

Women of Destiny

Women's Ministry

Cathedral of Praise Church

Editor's Notes

March 2011

Volume II 2011

"Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you." (Mathew 5:44 NIV)

When I think about enemies, I usually think of stories like David and Saul, and stories of persecuted Christians, you know, the enemies are easy to identify. I don't have those kind of enemies in my life. Maybe that's why Jesus added "pray for those who persecute (annoy or trouble persistently) you. We all have those kinds of people in our lives!

I have one of those people in my life, and I've been praying for them for a couple of years now. It hasn't been easy, and I haven't been entirely consistent. I know God wants me to pray for this person, so I have, though sometimes it has been prefaced by "You know I don't really want to pray for this person....."

Recently, I was struggling to pray for this "enemy." I opened up to God and said honestly, "God, I know you want me to pray for this person, but I don't want to. I want to want to, but I don't know how to get there. I don't want to pray for them through clenched

teeth, I really want to care." It didn't take God long to help me. In just a moment I felt his answer impress upon me. This person was not a Christian and did not come from a Christian family—and they did not have anyone in this world praying for them. Oh, how he knows us! That broke my heart right then and there, and praying for this person suddenly became very important, very pressing, and very easy.

God sees so much more than we do. What he asks us to do is usually not easy, but he usually has very good reasons for asking it. Many times it is for our benefit: to grow us or to clean out sin. Other times, it may be to benefit others, sometimes it's both. If what you're facing is just too difficult for you to do, find a time to quiet your mind and talk to your creator and ask him for help. Let him transform you, and inspire you!



In this issue:

- Recipe - Page 2
- Mother's Day Luncheon Information - Page 2
- Calendar - Page 3
- "The Gift" - Page 4

From Dreams To Reality

What an exciting time for our church! There are many new faces around the church and soon we will be expanding the building as well. I hope you have been prayerfully seeking what God is asking you to give as we move forward. I'm sure there are many of you looking at your checkbook wondering where in the world you will find the extra money, If you're stretching things just to make ends meet it's easy to just dismiss or ignore this whole program. Please keep an open mind during this time, listen to what pastor has to say, and listen to what God wants to tell you.

Below are some of our pastor's comments, taken from the From Dreams to Reality pamphlet mailed to you recently. I think it's a great summary of what is coming up. If you would like some more information, please visit our website, cpraise.org.

From Dreams to Reality is a twelve month mini-capital stewardship program that we are launching to raise the funds for the new addition at the back of the church. This project is not something that is new to the church. It is actually something that began in 1995 to meet the needs of this congregation.

We have done two previous capital stewardship campaigns, and the Lord gave us great success in both. Not only did the Lord enable us to complete both building programs, but He so blessed us individually in the process.

Why will the Lord bless us for supporting this project? First, it isn't our project. This is something God put on our hearts in 1995, a project we need to finish. Second, building programs provide a witness to the community. It is a physical sign that the Kingdom of God is expanding. Third, it is for our growth.

We have discovered that when God gives us a challenge and we respond to it, there will be growth in our lives. That is what we saw in the previous campaigns. There were those who overcame fear by stepping out to obey God. There were others whose obedience produced incredible breakthroughs in their lives. By that I mean they found God giving them their heart's desire. Still others received new job opportunities and experienced tremendous financial blessings. There is no limit to how God can bless you. I see this campaign as an opportunity to be blessed.

The most important thing you can do as we launch the *From Dreams to Reality* campaign is seek the Lord and listen to Him. Whatever commitment you make should be based on what the Lord puts on your heart. This can be an incredible 12 month journey to see what God can do in our church and in our lives, and I invite you to take this journey with me, our staff, and the entire leadership team. We can possess our destiny.

Blessing on you -
Pastor Mike

Mother's Day Luncheon

This year's Mother's Day luncheon will be held on Saturday, May 7th at 10:30am in the Fellowship Hall. We will have a nice "potluck" brunch and our guest speaker will be Linda Dillon.

