

Women of War Ministries

NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2022

From the Pastor's Heart

By Pastor Claudette Miles

Founder/Executive Director, Women of War Ministries | Pastor, The Children's Bread

As the old year goes out and the New Year 2022 comes, I think about resolutions. Each year we make personal promises to change and or add things in our lives. We vow to get healthier and exercise, diet, complete a task, eliminate a bad habit, or even write a book etc. Unfortunately, we start out strong and determined, only to abandon these things within the first three months of the new year.

Don't become frustrated, I have a solution. Typically, we try to make these changes through sheer determination or "will power". This does not work because this kind of strength is exhaustible. After a while we grow weary and frustrated. I suggest a "revolution" instead of a "resolution". A revolution is a forcible overthrow of one system in exchange for another. Let us "overthrow" our old way of thinking for a new way.

With the old way of thinking we feel frustrated and defeated each year these resolutions are unfulfilled. We feel like we have failed. Really, it is our strength that has failed. But God has a remedy.

Every believer has the Spirit of God on the inside of them. He knows all things, sees all things, and can do all things. He has been given to us to lead and guide us. It is his power in us that we must learn to depend/rely on. He is the change maker in our lives. The Holy Spirit is the one who brings Godly character to our lives.



Therefore, make a list of the things that you want to change about yourselves in 2022. As in times past, this list may start with natural things like exercise, dieting, improved finances, and the like, but don't neglect the spiritual things. Let us also add love, kindness, humility, gentleness, meekness, temperance and more. Let us give this list to the Holy Spirit in prayer. Watch in faith as he works these things out. Unlike us, he gets the job done. We can rest in His unfailing strength.

Where Are They Now?

Dannita Brooker became a part of Women of War Ministries in the mid 2000's. She was introduced to the group by a coworker, Rosalie Jackson, a member who insisted that she attend the bible study. Instead, she attended the annual Spiritual Warfare Conference, and her life was changed. She said that she went in one way and came out another

Dannita was raised in the church, but while in college she began to question her faith. She began to visit other places of worship only to rediscover that Jesus Christ is really the answer. Since then, she has heard and answered God's "call". The Lord supernaturally opened the door for her to continue her education. In 2017 she graduated from Palmer Theological Seminary of Eastern University with a Master's in Divinity.

Dannita believes that God has called her to Christian Counseling. Currently, she is working with the Women's ministry in her church, Salem Baptist of Abington. She also teaches Women's Bible Study and is one of the participating writers in the book *Marginalized, Maligned & Miraculous Women in Scripture*. In addition, Dannita is a part of CARE ministries, a group that works to combat sex trafficking.

Finally, Dannita is the Director of Clinical Research for a major pharmaceutical company. She is also a wife, mother, and proud grandmother.



Grief

By Evangelist Jackie Redmond

Matthew 11:28-30, Come unto me all ye that labour and are heavy laden and I will give rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn of me, for I am meek and lowly in heart and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.



Everyone's situation is unique in the eyes of GOD, but the end results I believe to be the same, and that is GOD would make something good to come out of each grieving situation. GOD wants to bring each one of us to a place of peace, rest, trust, and faith in Him.

When death happens to a loved one, it isn't because GOD needed them more, let's get rid of all those myths. Sin is why death comes or happens to mankind. Sin is the result of our fallen nature. I believe it hurts GOD as much or even more than what we feel. A law is set in motion, death is something that no one can avoid.

We had four birth children, two boys and two girls. Our second son Kaleb passed away May 7, 2000, it was on a Sunday. Our church was on a forty day fast. I felt the grace of GOD on my life to participate in this fast. I was so full of expectation, it felt like something great was going to happen in my life because I was able to complete the fast. I was expecting God to move in my marriage, I thought a change was coming to my marriage, but little did I know that it was preparation for my Spirit to undergo something that I wouldn't have ever imagined.

I was concerned about having a wonderful marriage, you know the natural things in life, GOD knew what I needed and that was to be fortified for what was about to take place.

As I said earlier this was a Sunday when this all happened, we didn't go to Church that day because of a disagreement. I remember that day so well. I was on our sun porch reading my bible and I heard the alarm on the back door go off, I didn't pay much attention to it. I guess you could say I was lost in my thoughts about where my life and our family were going.

When our son Kaleb went out the back door that was the last time we would see him. He was a fun, full of love type of child. Around 3-5 o'clock I got a knock on the front door from a police officer. He stated that our Son was missing from the creek. When we first heard that report, our oldest Son and some friends went looking for Kaleb while my two daughters and I were praying for God's intervention.

