

THE LAMP NEWSLETTER

“Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path” (Psalm 119:105 KJV)

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LIFE'S DISAPPOINTMENTS

Part I: Overview: The Real Deal

Dear Readers,

Disappointments! *Disappointments! DISAPPOINTMENTS!* Life has many disappointments. Webster's New World Dictionary of American Language copyright 1984 states: *“Disappointments - To fail to satisfy the hopes or expectations of (something or someone).”*

For a large percentage of us, it seems like nothing turns out the way we want, wish and even prayed. We plan for things to happen one way, but it goes haywire. We hope that situations and circumstances turn around and change for the better, but it doesn't. Often new plans are made, but they go sour and fail too. Some of us are on a merry-go-round of ups and downs in our marriage, personal relationships, jobs, family, finances, and more. The spirit of disappointment is on the rise. Sadly, there is disappointment concerning our schools, neighbors, health, medical care, our government, and even our churches!

People are increasingly let down by our government on all levels: city, county, state, and federal. Important issues and policies in our government are not meeting our various needs. Boycotts, sit-ins, marches, and civil unrest are on the rise, because people are growing greatly upset and fed-up with the government.

Whatever happened to the phrase, “Satisfaction Guaranteed?” It used to be the golden seal or rule for nearly everything we purchased, consumed or used. Corporations, industries, companies, and service agencies used to boast of how their consumers or customers were greatly satisfied with their products or services. They stood by their work!

That was years ago. Today, we find the words, “WARNING” and “CAUTION” on mostly everything. Unfortunately, we are becoming more disappointed concerning most things in our lives. It is irritating and disappointing to be let down by products and services that we urgently need.

We have become a society of discontentment with just about everything. Many people completely change their life and lifestyle in search of something different and new to bring ultimate happiness and excitement. We are a society that desires total makeovers on more than our faces!

THEN AND NOW

In the past, disappointment was used productively to energize change, positive improvement and to vitalize new ideas and ideals. In school, we learned how inventions were born out of hundreds of failures and disappointments. Those inventors harnessed the negative outcome to fuel their efforts to try and try again until they captured success.

However, today, disappointment is more deadly and fired-up with rage. It leads to fear that nothing will change, which leads to discouragement, anger, violence, bitterness, depression, helplessness, hopelessness and hostilities. There is huge use of drugs, alcohol, the misuse of prescription drugs, and other evil vices.

Those in deep disappointment, tend to withdraw from others and feel defeated, which opens the door to Satan's plans. Our life is filled with those in rage and ready to commit mass killings on their jobs, college campuses, and other places because they are out of control with anger.

OUR LANGUAGE TODAY

Have you noticed the increasing use of negative words and phrases chosen to our disappointment today?

- 1. "Let down!"**
- 2. Rejected/rejection**
- 3. Fail/Failed/failure**
- 4. Unreliable**
- 5. Undependable**
- 6. Cheated**
- 7. Unsatisfied/ unsatisfiedly**
- 8. Flop/flopped**
- 9. "Weakest Link"**
- 10. "Dead Head"**
- 11. Disapprove/disapproved**
- 12. "Not a team player"**

The list is longer and growing. Even our youth have their way of letting you know that they are disappointed which is, *"It sucks!"* I am sure you have heard this expression. Disappointment has become a wildfire! It is spreading everywhere.

THE ROOT OF DISAPPOINTMENT

Disappointment comes from the failure of *our expectations and eager anticipation* to come true. It is the death of our *hopes and dreams*. It is when *our sincere heart desires* doesn't materialized and come to be, exist. We have a burning desire to obtain something important to us that we strongly feel will make life wonderful. When it doesn't happen, we are crushed.

Frustrations take over our thinking. We don't know what to do to change the let down. This leads to confusion. We can't make the right decision because we are so hurt and disturbed. We were desperate to have success, true love, good news, excitement, happiness, self-fulfillment and change. But, sometimes it didn't happen as we thought that it should. Our bubble is burst!

We earnestly prayed to God about it. We are hurt that He did not answer our prayers. It doesn't help much when someone says:

"Don't worry about it!" "Forget it!" Try something or someone else!" "It wasn't meant to be." "When life gives you lemons, make lemonade."

WHAT DO WE DO?

So, where does it lead us? What do we do when we are disappointed? What's next? I hear you saying: *"Turn to God! Turn to your Bible!"* You are absolutely right! Amen. Yet, there are many, many of you saying that you did pray, you did seek God, you did read your Bible . . . I am a Believer . . . A Christian . . . so why did I get kicked in my teeth with heartache and disappointments? Why me? I don't deserve all of this hurt, suffering and flood of problems!

