



## Servants in Action

A Christian Education Newsletter

January – February 2015

### The Heart of the Giver: A Demonstration of Hope

*Pastor L. B. West, D.R.S.*



*She'd lost her husband and she was all alone, things were getting tougher and tougher financially. Today was the day everyone went to give at the temple. As she rummaged around in her*

*threadbare purse watching the others put in more money than she had seen in a lifetime she pulled out two copper coins, it seemed so small compared to all the others. She curled her closed palm around her small offering, neither looking to left or to the right. She finally reached the basket and slowly opened her hand and dropped in the two little coins. They made no sound as they landed on the abundance given by the others. As she walked away looking down at her worn and battered shoes she heard His voice, "Truly I say to you, this poor widow has put in more than all of them; For they all gave out of their abundance (their surplus); but she has contributed out of her lack and her want, putting in all that she had on which to live." With those words she stood a little taller head held high, new life in her step. Hope in her heart.*

The woman above was the widow mentioned in Luke 21: 1-4. Though the scriptures do not give any intimate details of this widow's life, we can only use our sanctified imagination as to how she must have felt when she went to the Temple to give her offering. What the scripture does mention is that when she came up to give, Jesus noticed her. In the amplified version of Luke 2: 21 it says And He saw also a poor widow putting in two mites (copper coins).

Not only does Jesus see her but He is so moved by her giving that He comments on it. He says to his disciples, Truly I say to you, this poor widow has put in more than all of them. There is no indication in the scriptures that followed that she even heard what Jesus said or reacted to the words spoken in regards to her offering. All we can do is imagine and wonder. We can imagine what it's like to want to give but not sure if the little we can spare would even make a difference or go noticed. Beloved please allow me to say emphatically that if no one person was aware of your gift of hope you can trust that the Father Himself notices and is moved by your giving.

This is the season of giving and giving is a demonstration of hope just by the simple fact that it is an act of faith. Hebrews 11: 1 declares, Now faith is the assurance (the confirmation, the title deed) of the things [we] hope for, being the proof of things [we] do not see and the conviction of their reality [faith perceiving as real fact what is not revealed to the senses]. Amp

The widow gave her last her last 2 copper coins; in today's time those 2 copper coins would equal 2 pennies. We know that those 2 pennies would not take us through another day and maybe the same could have been said for the widow but "what seems impossible with man is possible with God". (Matthew 19: 26)

We don't know what happened to the widow after she gave her last; the Bible makes no more mention of her after her demonstration of hope. All we know of this widow as that when she had nothing she gave everything. All we know of this widow is that she moved Jesus with her giving. All we know of this widow is that she came to the temple with the intent to worship God. Giving by its very nature is a form of worship.

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Romans 12: 1 And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and Holy sacrifice—the kind He will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship Him. (NLT)  
Pastor Bill Winston once stated, “God's system is designed to bring forth harvest when you give without looking at circumstances”.

If we look at our situations and circumstances then we might be hesitant about walking out our demonstration of hope. But when we seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness our focus becomes not the creation but the Creator. The One who sees all and knows all and is able to do exceedingly and abundantly above all we could ask or think.

When we have the heart of a giver our demonstrations of hope become easier because we recognize that no matter how much or how many times we give it will never compare to what God has given and continues to give to us on a daily basis. When we have the heart of a giver our demonstration of hope reflects our reasonable service of worship through giving. So as we end this year continuing in partnership let's meditate on this final scripture.

The best thing you can do right now is to finish what you started last year and not let those good intentions grow stale. Your heart's been in the right place all along. You've got what it takes to finish it up, so go to it. Once the commitment is clear, you do what you can, not what you can't. The heart regulates the hands. This isn't so others can take it easy while you sweat it out. No, you're shoulder to shoulder with them all the way, your surplus matching their deficit, their surplus matching your deficit. In the end you come out even. As it is written, Nothing left over to the one with

the most, Nothing lacking to the one with the least. 2 Corinthians 8: 10-12 (MSG) ■

**110<sup>th</sup> Session of the National Baptist Congress of Christian Education in Detroit, Michigan: June 21-27, 2015**

*by Sister Delores Agee*

Join the Mount Airy family as they travel to the NBCCE via motorcoach to Detroit, Michigan June 21-27, 2015. The bus will leave Mount Airy on Saturday June 21<sup>st</sup> at 1pm returning on Saturday June 27<sup>th</sup> 10pm at Mount Airy.

