



Celebrating HOPE

By Brandy Stevens, VP of Conferences

We are a generation of seekers; our desire for happiness is one of the most basic facts of human existence. Walk into a favorite bookstore and you will notice countless shelves of books offering popular advice on how to live a happy life. Guidance on how to achieve happiness effortlessly – happiness that is typically associated with financial prosperity, professional success, physical appearance, material prosperity, cars, homes, dream vacations – has become a million dollar industry today.

This year's spring conference is focused on finding the **true happiness we're all seeking** – **true Christian happiness** ultimately found in our relationship with Jesus, the foundation of our HOPE. Speaker Rhea Briscoe has a passion to share the love of Christ and to watch the power of the Holy Spirit transform women. Dr. Shirley Arnold, named a "Top 16 Women in Ministry" by a national publication, is on a mission of planting seeds for the growth of God's kingdom.

The Apostle Paul shared the love of Christ in these words meant to focus our attention on the meaning and importance of Christian HOPE, "*To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of the mystery, which is Christ in you, the HOPE of glory*" (Colossians 1:27). The pathway to becoming somebody, the pathway to eternal glory, is simply the pathway by which we receive Christ by faith and He lives in us. When Christ lives in and through us, we are no longer nobodies, destined to play by societies rules. We are somebodies. Our names are written in the Book of Life. We are children of the King.

No more talking about someday or the effortless happiness sold on countless bookshelves. Now is the time to celebrate true HOPE, only found through the **Holy Spirit's Omnipotent Power Experience**. Bring the important women in your life and meet up with your Celebration sisters, at the beautiful Omni Hotel at Westside in Houston on April 8-10, to share this life changing experience. Check out our web site for more details and reservation information at www.celebrationministries.org.

Want to get a glimpse of Rhea Briscoe? See her article on page 3.

Our National Spring Conference is April 8-10, 2011 at the Omni Hotel Westside in Houston, Texas

See Page 4 for details

Featuring Rhea Briscoe and Dr. Shirley Arnold!

and Youth Speaker

Mak Young



Celebrating HOPE

He Knows My Name



Judy Graham
President

Celebration Women's Ministry, Inc.

My husband had surgery on his back in January. When we heard the news from his doctor, we immediately asked for your prayers and asked the Lord for a scripture from Him. We thank you for praying because God's peace surrounded us as we approached the day of his surgery.

..... We had 99% peace in our hearts, but the 1% of fear rose up on occasion. It was such a blessing to see what God did to encourage me. At our Conference Board meeting two days before his surgery, Dawn Stoker led us in worship. One song was "He knows My Name." That was just what I needed to hear from the Lord.

The words of the song are:

*I have a maker, He formed my heart,
before even time began, my life was in His hand.*

Followed with the chorus:

*He knows my name,
He knows my every thought,
He sees each tear that falls,
and hears me when I call.*

*I have a Father, He calls me His own,
He'll never leave me, no matter where I go.*

He knows my name... and yours, too!

Geren's surgery was successful and he is walking through his pathway to healing ordered by the Lord. Whatever situation (health, finances, family, work) is going on in your life at this time, I want to encourage you that He knows your name. We are Celebrating Hope at our Conference in April. Come join us!

Celebrating Jesus,

Judy

Judy C. Graham

Welcome Dawn Stoker, VP of Praise & Worship

Please welcome our interim VP of Praise and Worship, Dawn Stoker.

Dawn is no stranger to Celebration, having served as its initial Worship leader from 1997 to 2000. She has served as a contemporary worship leader at several area churches, including Katy First UMC, Shepherd of the Heart in Pearland and Dickinson First United Methodist Church. In addition to her ministry in the Methodist church, Dawn also has held positions on the Board of the Bay Area Christian Women's Club and the NASA chapter of Aglow International. Dawn holds a Master's degree in Anthropology and occasionally teaches at area community colleges.