God is speaking to me concerning disappointments. He is directing me to write on it in my newsletters. I had a completely different topic planned to write on. I could never get it going. I tried . . . then, I really prayed about what to do.

I am living through some difficult and painful disappointments not just for me, Wanda, but concerning the lives of others. I have heard some really heartbreaking stories from others. Lives are ripped apart. I see the struggles of loved ones who have prayed for years for changes and blessings.

Readers, God wants to speak to us concerning our own personal disappointments. Please stay with me on this journey. Let us discover what God will say.

COMING LAMP NEWSLETTER ISSUES : Life's Disappointments

May/June 2012 Part II - The Biblical Aspects

July/August 2012 Part III - God's Plans

***“You will show me the path of life,
In your presence is fullness of joy;
At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore”
(Psalm 16:11 NKJV).***

IN LOVING MEMORY

God has blessed Simmie and me in many different ways. He has given us very, very precious loved ones who have made a major difference in our lives by their very caring, giving and loving hearts. They touched our lives and many, many people. They were remarkable.

Their lives were a shining example of God's love, mercy, tenderness, and kindness. I know that God sent them here to make a godly imprint on hearts. They were rare people who only wanted the “very best” for others. *They were prayer warriors! They were encouragers! They were unselfish! Each one of them reached out to bring blessings into the lives of others . . . all of the time!* They will be so sorely missed . . .

A BELOVED SISTER:

MS. ELIZABETH JANE BURNSIDE - September 16, 1943-February 24, 2012.

Elizabeth, the very dearly loved sister of Simmie, my husband. She was the eldest child of Deacon and Mother Simmie Lee Burnside, Sr. She was an active member of Bailey Temple Church of God in Christ in Detroit. Elizabeth loved to serve in various departments at church, especially with the women, youth and ushers. She was devoted to her family and friends who needed special help in any difficult situation.

Elizabeth was employed at Harper Hospital in Detroit for more than 40 years as a Nurse Technician and worked in other areas in medicine and health care.

Simmie, the only brother, loved Elizabeth for many wonderful reasons. Down through the years, he has shared many precious stories about her, his sweet sister. She was so very, very special to me, too.

TWO PRECIOUS FRIENDS:

MINISTER CARMEN MURRAY - October 16, 1963-February 12, 2012.

Carmen was a founding member and officer of The Called and Ready Writers. Minister Murray was the author of two books and produced an anointed prayer cd. She was an ordained minister and worked in the prayer ministries, Ministerial Alliance, and other ministries at her church, Mt. Zion New Covenant Baptist Church in Detroit. She also was an officer in the “World Christian Outreach Ministry.”

Minister Carmen was an educator, licensed Clinical Social Worker, and earned a B.S. Criminal Justice along with a Master in Social Work.

She was a truly supportive subscriber of this newsletter. Minister Carmen freely gave financial donations to help me in this ministry and my other ministries. She always stood by me.

MR. THOMAS J. LEAKE, JR. - October, 1954-October , 2011

Thomas was one of my brilliant Sunday School students in the Young Adults Class at Greater Miller Memorial Church of God in Christ in Warren, MI. He was a Bible Scholar who loved to study the Word of God. He was walking on the golden street of heaven . . . before he was there! He was a young man, that kept his heart and mind focused on the things of the Lord.

Mr. Leake moved to Arizona, but continued his professional work as a photographer for Ebony Cactus Magazine and other national magazines. He was a member of the National Association of Black Journalists and the International Freelance Photographer's Association. His work was noted around the world. His noted photography credits include Bishop T.D. Jakes conferences, recording artists' concerts, political events, national league sport events, church activities, and several historical events.

I am so grateful that Elizabeth, Carmen, and Thomas were in my life. They reached out to the masses, and yet they cared personally about me . . . they prayed for me . . . they loved me . . . sincerely . . . I will go on loving them. They gave me so much joy!

A WORD ABOUT . . .

WHITNEY HOUSTON - August 9, 1963-February 11, 2012

Whitney Houston's shocking death touched all of us around the world. She was a famed legendary and major awarding-winning American recording artist, actress, producer, and model. She was a beloved mother and daughter of Evangelist Cissy Houston.

