

COME AND SEE

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

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Look Back to Grow Forward

BY ALISHA PLOTT (ORIGINALLY WRITTEN IN 2013)

Sometimes when problems or difficult situations come into our lives our faith may begin to waiver. That is when we can look back to grow forward.

By remembering all the times in the past when the Lord has shown His faithfulness, we can be assured that He will be with us in the future as well. Those precious memories remind us of His constant and abiding love for us.

One such memory was the unfathomable peace I was flooded with when my spouse died suddenly, and I was left with two small children. The scripture, "my strength is made perfect in weakness" replayed over and over in my mind and I truly trusted and rested in Him.

Other "looking back" moments for me occurred when I was told my father-in-law had passed away six months to the day of my husband's death and when I prayed for a child that ended in miscarriage only to realize two weeks later I was amazingly pregnant again with a wonderful little girl. Realizing God knew I wanted to make a fresh start with my new husband and that He planned a little girl for us who would bring totally different memories and experiences still astounds me!

Maybe, like me, you remember when your bills were paid on time when business looked bad or work was slow. Or, when the Lord granted you peace to attend a loved one's funeral who courageously battled a terminal illness all the while whispering to you

that you would see them again someday in Heaven.

Looking back always increases my faith for the present situation and I know it will for you.

You may not be able to see it now but keep your faith in the Lord and you will always be able to see the evidence later.

"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."
(Hebrews 11:1)



I See You

BY REBECCA SCOTT-FIELDEN

Hey, Sister! I see you.

I see your tears hiding behind your smile, and as you quickly blink them away.

I see you struggling to keep it together.

I see you in that hard place; disappointment, pain, illness, exhaustion, grief.

I see you in that place of brokenness, anxiety, loneliness, disillusionment, weariness.

I see you in that place of shame, feelings of failure, fear in an uncertain future, regret.

I see you measuring your life against your own expectations or to the expectations of others.

I see you shrink away from relationships & community because you fear someone will see you, judge or criticize you...reject you.

I see you pretending.

I see you comparing your mess to the picture of perfection you see in others.

I see you because I see my reflection in you.

That other sister you are comparing yourself to? Well, she may just be in a different season right now, or is well versed with living in that hard place, or perhaps she's faking it too. Most of us have "stuff" buried in the depths of our soul that we are afraid to talk about.

The truth is, we're all a mess and that's why we all so desperately need Jesus. Living for Christ doesn't mean our lives will be free from trials and sorrow. On the contrary, He tells us that in this world, all of us will have troubles...our troubles are just wrapped in different packages (John 16:33).

We're getting it wrong when we think we have to fake it because we are not experiencing joy in our trials. We, as Christians, often have a hard time with this and measure our faith by how "joyful" we appear, so we quickly dismiss or hide our pain; that somehow our pained emotions makes us less spiritual in the eyes of other Christians. In fact, He calls us into our pain and suffering and He sits there with us, carrying us, growing us, shaping us. He is intimately familiar with all of our pain.

Even Jesus wept. He was a man of sorrows, acquainted with deepest grief (Isaiah 53:3). He didn't ignore his grief, or hide from it. He leaned into it. And He wants us to lean into Him.

He knows everything about you, what you are going through. He cares about every last detail...and loves you still. He keeps track of all of your sorrows and has collected your tears in a bottle. He has recorded each one in his book (Psalm 56:8). Surrender every hurt and hardship to Him. Trust Him to do miraculous things. This season isn't wasted. He can take your brokenness and turn it all for good. The hard place you are in right now can strengthen you and lead to great purpose. You are being stretched in endurance, faith, and trust beyond anything you imagined; moving you toward your destiny that God has called you to.

I see you, sweet Sister. Stop defining yourself through the lens with which you compare yourself to others or through the lens you imagine others see you and see yourself how God sees you. I see you, but more importantly, so does He. You are not alone. The Lord your God goes with you. He will never leave you nor forsake you (Deuteronomy 31:6).

Joy In the Hard Places

The difference between
being a hot mess
and having a holy calm is
remembering that My
God is bigger than any
of my problems.

