

January News Letter

Praise the Lord Brothers and Sisters!

WOW!! ELMORE CORRECTIONAL FACILITY *WAS SET ON FIRE* BY THE POWER AND "FIRE OF THE HOLY GHOST" ON DECEMBER 30! GOD CUT UP THROUGH HIS MEN! *THANK GOD FOR PRECIOUS MEN OF GOD LIKE WARDEN DANIELS AND CHAPLAIN WOODFIN!* IT WAS THROUGH THEIR PERMISSION THAT THE MEN OF GOD WERE ABLE TO RENDER A VERY "*SPECIAL*" SERVICE ON THAT TREMENDOUS SUNDAY NIGHT!

IT STARTED OUT BEING A SPECIAL PRESENTATION AND AWARD CEREMONY, *IN "HONOR OF MINISTER GARDNER,DIRECTOR OF HEDGES AND HI-WAYS PRISON OUTREACH, PASTOR CARMEN, AND THE "WARRIORS" OF PRAISE!* But, God had other plans in mind! Hallelujah!! You see, everybody that knows Pastor Carmen, knows that the ONLY way to Honor HER, is to Honor God and let HIM have HIS WAY!!! AMEN? AMEN!!

Well, we Praise God for Chapel Pastor, *Morris*, who took the bridles off of the Men of God, and told them to "JUST LET GOD HAVE HIS WAY"!! And, that is just what God did! Pastor Morris was so on target and in tune with what the Holy Spirit is saying, in these last days! His finger was right on the "PULSE" of God. I just dare you to "*STAY" humble, Pastor Morris and to keep on striving to OBEY GOD and not man.* With that kind of anointing, God will use you worldwide! And, that means, "OUTSIDE OF PRISON WALLS", as well as INSIDE!

Well, old calm, laid back Pastor Fred just sat back, as usual, "SMILING BIG" and beat the hinges off of that "DRUMSET", under the anointing of the HOLY GHOST! Nobody plays drums like the Holy Ghost in this man! And, who knew that this Man of God had the kind of "ARTISTIC TALENT" that he possesses? Our little "FIREBALL" in the Holy Ghost, Brother Carlos, who normally just sits at the keyboard and allow God to play through him, (until the anointing gets a hold of him), presented the ministry with a poster sized "card" that Pastor Fred drew. That card literally blew everyone's mind! It was breathtakingly beautiful! Brother Carlos and Pastor Fred, "eyes have not seen, nor have ears heard, what the Lord has in store for you, because you do love the Lord"! Stay ENCOURAGED and Keep striving! To every man that signed the card and every one that did not get a chance to sign it, you were there and your LOVE was SO obvious, in your reverence to the Lord!

Brother DEE-DEE is an "all around", surround sound, anointed minister of the gospel. This man of God just "strolls" from the microphone (preaching, teaching, prophesying, reproving, rebuking with all authority and singing), to the keyboard, piano, guitar, and drums! Amazingly, God has gifted him to do it all, "EQUALLY" well! And, it is all yoke -destroying -anointed! Yes, Brother Dee-Dee, just like that POWERFUL song that God sung through you, this is "JUST A SHADOW OF THINGS TO COME!"

Our serious minded, very observant, precious Brother Cook got his "long awaited opportunity" to yell, "Y'ALL READY FOR THE WARRIORS?!" Everybody laughed and screamed "YES"!
But, it was not the OUR H.O.P. warriors that came up! They had their "OWN" strategically appointed group of warriors! And, believe me, they were "WARRIORS".
These men were "fired up" and "the Holy Spirit" was awesome in them! Brothers...... Did everything from a skit, to rapping, to dancing! There was so much laughter, yet, the message was indeed powerful! The overall theme of their skit was...... They were so sweet, that they incorporated Brother Bobby into the skit. I guess they didn't want him to feel "left out". (lol).

Also, they even allotted a space for some of the "female" warriors. Of course, that did not last long, because the preacher in the skit, quickly, did like Jesus with the money changers in the Temple. He drove them out of the "Party scene" in a hurry! It was so cute. He said, "What all you little 'fast tail' girls doing in here? Get out of here, right now"! And he was not playing, either! Believe me! They ran! Even Mattie Pattie and Shea! (smile). Sister Christy "lied" and said she was ONLY there to give the Preacher an offering. Of course, that did not work! He saw straight through that and ran her away, too. (smile). It was so funny!

