

# COME AND SEE

PROVIDED BY THRIVE LADIES MINISTRY  
CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH, KANNAPOLIS, NC

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THRIVE LADIES MINISTRY SPOTLIGHT



## This Garden of Life

**BY ANDREA MURRAY**

It's Spring! I'm so excited to see things growing and blooming again. My allergies aren't as happy as I am, but I am VERY happy when things are growing.

We moved into our house over 2 years ago, and I've been struggling to find a good place to grow any flowers. The red, clay dirt is VERY hard. I've worked on a small flower bed in front of my house and worked new dirt into it a little at a time, but it's still not doing very well.

First, the dirt was hard and packed and full of old pieces of brick and cement from the remodeling of the house. I have dug and pulled and sifted and sorted and added and thrown out, but it's slow going trying to get those plants to grow.

Then there's the issue of the lack of sunlight. My house front faces the southwest. This means it gets zero morning sunlight and only some evening light, as the sun is going down. I have a small deck off the back of the house, but it's hidden from that sunlight by the shadow of the house. So, I've tried to improvise. I tried tomatoes in a bucket I sunk in the ground with good dirt. Still not enough light. I've tried deck plants, but only that one little corner gets light, so I've had a struggle there too. It just seems like it's hopeless.

Then, the other day, my hunny asks, out of the blue, "What size would you like your raised flower beds to be? 2'x4' or 3'x5'?" First of all, I didn't even ask for raised beds! I asked for window boxes

to hook on the deck rail and porch. And then, secondly, beds?! As in more than one?! My heart started pounding and I got so excited. The very next day, he went to Lowe's on his day off and came home with treated deck boards, fencing to put in the bottom, felt paper sheeting to put over the fencing bottom, and 10 (yes, I said 10) bags of dirt! He had even Googled how to build them! He built them both within 24 hours and they are now leveled out back in the sunny area just waiting for me to get the seeds and plants! That was the softest, richest, loosest dirt I've seen since I moved here! I can hardly wait to get my hands dirty and get those things filled! That means work, but I'm looking forward to it!

**This Garden of Life (continued)**

These beds have reminded me of life. It gets really hard sometimes. Everything gets packed in and filled with “junk” and bits and pieces that take up space and time, but don’t help with growth at all.

The Bible says in 2 Peter 3:18: “But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and for ever. Amen.” As I get older in the Lord, I need to keep the soil of my heart loosened instead of packed hard and tight, emptied of the “stuff” of life that takes up space but doesn’t help me at all, and in a place where the light of God’s love and Word can enlighten, strengthen and warm me. The purpose is to bring Him glory!

I’m afraid so often we don’t see the “stuff” we’re allowing in as harmful until we find ourselves in a dark place in our life, surrounded by pseudo peace, joy and love, and feeling very alone. It’s then that we take inventory of our surroundings only to find out we have been backed into a dark corner, or have sunken down in despair below our burdens, and can’t even see a ray of hope. Digging back out of the pit is harder than avoiding the pit in the first place. It’s not impossible, just hard.

Sometimes we need to “start over” ... like giving up on the hard bed out front and switching gears to the beautiful raised beds. Sometimes we need some new direction and constructive criticism ... like, there’s no sun there and it’s just not working. Sometimes we just need

working. Sometimes we just need our surroundings stirred up ... like getting fresh, loose soil to begin anew.

How’s your life garden? Are you growing? Are you stuck? Have you hardened yourself just to survive? How about a fresh start! Get back in God’s Word and really let it stir you up! Get back in church. Get back on your knees. Get back around encouraging friends. Ask God to show you the “stuff” that’s packing you in but not helping anything. It might take hard work at first, but the end result will be a life that abounds with God’s blessings and presence and a warmth and glow that only comes from spending time in the “Son” light.

**"ROOTED AND BUILT UP IN HIM,  
AND STABLISHED IN THE FAITH,  
AS YE HAVE BEEN TAUGHT,  
ABOUNDING THEREIN  
WITH THANKSGIVING."**

**~COLOSSIANS 2:7**



# Addicted to Busy...Am I the Only One?

BY MELANIE ELLIOTT

My husband and daughter tell me quite often that I never stop...that I never relax. They even tell me I walk too fast when we are shopping together. I hate to admit it, but I am guilty as charged! There is always something that needs to be done. There really is! Housework, grocery shopping, meal preparation, errands...the list goes on and on. Ugh! Can't they see I am getting things done here? If I don't do it, nobody else will!

