

2009 Women's Retreat Workshops

INTENTIONAL FASHION – “Clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ”

Romans 13:14

Most women are interested in fashion and follow some of the trends to make sure they are not too out of date in their style. Did you realize that God was the first fashion Designer and He will give us the most beautiful wardrobe any woman could ever want? It is the wardrobe that never goes out of style and always points to the label... "Made in His Image."

Rev. Karen C. Rydwansky is the Lead Pastor of Crossroads Worship Center, a 2004 church plant with the Assemblies of God in Weymouth, MA, just south of Boston. She is an ordained minister with over 45 years of ministry and was Director of Women's Ministries for the Southern New England District for six years and served on the National Women's Ministries Committee for two years. She presently serves on the National Women in Ministry Task Force and has co-chaired the Women in Ministry Pastor's Network for Vision New England. Karen is on the Board of Trustees at Zion Bible College and has served on Board of Teen Challenge, New England. Karen's husband, Frank, is the administrator of Dayspring Christian Academy, affiliated with South Attleboro Assembly of God. They have three daughters, Kristen, Jennifer, and Sarah, and are the doting grandparents of Sage Aliyah, 10, and Teyah Faith, 5. Karen's education includes Central Bible College of the Assemblies of God in Springfield, MO, Eastern Nazarene College in Quincy, MA, and Berean University. Karen received her Masters from Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary.

INTENTIONAL GRIEVING: Finding Hope While Living In the Valley of Grief “The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.” Psalm 34:18

Join Cheryl Eaton as she shares her testimony of God's sustaining HOPE while living in the valley of grief following the passing of her husband, Ralph. Elizabeth Aran will also have her story told of how by the age of 33 she was widowed twice. Despite great sorrow, you too, can find life after death of a loved one through the faithfulness of God, our loving Heavenly Father.

Cheryl Eaton has attended South Attleboro A/G for over 30 years and has served in many ministries of the church. She served in Girls Ministries (Missionettes) for over 25 years as a teacher, coordinator, RI Sectional Rep, as well as the SNED Coordinator. She is currently enrolled in the SNED School of Ministry. Cheryl is the mother of 4 incredible children, mother-in-law to 3 additional incredible children, and the proud Grammy of 4 of the most adorable grandbabies.

Elizabeth Aran lives in North Reading, MA with her husband Mike and their 3 children. Elizabeth works as a secretary at Calvary Christian Church in Lynnfield, MA where she has been attending as a parishioner for over 15 years.

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INTENTIONAL LIVING - Why don't you just get a life? *"I am come that they might have life and that they might have it more abundantly!"* -Jesus

What are the challenges of living a truly Spirit-filled, Spirit-directed life, as it relates to our inner person and outer witness? Change is never easy, yet growth demands it. If someone says to us "get a life" their assumption is that you are focusing on the wrong thing, wasting too much time on the past or not fulfilling your purpose. In other words, you may be stuck in place. John Maxwell says, "Most people are very close to becoming the person God wants them to be, they just need a little push." Hopefully, this workshop will afford you a little push to getting a life.

Jeanne Wyns has taught biblical studies in several Bible colleges, having received her B.A. degree in Christian Education as well as her Masters in Biblical Studies from Orlando Seminary. In 2006 she was awarded her doctorate from Vision International University. She has worked with her husband to pastor several churches, and together have spent six years in Zimbabwe, Africa as missionary-teachers. Jeanne is presently the managing director of Barnabas Ministries, Inc., and is involved in overseeing the office in the US as well as teaching and preaching in seminars held in over 25 countries. Jeanne's ministry is both practical and inspirational. Moved by compassion, she ministers to the individual as well as to the corporate body, inspiring with major themes such as, deeper levels of worship, defense of God's character, development of prayer, faith and hope in the believer's life, and advocacy for the next generation. Prayer and spiritual warfare have become special topics of teaching in seminars and retreats. She is presently authoring a book on prayer.

INTENTIONAL MONEY MANAGEMENT

Are you worried about the current economy? Do you fear your financial future? Does budgeting drive you crazy? Do you have too much month left when the money runs out? Avoiding it will not solve the problem. *"Don't live carelessly, unthinkingly, make sure you understand what the Master wants"* (Eph.5:17) Did you know there are more than 2,000 verses in the bible that address everything you need to know about how to handle money? In this workshop, we will discover what God's Word has to say about spending, saving, giving, borrowing, lending, budgeting & more. This could be the day you head in a new direction and thought pattern, and discover what true financial freedom is really all about.

Doreen Eaton and her husband Ron have been married for 29 years. They have three grown daughters and one granddaughter. Doreen has been a member of South Attleboro Assembly of God for over 25 years and has been actively involved in various ministries, including, adult Sunday school teacher, Sunday school Superintendent and leading the Ladies Bible Study. She was the WM R.I. Sectional Rep for 8 years. Doreen will share practical application of daily money management, gleaned from her years of experience in accounting and operation of a small business.