Reports of Whitney's lifestyle of drugs and alcohol mixed with media exposure of a rocky marriage, truly tried to dim the cluster of such a talented, gifted, and popular star. This stellar singer, Whitney Houston, suffered many hard blows in life. It seems that everybody wanted a piece of her. She seemed to be bombarded with much criticism concerning everything she did. When she had success, the world wondered how long would that last with the seemingly deterioration of her glorious life and vast musical accomplishments.

Everybody said that they were praying that Whitney would make a comeback after the downfall she had concerning her failed marriage and other tribulations. There was a big buzz from Hollywood to the neighborhoods. Everybody felt that she would struggle to get back to the top. Everyone seemed to have that "Let's wait and see" attitude.

However, there was that one person who has shown to NOT HAVE GIVEN UP on Whitney. There was that one person who kept praying and believing that her precious Whitney would change! That person wanted the best for Whitney. That person cried and prayed continuously for her daughter, Whitney, to come back to the church and to GOD. That person was her dear mother, Cissy Houston, who insisted that Whitney have a church homegoing service in the church that Whitney was raised in as a child.

Although, many have criticized much about Whitney, I strongly feel that Whitney came back to God in her bathtub in the hotel. I believe that God honored those years of prayer for Whitney by her praying mother, Cissy! It was that “anyway you do it Lord, I will be satisfied” prayers that Cissy prayed for Whitney. Some of you praying parents know what I am talking about! You have been desperate concerning your own children and their wayward ways! You know their sinful and shameful ways! You have cried too! You are waiting for them to come back home and to the church . . . THE LORD!

The father in the Bible who had a prodigal son gladly rejoiced and received his son’s return from the muddy, stinky, and dirty pigpen. He had opened arms and a huge smile on his face when his dirty, sweaty, smelly, beat-down, weary, and penniless son came walking down the road to him.

ON THE CROSS

Jesus was on the cross between two thieves. One thief turned and asked Jesus to remember him when Jesus went back to be with His Father, God. The other one did not.

Look at the situation. Jesus was there on the cross listening to a thief that many thought did not have a chance. He was a criminal. He had what was justly finally coming to him for his life of crime and wrong doing. Everything had finally caught up with him! Punishment was now his by the hands of the lawmakers of the land.

However, he, the much hated thief, knew that he had come to the dead end of his life. He had this one last teeny opportunity to use his last breath and few faint heartbeats, along with just moments of his life to turn to Jesus Christ the Savior! In that tiny space he received eternal life!

What about Whitney Houston? I believe her mother’s years of fervent prayers brought Whitney to the right place for her to cry out to Jesus....”Help Me!” I believe it was so.

You can read the online opened letter to Whitney Houston written by her mother, Cissy. It is very touching. Parents, if you have been fervently praying for your daughter or son, put their name in place of Whitney’s and this letter will speak to your heart, too.

Disillusionment / Disappointment

Disillusionment is the state of being disenchanted or disappointed by unfulfilled expectations. This is called “*anticipointment*,” when our eager anticipation turns into heavy disappointment. Proverbs 13:12 says, “*Hope deferred makes the heart sick; but when the desire cometh, it is a tree of life.*”

The African American writer, Langston Hughes, expressed it this way:

What Happens to a Dream Deferred?

By Langston Hughes

*Does it dry up
Like a raisin in the sun
Or fester like a sore
And then rot?
Does it stink like rotten meat
Or crust and sugar over
Like a syrupy sweet?
Maybe it just sags
Like a heavy load
Or does it explode?*

If you were to ask those who know me, they would tell you that I have great faith. Indeed, God has blessed me to receive recognition over the past 30 years for my work throughout Michigan and beyond. I’ve received awards from the city, county, state, governor and even the president of The United States of America. Churches, civic groups, and businesses also have honored me. To God be all the glory!

What many don’t know is that there was a time I felt like throwing in the towel, facecloth AND the soap! I have had what can be described as many “*anticipointments*.” My hopes were sky high and I was on cloud nine. Suddenly, it was as though the rug had been pulled out from under me. Health and financial issues had me on an emotional roller coaster: Up one day

and down the next. My hope had come to a halt. My faith was spiraling downward and was about to hit rock bottom. I asked the Lord on a regular basis to send the rapture and get me out of here. I'm so glad that He didn't listen. Instead, He increased my faith. I'm still looking for the rapture, but I'm not homesick!

The following reflection is an excerpt from a book I wrote called, "Faith: Lose It or Lose It. Disappointment is just one of the seven "D's" the Devil uses in his attempt to steal our faith. Friends, we all suffer from dry spells on our wilderness journey. Hope this will help you with your "Desert Etiquette." You can purchase the entire book and get the other "D's" at www.leavesofgoldconsulting.com.

