

African American Disciples Woman

A Newsletter produced by Disciples Women of the National Convocation of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

Volume 1, Issue 3

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**What's in a name?
You tell us!**

Name: A word, term or phrase by which something is known and distinguished from other people or things.

We need your help. The Newsletter is searching for a new name.

Be creative and send your suggestions to odw@dhw.disciples.org with a subject line of "Newsletter Name".

The Start of SOMETHING NEW for Women

Just Women - a bold, new magazine for Christian women - debuts in January 2009. This is the new official resource for Disciples Women's Ministries provided by International Disciples Women's Ministries (IDWM) and the Office of Disciples Women (ODW).

This full-color, 32-page magazine is published quarterly - in January, April, July, and October - and reflects the quality and diversity of Disciples women like YOU.

DIVERSITY

To reflect and acknowledge the diversity among Disciples women, *Just Women* provides:

- One article in Spanish in every issue;
- The cover article of every issue downloadable in Spanish, Korean, and

French at

www.JustWomenMagazine.org;

- Downloadable marketing materials are available on the web site;
- The entire Spring issue - the Ecumenical Bible Study - available for order in Spanish.

INSIDE THE MAGAZINE

- Theme articles inspired by scripture
- Young women's perspectives on faith
- Multi-generational conversations
- Reflections on healthy living, stewardship, and Disciples history
- The Woman-to-Woman Worldwide program study material
- Devotions, mediations, and prayers
- Social action and justice ministries
- News and notes from IDWM.

Subscribe - 317-375-8846 - \$19/year.

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We Are Ambassadors, Sheila P. Spencer

Ambassador: An official representative of an organization or movement.

I went on my WWW (Cuba) journey exactly ten years ago. It was a life transforming experience. I kept a journal of my experience. This excerpt was written upon my return.

I learned the true meaning of hospitality on my Woman to Woman Worldwide journey. My heart and spirit were nurtured and fed by a small piece of chicken and tiny pieces of bread. This meal was prepared and served in love by a woman who was an ambassador from Christ above. I knew that the preparation of this meal came as a great sacrifice for her. But she rejoiced that it was nothing compared to the price Christ paid for her. We held hands and prayed over this meal that was so special. My host rejoiced that God would use her as a vessel. She cried, "Thank you, God for loving me more than I deserve and blessing me with this opportunity to serve." As I watched her serve and treat me with such care, I realized that she had so much more to share. This woman reinforced to me the true meaning of hospitality. It's not about the food that we eat; it's about the fellowship and the time that we meet. Hospitality is about being a blessing and ministering to your needs of your guest. It's about feeding them love and giving them your best. My life is not determined by what I own materially. My life is determined by who I am spiritually. And at that moment, my host was far wealthier than I could ever be. She blessed me with faith, and a living example of hospitality.

I've been to first class restaurants all over the world. Yet the meal that is most precious to me was served on a small, rickety wooden table. A small

piece of chicken and a tiny piece of bread was served. But the main course was the spirit and love that was fed. This was ten years ago and even as I write this piece, the tears are filling my eyes and I can hardly see. I remember asking my guide when I would be able to share this story and not cry. She answered, "Sheila, what you pray is that feeling will never die."

Yes, I journeyed to Cuba, but the ambassador for Christ was waiting for me. She showed me the true meaning of hospitality.



She served me love.
She served me joy.
She served me Jesus.
She served me Jesus.

The Joy is in the Journey,
Sheila P. Spencer

Meet your past, Rosa Page Welch Ambassador of Goodwill



Rosa Page Welch spent a lifetime witnessing in Word and song throughout her life. She was a distinguished graduate of Southern Christian Institute. Upon graduation she taught school in Mississippi, Kentucky and Virginia. A classically trained mezzo-soprano, she had a promising music career. A Disciples staff person arranged for her to lead singing at a Nebraska student conference, which led to numerous invitations from throughout the Disciples of Christ and other denominations. Rosa answered God's call to use her musical gift for the Church. In 1952, Welch went on a "global mission of goodwill" singing to audiences in Africa, East Asia, Europe and South America. This led her to serve during 1961 – 1963 as a Missionary in Nigeria for the Church of the Brethren. Afterwards she worked with Disciples United Promotion Office (Church Finance Council). This educator, civil rights activist, missionary and singer dedicated her life to being an ambassador for Christ.