INTENTIONAL PARENTING

Sick of feeling like your home life is out of control? Overwhelmed with the daily tasks and duties of motherhood? Join Christian parenting author Michelle LaRowe for a high energy, blues busting workshop! From setting up structure to deliberately disciplining your kids, you'll learn tried and true techniques for intentionally parenting your kids. Come discover how purposeful parenting can get you, your home, your husband and your kids back on track.

Michelle LaRowe Conover is the 2004 International Nanny Association *Nanny of the Year* and is the author of the *Nanny to the Rescue* parenting series, and *Working Mom's 411*. Michelle also contributes regularly to *Today's Pentecostal Evangel*, the official weekly magazine of the Assemblies of God. Michelle holds a Bachelor of Science degree in chemistry and a certificate in pastoral studies from Global University. Michelle has spent more than a decade as a professional nanny and parenting consultant. She is an active member of the nanny community and has served on the board of directors and as vice president of the International Nanny Association. She and her husband, Jeff, live on Cape Cod with their daughter, Abigail. Visit www.michellelarowe.com to learn more about Michelle.

INTENTIONAL PERSISTENCE

So life has become difficult—you feel like the heavens are brass—God is not listening! Nothing has changed in your circumstances, and you wonder “what’s the use of praying?” We have all been there; been through those times thinking nothing would change. The enemy says “Quit”, your emotions tell you to give up—it’s no use. Come hear a lady who will tell it like it is—Intentional Persistence. Is it a gift or do you learn it? Come find out in Ramona Crabtree’s workshop. Hopefully, your tears will become tears of joy—ashes turned to beauty—faith will have a large growth spurt!

Ramona Crabtree began piano lessons at age four, and became church pianist at age twelve, piano teacher at age 13, and was on radio daily through her junior and high school years. At a young age, she accepted Jesus as her Savior, and in her young heart, came a strong desire to be a minister’s wife and to have a music ministry. While attending Evangel College she met her handsome husband, Charles T. Crabtree, who was attending Central Bible College. They have completed 50 plus years of marriage with three beautiful daughters, Renee, Rachel, and Rhonda, who have given them eleven wonderful grandchildren. Ramona has served faithfully by her husband’s side as a Pastor’s wife, Evangelist’s wife, an Executive Official’s wife, and now wife of the President of Zion Bible College. Through the years, she was a Bible teacher in Sunday school, Home Bible Studies for Women, has spoken for numerous Women’s Retreats and Conferences across the nation, and was the Minister of Music for a few years when her husband pastored in Des Moines, IA. She is a recording artist with several CD’s which have blessed many people around the world. Missionaries have carried them to foreign countries to use in their services.

INTENTIONAL PRAYER: “This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us.” 1 John 5:14

People long to connect with someone who can identify with their circumstances and share in their day-to-day life. Prayer is a personal experience and intimate connection with our loving Heavenly Father. It doesn't matter who we are, where we are, and what posture we use when we pray with sincerity, giving praise, honor and adoration to God. The Bible teaches us in Hebrews 4:16 to “*approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.*” When we pray with expectancy and confidence, there is no prayer that remains unanswered when we pray according to the will of God. Through prayer, God can open our eyes, change our hearts, heal our wounds, and grant us wisdom. Whatever our needs may be, we can take it to God in prayer, knowing that He is willing and able to answer whatever we ask of Him as long as it is according to His will.

Magalie Rebecca was born in Port-au-Prince, and gave her heart to the Lord at age 10. At 11 years old, God gave her a vision that she would be used in ministry some day. At 18 years old, she met her future husband, Jean Nixon and was married 5 years later. Through the Power of Prayer, the Lord miraculously blessed them with a son, Ricardo, 17, who has been drummer for the worship team since the church was established in Brockton, Massachusetts. Magalie has been standing by her husband's side in the ministry for 20 years. In 1994, God used an embargo to keep them in the United States, and in 1999, they answered God's call and started a Haitian Ministry at Brockton Assembly of God with 5 people in attendance. The ministry rapidly grew to 150 and became a Home Missions Church in 2003. HAG is still growing and maturing as a District Affiliated Church. In September 2008, they planted another church in Dorchester, Massachusetts. Magalie, is a Reimbursement Specialist, and currently a student at the SNED School of Ministry, She continues to teach, preach, and lead prayers and worship services at the Haitian Assembly of God.

