

The
Source
by WIN

Summer Issue 2009

Readers share
their stories
about
**Fruit of
the Spirit**

WIN awards
businesswoman

**Julie
Haack**

president of Donald Haack Diamonds & Fine Gems, Ltd.

From the President

JANE BOSTON | PRESIDENT OF WIN

Women's Initiative Network

WIN Mission Statement

Purpose: The WIN organization will assist women of the Christian faith in their quest to fulfill God's direction in their initiatives of business, ministry, professional and personal life endeavors. This association will offer *training, marketing and supportive assistance* for its members who desire to grow in professional and personal skills, in order to credit God for successful results with their initiatives. The WIN organization is a non-profit South Carolina corporation supported by donations, membership annual dues, sale of training materials, and operation of events. Motivations, Inc., a planning and education company is the association management company for WIN.

Dear Friends,

The list of the Fruits of the Spirit is such a wonderful summary of how our Christian life is to look. The word JOY is especially striking because joy is a euphoric state of happiness. Joy is beyond contentment in what we have, in where we are, and in how we live. Joy is taking pleasure in God's provisions. Joy has at least three real tangible gains noted in the Bible.

"For the joy of the Lord is your strength!" - Nehemiah 8:10. There is power in joy, as we submit to a higher source to fill us with the joy of the Lord. How does that work? "Greater is He that is in me, than me that is in the world" - 1John 4:4. As I surrender myself to become God's vessel, His abilities rise in me; my skills, my strength to endure, and my power to be able to do things far greater than my own abilities. Joy is the dwelling of Christ in us.

Joy can be easy when things are good, but the real test is noted in James 1:2-3, "Dear brothers and sisters, when troubles come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy. For you know that when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow." Challenge is a chance to perform. Performing well under pressure is admirable. True

joy holds under all circumstances. Therefore, our level of joy is a measure of our faith in God to perform and provide for us.

Be full of the joy of the Lord, so that others will be drawn to Him. The world is in pain. Your joy baffles, raises eyebrows, sparks conversation, opens doors, and sets in motion transformation for others around you. Joy radiates from you with or without words.

JOY is powerful, faith confirming and transforming to the world. At Women's Initiative Network, we share our joy, helping to boost our friends to the next level of God's goodness and opportunities. WIN provides a platform for women to share their skills in career building, public speaking, writing and singing.

How can you help us bring more women together for His glory?

- Tell your friends to sign up for our free member program at our website
 - Make a donation to help grow our magazine distribution
 - Plan a simple luncheon in your area.
- Together we are strong, in His sight.
Blessings,
Jane

**"As I surrender myself to become God's vessel,
His abilities rise in me; my skills, my strength
to endure, and my power to be able to do
things far greater than my own abilities.
Joy is the dwelling of Christ in us."**

JANE BOSTON

President and Executive Director, Women's Initiative Network
jboston@motivationsceu.com

Jane Boston, president of Motivations, Inc., has 20 years experience in health care management and program development, and currently handles course scheduling and marketing efforts. Motivations, Inc. began offering training course to rehab professionals in February 1999. The company began with the unique concept of bringing providers together in a membership offering quality continuing education. Jane uses her skills in strategic planning, fundraising and rehabilitation to develop this effort. Jane is also president of Women's Initiative Network. She is a writer, helped create *The Source Magazine*, and was featured in *Entrepreneur's Magazine* in February 2007. Jane Boston's latest book, "*The Longer You Wait, The Bigger the Miracle*," is now available.



VICKIE A. DEXTER

WIN Treasurer
simpthgs64@comporium.net

Vickie Dexter serves as the treasurer for WIN and holds a Master's degree in accounting. She has been employed with Internet Services Corporation for nine years as their International Accounting Manager. Vickie is active in her church, where she holds a position on the Board of Ladies Ministries at Perfecting the Heart Worship Center in Chester, South Carolina. Vickie carries the plans for a ministry called Forward Motions, which will move people forward toward God's destiny for their life, by providing resources in the areas of spiritual, physical and financial health. A single mother of three teenagers, Vickie handles all her duties with a calm and radiant spirit.



ALLISON OSMAN

Editor of The Source by WIN Magazine
TheSource@womensinet.com

Allison Osman is a writer who aims to honor God through her craft. She is also the marketing director and course coordinator for Motivations, Inc. Her professional background is as a public relations director for a private university and as an officer in the United States Navy. She lives in Charlotte, N.C., with her wonderful husband and dog Daisy, and is a member of Forest Hill Church, Ballantyne campus.



Women's Initiative Network

A Christian Organization for Working Women

Volume 2 No. 1
3581 Centre Circle, Suite 104
Fort Mill, SC 29715
P: 803.802.5454 • 815.371.1499
E: office@womensinet.com
W: www.womensinet.com

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In This Issue

ALLISON OSMAN | EDITOR FOR *THE SOURCE* BY WIN MAGAZINE

As we grow closer to God, His Spirit molds our character to reflect the qualities of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. In this issue of *The Source* by WIN, several of our readers wrote about fruits of the Spirit that have played an especially significant role in their lives.

Diana tells us about her harrowing experience being involved in a plane crash and how the plane going down, the rescue, and her recovery impacted her faithfulness to God and illustrated His faithfulness to her. Leslie explains how God calmed her fear and brought her peace about her husband's 15-month Army deployment. Lynn, an interior designer, writes about spending a little extra time with a client who needed to experience God's love, and how that love was passed on to a son in need. Cinthia explores the meaning of gentleness and addresses the difficulty of submitting to God's will without disputing or resisting it. Linda plays a game

of kindness, trying to bring smiles to people's faces when they least expect it.

We at WIN are pleased to extend our congratulations to Julie Haack, president of Donald Haack Diamonds & Fine Gems, Ltd., who was named the Elaine Creasser National Christian Businesswoman for 2009 by Women's Initiative Network. In this issue, you'll get to read about her, the company, and the adventures that led up to its conception. In this issue, we also recap Exalt!, WIN's annual vocal talent show and fundraiser, and you'll get to read about first-prize winner Anne MacCallum.

It is my hope that your heart is touched by the words and pictures on the pages of *The Source* by WIN Magazine.

Many of you have met WIN National Chairperson Nanci Singer in person or spoken with her over the phone. She has prayed for and with many of you, as well. I'd like to extend our congratulations to her on her daughter's wedding.

The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control

— Galatians 5:22-25



Congratulations

Charlotte native Deborah Singer and Craig Stuart, of Fayetteville, AR, were married March 14, 2009, at Redeemer Presbyterian Church in Charleston, SC.

Mrs. Stuart, 33, is a documentary TV producer with Jones Television in Springdale, AR. She is the daughter of Jonathan and Nanci Singer of Charlotte, NC.

Mr. Stuart, 35, is the director of Visiting Angels in Lowell, AR. He is the son of Dale and Suzanne Stuart of Springdale, AR.



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Galatians 6:10

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JULIE HAACK

Wins Elaine Creasser National
Christian Businesswoman Award

ALLISON OSMAN | EDITOR FOR *THE SOURCE* BY WIN MAGAZINE



“I feel strongly that I have been called to this role, and I have had no doubt that working with both my parents over the past 13 years has been God’s will,” said Julie.

Julie Haack, president of Donald Haack Diamonds & Fine Gems, Ltd., was named the Elaine Creasser National Christian Businesswoman for 2009 by Women’s Initiative Network. WIN President Jane Boston presented Julie with the award at Exalt! in April.

The award is presented to a businesswoman of integrity who has grown her business or excelled in her career, while giving the glory and credit for her success to God.

