

*Celebrating our 6<sup>th</sup> Anniversary 2008-2014*

# THE LAMP NEWSLETTER

*"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path" (Psalm 119:105 KJV).*

MRS. WANDA J. BURNSIDE, Founder and Publisher  
MINISTER MARY EDWARDS, Editor  
MR. SIMMIE LEE BURNSIDE, JR., Manager  
MRS. CAROLYN TOUSSAINT, Featured Writer  
AUTHOR RAMELLE T. LEE, Contributing Writer  
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## 2014 - LIVE NAKED!!

*-By Wanda J. Burnside, Publisher*

Dear Readers,

By now, many predictions for this year, 2014, have been stated. Also, I am sure that numerous resolutions have been made by many folks. To me, resolutions only become added responsibilities and a list of condemnations about our lives. By trying to keep them, we only put pressure on ourselves with our attempts to make life and things better for ourselves.

As for me, I would rather do what the Bible tells us, *"Casting all of your care upon him, for he careth for you"* (I Peter 5:7 KJV). Now, in the New Century Version of the Bible it states, *"Give all your worries to him, because he cares about you"* (I Peter 5:7 NCV). This is a godly promise and deal that I cannot refuse! Thank you LORD!

In December 2013, as the year began to close, I tried to get quiet in my noisy world. A lot goes on in my life. There are so many who try to stay in my space, my life, with a buzz-buzz about everything! However, I fought to get silent before the Lord. I wanted to hear from Him. I needed to hear from Him.

# SHOCKING WEATHER CONDITIONS

The Lord showed me how the weather conditions and situations make people try to adjust and survive what is happening in their lives. Around America, we have a wide array of all types of weather. We have been hit with an arctic blast here in Michigan and in other states in the east and across mid-America. We have crashed all of our recorded weather lows. The weather has gone from zero degree to way below zero. Can you believe it has gone down to as low as almost -20? We were in a deep freeze!

We had so much snow, ice, sleet, freezing rain, and everything going on! The wind howled and caused a swirl of gusty snow to blow here, there and everywhere! Our weather caused school closings, accident pile ups on the highways, cars sliding off the roads, and all kind of dangerous things happening. Everybody ran out to buy stacks and bags of road salt, more shovels, and other supplies. People purchased so much food that they cleaned off shelves at the supermarkets! People are trying to get or stay prepared for the drastic and uncertain changes in the weather.

The extremely cold weather, from the deadly arctic freezing blast in one massive area to intense heat and sweltering conditions in vast areas across our country has almost been unbearable for many of us. Our out-of-control weather in America is also shared around the world. Weather records are being shattered worldwide! My dear friend, Minister Sandra Hickman, who lives in Australia with her family, informed me how horribly hot it is down there. They are suffering in extreme heat that has gone on for days and now weeks.

## TO WEAR CLOTHES OR NOTHING!

To stay warm and protected from these freezing temperatures, we have been warned to dress properly. We must put on a hat, wear our gloves, and scarf. We are told to pile on the clothes to stay warm and safe from having frostbites on our fingers, toes, and other exposed body parts. So, to prevent this from happening, we pile on sweaters, extra clothing, and wear long johns, if you have them. This is called layering, which is to keep us alive!

Then, on the other hand, where it is extremely hot . . . we see people wearing close to nothing! Yeah . . . we see bikinis and even people wearing those disgusting thongs, too. *You know exactly what I mean.* They are barely wearing any clothing to stay cool.

## GOD SAID, "LIVE NAKED!"

With all that has been going on concerning our weather, God spoke to me. He said that He wants us to "Live Naked." He said that conditions and circumstances in the weather make people desperately strive to live. They take every precaution to guard against the weather regardless of what it is. If it is cold, they put on more and more clothing to cover up to stay warm and protected from the extreme temperatures. They don't want to feel the coldness. They don't want to be uncomfortable.

Then, He spoke to me about how they look with their bodies piled up with layers and layers of clothing, trying to stay warm. He showed me their faces wrapped in a wool scarf or a knitted face mask, which nearly covers their entire face, leaving only their eyes showing. He said look at their eyes. Everybody wants to see if they can.

He spoke to me about the people who are daring enough to take off nearly all of their clothes to get cool from the fiery heat waves and scorching temperatures. They have lost most of their dignity just to get a tiny breeze of air for their body. They are no longer ashamed of being nearly naked.