However, I don't think anything could have been any funnier than when the "BODYGUARDS", in the skit, (Brother Percy and Brother....), stepped up with their white hats rolled up on their heads looking like "Pop-eye the sailor man" and their shirt sleeves rolled up(flexing their muscles). Oh, and the Poor little guys who was trying out for the AUDITION. They thought that they did so well, but got their bubbles burst when Mr...... said, "Didn't I tell you not to waste my time? Now, here is some "BUS FARE", take this MICKEY MOUSE MUSIC BACK TO DISNEY LAND. Now, get out of here!" And, the body guards enforced, "NO MORE TALKING"! And, body guard Percy picked one of them up, with his legs "dangling" in mid air and threw him out! It was hilarious!

Now, Brother Rollo, the NARRATOR said that he had "butterflies" in his stomach. Well, they must have "flown away" fast, because this man FLEW under the anointing! The Holy Ghost took him from narrating (quoting the Word of God the entire time), to ministering, to singing, to playing the tambourine, to rapping, to dancing! My Brothers, let me tell you now, "NOBODY CAN DANCE and PRAISE LIKE BROTHER ROLLO!" Even if you are feeling down, you can get delivered JUST BY WATCHING THIS BROTHER PRAISE GOD. GLORY!

Our own warriors have been trying to practice his dance of praise! But, see, when someone is under the anointing, it can not be duplicated. Brother Gabe has almost got it, though! (smile). Brother Rollo, Brother Harold and Brother..... broke out in a song (RAP) that wrecked the house! "I'm gonna PRAISE HIM, I'm gonna get my 'BREAKTHROUGH', even if I have to act

a Fool, I'm gonna PRAISE HIM!" I want these "warriosr of praise" on my team, as I CONTINUE "STOMPING" the devil's head. Hallelujah!

We would be remiss, not to TAKE OUR HATS OFF TO Sergeant Crosley, officer Lewis, and officer Williams! These dear men of God worked diligently to make sure that "Chapel Call" had already been made, and that ALL of the men were already inside, seated and PRAISING GOD, when we got in there! That was uplifting, encouraging and refreshing! Minister Gardner and Pastor Carmen actually had Godly, gentlemanly escorts waiting for them, at the door, to show them to their seats! HOW ROYAL!

The choir looked SO GOOD when we first walked in! With "DIGNITY", they were ALL STANDING UP THERE, OBEDIENTLY UNIFIED, together! We saw men in the "CHOIR" that we did not even know was a part of the choir. And, the song they were singing was powerful! See, where there is "unity", there is strength (POWER). The hour has come when we that worship our God, must worship Him in spirit and in truth, with NO schism, segregation, jealousy, competition or division in the body of Christ. There is NONE in heaven. God is doing a "weeding out" process in 2013.

When I was a *new babe* in Christ, I was taught that *a woman has no place behind the pulpit, preaching or teaching Gods' Word.* I was a bigot. I believed this! See, I was a member of a strict Southern Baptist Church. At first, I would not even go to a service where a woman was preaching. After a while, I would go but I would take *detailed notes* and then, I would look up the scriptures later. I was trying to find fault. It wasn't until I came to Elmore in March and received a Newsletter from sister Shon. Inside of it was an invitation, inviting me to an "upcoming revival at Elmore". That made me really question what I had been taught. But, the Newsletter touched me "SO" much, that I made it a point to attend the revival. And, I have never missed a service since that time. That was a decision I will never "FORGET" or "REGRET". See, that is where I was introduced to Pastor Carmen. The "funny part" is that I had never heard of her. I had never had any prior contact with this group nor their church. So, it was a bit of a shock when I received the newsletter. It was God's way of telling me, "I have someone you need to meet". Well, I listened and it changed my perspective and my attitude toward women preachers.

You see, that night (March 30th), I felt the Holy Spirit move "more" than I ever have. Mind you, I am "no stranger" to the movements of the Holy Spirit, or to the voice of God. So it came as a great surprise to me when the movement (anointing), was "SO STRONG", that it moved me to tears! Yes, tears! I came in limping, with a brace on my leg, barely able to walk. The next night, I walked in without a brace, cane or limp! Our Heavenly Father used this faithful lady to "melt" my hard heart and to open my eyes. I know now that God is not a respecter of persons. He will use anyone he chooses to "spread his word". He used a donkey to help open the eyes of his prophet, Balaam.