The story of Donald Haack Diamonds begins with Julie’s father. The adventurous Donald Haack lived and worked in South America, as a diamond miner and bush pilot in Georgetown and Rupinuni, Guyana (then British Guiana), and the forests of Brazil. After a revolution broke out in British Guiana, he and his wife Jan moved to Grenada in the Caribbean, and he lived there for 14 years building boats. Julie grew up there. When a revolution broke out in Grenada, Julie and her parents moved to the mountains of North Carolina, since that was where her maternal grandparents called home.

Because Charlotte was ranked number 10 among the United States’ fastest growing cities at the time, Donald established the business here in 1981.

Julie joined the company 13 years ago and learned the business from the ground up. She worked her way up from greeter, to answering phones, to sales, to being president today. Julie became president of the company when she bought the business from her parents in 2007.

“I feel strongly that I have been called to this role, and I have had no doubt that working with both my parents over the past 13 years has been God’s will,” said Julie.

What started out as a brokerage and wholesale diamond company in the early ‘80s evolved over the years into a loose diamond and classic jewelry boutique.

Julie’s vision for the company is much the same as her fathers, as they have both had a say in the direction it would take.

“As I became more involved with the buying of the inventory 12 years ago, the selection began to include more fashion jewelry;

everyday, daytime-wearable, affordable but still unique pieces. I felt the need to include jewelry that a woman could accumulate over the years and not have to wait for the big anniversaries just to shop here,” said Julie. “I wanted my customers to keep coming back even for the ‘in between’ gifts.”

The growth and adaptation of Donald Haack Diamonds has enabled the company to accommodate current tough economic times.

“The jewelry we buy and custom-make is still unique, affordable, and the best value. With the economy, we have been able to offer even better prices on some of our diamonds because we have returned to the brokerage part of the business, which is buying and selling diamonds privately,” Julie shared. “We do this as we continue to showcase our usual inventory.”

Because of her faith, Julie feels called to maintain a high level of ethical and moral standards within her business. This extends to her creativity, friendliness in customer service, value pricing, and vision for the company. She is also dedicated to involvement in the Charlotte community by donating both time and funding to special causes. Julie is personally involved with and supports the Allegro Foundation, Charlotte Rescue Mission, Make a Wish Foundation, Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, Charlotte Symphony, Opera Carolina, Spirit Awards, Ethics in Business Committee, Better Business Bureau, and 24 Hours of Booty.



About Elaine Creasser: Elaine Creasser is owner of Tile Collection, Inc., in Charlotte, N.C. She openly declares her professional success to be a product of God’s guidance. Elaine was recently named 2009 Woman Business Owner of the Year by NAWBO Charlotte. To find out more about Tile Collection, visit www.tilecollection.com. To learn more about the National Association of Women Business Owners (NAWBO), visit: www.nawbo.org. For more information about the Elaine Creasser National Christian Businesswoman Award, see: www.womensinet.com/pdf/Creas-serapplication.pdf.

Vocalists Exalt! Christ

A LOOK AT
WIN'S ANNUAL
FUNDRAISER
AND VOCAL
TALENT SHOW

ALLISON OSMAN | EDITOR FOR *THE SOURCE* BY WIN MAGAZINE

Proceeds went to fund the non-profit, and one dollar for every ticket sold was given to the Women of St. Lucia Fund. This money purchased a computer for St. Lucian women to use in their educational pursuits. The goal is to make computers, online resources, curriculums, and video classes affordable to women in St. Lucia who otherwise would not be able to acquire an education.





Photo by Jolissa Lewis.

(l-r) Amy Harvey, Nicole Broome, Rachel Williams and Anne MacCallum.

The Exalt! event exceeded hopes and expectations. Guests arrived in their formal best for an evening of entertainment and packed the house at Ballantyne Village Theater. Ten contestants, narrowed down from many candidates, took their turns on stage, each singing a Christian themed song of her choice. After these rousing performances, the judges deliberated to choose the top three. Because the contestants were so talented, the judges had to bend the rules a bit. They named the final four: Amy Harvey, Nicole Broome, Rachel Williams, and Anne MacCallum. Each of these artists then sang another song of her choice to try and win top spot.

Anne MacCallum, with an alternative rock edge to her soulful voice, sang a song she wrote called “Not My Will” about following God’s will and not her own. When the judges announced




her name as the first-prize winner, she clasped her hands, smiled brightly, and turned her eyes toward heaven.

Anne has two CDs out: *Live Through Me* and *Shine*. She describes her work as fresh, contemporary Christian music with Celtic flavors. “Not My Will” is on her new album, *Shine*.

Anne, of Columbia, S.C., has been singing and writing songs for more than 24 years. Her music reflects lessons God has taught her about freedom, forgiveness and life-altering grace. She is a wife and mother of three children, and she both performs at conferences and leads worship for local churches, women’s programs and outreach events.

“Not My Will” had a three-pronged birth. According to Anne, the song was born out of a fascination with Jacob’s relentless pursuit of God, Christ’s surrender to His Father in the attitude of ‘not my will but yours,’ and Anne’s own desire to answer ‘yes’ to whatever God asks of her.

For her beautiful singing, Anne won a \$500 cash prize and a free studio recording session.

To learn more about Anne and her music, visit www.annesings.com. 

LYNN TROGDON | WRITER AND SPEAKER



Ministry in a Material World

Relying on the Power of
the Spirit in the Workplace

I stared at the realtor's email. "Two doctors, three children, and another on the way—and they've purchased a 9,000 square foot house. Are you interested in helping them?" An interior designer's dream job—I should have been thrilled. But instead of immediately clicking reply, I questioned the opportunity. Do I accept or not? Should I look for a more meaningful job? Can a one-woman design business really serve others in a way that makes an eternal difference?

Regardless of our occupation, we can make a difference. It doesn't require giving up our day jobs—only a willingness to cooperate with the Lord wherever we are.

IT'S ALL ABOUT RELATIONSHIPS

The first time I called on Lisa*, her son, Danny, wore red footie-pajamas. Eighteen years, and several decorating projects later, we met again.

"Is Danny enjoying college?" I asked.

"He's having a difficult sophomore year."

"My son had a tough sophomore year, too. Everything seemed to pile up and he couldn't cope. But, with the help of a counselor, he's much better now."

"Maybe this appointment was meant to be," Lisa said, as her trembling fingers smeared tears across her cheek. "I haven't had anyone to talk to." Danny had suffered through a life-threatening illness, addiction to pain killers, and was in treatment for depression.

While a polite "I'm sorry" would have closed the door on the conversation, an expression of interest and sharing common experiences helped Lisa break down her silence barrier.

Later, we sat Indian-style looking at dust ruffle fabrics. "God has been so good to me, in spite of my mistakes," I said.

"You're active in church, aren't you?"

"Yes, especially in Bible studies. I was pretty intimidated in small groups when I was younger. But when that first light bulb went off, I was hooked."

"There's lots of different Bibles, aren't there?"

"Translations? Yes, I like the New International Version."

She reached for pen and paper. "Maybe I'll check it out."

Our long-term relationship and willingness to share paved the way for God to change hearts. Hers softened; mine understood being a witness in a new way.

PARTNERS IN PRAYER

Charles Spurgeon said, "Much in prayer, much in heaven; slow in prayer,

slow in progress." Going to God before ringing the doorbell reminds me it's the Holy Spirit who guides conversations and changes hearts, not me.

As I prayed for Danny, I felt the gentle nudge of the Spirit to write him a note. For a week, I was chased by my doubts. Would it make a difference? Would I offend them? Would they reject me and, ultimately, God? Finally, leaving my concerns behind, I copied Isaiah 8:21-22.

"I brought Danny a card," I said, handing it to Lisa at our next appointment. "When we're depressed, it feels like no one understands or cares. But God does. To me, these verses describe the condition perfectly."

At a later meeting Lisa said, "I thought you'd want to know. That verse from Isaiah—Danny said that's exactly how it feels."