Along with all the mundane stuff that envelops our days...our lives are filled with a sundry of needful and important things like being a caretaker for a loved one. And what about things like family time, personal devotional time, and those areas where I want to serve Jesus and others? How can I balance it all?

I took my family's criticism to heart a few years ago and secretly purchased a book, "Addicted to Busy - Recovery for the Rushed Soul", by Brady Boyd. Guess what?

I read about half the book and did not pick it up again until recently. Why? I was too busy! What in the world am I doing?

I pondered on a question Boyd asked in his book, "...what radical things would I do, if I were living fully alive?" He talked about creating margin and peace in our lives. I know can't have either if I am quickly moving from task to task with no breath in between and no time to refuel - physically and spiritually.

So, I am saying it out loud, "I will strive to have margin and peace in my life and will be intentional about it. I will strive to unplug.

**I will remember...**

~I can't volunteer for everything. It is okay to say "no".

~It is okay if I don't make it to every meeting and it is okay to leave a meeting early to be with my family.

~The world won't fall apart if I don't get the housework done today.

~I can't be effective for Jesus (or anyone else) if I am physically and mentally worn to a frazzle.

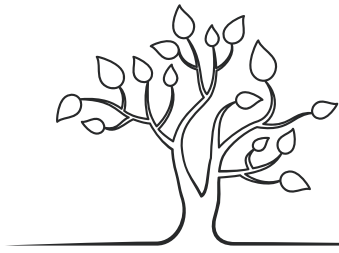
Am I the only one "addicted to busy"? I know the answer is "no" and many of you reading this article face the same challenges. Let's walk the journey together and hold each other accountable. Repeat with me, "peace and margin...peace and margin...!"

So, why the gardening picture here? It makes no sense with this article - especially if you know I manage to **kill every plant** I ever get! Actually, the picture makes me think about slowing down.

I'll check in with you from time to time to let you know how I am doing in this challenge of creating margin and peace.

By the way...I finished the book!





## IN THE GARDEN

How well do you know these passages about gardens and flowers?

Try to fill in each missing word without looking up each reference.

Text your answers to 704-680-2613 to claim your prize!

Be sure to include your name!

1. And God said, Let the earth bring forth \_\_\_\_\_, the herb yielding seed, and the fruit tree yielding fruit after his kind, whose \_\_\_\_\_ is in itself, upon the \_\_\_\_: and it was so. (Gen 1:11, KJV)
2. So then neither is he that \_\_\_\_\_ any thing, neither he that \_\_\_\_\_; but God that giveth the increase. (I Corinthians 3:7, KJV)
3. And they heard the \_\_\_\_\_ of the LORD God walking in the \_\_\_\_\_ in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the \_\_\_\_\_ God amongst the trees of the \_\_\_\_\_. (Genesis 3:8, KJV)
4. Then cometh Jesus with them unto a place called \_\_\_\_\_, and saith unto the disciples, Sit ye here, while I go and pray yonder. (Matthew 26:36, KJV)
5. For the Lord shall comfort \_\_\_\_\_: he will comfort all her waste places; and he will make her wilderness like Eden, and her desert like the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Lord; joy and gladness shall be found therein, thanksgiving, and the voice of melody. (Isaiah 51:3, KJV)
6. It is like a grain of mustard seed, which a man took, and cast into his \_\_\_\_\_; and it grew, and waxed a great \_\_\_\_\_; and the fowls of the air lodged in the branches of it. (Luke 13:19, KJV)



## Meeting at the Well

BY RHONDA DRYE

Driving to work one morning, I turned up the radio and heard, "Men meet Jesus on the mountain tops, but for women, he meets us where we are." I pondered the commentator's words as she continued with her reasoning. She went on to say that women are always "busy" with family, jobs, housework, church activities, shopping for groceries, cooking, cleaning, and fall into bed exhausted when the thought comes to mind, "Did I even read my Bible or pray today"? Thus begins the chastising for not finding time in our demanding busy day to read His word and pray.

*She was speaking my language!*

How many times have I promised myself to get up extra early to have my quiet time with the Lord, only to wake with something that needed my attention?

The cycle repeats...busy, busy, busy...and we climb into bed tired and frustrated about not finding that time, only to promise ourselves again that we are going to make it happen! Yet, the vicious cycle continues.

