

Women in the Church Newsletter

As we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, especially to those in the household of faith



Bible Study Nugget:

Becoming a Woman Who Loves by Cynthia Heald

*Well, ladies, let me start by apologizing for the confusion last month on what chapter we were studying. I had completely skipped chapter 8!

Circles 1, 2, 3 will be on Chapter 9: Love Reconciles

Other Circle will be doing chapters 8 & 9: Love Forgives & Reconciles

Isn't our God amazing? His timing is always perfect! If you heard the sermon from this past Sunday, you will note that the Spirit is already priming our hearts for this lesson on Reconciliation within the Body of Christ. We were given a picture lesson of The Church when we took Communion: we aren't just tiny individual pieces living our lives for ourselves, but part of a huge family of Believers. When we partake, we are saying we are One in Christ...yet, do we act like it towards one another once Monday rolls around? Do we harbor ill feelings, unforgiveness, resentment, or even hatred towards our brothers or sisters?

This chapter challenges us to examine our hearts and then points us to how our Lord says to bring restoration and unity to The Body of Christ. If it's of supreme importance to our God, who went all the way to the cross to reconcile us to Himself, we too should hold the practice of reconciliation in high regards.

Be Praying!

Women's Board meeting: June 8

Mentoring Group hosting a Progressive Dinner for several young ladies: June 8

VBS: June 24-28



George & Martha
Mixon-
SERGE, Kenya

West Africa
Partnership-
Churches

Alex & Sarah
Sarran- Church
Planting
Lyon, France

PCA, GA & P,
Admin, Retired
pastors

Flavien &
Inyange
Pardigon-
Various countries

Mark your calendars:

Leadership Retreat,
October 11-12

Pray for one another

Lord, make _____ to be clear minded and self-controlled so they can pray. Help them to love others and be hospitable to others without complaining. Give them courage to use their gifts as good stewards of Your grace and to give You credit. 1 Peter 4:7-11



Testimony Corner: by Emily Davis

How can a good God permit suffering? And more particularly, suffering in his people?

I was born into a Christian family - not just my parents, but *generations* of Christians - I was raised in a faithful Church, had Christian friends; and I still struggled with this question as I grew. But I never struggled with it like I did shortly after I moved to a new state and found life unbearable.

All my training, all those lessons, all those years of faith meant *nothing* in the face of my personal agony. I had come face-to-face with my own limitations, my fallibility, my *humanity*, and I could not make sense of it. My prayers for deliverance went unanswered, there was no relief - no easing of the pain. I watched, helpless, as every shred of self-respect, confidence and hope were ripped from me.

For the first time in my educated, privileged, protected life I was humbled before God. And in my suffering I finally understood. I had, for my whole life, worshipped myself and my ability to run my own life. And it took nothing less than the complete destruction of *me* to get me to see the truth of my idolatry. My pain was a mercy - a severe act of love - and one that in the end, I survived. Scarred and weakened, but with a new humility. After all, He is glorified in our weakness.

And while all people suffer, not all are given an opportunity to see the meaning behind the pain. I was given a gift - I saw a small part of my pain redeemed in another person's life. And while that gift did not erase the pain, it gave me hope that healing is possible.

I do not pretend to fully understand *why* God permits suffering in the world - it is a question that is larger than humanity itself. But I have come to a better understanding of my place in the order of things, and it is not at the center.