He said, *"LIVE NAKED! I want you to come before me unashamed of exposing yourself before Me. Live Naked!"*

I immediately responded, *"WHAT? LORD! NAKED? No clothes . . . ough . . . Really? Now, way back in the beginning, Adam and Eve picked some fig leaves and they covered up! They came before You covered and ashamed . . . and . . ."*

*Wanda, "I never wanted that! I despised that! At first, they did not come to Me when I called them. They did not come before me naked! They hid from me. They were ashamed of themselves. They did not do what is right in My sight. They hid from Me. They did not want to be in My presence. They did not want to abide there with Me. They were not comfortable. They were not at peace. They felt guilty because they were guilty of not doing what I commanded Adam to do in the Garden. Eve was deceived by the devil, the serpent. Adam and Eve were not obedient to Me," God said.*

This led me to think about many things.

God said, *"Adam and Eve covered their flesh, which they now could see was naked.*

*It made them feel ashamed. They discovered that their flesh, their outward self, their appearance was different. Their eyes revealed something new . . . and uncovered that their heart was not in relationship with Me. Their heart was not right. Their spirit broke fellowship with Me. They no longer depended upon My judgement, My leadership, My dominion over them, and My covering over them.*

*"Because their eyes were opened, like people who peek out from a veil, face covering, mask or those woolen scarves . . . they allow their eyes to see what they want to see so they can have control over their circumstances. They are walking by their sight. They make the judgment to walk here and walk there."*

**IN 2014 . . .**

## **LIVE NAKED AND BE BLESSED!**

God wants us to LIVE NAKED before Him. Uncover your heart. Allow Him to see your heart. Reveal your heart of hurts, disappointments, fears, doubts, worries, lies, and all to Him. Don't cover up your heart when you are hurting. Come before Him in your brokenness. Tell Him just how you feel. He knows, but He wants to have your heart in His hands.

**LIVE NAKED** in your day- to- day activities. Come before Him with your daily needs, your daily situations, your daily problems, and those things that you must face. You cannot handle them yourself. You cannot face them without Him.

**LIVE NAKED** before God. Be truthful about everything that is going on in your life. Don't try to figure out how to cover up the circumstances that you are confronted with. Surrender them to Him. Give them to Him. Uncover them and let Him handle every one of them. Trust Him.

GOD SAID for us to stop pretending that everything is alright and that you can do something about all of the crazy and out of control things going on in your life. Tell Him about your desires, plans, and dreams. Share them with Him. Include Him in on what you hope to do. Give Him access to every one of them. Let Him speak over them. He knows what is best for your life.

STOP CONCEALING YOUR LIFE FROM HIM. God wants us to invite Him in to the secret places in our lives that we "think" we have hidden from Him. We try to keep this and that away from Him. We try to hide behind one excuse after another. We have problems and troubles in our lives. We can't make it better on our own. We cannot change one thing to make things turn around. We are limited in what we can do.

So many of us are having difficulties in life. We are failing in one thing and then another. We are losing everything . . . sleep, our minds, our tempers, our jobs, our friends, our families, and even our money! Give up! Surrender and let Jesus handle it all.

Pour out your heart to Him. Show Him your hurts and scars. Take off that mask! Take off that pride. Stop walking around with a spirit of bitterness and resentment. Stop lying about what won't and can't hurt you. Stop trying to bully everybody, because you are not reaching your goals in life. Stop pretending to be something when you know that your world has crumbled down to your feet.

God said, *"LIVE NAKED before ME! COME BEFORE ME! Stop hiding behind false things. Stop running away from Me! Come to Me! I will give you rest. Come to Me. I am your Shepherd. You shall not want when I am with you. I will lead you right to the green pastures. I will bring you to the still waters, which are not raging! You will have My peace!*

*"Come to Me! I will comfort you. I will show you which way to go in life. My rod and My staff are there for you to bless you.*

*"LIVE NAKED so that I, your God, will handle your enemies. I will prepare a table for you to celebrate this year, in 2014, right in their presence. They will wonder why and how I have blessed you and brought you through every circumstance and situation. I will bless you right in front of those who come against you. I prepare the celebration for your life and success! I, Your God, am present in all of your situations.*

*"In the bitter and cold things of your life, I am there to cover you with My Holy Spirit. I will warm your heart with My love and protection.*

*"In the hot and fiery furnace of your life, I will be there to keep you from the burning flames that want to destroy your life. I, Your God, will protect you from hurt and harm.*

*"I love you with an everlasting love. Come to Me. Stand before Me NAKED. LIVE NAKED! Reveal yourself to Me. Humble yourself, for I Am your GOD. I AM YOUR ALL."*

## MY POEM FOR YOU, "Come to Me."

In 2006, God gave me this poem to write, when I was really going through some tough times. I needed Him. I cried out to Him to help me. I wanted Him to immediately, "Come to Me." I was desperate for Him. I still am.