Lodging accommodations will be at the Comfort Inn Greenfield Village, 20061 Michigan Avenue, Dearborn, Michigan 48124. The hotel is 9 miles from the COBC Convention Center. They offer a full breakfast, indoor pool, and fitness facility, shuttle service within 5 miles, free WiFi, and free parking.

**The costs for motorcoach and hotel are as follows:**

Single: \$1230	Double: \$840
Triple: \$710	Quad: \$645

**The hotel costs for air travelers are:**

Single: \$855	Double: \$480
Triple: \$350	Quad: \$285

**All children: \$250**

Final payment due on or before April 15, 2015.

All questions concerning either lodgings or the motorcoach should be directed to Sister Delores Agee.■

**BEWARE OF THE “FREAK” FLAW**

*by CIT Ministry*

Several months ago, CIT reported concerns about the discontinuation of Microsoft

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support for Windows 7 and previous versions and its vulnerabilities to malicious attacks by hackers. As anticipated, several Microsoft and Apple products have been recently attacked through a major security flaw, dubbed *FREAK*, which jeopardizes secure web connections and could potentially expose sensitive information.

The *FREAK* flaw allows a third party to interrupt a secure connection and intervene between your computer or smartphone browser and the websites you share data. When a susceptible device connects to a vulnerable HTTPS-protected site, a flaw in the encryption allows an attacker to penetrate and seize the data going back and forth between the web sessions. This security weakness permits access to personal information, passwords, and pretty much anything else stored on your computer. Some of the highest-traffic domains that are affected include Business Insider, American Express, Groupon, Bloomberg, NPR, Kohls, and MIT. A number of very high-profile government sites were also affected, including the NSA, the FBI, and the White House's sites, as well as the site (USAJobs) that all applicants for any federal job must use.

The browsers and platforms known to be vulnerable include:

- Android: stock browser
- Android: Chrome
- Blackberry: stock browser
- iOS (iPhone/iPad): Safari
- Linux: Opera
- Mac OS: Chrome
- Mac OS: Opera
- Mac OS: Safari
- Windows: Internet Explorer

The best course of action to take for the computers using the previously mentioned operating systems should consider the following recommendations:

1. Maintain an external backup of all important documents, images and photos
2. Implement the latest updates or service pack for the version of the operating system installed on the church or home PC. If the patch is not available, use the Firefox browser until patches are available for the above affected browsers, you may want to use Firefox on iOS, Android, and Mac OS to securely browse the web and connect to your online accounts.
3. Seriously consider upgrading to the newer technology (i.e., tablets, laptops, smartphones)
4. Though it's unlikely that you were attacked, as devices and websites are patched it may be a good time to change the passwords to any accounts accessed on any of your devices shown to be vulnerable. It's important to use a different, strong password on every website, so that a password stolen from one website can't be used to login to any of your other accounts.

If you have any questions or require additional information, feel free to contact us at [cit@mountairybaptist.org](mailto:cit@mountairybaptist.org). ☐

## **SUBMITTING NEWSLETTER ARTICLES**

*by Newsletter Ministry*



*To submit something for the Newsletter, you need to...*

Submit your articles on a disk, thumb drive or CD in Microsoft Word format and leave in the **Newsletter Box** in the Church Office. Articles may also be e-mailed to [newsletter@mountairybaptist.org](mailto:newsletter@mountairybaptist.org). We prefer that articles be typed and limited to 220 words or ½ page due to space. **We will no longer accept hand written articles.**

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**Articles Due:** Sunday, April 5, 2015

**Next Issue:** Sunday, April 26, 2015

*The Newsletter Ministry reserves the right to edit all submissions. ■*

### **Inclement Weather Notification**

*by Newsletter Ministry*

Members are reminded to tune into WJLA-7, Newschannel-8, and WUSA-9 for openings and delays during inclement weather. Soon to be added: Fox 5 News and NBC-4 Washington. ■

### **Ministry Spotlight: SHARE Food Ministry**

*by Deaconess Alberta Humes*

In 1991, Mr. Charles Simms, Mrs. Bessie Warner and Mrs. Rosa Smith approached Dr. Rafe M. Taylor with the idea to bring Share Food to Mt. Airy Baptist Church.

