

SUMMER 2014

JUST+WOMEN

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Kathy Jefferies—A ‘kept woman’

BY JUDY D. CUMMINGS

On February 17, 2014, on a cold cloudy day, Kathy A. Jefferies went home to be with the Lord. Then on February 22, on a beautiful, sunshiny day, we celebrated her life and legacy.

Using Psalm 121 as our framework, we discovered that, indeed, Kathy A. Jefferies was a kept woman — kept by the love, grace, mercy, and peace of God. If you ever were in conversation with Kathy, you know that most of it was about the goodness of the Lord, the keeper of her soul.

One day Kathy came by to browse through the church library, as she was fond of doing. She was in search of a particular Bible study that she wanted to use for the noonday Bible study class. We talked briefly and then I forgot that Kathy was back there until I heard her praising the Lord. She had stumbled across a book that had meant a great deal to her in the years when God was maturing her in her faith.

On that day, Kathy shared with me her journey with the Lord. She shared how for a time, she had left the church — in her radical, “Black Power” days — leaving behind organized religion. As she shared with me about all the experiences she had while living that life, what stuck

out to me was the part about how God raised up people, especially one church mother named Ms. Callie Crowder, who never gave up on her. She said, “Pastor, it was people like Ms. Callie Crowder and others who helped me see that God wanted to use me in his kingdom, that God had not given up on me, and that even while I was out of the church God was keeping me! I came back into the church, and I’ve never looked back.”

Kathy A. Jefferies was indeed a kept woman, and the church has been blessed because she never looked back.

Kathy was kept to be ordained as an elder at New Covenant Christian Church on October 3, 1999. She served tirelessly to ensure that the ministries of New Covenant were staffed and doing ministry in keeping with the Disciples’ mandates and our biblical understanding.

Kathy served in just about every ministry of the church, as youth director, vice chair of the general board, chair of the diaconate, church school superintendent, and the chair

of our board of directors. She was a Bible teacher *par excellence*, anointed with the Spirit of God to teach. Because of her love for the word of God, the adult Sunday school class at New Covenant was named in her honor, and also the fellowship hall at Disciples’ Village in Nashville, in 2013.

Kathy was kept to serve on both the regional and national levels of the church, as well. Indeed, the Disciples of Christ in North America have been amply blessed by her service. She was the first African American president of the Tennessee Christian Women’s Fellowship. She also served on the Disciples’ General Board and the Administrative Committee.

Kathy was kept to be active in Church Women United. She was state president for two years and local finance chair for five years. After she became ill, she was selected as Valiant Woman of the Year twice, and attended the Southeastern Assembly and the National Church Women United Conference



faithful steward wherever she went and wherever she served. Serving the Lord afforded her the opportunity to travel the world as God’s witness. She certainly had, “So much, so much, so much, so much to thank God for,” and we certainly thank God for her.

If Kathy could speak today she no doubt would tell you, “I’m kept — kept by God himself!”

Kathy was a kept woman all the days of her life and now, she is kept in the arms of Jesus.

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Kathy Jefferies—A 'kept woman'

케티제프리- 주님의사랑에붙들린바된여성사역자

주디커밍스 (JUDY D. CUMMINGS) 목사

2014년2월17일구름이낀추운날에케티제프리장로님께서우리의 영원한고향집인주님의품으로돌아가셨습니다. 그리고2월22일맑고 화창한날에우리는그녀의인생을기리며그녀가남긴업적을축하하고 기념하는장례식을치렀습니다. 우리는이자리에서시편121편을낭독 하면서케티제프리를기억하였고그녀가하나님의은혜및평강이넘치는 삶을살면서하나님의사랑에붙들린바되었던귀한여성사역자였음을 발견할수있었습니다. 만일당신이이자리에서케티장로님과대화를 하게된다면그녀의영혼이주님의선하심에늘붙들린바되어있다는것 을느낄수있을것입니다.