Picture is from the holdings of the Disciples of Christ Historical Society

We thank you, Rosa Page Welch.



Woman-to-Woman Worldwide 2008 Israel / Palestine, Patricia Quarles Bluitt

This annual journey began on Monday, September 28 in Newark, New Jersey, were sixteen women from around the United States gathered for this life-changing trip. The following morning at 9:30 AM Tel Aviv time they arrived. Their schedule was full and the nights were long. The in-country guides were Peter Makari, Tina Whitehead, and Cathy Nichols, all with Global Ministries and its in-country partner, Sabeel. The Office of Disciples Women's leader was Gloria Hernandez.

This experience will be the mission focus for 2010 to 2011 in *Just Women*. The 2009 experience will be to Venezuela and Colombia, with online applications available February 2009.

On the first day, we walked to check point and were told how the people were treated before going to pick their olive crops. They would not let the younger person through to pick the crop instead they would allow the older person to enter. This story made me feel privileged to live in a country where I can travel at will and not be hassled by the authorities.

The next day we toured the Holy Sites around the Sea of Galilee were Peter's Primacy, Mount of Beatitudes, and Capernaum. I stood in the Sea of Galilee and we took a ride on the sea. If was such a moving time, the spirit came aboard, we began to sing and were spiritually blessed.



We arrived at Notre Dame, Jerusalem hotel where we will stay for two nights. We gathered at the home of Gila, Coalition of Women for Peace and she spoke about resolving peace between Israel and Palestine. Later, we left for Haifa to meet Isha I'isha women (Israel) and had lunch with them by the Mediterranean Sea. The

ladies told about their situations and struggles as women in Israel.

Wednesday morning we were off to visit Bir Zeit University Dr. Rhonda spoke to us about the ratio of men and women in college. She stated that there is a 53% attendance of women and 49% men. The men leave the country more than women and Palestinians have the highest education rate. We left Bir Zeit and traveled to Taybeh to meet with the Taybeh Women's Country Cooperative.

After seeing women that are educated in the USA coming back home, those still in Israel and Palestine that are uneducated; and hearing their stories of being separated from families members, I was amazed that they still have hope things will change for their countries. You could hear in their voices - that sense that change will happen for them and their situations. After seeing the wall that separate Israel and Palestine, my prayer is that some how it will come down just like the Berlin wall came down in peace and in the 21st Century.



Coming to www.discipleswomen.org:

- WWW 2009 application in February 2009
- Patricia's complete story next summer



2008—2010 Officers of the
National Convocation Disciples Women

| | |
|--------------------------|--|
| President | Patricia Bluitt (Southwest) |
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Connection Section

General Assembly 2009
July 29 to August 2, 2009



BIG Change for Disciples Women!!!!

The Women's Lunch has moved from the last day of the General Assembly to the first full day—Thursday, July 30, 2009.

When you complete your online registration for General Assembly at <http://www.disciples.org/> (look on the left hand side for the link to GA), you will be able to purchase your luncheon tickets with a credit card. For those who prefer to write a check for the luncheon ticket; as you have done in the past, you may purchase the ticket through the Office of Disciples Women. As of this printing, the price and menu are not established. This information will be posted on www.discipleswomen.org and at the GA registration site as it becomes available.

You will be able to register for Quadrennial 2010 at the General Assembly. Be among the first to sign-up.



Sister Share



Help us fill this space. . . We want to hear your joys, concerns and how your Women's ministry is transforming lives. **God is awesome!** Share what He has done for you or your group at odw@dhm.disciples.org.



Emmaus Christian Church, Indianapolis
Women's Conference

Great Dates

July 29 to August 2, 2009 General Assembly
Indianapolis, IN
July 30, 2009 Disciples Women's Lunch

October 4 to October 10, 2009 Women's Action Web
Michigan Region
June 23 to 27, 2010 Quadrennial Assembly
Greensboro, NC
(Nothing could be finer than to be in Carolina for Quadrennial!)

[www.disciples.org/
convo](http://www.disciples.org/convo)

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