She and husband Dennis have two grown children, and enjoy traveling.

Join us at Spring Conference on the weekend of April 8-10 and you will enjoy Dawn and her team of musicians and vocalists.



Register for Spring Conference before March 20th to guarantee your rate. See registration form on page 5

Call our registrar, Jennifer McDaniel at 281-970-6406 if you have any questions about registering.

Scars of Hope *by Rhea Briscoe*

"On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord."

John 20:19

The disciples had been receiving reports that Jesus had risen from the dead. How could this be? They witnessed His crucifixion, saw Him die with their very own eyes and now people were saying He was ALIVE again. A report like that was just too good to be true. Live long enough and you realize anything too good to be true usually is! Why risk believing again only to be disappointed? They had already hurt too much; the pain had been too great. Facts are facts – Jesus was dead - all hope was gone. The sooner they accepted that fact, the better.

Peter, one of their own, and women who they trusted, reported that His tomb was empty, His body was gone. Rather than believe, it was just easier to dismiss the reports and go on with life. They wavered between hope and unbelief – could such a thing really be possible? As they were discussing it, they heard a familiar voice and looked up to see Jesus in their midst. They weren't surprised by His first words to them.

"Peace be with you," he said.

He spoke often of peace. In fact, just before His crucifixion he told them the peace He offered wasn't like anything they could find in the world. His peace meant they didn't need to live in fear, turmoil, or ever be troubled.

"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives.

Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid."

The day he spoke those words to them he also spoke of His death and resurrection. At the time they didn't "get it," but things were becoming clearer now as He stood before them in His resurrected body. It was hard to deny. The same Man who had healed blind eyes, made the lame leap, the leper clean and raised the dead, had now overcome hell, death and the grave and was standing before them... ALIVE. And they couldn't dismiss it!

Luke tells us He showed them His hands and feet. John makes it even clearer – He showed them His scars. He let them put their fingers into the marks left behind by the nails. I believe He did that to silence the voice of unbelief that screamed louder than the voice of faith. You see these men were present when the nails were hammered into His hands and feet – they witnessed the spear be thrust into his side – they saw Him die and now they are seeing Him alive again. How could that be? Could He have really defeated death? Did He have that kind of power? Yes, and His scars were proof!

Jesus' body bore the marks of his pain and his scars were the evidence of His suffering – but they were also the evidence of HOPE. Hope for those disciples and Hope for you and me. That blesses my heart because my life has been marked with pain. I'm a woman familiar with suffering - I've had more than my share. And I've got scars to prove it! I don't know about you, but I love that Jesus didn't remove the scars from His resurrection body. Why? Because scars are proof of Hope. Proof that NOTHING we face, no death, no pain, no defeat can stand in face of His Resurrection Power. Jesus' scars were proof of victory. Mine are too. They are proof that I am MORE than a conqueror in Christ Jesus and so are you.

I've seen His resurrection power at work, and so can you. He is God and there is nothing impossible for Him. Whatever situation you are living in, whatever trial you are facing, whatever pain you are enduring, you can have Hope. He wants to display His resurrection power in your life. He defeated hell, death and the grave so that you and I could walk in victory and not defeat.

Why don't you take your "death" to Him today and watch His resurrection power bring life back into your hopeless situation. Maybe you are like the disciples and it sounds too good to be true. You'd rather dismiss it and just move on with your painful, difficult life. Don't let the voice of unbelief scream louder than the voice of victory. **Isaiah 49:23 says, "Those who HOPE in the Lord will NOT be disappointed."** He's left His peace with you. Dwell in it today.

Celebration Women's Ministry National Spring Conference

HOPE
April 8-10, 2011

Colossians 1:27
To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

Omni Houston Hotel at Westside • Houston, Texas 77079

April 8 - 10, 2011 – 3 days, 2 nights includes conference registration, deluxe hotel stay, all meals on Saturday and *Continental* breakfast on Sunday

Quad (4 per room) \$160 each • Triple \$175 each • Double \$200 each • Single \$295
Day Rate \$115 • Teen Rate \$50 each (must room with an adult)

Can't wait to hear these Speakers!

