word that **Sister Shea brought!** That really was a word that made us examine our “love walk” for one another! It was so deeply **“surgical to the heart of us”** that with out question there was no one in the room that did not know where they truly stood in their heart, with each person in the ministry – **2 Timothy 4:10-11** (the John Mark incident). **Oh, WOW!!!!** Another life changing moment where the Lord again, **causes Pastor Carmen to take it further!** Listen, you can not sit up under this WOMAN’S ministry if you are NOT really ready to surrender to God! She gives it to you “RAW”. Mr. Holy Spirit explained through her, that we “needed to understand” how important it is, to have certain people in our lives! It doesn’t matter how hard it may seem to us, to admit that we need them! Especially when we feel in our stupid judgment, that he or she is not our “brand of person”. The truth is, God puts them there **to be profitable to us!!!!** My fellow readers there were so many more words (through others) that were so helpful to me! Time just will not permit me to share them all. Hopefully, we will get a “part two” out of this because there is so much MORE that I can tell you about this life changing trip! I tell you Brothers, in order to change into “who and what” God wants you to be, you have to be a **LOVER OF SOUND DOCTRINE THAT MINISTERS HARD SAYINGS OF TRUTH!** This truth sometimes may seem “almost unbearable”! “To bear” sounds like a familiar, true replica of Jesus’ form of ministry **John 6:60**– Hard sayings are those that put “**positive pressure**” on your soul. But, if you can TAKE IT, You can MAKE IT! They will either draw you or drive you! Hard sayings will **pull you to GOD** or **push you away!** If entreated with humility, they will become the engrafted Word to save your soul. If rejected, they will become the “**severe judgment**” that exposes you! I thank God for teaching me how to endure sound doctrine with “hard sayings” that saved (delivered, help, rescued) my soul from so much bondage of hidden iniquities! This was an intense time of the word that made me better and not bitter! I was totally convinced of that, on that last Friday, before we came home. **Pastor Carmen planned a visit to a “wind tunnel arena”** for me and *Brother Bobby* that gives you the experience of **sky diving**. Not knowing that this was going to be the most **miraculous moment that I ever had in my life**. I actually “flew” without wings! WOW! When flying in the wind tunnel, as I went up in the **altitude**, the most profound prophetic moment occurred for me, in my relationship with the LORD, at the very **peak of it! I can’t** share it at the moment but the timing of the “elevation” impacted my life and gave me a deliverance that I can’t explain! To **soar high and to fly** is truly a **spiritual phenomena** that induced me with a **spiritual encounter** that has prepared me for this new level of my life! **I thank God for leading Pastor Carmen** to plan this adventure for me, so that I could find my self in **mid air**, being changed into a man! A man that **will soon** make an impact **on this generation for God’s Glory!** I was Changing for God’s glory in mid-air! I knew when I returned back to Birmingham that **Cedric Willoughby** would be a changed man because HE has been with CHRIST, in the most amazing and intimate ways! These experiences would forever make an indelible impact on the timeline of my life! You too, my beloved **brothers will soon embark upon more life changing moments, as you continue to follow Christ in this life!** Be “expecting” because truly the **BEST IS YET TO COME!!!! SHALOM!!**



“A WELL BALANCED GOD!” By **SISTER MEAGAN**

WHOA! BROTHERS! WHAT DO YOU THINK OF WHEN YOU HEAR THE SOVEREIGN TITLE of “GOD”? Most of us only think of SPIRITUAL things! But, he is concerned with US holistically! He just did it again for us. Read on as I share with you “9” balanced days of His Love in ACTION. **How do I sum up nine (9) days of MR. HOLY GHOST and FUN-FILLED ACTION???? “BLISS-FILLED FUN”!!** I truly had a blast!! Thank God for videos and digital cameras! Because, every since we returned to Birmingham, I have revisited Florida almost **EVERDAY!!** From day one, everything was completely enjoyable. Throughout the Bible study discussions and the daily activities, I saw **GOD!!** You know, it is possible to see God in everything you do?! He is extremely serious and extremely fun. **HE IS JUST A WELL BALANCED GOD!!** Just as much as we prayed, praised, repented and got into the Word together, as a group, we had **EQUALLY AS MUCH FUN CORPORATELY AND INDIVIDUALLY** enjoying the “planned” activities. I learned how to **SWIM! AGAIN!!** Hallelujah!! I was reminded that *years ago*, Bro. G.J., (Pastor Carmen’s son), taught me how to swim. But, how many know that when you don’t **USE IT**, you will **LOSE IT! I LOST IT!** Thank God for Minister Willoughby exhibiting patience and willingness as he taught me how to swim! Only to lose to his student (me), as we raced from one end of the swimming pool to the other. He thought it wise, to take it “easy” on me since I was “NEW”. So he decided to backstroke, while I did the standard swim. He underestimated the **HOLY GHOST TURBO BOOSTER POWEEEEERRRRRR!!!!**



#SLONOMO!!! IT WAS ALL FUN!! At the amusement park, (“FUN STOP”), we rode the roller coasters, to the point I was seeing roller coasters when I closed my eyes To Pray!! **YES! In**

