

INSIGHTS

DECEMBER 2008

A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE GETHSEMANE GROUP
ATLANTA METRO WAY OF THE CROSS CHURCH OF THE APOSTOLIC FAITH
~ PASTOR ERIC L. CANNADY ~

Trusting in My Lord and Savior Jesus Christ

Sister Marita E. Nichols

My life began on January 14, 2007, when I decided to give it over to Jesus at Atlanta Metro Way of the Cross Church. Before that day, I thought of myself as a part-time Christian, if there is such a thing. Like so many people, I only acknowledged the Lord on special holidays such as Christmas and Easter. I took Him for granted and did not appreciate His many blessings. But the Lord has been so good to me that I want to share my story with everyone.

Throughout my 20s and most of my 30s, I observed my parents praising God, being active Christians in their community and church, and loving others unconditionally. When I was growing up, my mother did not force me to attend church. But when I turned 35, she became insistent that I find a church home and embrace Jesus Christ. For her birthday, she asked me to attend church and go to dinner with her. When we arrived at Greater Ransom Way of the Cross Church in Henderson, North Carolina, I asked her who would be teaching Sunday school class. To my surprise, she responded, "Your father."

During Sunday school class, Deacon Doggette, my father, taught from the book of Acts and explained that God is One. Later, he confided that he had been asked by Bishop Alston to teach the class at the last minute. During that class, I understood for the first time in my life that God is One! God is Jesus, He is the Holy Ghost, and He is our Father. When Bishop Alston gave the altar call during the Sunday service, he prayed for me and requested that I attend Atlanta Metro Way of the Cross Church when I returned to Georgia.

The following week, I attended Atlanta Metro Way of the Cross in Stone Mountain, Georgia. During service, District Elder Cannady's sermon came from the book of Acts, Chapter 16. The most profound message, which was about the need for a prayer partner, changed my life. The message caused me to re-evaluate my relationships with friends and family. I asked God to make me over and remove anything that was not like Him. Be careful what you ask for!

In early 2007, I was laid off from a good paying position as a mortgage banker. I experienced an 80% loss of salary because I could only find part-time, temporary work. But on April 20, 2007, I was filled with the Holy Ghost! God then began teaching me about submission. After numerous battles with God about submitting to His will, I finally started asking Him the right questions regarding my future. Every time I tried to go against His will, things did not work out favorably. In September 2007, He told me to go back to school full time and become an educator. When He spoke to me, I made up my mind to listen to Him whenever I needed to make a decision. God chose my major, the university I should attend, and each semester He has chosen my classes. Daily I continue to pray and strive to do everything under His guidance. Since 2008, I have been a full time student at Kennesaw University, majoring in Modern Language and Culture with a concentration in Spanish Education. God continues to prepare me for my part in His kingdom and I continue to rely on Him to get me through each day. We should never take God for granted because He is real and a Miracle Worker!

My Sister, My Friend: Our Testimony

Sisters Tiffany White and Nichelle Mangrum

Here it is December 2008, and we are two young sisters living for the Lord in Stone Mountain, Georgia. But our story really began almost a quarter of a century ago in small town Franklinton, North Carolina. As little girls, we grew up experiencing a simple country life, playing outside in the dirt all day every day. Although birthed from different mothers, our hearts didn't know the difference, for we were so close to one another. From sun up to sun down, no matter where you saw one of us, you saw the other. Even when we started school, to our amazement, we were placed in the same kindergarten class! We shared many dreams of growing up together and made great plans for our futures.

But then one summer, things drastically changed. One of us moved almost 400 miles away with her family. For 6-year olds, that day was truly one of the saddest we had ever seen. But though hundreds of miles apart, we still celebrated the blessings each of us experienced when we were baptized in Jesus' name and filled with the Holy Ghost. Although we were separated, we continued to plan for the day when we would be college roommates and see each other every day, just as we had when we were little girls. Countless phone calls, letters, and spending holidays together helped to keep us close. Over the years, our friendship blossomed into one that was so pure and so rare.

As life would have it, when it came time for us to go to college, we were led down different paths and attended different, though equally excellent universities. At that time it seemed as though our childhood dreams of living close to each other would never come to pass.

Throughout college, God blessed both of us through the tests, the trials, and the stress. Then finally, God opened the door and made a way. After college, job opportunities opened up for both of us in the same city, Atlanta, Georgia. So now we find ourselves, not only sisters, not only friends, but roommates!

People wonder why we are so close, but they can't understand that we bless each other. How the events of our lives have intertwined is quite surreal, even to us. Our friendship has been lifelong, full of sisterly love, excitement, and celebration. Then, after having spent so many years talking across the miles, God made it possible for us to actually become roommates, to live right across the hall from one another. A friend, a sister to laugh with, to support, to encourage, has been nothing short of a blessing from God. Now that we have been so richly blessed, no matter where life takes us from here, we are anticipating that great day when we'll be caught up to meet Him, to dwell together with our Savior forever. This is our story, and the message we want you to take from it is 'trust God.' Although we have been great friends, even sisters, God has been better to us than we could ever be to one another. For everything He has done for us, we give Him all the glory, all the honor, and all the praise!

You Put the Devil Out, But Did You Let Him Leave His Bags?

submitted by Sister Belinda Duncan

You left a bad relationship, but you are still resentful and angry - you let the devil leave his bags.

You got out of financial debt, but you still can't control the desire to spend on frivolous things - you let the devil leave his bags.

You cut off a bad habit or an addiction, but you still long to try it just one more time - you let the devil leave his bags.

You said, I forgive you, but you can't seem to forget and have peace with that person - you let the devil leave his bags.

You escaped from that horribly oppressive job, but you are trying to sabotage the company since you left - you let the devil leave his bags.

You ended the affair with that married man/woman, but you still lust after him/her - you let the devil leave his bags.

You broke off your relationship with that hurtful, abusive person, but you are suspicious and distrustful of every new person you meet - you let the devil leave his bags.

You decided to let go of past hurts from growing up in an unstable environment, yet you believe you are unworthy of love from others - you let the devil leave his bags.

When you put the devil out, please make sure he takes his bags!

Gethsemane Group Members

Sister Belinda Duncan
Sister Lena Joseph
Sister Sharon Liner

Sister Zylpha Pryor-Bell
Sister Melissa Zapata
Deacon Steve Zapata

Mission Statement: To support the ministry by laboring before God in prayer on behalf of the leadership, the members, and souls of the lost.