Kaleb and his friends were at Tacony creek playing around and they said he never came back out of the water; it was said that an undercurrent had pulled him in. Not too long after the police officer stated what he reported to me, I was asked to come to our neighborhood hospital to identify the body.

I must have been in shock and unbelief, that this type of thing could happen to someone who loves the LORD, who loves JESUS. During that short time that my daughters and I were praying, I remember saying to the LORD that "I trusted HIM in this", and I relinquished it all to HIM at that moment. God has given me grace, and I have never taken that prayer back, today I still trust HIM with my life.

I have accepted that Kaleb is with the LORD. Although my heart used to ache with pain just to think how he must have suffered, the agony of death by drowning was a bit much to deal with. I went through guilt and shame, almost depression. I could feel myself slipping, but GOD pulled me out of that. Today, I have peace in knowing that death isn't the end. God will prepare HIS children for the storms of life if we let HIM. He will cause what the enemy meant for harm to work out for our good. My grief experience I believe has caused me to lean in more to GOD than before.

God has caused me to understand that death isn't the end of life, death is a crossing over to the other side of life. Our son is where believers strive to be with JESUS.

"Come unto me all ye that Labour and are heavy laden and I will give rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn of me, for I am meek and lowly in heart and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light." - Matthew 11:28-30

Evangelist Jackie Redmond is a graduate of the Women of War Ministries Evangelist Training Program 2001 and a member of The Children's Bread Church of God.



A Veteran Speaks

By Evangelist Linda Shields

Greater love has no one than this, that a person will lay down his life for his friends -John 15:13

First of all, “Thank you for your service.” This scripture is a daily reality to veterans. We are often put in dangerous situations that may require that we make the ultimate sacrifice. Although we may not always agree with the assignment, we have taken an oath to comply with the order. Throughout the years of our enlistment, we create many relationships. Some of these are short term, ending after the assignment has been completed. Then there are others, these can last a lifetime. In either case, we would lay down our lives to cover and protect one another.

During our tour we hear phrases like, “I got your back, your six, your rear”, but what happens to us when our tour is over and we come home and go our separate ways, who has our back then? Many of us feel alone and unsupported. However, there is hope.

When exiting the military, we are instructed to set up an appointment with the Veterans Administration to learn about our benefits.

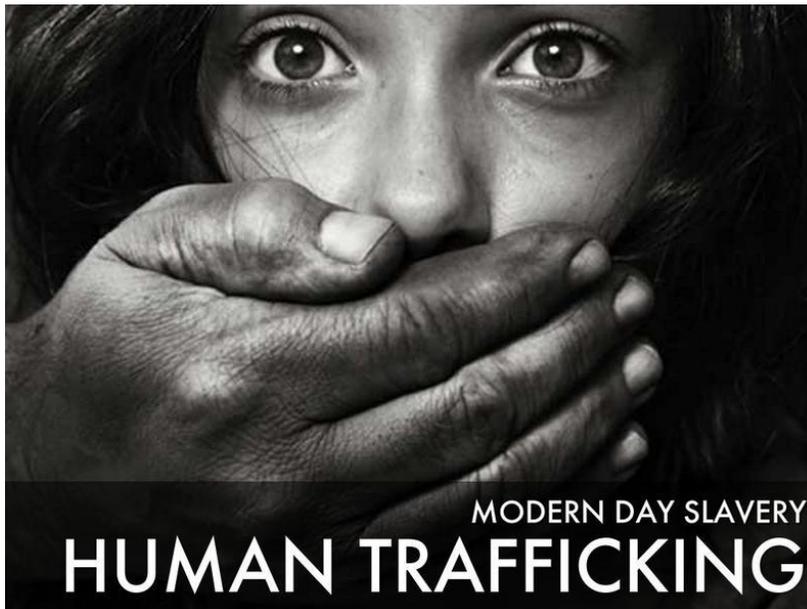
Most of us know about the Veterans Hospital, where we can get help with our medical, emotional, and psychological needs, but there are others. There are many more resources available to veterans, their families, and their caregivers.

I have listed a few below. However, let us continue to look out for each other. If you know of other available resources or news updates, contact me at las.annointed1@gmail.com.

Evangelist Linda Shields is a U.S. Army veteran. She is a graduate of the Women of War Evangelist Training Program in 2001 and a member of The Children’s Bread Church of God.