some instances, the laughter was uncontrollable, such as: Bro. Bobby's Luau Dance with the Hula Girl ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ Minister Willoughby who carried a two month seething vengeance from his loss TO US FEMALES in Tennessee, determined to avenge himself. Unfortunately, HE did not recover a single win. ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ (not even in bumper cars) HA-HA-HA! (Hey, Brother Sherman B. he must be waiting on you to come out and HELP the men to WIN!!!!) Listening to Brother Freddie tell about his experience in the Atlanta airport. (how he wanted to by-pass security (INCREDIBLE HULK-style) and get on the plane anyway! Now Men, with ALL OF THAT AIRPORT SECURITY standing there, that would have been a "SIGHT TO SEE". Hey, Men of God, this is a totally different newsletter, huh?! ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ . Just to name a few (SMILE). Seriously though, I can name a list of things that stuck with me on this trip that REALLY made us laugh. But, instead, let me tell you of this particular experience that will be with me for life.....**Pastor Carmen** prayerfully planned and printed out itineraries, which we had to follow and keep up with everyday. On the itinerary, there was a **special night** scheduled that we were to meet with Bishop Mark Chironna, (**Pastor's earthly covering**). This night had been arranged long before we left Birmingham. Bishop Chironna had planned to lay hands on us and speak into our lives. Pastor Carmen tries to make this an annual occurrence. We were ALL looking forward to this, SO MUCH! Well, God sent his Word right on time and answered us through another Bishop who was preaching the **WORD** that night, (Bishop Joseph Garlington), who is the spiritual father of Bishop Chironna. It is so important to **HEAR GOD FOR YOURSELF!!!** Almost at the end of the message, God said through him, "**Turn to Isaiah 65:16.**" Isaiah 65:16 says, *That he who blesseth himself in the earth, shall bless himself in the God of truth: and he that sweareth in the earth shall swear by the God of truth; because the former troubles are forgotten, and because they are hid from mine eyes.* Then after reading this, we were instructed **BY GOD through him to lay hands on ourselves and Bless ourselves and speak into our own lives!! (we've been doing this every since).** After this happened, Pastor Carmen kept saying that she did not feel for us to go up to have hands laid on us. The **WORD of GOD** tells us that...*death and life are in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof. Proverbs 18:21.* It was so clear that God was speaking to us! **HE IS S-O-O-O-O GOOD.** Who knows what would have happened if we had disobeyed the LORD?! Thank God for Pastor Carmen being sensitive to the Holy Ghost!! And, US? We would have been following along like little baby CHICKENS, in error. **John 16:13** says, "*Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come*". At our vacation home, during our discussions, Pastor Carmen gave us **practical lessons.** One, in particular, that I have been practicing EVERY SINCE, is **Paying Attention And Being More Observant Than Usual.** God has blessed each one of us with an extraordinary and unique apparatus...**THE BRAIN.** Our brains are mostly used for two things, **REMEMBERING** and **IMAGINING.** We were challenged to take **Mental Photos** of our surroundings, especially when we are in a new and unfamiliar setting. This will aid us in remembering and being more aware. **Try this, Close your eyes and DON'T LOOK NOW!** Now, **how many people are in the room with you right now? Who was the last person you spoke to? What did they look like? What time was it when you last checked? Hmmm.** Personally, I have found that taking mental photos of your "present surroundings" help you to be present to the moment. In life, we face some pretty hard, devastating, and life altering situations, that can drain the life out of you, and the fight out of you, if you allow it. You can experience some of the best times in your life and be so unaware because you are "**NOT THERE MENTALLY**". I know this has happened to me a lot. You will find yourself drifting and going through the motions because you have blocked out so much of the **Bad Stuff** that, you blocked out the **Good Stuff Too!!** It JUST hurts so bad to **feel and think** again. **BUT JESUS** came that we may have **LIFE AND HAVE IT MORE ABUNDANTLY-JOHN 10:10.** As I stated earlier, I look at the photos and videos of Florida, but because **I took mental photos,** I FIND IT TO BE VERY EASY TO **RECAPTURE** the atmosphere and the feelings that we experienced with them. That makes it more meaningful to me. It may sound elementary to you, but it works. On the flip side, we also need to take mental photos of the bad situations that we have been in, to **RECAPTURE** that atmosphere (temporarily) so that we will not **REPEAT** our errors and return to that vomit. **AMEN?!** **Proverbs 26:11 -As a dog returneth to his vomit, so a fool returneth to his folly.** So Brothers and Sisters, whether you are remembering and recapturing a good situation or bad one, the end result is **HOPE.** Because you will begin to think on the **FAITHFULNESS** of **GOD** and thank Him for things being as well as they are, because they could be so much worse. **AMEN?!** So, let us say along with God's prophet, Jeremiah, in **Lamentations 3:20-26:** ²⁰ My soul hath them still in **remembrance,** and is humbled in me. ²¹ **This I recall to my mind, therefore have I hope.** ²² *It is of the LORD'S mercies that we are not consumed,(WORSE)* because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness. ²⁴ **The LORD is my portion, saith my soul; therefore will I hope in him.** *It is good that a man should both **hope and quietly wait** for the salvation of the LORD.*

MEN, KEEP YOUR HOPE ALIVE!!!!

"NEVER TOO OLD



TO LEARN'

by **MINISTER LOIS GARDNER**

WOW!! Was I excited to go to Florida again! We stood in the line at the airport for a good while. My! How things have changed. Just since our last trip, the standing in line has increased. Then, there were children making noise. **Well, we finally got on the plane.** From then on, it was smooth sailing. After landing, we got our luggage picked up our

rented van and headed to our vacation home in Kissimmee, FL. What a beautiful sight to see! After unloading, some of us went grocery shopping. You talking about "some good home cooked food"! **IT WAS THE BOMB!** (Thank God for Sister Barbara, Sister Sharon, Pastor Carmen and MOI - 'me'). There were places to go everyday. The church services were **GOOD!!** Then there was the heated pool and Jacuzzi at our place. Well, guess what?! I didn't know how to swim. Pastor Carmen asked if I knew how to swim. I said, **"Yes, like a rock, straight to the BOTTOM."** She rebuked that statement and agreed with me that I would learn to "swim". At that moment, I declared that I would know how to swim before I got back to Birmingham. **BESIDES, WE ARE NEVER TOO OLD, TO LEARN!"** Minister Willoughby was my swim instructor. He had so much patience with me. **It takes a good instructor to assist someone, like myself, who was just plain fearful of swimming.** But God used him to give me confidence that I would be okay. I began to depend on Him to help me make it. **Praise God it all went well!!!** I almost made it! Now, I have confidence to know that I can make it! I didn't complete my course, because we were on-the-go so much. God used Pastor Carmen to give all of us "House Duties" AND Prayer Assignments (**at least 15 minute Bible discussions daily**). On Saturday morning, we had our bags packed and at the door, so we wouldn't miss our **8:45 a.m. flight**. **TO GOD BE THE GLORY AND HONOR FOR WHAT HE DID FOR US!!! PRAISE THE LORD JESUS BROTHERS!!!**

"KEEP HELPING ME LORD!"

IT DOES NOT FEEL GOOD TO GET ARRESTED!!!!