### COME TO ME

by Wanda J. Burnside © 2006

*I need You Lord  
in my  
struggling days,  
those empty nights,  
and in those moments  
that seem all right.  
Please . . . come to me.  
I can't make it on my own.  
I am nothing . . .  
without You.*

*My Dear Lord,  
...I need You.  
Please come to me.  
Come, my Savior.  
Only You can satisfy me.  
I desperately want You.  
  
I welcome You into my heart.  
Come Lord . . .  
Come to me.  
I love You my Lord.  
Come to me.*

I invite you to view this poem online on my website as a video presentation. Please go to: [www.thecalledandreadywriters.org](http://www.thecalledandreadywriters.org). Then go to my website ministries and productions. I am very thankful for the outstanding work and creativity of Mrs. Linda Whitsitt of Webtech Design Company in Utah who did capture the message of this poem. On my site, you will see all of the other poems that Mrs. Whitsitt has so beautifully produced for me.

Please pray for Mrs. Whitsitt and her husband, Terry, who is the owner of this company. They both have great health challenges. Pray for healing and deliverance in their lives. Lift them up before the Lord. Our God is greater!

***"The effective, fervent prayer  
of a righteous man avails much."  
(James 5:16 NKV).***



## WE WILL NEVER FORGET . . .



### **DR. PAUL FRANKLIN CROUCH**

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Entertainment Network Preaching and  
Teaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ



### **NELSON ROLIHLAHIA MANDELA**

**1918-2013**

The First Black President of  
South Africa in 1994  
He was a South African Anti-Apartheid  
Revolutionary Leader, 1993 Noble Prize  
Winner



### **DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.**

**1929-1968**

Pastor, Preacher, Activist leader in the Civil  
Rights Movement, President of SCLC,  
1964 Nobel Prize Winner  
USA First African-American National  
Holiday  
January - MLK DAY

# God's Place of Visitation

by Ramelle T. Lee © 2011

Lord, intercept my wandering thoughts.  
You have my full and undivided attention in prayer.  
My world has been shaken to the core.  
Counsel my troubled, weary, and hurting heart.  
Give me Your heavenly instructions  
And the right course of action.

Please speak to me.  
Touch the tenderness of my hurt.  
Dry up my tears...  
That are falling down my face.  
Please remove the veil of doubt and fear;  
That has come to overshadow my spirit.  
Please answer me from Your Holy Hill,  
So that I can walk in complete victory.

O Lord!

I await Your holy visitation.  
Grant me Your peace,  
In the midst of this chaos,  
Where the enemy seeks to devour me.  
My eyes are totally fixed upon You.  
I know my breakthrough has come!



*Author Ramelle T. Lee is a poet of nearly fifty poems written to give God the glory and to bless the lives of many. She is the author of the prophetic book, STEP INTO HIS GREATNESS. Ramelle is the founder and president of Touching Your Heart Ministries. She is also the founder of The Gift Basket Ministry Shop. Ramelle is an Administrative Assistant and the Membership Chairman in The Called and Ready Writers. She is an active and longtime member of Greater Bethlehem Missionary Baptist Church in Detroit, MI.*

**Contact Information:** Touching Your Heart Ministries, P. O. Box 119, Lincoln Park, MI 48146.  
**Email:** [Ramelleskip@aol.com](mailto:Ramelleskip@aol.com)    **Phone:** 313-680-4429    **Website:** [www.thecalledandreadywriters.org](http://www.thecalledandreadywriters.org)



## NEW RELEASES! Let us Celebrate...

*with Gospel Music Artist*

### **OCTAVIA HARRIS!**

*Female music pioneer Octavia Harris is back with refreshing, cutting edge sound and content with 2014 CD release, "Be Myself," available NOW! on Nothing To Fear Records. The freshly-minted DJ's Choice Awards recipient of the Female Producer of the Year Award celebrates by producing sixteen of the eighteen tracks on the long awaited solo project, that's been described by the Founder of Kingdom Driven Entrepreneur, Shae Bynes, as "Holy Spirit inspired FIYAH!"*

Cincinnati, OH (January 17, 2014) – Singer, songwriter, rapper, producer and owner of one of the hottest music production websites in the world ([www.beatsbyoctavia.com](http://www.beatsbyoctavia.com)), critically acclaimed and now award-winning female emcee Octavia Harris reemerges from behind the scenes to release her first full length recording in six years, the very personable and highly inspiring "Be Myself". The Portland, OR born and bred do-it-all brings her utility belt skill set to the table once again, and in the male dominated rap/hip hop fields, makes an extremely bold statement for the ladies.