This year we are asking for your help; we would like to see your pictures! We would like to celebrate your favorite "Mommy Moments," either with your mother, or as a mother. Pull out those photographs of your favorite memories! Was it a special trip, just you and your mom? The first moment you held your child in your arms? Maybe it's the day the children were just "too quiet" and painted the family pet a lovely shade of pink. Perhaps it's the last photo of the two of you together. Whatever the moment is, from bittersweet to comical, please share it with us! We will put the photographs into a slideshow that will play during the luncheon. If you can, please email the photos to

Tracy Wilson at tracy@cpraise.org. If you have printed photos, please drop them off at the Information Center in an Envelope addressed to "Anne Dresel." Please make sure to include your name! The photos will be returned to you at the Information Center the following Sunday.

The sign-up sheet for this event will be at the information center. It will be a fun meal with some good conversation, a few door prizes, and hopefully plenty of laughs! Bring along a friend and join in the fun!



Coupon Exchange

For all the ladies in our church who clip coupons, we now have a coupon exchange! This is a "drop-in" type exchange. In the Resource Room you will find a basket with a "Coupon Exchange" label. Drop off your unwanted coupons in an envelope marked with your name and the current date. Don't have any coupons? No problem! Drop by and look through the coupons left by others. For your own sanity, please write your name or initials on the envelopes you have looked through. (It saves you from having to look through them twice!) Let's get saving!

But the Lord watches over
those who fear him, those who
rely on his unfailing love.
He rescues them from death
and keeps them alive in times
of famine.
We put our hope in the LORD.
He is our help and our shield.
In him our hearts rejoice, for
we trust in his holy name.
Let your unfailing love surround us,
LORD, for our hope
is in you alone.
Psalms 33:18-22 NLT

Cookbook

Refrigerator Pickles

Makes 1 Gallon Jar

Slice cucumbers to fill jar.

- 3 cups Sugar
- 3 cups Vinegar
- 1/4 cup Salt
- 1 teaspoon Celery seed
- 1 teaspoon Turmeric
- 1 teaspoon dry mustard
- 1 teaspoon mustard seed

Mix all ingredients in a saucepan and heat to almost boiling. Pour over sliced cucumbers in the jar. Put the lid on tightly and place upside down in refrigerator for 1-2 days, then turn upright. Will keep in the refrigerator for many months.



Opportunity Corner

Looking for a place to plug in at Cathedral of Praise?

Try one of the volunteer opportunities listed below. If you enjoy it, great! If it's not a good fit, check this spot in the next newsletter for another new idea!

Children's Church Assistants*

Cathedral of Praise has a wonderful set of programs for our children, both Sunday mornings and Wednesday evening. These programs have been successful because of your help! As time goes by, however, people sometimes must leave due to illness or circumstance. As we continue, we need new helpers to fill the gap. Please help fill in the gaps! Assistants for 1st-5th grade Children's Church typically help by turning the lights on and off when instructed, take children to the restroom,

hand out prizes, and occasionally help in the games. If you are more technically minded, the sound booth may be your spot. (Don't worry, Tracy will train you!) Sunday helpers are scheduled for one service per month, leaving you free to attend the other service. Couples are preferred, but a pair of friends would be a wonderful asset as well. Please call Tracy at the church to volunteer. (918) 245-2434

*Volunteers with the Children's Ministry (5th grade and younger) must pass a background check and have attended Cathedral of Praise for at least 6 months.



Sand Springs, OK

Kelly Wilson

March 2011

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

April 2011

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

May 2011

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Schedule of Events

- March 3rd, Women's Bible Study
- March 14-18th, Spring Break (Sand Springs)
- March 24th, Women's Bible Study
- March 27th, Beginning of *From Dreams to Reality*
- April 2nd, Free Garage Sale
- April 7th, Women's Bible Study
- April 17th, One Service followed by the Celebrate Dreams Luncheon
- April 21st, Women's Bible Study
- April 23rd, Carnival at Cathedral
- April 24th, Easter!
- May 5th, Women's Bible Study
- May 7th, Mother's Day Luncheon
- May 8th, Mother's Day
- May 30th, Memorial Day

Women's Events, What's Coming Up?

Cathedral of praise hosts events just for women at different times throughout the year. This year we are looking forward to some fun events! Our first for this year is the Mother's Day Luncheon, described on the previous page. This summer we are excited to bring back a popular event, Coffee Talk! (Don't worry, coffee drinking is not required!) This summer we are also planning another pool party at Robin Downe's house! In October we are planning a Women's Retreat that should be lots of fun. In December we will finish off the year with the annual Ornament Exchange. All of these events will have more information in the church bulletin and in future newsletters.