"My brethren, count it all joy when
ye fall into divers temptations.
Knowing this, that the trying of
your faith worketh patience. But
let patience have her perfect
work, that ye may be perfect and
entire, wanting nothing."
James 1:2-4



God says You are

UNIQUE

PSALM 139:13

LOVED

JEREMIAH 31:3

SPECIAL

EPHESIANS 2:10

CARED FOR

EPHESIANS 3:17-19

LOVELY

DANIEL 12:3

PRECIOUS

1 CORINTHIANS 6:20

STRONG

PSALM 18:25

IMPORTANT

1 PETER 2:9

FORGIVEN

PSALM 103:12

PROTECTED

PSALM 121:3

CHOSEN

JOHN 15:16

FAMILY

EPHESIANS 2:19

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Come and See

BY MELANIE ELLIOTT

Have you ever wondered why our magazine is entitled "Come and See"? Why not, "Thrive Ladies News" or "Central Ladies Journal" or even "News You Can Thrive On"?

The idea of "Come and See" came through a devotional several years ago. I was reading John 1:39, where two disciples asked Jesus where He dwelt. His answer was, "Come and see". A few verses later, in John 1:46, Nathanael asked Philip whether any good thing could come out of Nazareth. Philip told Nathanael to "Come and see".

I was intrigued by that phrase and began searching the scriptures for more places where this phrase (or something similar) was used. Here are a few verses I found

Pslam 66:5

"Come and see the works of God." The Psalmist bids us to come and see His great power.

John 4:29

"Come, see a man, which told me all things that ever I did: is not this the Christ?"

After talking with Jesus, the Samaritan woman left her waterpot and ran to the city bidding others to come and see Jesus!

Matthew 28:1

"He is not here: for he is risen, as he said, *Come, see* the place where the Lord lay." When Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James went to the sepulcher to anoint Jesus' body, the

angel invited the ladies to come and see the empty tomb.

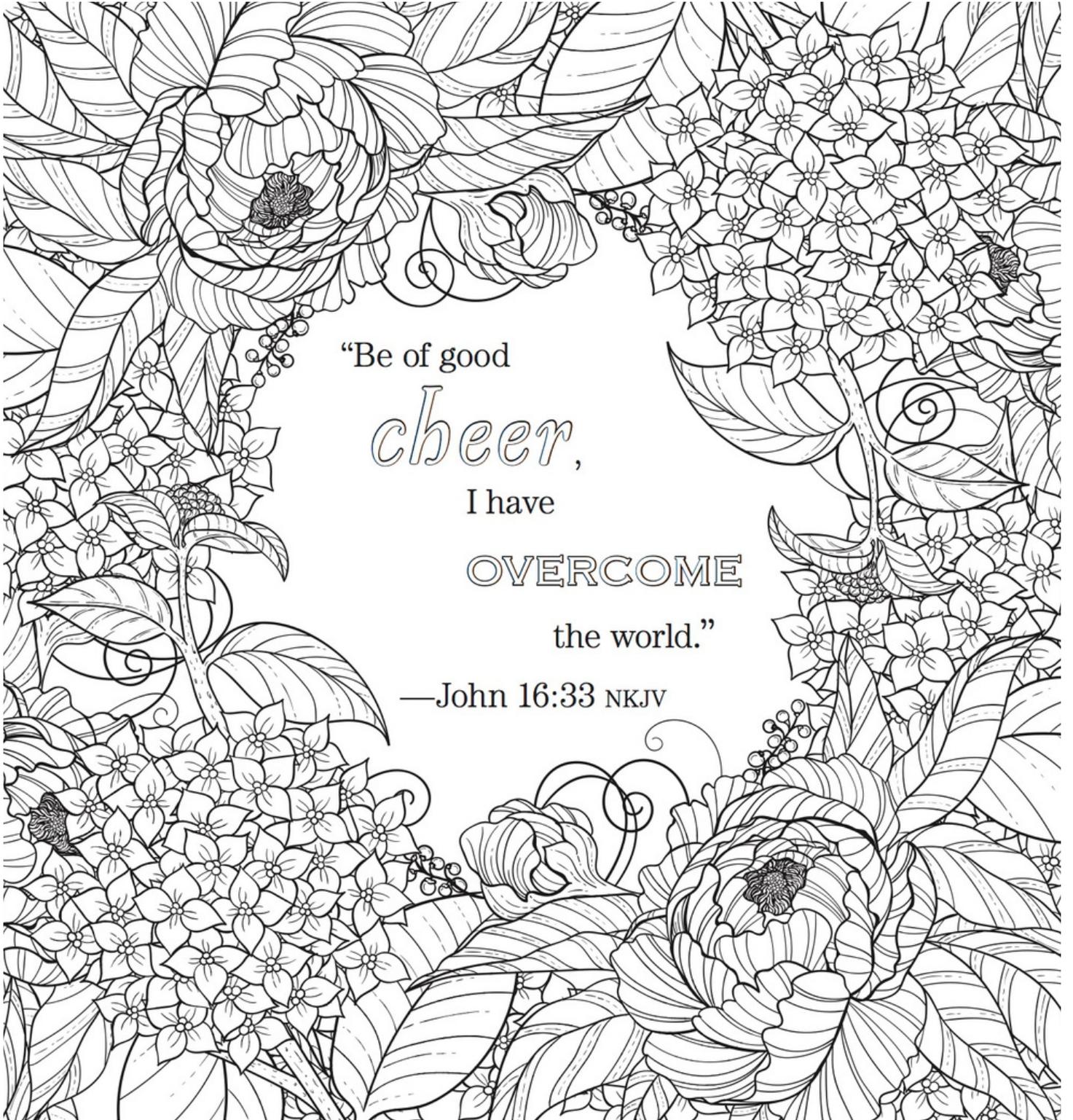
You see...He wants us to, "come and see"...His power...His goodness...His glory. In turn, we will want others to "Come and see".

