

SOJOURNER TRUTH MINISTRIES INC.



Volume One

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Welcome to the First issue of the Sojourner Truth Ministries Inc. 2018 Newsletter. This bulletin provides schedule and event information. It contains many wonderful Spiritual articles.

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What's happening at S.T.M. ?

Here at STM we help people every day.

- Every Tuesday we distribute fruits and vegetables
- Every Wednesday we distribute bread and pastries
- Bible Study is held every Wednesday from 6 pm to 7:30 pm.
- Prayer Study is held on every Thursday from 6 pm to 7:30 pm.
- Monday through Friday we distribute kids snacks, both breakfast and after school.
- Sojourner Truth serves a hot meal Monday through Sunday
- Men and Ladies night held every other month. ALL ARE WELCOME !!!!!
- Please follow Sojourner Truth Ministries on our website www.stmwilliamsport.org and/or on Facebook at www.facebook.com

Do you know how STM serves your community on a daily basis?

Workers from the Wake Up House dedicate hours every day. Serving meals, cleaning up, and sorting through your gracious donations are just a few tasks.

We have many workers from Experience Works, STEP Inc, Career Link, and other community service workers who aid in running S.T.M. We have our Clothes Closet receives the clothing donations, our pantry which helps us to feed the people in our community. Volunteers are always welcome !!

We have two wonderful Social Service Assistants who help service the needs of our patrons, which includes, assisting in job applications, searching for housing opportunities, just to name a few.

DID YOU KNOW ?

Sojourner Truth Ministries has a child snack program that feed over 100 kids a day. S.T.M. Passes out snacks Monday through Friday from 3:30 pm to 4:30 pm.

But you *are* a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation

Longing For Jesus !!!!!

Longings to love like Jesus. Longings for the fruit of the Spirit to be the foundation of my attitudes and deeds. Longings for His life to be expressed in and through me.

Longings to access His strength in exhaustion.

His wisdom in chaos.

His compassion in fatigue.

His goodness in sorrow.

Longings for hope and kindness to dwell in me.

And along with those expressions of longings is a deepening awareness that my compassion, my strength, my resources run out quickly.

And that's the point, isn't it? I don't have the goods to do what God has asked of me. My best efforts cannot accomplish what only God Himself can do.

It is only when Jesus in me touches a need that things change. My part is to create space for Jesus in every conversation, in every decision, in every interaction. To let Him be who He is. In me. Simply let Jesus be who He is in my being and in my doing.

I don't need strength and wisdom and compassion. But I desperately need the God who IS strength and wisdom and compassion to be who He is. In me. In my weakness. In my lack.

I can't turn water into wine. But I can bring the jars of water to Him.

I can't make the lame walk. But I can lower my friend through the roof into His presence.

I can't save, heal, rescue, or renew. But I can create space for Jesus to do what only He can do. Rhythms that nurture our souls, refresh and renew us. These are the habits that create space for God to expand our hearts and our spirits so He can be who He is in us. You and I need anchors. Spiritual practices that

root our souls into Jesus, grounding us in truth and hope. Soul strengthening habits that provide a weighty steadiness when our bodies and minds are adrift in the river of transition.

But why?

Because Jesus longs to impart Himself to us. He longs to infuse aspects of who He is into the core of our beings. Our part is to make room for Him. Whatever your soul is panting for is a place God wants to meet you and become the answer to your longing. And honestly, friend, I need you filled up with Him. When I need life spoken into me, I need Jesus spoken into me. When my soul aches for encouragement, I want to be met with God-breathed courage and hope. My needs run deeper than what you can touch. But Jesus in you can touch those places in my soul needing healing and refreshment and courage.

Would you expand your capacity to be with Him so when I meet you, I experience Him?

Oh friend, make room for Him. Do whatever it takes to create that space in your soul and welcome Him into it. Creating space in your soul often translates into creating space in your calendar. In your day. In your moments. In your routines. In your daily rhythms.

What will you do TODAY to expand your capacity for Him and welcome Him in?

What spiritual practices anchor and root you into Jesus?