I felt so discouraged that I reached over to turn to another radio station when the words, "He came to the woman at the well (John 4:3-26)." My hand stopped in mid-air, and as I slowed the car down, the commentator began to tell the story...Jesus went specifically to that well to wait for her. The woman had many burdens to carry from past decisions; her life was full of duties, yet she had to go about them "unseen" by those who would chastise her. Thus, she went to the well during the hot midday sun. Think about that. Jesus met her where she was in life, in circumstances, in burdens, in wrong choices, knowing she

needed him but feeling unworthy. Jesus didn't have to take that time just for her, but he did. Jesus met her at the well.

*What does this mean? How does it apply to me? I should know better, right?*

By now, I was creeping down the road. Thank God, no one was behind me. I don't even remember where I was going. I was so in tuned and hopeful for a solution to my guilt of failing Him. "Tell me, please!" I kept saying, "Hurry before I get to where I am going!" The commentator gave the great revelation, "We women, anyone, can reach out to Him anytime, and He will be there." "Well, duh!" I shouted at the radio. I know He is always there, but I was hoping for a foolproof plan to give me that special time with Him. You know, like a formula.

**Meeting at the Well (continued)**

Again, I reached to turn the radio station, with frustration and tears, but what she said next caught my ears and my heart. "Jesus met the woman where she was. They shared a life-changing few moments, and her life was never the same again."

Did you catch the phrase, "a few moments"? Why can't that apply to us? Who says Jesus won't meet us while bathing the kids, folding laundry, washing dishes, and are you ready...going potty. I, we, can have those intimate moments with Him in the middle of our chaos.

--I thought again about the woman at the well. No name was given, yet Jesus knew her.

--I thought about Hagar when she

was chased out of the home she and Ishmael had known. Crying in the wilderness for her son, lost in all hope. Jesus came to her (Genesis 16, 17 & 21).--I thought about the mom of singer, Mark Lowry, and how she said she used to have prayer meetings at her kitchen sink over Mark's shenanigans.

--I thought of my grandmother and how she would sing hymns and pray as she ironed and tended to six children, sometimes to the detriment of my grandfather's shirts.

The answer may be easy, but applying is what really matters.

What I realized there, in those moments in the car, was I was so

focused on the broken promises and unworthiness of letting Him down, I couldn't see He was there in all my duties and chaos. Once I let go of the guilt and started talking to Him, praying, singing hymns, and reciting verses, my days got better. I wasn't carrying a burden, only the thankfulness of forgiveness and peace.

I thanked Him every night for the moments we shared during my busy day, and how I looked forward to where He would meet me tomorrow. As the days went on, my duties and the chaos didn't change but by His grace, I found time to be still, read His word, and pray. Where that time came from, only He knows. All I know is, no matter where I am, He will be waiting- meeting me at "the well."

**"...I WILL NEVER LEAVE THEE  
NOR FORSAKE THEE."**

**~HEBREWS 13:5**



## Today, I Choose...

BY REBECCA SCOTT-FIELDEN

*How am I supposed to forgive if I still feel this festering pain inside me? How do I stop it from spreading?*

Forgiveness is an intentional action that needs to be practiced and exercised. But what does that look like? It is waking up and saying, "Today, I choose forgiveness."

Tomorrow is another day.

I've noticed that when other people mess up, we call on God's justice, but when we mess up, we're big fans of His mercy. We judge ourselves by our intentions and other people by their actions.

Hmm...that doesn't sound very fair, does it?

When I thought about waking up this morning and making the choice to forgive, I was reminded of the Israelites gathering manna (the edible substance which God provided) while they wandered in the desert. God's desire was for them to trust Him. to wake up every day and seek Him and His provision. They, however, continued to rely on their own strength, which led to fear and greed, and they gathered more than they needed for that day, planning to store it. The extra manna they gathered became full of worms after that day (Exodus 16:4-35).

Why wouldn't God let them gather for weeks in advance?

It is because each and every day we have to come to Him for provision, for relationship with Him and for His guidance.

God wants us to wake up every day and trust Him for that day...and only for that day. His mercies are new every morning. Jesus said each day has enough trouble of its own, so don't worry about tomorrow (Matt 6:34). It's a process of learning to lean on and trust God in all things; it's developing and nurturing a relationship with Him.

So, today, I choose God and to trust Him in everything; and today, I choose forgiveness.