Read the beautiful lyrics from the song, "Come and See What Jesus Did", written by Rodney Birch and sung by the LeFevre Quartet

"Come and see what Jesus did...
When who I was met who He is...
Come and behold so you'll believe...
Don't take my word...just come and see."

Above all else...our desire is that you see Him throughout the pages of this magazine...that somehow, we encourage you to "Come and see" Jesus Christ.

Come and see...who Jesus is...



“Be of good
cheer,
I have
OVERCOME
the world.”

—John 16:33 NKJV

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Notes:

Notes and Journaling

- When we intentionally strive to think back on how God has been faithful to us (and others) in the past, it helps us to trust Him for our present circumstances. How has looking back on His past faithfulness to you given you hope? Are you struggling with trusting Him today?
- **READ:** Deuteronomy 7:9; Psalm 119:90; Lamentations 3:22-23; Deuteronomy 31:6
- **WRITE or DRAW** your thoughts:

Notes:



THRIVE! WHO ARE WE?

Do you know what we do?

Match the ministry name to its' purpose.

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

Be sure to include your name!

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| 1) Helping Hands Ministry Team | 2) NextGeneration thrive! |
| 3) Grace Missions Team | 4) Expectant and New Moms |
| 5) Large Scale Events Ministry Team | 6) Media and Communications Ministry Team |
| 7) White Rose Widow Ministry Team | 8) Missions and Evangelism Ministry Team |
| 9) Visual Impact Ministry Team | |

A. Serving during an illness or death reflects Christ's love and encouragement. Sending cards, connecting via calls and texts, and visiting in person are ways this team ministers to those in need.

B. Sharing Jesus' hope and joy with other women is why we host events such as Christmas Festival of Tables and the Awaken Community Bible studies.

C. Welcoming and visually engaging the ladies of our church and community with beautiful and thematic decorations heralds the Gospel in powerful ways.

D. Sharing the Gospel of Christ, sponsoring evangelism classes, distributing mission items, and reaching women via tangible gifts encourages our women to spread the Good News with others.

E. This outreach team shares the Gospel through traditional mediums and social media platforms to reach a large female audience locally and around the globe.

F. Ministering to our CBC widows in their need is not only biblical, but our privilege. This team combines Bible study and fellowship to encourage and meet practical needs of these special women.

G. Celebrating our new moms with baby showers and meal trains after delivery are two important ways of encouraging our young parents as they grow their new families.

H. Connecting our teen girls with ministry opportunities and encouraging our young women to participate in active service to others.

I. This team reaches the world with the Gospel by praying for and financially supporting local and international missions.



thrive! Ladies Ministry...Who are we?

The thrive! Ladies Ministry mission is to facilitate Christian growth through prayer, Bible study, discipleship, and fellowship. As CBC women grow and mature in godliness, we will be better equipped to nurture and serve our families, enrich our church, evangelize our community, and support missions locally and globally. Currently, there are nine ministry teams working to accomplish these goals.

- **Helping Hands Ministry Team**
- **Media and Communications Ministry Team**
- **White Rose Widow Ministry**
- **Expectant and New Moms Ministry Team**
- **NextGeneration thrive!**
- **Grace Missions Team**
- **Large Scale Events Ministry Team**
- **Visual Impact Ministry Team**
- **Missions and Evangelism Ministry Team**

The thrive! Leadership Team would like for you to serve with us as we minister to our fellow sisters at CBC and women in our community. Please see Julie Kimmins or email her at jkimmins21@gmail.com for more information or to get connected with a ministry team.