By Sister Sharon

Praise HIM **Brothers!** As you know, **AL CAPONE is a GANGSTER!** So, **STAY AWAY FROM HIS "DINNER SHOW" UNLESS YOU WANT TO GET ARRESTED!!!** (smile). **Now, regarding our trip to Orlando, Florida, AWESOME! AMAZING! AH-H-H SO-O-O GOOD! Refreshing!** God did **SO-O-O-O MUCH** in "NINE" (9) days! There were a series of **TESTS** that we had, both naturally and spiritually, to assess our degree of awareness and readiness. On several occasions, we were given **written tests, oral tests** and even a **SCAVENGER HUNT**, by *Pastor Carmen*, to see how well we were paying attention to our surroundings. I did **NOT** do as well as I should have on those tests. **Overall, I believe that God was observing, once again, how we interacted as a team, in brotherly love.** Brother Bobby and Minister Willoughby taught Sister Tammy, Sister Meagan, Sister Tomyia, Minister Gardner and Brother Freddie how to swim. **ALL IN ONE DAY! It was amazing to watch.** All who learned to swim, were excited over what God did for them, through these men of God. Also, there were tests for us personally, to see how well we would follow instructions. God confirmed over and over that **"to obey is better than sacrifice". (I Samuel 15:22).** **There were at least a couple of occasions, which I recall, when I drove the van with some of the saints who wanted to go shopping. And, because we did not make it back to the house on time, it caused all of us to be late getting to our planned destination. You know, one person being out of order can mess things up for all involved, can't they? If it was not for the Grace of God, this could have been a "very" costly mistake.** On the other hand, I also observed how that, **whenever we all walked in obedience to God's instructions through Pastor Carmen**, God moved amazingly for us! (Where there is **UNITY** there is strength). God has been doing exceeding and abundantly above all that we could ask, hope and think, according to His power that works in us! And He has been getting us, from place to place, where ever we had to be, in record time (**Ephesians 3:20!**). Last, but definitely not least, we were responsible for sharing the Word of God for at least 15 minutes. God gave me **Luke 18:17-30**, regarding the rich man who asked Jesus what he could do to inherit eternal life (**v. 18**). Jesus told him that he knew the scriptures already; but, there was one thing that he lacked (**v.20, 22**). **This statement pricked my heart and caused me to search myself and to ask, "Lord what thing(s) do I lack? Where am I falling short by YOUR standards? What do I need to do in order to come UP to the place where YOU have ordained for me to be?"** I had to admit that I was not completely where God wants me to be in Christ Jesus. I say, **"KEEP HELPING ME LORD!"** One thing for sure, I will continue to **"press towards the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus (Philippians 3:14)**. I can't give up y'all. The thought of God saying to me, **"Depart from Me,"** because I have not done what He said to do, **IS NOT AN OPTION FOR ME! (Matthew 7:23)!!!**

"REJECTION"

by SISTER SHON



IS A

BEAST!!!!

Well, my brothers, I really despise “buddy passes”, now! O-O-o-o-o-o-o W-E-e-e-e-e!

As you may remember, in last month’s Newsletter, Sister Corliss explained to you what a **Buddy Pass** was. That is where you use a pass from one of your friends to fly. However, **you do not have to pay the full “fare”**. Well, I was **not** with **Brother Freddie and Sister Corliss**, but, I still went all around the world just to go “To Florida”. I went “From Birmingham to Detroit” THEN “From Detroit to Florida”! BUT, Get this! On my way BACK from Florida, **I spent about 14 hours in the Orlando Airport**. I was waiting on a seat to become available on the plane to take me to the **Atlanta Airport**. See, this time, I had to go from Florida to Atlanta, then from Atlanta, just to get HOME! Now, Pastor had already told me to call and “reschedule” my flight, so that I could leave at the same time that Sister Shea’s flight left. She said that she felt that I was supposed to be on the CRUISE SHIP with them, that day! Oh, but “NO”! I decided that I just had to leave on my already scheduled flight! I stated, “I am just ready to get back to my boys”. Pastor did not argue with me, (she never debates with anyone). She simply says what God is giving her and leaves it alone. After she saw that I was adamant about going anyway, she told me to take some “extra sandwiches and chips” with me. “Oh, I won’t need them”, I said. “I am only going to be at the Airport just a little while, before my flight takes off”. Pastor just looked at me. Then, she insisted that I, at least, take some juice with me. Again, I did not feel like I needed anything. But, she gave me “some extra money”, anyway, prayed with me, hugged me and away I went, around 3am. She said that she felt like I would need to buy something to eat that day. Also, she felt that I would STILL be at the Atlanta airport when Sister Shea was ready to leave, that night. And, guess what? I was! Sister Shea had gone on the Cruise and led her Bible Discussions and still had time to spare! Well, when Sister Shea got to the Atlanta Airport, there I was, STILL THERE! (just like God gave Pastor that I would be). I had spent 14 hours in the Orlando Airport, just waiting for a seat, on a flight. Sister Shea only had to WAIT the normal time for her flight. But, even after I arrived in Atlanta, I still had to wait for over an hour, just to get on the plane to Birmingham. However, we both boarded the plane BACK TO BIRMINGHAM, together! Wow! That was something serious, I must say. Men, **“Rejection is a beast”!** I had to pray for my mind, the whole time and **speak the Word of God (going and coming)!** I remember sitting in the Florida Airport looking on the screen that displayed “flight schedules”. That screen had something called a **“clear list”**. Well, there were **only two names** up there! **Mine and another girl’s**. Both our names were similar! And, when they called our flight, we were both so excited! We grabbed our luggage and ran down the airport’s hallway to the gate. We just knew that we were about to board the plane. An airport ticket Agent stopped us and asked, “Now, which one of you is Williams”? The other girl screamed, “Me”! The agent then looked at me and said, “Sorry, Mc Williams! We got **only ONE SEAT** available. Wow! I was beyond frustrated! I was M-A-D! I had to really STOP, sit down, talk to God, REPENT and be real about some things! I really prayed and when the next flight came, THERE WAS A SEAT AVAILABLE FOR ME! Men of God, **Rejection hurts!** But, obedience is better than sacrifice! How many of you have gone up for “parole, just knowing that you were out of there? Going home? And instead, have been “set off”? It hurts doesn’t it? Maybe you just need to do like me. **STOP! Talk to God! Repent! BE REAL ABOUT SOME STUFF! Who knows? Maybe afterwards, you will have an AVAILABLE SEAT on the next TRIP out of the FRONT GATE!** Now, this was about my journey to and from Florida! But, once there, Men of God, my time in Florida was pleasant! God blessed us with some “POWERFULLY AWESOME” Word of God, through BISHOP TUDOR BISMARCK! God confirmed everything He had ALREADY given Pastor to share and teach us! We went all those thousands of miles, JUST TO STILL HEAR THE SAME WORD that God feeds us in BIRMINGHAM. WONDER WHY? I am praying that we will begin to “HEAR GOD” the first time He speaks and that we will HEAR WHOEVER HE SPEAKS THROUGH! I enjoyed the Holy Land and the Sleuth Mystery Dinner Theatre Show! While there in Florida, I led my Bible Discussion Session and God really moved beautifully. **Overall, I truly enjoyed myself. Truthfully, just to be away for three (3) days was really awesome! AMEN!**