INTENTIONAL RELEASE – RELEASING YOUR WILL FOR GOD'S

God's will is that none perish. How do we keep our attitude and actions in line with God's will? What does an attitude and action that is in line with God's will, look like? **Victoria Eggeman** grew up in a Pastor's home where she was challenged at an early age to live her life fully abandoned to God. She attended public high school and was active in the Youth Alive club. This was where "the rubber met the road" for her commitment to do what God asked of her. She attended Zion Bible College, and during her final year, she interned with Judy Mensch and Kidzark. In her senior year, she became the Associate Pastor at LifePoint Church in Lynn, MA. That same year, Victoria received her credentials from the Assemblies of God. While on staff at LPC, she met her husband, Rob. After several years of working with the city of Lynn's children, Victoria and Rob decided to become foster parents, and shortly after, her teen cousins came into state custody in Nevada, and Rob and Victoria opened their home to them. With this change in their household, Victoria moved out of her ministerial position and into a career in real estate. Most recently, Victoria and Rob added a little girl to their family in August 2008. Victoria is a stay-at-home mom to Juliana and Patrick, remains active with her real estate hobby, maintains her credentials with the Assemblies of God, and serves as the Director of Assimilation at LifePoint Church.

INTENTIONAL SONG

From the desperate storms that invade our lives to the tremendous heights we encounter, the Spirit of God desires to put a song in our hearts to carry us through each season. Whether it be a song of despair, a song of mourning, a song of hope, or a song of victory, God has commanded joy to be a part of the believers story. As a result of this workshop, women will be able to identify the storm, conquer the storm, and find praise through the storm. In conclusion to the teachings found in the workshop, Zion senior Emily Ford will perform an original song written in the midst of her storm as an example of Gods keeping power over those who will depend on Him.

Molly Manarello is a recent graduate of Zion Bible College where she majored in Biblical Theology and minored in Christian Education. In addition, Molly received her credentials through the Assemblies of God in May of 2009. One day she hopes to work with teenage girls outside of the church through such organizations as Teen Challenge, Pregnancy Crisis Centers, or other such avenues in order that she might bring the hope of Jesus Christ to a lost and hurting generation. Molly has been working under the leadership and mentorship of Reverend Tana Miller through the Southern New England District Women's Ministries. Through her experience, she has gleaned wisdom, a love for servant-hood, and an increased zealousness for the things of God. Molly will be married to Chris Hurtado by Tana's husband, Guy Miller, this September in Chocorua, New Hampshire and they look forward to the ministry opportunities that lay of them.

INTENTIONAL SPIRIT-FILLED LIFE – *“Be Filled with the Spirit”* Ephesians 5:18

One great preacher said, “You must fill a man or woman with something”. In this session we will Biblically examine what it looks like to be filled with the Spirit of God. If we are honest, many times we are filled with sinful desires, depression, stress, anxiety, doubt, fear, and confusion. In a world of differing opinions, God's word still invites us to be filled with Him. The Spirit filled life is not “an emotional experience”, but a daily and deliberate choice of our will to give complete control of our lives to God – spirit, soul and body. Being filled with the Spirit is a choice to deliberately sow to please God. We will reap a harvest according to what we sow. We will look closely at our belief system about the Holy Spirit because what we believe is the key!

Rebecca Dahlstrom (“Becky”) grew up in a Christian home and responded to God's call as a teenager. In 1975, she graduated from Zion Bible College, married Gordon, and together they began their ministry in Maryland where Becky was involved in children's and women's ministries and discipleship groups. In 1987, Becky and her husband returned to the Southern New England District where they served A/G churches in Massachusetts and Connecticut. Currently Becky and her husband serve at Zion Bible College in Haverhill, MA where she is Student Billing Manager and advisor to the senior class. Becky's passion is preaching and teaching God's Word. She ministers to women's groups, at retreats, is a Bible study leader, and teaches classes for mothers. She recently returned from a mission's trip to Romania where she had opportunities to teach God's word. She has been married 34 years, has three children who are involved in ministry and two “precious” grandsons.

INTENTIONAL SUBMISSION: Are You Kidding Me?

Who remembers the old Enjoli commercial that says, "I can bring home the bacon and fry it u trying to do it all and be it all, which can lead to a self-reliant and often times unyielding heart attitude. Jesus tells us to follow Him, but what if He wants us to follow Him into a submissive lifestyle? Is it possible for us to be strong and confident women, yet be submissive, or are these just contradictory terms? The first step in this process is to understand what submission is and what it isn't. True biblical submission takes a great deal of strength and character to outwork. It is not for the faint-hearted or weak-willed! It is not dependent upon your personality style or station in life. In this workshop, we will look at what the Apostle Peter learned along his journey as he began to understand that submission was vital to leading a peace-filled life. I believe that if we learn the same principles, we will walk in the kind of inner confidence and graciousness that is precious