Tomorrow, I will wake and do it again.



*Matt. 6:34*







spreading my wings...

daring to soar...

expecting to fly!

ISAIAH 40.31

## Stuck

BY ANNA KIMMINS

*Having a lurking sense of failure, falling behind and frustration; longing to move forward but feeling like it is impossible.*

As a young adult learning about the “real world,” I find my mind immersed in these feelings. As a child and even a young teenager, I never imagined that at 19 years old, I would be thinking my time is running out and I need to find out QUICK what to do with my life, who am I going to marry, what my career will be, etc. This is a mindset that is easy to get trapped in and many of us who are young can feel like we are stuck on a mouse sticky trap. We are completely stuck in a place of no movement. Even faithful, devoted, and loving children of God can feel this way.

“God’s purposes are not ‘stuck,’ and His plan has been in motion since before the foundations of the world. However, there were times when God’s people had the appearance of being stuck in their situation.” - Bible Study Tools

Joseph, a faithful servant, was stuck in prison. Daniel, a devoted child of God, was stuck in the lions den. The children of Israel, God’s chosen people, were stuck in the wilderness. David, a man after God’s own heart, was stuck in a cave hiding from the man who wanted his life. And Jesus, the Son of God, was stuck on the cross. Of course... we know that none of those people stayed “stuck”.

Even though from the outside it might look like their situation was impossible to get out of, God always proved to be stronger, bigger, and greater than the situation.

I say this...Trust God, friend! Believe in His plan. Step out in faith. Reflect on Biblical examples. Dwell on the character of God. When we have a glimpse of who God is, it makes us look at ourselves, our situations, and others in a whole new light! I do believe that God is not done with your story, and yes... maybe you do feel like you’re drowning and stuck... BUT GOD is ALWAYS there with His hand stretched out to help us.



## **thrive! Ladies Ministry...Spotlight**

### **Sunshine for Shut-ins**

The Sunshine for Shut-ins ministry team is led by Odell Honeycutt and Pat Lemmon.

This ministry team seeks to embrace our shut-ins by reaching out to them on a regular basis...through a cheerful phone call, an uplifting card, or an encouraging visit.

*"I really appreciate the visits, calls, and cards from the shut-in ministry." - Judy Bullington*

If you are interested in joining this ministry team, please reach out to Pat Lemmon at 302.740.3134





**FRESH  
SPRING RECIPES**

- **VEGETABLE PIZZA**
- **SPRING PUNCH**

**VEGETABLE PIZZA**

- 2 cans crescent rolls
- Small container sour cream
- 1 pack cream cheese
- 1 pack powdered ranch dressing
- 1 bag broccoli & cauliflower mix
- 2 large cucumbers
- 1 small onion
- 1 bag finely shredded cheese

Directions:

1. Spread crescent rolls flat on cookie sheet & bake according to directions
2. Finely chop vegetables
3. Blend sour cream, cream cheese & ranch dressing packet together
4. Let crescent rolls cool. Then spread with cream cheese mixture.
5. Top with vegetables and cheese
6. Put in oven just long enough to melt the cheese
7. Refrigerate

**SPRING PUNCH**

- 1 - 46 oz. can pineapple juice
- 1 - 6 oz. can frozen orange juice
- 1 - 6 oz. can frozen lime juice
- 1 small package of cherry Jello mix
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1 - 64oz bottle of ginger ale

Directions:

1. Prepare Jello according to directions
2. Add all other ingredients (except ginger ale) and chill
3. Add chilled ginger ale when ready to serve

# *My Identity in Christ*

***Your identity is found in Christ!  
Discover and know WHO YOU ARE.***

I am always...