"Be Myself" comes from Octavia's heart; crafted in a way that is described as "uniquely bold, yet delicately brilliant," Octavia uses her music to motivate people to dream again, and to use their GOD-given talents to impact the world in a positive way. Octavia's movement empowers people to know that "...they can reach high levels in life despite past hurts, failures, regrets, shame or doubt". Defying categorization, "Be Myself" targets the heart of a dreamer, with seamless infusions of rap, pop, dance, and everything in between.

"Be Myself" has garnered the early support of multiple music communities, sporting a broad spectrum of collaborations as well as sonic presentations with the likes of well-known artists D. MAUB (the album's first single and video, "Never"), K DRAMA, Estee', Debbie Verbz, as well as Nothing To Fear label mate Cameron Joy, to name a few, all joining Octavia to champion the cause and impact of walking in ones created identity.

"Be Myself" will begin making its national and international impact Jan 17, 2014. You can order your copy here: <http://octaviaharris.com/bemyself/>

Nothing To Fear Records (NTF) is an independent record label that pushes both the envelope of what is possible ministerially and musically, encouraging people to step out and grab a hold of their purpose and pursue it relentlessly. When there's Nothing To Fear, people can put their Faith On Max!

*For interviews and/or bookings, contact: Jonathan Clarke, (516) 382-0598 or [clarkekent34@gmail.com](mailto:clarkekent34@gmail.com)*

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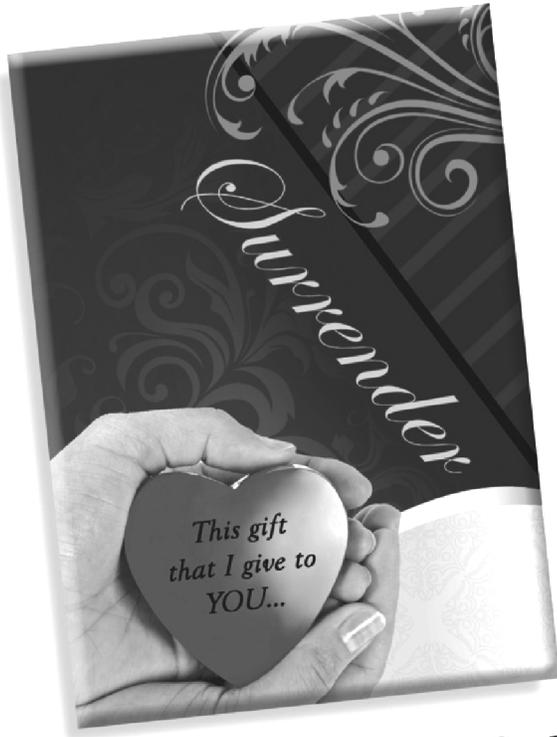
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*There are people who don't want to see you succeed or have any success. They want to hold you back. They are in your life to see that you fall on your back. These are the "I told you so folks." They are looking for a reason to see you struggle and not make it. They are not for you. We must learn to not listen to them. Instead, speak boldly about the assignment that God has for us. We can press on knowing that God is for us. He cares.*

*There is a holy boldness that we must acquire. The Lord wants us to hold on to His Word and not listen to the talk of others. He has made promises to us. He wants us to depend on Him and trust Him in everything. Our life will change when we believe what He said and stand on every promise. We must have a change of attitude to make it. Believe God and hold on!*

**Stand firm on the Word that He has proclaimed to YOU!**



## WELCOME BABIES OF 2013 . . .

*It's a BOY!*

**OCTOBER . . . Connor, Precious Friends!**

*Parents: Jonathan and Joanna Chipman*

**NOVEMBER . . . Judah, Dear Friends!**

*His grandma, Minister Sandra Hickman. Parents: Raymond and Tari!*

*It's a GIRL!*

**DECEMBER . . . Naomi, Great-Niece! Parents: Julian and Kai Palm**

***May God Bless These Beautiful Babies and Lovely Families!***

---

## WE ARE PRAYING FOR . . .

### THE BEREAVED FAMILIES:

The Mrs. H. Elaine Barney Family and The Rodger and Josefa Palm Family

Author Ramelle T. Lee

The Poet Yvette Wilburn Family

The Deacon Thomas O'Neil Family

The Mrs. Sharon Cole Family

Minister Mary Edwards and the Brooks Family

Pastor Jacquelyn Rhodes and the Prueitt Family

The Mr. Thomas C. Ruffin Family

*...And to all our readers who have deaths in their families. God's hands are stretched out to you. He will comfort your heart and carry your sorrows. He cares for you.*

*"Our tears do not fall without the hand of God catching every one." -Kathy Troccoli*

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## SPECIAL PRAYERS ARE EXTENDED TO . . .