I have a new respect for our *sisters* in Christ, that have been called to spread God's Word. Never again will I be that "bigot" that I used to be and every chance I get, I will do my best to dissuade that "negative" type of thinking, from my fellow brethren.

So Pastor Carmen, I apologize to you and I ask your "forgiveness", for my judging you before ever meeting you. Sister Shon, I want to thank you for listening to God when he told you to send me that Newsletter. And, Pastor Carmen, I thank you for being faithful to God and his calling on your life. You have at least changed "this mans thinking", by being faithful to God! Forever Grateful,

Brother D. Eldridge, Sr.

Praise The Lord, and Greetings!

Without love you are an empty shell! You may work, hope, dream, seek riches and power, but your conflicts and suffering will continue. The absence of love creates an "emptiness" that cannot be filled by

any ambition, success, pleasure, or possession. Fear grows in this emptiness but where love exists, there is fullness and life.

To Minister Gardner, and Pastor Carmen: "YOU", The House of Praise Church and The Hedges and Hiways Ministry, have shown us what "TRUE" love is. God, our Heavenly father, has worked through you with skits, praise and even "judgement", to show us *that* fullness of life. The "fears" that we once had are gone and we give all the praise and glory to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. 2 Timothy 1:7 tells us "For God has not given us a *spirit of fear*, but of power and of love and of a sound mind". We say, "*Woe unto you who says a woman or women can't preach or teach us the Word of God*". It took "*women*" to come to this prison, to show us "men" our "rightful place" in this world, with our families. We were too busy seeking vain pleasures by robbing, stealing, selling dope, gang banging, running scams and trying to be something that we were not! That is why it didn't work and we ended up in prison! Yeah, it probably looked like it was working for a while but in the end it would have led to death, but God... But God!

We tried to possess everything and we allowed the devil and his agents to come in and posses our mind and bodies. Only through God's Mercy, Grace and Love from our Savior Jesus Christ, are we here, incarcerated, and not dead. Pastor Carmen, you came into our hearts and minds and not only told us but showed us who we are: "Kings", "Priests", "Men of the Most High God, who are NOT ASHAMED of the gospel of Christ! Who will boldly profess that Jesus came in the flesh and that it is only through the "SHED" Blood of Jesus Christ, that we have gotten our dominion back and have broken down strongholds that were in our lives. God commanded us in Joshua 1:9, "To be strong and of good courage and be not afraid nor dismayed because he will be with us wherever we go".

Pastor Carmen, and Minister Gardner, we pray that God will keep multiplying your "Blessings", for the *love* that you have shown, to all the men and women, who are incarcerated. *You have laughed with us!*You have cried with us! But more importantly, you have shown us what "true worship" is. God "comes in" and He "shows out" because you've taught us the true meaning of worship. We thank you Pastor Carmen because you loved us when no one else would. Some people can't understand how or why you, House of Praise Church and Hedges and Hiways Prison Outreach Ministry, can come when you come, how you can take time from your "own"families and spend your "own money", to come and worship with what "SOCIETY" say is the 'worst of the worst'. But, God didn't see us as the worst. He saw the best in us and He sent His best, to minister His LOVE to us. We are family and we all come to worship and praise Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior.

A lot of us call you "Mother McCain". Some might not know this but your "own biological son" was taken away from you and your family, physically. But, he was not taken away from you all spiritually, because God has multiplied you with thousands more of "REAL"men who you can call "sons"! Thousands, who love God with their spirit, soul and body. Real Men who will always "love and cherish" you. To some of us, you have been more of a mother than our own biological mother's have been. Pastor Carmen "(Mother McCain)", this dedication is for you, to say thank you for giving us the WORD when we didn't know it, Thank you for being real with us (and not sugar coating it) and thank you for telling us who we are in Christ Jesus. Thank you for your love and dedication that you have shown. You are a True and Real Woman of God and we LOVE YOU!

From your sons in Christ, Brother Harrison and Brother Carlos