

NEWSLETTER TO THE

Women of the Restoration

FROM THE RESTORATION WOMEN'S COUNCIL, CONFERENCE OF RESTORATION ELDERS

THEME: *“For when that which is new is come, the old is ready to be put away.”*

Matthew 9:21

The Widow's Mite

By Michelle Turner

“If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father who is in heaven give good things to them that ask.” Matthew 7:20

I am a true believer of this scripture. The Lord has blessed His people so many times. This past fall I was on the receiving end of His blessing.

Alicia Negaard and I have been doing the Widow's Mite Christmas Bazaar Craft Show for several years now. This year we were starting to get things rolling and starting to contact our past vendors. Several weeks into planning we were made aware of another fundraising craft show the week before the Widow's Mite. We both felt there were not enough saints to support two fundraising events so close together, so we decided to support our Sisters in their fundraising event.



Figure 1:
Authentic Widow's Mite coin

The decision to cancel the Widow's Mite Bazaar was heavy, because we knew the saints in Africa still needed this support. We both started praying for the Lord's help and direction. In the meantime, I started calling some of our vendors that had committed to the Bazaar already. The Lord had already answered our prayers before we announced we were cancelling and supporting the other fundraiser. We received a check for the approximate amount we normally send to the Widows after the fundraiser

every year. God had answered our prayers. He is so faithful!

With mighty prayers, we are going to something different to raise funds next year. Please save the date for the event we are planning: Widow's Mite Dinner and Show Charity Event on March 29, 2025. More information will be forthcoming.

Book Report

What is Your Heart's Desire?

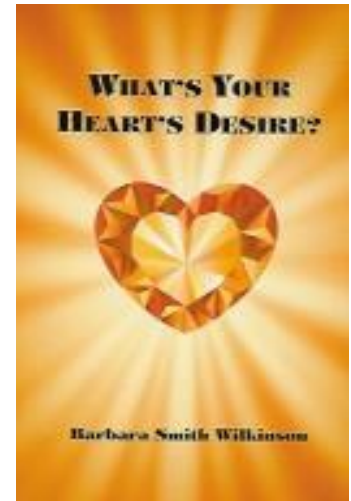
by Barbara Smith Wilkinson

Reviewed by Jamie Bendorf

I cannot recommend this book enough! Based on the “What is Your Heart's Desire Plan” originally developed by Seventy George Knotts, it covers the following four steps to becoming closer to the Lord: fasting (specifically two meals a week), studying the scriptures, be willing to do God's will, and pray with faith. Each of these sections is covered using scriptures, experiences, and descriptions. I found it very helpful in learning and implementing the spiritual disciplines in my life!

The scriptures tell us “seek and ye shall find...ask and it shall be given unto you” (Matthew __) and this has proved true, especially when following the steps laid out in this book (aka the spiritual disciplines). I have seen beautiful testimonies arise when I have applied these disciplines in my life, and my hope is that each of you will experience the same as you draw closer to the Lord through the spiritual disciplines as described in this book!

This book is sold by Paul Ludy <https://newbookman.blogspot.com/> and at Price publishing <https://restorationbookstore.org/collections/all?page=30>.



Spring 2025 Women's Classes

By Pat Chadwick

The theme for the spring women's classes is “The Words of Jesus”. The first class will start on March 4, 2025. Classes will be held at the Oak Grove Restoration Branch. I want to encourage all in the area to come and join with us in person. It is an uplifting, spirit-filled morning of learning, fellowship, and prayer. We have a prayer group after the class for those who wish to participate. It has been very successful with some amazing answers to our prayers. There are two priesthood members on site for administrations, if needed.

I believe it will be an exciting spring session. Weekly teachers will be announced later. For those who are not able to attend in person, we will still be live-streaming the classes. Please be praying for this outreach as it goes forth to the world.

Testimonies

A New Sister in Christ

By Judi Smith

“For when that which is new is come, the old is ready to be put away.” Matthew. 9:21

In Kenya, we have a new sister in Christ, whose name is Mary Awino Otieno. She lives in an area known as Nyangiela. A year ago, her husband disappeared and no one knew what had become of him. He was addicted to alcohol and this addiction had caused problems in his relationship with Mary, their children and even his brothers.

For months, no word came of where her husband, Nikolas, might be or if he was even alive. Then she started receiving bits of money through a phone money system. Months later, she received a phone call from him. He was alive, living with his nephew’s family in another village a good distance away. He had experienced the love of Christ, and had been baptized. In conversations that followed, she heard what had happened when he disappeared.

Feeling disrespected and hopeless, he had decided to commit suicide. After pouring gasoline on himself and around his store intending to destroy everything, he realized it was just in the late afternoon, and the fire might injure other people and the other businesses surrounding his store so he decided to do it later in the night. He stayed at the store, and as he waited there he got the impression he needed to go visit his nephew, Elijah, who lived in a town called Rakwaro and so he left the store and started walking that night and for the next 5 days he walked to Rakwaro. Elijah was an enthusiastic believer in Christ, and had joined with the Church of Jesus Christ – African Restoration Ministries after experiencing some miracles in his own life.

When Nikolas finally arrived at his nephew’s home, he found love and acceptance especially from the saints there. He found new hope in a relationship with Christ, and was baptized. He was free from the addiction, and felt peace. After hearing a class on forgiveness and reconciliation, Nikolas called Mary desiring to repair the hurt he had caused in his family. Eventually, he traveled to his home to ask forgiveness, but he didn’t go alone. About 16 people from the Rakwaro congregation went with him to support him. When they arrived, Mary was skeptical about this change in him, but after seeing the love of the people, her heart became soft, and she could see Nickolas was different. Even these people were different. For when that which is new is come, the old is ready to be put away.



