

Umoja - Unity-Oneness-Harmony

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

Fall 2012

Disciples Women are Breaking the Chains!

“Do you know what I want? I want justice - oceans of it. I want fairness - rivers of it. That’s what I want. That’s all I want.” Amos 5: 24 (Message translation)

Disciples Women’s Ministries are dedicated to Social Action and Justice. Disciples Women’s Ministries have committed to educating and informing communities about the issue of human trafficking.

Human Trafficking: Breaking the Chains Human trafficking is a form of modern-day slavery in which people, mostly women, very young girls and children, are abducted and/or forced to labor for someone else against their wishes. Often they are deceived into believing the situations will improve their lives, when in reality they are being forced into servitude. Human trafficking includes buying, selling and moving people from one location to another against their will, and it constitutes a grave violation of human rights. This trafficking occurs in unregulated and unprotected areas all over the world, *including the United States of America.* *

- What can your Women’s Ministry do? Disciples Women Can: Write letters, volunteer at a local agency, become educated through books and movies, invite a speaker to your church, and raise funds to support those who are attempting to break these chains of slavery. *Go to www.discipleswomen.org and click on Social Action and Justice Opportunities.*
- *Just Women Magazine features articles on women and agencies who are transforming their community and world as advocates for victims of human trafficking.*
- January 11 is National Human Trafficking Awareness Day. For more information about the events and happenings around this date, please key "National Human Trafficking Awareness Day January 11" in your Internet browser's search engine.

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Just Women Update

- Fall 2012 is on the valleys in our lives. Extra copies are available for sale.
- Pre-order individual 2013 Bible Studies for \$10 from January 15 to March 15, 2013. After March 15, the price will be \$12 plus \$3 for shipping.

Just Women magazine was created to encourage women and minister to the spirit, body and soul. One year subscription is only \$19 USD;

A bundle of 15 or more copies to one address is only \$17 USD per copy. Subscription can be purchased online at www.discipleswomen.org or by calling (888) 346-2631.

The purpose of Disciples Women is to provide opportunities for spiritual growth, enrichment, education and creative ministries to enable women to develop a sense of personal responsibility for the whole mission of the church of Jesus Christ and to provide a channel through which women in the congregation and the regional Women's Ministries in the United States and Canada may be joined in fellowship and find means for effective participation in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

Thanksgiving Is Our Dialect

“Thanksgiving is our dialect.”

This is from the Message Bible translation of Ephesians 5: 4. It was a simple and yet deep phrase. Thanksgiving should be our daily spoken and unspoken language. Read the inspirational reflections from your sisters and take time to meditate on your own. Are you fluent in Thanksgiving?

“I am thankful for the displays of love that God allows me to experience through family, friends and colleagues who hold my best at heart. I am also thankful for the beauty of God’s creation that often disrupts the monotony of a day and reminds me how awesome God is.”

Lashaundra Smith

“I am thankful for God’s forgiveness and AMAZING GRACE. I press forward toward the mark of the prize, which is Christ Jesus!”

Marilyn Williams

“My heart overflows with gratitude. I am grateful for my health and the grace to live and love everyday. For family that supports me and friends who understand me, I give God thanks and praise.”

Chesla Nickelson

“I am grateful for loving caring and very strict parents, and my brother and his family. I am thankful for my church.”

Karen Barrett

“I am thankful to be chosen by God to do His ministry with my sisters in Christ. Working with Disciples Women’s Ministry is an awesome gift that God has anointed me to do.”

Wanona Redd

Give thanks to the Lord for He is good!

Psalm 107:1



What is one of the greatest ways to show someone you truly care?

It’s quite simple, take the time to share.



Calling All Songwriters for 2014 Quadrennial Song

"I See You" is the theme for the 2014 Quadrennial Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). We believe this theme will sing and dance. You are invited to participate in this project and communicate your dreams. This new music will be recognized and sung by women throughout our churches before, during and after the event. We invite you to submit an original song. One of the submitted songs will become the theme song.

Submission information:

- **Deadline:** November 30, 2012
- **Contact :** Arlene Pimentel, QA Coordinator
- **Email:** apimentel@dhm.disciples.org
- **Snail mail address:** Arlene Pimentel, QA 2014, 130 E Washington St., Indianapolis, IN 46204
- Songs need to be submitted in the following **formats:**
 - o Simple recording on CD via snail mail. (Microsoft friendly file type.)
 - o Lyric sheet and lead line with melody of the tune via email.