DEEPLY LOVED (Ephesians 3:17-18)  
BLESSED (Ephesians 1:3)  
A NEW CREATION (2 Corinthians 5:17)  
FORGIVEN (Acts 13:38-39)  
SPIRIT-FILLED (1 Corinthians 3:17)  
COMPLETE (Colossians 2:10)  
GOD'S MASTERPIECE (Ephesians 2:10)  
SET FREE (Romans 8:2)  
HOLY (Ephesians 1:4)  
GRACE-FILLED (Romans 5:17)  
RESCUED (1 Thessalonians 1:10)  
CHOSEN (1 Peter 2:9)  
ACCEPTED (Ephesians 1:6)  
AN AMBASSADOR (2 Corinthians 5:20)  
COVERED IN RIGHTEOUSNESS (2 Corinthians 5:21)  
REDEEMED (Colossians 1:14)  
HEALED (1 Peter 2:24)  
SAVED (Ephesians 2:5-6)  
A CHILD OF GOD (1 John 3:2)  
FREE FROM DARKNESS (Isaiah 61:1)  
BELOVED OF GOD (Romans 1:7)  
JUSTIFIED BY FAITH (Romans 5:1)  
ALIVE IN CHRIST (Romans 6:11)  
ADOPTED (Ephesians 1:5-6)  
MEMBER OF CHRIST'S BODY, THE CHURCH (Ephesians 5:29-30)  
HEIR OF GOD (Romans 8:16)  
FILLED WITH THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT (Galatians 5:22)  
ROOTED IN LOVE (Ephesians 3:17)  
RECONCILED TO GOD (2 Corinthians 5:18)  
UNIQUELY GIFTED (1 Peter 4:10)

# Notes and Journaling

- How is your spiritual garden? Is it time to pull up those weeds, loosen up the soil, or plant new seeds?
- **READ:** Colossians 2:7; Song of Solomon 2:1; Isaiah 51:3
- **WRITE or DRAW** your thoughts:

Notes:

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**UPCOMING EVENTS**

APRIL 29 - AWAKEN AT 10 AM IN FELLOWSHIP HALL  
GUEST SPEAKER - ANGELA GUITON  
MAY 3 - AWANA AWARDS NIGHT  
MAY 4 - MULTI-CHURCH PRAYER MEETING 7PM  
MAY 7 - PASTOR APPRECIATION DAY  
MAY 14 - BABY DEDICATION CELEBRATION  
MAY 21 - GRADUATION SUNDAY

**'SHE READS' BOOK CLUB**

MEETS ALTERNATE SATURDAYS @ 10:00 AM  
FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:  
REBECCA SCOTT-FIELDEN 704-680-2613

**"WAR ROOM"  
BY CHRIS FABRY**

BEGINNING APRIL 22

**GRIEF SHARE**

*"IT HURTS WHEN WE LOSE SOMEONE. FIND HELP AT GRIEF SHARE."*  
MONDAY EVENINGS - 6PM  
FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:  
LISA SCEARCE 704-640-4381

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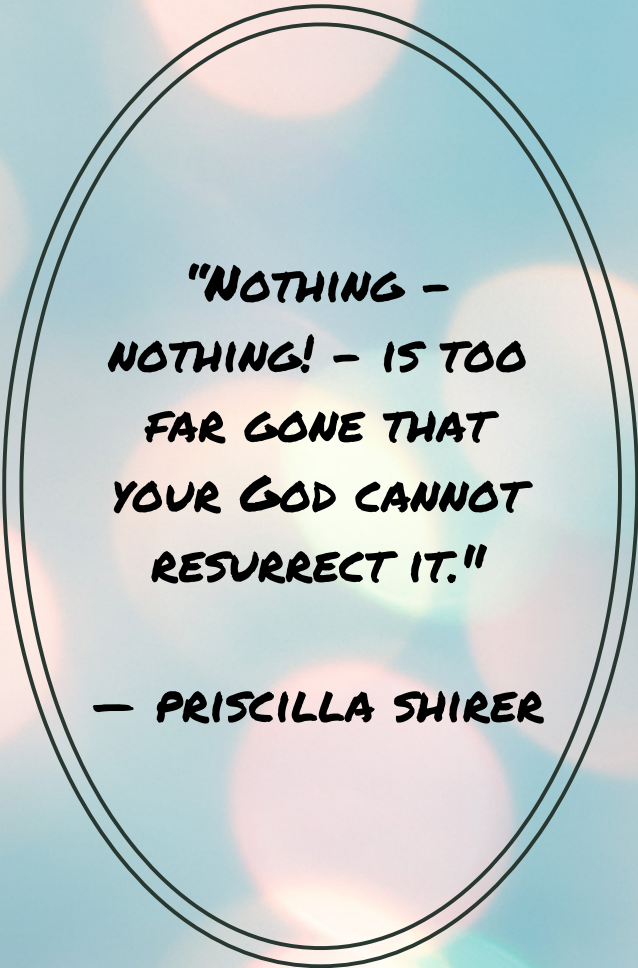
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