**Message from our President**

Hello my Sisters,

Wow! The time is almost here. Time for blooming flowers, longer days, warmer weather, outdoor adventures, QA 2014 - I See You and National Convocation 23rd Biennial Session – Be Still and Know. That’s a lot coming up. And that does not include vacation!

As I begin to prepare for both events; excitement and anticipation fills me up. Just the thought of renewing relationships and making new ones brings a smile to my face. The music, the Bible study, the workshops, the singing, and the after parties.....I know the after sessions, and then the parties.

So are you ready? Are you checking off your list? Have you asked questions? Have you registered? Have you made your hotel reservations? Well then.......get ready! Something amazing is waiting for you there. Hear the prophet Jeremiah “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.” Psalm 105:4 says “Look to the Lord and his strength; seek his face always.

Something amazing is waiting for you. *Don’t miss out, Get up, Get Ready.* Make plans for QA, Make plans for National Convocation. All your plans should begin with Pray. Taste and See that the Lord is Good!! Hope to See You There!

*Your in Christ,, Marilyn*

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**Spring 2014**

*Bible Study ~ “Women of the Bible: Seeking Justice”*

This is the inaugural study written by Disciples women scholars.

There is a large print version available.

**Summer 2014**

*I See You with Eyes of Grace ~ “Nurturing Healthy Relationships”*. This will be available at Quadrennial Assembly 2014.

**Fall 2014**

*I See You Whole ~ “Mental Health Wellness”*

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*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).
In Memory of . . . On February 22, 2014, I attended the Home-going Celebration of Kathy Jeffries in Nashville, Tenn. A wonderful celebration, just as she would have wanted. I would like to thank ~ Julia Keith, president of the Tennessee Disciples Women. She picked me up from the airport and we attended the service together. I was taken to the Greenwood Cemetery by Dwayne Bell the General Manger and given a grand tour of the facility and new additions. He informed me that Kathy Jefferies would be the first Disciple to be laid to rest in the Mausoleum. Amen! The honorable Judge Rachel Bell took me back to the airport for my return trip home. Like Kathy would say “I got so much, so much to thank God for” Many thanks to God for Kathy’s legacy. And thanks to the angels God placed in my path to help me make the journey. Marilyn

Congratulations to Rev. Dr. Cynthia Hale

Dr. Hale will be the Sunday Morning speaker at QA, our thoughts and prayers go with you!! We are proud of you.

National Convocation Disciples Women.

23rd Biennial Session

The women’s luncheon on July 26 is themed “Silence is Golden”. Our Keynote speaker is Rev. Dr. LaTaunya Bynum, Associate Regional Minister, Ohio

Thank-you Dr. Bynum
Members of the National Convocation Executive Board traveled to Ghana, West Africa, March 14 to March 24. Those on the mission included Patricia B. Maples, President; Jesse Jackson, VP; Karen Barrett, Secretary; R. Wayne Calhoun and Sheila Spencer, Merger Staff; Sandra Gourdet, Africa Executive with Division of Overseas Ministries; Doris Speaks, Administrative Assistant; and Timothy James, Administrative Secretary. Other board members and persons affiliated with the National Convocation traveling included: Alice Lakes Anderson, Yowanda Bowens, Sheryl Nelson, Jeanetta Cotman, Joyce James, Sherwin Lewis Nelson, Barbara Jane Bowens, Dwayne and Beverly Bell and Suzanne Robinson from the United Church of Christ. The total group consists of twenty-six travelers. This was a collaborative effort with Disciples Home Missions, Division of Oversea Ministries, National Convocation, and Moja Travelers.

This journey was part of the Spring Executive Committee Meeting of the National Convocation Board. Mission and service projects included commissioning three water wells in the area and delivering donations from Americans to Ghanaians, Girls and Women self-breast examination instructions, adolescent and children blood pressures, boys to men session. Some of the donations were pillowcase dresses made by members of Light of the World Christian Church (shown to the right).

The group held a Reflection Meeting with Queen Mother, Dr. Beryl Dorsett and Africa Area Executive Sandra Gourdet. There was time for worship in congregations of various denominations; sharing with the Christian Church Council Overseas Ministries; a visit to the Cape Coast Slave Dungeon and “The Door of No Return”. Everyone was deeply moved during their time in Ghana.
Event Service Opportunities

QA 2014

MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

City of Refugee
Accepting donations for women & children of soap, deodorant, new underwear and socks, and books.