Once the winning song is selected, the piano keyboard accompaniment and guitar chords (six strings) will be required. The first half of a \$600 stipend will be paid to the artist when the winning song is accepted. The other half of the stipend will be paid upon receipt of a useable audio CD. In addition, Disciples Women will contract with the studio to cover the cost of a studio quality CD from the selected winning artist. The selected artist will need to provide Disciples Women's Ministries with the studio information. Disciples Women's Ministries would expect first rights to the music.

Our daily themes will speak about the purpose of the event:

- I see you through the eyes of grace*
- I see you through the voice of compassion*
- I see you with hands of justice*
- I see you with a heart of joy*
- I see you whole*

Journey to the Congos by Janie Troublefield

This is final installment of Janie Troublefield's reflections of her journey to the Democratic Republic and Republic of the Congos



Mama Nzeba with her educational program, the sewing program, and the sisters with their soap-making venture changed my whole outlook on life. I have heard so many in our country complain about what they cannot do in a land that has so much to offer. Yet, our Congolese sisters have so little in their country but you never hear them talk about what they cannot do.

They always present a way in which they can do things. I am so impressed with them. I can never forget their smiles, excitement, and energy as they told about their different economic ventures. I find myself not wanting so many material things now that I have returned home. I



know it does not help my Congolese sisters. However, I believe my journey to the Congo was to have a two-way effect. Yes, it was meant for me to experience what our sisters experience everyday of their lives, and to help me see where I can help them now that I have returned home. However, I also believe it was to help us (The Woman-To-Woman 2011 Representatives) become better acquainted with ourselves.

It was to help us as we journey through life to forget about always wanting so much materialistic stuff, but to realize we are to reach out and help others who are truly less fortunate than we are in so many things like clean water, nutritious food, education, medical care, etc.

Janie Troublefield
2011 Woman to Woman Worldwide Journey to the Republic of the Congo and Democratic Republic of the Congo Delegate
North Carolina

2012-2014 Officers of the
National Convocation Disciples Women



President	Marilyn Williams (North Carolina)
1st Vice President	Wanona Redd (Virginia)
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Member-at-Large	Lashaundra Smith (Great River Region)
Chaplain	Frankie Williams (Texas)
Secretary	Robin Cushingberry (South Carolina)
Treasurer & Staff	Sheila Spencer (Disciples Women Staff)

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Connection Section

Did you know Disciples Women now have e-commerce options available?



Now you can purchase online - *Just Women* subscriptions, *Wisdom of Women* and other great resources. Go to www.discipleswomen.org and grow as a Disciples woman!

Join us on Facebook:



Connect and engage in conversation with Disciples women from all over. We can't wait for you to join our fan pages. Be a friend and tell a friend!

- *Disciples Women*
- *Umoja Unity*
- *Just Women Magazine*
- *News from 2012 National Convocation*
- *QA 2014*

www.disciples.org/convo

Sister Share

Lisa Tunstall Ministries hosted their Fourth Annual Broken, Mended, and Made Whole Conference in observance of Domestic Violence Awareness month. LTM, Inc. is a Family Violence prevention resource/referral ministry based in Los Angeles, California. The Conference is for women, men and teens. Eighty conference participants came together at the Palm Garden Hotel in Thousands Oaks, California to begin and continue walking "On the Healing Path" with Jesus. Dr. Tunstall is a member of Abundant Life Christian Church. They are grateful to be a recipient of the Disciples Women's Endowment Fund that enabled women and teenage girls from the Los Angeles and Inland Empire communities to become informed, empowered and transform.

Visit www.discipleswomen.org for more information on the Women's Endowment Fund.



Healing Path - Each rock symbolically represented obstacles or stepping stones of encouragement that are encountered on the pathway to becoming whole.

Women on the Healing Path Discussion Group led by Dr. Drucilla Richardson of 105th Street Christian Church and Minister Terry Taylor of Faith Christian Church.

Great Dates

July 13 –17, 2013 **General Assembly**
Orlando, Florida

June 25 to 29, 2014 **Quadrennial Assembly**
Atlanta, GA

July 25 to 29, 2014 **23rd Biennial Session**
Columbus, Ohio