TORTELLINI WITH TOMATO SPINACH CREAM SAUCE

- 16 oz tortellini
- 1 (28 oz) can diced tomatoes with juices
- 1 cup fresh spinach chopped
- 2 garlic cloves minced
- 2 teaspoon basil dried
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon pepper
- 1- 1/2 cups whole milk or a combination of heavy cream and milk
- 2 tablespoon butter*
- 2 tablespoon flour
- 1/4 cup Parmesan cheese

Directions:

1. Bring a large pot of water to a boil and add the tortellini until they rise (about 4 minutes). Drain. Hint: cover the water as it heats to bring it to a boiler quicker.
2. In a large pan or wok, saute the tomatoes, spinach, garlic, basil, salt, and pepper over medium heat until the water from the tomatoes bubbles, about 3 minutes.
3. Add the milk, butter, and flour. Stir to incorporate the flour into the butter. Add the Parmesan and stir well. Simmer for 3 minutes as the sauce thickens.
4. Remove from heat and toss with tortellini.

Note: *If using part milk and part heavy cream, do not use butter.

ONE BOWL CHOCOLATE CAKE

For the cake:

- 1 cup all-purpose flour
- 1 cup granulated sugar
- 1/4 cup unsweetened cocoa powder
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/2 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1 large egg
- 1/2 cup vegetable oil
- 1/2 cup buttermilk see note
- 1/2 cup hot water

For the frosting:

- 5 tablespoons unsalted butter
- 1/4 cup unsweetened cocoa powder
- 1-1/2 cups powdered sugar
- 2 to 3 tablespoons milk
- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract

Directions:

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees F.
2. In a large mixing bowl, whisk together all the dry ingredients. Add egg, oil, and buttermilk and whisk well. Add hot water and whisk until the batter is smooth. Pour into prepared 8" pan.
3. Bake for 25 to 30 minutes OR until the toothpick inserted comes out clean.
4. Frosting: Melt butter in a saucepan over medium-low heat. Add cocoa powder and whisk. Cook 2 min; do not boil. Remove saucepan from heat. Add sifted powdered sugar and whisk. Add vanilla and milk, one tablespoon at a time. Pour over warm cake and spread with a spatula. Let cool.

UPCOMING EVENTS

JANUARY 30 - THRIVE MINISTRY FAIR

APRIL 2 - EASTER DRAMA AT EVENING SERVICE

APRIL 8 - COMMUNITY EASTER EVENT

'SHE READS' BOOK CLUB

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

**"IF I WERE YOU"
BY LYNN AUSTIN**

BEGINNING JANUARY 14, 2023

GRIEF SHARE

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

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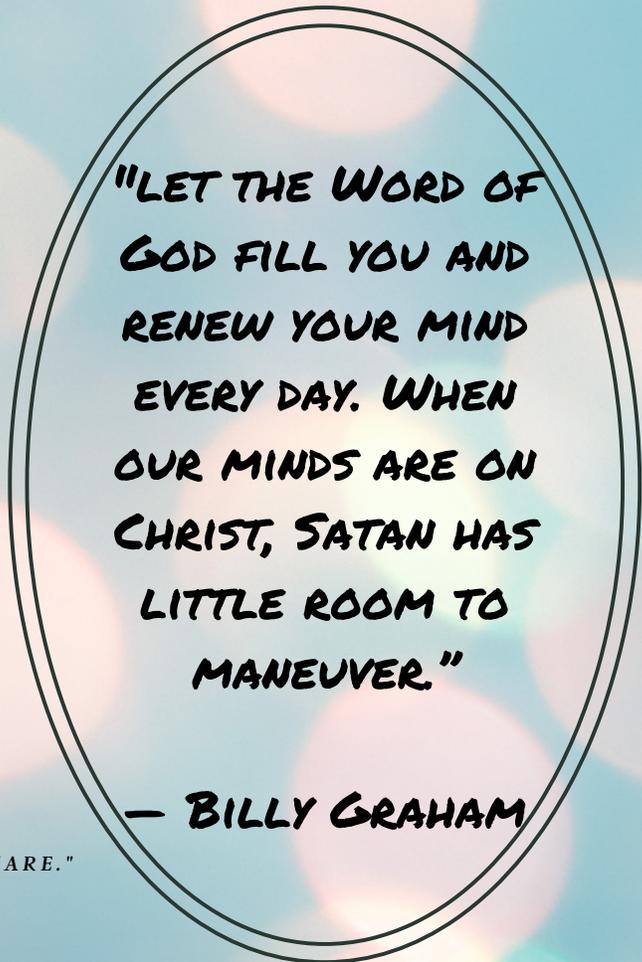
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