Rhea Briscoe will speak 4 times during our general sessions at our conference, "Celebrating Hope!" She enjoys sharing the love of Christ and watching women be transformed by the power of the Holy Spirit. Rhea draws from experiences of God's faithfulness in painful times and uses His word to minister the love of Christ to others. God uses her words to remind us of His "treasures of darkness" as He summons each of us by name. *Isaiah 45:3*



Dr. Shirley Arnold will be our guest speaker on Saturday and will be our Spiritual leader for our communion service on Sunday morning. Dr. Shirley is truly anointed and her topic, "Our Spiritual Gifts" is something we all want to learn more about. So join us!

Celebration Luncheon *Texas Annual Conference*

You are cordially invited to join us at the Texas Annual conference on May 31st, 2011, for the Celebration Luncheon. This year the conference is held at George R. Brown Convention Center and our lunch will be held at the Hilton

America's Hotel at 1600 Lamar, Houston, Texas, 77010. The doors open at 11:30 a.m. and lunch will be served at Noon. Cost is \$25. More information will be available online soon and registration will begin after our National Spring Conference.

REGISTRATION FORM SPRING CONFERENCE

Name _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Daytime Phone _____ Email _____

Church/Chapter _____

Please make check payable to: "Celebration" (Memo: Ntl Conf 2011)
Check # _____ Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Mail this form and conference fees to our registrar:

Jennifer Mc Daniel
12311 Ravens Mate
Cypress, TX 77429

A confirmation letter will be sent to you after you register.

OR register online by credit card: ww.CelebrationMinistries.org.
Online credit card registration has a \$2.50 surcharge

- ___ Quad (4 per room) \$160
- ___ Triple (3 per room) \$175
- ___ Double (2 per room) \$200
- ___ Single (1 per room) \$295
- ___ Day Rate (no hotel st) \$115 includes 4 "meals!"
- ___ Teen Rate \$50 (must room with adult)

Above rates are guaranteed thru March 20th, 2011. Reservations after this deadline will cost an additional \$25

Roommates? Please list intended roommates below. Please register all guests per room at the same time.

Knowing Your Place

You are seated with Christ at God's right hand...

Nothing is higher than that !

God loves you with an everlasting love...

Nothing is deeper than that !

He invites you to drink from the river of His delights...

Nothing is purer than that !

He shares His heart with you in communion...

Nothing is dearer than that !

He watches over you with tender mercies...

Nothing is kinder than that !

He is with you and will never leave you...

Nothing is nearer than that !

He leads you according to the counsel of His own will...

Nothing is wiser than that !

He faithfully feeds you from His word...

Nothing is truer than that !

He is in you and joined to your spirit...

Nothing is closer than that !

-Roy Lessin, Co-Founder of DaySpring

A Tisket, A Tasket, A Silent Auction Basket! (from Your Chapter!)

Calling all chapters, calling all chapters! Be represented at Spring Conference with a gift basket representing your group. First, pick a theme, and have members of your chapter make a donation along the lines of that theme. Arrange them into an indescribably beautiful array, surround with cellophane, top with eye-catching ribbons and bows, and see which one brings in the top auction price! Proceeds from the auction will be used to keep the costs down for our next conference. Contact **Susan Monroe** at 409-722-1566 to sign up your group!



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."