EVERY THING SHOULD BE

A “LEARNING EXPERIENCE”!

by Sister Barbara

Bless The Lord, my Brothers! Poverbs18-24- tells us that “A man that hath friends must show himself friendly”. O.K., Florida was “FUN”! However, other than the WORD OF GOD, the “SHIP”

was my highlight! You see, on the ship, we were told to get with everyone in our group and talk to each other, for at least fifteen minutes. This was the time to learn something that we did not know about the other. For the ones who obeyed, this was a true blessing! To learn things we did not know about each The ride on the **Ship, The (Barbara Lee)**, down the **ST. Johns River** was great! The food was great! Our waitresses were great! The music (entertainment) was great! However, there was one thing off! The “social atmosphere” of the other passengers! When we first started the trip. The other passengers seemed to be “cold and stoic”. **But, God gave Pastor to tell us to go from passenger to passenger, and “SMILINGLY” introduce ourselves and witness about Jesus!** You should have seen the **CHANGE!** *You could see and feel it! The people were SO warm, inviting, cordial and friendly. As a matter of fact, it seemed **EASIER** to go up and talk to a complete stranger, than it was, to talk to people that you see everyday! The Holy Ghost changed the whole atmosphere before we left the ship. Matthew 24-14 tells us that “**this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations and peoples ;and then shall the end come**”. Saints, we must **GET AMONG** the people to witness, pray, and encourage God’s people (sinners and saints) even in **PRISON!** **Jesus is soon to come back.** Another thing I learned is ,when you are with a group, you need to stay with your group! It is also “vitality” important to be on time and not cause anyone else to **miss something**, just because you could not be on time! *I think we all learned that Pastor Carmen will really leave you! Everywhere we go and everything we do, EVERY DAY, should be a learning experience! AMEN?**

THEY ARE NOT YOUR ENEMIES!



By Sister Shea

THEY ARE “PROFITABLE” FOR YOU!

Well men and women of God, **PRAISE OUR SAVIOUR!!!** I was only in Florida for two days (Wednesday and Thursday). **HONESTLY, MY TRIP STARTED OFF ROCKY.** From the moment my feet touched the ground in Florida, the enemy sent obstructions my way (my body was afflicted). As soon as I arrived at the vacation home, where the saints were staying, I told Pastor Carmen that I was not feeling well. She had just gone into her room to be before the Lord. **Guess what her advice was to me?** She looks at me, smiles and tells me to change into my **swimsuit** and go swimming. **What!?** I thought, “**But, I am not feeling well!**” **What do I look like going to get into the pool?** But, **I OBEYED.** And, you know what? **I ACTUALLY ENJOYED SWIMMING!** Yeah! I am sure some of you are saying, “What? Sister Shea can swim”? **Yes, I most certainly can!** I actually surprised quite a few people, especially (**Minister Willoughby**) who didn’t think I could swim. I told him, Brother please, I am from the Gulf Coast. **We come out swimming!** (LOL). Anyway as the evening progressed, again, I didn’t feel any better. But I continued to press my way. God allowed us to attend services at Bishop Mark Chirona’s church. (He is Pastor Carmen’s Pastor and covering). It was a blessed and enlightening service. We made it back to our house. I thought I was going to have a chance to study the **WORD** of God. See, prior to arriving in Florida, we had each been given assignments. Each day, one of us had to bring the Word. We set our **OWN** time, so that everyone would know when to meet in the meeting room. **NO EXCUSES!** Well the enemy attacked my body so badly, that all I could do was **sleep.** So, when we arose the next morning to go on a “Cruise Ship, I muttered, “**Lord, today is my day to bring the word and I am unprepared**”. Now, I was not really **unprepared.** **I just did not know that God had already prepared me!** I had been reading the Word on the plane, and God had already given me a scripture...but **I** did not see how it **fit** with anything. See, I was looking at it in the flesh. That was, **until we were given an assignment on the SHIP.** We were to spend “at least 15 minutes” with each of our sisters and brothers of House of Praise. We were to spend that time walking around the decks of the ship with each other, talking, confessing, asking questions, learning about their dreams and aspirations, getting to know each other in a special way, and finding out things that we never knew about one another before. Well, first, **I will admit I was in disobedience,** because I let my flesh decide that **I WOULD NOT WALK AROUND THE SHIP.** I would let people come to me. I tried to **rationalize** it by saying to myself, “**The walking around would make me feel even worse**”. **I just did not want to do it! So, I did not!** Well, after a while, I decided to get up and obey (delayed obedience is still disobedience). So, I walked from the dining hall, up to the top deck. I found me a comfortable spot up on the “Deck” and a lounge chair. There I sat, waiting till different ones came to me. There was one sister that I tried to talk to at least twice, but for whatever reason, the enemy kept obstructing what God was trying to do between the two of us. See, for quite some time now, the enemy has tried to use me and this sister against each other. I knew in my spirit that I was supposed to talk with her. But it did not happen. Men, we missed it! **She avoided me and I avoided her.** I believe that God would have done something awesome for the both of us, if we had **ONLY** obeyed. But, first, he was waiting for us to obey, which would have removed the obstruction and made the path clear for God to move, in and for both of us. Well, you can’t force someone to talk to you! So, I went on. God pointed out to me that my love walk still needed perfecting. **My lack of a perfected love walk,** was the access that satan used to impede upon what God

