

Compassionate Outreach Ministries



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*We Are Reaching Out,
 Not Out Of Reach*

C.O.M Book

The C.O.M. Book Club will discuss *Boundaries* by Dr. Henry Cloud on Friday, October 12th from 6pm to 7pm. If you would like to join, just read the book and show up at the meeting.

So You've Been Offended! Now What?

Know that offenses are a normal part of life. Offenses are going to come. Read St. Luke 17:1. Jesus instructed his disciples to expect offenses. It should not rock our world's that people have offended us.

Be disciplined. Jeremiah was offended by the false prophet Hananiah. Read Jeremiah Chapter 28. Hananiah called Jeremiah a liar and broke the yoke from Jeremiah's neck. Jeremiah said amen and walked away. He did not say anything else until God gave him the words to speak. Jeremiah had control of his emotions. A man without rule over his spirit is like a city without wall. Learn to hold your tongue and walk away.

Draw near to God. Peninah offended Hannah and it eventually led her to draw closer to the Lord. Read I Samuel Chapter 1. Hannah was barren and Peninah rubbed it in, consistently and over time. Hannah was offended and she cried out to God. Let those who provoke you, provoke you to draw near to God. As you draw closer to Him, He will give you what you need to get through the situation.

Forgive. If you want God to forgive you for your sins, you must forgive those who offend you. We serve a merciful God and he forgives us time and time again, if we truly repent. As children of God, we must resemble our father. The enemy wants us to hold a grudge, but God has called us to forgive. *(Bro David & Sister Naima Prince)*

Healthy Hearts: Stress

Stress is one of our society's greatest dilemmas. Stress is that feeling you experience when life is closing in on you with too many responsibilities, expectations, personal goals, changes, instabilities and life struggles. Our souls have grown empty. Our relationships have deteriorated and our spirits have withered. So how do we remedy the situation?

Put God back in the picture. We need to begin with God who made us to be in relationship with Him and others, who gave us a hunger inside for Him and His purpose in our lives. We need God. We are made to know God. We need Him to communicate with us. We need God to fill our hearts and lives. We need His power for living. Jesus Christ said, "Come to me all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28). Take time out to know God. Read your Bible. Seek His face. Think about what Christ has done for you. Rejoice in your faith. If you are not sure whether you know Christ personally, ask Him to come into your heart, trust Him for forgiveness of sins and eternal life.

Reprioritize your life. Drop some activities which are not serving God's purpose and/or may be causing you undue stress. Take time to connect with Jesus Christ and His family in a solid Christian church. What activities can you cut down on that aren't absolutely necessary and take a lot of your energy? Taking care of yourself and your family may be the most important goals for you now.

Revitalize. Do you have some activities which inspire you such as going to church, or doing something which is meaningful or creative? Reading your Bible will inspire you. Getting closer to God through prayer and fellowship in a local, healthy church will revitalize your life! Jesus said, "I have come that you might have life and have it more abundantly" (John 10:10). Growing in a relationship with Him will bring new hope, energy and perspective into your life.

Take care of yourself. Exercise, sleep seven-eight hours at night and eat nutritiously. You will begin to feel more hopeful, more peaceful and encouraged as your soul and spirit are renewed.

Get a physical exam to see if there are any other health problems contributing to your stress symptoms. *(Submitted by C.O.M. Health Ministry; Adapted From Christian Women Today)*

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COMPASSIONATE OUTREACH MINISTRIES

Heart-To-Heart Newsletter

Dear Bishop Dennison

Q. I am a 32-year old Christian woman with a good job. I volunteer in the church in two different areas and I am raising two wonderful children. Even with all of this, I do not feel like I know my purpose. Some people, even those younger than me, just know what they are supposed to do. These people seem to pursue purpose with passion and God opens the doors of opportunity for them. At my age, I feel like I should know my purpose, and yet I do not. What steps should I take to learn my purpose? Thanks in advance for your response.



Bishop Larry J. Dennison

A. *The answer to your question is found in your question: "These people seem to pursue purpose with passion." In order for us to learn our purpose, we must pursue purpose with passion. Passion is the energy of our soul; intense emotion compelling action; and a strong devotion to an activity or concept. It is enthusiasm combined with zeal. Here are some steps that you should take to pursue your purpose.*

1. Realize that passion is the deciding difference. Passion makes the difference in our lives.
2. Associate with people of passion: people that are passion-driven and purpose-driven.
3. Recognize that consistent passion comes from within. It is not dependent on changing circumstances. The bible says in Galatians 4:18, "But it is good to be zealously affected always in a good thing, and not only when I am present with you."
4. There must be a thirsting and seeking for God's will to be done in our lives. We must have a real or genuine love for the time that we spend with God and in His word, delighting in His presence. This should not be perceived as a duty.
5. Continue to apply the word of truth to every situation and accept the entirety of God's word as truth.
6. We must have a continued heart of repentance and forgiveness.