FLEXIBILITY COUNTS

With a get-in-and-get-the-job-done attitude, I could have wrapped up my appointments with Lisa in an hour tops. But when I allowed time for conversations, they often stretched to an hour and a half, sometimes two. That's when we connected. A schedule is a good thing, but a packed calendar may stifle the work of the Spirit.

How flexible is your calendar? Consider what changes are possible. You may not have an hour to give, but even five minutes after an appointment lets you absorb the needs of your client and cover them with prayer.

EMBRACING OPPORTUNITIES

"Lynn, you need to learn how to prospect," my first employer said. Networking and marketing are not my strengths, much less steering a conversation toward God and the

gospel. My timidity makes it painful to approach strangers. However, I'm not dependent on myself. I have, as do all followers of Jesus, the gift of "a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline" (2 Tim. 1:7 NIV).

It takes the prompting of the Spirit (and a conscious effort on my part) to leave the comfortable boundaries of decorating and speak with others about God. But as God transforms lives, excitement replaces nervousness. Witnessing the amazing work God does in others' lives soon encourages boldness rather than timidity.


But, you may be wondering, does it really matter? You decide. Several months after completing her project, I saw Lisa at the store.

"How's Danny?" I asked once again.

"He's in treatment, but came home for Christmas—with a Bible under his arm. He's been teaching me," Lisa said.

CARRY ON!

Can the Gospel and the world we live in find common ground? Absolutely! When we focus on God and tell others what he has done, ministry happens. Oswald Chambers said, "A Christian worker is one who perpetually looks in the face of God and then goes forth to talk to people." Embracing opportunities to shine light and love in another's life merges the lifestyle I am called to live as a Christian with my world of colors and fabrics. How about your world?

Bio: Lynn, freelance writer and women's speaker, is married to an avid Tar Heel fan, blessed to mother a blended family of five and grandmother of one. She's enjoyed more than twenty years in interior design, works part-time at a pregnancy care center, and loves studying God's Word. She's been published in *The Secret Place*, *Evangel*, *Purpose*, and *Cross & Quill*. 

* Clients' names have been changed to protect their privacy.

GOD BROUGHT ME



PEACE



AND
FULFILLED HIS PROMISE
DURING MY HUSBAND'S DEPLOYMENT

LESLIE WILSON PEARCE | FORTUNE HI-TECH MARKETING

Again plagued by sleep deprivation, I awoke at the regular 2:30 to 3:30 a.m. interval I'd been waking up at since my husband Steve left for deployment in December 2008.

I read a book, took an over-the-counter sleep aide, ate a snack, and read a Bible passage. Then, I felt prompted to put my thoughts down on paper. This is the story of God giving me peace and fulfilling the prophecy of what He put on my heart about my husband Steve's 15-month deployment.

Thank you God for your promise in the fall of 2008, when I came across an old pamphlet amidst some junk in my garage about "acceptance" that I had not seen in years. I feel like God strategically placed it there for me to find to address my distress and denial over Steve's impending deployment. I was in denial about the deployment and the implications for our lives. I chose not to accept it as reality. Whenever I mentioned my husband's deployment to others, I got negative reactions, which added to my stress. The world responds to such news with drama and fear, and God promises peace.

When I found that pamphlet, and saw God in that very emotion of "acceptance," my perception started to change for the better. The revelation that I truly feel God put in my spirit was these words: "I am going to replace your fear and your worry with peace and joy, and I am going to put a lot of Christian women in your path." Wow, did He ever!

Here starts the journey, when I made a conscious choice to make the best of this time:

1. I decided to spend more quality time with our five-year-old son, Paul, than I did when Steve was around.
2. I planned to lose some of the weight from having a 9 lb. baby at 45 years of age.
3. With Steve's double income, I'd have the chance to build a successful home-based business with Fortune Hi-Tech Marketing. This will allow us to live less stressfully when Steve returns and will hopefully fund future ministry and writing, which are passions of mine.
4. I planned to take the opportunity to catch up with old friends and spend more time with family.

In November, I discovered WIN through Sherri Miller at Black Lion where I used to have a booth. She is one of those people who is like a beacon of light on the path. While I was there, Sherri gave me a copy of the fall issue of *The Source* by WIN Magazine. I went to my first WIN meeting in November and the ladies prayed for Steve and our family even though they did not even know us. I really appreciated the prayer and the opportunity to meet the nice women that night.

Also in November, I felt led to call a woman whose card I kept hanging onto. Her name is Lea Ann and she invited me to come to her networking group called Joy of Connecting. We are both from Tennessee, she has a perky spirit, and is a committed Christian. She connected me to a fellow Army wife named Tracy, who has become a special friend, since we share the common ground of being Army wives, Christian women, and mothers to young children. Tracy sent me an article about peace from a Christian publication that reminded me of God's promise to replace my fear and worry with peace and joy.

These two meetings started me on a networking journey to groups where I have met some wonderful Christian people. One person invited me to a group where someone else invited me to another group and so on. It is my natural nature to network. This process has also helped me to present my home-based business to others. Another group I connected with was Kiwanis, which helps children "one child at a time." Yet another example of God's prompting was to have me return to an early morning Bible study at Allen Tate. I was previously in this Bible study years ago, and this warm group of women has given me great peace through this journey. Such groups have given me peace and the consistency of seeing some of the same faces on a regular basis. God knew I needed the insulation of other like-minded people during this lonely, worrisome time away from my husband.

I have the tendency to hibernate in the safety and comfort of my own home and neighborhood. I am not anti-social, but very comfortable with being alone. God knew I needed this constant contact with these people who have been a great support network for me. So many people have prayed for Steve and our family. And it gives me great peace to know that God's protection is around him.

Steve left December 1, 2008, for training. He returned for Christmas and then departed again. He also returned for Easter, which was great because it was Paul's spring break. Now he is in Iraq and will not return until February 2010.

Steve has reminded me that God does not give us more than we can handle. With His joy and peace in my heart constantly combating the fear and worry, I remember "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." (Romans 8:28). Another favorite verse is Jeremiah 29:11, "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."

This is not to say that I don't ever have fear and worry over Steve being away. But, with God's constant help, I don't let those negative strongholds stay. God does not give us a spirit of fear and He tells us not to worry. I hope that this story can help strengthen others. When we put a problem at God's feet and leave it there, He can and will give us the peace and joy we need to live victorious lives. 🙏



*“He who is kind to the
poor lends to the LORD,
and he will reward him
for what he has done.”*
PROVERBS 19:17

KINDNESS:

LINDA BURHANS | CAREGIVER ADVOCATE
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Pass it on...



Kindness is a simple answer to a sometimes difficult and challenging world. I know that to be true. For a long time now it has been my mission to acknowledge and appreciate all people and to encourage others to do the same.

When my seven-year-old granddaughter Skylar and I go out, we have a contest called “Who can make the most people smile.” It makes for a wonderful, glorious day. We will be walking in the supermarket and someone will be walking down the aisle with her head down. Skylar walks up to her and gives her a big smile. I watch her head rise up and return the smile. I watch her walk down the aisle, turn around and smile at Skylar again or perhaps smile at someone else. Kindness is a chain that pulls us all together. Anything that lifts another person is kindness. There is no such thing as a small act of kindness. Every single act of kindness has a ripple effect.

In 2002, my dad had a series of strokes and other illness. At that time, I was the facilitator for a large women’s networking organization. One day, I asked the ladies if on a personal level they could send their positive energies my dad’s way and maybe go out and do something nice for someone, someone from whom they would not normally think to do something nice. My dad has been doing nice things for all sorts of people for years; from the street crossing guard, to the waitress in a restaurant, to a friend’s mother. That same day, I made

cookies for the janitor at the post office. When I gave him the cookies he actually looked a little embarrassed.

“Why, Linda?” he asked.