Veteran Resources:

- Veterans (VA) Hospital-<https://www.va.gov/philadelphia-health-care/>
- Military.com- - <https://www.military.com>
- Disabled American Veterans (DAV) - - www.DAV.org
- Local VFW- <https://www.vfw.org/find-a-post>
- Veterans Benefits - - <https://benefits.va.gov/benefits/>
- Veterans Government Website- www.va.gov



HUMAN TRAFFICKING

By Reverend Dannita Brooker

With the outbreak of the “Me Too” Movement there has been eyes on sexual assault. There has been a string of stories in the news regarding sex trafficking. With the trials of Jeffrey Epstein, R. Kelley and now Ghislaine Maxwell which has focused on sex trafficking. How are we going

to protect our children?

In Our Backyard:

"It ought to concern every person because it is a debasement of our common humanity. It ought to concern every community because it tears at our social fabric. It ought to concern every business because it distorts markets. It ought to concern every nation, because it endangers public health and fuels violence and organized crime. I'm talking about the injustice, the outrage, of human trafficking, which must be called by its true name -- modern slavery." President Barack Obama

Churches must be willing to talk openly about human sexuality without retreating into a simplistic pseudo-morality that simply categorizes certain sexual behaviors as right and others as wrong.

Churches need to face an explicitly sexual culture with frankness and confidence and having mature discussions of sexuality for both adults and youth.

The church can become more aware of what is happening in the community of young girls and boys lured into the business of sex trafficking. Be aware and sensitive to the signs that might be there, such as questionable massage parlors and nail salons.

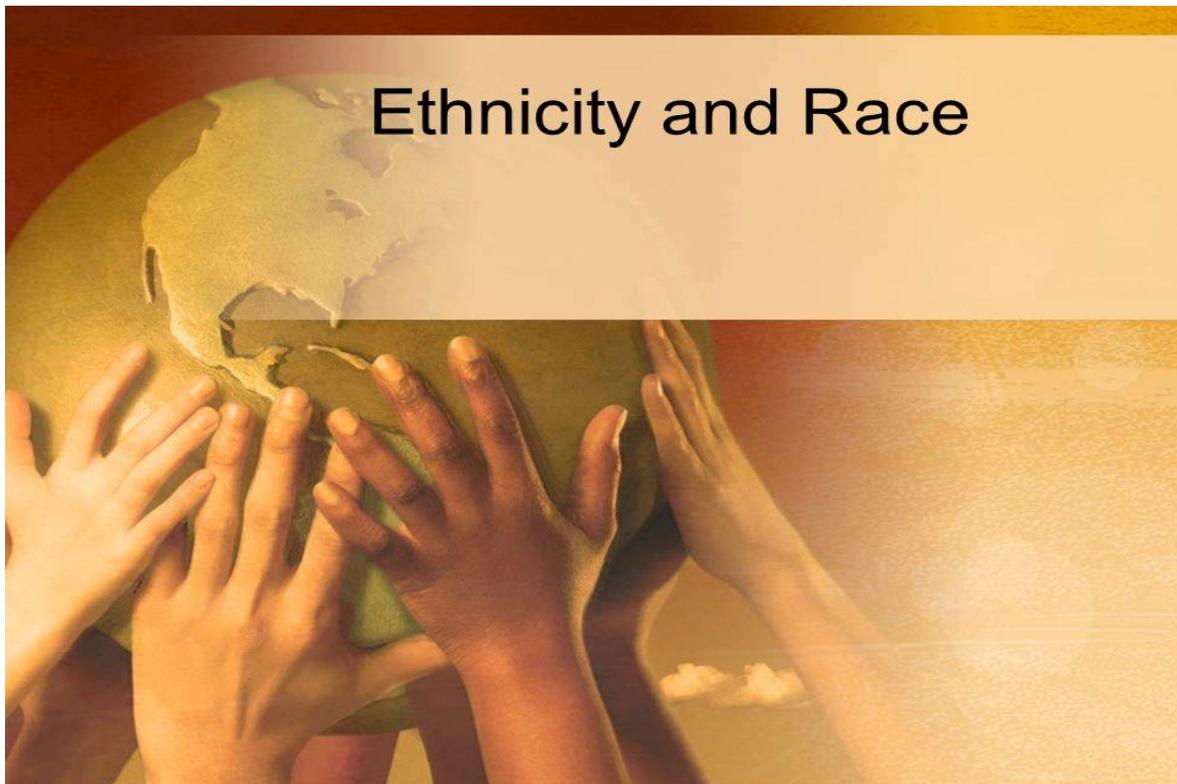
- Note how desensitized we have become to the way women and young girls are portrayed in the movies and the TV shows that are aired.
- Pray for God to give parishioners' a burden to intercede on behalf of victims of human trafficking.
- Raise awareness in your congregations, schools and businesses of the growth of sex trafficking. With the continued rise of social media platforms and internet usage, pornography has become one of the largest contributors to the demand side of sex trafficking.

