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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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GET REAL!

Dear Readers:

It's a new year! God has blessed us to enter into 2012. He brought us through last year. Through all of our challenges, fears, disappointments, good times and bad times---- God brought us through!

For many of us, 2011 was a whirlwind of tests and trials. One thing then another thing just continued to happen. We wondered if we would make it from day to day! We were on a roller coaster ride of ups and downs. I am sure that there were days that you almost felt like you were going to flip upside down!

Surely, we felt like things were out of control, with the difficulties that we faced. We wanted a change. It doesn't feel good to live with craziness! As you prayed that God would bring you through and out, you made a promise to do something different in the new year, 2012. You just can't face another year like what you went through the last year. You made up in your mind to do something about it. You're determined!

WE HAVE PROBLEMS

We all want to improve our lives and image. When you come to the end of a year of struggling with this and that, you promise that you're going to get a hold of your life and turn things around. We desire to put the past troubles and problems behind us as we face a new year. In a way, the old year feels dirty and messed up. We want

to make a fresh start in the coming year. We feel like this is our opportunity to do better and be better. We strongly feel that we can become a new person.

It is a struggle to keep your promises, when there is so much opposition in life. You try to change, but it's hard to just suddenly stop an old habit. When you continue to do something over and over, it becomes easy to embrace it or accept it. We become molded and shaped by it.

If you would rather lay in the bed and not get up early, well, it is really tough to jump up and get going. If you like shopping in the malls every weekend, it's pretty difficult to give it up. When you daily order carry-outs because you don't like to cook, it's hard to go into the kitchen and prepare hot meals from scratch throughout the new year! When you've been enjoying the company of a man or woman who is married...because they understand you...can you let them go? You have become emotionally tied to them. What will you do?

THIS IS RIDICULOUS!

Habits are habit forming. If we did something over and over all year, how can we just suddenly change? When we repeat doing those things that we hope to change or drop out of our lives, we feel defeated when we can't STOP. We beat ourselves up! We feel negative about who we are and have become.

So many New Year's Resolutions consist of a long list of habits that we strongly dislike in our lives. Writing them down and not being able to suddenly change them makes you feel awful. It leads to low self-esteem. Why do we do this to ourselves?

Why joyfully celebrate Christmas with family and friends, rejoice over the lovely gifts that we have been blessed to receive and then close our year on December 31, New Year's Eve, giving God glory and praise only to start January 1st with that list of doom----resolutions! We let them become handcuffs for our lives. We feel bond to them.

GET REAL!

We need God for everything! Let's face it—we need Him more and more and more. We struggle to keep our resolutions and barely can keep our promises. What we need is for God to take complete control of our lives. Surrender all to Him. Give Him everyone of our habits. Give Him those things that we want changed in our lives.

Jesus said, *"The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly"* (John 10:9-11 KJV).

Satan, "the thief" doesn't want us to have a life that is abundant and flourishing. He wants us to feel defeated. When we fail at what we want to conquer through a resolution, surely he laughs!

God has sure and definite plans for our lives. He has made plans for us to excel in Him. He created us with a big plan to have all that He has for us to be complete and whole in Him. *"For 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 KJV). Glory to God! God has the plans for our lives. He has the keys to what we need!

2012: IN GOD WE TRUST

After Christmas, I began to search my life. I was busy making up our bed when I stopped and looked at the 2011 calendar on my night stand. I picked it up. 2011 was about to end in a week. My thoughts of 2011 rushed around in my head. I sat there thinking about all of the things that had happened. Oh, there were so many things that God brought me through. He brought Simmie through so much, too! I felt like my heart was racing. I felt like a heavy weight came upon me. Instead of rejoicing over what God had done so marvelously for us, I wondered...

"Oh, Lord....Lord! Another year is coming to an end. And I...I just feel that..." Before I could finish my prayer to Him, God spoke to me to pick up my Bible. I picked up my old torn up large print big Bible that I cling to so much. The leather cover had fallen off years ago. I held it in my hands, then He lead me to a scripture that I don't believe I have never truly noticed before.

Psalm 143: 8 KJV states, *"Cause me to hear thy lovingkindness in the morning; for in thee do I trust: Cause me to know the way wherein I should walk for I lift up my soul unto thee"*.

I sat there on the edge of our bed and read that verse over and over. Precious ones, this is it! My heart poured out:

“ Lord, cause me to hear Your loving and kind voice early in the morning before I arise. Let me hear You dear Father. Cause me to listen out for You and not for the things of the world.

“Yes, I do trust You. Cause me to know the way that I should go. Show me! Help me to walk in the way that You want me to go. Let me walk with You! I lift up my soul to You! I give You my all!”

“Please, please help me each day in 2012. I need to hear from You each new day. I will listen for You early in the morning so that I will follow Your instructions and directions for my life. I trust You to lead me. I cannot do it. Lord, if You take control of my life, then I will be transformed. I will be victorious! I will be more than a conqueror! Thank You, Lord! Thank You!”

And so I sit here with that scripture written down on a note pad. I don't have a list of resolutions. I have the Word of God written out for me to follow. His Words are powerful! They are what we need! Cling to the Word of God for it is what we need for the new year and every day.

COMING this year, 2012...

MINISTER MARY EDWARDS, our editor, will bring us a special message as our regular CONTRIBUTING WRITER! She is featured in this issue. Be sure to read the “Happy Leap Year!” article on pages 5-6 contributed by Minister Edwards. You will be greatly inspired.