This past August, Mary was baptized and after her confirmation, Mary shared her experience with her baptism. She had been active in churches for 20 years, but she was very fearful of the water, so always claimed she had been baptized even though it had never taken place! She said her fear made her a liar. She also suffered from arthritis, and as she walked to the place where she and others would be baptized, she thought of excuses for why she couldn’t do it. Her knees were aching. The water would be cold. She was so scared! She said as she looked into the eyes of the elder baptizing her, she was quaking and she didn't know what was going to happen. "The elder told me to relax, and so I relaxed. All of a sudden, I was immersed in the water! I had been baptized! I found that those things that were disturbing me, the fear, the paining in the knees and other places were all gone!" For when that which is new is come, the old is ready to be put away. She said since the baptism, she no longer has arthritis pain anywhere! She said she is a strong Christian now, and as she

spoke, her countenance was joyful! She also said baptisms had been good for her family. She had a young grandson who was always leaving the house (maybe at night???) and running around. After his baptism, he had never left the house again. He had started going to school again which he had once feared so much. He also feared his father because his father had whipped him, but now he had a good relationship with his dad. His life was different, and the family's life was different - seeking the Kingdom of God and his righteousness Mary is not the only one in Nyangiela whose life has changed. Since seeing the change God brought about in Nikolas' life, and hearing the good news of the Kingdom, the congregation has grown to over 40 people. For now, the shade of a tree provides a place of worship and encouragement for the new saints there.



Restoration Women's Council WINTER GATHERING

Saturday, February 8, 2025
from 9:00 am - 12:30 pm
Registration begins at 8:30 am with tea

Outreach Restoration Branch
723 S Chrysler Ave, Independence, MO 64052

God Will Do a New Thing and Make a Way

Isaiah 43:19 Behold, I will do a new thing....
D&C 10:11c - 12b ...as many as receive me, them will I give to
become the sons of God...
II Nephi 13:24 - 32 ...if ye shall press forward, feasting upon the
word of Christ, and endure to the end, behold, thus saith the Father,
Ye shall have eternal life.

Our Speakers:

Aubree Wilson from Living Hope Restoration Branch
Sheila Schrunk from Lexington Restoration Branch

Lunch will be served after classes. Please make us aware of any food allergies. There will be a donation basket to help defray the costs of the lunch provided by the Outreach Restoration Branch.

RSVP to Karen Parker by 2/1/25 at 816-589-4633 karenleeparker@yahoo.com

Gatherings

Fall Retreat

By: Mona Thompson

To attend the Retreat was a real struggle for me, both spiritually and physically. Spiritually, I was at a low point, feeling that what I have been doing was not accomplishing anything. It seemed as though I was talking to the wind, few listened, a teacher I am not. Maybe starting at the wrong places. Physically I have been having severe pain in my right hip that kept coming back, making walking difficult. Doctors had said it was bursitis.

The morning classes were excellent and made me think. That as women we have many special gifts and talents from God, that housework was a form of worship, and that we were born for this day. The trip to the restroom was a real trial, the pain in the hip got worse and worse. When I got back to the dining room I was in tears, Charlotte and Kathy went and got my wheelchair. That helped in getting around, but the pain was still there. Then I asked Jason Anderson and Greg Bird to administer to me. After the administration I started feeling better and could walk pushing the chair. Now a month later, I am walking without pain. Still pushing chair for stability, (and if I get tired to sit in). I had also asked that I would find out why the reoccurring. After I got home the idea that I needed a different shoe insert, found one that was for the right foot, no left foot insert, it was perfect. Two weeks later I found the left foot insert in a different drawer, but don't need it.

When Gregg Bird gave his talk, he touched on many of my concerns. Basically, keep on trying, don't give up. God knows. We are planting seeds, He makes them grow. Mosiah 1:49 *"And behold, I tell you these things that ye may learn wisdom, That when ye may learn that when ye are in the service of your fellow beings, ye are only in the service of your God."* This has changed my way of thinking. I have read this many times, but this time I hearkened.

In Christ,
Mona Thompson

Women's Leader Luncheon

By Karen Parker

On October 19, 2024, the Women's Council prepared the annual Women's Leader Luncheon hosted this year by Zion's Hope Restoration Branch in Sibley, Missouri. All were blessed with a sweet invitation to worship as Michelle Turner shared scriptures and testimonies were combined with hymns played by Barb Capps to remind us that we can trust God even when we don't understand His answer to our prayers. Alicia Negaard taught a class on how we need to put away bitterness so that the Lord can fill us with something new. The leaders shared their plans for their branches for the coming year and there was a time of heartfelt prayer that the women in the body of Christ would use their gifts and talents to stir hearts toward loving as Christ exemplified in His life and has commanded His followers to do likewise. A lunch of soups and salad followed with fellowship and encouragement for the new year ahead.

Save the Date

Winter Gathering – God Will Do a New Thing and Make a Way

Isaiah 43:19; D&C 10:11c-12b, 2 Nephi 13:24-32
February 8, 2025 at Outreach Restoration Branch

Spring Gathering – I Will Do a New Thing – Making a New Heart and New Spirit

Ezekiel 18:31; D&C 11:4a-5b; Alma 3:46
April 26, 2025 at Lexington Restoration Branch

Fall Retreat – We Will Make a New Covenant and Be God’s People

Hebrews 8:6-13; D&C 85:18b; Jacob 2:50-51, 56
September 6-7, 2025 – place TBD

2024-25 Women’s Council Members

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Please feel free to reach out to us if you have any questions.

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Women’s Council**