To try and address the issues that the church faces with human trafficking education is needed. The Salvation Army has training programs to recognize Human Trafficking. They also have training for volunteers who want to work with trafficking victims. We can start by bringing awareness of the human trafficking phenomena to the local churches.

“Do not degrade your daughter by making her a prostitute, or the land will turn to prostitution and be filled with wickedness”. Leviticus 19:29



Reverend Dannita Brooker is a graduate of the first Women of War Ministries Evangelist Training Program in 2001 and an Associate Minister at Salem Baptist Church of Abington.



Culture and Ethnicity

A Ram in the Bush

By Linda Oliver Grant

After my husband Johnny returned home from the Vietnam War in the early 1970's. We were living with my parents. We had two toddlers and needed a place to live. My maternal grandmother who was employed as a domestic by a college professor and his wife mentioned to her employers that Johnny and I wanted to purchase a home. This couple contacted a woman who was on the board of a housing authority that financed mortgages for minorities and low-income families. This lady was a Quaker.

Traditional banks on Philadelphia's Main Line had and sometimes continue to redline mortgages for minorities. One description of mortgage redlining is when financial institutions discriminate against minorities by either denying mortgages or increasing the interest rate making it impossible for minorities to purchase homes in predominantly White neighborhoods.

It is important to know that African Americans have lived on the Main Line for over three hundred years. My sisters and I were born and raised on the Main Line. The mortgage that my parents received for their house was backed by Quakers. Our father paid the mortgage in full within five years.

The woman who helped us find our home sometimes had to show homes to African Americans in the dark and used a flashlight to show the inside of the house. She found a bank in Philadelphia that would back our VA mortgage.

The down payment for our house was a gift to me and Johnny by my grandmother's employer. On settlement day while sitting at the table it was discovered that Johnny and I were just a few months from the legal age (21) for purchasing a home. My grandmother's employer signed a document agreeing to back the mortgage until we reached the legal age for assuming a mortgage.

We purchased our first home because of God's grace and favor.

Note:

There is a strong African American presence on the Philadelphia Main Line that dates back nearly three hundred years. It was through the aid of the Quakers that many African Americans settled here. In the mid 1800's and into the 1900's many African Americans were employed as domestics, butlers, and nannies in well to do and wealthy White Main Line residents. There were also many African American physicians and small businesses located in the suburbs and the Main Line. The Quakers employed many African Americans. The Quakers are a group who hold to Protestant Christian beliefs. They are particularly concerned about equality for all human beings, peace, social justice and opposed slavery. In the 19th century Quakers played a major role in helping slaves escape through the underground railroad.

Linda Oliver Grant is a graduate of the Women of War Evangelist Training Program in 2001. She is also a member of The Children's Bread Church of God.

Real Estate

By Monique C. King

“I will grant peace in the land, and you will lie down and no one will make you afraid.” - Leviticus 26:6a NIV

Homeownership is one of the most fulfilling yet challenging moves that a person can make.

Before you embark on the homeownership journey, it requires a lot of prayer and research.



Prayer is required in that we need guidance and direction throughout this process from our Lord, Savior Jesus Christ. The homebuying process has multi facets and we need to know that we are making the right choices, decisions, and provisions will be made. By continuously seeking God, we will know that we are ready for this process; we are confident in our choices; we will be blessed with the right people who will help in this journey; we are met with few challenges; we are blessed with the house that is His will for us; and we will obtain the mortgage needed to purchase our home.

“Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you.” - Matthew 7:7 King James Version

The research begins with analyzing your credit report and knowing your credit score. In the mortgage process your credit score plays a major role. Your credit score is one of the main factors that lenders consider when deciding what interest rate you qualify for on a mortgage. If you have below-average credit, you could end up spending thousands more on interest over the life of your loan than someone with a good credit score.