Share Food is a Catholic Charities organization that offers healthy food at a reduced price. Share Food started 25 years ago. Mt. Airy celebrated 24 years in January 2015. The distribution site is located in Hyattsville, MD. Share Food serves VA, MD, West VA, and Washington D.C.

As of January 2015, Share packaged 7,416 bags of food that was a total of 96,852 pounds of food and a total of 80,710 meals.

Share does not take personal checks. You can use debit or credit cards, cash, EBT, or money orders. We have a calendar which tells us when to collect, when to call your orders in to headquarters, and the time of day to pick-up.

Share Food has its own site training. They are always looking for volunteers to work in the warehouse to bag up food.

Share has great recipes as well as a menu list of items each month.

In February, Share has a value package for \$20.00, a pizza package for \$16.00, and a seafood package for \$22.00.

Each person is responsible for picking up their food on time or sending someone to pick up the food for them. You have to sign a log to pick up their food. If no one comes to pick up your food we have the right to give it away to someone else in need. No refunds will be given.

Our Motto is "Healthier families make stronger communities".

### **Share Food Ministry Drivers**

- Mr. James McKinnon
- Mr. Tony Peterson

### **Share Food Coordinators**

- Sister Jackie Vaughn
- Sister Mary Johnson
- Sister Alberta Humes

\*Our orders for February can be called in Monday, February 16, 2015 between 10-1pm, our pick-up date is February 28, 2015.■

### **RECIPE: Magic Cookie Bars**

*by Dr. Phyllis J. Mayo, CEM Director*



Preheat oven to 350 degrees.

Melt 1 stick butter or margarine in a 13 x 9 pan.

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Sprinkle evenly 1 ½ cups of graham cracker crumbs.

Pour 1 can of condensed milk over the crumbs.

Sprinkle chocolate chips, butterscotch chips, and white chocolate chips evenly over the mixture. You may sprinkle as much as you want or just evenly over the mixture.

Top mixture with 1 ½ cups chopped pecans.

Then top with flaked coconut—about 1 1/2 to 2 cups.

Bake 25-30 minutes.

Cool and cut into squares. Enjoy!☐

### **Goddard Space Center Opportunities**

*by Dr. Barbara J. Smith*

**NASA Goddard Space Flight Center (GSFC)** is embarking on great missions and seeking fresh ideas! Don't miss out on the possibility of becoming a part of the NASA team and developing job skills that could take you farther than you have ever imagined. NASA is recognized as one of the best places to work in the Federal government.

GSFC is seeking current undergraduate and graduate students for the NASA **Pathways Internship Employment Program (IEP)**. The IEP provides paid opportunities for students to explore a Federal career while still in school.

***U.S. Citizenship is required.***

GSFC will be accepting applications between March 9, 2015 and March 18, 2015 for our Fall 2015 Pathways IEP opportunities. For inquiries please contact [GSFC-Pathways-Office@mail.nasa.gov](mailto:GSFC-Pathways-Office@mail.nasa.gov).

You can search and apply for NASA federal opportunities on <http://nasajobs.nasa.gov/>.

### **THIS IS YOUR TIME AND YOUR SEASON**

Now hear this - you have what it takes to surpass anyone around you. In other words, the gift that is within you is too great to be held back. No matter your environment, you can blow up. No matter what people say about you, it's what you tell yourself that matters. 2Pac said it best in his poem, The Rose That Grew From Concrete which says, "Did you hear about the rose that grew from a crack in the concrete proving nature's law is wrong. It learned 2 walk without having feet. Funny it seems, but by keeping its dreams, it learned 2 breathe fresh air. Long live the rose that grew from concrete when no one else even cared!"

The Bible declares, "No weapon formed against you shall prosper." Please don't miss this. Weapons will form but they will never prosper. Weapons come from people, systems, and institutions, but it's no match for you because you have God on the inside ordering your steps on the outside. Know it's your time and your season to blow up from the floor up. Don't let difficulty hinder your progress because you are a rose coming out of concrete.!

*Courtesy of [www.sinclairgrey.org](http://www.sinclairgrey.org).☐*



**Peace and Blessings  
from God the Father  
and Our Lord Jesus Christ!**