was trying to do for both of us. Then, God brought back to me the scripture I had been reading on the plane! **NOW I SAW THE CONNECTION!** The scripture was **2 Timothy 4:11- "Only Luke is with me. Take Mark, and bring him with thee: for he is profitable to me for the ministry."** Listen, God puts people in our lives for reasons, and those same people that we try our best to avoid, are actually the people we need to embrace. **You are often the "Yin to their Yang".** In **Acts 13:2**, God had spoken and told the disciples to **"separate me Paul and Barnabas" for a special work that I have prepared them for**". Barnabas' name meant **"comforter"**. Well, young John Mark wanted to go, too! Since he was Barnabas's nephew, Baranabas took him with them. Along the way, **John Mark (Hot Headed), got angry at Paul because it seemed to him that Paul was taking OVER his uncle's ministry.** So, John Mark abandoned (left) them in the middle of the journey! Well, because of this, Paul **refused to "forgive" John Mark** and refused to let him go with them, again, regardless of how much Barnabas pleaded with him. Through that, satan sent an obstruction in their ministry partnership and caused them to split. But towards the end of Paul's life, **when everyone else had forsaken him and precious BARNABAS was dead**, Paul realized just what he needed. **He was missing that loving and comforting spirit of Barnabas.** The next, best thing to actually having "Barnabas" **was to get John Mark.** See, John Mark had been trained by Barnabas (**COMFORTER**). Paul realized that the **same "comforting" spirit** that was in his partner Barnabas had been **transferred to John Mark** (Barnabas' nephew). **Paul needed that, at this time, in his ministry when everyone else had forsaken him, except Luke. Brothers, this sister that I avoided has an "awesome anointing"**. God truly uses her. *There have been many times when my mind would wonder during service and I would miss everything God said. That is, until prayer time came. God would pull a prayer from this Sister's belly, that would "set hell on fire" and bring me up to speed on everything that God was saying.* I would grab hold to those prayers, praises and her visions. See, satan knows that God has predestined this sister **"TO BE PROFITABLE FOR ME"** so he has been trying to destroy it. But I say, **"he is a lie"**. Men of God, I am asking you to pray, that I will not allow my flesh to get in the way of me **"staying with my Barnabas, sending for or going to get my "John Mark"**. (that person who will prove profitable for me in the ministry (the battle). That person God has ordained to be my battle buddy. My partner in **"stomping the devil's head"**. I am not sure if this is what God intended for me to share, so I will just pray, **"That the words of my mouth and meditation of my heart has been acceptable in HIS sight"**. AMEN!

THANK YOU LORD!



By Sister Corliss

This was one of the best vacation trips I've ever experienced. So much variety! Stuff you don't normally do everyday, such as swimming (several saints learned to swim) and soaking in the Jacuzzi. MEN, the Jacuzzi was the bomb! When the hot water bubbled up and beat on my body, it felt like a "Holy Ghost" massage. When you live in **the same house** (the villa was beautiful) **with other people**, you get to see a *different side of them and yourself* (**Psalm 133:1**). Overall, *as far as I know*, we got along pretty good. Like in any family, there was laughter (**Proverbs 17:22**), sharing, jesting, and waiting your turn to take a shower. (**LOL**). We visited **"Living on the Edge Church"** in Longwood, Florida, on Sunday morning and Wednesday night. Without a doubt, each time, God confirmed His same Word that He was already speaking to us through Pastor Carmen. (What He says to one, He says to all). My favorite activity event was visiting **"The Holy Land"**. The **plays** (depicted from the Word of God) **were absolutely awesome!** Filled with exuberance and biblical costumes that **were "bar none"** in style and colors. The plays were **anointed and appointed by God.** Love, excellence and divine order was exemplified in everything we saw and heard. **The Hostess of TBN (Jan Crouch)** was there. She is much smaller in person! The Ship (**named Barbara-Lee**) was very relaxing, along with being served fresh, delicious food for brunch and dinner. God opened a door for **"Warriors of Praise" to minister in dance on the Ship!** How POWERFUL! *The fellowship with each other and other passengers on the ship was refreshing and much needed.* **Abba, Father had already declared the end from the beginning. He was Faithful to go ahead of us** (**Psalm 23:1**), **to be with us while we were there** (**Hebrews 13:5**) and **to bring us back home safely** (**Ps. 91**), while continually performing His Word (**Jeremiah 29:11**) in our lives. For this, I say, **"Thank You Lord" and give Him all the praise, glory, and honor, in Jesus Name. AMEN!!!!**



WE ARE OUR

"BROTHER'S KEEPER"!!!

By Brother BOBBY

Praise the Lord men of God! Let me tell you the trip to Florida was awesome! God truly blessed us there. While training in the military, I missed the saints and Godly fellowship with all of you. During my prayer time (**Amos 3:7**) I heard the Lord speak to my spirit to go to Florida. I knew nothing about a trip to Florida or that God was dealing with Pastor about it. So when I heard about it, I knew that I needed to go.

Everything was in order: from the flight, getting through security, our landing and transportation, (God set it up) and it flowed so smooth for us. I enjoyed the saints (**Psalm 133:1**), we laughed, teased and **had a good time in the Holy Ghost**. But I know anytime we go anywhere, it's never **just to have a good time**. That's normally just a **"benefit", when your spirit is straight**. More than anything, the trips that we take are more impactful spiritually and often God is trying to show us something that we need to pray about. He give us illustrated sermons. Men of God, the one thing that was most impactful to me was God's Word that He brought through the saints, each day. We went to Florida because God spoke to Pastor about going to "Faith fest" and we planned other events around that. In addition, God had each one of us **for at least 15 minutes**, bring HIS Word to the group. At the Church, Great men of God stood before us and brought God's word but, God was giving us the same thing at the house. And it was needed. This reiterated the scripture of **1 Corinthians 12 :12-13** to me, where God said through Paul, to the Corinthian church – **"For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ. For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit"**. God moved wonderfully through His people showing us that **it's not about a name!** We simply must have a willing and obedient spirit. I am so grateful. In the Army, they teach you that your greatest assist is the man or woman next to you. I believe they got their philosophy from the scripture, **"We are our brother's keeper"**. (**Genesis 4:9**) *Hebrews 10:25 Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.*



"ON THE PLANE AGAIN"!!!!