Lenders look at several factors, including your income, property type, assets, and debt levels to determine whether to approve you for a loan. It’s easy to check your credit score and you’re entitled to a free credit report from all three major credit reporting agencies once a year. The credit score requirement varies with each mortgage lender and each state. The minimum score range for a FHA or VA loan is 620- 640.

For a conventional loan, the credit score requirements are higher at 660 and above. Having a high credit score shows mortgage lenders that you are responsible with your money, wisdom is used in how you spend your money, your bills are paid in a timely manner, the risks in investing in you are low, and you are a good candidate to obtain and maintain a mortgage.

“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom: a good understanding have all they that do His commandments: His praise endureth forever.” Psalm 111:10 King James Version

In analyzing your credit report, you have to go over each and every item on your report. Your credit report is an essential part of getting your credit score, as it details your credit history. Any mistakes on this document could lower your credit score, so get a copy of your credit report and scan it for errors. Common mistakes include duplicate credit accounts, which makes it look like you have more debt than you really do, and identity errors like the misspelling of your name. If you find inaccurate information, dispute it.

Having a "bad credit history," or a "bad credit rating" usually means your credit report shows negative credit behaviors in your recent past. Bad credit will arise if you do not repay your debts according to your borrowing agreements. Events including late or missed payments can hurt your credit, but you may be able to recover from them before your credit is considered bad if you resume paying your debts on time and put limits on the amount you spend.

Here are some ways to improve your credit score: dispute any errors on your credit report by contacting all three credit bureaus. Send a letter stating why you are disputing an error. You can also go online to each credit bureau which produces quicker results. Once you are analyzing your credit report and you see the error, you can dispute this error. An investigation is done, and they send you the results. The greatest accomplishment is when that error is removed, and your credit scores increase.

“But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.” Romans 8:25 NIV

In the next issue, The next step in this journey is determining how much home you can afford and saving for a down payment.

Ms. Monique C. King is a real estate agent who works at Christopher Real Estate Services. She can be reached at mcking1realtor@gmail.com or call (215) 251-2550. She is also a member of the Women of War Ministries.

Business Corner

The Budget Grocer

Fresh Produce & Seafood
Home/Office Delivery
267.334.6900

CKM Electric

Provides residential electrical services
George Cunningham
(office) 267.324.7462

Crown Home Mortgage

Loan Officer NMLS# 1436069
Patrick O'Donnell
2600 Philmont Avenue
Huntingdon Valley, Pa 19006
(office) 973.358.6620
(cell) 215.680.6531
www.podonnell.crownhm.com

His Creations

Favors, gift bags, baskets, floral arrangements
Jacqueline M. Byrd
(cell) 215.205.2196

Independent Insurance Agent

Tammy Dennis
(cell) 267.342.2211

Little Miss Muffins

Learning Academy
7171 Ogontz Avenue
Philadelphia, PA
(cell) 215.224.0400

LS Reddick Associates, LLC

Laura S. Reddick, President| CEO
Special Events, Educational Consulting, Website Management
www.lsreddickassociates.com
lsreddick1@gmail.com

Minnie's Grooming

Mobile Pet Spa
Eliyah Johnson
Minniegroomings00@gmail.com

2Third Heaven Creations

Customs Embroidery & Gifts
Linda O. Grant
luey48@comcast.net

Uproar Dance Studio

1816 South 12th
Philadelphia, PA
Subria Johnson
IG:@uproardancestudio
215.660.9888

Wheels Up

Towing & Recovery
24 hours/7 days a week
Roadside Assistance
(office) 267.625.0369

Upcoming Events



Spiritual Warfare Conference 2022

Conference theme: "Love, the Power of God" This conference will change your life

March 24-27-2022 | Sandy Cove Conference Center | Northeast Maryland

Single room -\$450; Double room -\$375.00 pp; Triple room - \$335.00 pp

For more information complete registration form at www.womenofwarministries.net

or email: askpastormiles@gmail.com.

For those joining us on Sunday the cost is as follows:

Single: \$300.00, Double -\$275 pp, Triple - \$245.00 pp

Payments may be made through until March 7.

Cash app - \$ministries58

P2ayPal: Womenofwar

Mail check to -P.O. Box 56044, Philadelphia, PA 19130



Join us for Bible Study

Mondays @ 8:00pm

Conference Call – 425.436.6359 | Access Code: 327701

Recommended book: Psalm 91: Gods Umbrella of Protection
by Peggy Joyce Ruth

Women of War Ministries | P.O. Box 56044 | Philadelphia | PA 19130
“Helping People Get from Point A to Point B in Their Ministry”