WHO AM I IN CHRIST !!!

You need to know who you are in Christ so that you can live your life as God intended and fulfill your destiny. The more you agree with God about your identity in Christ, the more your behavior will begin to reflect your GOD GIVEN identity. I encourage you to learn to see yourself as God sees you God's opinion is the one that counts. Accept what God says about you, agree with Him that it is true of you and become the spiritual person you are. Understanding who you are in Christ will give you a strong foundation to build your life on. Knowing who you are in Jesus is the key to a successful Christian life and a life lived ON purpose. Your identity doesn't depend on something you do or have done. Your true identity is who God says you are. Once you choose to follow Jesus you become a new creation, the old you passes away and you become who you are in Him. Please stop living out of who other people say you are and take hold of the truth of God's word. Find out what God says about you and agree with Him. You need to know WHO you are in Christ so that you know WHAT to do, WHEN to do it, WHERE to go, and HOW to do it!

Who you are in Christ

Because you are in Christ, EVERY ONE of these statements is true of you.

I am loved. 1 John 3:3 – I am accepted. Ephesians 1:6 – I am a child of God. John 1:12 – I am Jesus' friend. John 15:14 – I am a joint heir with Jesus, sharing His inheritance with Him. Romans 8:17 – I am united with God and one spirit with Him. 1 Corinthians 6:17 – I am a temple of God. His Spirit and his life lives in me. 1 Corinthians 6:19 – I am a member of Christ's body. 1 Corinthians

12:27 – I am a Saint. Ephesians 1:1 – I am redeemed and forgiven. Colossians 1:14 – I am complete in Jesus Christ. Colossians 2:10 – I am free from condemnation. Romans 8:1 – I am a new creation because I am in Christ. 2 Corinthians 5:17 – I am chosen of God, holy and dearly loved. Colossians 3:12 – I am established, anointed, and sealed by God. 2 Corinthians 1:21 – I do not have a spirit of fear, but of love, power, and a sound mind. 2 Timothy 1:7 – I am God's co-worker. 2 Corinthians 6:1 – I am seated in heavenly places with Christ. Ephesians 2:6 – I have direct access to God Ephesians. 2:18 – I am chosen to bear fruit John. 15:16 – I am one of God's living stones, being built up in Christ as a spiritual house. 1 Peter 2:5 – I have been given exceedingly great and precious promises by God by which I share His nature. 2 Peter 1:4 – I can always know the presence of God because He never leaves me Hebrews. 13:5 – God works in me to help me do the things He wants me to do Philippians 2:13 – I can ask God for wisdom and He will give me what I need. James 1:5 – "How can two walk together unless they agree?" Amos 3:3

Simply choose to believe what God says about you.

Try reading the above list every day for a month, preferably out loud. The more you know who you are in Christ, the more your behavior will reflect your true identity. "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind." Romans 12:2 To live an effective Christian life you need to KNOW and BELIEVE who you are in Christ. Understanding your identity in Christ is crucial to living life as God intended. The best way to renew your mind and experience inner transformation is by knowing, thinking and speaking out loud who you are in Christ Train yourself to say the same things that God says in His word. Become who you ALREADY ARE in Christ. God wants to do more in your life than you imagine.

"Grace isn't just forgiveness, it is forgiveness fueled by surrender."

WHAT GOD WANTS

1. **Grow Up!**– One of the first things you should pray for as a young person is that the Lord would give you grace to grow! Who made your body? God did. Why did He give you this body? To do things – like paint a wall and drive a car and get a job. More than that, He gave you a body so that you could bring glory to Him. Have you ever heard of Jim Elliot? When he was still young (okay, 18 years old, but that looks young to me!) he started eating lots of vegetables and fruits and training for the wrestling team at his college. Do you know why? Did he do all that to look good so people would like him better? No. He did all that so that he could make his body rugged and ready for the mission field! Samuel, John the Baptist and Jesus all grew – pray that God grows you up healthy and big and strong!