**I JUST COULDN'T WAIT
TO GET ON THE PLANE AGAIN!!**

By (Sister TAMMY)

I JUST COULDN'T WAIT TO GET ON THE PLANE AGAIN!! Yes, that's right my Brothers, as USUAL, I was **overly excited** to get out of Birmingham and have me **"some fun with my church family"** and of course, you know me, **TO GET ME SOME REST. (SMILE)**. Even though I was **"LATE"** getting to the airport, (AND Pastor threatened to leave me), the plane ride went good. **THANK YOU JESUS!!** We arrived in Florida and I'm already feeling the Florida atmosphere! Can I say that, the sun and I don't get along too well? Then on top of that, I had my luggage to pull. I thank God for the men that were with us, because they were a **BIG** help. Thank ya! We arrived to the house. I chose my room and then I checked the house out. It had a pool, Jacuzzi, Kiddie pool, Game Room, nice kitchen and etc. So, O.K., I stamped my approval! And, you know just off of the plane, there was no food in the house, so we had to go grocery shopping! At first, I wasn't going to go. But I was so hungry, I jumped on that van. We went to Publix and stayed in there "for a while", you know for all of the sophisticated people of House of Praise, who couldn't shop at the Wal-Mart (the store with everything in it) LOL.! O.K. so we finally got to Wal-mart (my store). Keep in mind that it's eight of us shopping. You already know how it is when you go to Wal-mart. You go in there for one thing and come out with a "thousand" items (especially when you are hungry). Now, get this! Pastor, had already told us, **"Keep up with the time...."** (Or something like that), because we had a "dinner show" planned and we had to be there at 7:00p.m. **SOOOOO**, we finally got out of Wal-Mart and everybody is throwing bags in the van, just **throwing bags** in the van. Sister Sharon who is normally calm is **driving like she is in the Talladega Super Speedway, in a van, y'all!** We are bending corners and I felt like we were on **two wheels**, at one point. Everybody was leaning with it and rocking with it. She was driving! I guess that whatever Pastor had told us, suddenly really hit her. Everybody prayed! (especially me). I don't know if it was for the mercies of God or what! But everybody was praying up in that van. "Dozing off" never even

crossed my mind, this time, as much as I love to “SLEEP”. I have never seen **anybody** pull up in a driveway **that fast, in my life**. To me, the van was not even completely stopped, before Sister Sharon and everybody else jumped out of the van. We all knew that we were “WRONG”! You should have seen ALL of our faces! Then we were really throwing groceries in the house, even I was moving fast to get the groceries in the house (and I am normally ALWAYS SLOW!). But, if you think the look on our faces was something, MEN, when I hit that door, **the look on Pastor Carmen’s face was indescribable!** (SHE HATES BEING LATE). I didn’t know if I should smile, say something or look serious. So, I just did what everybody else did..... LOOK STUPID!!! LOL. I knew that it was not a laughing moment. Now, I can read a happy face, a sad face and even a MAD face. But, HOW DO YOU READ A FACE WITH “NO EXPRESSION”? **I dared not laugh!** (not that day)! But, later, after it was all over, we all had a “field day” about that LOOK! **(LOL)!** Anyway, we all quickly loaded up on the van and headed for the Dinner Show. Now, Brothers listen! The way we rushed to get to **the AL Capone’s Dinner Show (which was only 15 minutes up the road)** you would have thought it was an hour long trip. But we made it there! The moral of the story, Brothers, is that slothfulness is still a sin. The enemy really tries to get me a lot with the spirit of slothfulness. Even after that, the day we went to the Rivership “Romance” Cruise, **I almost got left at home**. No, **I was left** at home, because I heard the van crank up and pull out of the driveway. Suddenly, I heard the door open, it was Sister Meagan, prepping me to **come out of there!** The saints had pleaded for me! The mercies of God! Even then, that fool “slothful spirit” was on my back. We have to watch the enemy, **because he tries to use US to aggravate, agitate and vex our Leader’s spirit**. But the **DEVIL IS A LIE!** I felt so embarrassed. I just knew **that all eyes** was on me. I got a small taste of how it would feel **if I were left behind** if *Jesus Christ had come back*. **Now you know how to pray for me. This was just one of my many experiences in Florida. Everything was So MUCH FUN! Spiritually and Naturally! TESTIMONY:** My Brothers, **the spirit of fear is no joke**. All my life, I have been fearful of swimming because I almost drowned in 3 feet of water, at the height I am **NOW!** But I always wanted to know how to swim. I kept praying and reminding God that He would give me the desires of my heart. **HE DID!** God used Brother Bobby and Minister Willoughby, who really took their time and patience as they instructed and coached me to swim. As I swam, the scripture **Matthew 28:20b**, came to me... **and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen**. But, Lo, **I wanted God to be with me even to the other end of the pool!** The devil was whispering to make me believe that I couldn’t hold my breath long enough to make it to the end of the pool. God still showed up and showed out!! **NOW, which one of ya’ll brothers THINK that you are ready to challenge me to a “swimming RACE”?! Just kidding! O.K.,** Now, we are back on the plane, on our way back to Birmingham, right? The plane ride was fine, until “Close to home”, I experienced some abnormal, devilish turbulence! But I knew that before I got on this plane, I didn’t carry on any spirits... We prayed all the way to the AIRPORT! **HALLELUJAH!!!** God let us arrive home safely, with no harm!! My Brothers, this is just a little of what I experienced in Florida. Because really I could go on and on! I hope my experience was as much of A **BLESSING** to you as it was to me. **HEY! BE ENCOURAGED!! You may be NEXT in line for a MIRACLE! Amen?**

PLEASE Keep On

“NIT-PICKING”

By Sister Christie



LORD JESUS!!!

The vacation to Florida was a blessing. The vacation home we resided in was awesome! It had a heated pool, Jacuzzi and a pool room with lots of games in it. Every given opportunity, we enjoyed them all. We were all supposed to be responsible for our own food, this time, (but you know Pastor was not going to let that happen). We ALL ate heartily! Good home cooked meals. But, even so, as soon as we got there, we unpacked and headed to the store! However, we were not “time conscious” and we ended up staying too long. This irresponsibility on our part, caused us **to almost be late** for one of our “Dinner Shows”. We had scheduled activities almost each day (including Worship and Church services). **The 1st night we attended “The Al Capone” dinner show, (all you can eat)!** My eyes were bigger than my stomach and I stuffed myself and did I pay for that!? I stayed in the ladies room the majority of the show. Each one of us was assigned 15 minute Bible discussions. We sung, gave input, confessed and prayed. I learned the importance of reading the “home manual” which was provided by the home we stayed in. This manual gave warnings and instructions pertaining to the usage of the house. I also learned the importance of being observant of your surroundings, (as you never know when Pastor will give you a test!) (smile). And I didn’t even remember if there was a window in my room. (one of the test questions). We attended the Holy Land and we were all taking pictures! **Sister Tomiya took a beautiful picture and I gave place to a “competitively jealous spirit”** and I ran and took a picture, too. Now in the 15 minute discussions, God exposed that evil spirit in His Word. Purposefully, I was in denial and so, I justified myself (within myself). And in “pride and self-righteousness,” I refused to confess and expose the spirit of Jealousy. Now, God in his loving mercy continued to **“Nit Pick”**