Tina Sorel was raised in Sharon, MA. As a teenager, she became a new creation in Christ, and was baptized in the Holy Spirit in June of 1981. She was married in 1985 and has 3 beautiful children: Andrew, Matthew, and Brianna. After some difficult decisions, she went through a divorce in 1996. Tina married again and is now living in Freetown with her husband Wayne. Tina graduated from college with a degree in Physical Therapy and is currently employed as the Director of Rehabilitative Services at a residential facility for handicapped children and adults. Tina and her family are members of Christian Fellowship Center (CFC) in New Bedford, MA. Throughout the past 30 years as a Christian, she has served in many areas of church ministry where she is currently the Leader of Ministry to the Women and Girls at C.F.C. Tina is also the SNED Women's Ministry Rep for the Southeastern Massachusetts Section.

INTENTIONAL VISION

Much like in our natural life's journey, our ability to see clearly, spiritually has a way of becoming somewhat blurry at times. An effective INTENTIONAL woman is one who must be both near-sighted, as well as far sighted. If you are anything like me, you may stubbornly press on in the doing of what's right in front of you, while ignoring the obvious challenge you are having with keeping a proper focus and clear perspective for why you're even doing it in the first place! If you're finding your "spiritual arm" is extended as far as it can go before you can even focus on what's spiritually right in front of you, then it's time to swallow your pride and go see THE EYE DOCTOR and get that vision checked! Don't worry what you might find out. God has a variety of ways to help keep our FOCUS and PERSPECTIVE clear for the rest of our spiritual journey. If you can relate, I hope to SEE you at Retreat!

Janis Collette is an ordained minister with the Southern New England District and has been co-pastoring with her husband Gary at Bread of Life A/G for the past 17 years. Originally from Queens, New York, Janis was gloriously born again in 1986 at the age of 24. After many years of abusing drugs and alcohol due to deep shame and rejection, she encountered the Lover of her soul, Jesus Christ. She is also a graduate of Zion Bible College, where she met her husband. It is her life's INTENTION to make Him known and to pour into His Bride the Word of truth in preparation of His coming.

INTENTIONALLY WAITING SISTERHOOD OF THE ITCHY PANTS

Couldn't you just scream in frustration some times, because you had to wait? As a society we are more and more impatient. We have become accustomed to getting what we want, when we want it. God does not operate that way. How can waiting be active and with faith? What does that look like? Waiting on prayers we have prayed for years, and some we prayed yesterday. Watching for the fulfillment of a promise the Lord gave us a long time ago. How do we not let the waiting distract us or sometimes cut our legs out from under us? We will look at what God says about waiting, and how some have waited. Proactively waiting is not an oxymoron. I can't wait!

Martha Blunt came to know the Lord as a freshman in college.

She met her husband in the college group at church and they were married in 1982. The Lord called her husband into full time ministry, and in 1986 they left Massachusetts for Baton Rouge, Louisiana to attend Bible College. After Bible College they moved to Reno, Nevada to be Don Rudolph's assistant Pastor until 1992 when they returned to their home church Brockton Assembly of God and were on staff for 10 years. 8 years ago they took a church in South Deerfield, Mass where they minister today. Martha and her husband John have 2 children that somehow turned into wonderful adults. Christen age 23 and John Mark age 19. Martha has been on several trips with Healthcare Ministries traveling to South Africa, Zimbabwe and Brazil helping to set up dental clinics. She manages the clinical aspects of a satellite endodontics practice in Greenfield, Massachusetts.

INTENTIONAL LOVE

God has not forgotten. When life brings circumstances beyond your control, you can rise above and live life to the fullest with his steady strength. Listen to what God is doing in the lives of the forgotten children in Southern New England. You will be touched and see that loving a child through God's eyes will nurture and restore them. Intentionally loving a child who needs a home will change you forever. Donna and Amy have intentionally loved and in return will never be the same. Come hear their stories.

Amy Clark grew up in the South Shore of Southern New England, was called into full-time ministry as a teen, and graduated cum laude from Valley Forge Christian College. She has worked in ministry for 16 years with youth and children, and has her minister's license with the Assemblies of God. She serves on the board for Wings of Love, Inc. and has been working alongside the Massachusetts Department of Children and Families, caring for infants and toddlers, as well as supporting families in the fostering/adoption process.

Donna DeSantis has been married to Steve for 17 years, and they have pastored in Warwick, RI for 16 yrs. They have 2 biological children, Ashley, 14, Joshua 11, and have adopted 4 siblings, Isaiah, 10, Diego 8, Devan 6 and Hailey 4. Donna and Steve are licensed foster parents in RI and desire to bring an awareness to the family of God of the immense need for the church to step forward and reach the thousands of children in foster care. These children so desperately need the love a Christian family can provide and the message that God does love them and have a plan for their lives. Could that plan include you?