There are also other women's events coming to our state this year. The Women of Joy Conference in Oklahoma City April 15th-17th includes speakers Sarah Palin and Anita Renfroe, along with singer Michael W. Smith. Women of Faith returns to Oklahoma City this year and will be held at the Ford Center November 11th-12th. If you would like to go to Women of Faith and have questions, please call Anne Dresel at (918) 245-3446. These large conferences can seem a bit pricey, but the are lots of fun and are usually very inspiring!

I am looking forward to a fun year! Please feel free to contact me, Anne Dresel, via email at wod@cpraise.org or by telephone at (918) 245-3446 if you would like more information about any of these events.



Want to receive this newsletter in the mail? Did we miss you on the email list? We'll be glad to add you to future mailings! Drop off your name and address at the information center, or send your email address to wod@cpraise.org.

The Gift

As I looked around the room, the people began to swirl like on an amusement ride. I suddenly got very hot and didn't feel so good again. It was time to find my way out. At this point I wasn't concerned about the lady on the floor; I just wanted to make it outside so I didn't get sick on anyone.

I tried to walk straight for the door, but there were so many people there. My head was spinning, the music was pumping and I just wanted to lie down. I pushed people out of my way as I stumbled over my own feet.

As the door came into view, I made a final push to get out as fast as I could. I could no longer hold it all in. The door flung open and I dashed out; the cooler night air was like walking into a wall. I turned to the right and got sick on the sidewalk.

This was all so new for me. I had never been sick before in my life. Why now? Had God granted me permission to get sick and die so I could be with my husband again? I was so confused, and scared at the same time.

As I hung my head in my hands I felt a warm gentle hand on my back.

"Are you okay?" Kayson asked.

"Um, I don't know." I managed to mutter.

"Here, do you need a drink?" Kayson handed me a bottle of water.

"Thanks." I took it and swished out my mouth. "How embarrassing," I said flashing him a sweaty grin.

"Hey, it's okay! It happens to everyone."

"Just not in public," I said. "And not to me."

"What do you mean?" asked Kayson.

"I've never been sick before. Ever."

Kayson's face went from confused to surprised.

"My Mom thought that God had a special protection over me, because I never got sick. Now, I don't know what to think of it."

"Are you feeling better now," he asked?

"Yes, a lot better. The cool air is nice and I no longer feel like I'm on a roller coaster. Is that lady I prayed for okay?"

"Absolutely, why do you ask?"

"I thought that I may have hurt her. She fell to the ground."

Kayson smiles, "I see we have a lot to talk about. How about, when you are feeling up to it, we can get together and I'll teach you about the Bible?"

"That sounds great," I said as I caught something out of the corner of my eye over Kayson's shoulder. It was the man I saw at the restaurant. He was making his way down the street on his little board with wheels. His legs still hanging off the board and rubbing on the ground as his hands pushed him along.

What was his story? What happened to him and where is his family. I wanted to go over and give him some money or help him in some way. I just didn't know how.

"Okay?" Kayson asked interrupting my thoughts.

"Oh, um, what was that again?" I said, snapping back to the conversation.

"I said, I'll stop by in the morning to check on you."

"You don't have to do that," I said shyly.

"I want to," he said lovingly as he reached out and touched my arm. "You go get some rest and I'll see you tomorrow. It's been a big day for you."

"Thanks Kayson."

I looked back over to where the man had been, but he had vanished. I looked up and down the street as I walked toward my door but didn't see any trace of him. I just couldn't stop thinking of this poor young man. How could I help him? Or will he let me help him? He was keeping my mind off my illness, so maybe it was worth trying to connect with him the next time I see him. Maybe Kayson can interpret for me.

I needed to ask Kayson to take me to a bank so I could get the insurance check put in an account. Then maybe I could give this man some money to get a real wheel chair. How could so many people pass him every day and not help? How lonely he must feel. I must find some way to help him.

(Parts 1-6 are available in the previous newsletters beginning in January 2010. Those newsletters are available online at [cpraise.org-Adults-Women's Ministries-Newsletters](http://cpraise.org-Adults-Women's-Ministries-Newsletters). Please contact Anne Dresel at (918) 245-3446 if you would like a printed copy of back issues.)

©2011 Kelly Wilson

Part 7