어느날케티가오후성경공부 반에서용할성경자료들을자료 를찾기위해서즐거찾던교회도서관에들렀을때나를만났습니 다. 도서관에서우리는잠깐이 야기를나누고각자자료를찾고 있었었습니다. 그녀를만났다는 사실도잊어버리고불일을보고 있다가문득주님을찬양하는케 티장로님의소리를듣고고개를 들어서그녀를쳐다보게되었습니다. 그때그녀는하나님께서 자신의믿음을성숙시켰던시절 에많은용기를주었던책을찾게 되어너무기뻐하고있었습니다. 그러면서바로주님과함께한 자신의신앙여정에대해서나에 게말해주었습니다. 그녀가"신 앙의암흑기" 가운데있었을때 조직화된종교적인모습이싫어 얼마간교회를떠났었다고하였 습니다. 이렇게그녀의경험들 을듣고있던나는문득하나님께 서사람들을세우시는방법들이 너무나도놀랍다고느꼈는데특

히그녀의삶이캘리크로우더라 는수녀님의결코포기하지않은 인생과같다고느꼈습니다.그녀 는나에게말했다.“목사님, 캘리 크로우더수녀님같은분들의인생 을공부하면서하나님께서나를 절대로포기하지않으시고심지 어는내가교회를떠났을때에도 나를지키셨고, 나를하나님의나 라를위해서용하기를원하신다는 사실을깨달았을때너무나큰 힘이생겼습니다. 그래서저는 교회로다시돌아오게되었고다 시는떠나지않게되었습니다.” 정말로케티제프리는주님의사 랑에붙들린바된여성이되었고 다시는뒤를돌아보지않는인생 을살았으며그녀를통해서우리 교회도축복을받게되었습니다. 1999년10월3일뉴커비넨 트크리스찬교회를통해여성장 로로안수받게된케티는뉴커비 넨트교회의사역들가운데제자 회의강령들과성경관들을계속 해서유지할수있도록교회직원

과사역자들을훈련시키는데헌 신을다하였습니다. 그리고청 소년사역담당, 일반위원회부 회장, 집사의장, 교회학교회장, 조직위원회회장의교회외의거 의모든사역을감당할뿐아니라 그녀가성경공부를가르칠때는 성령의강한기름부으심이나타 났습니다. 2013년에하나님의 말씀에대하여그녀의사랑을기념 하기위해서뉴커비넨트교회의 주일장년성경공부반과네슈빌 의제자회마을을그녀의이름을 따서명명하게되었습니다. 또한케티는주님을사랑하는 그열정으로지역교회및전국적 인차원의교회등을섬겼기때문 에북미의제자회가그녀의섬김 을통해서정말로많은축복을받 았습니다. 그녀는테네시크리 스텐여성모임의최초핵심회장 및제자회제너럴보드와행정국 도섬겼습니다. 케티는주님의 사랑에붙들린바되어교회여성 연합에서도적극적으로활동하

면서2년간회장직을감당하고5 년동안지역교회재정부의장으 로도섬겼습니다. 그녀가병든 후에도올해의공건한여성으로 두번이나선정이되었고2011 년에열린남동부연합과전국교회여성연합총회에도참석하였 습니다.

케티는주님의사랑에붙들린 바되어어디를가든지섬김의자 세로있었기때문에신실한청지 기역할을감당할수있었습니다. 이렇게주님을섬기는것을통해 서하나님이증인으로써세계 를여행할수있는기회를누릴수 있었었습니다. 그녀는”하나님께 진심으로감사할제목들이너무 나많이있습니다”라고확신있 게고백했으며우리는그녀때문 에하나님께감사할수밖에없습 니다. 케티가오늘여기에서우 리에게말할기회가있다면의심 할여지없이다음과같이이야기 할것입니다. “난하나님께서그 분의사랑으로나를붙드셨습니 다.” 이렇게케티의일생은온전 히주님의사랑의힘에붙들린바 된인생이었으며지금도주님의 사랑의품안에서거하고있습니다.

*주디커밍스는테네시주내 쉬벨에소재한뉴커비넨트크리 스텐교회담임목사이다.

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