at me. He was trying to get the Hell out of me. I finally made up in my mind that Satan was NOT going to hide or remain in me. I didn't run, jump, spit or fall out. I simply confessed, repented and **PURPOSED** in my heart, with a made up mind, to make a **CHANGE**. I overcome him(satan) by the blood of the Lamb and the words of my testimony. And I solicit your Holy prayers. God fed us **HIS Word in the 15 minute discussions and in Bishop Chirona's Church services. The "footwashing" was a life changing experience.** Oh! Not to mention the **"Luau night, Mystery Dinner Show, and the Cruise Ship"**, where we got **re-acquainted** with one another for 15 minutes. We each shared and learned things we didn't know. We sat and spoke with other people on the boat. We dined **sufficiently** (ate good), we laughed and the day before departure, we enjoyed the **FUN SPOT Amusement Park** from 11am-9pm., with a short break to attend "I Fly," where two of the brothers skydived, (they actually flew without a plane, wings or a parachute)! We sat and watched them! And once again, the ladies teamed up against the Brothers (**and defeated them**) in the bumper cars, the go carts, pool and etc. I enjoyed eating a caramel candy apple, funnel cakes and etc. while watching the saints ride on those **"high roller coaster rides"**! **NOT ME!** (LOL). I am staying "grounded" till the **RAPTURE**, then, **"SEE YA"!!!**

You better **"LEARN"** to **Encourage yourself...**

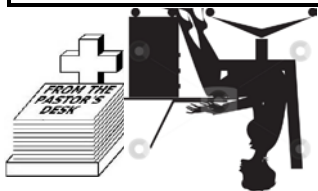


IN THE LORD!!!!!!

By Brother Freddie Young

Praise the Lord Men of God! Well, have you been keeping up with my "Journeys", since God allowed me my "societal freedom"? If you have, then you know from my Newsletters that I hit the ground running for the Lord and He has Blessed me to have a sound mind, **"NOT TO LOOK BACK"**! Hallelujah! No! It has not been easy but God will keep those who want to be kept. Pastor Carmen told me when I first got out of prison in August, "Brother, it will not be EASY, and folks will never let you live your PAST down and you will NOT be perfect over night. But, if you will just forgive yourself, realize that you are a New Creature in Christ Jesus and BE REAL with God, He will be REAL with you. You are already forgiven"! She also said that, "Some people, even family, you will have to LOVE from a distance. You just strive to please God, NOT man"! Well, Brothers, I have found those words to be VERY TRUE! You know, I told you that at my sisters' house, she prays around the clock. And, she reads the word and have Bible classes. And, no, she does not MAKE me take part in it. I do it because this is how I get my strength. Now, can you believe that I have had some family members that have actually asked me, "Freddie, I know that you will be glad when you get out of Her house, won't you? I know that you get tired of Praying and going to Church all the time, don't you"? Brothers, isn't this JUST LIKE THE DEVIL?! He tries to come very cunningly. No one wanted me around or even wanted to see me coming, before God saved me, AND, I don't blame them because my life was in "shambles". Satan really had a tight "HOLD" on me. But, I thank God that HE never allowed my sister to give up on me. You know, I would be glad to see that my family member was CHANGED! No longer on CRACK! No more street life! No more IN and OUT of jail and prison! I would be trying to ENCOURAGE them to STAY IN EVERY CHURCH SERVICE POSSIBLE! The same Word of God that SAVED ME is what it is going to take, to KEEP me Saved! I AM A MAN, and one day I am looking to be back OUT on my own, so I am trying to gain ALL the strength that I can now! I realize that TEST TIME IS COMING! I am NOT trying to back slide! I know where I was and I have NO DESIRE to go back to that lifestyle again. I am not trying to PRETEND like I got it 'all together'! I need JESUS! Brothers, continue to PRAY for my STRENGTH IN THE LORD! If you read last months' Newsletter, then you already know that it was THE WORD of GOD and PRAYER that SAVED me from that old Jezebel spirit in the Atlanta "wilderness" Airport. And NO! it was NOT EASY! But PRAISE GOD, HE helped me to make it! Every since I have been out, I must say that I have been treated Royal! Pastor Carmen said that we are Kings in this earth, and she insists that God's people (humbly) ACT like it! So, after I got to the Promise Land (FLORIDA), God Blessed me SO MUCH! It seemed like He just gave me everything that he saw fit for me to have! Most of all he gave me peace. NO MORE CIGARETTES! No more "stinky" smoke inside my clothes or outfits! At that moment I knew I was set free! It's SO good to know that God will work everything out, if only we will let Him. I remember the first day that I got out of prison. I came inside of the house and Pastor asked, "O.K. now Freddie, what is that I am smelling"? I did not lie, I told her! She did not fuss or scold me. She simply said, "Alright, now Freddie! Remember, this is a Holy House and these are Holy Grounds! Now, I know that you will not be PERFECT over night, just because you are saved. Some things take time for you to be delivered from them. You have to realize that the habit does not HAVE YOU, it is YOU that HAVE IT! Jesus has already set you free. So, until God brings you to that realization, you can't smoke in my house or on my property, they belong to God". I thank God that she did not compromise with

