

THEME FOR 2017

DRAWING CLOSER TO GOD

You've got to be kidding me! I have to write an article and curate a newsletter to get the entire church in agreement and excited about the theme for this year at a point in my life when I feel furthest away from God!

As you may recall, only a short while ago in the November issue, I testified about my healing. I was taken off medications. I started to gradually regain my energy. Things were looking up. Then, BAM!! Like a freight train at high speed, out of nowhere I was sick again. I woke up on Friday, Jan 6th, with my entire body covered in hives. Why is this happening to me when I just testified to God's healing power in my life?

Have you ever had a big win for the Kingdom and then almost immediately something occurs that seem as though "all hell is breaking loose"? You wonder where God is. After a long battle then experiencing a great victory we often triumphantly think it's over now. Then something happens to remind us we're still on the battlefield.

This is the point where many people give up. They stop praying, reading the Word and start losing hope. Guess what? For the enemy its Mission Accomplished!

These struggles aren't unique to us. If you've ever felt (or still feel) disconnected from God and wondering why certain things are happening in your life when you're doing everything "right", you're not alone. You are in good company.

In 1 KINGS 18 we read how the Prophet Elijah had not one, not even two, but FOUR major victories:

- 1) He proved God's power is greater and He is the one True Living God when he destroyed the altar with fire
- 2) He destroyed the prophets of Baal
- 3) He prayed for rain after a three year drought and it came and...
- 4) He outran a king's chariot and horses over a very long distance.

Things were going very well for the prophet. There's no doubt after experiencing such victories, it's safe to assume Elijah was on a high.

However, as we've experienced so often, the high didn't last



long for him. Al- most immediately his life was in danger. It became Queen Jezebel's sole mission to kill the prophet for what he did to her prophets of Baal. It forced Elijah into hiding, living in caves. This is not the way we imagine a war hero living after accomplishing great and mighty things. Yet here Elijah was, such a mighty man of valor living in a cave with a bounty on his head.

But wait, the story doesn't end there. In 1 KINGS 19 we witness like us:

- 1) Elijah was afraid (vs 3a); 2) Like us he isolated himself (vs 3b); 3) Like us, he got frustrated and complained

(vs 4a); 4) AND like us he felt like giving up (vs 4b).

In the midst of his human despair, God revealed himself to Elijah. First, He gave him natural provision to sustain his body (vs 5-8). Then, He gave Elijah spiritual provision through His Word by instructing him on how to continue his service WITH CONFIDENCE (vs 9-18). All Elijah had to do was OBEY. Obedience didn't come easily though. In vs 15 the Lord instructed Elijah to "go back the way he came."

"Ummm hello, Lord that's not exactly going to work," would be our response. Naturally, we don't want to return to a place of pain, disappointment, failure, or even danger, but, that's exactly what God instructed Elijah to do and that's EXACTLY what He is instructing us to do. Why? So we can prove for ourselves and to the world that He is ALL POWERFUL and no harm will befall us when He is defending us.

So now I must also "go back the way I came". It turns out the hives I'm experiencing are as a result of some serious complications with my liver. To the natural eye, it may seem as though I'm regressing in my health. However, after studying the story of Elijah, I am confident that this is the path of victory I must take in service to our King.

I've decided no matter what I may face on this journey, I will continue to DRAW CLOSER TO GOD and rest in Him so He can continue to sustain me providing everything I need to be victorious. I encourage you brothers and sisters to do the same.

Written by *Ayah Broome*



the spotlight shines on

ELDER PETER GERMAN

iServe & God Delivered

There once was a man that I knew, whose confidence was in his 357 magnum in one hand and Glock in the other. That man was void of emotions and didn't care about living or dying. He never thought he would see the age of 30 because his own father was murdered at the age of 23 on his 3rd birthday.

That man I once knew found himself behind bars and caged like an animal several times, involved in every criminal activity under the sun AND finding himself numb to life. You see, that man had been robbed at gunpoint. Shot at point blank range several times but the bullet never found its mark on him. That man was stabbed and received 100 plus stitches in his chest. But, rather than stopping his foul living, he felt invincible and went harder with a reckless abandon taking life and death chances to become rich.

He didn't care whom he hurt and never kept a true friend. Yes, this man was so scandalous he hated his own mother and didn't feel

thing for anyone but his own offspring. It just so happened, over a course of a week, that man I once knew was dreaming he was going to be murdered and decided to go to a holiness church to pray that God would take care of his son when he died. Little did he know, God had different plans.

With long ponytails and pants sagging off his bottom, that man I once knew attended church, the first time in thirteen years. The preacher started preaching and that man listened in amazement. How did he know so much about this man's life? As the Pastor continued preaching it was as though we was preaching directly to that man.

That man couldn't understand why he kept returning to church, but it was clear something powerful was luring this man back. One Sunday he even testified and said, "I've been in the fire and woke up to a loud knock and I knew it was GOD knocking, and, if not for that knock, I would have burned to death".

Even with such insight (and warning), the man I once knew wasn't ready to surrender, yet, he repeated the

prayer of salvation after the Pastor. That gangster fell on his knees and cried out thank you! All of a sudden a NEW man emerged speaking in tongues. That new man is ME - who I am today in Christ is a brand new person. That old gangster is dead.

Today I'm filled with the FIRE of The Holy Ghost, kicking the gates of hell open and snatching my brothers and sisters from all walks of life out of a life of destruction.

Drawing closer to God was my secret. I developed an insatiable hunger for His Word. The closer I drew to Him, I received the strength and wisdom to clean up my life. I serve God today with the same gusto I served my selfish ambitions and the streets in my past life.