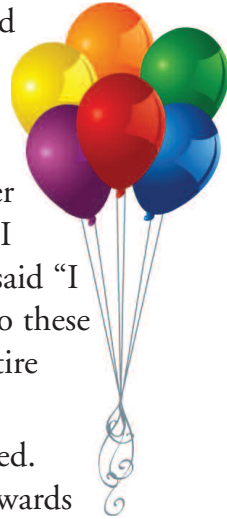
Celebration Prison Update *South Carolina*

By Gail Wilson, Area Representative, Ninety Six, SC

We had an inmate come to our Celebration meeting at the prison on Jan. 24 who thought she was going to a party – “Celebration.” She didn’t have a Bible with her like the other girls. She seemed uncomfortable when we had praise and worship, and when the Word started being taught, she had to get up and leave the room. She came back in shortly and apologized for leaving. With tears in her eyes, she said that she didn’t know what God was doing and she didn’t know if she wanted anything to do with Him, but said she knew something was going on inside. She couldn’t understand why He was ‘messing’ with her, but when she left she was smiling. She said she didn’t want to ask Jesus into her heart because He may want her to give up some things that she wasn’t ready to give up. I saw her again on Thursday night at Prison Fellowship. She shook her head, smiled and said “I didn’t ask to come here.” You have to understand, there is a waiting list to get to come to these programs. Well, by the end of the evening, she had invited Jesus into her heart. Her entire countenance was changed before our eyes. We are rejoicing.

Another inmate at our Celebration was just out of lock-up and had recently been saved. She was in a wheelchair because her leg had been amputated. She looked terrible. Afterwards we talked about how yellow/pale she was. I found out that the very next morning, they had to take her to the hospital because her appendix had ruptured and the infection had been in her body for awhile. No wonder she looked bad. The inmate who had brought her to our meeting told me about this that Thursday when I came for Prison Fellowship. She said that she had gone to all the Celebration women (meaning the Celebration inmates) and told them about B.J. so they could pray. I told her that I would tell our Celebration volunteers, which I did and we started praying for her. The following Thursday, she was there! Walking! Not in her wheelchair, and she looked radiant. She said she actually felt our prayers and knew that is what brought her from death to life. PTL!

This is what Celebration is all about. God is still the God of Salvation, of Healing and of Equipping. If we don’t see Him working, then we are looking in the wrong places. Amen!



Leadership News

Our February Leadership Retreat had to be cancelled due to the threat of bad weather. We have rescheduled it for November 4 & 5 at Camp Cho Yeh in Livingston, so mark your calendars now!

When you have Leadership additions or changes in your Chapter, please keep us informed by sending this information to Cindy Masterson, Leadership@CelebrationMinistries.org.

The Presidents who attend Spring Conference will meet for lunch on Saturday, April 9 with Cindy in the Hospitality Room in the Texas Ballroom. This will give us a chance to share our successes and bond in our leadership roles. Contact Cindy if you are attending.

Event Calendar *See you at National Spring Conference!*

March 2011

Saturday, March 5
Nederland, TX Chapter
9:30 am to Noon
 Free Brunch and child care provided
 Speaker: Cathy Busa
"Teapots, Peppermint & Hugs!"
 Contact: Carolyn Dixon,
 dixlife@sbcglobal.net

Saturday, March 12
Eureka, WI Chapter
9:00 am -11:00 am
 Speaker: Pastor Mary Counsel-Austin
 Contact: Kathy Jungwirth,
 lkjungwirth@charter.net

Saturday, March 26
Heights Celebration Chapter
at St. Mark's UMC,
9:30 to Noon
 Speaker: Rev. Jessica LaGrone
"How We Hear from God"
 Breakfast will be served.
 Child Care Provided.
 Contact: Sharon Sawallisch
 281-450-6204 or
 sharonsawallisch@earthlink.net

Saturday, March 26
National Celebration Executive
Board Meeting

Monday, March 28
Huntsville, TX Chapter
6:00 to 8:00 pm
 Supper and child care provided
 Contact: Anetha Wylie
 anethawylie@suddenlink.net

April 2011

Celebrating
HOPE

April 8-10, 2011
Omni Houston Hotel at Westside
Keynote Speaker: Rhea Briscoe
and Saturday Session Speaker: Dr.
Shirley Arnold register online now