### OUR SICK AND SHUT-INS:

*"God wants to reveal Himself as your heavenly Father.*

*When you are hurting, you can run to him and crawl up into His lap. When you wonder which way to turn, you can grasp his strong hand, and he'll guide you along life's path. When everything around you is falling apart, you'll feel your father's arm around your shoulder to hold you together." -Angela Thomas*



# GLORIOUS CELEBRATIONS!

"We Salute and Honor, MISS SHANNON CROWLEY, on her BLESSED BIRTHDAY! Thank you for your outstanding professional services as the typesetter and graphic designer of our newsletter. You are truly appreciated and loved!"

## HONORING OUR GOLDEN YEARS CELEBRANTS....

Mom-Mom, Mrs. Claire Jordan Mohan of PA - 88th Birthday  
Mum, Mrs. Shirley Clare Hickman of Australia - 88th Birthday  
Mrs. Almeta Brooks, the Mother-in-law of Minister Mary Edwards...

*Happy 95th Birthday to Mother Brooks!*

*Happy, Happy Birthday to those born in January, February and March!*

## JANUARY...

Mrs. Michele Barnes  
Mrs. Josefa Palm  
Justus Palm (3 years old!)

### IN MEMORIAM:

Mrs. Christine Burnside,  
*Dearest mother of My Husband,  
Simmie L. Burnside, Jr.*

## FEBRUARY...

Ms. Charolett Burnside  
Ms. Darlene Gardner  
Mr. Daniel Gardner  
Ms. Lisa Holloway  
Minister Charlestine Herbin

### IN MEMORIAM:

My PRECIOUS DAD,  
ELDER MINOR PALM, JR.

*Happy 20th Wedding Anniversary to our Cousins . . .*

*Tony and Marcia Washington of Philadelphia*

*MAY GOD FOREVER CONTINUE TO BLESS YOU!*

## MARCH...

MOTHER ELIZABETH HANDS, the wife of the late Superintendent Randall E. Hands.  
Ja'Den Palm  
Ms. Vivian Barney

*Happy 37th Wedding Anniversary*  
*Elder Rodger Palm and Mrs. Josefa Palm*

*May The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you;  
the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace. – Numbers 6:24-26*





## MINISTRY SPOTLIGHT

This year, 2014, marks the 19<sup>th</sup> year of my ministry . . .

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*Mr. Simmie Lee Burnside, Manager*

*Miss Regina Palm, Project Assistant*

*Ms. Jolayna Palm, Special Aide*

*Author Ramelle T. Lee, Ministry Project Contributor*



## CONGRATULATIONS TO . . .



### Minister Mary Edwards, Founder

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# *A Message for Your Life*

*By Carolyn Toussaint*



May you be blessed with good health, love and joy . . .  
as you travel along on this journey on the road called Life.  
May forgiveness peace, mercy, and grace  
help to cover, smooth and fill in the potholes along the way.  
May the wind of contentment be at your backs  
to help you climb the hills.  
And may thanksgiving help to keep you from  
rushing or slipping too far ahead  
as you journey down from the peaks on top.

May your roadmap, the Bible,  
and your GPS system, The Holy Spirit . . .  
Help you keep your eyes on the goal  
and the Heavenly crown and prize,  
as they keep you true to the course.  
May your weather conditions be worship.  
May the song on your lips and in your hearts,  
(Radio station you're tuned into),  
be praise for the One who has placed us on this road.

May faith, trust and hope fill your tanks and keep your engines running smoothly.  
Remember, to laugh as often as you can  
and to cry when you need to.

The first, laughter, helps keep the temperature correct.  
The second, tears, helps to clear the glass of the windows and windshield.  
Every so often . . . find a restaurant with lots of smiles and hugs  
for a good meal and fellowship.  
And do remember to take advantage of the Rest Stops along the way . . .  
to pull over and dance! Have a beautiful journey.

*Carolyn Toussaint is an award-winning writer, author and poet. She dearly loves our Heavenly Father. She is married to Mr. Bruce Toussaint. They have two married adult children, six grandchildren and one great-grandson. Carolyn is a longtime friend. She resides in Florida with her husband.*

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## MARCH - Mark the Date:

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held at The Courtyard by Marriott Detroit-Dearborn

5200 Mercury Drive, Dearborn, MI 48126



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*Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love. By this the love of God was manifested in us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him. In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has seen God at any time; if we love one another, God abides in us, and His love is perfected in us. By this we know that we abide in Him and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit. We have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son to be the Savior of the world. - 1 John 4:7-14*

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