The wages of my sinful life was death BUT today the gift of God to me for surrendering and drawing closer to Him is eternal life through Christ Jesus my Lord.

Written by: Elder Peter German Edited by: Ayah Broome

iROCK IN HOPE

Overwhelmed with the cares of life I look forward with great expectations. Misunderstandings that cause strife Are resolved with hope's anticipation.

Feelings of loneliness, Emptiness, Left in the wilderness, Are conquered by hope's confidence.

The report is in And my health is not at its' best. It is Him on whom I depend And hope is where I rest.

Depression creeps in To arrest my mind. I call on Him! Hope is what I find.

Expenses are high Finances are low. God's promise apply I'll sow a seed of hope.

Family struggles Seemingly hopeless. My remedy for trouble? Hope is my focus.

Hopelessness is an illusion of the enemy That robs peace and serenity. It is not my destiny. Therefore I draw closer to Christ, He is my guarantee.

He already paid the price His hope is in me.

There's a light at the end of the tunnel! Going into the Promised Land Hope overriding trouble. That is the Lords plan.

That didn't come from a horoscope The promise came because iRock in Hope.

Poem written by: Sis Leslie Brown

UNLOCK

Discover the secret
to drawing closer
to God.

THE CODE

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
	16	9			2	18	25		8	5	26	7	3		23	20	24	13			22	14	21		17

 13 23 15 3 8 20 1 12 26 4 11 19 11 4 7 15 14 4 11 25

 25 4 7 6 12 4 26 19 12 3 6 10 16 15 19

DIRECTIONS:

This puzzle is called a Cryptogram. At the top there is a KEY that lists all the letters from A thru Z with a box below. Each of the letters has a corresponding number. The bottom part contains a secret phrase. Each of the blanks has a number underneath it. Fill in the letters that correspond to the numbers below the blanks to solve the phrase.

A TEENAGER'S GUIDE TO INTIMACY WITH GOD

- 1 Go to your secret place and talk to him.**
A secret place is a special place where you can talk to God without any distractions or interruptions. It's just you and God.
- 2 Don't hold anything back.**
Say whatever it is you need to say and ask him questions. Just be honest and don't be embarrassed. He understands and wants to help.
- 3 Read His Word. It really works!**
It'll guide you and teach you about who He is. What better way to create an intimate relationship than by learning about Him .
- 4 Sing praises to Him!**
Opening your heart in worship is always a great way to draw closer to God because you have His Spirit in you and in that moment you are vulnerable and attentive to his voice.

*Written by:
Sis Kandice Brown*

A LOVE LETTER FROM GOD

My child come closer
Come feel my love for you.
Come feel my desire
My passion that I have for you.

For I hear your heart and its neediness. I feel your emptiness, your desire to be loved. Oh will you not come close and feel my love from above?

How I want you near me I want to take you behind the veil. A place that you have never been before, A place where intimacy lies and true ecstacy waits for you.

For I have loved you
Before you ever knew me.
I gave up everything

So you can be close to me.
Now hear me my beloved child Please come closer to me. Let me bless you as you bless me as we spend time together.

Let me reach into the depths of your soul and lift you up higher. So please receive this invitation and come closer my child....

DRAW CLOSER!

*Written by:
Sis Jasmine Martin*



iSUBMIT IN FASTING

Earlier this year we entered into a season of fasting, let us Remember our purpose.

Let us remember fasting is an opportunity to humble ourselves of many of the pleasurable amenities of life such as eating, certain entertainment and extraneous social interaction for a prescribed period.

We often neglect God by over-indulging in His gifts. There is nothing magical about fasting. The purpose of fasting is to call us away from those busy places in our lives to hear clearly from God.

Fasting does not change God. It changes us! We are asking for a closer walk with Him. It is important that you set (written) intentions when we fast. I pray before embarking on our last

season of prayer and fasting, before writing down your goals, you took some time before the Lord in prayer and asked Him to reveal to your heart what He would like to minister to you during our time of consecration.

Even though our time of consecration as a body has ended, your private time seeking Him in prayer and fasting ought not to. I implore you to make it a habit this year to draw closer to God through frequent prayer and fasting.

God bless you and I pray the very best for you as you continue to set aside time to give the first of yourself to Almighty God. Remember, He rewards those who diligently seek Him. So keep your mind on Christ and your focus on righteousness.

*Written by:
Evangelist Pastor Kathy Purdom*

Prayer Schedule

Below is a schedule with our watchwords for each week at the Rock of the Valley for this quarter. We encourage you to stand on your post in intercession and watch God work!

Week Of...	Prayer Focus	Memory Verse(s)
3/26/2017	Christ died for us	1 Jn 3:11-17
4/2/2017	Love one another	1 Jn 3:18-24
4/9/2017	God's steadfast love	Ps 40:1-10
4/16/2017	The source of all love	1 Jn 4:4:7-19
4/23/2017	Self-discipline for Holy Living	1 Pet 1:13-21
4/30/2017	Walking in truth & love	2 Jn 4-11
5/7/2017	Becoming ONE in Christ	Eph 2:11-21
5/14/2017	Abiding in God's love	1 Jn 4:16b-19
5/21/2017	God's love manifested	Jn 15:1-17
5/28/2017	The best fruit for a good life.	Gal 5:22-26

ABOUT THE NEWSLETTER

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The ROTV Newsletter is a quarterly publication. Our goal is to encourage, educate and engage.

We are always on the lookout for fresh & inspiring content. To contribute to the newsletter please contact:

Ayah Broome at SimplyAyah@gmail.com.

LOVE IS...
Everyone desires health, great relationships & financial security. BUT, not everyone, despite their best efforts, know how to attain it.
Learn how to become a Master of Life In our June's issue.