2. **Get Strong!**–The Bible says that John the Baptist "became strong in spirit" and that Jesus "became strong." This does not mean they had really big muscles! It means they became strong in their understanding and judgment. They had resolve. Now someone that has resolve is someone who knows what is right and does it. Like Jesus when His mother and father told him to come with them and He did. There may be times in your young life when you will have to stand up to your friends when they want to do the wrong thing. You may have to speak seriously with your mom or dad when they sin. You may have to cut something out of your life that you really love. Who knows? Just because you are a child does not mean that you have to be weak! Be strong in your understanding and your resolve! If you don't understand a part of the bible, don't be happy until you figure it out! Be strong in your character. Work at improving your patience, kindness, gentleness and ask your mom and dad to help you at it. David was still a boy when he killed a real giant. He was strong in his understanding – he knew God. He was strong in his character – he was offended by sin. He was strong in his resolve – he called out to that giant and ran toward him to kill him! **You can be like that, too.**

3. **Become Wise!**– Times in the Bible we are told that Jesus "increased in wisdom." Of course, Jesus was totally different than you and me since he had no sin. Still he had to grow in wisdom – as His body and mind grew so did His wisdom. We are different. Proverb 22:15 says, "Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child." We were both born with a problem called sin. It is tangled up in all that we are. When Solomon talks about a fool in Proverbs, he is talking about the kind of person who lives like God is not real. He lies, cheats, steals and is mean to others all because foolishness is tied up in his heart like a tangled up kite string. How are you to get this foolishness out? The only answer is to replace it with wisdom. You have got to read your Bible, think about it when you are not reading it and seek to live out what it says day to day. This is your only hope to getting the foolishness in you rooted out.

4. **Please People!**– King Saul was a people-pleaser. He decided what to do only after he was sure everyone around him would like it! Don't be like him. You will never make everyone happy and you will worry more about others than God. A very big mistake! King David, on the other hand, was quite the opposite. He always tried to do what was right, even if it made the people around him angry or hurt. The result was that most people loved David. They knew he could be trusted and that he was not doing things for his own selfish reasons. He lived for the Lord.

5. **Please God!** – Even more important than pleasing the people around you is pleasing the God who never sleeps! Samuel and Jesus both "grew in favour with God." God was pleased with them – even as children! What pleases God? A lot of things – but here are a few: Having faith in Him (Hebrews 11:6) Praying for leaders and all kinds of people (1 Timothy 2:3) Living a life worthy of Jesus' Name (Colossians 1:10) Caring for widows in your family (1 Timothy 5:14) Giving a sacrificial gift (Philippians 4:18) Working for Jesus in your work (Ephesians 6:6) Obeying the Holy Spirit and His leading (Romans 8) Doing good and sharing (Hebrews 13:16) Trying to figure out what pleases Him! (Ephesians 5:10)

UPCOMING EVENTS

- 1.
- 2.

SPECIAL THANKS AND CONCERNS

1. We would like to thank Heilman UMC, St Johns Newberry, Avis UMC, New Covenant CC, Faxon-Kenmar UMC, Hope Community Church, Gap Fellowship and First UMC-Williamsport, Hughesville UMC, Pennsdale Trinity UMC, Pine Run UMC, for their support in Sojourner Truth Ministries Saturday Cafe.....
2. THANK YOU, Lycoming College for helping out with various area in our Ministries... (Azad Aghababian, Jacob Davis, Emily Moelleing, Zen Taylor) Your time is truly appreciated and we look forward to the next time.
3. We thank all our Patrons, who come in and volunteer their time and our support.
4. We thank you so much Emery (Redz) for all you do. Emery is always there when we need him, whether it is with food donations or just a helping hand.. We truly that you so much, your such a blessing.....

To all the gracious volunteers who donate their time and effort in assisting Sojourner Truth Ministries to help our community. WE THANK YOU !!!

CONCERNS

As always, Sojourner Truth operations are dependent on your prayers, your volunteering and your financial contributions. A major concern is that despite our spending being under budget in 2017, our income did not cover our total expenditures, forcing us to dig into our limited reserves. We need, hope and pray that donations and grants in 2018 and beyond can help us to produce an ongoing balanced operational result.