Saturday, April 16
Bayshore UMC, Tampa FL
10:00 am
 Contact: Kay Stauffer if child care
 is needed, 813-831-3535

Monday, April 25
Huntsville, TX Chapter
6:00 to 8:00 pm
 Supper and child care provided
 Contact: Anetha Wylie
 anethawylie@suddenlink.net

Friday, April 29
League City, Texas
Doors open @ 6:15 with program
 beginning at 7pm.
THE SPA GIRLS!
 Soup & Salad dinner with free
 babysitting. **RSVP A MUST** to
 Marsha Kershaw 281-332-3184 or
 mak@kershawtexas.com

Saturday, April 30
Cypress UMC
9:00 am - 11:00 am
"Grace Like Rain"
 Speaker: Casey Shirley
 Contact: Karen Bidinger,
 Karen@BidingerDesign.com

May 2011

Monday, May 2
Hardy Memorial UMC,
Texarkana, TX
Time: 6:30 to 8:30 pm
 Speakers: Kerri Crocker and
 Shelly Wilson
 Contact: Lou Pickens,
 loupickens@cableone.net

Saturday, May 7
Nederland, TX Chapter
9:30 am to Noon
 Free Brunch and child care provided
 Contact: Carolyn Dixon,
 dixlife@sbcglobal.net

Saturday, May 14
Eureka, WI Chapter
Time: 9:00-11:00 am
 Speaker: Laurel Parker
 Contact: Kathy Jungwirth,
 lkjungwirth@charter.net

Monday, May 23
Huntsville, TX Chapter
6:00 to 8:00 pm
 Supper and child care provided
 Contact: Anetha Wylie
 anethawylie@suddenlink.net

Tuesday, May 31
Texas Annual Conference
Luncheon, Houston, TX
Doors open at 11:30 am
 Hilton America's Hotel
 (near George R. Brown)
 Cost is \$25

Please send in your chapter event calendar and web info to news@CelebrationMinistries.org

Want to get news via e-mail or street address? Contact news@CelebrationMinistries.org to be added to our list.

To receive the Table Top Prayers (Chapter and National Prayers), e-mail Julie Puckett at juliepuck@yahoo.com

To make a donation or partner payment, contact Linda Johnson, Treasurer@CelebrationMinistries.org
 or send them to Linda Johnson, 558 Elkins Lake, Huntsville, TX 77340

Join us at our National Spring Conference in Houston April 8-10, 2011

To register or get more information, please go online at www.CelebrationMinistries.org



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Welcome Sondra Browne, VP of Prayer

With a heart full of praise and thanksgiving, we are pleased to announce that Sondra Browne from the Dickinson, TX, Celebration chapter will be our new Vice President of Prayer.

Sondra has attended many of our Celebration National Events and she loves the ministry. We look forward to hearing her testimonies of how Jesus has ministered to her through Celebration. Sondra is a prayer warrior. She knows the power of prayer personally, but also the power of prayer with the people who the Lord brings across her path. She is a wife and mother and works full time with her husband in their Chiropractic Clinic in Dickinson. A real blessing was her husband's agreement that she should serve with us. We certainly appreciate the support of our husbands... it's the only way this works so smoothly.

At our Conference in April, Sondra will be working with Julie Puckett and Pamela Scheyer in the Prayer Room along with the entire prayer team. Julie and Pam have always done such an outstanding job in this area and they will include Sondra in these efforts. We welcome you Sondra!



Celebration Women's Ministry, Inc. Officers:

Judy C. Graham, President
Linda Johnson, Treasurer
Margie Filer, Secretary
Sondra Browne, VP of Prayer

Brandy Stevens, VP of Conferences
Cindy Masterson, VP of Leadership Development
Dawn Stoker, VP of Praise & Worship (Interim)
Karen Bidinger, VP of Communications