“Because I appreciate you!” I answered. “When I get here at 6 a.m. and it’s still dark out and it’s a little scary, I know you’re inside and I feel safe. And when I first moved here and my post office box was always empty, you always cheered me on. And you keep this place spotless.”

That evening his wife called me and said that he was overwhelmed. “No one even knows his name never mind bakes him cookies! What can I do for you?” she asked.

“Nothing, just go out and do something nice for someone else,” I answered.

Well, that woman and many other women started practicing kindness on a regular basis. It was wonderful to witness. After that day, I started becoming more and more aware of the kindness in this wonderful world of ours.

In fact, a few weeks later, I was in a drugstore looking at some items when I noticed three people standing on line at the prescription counter. The last person was a young woman with a crying baby. It was obvious the baby was sick. When she got to the head of the line, the pharmacist said he was sorry but they did not have that medication on hand but that they could get it in about two hours. One tear trickled down the young woman’s cheek. Suddenly, an older gentleman who was sitting off to the side came over and asked if he could be of assistance. The young woman looked up at him bewildered. The man said that he didn’t have much to do and that he had to wait for his prescription, so if she wanted, he could deliver her prescription to her home.

“But I don’t even know you,” she said.

“I won’t come in your house,” he replied. “I’ll just leave it by the door and

ring the bell.”

“But why?” she asked.

The man looked at her with kind eyes and said, “I live on a really limited income and my children, grandchildren and great grandchildren all live up north and I rarely get to see them, so doing this for you and your baby would be a privilege for me.”

With that, people in the store started nodding their heads to the young woman with approval. She mumbled okay, wrote her address on a piece of paper and gave it to the man. The baby stopped crying and the young woman left the store. By this time, I was crying. I walked over to the gentleman, introduced myself and told him how wonderful it was that he was so kind. Michael was 82 years old. We became friends and had breakfast and lunch a few times. About three months later, he phoned me to tell me that the young woman had told all of her friends about what he had done by delivering the prescription. They all chipped in and sent him airfare to visit his family. Another wonderful act of kindness and it was the last time Michael saw his family before he died.

When I am having a tough day, I recall this total act of unsolicited kindness and it always brings me waves of gratitude. We are surrounded by kindness everyday. Unfortunately, we get so wrapped up in life that we forget to stop and smell the roses, as they say, or witness the acts of kindness that surround us each day. Little acts of kindness and love are the best parts of one’s life.

As the Dalai Lama said, “When we feel love and kindness toward others, it not only makes others feel loved and cared for, but it helps us also to develop inner happiness and peace.”

So, go out today and experience the kindness around you. Bathe in it and be kind to others. You may discover that being kind to others is actually being kind to yourself! 🙏



*Submission is
complete surrender.*

*It is letting go of
your right to decide
and putting your life
into God's hands.*

Gentleness

The Fruit of Surrender



In Galatians 5:22, gentleness is listed as one of the nine characteristics of the Fruit of the Spirit. It is from the Greek word *prautes*, defined by my NIV Key Word Study Bible as “meek... but not in a man’s outward behavior only, nor in his relations to his fellow men, or his mere disposition, but in an inwrought grace of the soul expressed primarily toward God. It is that attitude of spirit by which we accept God’s dealings with us as good and do not dispute or resist.”

Those last two words—dispute and resist—cause me to pause. How much of my life has been spent disputing and how much has been spent resisting? The opposite of resisting is that word we all dislike whether it refers to our husbands or God—submission. Submission is complete surrender. It is letting go of your right to decide and putting your life into God’s hands. If we summarize this attitude and put it in layman’s terms, we could say that gentleness is complete surrender to God’s will in our lives. We submit our lives, our wills, our desires, our dreams and our hopes to God, then we fully accept His will for our lives and live in accordance with it.

Now, if you’re like me, this thought just went through your head, “If I just knew God’s will for my life, I would submit to it.” The fact that many of us are searching for God’s will in our lives can be proven by the extraordinary number of Bible studies that explore this very topic. Walk into any Bible bookstore and some variant of ‘Discerning God’s Will for Your Life’ will be among the top ten topics. However, we need to back up a step first. Before we begin to seek God’s will in our lives, we need to first submit to God’s will in our lives. If we don’t, we’re only playing

games with ourselves and with God. What we’re really saying is, tell me what Your will is and then I’ll tell You if I’m going to submit (or dispute and resist).

The NIV Commentary goes on to say, “*Prautes* is the acceptance of God’s dealings with us considering them as good in that they enhance the closeness of our relationship with him.” In other words, God is first seeking a relationship with us, one built on trust and submission, before we get down to any business of what His will is or is not. Let’s be honest: when we say we’re looking for His will, generally we’re either looking for something to do or we’re looking for an answer to our current situation. We’re looking for a way out or a way in. We want into — or out of — a ministry, a job, a marriage, a neighborhood, a house. We are looking to solve a problem and, yes, God is all about solving our problems, but remember His word says, “Seek me first and all this will be added to you.” (Matthew 6:33)


There should come a time in every believer’s life when we finally understand that God is good and that His dealings with us—even when we cannot understand them and they bring us to our knees sobbing—are good. Disputing with Him assumes your thought processes are like His, your reasoning skills are like His and your understanding is like His. Isaiah 55:9 clearly states that His thoughts are higher than ours and His ways higher than ours. Sometimes you will not understand, but in trusting you can still submit.

I learned this lesson through a relationship with a boyfriend. The relationship ended and I kept trying to sort through it and understand what had gone wrong. We were, practically speaking, perfectly suited to each other.

While sorting away, I had a thought that I knew came from God. It was simply, “Cinthia, you may never understand this, but even so it is over and it is time to move on.” Sometimes we may not understand, but even so it is time to move on. The day may come when the Lord brings understanding and revelation—it is His to give—but until that day, stop disputing and resisting and move on in submission to what the Lord has brought into your life.

These can be scary words. We are all fallible, fearful human beings who do not trust easily. The Lord knows that. Our lives are precious and deserving of our best in living them out. We should not cast our pearls before swine, but we should be cautious in these days when there are so many ways to spend a life. It is only in seeking the Lord and relating to Him and letting Him relate to us through His word that we can begin to trust Him and submit to Him. So, He designs our circumstances to give us that chance—an opportunity to show us He is faithful. Do we resist Him? Do we dispute with Him or do we submit and draw nearer?

Let us yearn to be like Peter, saying, “Lord to whom else shall we go?” (John 6:68)

Ladies, to whom else shall we go? We look for peace, we ask for joy, we desire understanding and we yearn for purpose. We believe all these things are wrapped up in some mystery called God’s will for our lives, and that if we could unravel it all would be well, not understanding the mystery is in God alone. We find these things not in jobs to be done or questions answered but in the “attitude of spirit by which we accept God’s dealings with us as good and do not dispute or resist.” We will find it all in complete surrender and gentle submission to our Lord. 

Surviving a near death tragedy increased Diana's faith and her reliance on God for not only her life in general, but in order to deal with the next sixty seconds of pain.

DIANA BURGESS | WRITER & SPEAKER



I Survived A PLANE CRASH

Until that fateful day in August 2002, my life seemed perfect. God blessed me with a wonderful husband and two beautiful children, along with a rewarding career. As the chief flight nurse for an international critical care air ambulance, I balanced my work responsibilities with those of a wife, mother, church member, praise team vocalist, aerobics instructor and sports enthusiast. I never slowed down, always tried to remain in control, and often gave thanks to God for my blessings, all the while not acknowledging I was trying to do it all my way in my own power.

Just four months prior in April, we celebrated my 40th birthday. Friends and family members alike took turns telling hilarious stories of moments we had shared, while playfully pointing out my unique personality traits. My children reminisced about the times God gave me the wisdom I prayed for and strategically detected things that seemed amiss or when one of them was “stretching the truth.” Coworkers described the precise way I would conduct medical transports across the globe, while using a certain tone of voice and not so subtle look to get my point across even to those whose language I did not speak. My older sister’s gift to me summed up the sentiments that evening. It was a key chain inscribed with the words, “I’m not bossy, I just have better ideas.”