Discontentment

In the Bible, the children of Israel wanted a king because the other nations had one. God did not want them to have a king. But they insisted. The Lord warned them that having a king would be to their disadvantage. (I Samuel 8:10). They insisted. God complied with their request and, just as He said, they lost what they had. The grass always looks greener on the other side. That is until you cross over the fence. We always must ask God what is His will for our lives? God has a plan for our lives. *"I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future"* (Jeremiah 29:11 NIV).

Often times we are unhappy because we want things that make others unhappy. Figure that! Single women want to be married and married women want to be single.

Nine requisites for contented living by Johann Wolfgang von Goethe (1749-1832): (1) Health enough to make work a pleasure; (2) Wealth enough to support your needs; (3) Strength to battle difficulties and overcome them; (4) Grace enough to confess your sins and forsake them; (5) Patience enough to toil until some good is accomplished; (6) Charity enough to see some good in your neighbor; (7) Love enough to move you to be useful and helpful to others; (8) Faith enough to make real the things of God; (9) Hope enough to remove all anxious fears concerning the future.

MOTHER DOROTHY KIMBLE CONTINUES TO GIVE

Since the first publication of the Lamp Newsletter in 2008, Mother Dorothy Kimble of Detroit, Michigan has been a regular and loyal supporter of this ministry. I praise the Lord for her recent generous donation and letter of encouraging comments. Her donation is sincerely appreciated. Thank you, Mother Kimble. God bless you!

She is a profound author of several books and many heartwarming memoirs. Mother Kimble, her husband Deacon Sam Kimble and their family are faithful members of Greater Grace Temple of Detroit, Mi. Bishop Charles Ellis, III, pastor.

TRIUMPHANT: 2012 “Matchless Love” Ministry Projects! 300 People Reached for God!

It is truly amazing how God blessed Simmie and me through our February Valentine’s season with our annual “Matchless Love” projects. Once again, the entire month of February was spent in outreach and extending gifts of love to others. This is our 17th year to touch lives and spread the love of God.

We were able to do this through a wide distribution of two of my gospel tracts, over 25 “Friendship Gift Bags,” giveaways of 60 copies of the book, “199 PROMISES OF GOD,” nearly 100 stuffed animals, flowers, candies, and other items. We were extremely busy purchasing and packaging these items to give away to bless others. We worked each day to fulfill the many needs to show love and concern.

Our hearts are so thankful for those who untied connected with this ministry to reach out to others. It is with much gratitude that we thank them for standing with us in our efforts. Special appreciation is extended to the following ministries and individuals for their great kindness:

BOOKS GIVEN:

***Top-Selling and Award-winning Christian Author, MS. KIM BROOKS.**

Valentine’s Day Event at Northland Mall in Southfield, MI. Ms. Brooks gave away the book, 199 PROMISES OF GOD, which was our featured book for 2012. She kindly featured this activity on Facebook with photos of all who received the book.

TRACTS and FRIENDSHIP GIFT BAG ORDERS:

***TRUSTEE TRUDY HANSBERRY** of The Word of Power Ministry in Detroit, MI.**
Bishop Benjamin S. Hoke, Pastor. Trustee Hansberry purchased 10 gift bags to give to members of the Golden Age Sunday School Class. They were so surprised and blessed by their gift.

**PASTOR and AUTHOR TONIE GATLIN of LBE, Love By Example Ministries in Portland, Oregon.*

Pastor Gatlin has a major outreach to the homeless and needy in Portland. She continues to give to the people in their communities throughout the year. She ordered our gift bags to give to bless others for Valentine's Day.

**LEGENDARY AUTHOR and POET, MR. WILLIAM KUYKENDALL of Detroit, MI*
CORRESPONDING SECRETARY and POET, MS. REDELIA MCLAURINE of Sterling Heights, MI are members of The Called and Ready Writers.* They both purchased friendship gifts to give to family members and friends.

Simmie and I gave numerous gifts to others each week. Our days were full of outreach in February! This year, we even worked through our intense concern for Elizabeth, Simmie's sister, who was hospitalized during this time. Sadly, she died on Friday, February 24, 2012. God carried us and our family through! Many prayed for us.