Your Eyes
Bring your old eyeglasses/frames and you will bring crisp, clear vision to people around the world via the Lion’s Clug. Think about inviting your co-workers to donate also.

Thursday, 6/26, is a good day to have your vision checked at the QA Health Fair.

Give Life
Sign-up for the blood drive on Thursday, 6/26
Using a cheek swab, join the “Match Registry” on Friday, 6/27

Walk against Trafficking
Free social action activity on Saturday. Funds raised via online donations will assist youthSparks, an Atlanta organization serving victims.

www.quadrennial.org

23rd Biennial Session

SERVICE PROJECT

YWCA family center Columbus, OH.
Donations of new & unopened items are needed for the center.

Infant Care Items:
Baby lotion / powder / oil / wash / shampoo
Baby wipes / pacifiers
Diapers (sizes 4, 5, & 6) / rash ointment

Hygiene Products:
Feminine hygiene products
Basic grooming products
(grooming items from hotel room)

Clothing: (M/F all sizes)
Adult & Children’s socks & underwear
Children shoes
Toddler clothing
Special Need for clothing for Under 5

Miscellaneous:
Gas cards (BP, Speedway, Gulf, Shell are in Atlanta)

www.quadrennial.org
Being chosen for this journey was such a blessing and it will be forever planted in my heart. In preparation for this trip, I was instructed to strengthen my body, my mind and make sure I was spiritually ready for anything we may encounter: so I did as I was told. LOTS of reading and exercising took place from June until September. I was prepared to go to Mexico, help build a house, clean up debris from a flood or something along those lines. I was prepared to go to Mexico and be a blessing to those women but instead, I ended up being the one who was blessed beyond measure. From the beautiful Disciples women we met to the beautiful Landscape of the country, to the beautiful architecture, there is so much I want to share!

One person I met that impacted me in a great way was Lisania Martinez. She is 27 years old from San Luis Potosi Mexico and was with us the entire trip. Lisania travels a difficult journey not only because she is female but because she is a Pastor and she is young. Females in Mexico are not viewed with the same equality as men and because of her age, she is viewed as still a “child”. As a young adult, I sympathize with her struggle to want our seasoned generation to realize that WE (young adults) have wisdom and insight to share too. Just because we don't have gray hair (yet lol) doesn't mean we don't have planted in us knowledge to enlighten others and sow into God's kingdom. She encouraged me to keep pressing forward and try to bridge the generational gap. I encouraged her to continue to be a path maker for those that will follow in her footsteps.

This was a life changing experience and I encourage other young women to make that journey! I never thought I had a closed mind until I went to another country and experienced a culture shock. I continue to pray God's protection over our Sisters and Brothers in Mexico and I hope to return in the near future!

Viva Mexico & Dios te Bendiga (God Bless You)!!

Tammy Simpson - Graham, North Carolina

Learn about the women of the Huasteca region in the next issue.
Connection Section

Did you know Disciples Women now have an e-commerce options available? Now you can purchase study resource materials online: *Just Women* subscriptions, *Wisdom of Women* and more. Go to [www.discipleswomen.org](http://www.discipleswomen.org) and grow as a Disciples woman!

Join us on Facebook:

Connect and engage in conversation with Disciples women from all over. Come, join our fan pages. Be a friend and tell a friend!

- Disciples Women (page)
- National Convocation (group)
- Umoja Unity (page)
- Just Women Magazine (page)
- Quadrennial Assembly (page)

What is happening in your Region or in your Community? Umoja would like to ‘Sister Share’ your activities. Please email Marilyn Williams at marfrwms@yahoo.com with Umoja as the subject.

Yearly Calendar Notes:

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<th>Month</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>March 15</td>
<td>Women’s Endowment Fund application due</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 1</td>
<td>Woman-to-Woman Worldwide application due</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 15</td>
<td>Women’s Endowment Fund application due</td>
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Special Dates to Remember:

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<tr>
<td>June 25 to 29, 2014</td>
<td>Quadrennial Assembly</td>
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<td>July 24 to 27, 2014</td>
<td>23rd Biennial Session</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 26, 2014</td>
<td>Women’s Luncheon</td>
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<td>Columbus, Ohio</td>
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