I knew Jesus as my Savior and espoused Him to be my Lord without truly relinquishing control. I sat on the throne of my life making decisions and setting goals. As a believer, I possessed the very power living inside me that raised Jesus Christ from the dead, yet chose not to tap into it. Instead, I relied on my own strength and abilities. I had even read the warnings in God’s holy Word. James 4:6 states, “But he gives

us more grace. That is why Scripture says: God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.” As often happens in life, God chose to teach me this powerful truth in a most unusual and very painful way.

It was a beautiful sunny day as we touched down on the 6,000-foot runway in Marco Island, Florida, in our medically outfitted Lear Jet. My captain, Miles, along with the first officer,



Jim, and I were on a routine mission to transport a 76-year-old woman and her husband to their home in Lexington, Kentucky. The patient, suffering from lung cancer, had signed do not resuscitate papers, so I was the only medical crewmember onboard that fateful day. We normally flew with at least two. My patient also chose to sit up for the flight instead of recline on the stretcher, forcing me to sit forward in the cabin on the jump seat instead of on the rear bench seat where I sat 95 percent of the time.

After placing my patient on oxygen and attaching heart and vital sign monitors, I secured myself into the jump seat adjacent to the cockpit and



directly behind the copilot. The flight proved uneventful and I shared pleasant conversation with my patient and her husband, a former WWII pilot, while closely monitoring her cardiac rhythm, oxygen levels and other vital signs. We were twenty minutes out of Lexington when we began our gradual descent. I heard my captain and copilot progress through their landing sequence check list and obtain clearance from the control tower. I secured all my equipment and verified that my patient and her husband remained secured under their seatbelts.

We touched down at 1 p.m. the Friday of Labor Day weekend going 150 mph. I did not feel the normal sense of slowing down and I heard my pilot exclaim, “no brakes, no brakes, brake me.” From my vantage point, I could see Miles standing up on the brakes with all of his might. I didn’t panic, as I knew we had a back-up system onboard this aircraft, the reverse thrusters. When engaged, they force the thrust of the engine to change from back to front providing drag, allowing the aircraft to slow forward momentum. I watched as my captain deployed them, but quickly realized they too had failed. He valiantly tried once more, but to no avail. I heard the copilot, Jim, shout, “We need to slow down, deploying emergency brake.” This did not stop us safely, but changed our trajectory.

Jim firmly announced, “Hold on, hold on,” as we careened off the end of the runway, off a 60-foot cliff, out of control and heading into a ditch. The change in direction resulting from using the emergency brake helped us miss a cement pole but, instead, smash us into a wooden instrument landing system (ILS) structure. The impact of hitting the ILS tower tore away our right wing and half of our onboard fuel supply. The out of control aircraft slammed into the side of a deep ditch shearing off our landing gear as we skidded on the belly of the aircraft fully ablaze across six lanes of the only major thoroughfare in the area and coming to an abrupt stop in the emergency lane. The force of the impact shot up my legs and spine, sending excruciating pain throughout my body.

I was shaken, writhing in pain and battling unconsciousness, but was able to somehow survey the accident. Years of training and experience proved helpful in maintaining my calm. My captain, Miles, was draped over the



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“Dear God, in Jesus name, please save us, please save us now.” I kept reciting this prayer, accepting there was nothing else I could do. In II Corinthians it says, “My strength is sufficient for you, for My power is made perfect in your weakness”.

yoke, unconscious with blood oozing down his forehead. My patient was slumped forward and non-responsive, as was her husband sitting just behind her. I was separated from the copilot by a wooden partition, preventing me from seeing him, but I heard him moaning.

“Jimmy, Jimmy, are you alright?” I begged.

“No Di,” came the response. “I think I broke my back. I can’t move my legs.”

By now, I smelled and saw intense

smoke from the aircraft fire. Witnesses said the flames were shooting one hundred feet into the air. Realizing we were on fire and trapped inside a blazing inferno, I knew I had to act quickly. I unlatched my seatbelt and attempted to stand up to open the door directly in front of me. Brave people outside the plane attempted to open the door, one man actually breaking his hand in the process, but they were unable, as it was mechanically geared in a locked position to prevent it from opening in flight. I couldn’t stand and I didn’t understand. Intense fear racked my mind as I frantically tried once more to stand and open the door. I couldn’t. On impact, my lower leg bones had been shoved up behind my upper leg bone, shearing away all supporting ligaments causing posterior knee dislocation. In the process, the major arteries supplying blood to my lower legs ruptured, causing me to hemorrhage internally. I also fractured a vertebrae in my upper back that collapsed my right lung.

I was on the verge of panic, realizing we were trapped and would possibly burn to death or at least die of smoke inhalation. At that very moment, I realized I could do nothing in my own strength. I stopped struggling to do it all in my own power and cried out, “Dear God, in Jesus name, please save us, please save us now.” I kept reciting this prayer, accepting there was nothing else I could do. In II Corinthians it says, “My strength is sufficient for you, for My power is made perfect in your weakness.” His Word is truth. In that moment, my captain awoke because he felt someone gently shaking him and he heard a soft voice saying, “Open the door, Miles.” He could also hear me praying, so it wasn’t my voice. He got up from the cockpit and stumbled back a few feet, lifted open the door and fell out onto the grass. Brave bystanders

who had valiantly attempted to open the door from the outside now began pulling us from the wreckage.

My patient was pulled out first, followed by her husband. The man who pulled me out said he could not see me sitting two feet inside the aircraft because of the thick black smoke but he could hear me praying. He stepped inside, lifted me into his arms and carried me out. I saw the copilot trapped in the cockpit and begged, "Please, someone save him." An off-duty firefighter working as an airport security officer came on scene. He stepped inside, wrapped his arms around my massive six-foot, 270-pound copilot and pulled him out like he was a rag doll. Ironically, this officer was also a small-framed horse jockey who had failed a strength agility test just weeks prior at the fire department. During this time, an on-duty firefighter dressed in his full gear arrived and stuck his upper body inside the aircraft to assist. He received second-degree burns across the back of his neck in the process.

My patient died on scene and the copilot, captain and the patient's husband were transported to the emergency room by ambulance. I was flown by a medical helicopter to a level one trauma center, since my injuries were assessed to be most life threatening. Within an hour, I had gone through numerous tests revealing I needed immediate surgery. I had to sign a consent form stating they were going to use one of my veins to try and re-establish blood flow to my legs but, if unsuccessful, they may need to amputate. I lay there on the stretcher battling shock and facing the fact I had no control of the situation. My son called the hospital at that very moment and the nurse Lee got me the phone. I heard my 19-year-old, six-foot two-inch hockey player sobbing on the other end beg-

ging, "Please mom, tell me you're ok. I need you. Please don't die." He then told me the prayer chain at church had started and that everyone was praying for me. Instantly, a warmth flooded my body. It was the peace that passes all understanding promised in Philippians 4:7.

While the surgery staff hurried about to get me ready, I asked if we could pray. You could have heard a pin drop. I am not sure if my prayer was even audible but I asked God to please be with me as I went into surgery and, if it be His will, could I have my legs when I came out and, if not, would He please give me the grace to handle it. That is the last thing I remember for more than a week. I underwent thirteen hours of surgery, received more than ten units of blood, and almost died several times. I was admitted into the intensive care for seven days, sedated on a ventilator, battling lung and kidney failure, a bleeding disorder and a temperature of 104 degrees. Any of these complications could have killed me and the combination statistically should have, but thankfully God had other plans.