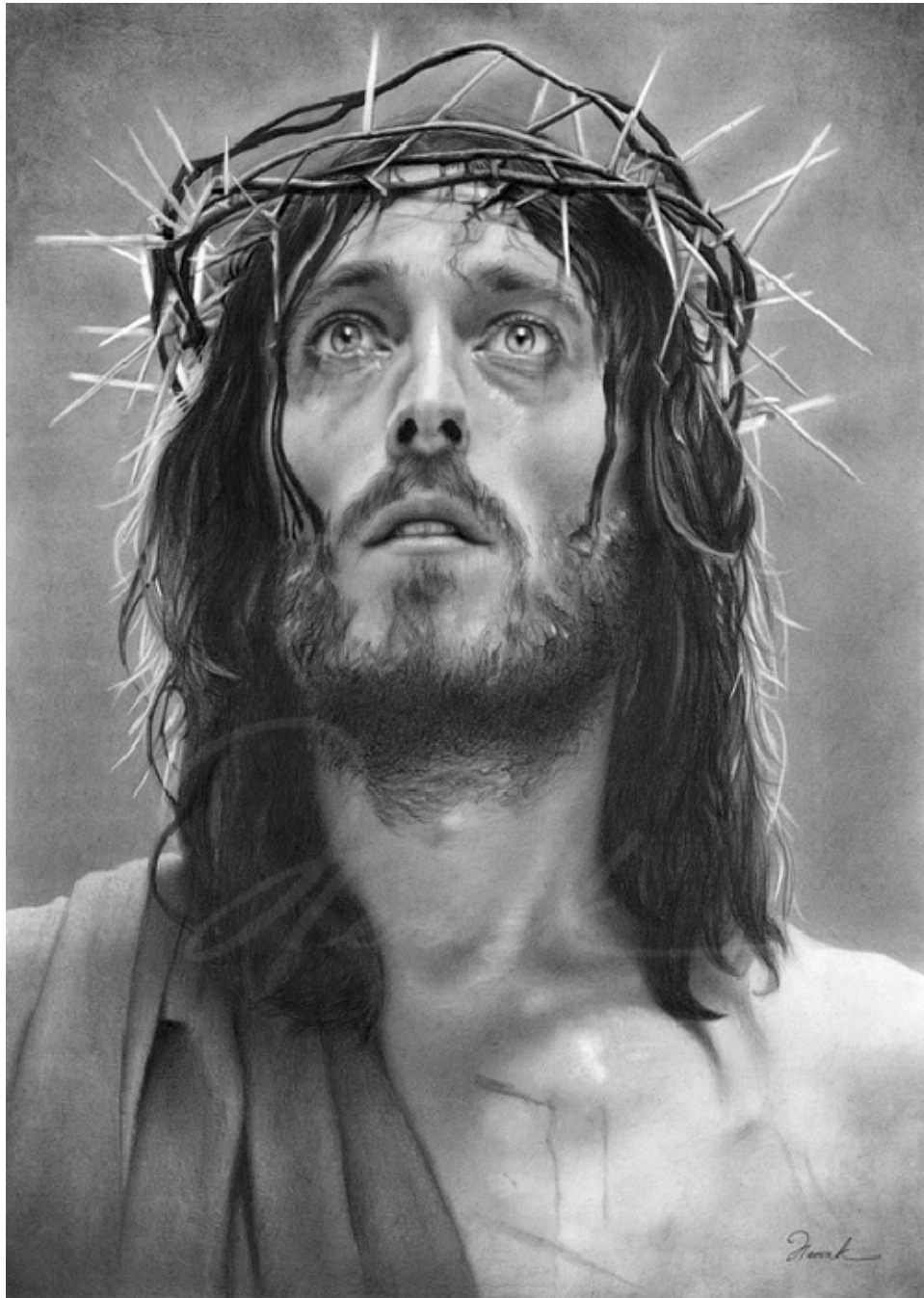
NEW....NEW...

M.E.N. - Men's Essential News -

For all of the men in my life.

March is full of the madness for basketball. Even our president, Barack Obama, is a big fan! He has his picks of college teams that he strongly feels will make it to the end. President Obama has made his choices, which he has written on large charts to be showcased. He picked his winner. What team do you think will be crowned the champions this year?

Men, God is cheering for you to win BIG in life. He has a plan for you. He wants you to excel and have the very best in life. God wants you to win over the challenges you face. His plan will not fail. He designed it for you to be abundantly blessed! You are His champion! *"I know what I am planning for you, says the LORD. "I have good plans for you, not plans to hurt you. I will give you hope and a good future"* (Jeremiah 29:11 NCV).



“But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed” (Isaiah 53:4-6 KJV).

Happy Easter!
HE IS RISEN!
JESUS CHRIST *Lives!*

*May God bless you
and your family.*

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