my mess, but she did not try to CHANGE ME, either. She just kept praying with and for me. The Bible said, "You shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free! So, I would walk down the street to the park and SMOKE. However, I would always say, "Take these cigarettes Lord". See, I hated the habit, but I was doing *nothing* to help HIM. And, when I say help HIM, I mean like, "STOP GOING TO THE STORE TO BUY THEM". I am "NOT" saying that God needed my help, but we play a "vital" part in our own deliverance, too. I had to be "willing" to do something! All too often, we ask God for something but we do nothing to show God OUR WORKS. *Faith without Works is dead (James 2:14-26)*. So, I started doing something. I stopped going to the store and buying cigarettes. And God delivered me! Now, guess what? As soon as God took the taste away from me, I looked down on the ground and there were perfectly good, brand new cigarettes just lying there! I knew this was a TEST of the devil! But, Praise God, I said, "Satan, the Lord REBUKE you, in Jesus name"! GLORY!! And I am so glad that I do not have that worry any more. He who the SON makes free, he is free indeed! *(John 8:36)*. Not only that, but I was just *finally* glad to get to the Promise Land. No longer smoking, I could see things CLEARER now! And, Yes, we still had Bible study each night and at some point during the day. This way, I still was learning more of the Word. I don't know about you but I need it. God used me so beautifully the other night to teach a Bible lesson. Well, Brothers, WATCH OUT! The tempter came for the WORD's sake. Don't be afraid of the devil, just be prepared! Man shall not live by BREAD alone, but by every Word that proceeds out of the mouth of God. The Bible teaches us to study to show our self approved *(2Timothy 2:15)*. Not only did I study, once I was in Florida, but I found myself doing different things that I never thought I would ever do..... like learning to swim. Thank God for Minister Willoughby and his patience with me. And, I WORKED OUT each chance I got.(with Brother Bobby and Minister Willoughby). I went on a CRUISE! It was fantastic! I experienced different CULTURAL ARTS! Dinner Shows! Different Foods! I stayed doing something, all the time! Sister Tomyia and I even went on walks while in Florida, in our beautiful gated community. Sister Christy and I rode on the "KIDDIE RIDES" at the Amusement Park, and YES, I may have hollered a little, (LOL), but NOT HALF AS MUCH AS Sister Christy did! She really screamed, yelled, and hollered! She was scaring me.(LOL). I read my bible most of the time. Services at our Bishops Church was just "dynamite". I really enjoyed the Trip, meeting NEW people, the Word, the Laughter, (the PLANE rides, once we got on them), the Unity and the Fun! I hope to go some place again, soon. God really moved! I thank God for Blessing me to come out of the wilderness and enter into the Promise Land. Brothers, how many of you know that you could be "in the wilderness" in your own mind? So, I beg you, please don't STAY in the wilderness! Let God take you into the promise land, a place to rest in peace. Seek first the Kingdom of God and all of His Righteousness and He will give you the desires of your heart.*(Matthew 6:33-34)*. He sure has been giving me mine, even before I ask! May God bless and keep HIS HOLY arms around you! Love you all!



From the "desk" of Pastor Carmen:



Praise the Lord, dear precious Men of God! Indeed, it is always an extreme pleasure for me to be able to address each of you! I really do not write to you as much as I wish that I could. But, I think that each of you know that I love you with God's agape' LOVE and that I pray for each one of you EVERYDAY! (some more than others, as God puts you on my heart). This is the "truth". I also take the body and drink the blood of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ for you, on a daily basis. Yes, we did go to Florida and God did do a marvelous work in all of us! It really was "fun", but most of all, it was "Holy". Listen, I do not know how many of you know that Dr. Doug had "TWO MASSIVE HEART ATTACKS" (within hours of each other) on the 7th of October. He was told that he had a 100% blockage to his artery. But God! "Without surgery", (which the doctors were "URGENTLY PUSHING" for him to have), he RETURNED TO WORK THIS PAST MONDAY ON THE 18th of October! In just 11 days! WOW!! Can you say, "THANK YOU JESUS"? That is all the time that it would have taken for the Israelites to get to the Promise Land, if they had only "stopped complaining, confessed, repented, prayed and turned! Listen, the doctors came into his room and found Dr. Doug lying on the floor! Flat on his belly and on his face! They freaked out! Surely, they must have thought that he was dead and they were probably about to call a "CODE BLUE"! However, Dr. Doug jumped up and yelled, "Wait, I am alright! REALLY! I am just down here PRAYING! Well, the

doctors said to him, “We can not take any credit for what has happened! A higher power had to do this because as LONG as you were without oxygen to your heart, you virtually have NO DAMAGE to your heart muscle”! They called it a MIRACLE! Listen, I know what confession, repentance and the power of prayer will do! Again, Ezekiel 3:11- asks us, “Why will you die, when you can turn from your OWN evil ways and live”? Doctor Doug not only IS a testimony, BUT he HAS A TESTIMONY! And, my brothers, he is sharing it, too! Hallelujah! Won’t you come to this last month of the year with a TRULY repentant heart? To repent simply means to “CHANGE” (turn around), for real and for good! You know what you are doing that is wrong! Father God loves you so much! This is why he sent Jesus into the world. To DIE for you and to redeem you FROM the curse of Sin, the law, death, hell, sickness and poverty! You can have ETERNAL LIFE! It is yours! Matthew 4:17 simply tells you what you need to do. “Repent”!



A LIFE CHANGING FELLOWSHIP!

“WASHING EACH OTHERS FEET IN THE POOL”! (John 13:1- 9)



Happy Thanksgiving! And, “HAPPY BIRTHDAY” to ALL of you
“Precious Men Of God” born in NOVEMBER !! From all of us, here at the “HOUSE OF PRAISE and Hedges & Hi-Ways” WE LOVE YOU!!!!!!!!!!

Back row (left to right) Sister Corliss, Brother Freddie, Sister Christie, Sister Meagan, Sister Sharon, Sister Shon, Sister Tomyia, Minister Gardner, and Sister Tammy! **Front row (left to right)** Brother Bobby, Pastor Carmen and Minister Willoughby!



Chicago Times

Vol # 5485425

Friday, October 11, 1932

Four Cents

MCCAIN CRIME FAMILY MEMBERS ARRESTED



CHICAGO MAYOR CLAIMS SMASH UP OF CAPONE GANG SPEAKEASIES

Mayor Anton J. Cermak's campaign to rout organized gangs and hoodlums out of the beer business and out of the city has resulted in the forcible shutdown of 126 speakeasies and beer flats and the voluntary abandonment of more than 6000 similar establishments, police claimed today. Continuing the drive, 41 beer flats and speakeasies were raided and 216 prisoners taken. Beer deliveries by the Capone syndicate and the other big outlaw federations have been stopped Mayor declared. "The places that have given these gangs an outlet for their beer and liquor are being clamped shut."

BETHLEHEM STEEL CONTINUES DIVIDEND

The Bethlehem Steel Corporation day declared a dividend of 50¢ on a common share, the same as the payment made three months ago. In the last quarter the company paid 50 cents a share, on the junior issue, a deduction from the \$1 unliquidated of the first quarter. Prior to that period the stock had been on a \$6 dividend since July, 1929. The dividends were paid from July, 1928, until the first

HA! HA!