I awoke with my husband at my bedside and ten pound fixator rods protruding from my ankles to my hips to stabilize my legs. The pain I experienced could only be described as intense electrical shock and scalding burning sensations shooting through my legs that were filleted open on both sides. Every time I moved, the metal rods screwed into my leg bones rubbed against my skin causing discomfort. The nursing staff medicated me as much as was possible and my family and friends prayed with me, read scripture verses to me, and played praise worship music to help relax me. Numerous physicians managed my care and informed me I would need multiple surgeries to repair the damage to my knees and, if I ever walked again, it

would be with a limp. My family and several close friends took turns keeping vigil at my bedside and helped care for me the entire time I was in the hospital in Kentucky.

After three weeks, I begged my husband to take me home to Florida. After a second surgery, I was flown back on another medical aircraft and admitted to a local trauma center in St. Petersburg, Florida, near my home. I spent another two and a half weeks



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He then told me the prayer chain at church had started and that everyone was praying for me. Instantly, a warmth flooded my body. It was the peace that passes all understanding promised in Philippians 4:7.
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there receiving therapy and undergoing yet more surgery. I finally came home, where my family cared for me around the clock and I attended outpatient therapy three times a week. For close to two years, I struggled through difficult and painful therapy. I made slow but steady progress while battling frustration and depression. Being reliant on



others for everything proved extremely difficult for me. I had always been the caregiver and now I was the one in need of constant care.

It was apparent once again to me that I could not get through this difficult situation in my own strength. I would pray for God's grace, not for the entire day, but for the next sixty seconds to get me through an exercise or feeling of despair. I found solace as I daily read God's word and claimed His many promises like:

Jeremiah 29:11- "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."

II Corinthians 12:9- "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness."

Psalm 50:15- "Call upon Me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify Me."

Jeremiah 33:3- "Call to Me, and I

will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know."

Psalm 107:8- "Cry aloud to our God in your trouble" and then "Give thanks to the Lord for His goodness."

Psalm 30:2- "O Lord my God, I cried out to you, and you healed me."

I Peter 3:12-13- "Dear friends, do not be surprised at the painful trial you are suffering, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice that you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when His glory is revealed."

Philippians 4:13- "I can do all things through Christ which strengthens me."

Holding fast to God's word reminded me that if the God who parted the Red Sea, walked on water, healed the deaf and blind, rose from the dead and saved me from a burning aircraft decided I should walk, I would walk, and if He decided I would run, then I would run. I also felt depression and sadness flee each time I would turn on the TV and sing along to contemporary praise music. I recalled how King Saul would call for David to come play his harp when he was emotionally and spiritually tormented and his entire mood would transform. God's gift of music is powerful and a wonderful source of blessing and healing. The Bible tells us in Phillipians 4:4 to "rejoice in the Lord always." We are to rejoice or give thanks not necessarily for all the difficult circumstances surrounding our situation but for God's faithfulness and promise to never leave us nor forsake us (Deuteronomy 31:6).

I also held tight to Romans 8:28, "And we know that all things (even a plane crash) work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose." I came to understand the good was not my physical pleasure, worldly wealth or high status, but instead to be trans-

formed more into the image of Christ my Lord and Savior. That was the very purpose of my creation in the first place, to glorify God in all things. He used the most difficult thing I had ever been through and used it to conform me, mold and make me to be more like Jesus. God took away my control, pride, and impatience and replaced it with sweet fruits of the Spirit such as peace, mercy, long suffering, patience, goodness and joy. I wasn't always happy to be suffering but God's joy flooded my soul. When I chose to praise God and count my blessings instead of focus on the negative and my pain, my spirit lightened. I believe I had a choice, and I chose joy.

God's grace proved sufficient, just as He promised. He met our every need. I learned how to let go and let God. He met my physical, financial, emotional and spiritual needs. I saw first hand the importance of the church, the body of Christ. Fellow believers became the hands and feet of Jesus as they brought food, provided transportation, cleaned my house, cut my hair, performed massages, donated money and visited me. A local church held a spaghetti dinner fundraiser where I shared the story of my miraculous survival for the first time. It was emotional yet very therapeutic as I recalled all the specific miraculous details that God arranged to create the huge amazing miracle of my survival. Not only did I survive, I thrived and regained almost all of my strength. I did lose a job I loved and mourned the loss of my career. I was also left with horrific scars on my legs, which caused people to stop and stare.

My daughter wrote me a poem for mother's day, which finally changed the way I looked at my scars. It was entitled, 'my mom, the portrait of beauty.' In the second stanza Mallory wrote: "When I look into my mother's face, I

don't see wrinkles. Instead, I see the lines of laughter that trace out the years of a life lived happily. I see the most beautiful legs anyone could ask for. I don't see the scars left from surgeries. Instead, I see the thumbprints of God's protection and provision. I see a reflection of the marks on my Lord's hands and feet, and become even more aware of the likeness of her to my Savior."

The precious gift of her words helped change my perspective. My ugly scars truly were the result of God's miraculous intervention in my life. Something tragic and painful could be used for God's glory. They gave me a unique opportunity to share with all who asked about them the amazing story of God's divine miracle in my life. As soon as someone heard I had survived a fatal plane crash, I had their full attention.

I began speaking at churches, ladies

groups, schools and civic functions, sharing my story. Each time I shared the intricate details surrounding my survival and recovery, lives were touched. Once I was asked to share it with the senior class of nursing students at St. Petersburg College of Nursing where I had graduated in 1982. After that, they asked me to speak at several of their graduations. Eventually, I began working at the college and now serve as an adjunct clinical instructor. Although I miss my flight nurse job, I adore being an educator. I love teaching students, sharing my experiences and inspiring them to be the best they can be. I remind them that nursing is a career God calls you to where you can touch someone in their darkest hour of need, not only physically but also emotionally and spiritually as well.

I can honestly say that I would not change the few years of struggle and

pain I have endured for all I, as well as my family, have gained. In a small way, I better understand pain and realize that Christ suffered pain willingly and ultimately died and rose again to save us from our sins. I stand in awe that He has chosen me to be one of His very own and has called me to share my story so that others might be drawn closer to Him. I now have a unique opportunity to serve Him in a different yet more powerful way. I praise Him for being the God who is the same yesterday, today and forever. Although He chose in love to change my path, my character, my goals and my ambitions through a difficult trial, praise God, He remains the same and I can trust Him always.

About the author: *Diana travels to share her story, and is available to churches, women's groups, etc. For more about Diana, visit www.DianaBurgess.com.*

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From the Daily Devotional of Acts Three One Ministry

Learning from the Gardener

“The circle of people who look to me for advice, for example, for guidance, should find I am serious about God and I have integrity built on rightness and truth.”

Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked
or stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of mockers.
2 But his delight is in the law of the LORD,
and on his law he meditates day and night.
3 He is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its
fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers.
4 Not so the wicked! They are like chaff that the wind blows away.
5 Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment,
nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous.
6 For the LORD watches over the way of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked will perish.

PSALM I (NIV)

Have you ever wondered how to keep yourself from doing things you know are wrong? What about how to manifest the fruits of the Spirit in your life? Well, I am no gardener, but Psalm 1:1-3 makes sense to me – let’s look at it.

First, the Psalm tells us where not to stand, sit or walk. Verse one says, “Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked or stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of mockers.” To walk in the counsel of tells me not to move according to the suggestion of those who are wicked. I need to be cautious that my choices are not influenced by the wicked and mindful that I seek counsel from those who know the truth. The wicked do not seek the truth, their counsel will be anything but truth.

To stand in the way of tells me not to establish myself in the way the sinner thinks. My reputation, my testimony, should be one based on the righteous choice. I need to stand in obedience to God.

To sit in the seat of tells me not to use my influence as does a mocker. The seat of authority is a powerful place. The circle of people who look to me for advice, for example, for guidance, should find I am serious about God and I have integrity built on rightness and truth.