Minister Edwards is an author, book coach, publisher and speaker. She is the co-founder of Joy of Jesus Ministries, founder of His Lovely Wife Ministries, Widows With Wisdom, The Called and Ready Writers, and Leaves of Gold Consulting, LLC.
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M . E . N . - M E N ' S E S S E N T I A L N E W S

I will feature gifted, talented, loving, caring, and powerful men in my life who have great experiences and something important to say. God wants to touch broken, hurting, and misunderstood men and women.

Be sure to invite all of the men in your life to become a reader of The Lamp Newsletter. For the first ten men who contact me to sign up for this newsletter, I have a precious book on the Gospel of John to give to them! Subscription is \$14.00. One-time payment.

THANKS READERS!

I am always so thankful to hear from my readers. Your comments are welcomed. I deeply appreciate you taking your time to contact me with what is on your heart concerning what is printed in this newsletter.

Last year, 2011, readers shared so much with me. Thank you:

Ms. Redelia McLaurine

Mrs. Michele Barnes

Ms. Darlene Gardner

Mrs. Marcia Washington

Mrs. Carolyn Toussaint

Minister Dorothy Butler

Minister Towana Parker

Ms. Carolyn Thomas

Mr. Simmie L. Burnside, Sr.

Mother Barbara Lee

Mother Ruby Combs

Rev. Alton Johnson

Author Ramelle T. Lee

Ms. Donna Mathis

Pastor Toni Gatlin

MAY GOD BLESS YOU!

A Message from Minister Mary Edwards....

HAPPY LEAP YEAR!

FEEL GOOD TODAY. LEAP FOR LIFE

LEAP YEAR 2012-

A leap year is a catch up year.

A leap year is a make up year.

A leap year is an uncommon year.

A leap year is a year of extra.

Deuteronomy 32:22

2 Samuel 6:16

Psalm 18:29

Isaiah 35:6

Luke 1:41

Luke 6:23

Acts 3:8

Acts 14:10

CONFESSION

I leap past all distractions in the name of Jesus.

I leap past any people the enemy has set in my way to impede my progress.

Let my steps turn into leaps.

I leap over every wall erected by the enemy.

I leap ahead of anyone or anything that has illegally jumped ahead of me in the name of Jesus.

I leap like a lion from Bashan like Dan.

I will leap over my enemies like David.

I receive strength to leap out of all sickness and disease. I leap into my destiny and purpose in the name of Jesus.

With excitement I leap into my future.

I leap from lack to abundance.

I leap from failure to success.

Let every place in my life that is lame leap for joy.

I take a leap of faith and do the impossible.

Let my finances grow by leaps and bounds.

Let my wisdom increase by leaps and bounds.

Let my understanding increase by leaps and bounds.

Let my vision increase by leaps and bounds.

Let favor increase on my life by leaps and bounds.

Let my ministry grow by leaps and bounds.

Let my borders expand by leaps and bounds.

Let me leap and jump to the high places.

Let me catch up in any place I have fallen behind in the name of Jesus.

Let restoration come from anything stolen by the enemy from my life.

Let my revelation increase by leaps and bounds.

I will not be afraid to take a leap of faith at the word of the LORD.

I will leap upon the enemy and overwhelm him in the name of Jesus.

I will leap and rejoice at the goodness of the Lord.

The Lord has given me leaping for sadness, and joy for mourning.

I leap from a low place to a high place.

Let extra favor and blessing be added to my life in the name of Jesus.

Let this year be a year of uncommon favor and blessing in my life.

Let me receive uncommon miracles and breakthroughs in the name of Jesus.

Let me leap as a hart for joy.

I will leap for joy in spite of any persecution or opposition from the enemy.

Apostle John Eckhardt

Anxiety Free With God

by Ramelle T. Lee

**Come fly with me to a place where angelic angels sing.
Jesus is there too! He is ready to take you by the hand.
Abide in His presence. His Word will speak to your heart.
Pull back the curtain of time and linger there,
in a safe place with God.
Let the gentleness of God's warmth sweep away your fears.
Pause and listen to His small still voice whispering to you,
"No, fear here!"
Don't be afraid to talk to God—He is so very near.
Stay right there, don't you move!
Watch all that anxiety be erased.
Arise from that place where despair sets in,
The God of all Comfort has come...
to fill your heart with peace!**

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It's Time for our "Matchless Love" Outreach

Since 1995, my ministry, WRITE THE VISION MINISTRIES AND MEDIA PRODUCTS INTERNATIONAL, spends the month of February with outreach projects. This is our 17th year to show the love of God to those who are hurting, broken-heart, and suffering with loneliness. Simmie (my husband) and I look forward to this ministry project.

Years ago, God blessed me to write a gospel tract to give to people to let them know of His marvelous love for all of us. He cares. He is there to bring hope, encouragement, and true love into our lives like nobody else can.

God has opened so many doors for us to give and send out these tracts along with flowers, candies, and other gifts around the world. Our distribution is in the thousands! We give God the glory.

This year, We have added another gift to our packages. We are grateful to add the book, 199 PROMISES OF GOD, published by Barbour Publishing, Inc. Copyright 2007. The publisher states: *"The Bible is packed with promises for everyday life, and dozens of these important reminders are included in 199 Promises of God. Take these promises to the bank."*

Our first ordered shipment of 45 books has arrived! The second order will be made by the first week of February. We hope to give away 100 copies of this tremendous book.

If you would like to join us in our ministry, please send a donation of any amount. As our appreciation to you, we will be happy to send you a copy of this book. You can partner with us. Your support is sincerely appreciated.

Please pray for us as we go out into the streets, neighborhoods, communities, cities, and various locations to spread the love of God. We always receive beautiful testimonies when we reach out in ministry. People want to know if anyone cares. Help us as we bring the gospel to this hurting world. Please stand with us.

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