Then, the Psalm goes on to tell us what to do. Our delight should be in the law of the Lord. We should think about it day and night. I like the word ruminates; to thoroughly digest the word like a cow slowly and repeatedly chews her cud.

Next, the Psalm tells us where to plant ourselves. Consider the difference between sit, stand, walk and plant. There is a definite finality in the word plant. That tree isn’t moving and neither should we. The blessed man who is planted by streams of water will yield his fruit in season and his leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers.

Then, the Psalmist evaluates the wicked. The wicked one is like chaff that the wind blows away. Dried up from lack of water, he is easily moved, in fact just blown around with the swish of the autumn wind. This causes him to stand in judgment; a sinner cannot hold his own in the assembly of the righteous.

Remembering that in the New Testament Jesus is the Living Water, planting ourselves alongside Him produces fruit and helps keep us from falling pray to wickedness. So, plant yourself alongside Jesus. Drink of Him, establishing your stance, *for the LORD watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.* 🌿

The Fruit We Bear:

Healing Lives and Preparing Hearts for Service

KYM GORDON MOORE | VOLUNTEER

It is our spiritual responsibility to demonstrate the fruit of the Spirit through our character, conversation and conduct. Fruits of the Spirit prepare God's people for service.

One of the organizations for which I volunteer is a women-specific recovery program that provides a loving, highly-structured Christian environment to help women understand and deal with the core issues of their alcohol and/or drug addiction. Within the 120-day recovery program, they address issues of shame, isolation, all types of abuse, codependency, lack of boundaries and structure. So often, women suffer from conditions that weaken them and ultimately weaken their families. Women are categorically tagged as the glue that bonds the family together. When that glue loses its adhesiveness, the family risks falling apart. However, when you heal a woman spiritually, mentally, emotionally and physically, you quite often heal and restore the family unit.

Through interaction with these women, there is a shift of relinquishing the bondage of corrupt fruit to planting new seeds and watching them transform into an orchard of abundant fruit to harvest.

The kind of fruit we bear can either liberate or destroy us. Wounds caused by internal or external factors create pain, sadness, resentment, self-destructive behavior, lack of compassion, withdrawal, self-pity, fragility, hopelessness and confusion. How can we produce good fruit when our roots are planted in the valley of despair? It's impossible. Yet, just like in Jesus' parable of the sower of seeds, if we plant our seeds in the good fertile soil of the Lord, we can produce an unlimited supply of good fruit.

So, why is it so important to exemplify the fruit of the spirit? In a world where people endure so much pain, bitterness, resentment, war and



animosity, we need the healing power of love. We are an impatient society that seeks instant gratification and results, but it is imperative that we exercise patience. While we must not condone or allow the behavior of people who abuse us, we need to be good to them and ourselves by forgiving them as we have been forgiven. Even in the face of so much human deceit and betrayal that we become overwhelmingly dismayed and discouraged, we can be reassured through our faith. We see the damaging effects of arrogance, selfishness and humiliation, and see the benefits of meekness. We see the negative consequences of overindulgence, greed, selfishness and pride, and are encouraged to exercise temperance.

Opposition to the fruit of the Spirit will produce destructive and deadly consequences. The Lord chose us to go and bear long-lasting fruit, from seeds planted and strong roots developed in the depth of good fertile soil. If we live in the Spirit and walk in the Spirit, we become servants, salt and light, according to the word of God. 🌿

“Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit.”

Matthew 7:17-18 (KJV)

Experience The Ballantyne Hotel & Lodge

The Spa at Ballantyne features a variety of natural and organic based treatments focusing on a taste of North Carolina through indigenous ingredients and rituals.



Photos courtesy of The Ballantyne Hotel & Lodge.

A member of Starwood Hotels & Resorts' The Luxury Collection, The Ballantyne Hotel & Lodge provides a unique experience by offering a blend of the best of Southern hospitality, world-class amenities and exceptional service. Conveniently located just minutes from downtown Charlotte, guests can escape from it all at this Mobil Four-Star, AAA Four-Diamond urban oasis.

The Ballantyne Hotel & Lodge has been hailed as the finest hotel in Charlotte, setting the mark for luxury and service in the area. An impressive portecochere entrance welcomes guests into an expansive lobby with traditional, comfortable furnishings. It's no surprise the hotel owners took six trips around the world, carefully selecting every detail to reflect classic grandeur and timeless elegance. A magnificent two-story Palladian window enhances the

mahogany pilasters and magnificent chandeliers overlooking the 18th fairway of the championship golf course. High tea is served in the lobby, and it is quickly becoming a Charlotte institution. Original paintings of the Charlotte area, commissioned by the Vermont artist Tom Vieth, are displayed throughout the hotel. In addition, the hotel boasts an impressive exhibit from Shain Gallery, one of the finest galleries in the area.

The 214 richly appointed guest rooms and suites offer every modern amenity, from custom-made furniture designed by Montague of London and 300-thread-count Egyptian cotton sheets to award-winning opulent marble baths, Bose stereos and flat screen TVs.

The Ballantyne Hotel & Lodge's onsite dining options include Gallery Restaurant, which features

contemporary American fare served in an upscale setting. Known for its 100% USDA graded prime steak entrées, Gallery instills a passionate approach to simple food. Partnering with local farmers to offer the freshest ingredients, Gallery Restaurant demonstrates its commitment to quality and excellence by enhancing its menu seasonally to offer the best in farm fresh accompaniments. In addition, the Veranda Bar provides live entertainment with specialty drinks and light fare.

The Spa at Ballantyne is a destination day spa offering total relaxation and wellness services including massage, facial, body treatments, manicures, pedicures and salon services in addition to a full complement of spa fitness classes. Additional offerings include seminars, corporate wellness programs and more. In its efforts to offer the authentic spa experience, The Spa at Ballantyne features a variety of natural and organic based treatments focusing on a taste of North Carolina through indigenous ingredients and rituals.

Recognized as a "Best Place to Play" with a 4 ½-star rating by *Golf Digest*,

The Golf Club at Ballantyne is committed to providing the region's finest golf experience. With a new, full-service golf outing pavilion, The Golf Club offers the ultimate venue for a corporate outing or special event. In addition, The Golf Club offers private club-like amenities such as custom club fitting and the renowned Dana Rader Golf School.

Extensive fitness and leisure facilities include tennis and a state-of-the-art health club with an indoor grotto pool and wave resistance pools. In May 2009, The Ballantyne Hotel & Lodge opened a cutting edge outdoor pool, infusing a sense of contemporary style to the traditionally designed hotel.

In addition to the elegant guest rooms at the hotel, The Ballantyne Hotel & Lodge also offers The Cottage at Ballantyne, a four-bedroom, four bath private residence located off of the first hole of the championship golf course. Additionally, The Ballantyne Hotel & Lodge houses over 20,000 square feet of thoughtfully designed event space and an impressive 40,000 square feet group retreat with 36 spacious guest rooms. 🏡



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Ballantyne Hotel & Lodge Schedule of Events

September

Wine & Cheese Terrace Party

Enjoy the perfect marriage of wine and cheese, Friday September 4th at 6:00 p.m. at Gallery Bar. From unusual combinations to traditional pairings, indulge in wine specials with complimentary cheese. Escape to the terrace overlooking The Ballantyne Hotel & Lodge's signature 18th hole for a mini vacation. For more information, please call 704-248-4100.

Labor Day Weekend

The Ballantyne Hotel & Lodge celebrates the ending of the summer season with a special cooker featuring a la carte items such as steaks, hamburgers and hot dogs on Saturday, September 5 and Sunday, September 6, 12:30 to 3 p.m.

Apple of My Eye Cooking School Autumn Orchard Fruit, Infusions and More

Saturday, September 12, 10:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
The Ballantyne Hotel & Lodge's popular Cooking School offers monthly sessions that are engaging, educational and interactive for epicureans of all levels. The Ballantyne Hotel & Lodge's culinary team will lead the class in preparing a three-course meal, detailing all of the techniques and aspects of presentation. Upon completion of Cooking School, attendees will receive a commemorative apron, recipe cards and a certificate of achievement. The cost for each session is \$65. To make a reservation, please call 704-248-4100.

New England BBQ New South Grilling Series

Saturday, September 5, 10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Learn how to take backyard barbecue to the next level with a chef demonstration on New South Grilling. The Ballantyne Hotel & Lodge's culinary team will share techniques on how to maximize flavor and enhance presentation for everything from seafood to steaks. Each session will cover different techniques and dishes. Lunch will be served, and the cost is \$65 per session. Upon completion of New South Grilling, attendees will receive recipe cards. To make a reservation, please call 704-248-4100.

October

Cooking School - Foods Paired with Seasonal Beer

Saturday, October 17, 10:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
The Ballantyne Hotel & Lodge's popular Cooking School offers monthly sessions that are engaging, educational and interactive for epicureans of all levels. The Ballantyne Hotel & Lodge's culinary team will lead the class in preparing a three-course meal, detailing all of the

techniques and aspects of presentation. Upon completion of Cooking School, attendees will receive a commemorative apron, recipe cards and a certificate of achievement. The cost for each session is \$65. To make a reservation, please call 704-248-4100.

November

Cooking School – Root Vegetables & Winter Game Paired with Holiday Wines

Saturday, November 14, 10:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
The Ballantyne Hotel & Lodge's popular Cooking School offers monthly sessions that are engaging, educational and interactive for epicureans of all levels. The Ballantyne Hotel & Lodge's culinary team will lead the class in preparing a three-course meal, detailing all of the techniques and aspects of presentation. Upon completion of Cooking School, attendees will receive a commemorative apron, recipe cards and a certificate of achievement. The cost for this session is \$85. To make a reservation, please call 704-248-4100.

Thanksgiving Brunch

Join Ballantyne Resort for a favorite tradition with Thanksgiving Brunch on Thursday, November 26 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Leave the cooking to Ballantyne Hotel & Lodge, and enjoy an endless array of seasonal salads, decorative displays, carving stations with regional accompaniments and decadent desserts. Cost is \$48.95 per person, \$25.95 for children, ages 7-12, \$7.95 for children ages 3-6 and children under 3 are free (pricing does not include tax and gratuity). Reservations are required. To make a reservation, please call 704-248-4100, or reserve online at www.gallery-restaurant.com.

December

Gingerbread Lane

Enjoy a magical collection of gingerbread houses throughout the holiday season. Beginning December 1, Gingerbread Lane will be open to the public daily through December 26. Attendees may vote on their favorite gingerbread house with \$1 minimum donation per vote. All proceeds will benefit a deserving non-profit organization.

Cooking School – Holiday Fit Food and Revamped Classics

Saturday, December 12, 10:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
The Ballantyne Hotel & Lodge's popular Cooking School offers monthly sessions that are engaging, educational and interactive for epicureans of all levels. The Ballantyne Hotel & Lodge's culinary team will lead the class in preparing a three-course meal, detailing all of the techniques and aspects of presentation. Upon

completion of Cooking School, attendees will receive a commemorative apron, recipe cards and a certificate of achievement. The cost for each session is \$65. To make a reservation, please call 704-248-4100.

Ultimate Cupcake & Cookie Challenge

'Tis the season to showcase a favorite holiday treat or special family recipe at The Ballantyne Hotel & Lodge. On Saturday, December 12 from 12 p.m. to 2 p.m., enter a homemade cupcake or cookie in the Ultimate Cupcake & Cookie Challenge. Ballantyne Hotel & Lodge's culinary team will select three winners in each category based on taste and presentation. The winning recipes will be featured on Gallery Restaurant's dessert menu in 2010 and grand prized will be awarded. To enter a recipe, please complete the entry form available at www.theballantyne-hotel.com or call 704-248-4035. Entry forms are due by December 1.

Afternoon Tea with Mrs. Claus

Sunday, December 6 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m., enjoy an afternoon tea with seasonal petits fours and tea sandwiches, a savory selection of hot chocolate and cider, crafts, story time with Mrs. Claus and lots of holiday merriment. Children are encouraged to dress their holiday best. An adult must accompany children. The cost is \$40 per child and \$20 per adult. For groups of six or more, the cost is \$35 per child and \$15 per adult. Reservations are required at 704-248-4055.

Visit with Santa

Santa Claus is coming to The Ballantyne Hotel & Lodge for an exclusive one weekend only engagement. Visit with Santa will be open to the public on Saturday and Sunday, December 12 and 13, from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Children will be able to get their photograph with Santa, receive a special gift from Santa and enjoy hot cocoa, cookies and crafts. The cost is \$30 inclusive per photo, and reservations are not required.

Christmas Day Brunch

Celebrate Christmas with a festive feast on Friday, December 25 from 11:00am to 3:00pm. The brunch will include an assortment of seasonal salads, extensive cheese and seafood displays, seasonal entrees, a selection of breakfast items, a carving station and desserts. Cost is \$48.95 per person, \$25.95 for children, ages 7-12, \$7.95 for children ages 3-6 and children under 3 are free (pricing does not include tax and gratuity). Reservations are required. To make a reservation, please call 704-248-4100, or visit www.gallery-restaurant.com.



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WIN Schedule of Events

Charlotte, NC

August 20

11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
 Olive Garden – Rt. 51 Pineville, NC
 Networking Lunch (Dutch treat)

September 17

"Upscale Your E-Commerce - Marketing Using New Media"
 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.
 Ballantyne Hotel & Lodge – Charlotte, NC
 Alison Woo, New Media Mavens

November 19

"Doing Good is Our Responsibility"
 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.
 Ballantyne Hotel & Lodge – Charlotte, NC
 Rahman Khan, Good Works



A Christian Organization for Working Women

December 17

Christmas Party
 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.
 The Preserve at Ballantyne – Charlotte, NC

Pinellas, FL

August 20
"Discovering Your Unique Piece of the Puzzle"
 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.
 Largo Cultural Center – Largo, FL
 Phyllis Alderman, DMin

September 17

"Internet Marketing on a Tight Budget"
 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.
 Largo Cultural Center – Largo, FL
 Karen Apa, KAPA Marketing

November 19

6:30 – 8:30 p.m.
"Business Strategy Development"
 Largo Cultural Center – Largo, FL
 Kathy Woodling, MBA, PHR, LPC

December 17

Christmas Party & Vendor Expo
 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.
 Largo Cultural Center – Largo, FL

For More Information Contact:

Charlotte, NC Events

Nanci Singer
 803-802-5454 x 203
office@motivationsceu.com

Largo, FL Events

Ronette Swank
 727-391-9304
rlswank@tampabay.rr.com



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- 1/8 page (business card) 3.65" x 2.25": \$100
- 1/4 page 3.625" x 4.75": \$250
- 1/2 page 7.5" x 4.75" or 3.625" x 9.875": \$400
- Full page 8.5" x 10" no bleed: \$500
- Back cover 8.5" x 11" plus 1/8" bleed on each side: \$600

*All ads must be electronic (except business cards, which may be submitted hard copy) in high resolution PDF or JPG format, at 300 dpi.

Marketing Opportunities

- Inserts/flyers in magazine mailers: \$200 per issue
- Vendor tables at select WIN events: \$100 per table

Purchase Additional Magazines

10 for \$20
20 for \$30
30 for \$45
50 for \$75
100 for \$100

For more information, visit www.womensinet.com, call 803-802-5454 ext. 203 to speak with WIN National Chairperson Nanci Singer, or e-mail Nanci at office@womensinet.com.

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