When we have done the things that I have mentioned, it will enable us to clarify our pasts and discover our future. Then, we can pursue our calling and we will fulfill our purpose.

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Dates To Remember

September 29-30	Women's Conference
October	Clergy Appreciation Month
October 12	C.O.M. Book Club
October 27	Men's Fellowship Softball
November 3	Information Meeting
November 3	Women's Fellowship Picnic
November 6	First Lady Dennison's Birthday
November 7-9	Revival
November 17	Men's Fellowship Turkey Bowl

Featured Speaker For The 2007 Women's Conference

The 2007 Women's Conference at Compassionate Outreach Ministries is right around the corner. Be sure to get your tickets early and invite your family and friends because this year's featured speaker is Dr. Carolyn Love, also known as the Love Doctor. Dr. Love is a dynamic speaker who has the awesome ability to provoke, challenge, inspire, motivate, and educate God's people. If you are hungry and thirsty for righteousness, and if you desire to walk in total victory, don't miss this opportunity to learn from this great Woman of God.

Dr. Love serves as Co-Pastor of Truth For Living Ministries, President of Truth Bible College, and Executive Director of TFLM/Greater Progressive Community Development, Inc. She is married to her husband of twenty-nine years, Dr. Leonard D. Love, Senior Pastor of Truth For Living Ministries. Even more, she personally provides support and counseling ministry to Pastors' wives and women in leadership all around the world.

Dr. Love has written many training and teaching courses used in Bible Colleges and Seminaries. She has also produced two popular videos and workbooks - SEX and the Married Christian Woman. Her teaching ministry consists of an extensive list of training cassette tapes, which have been very effective in "teaching faithful men and women to do better and teach others." This year, Dr. Love published her first book, *Favor Rewrote My Life*. The book explores how the pursuit of righteousness and holiness provokes the favor of God. Dr. Love will be speaking at the C.O.M. Women's Banquet on Saturday Sept. 29th at the Hilton Hotel and in the morning service at Compassionate Outreach Ministries on Sept. 30th. (Adapted from www.drCarolynLove.com).



Dr. Carolyn Love

The Arms Of Compassionate: Transportation Ministry

The Transportation Ministry is committed to providing safe transportation for members and visitors who, otherwise, would not be able to attend church services at Compassionate Outreach Ministries. This arm of ministry is co-coordinated by Brother Gilford Carter and Brother Fredrick Searcy. The transportation ministry is currently in need of volunteer drivers. To be a van driver, a member must have a Class D driver's license, a good driving record, a telephone, knowledge of the Gainesville area and an ability to plan the most efficient route for picking up all passengers in a timely fashion. According to Brother Carter, "A good driver demonstrates the spirit of the house. They represent the character of Bishop Dennison at all times. As we drive around the Gainesville area in our red and white bus, we have our Bishop's picture on the van and when people see us, they see our ministry. We represent that." Each van driver serves about once or twice per month. If you need transportation to church or if you are interested in serving in this arm of ministry, please contact Brother Carter or Brother Searcy.

Food Pantry



Compassionate Outreach Ministries is committed to feeding the poor. Members are encouraged to consistently donate non-perishable food items and grocery store gift certificates to aid the ministry in reaching out. Begin to make it a weekly or bi-weekly habit. A food collection box is located in the foyer and donations can be dropped at the office during normal business hours. Remember, Jesus said in Matt 25:34-40: "Then I, the King, shall say to those at my right, 'Come, blessed of my Father, into the Kingdom prepared for you from the founding of the world. For I was hungry and you fed me; I was thirsty and you gave me water; I was a stranger and you invited me into your homes; naked and you clothed me; sick and in prison, and you visited me.'" Then these righteous ones will reply, 'Sir, when did we ever see you hungry and feed you? Or thirsty and give you anything to drink? Or a stranger, and help you? Or naked, and clothe you? When did we ever see you sick or in prison, and visit you?' "And I, the King, will tell them, 'When you did it to these my brothers you were doing it to me!'

October Is Clergy Appreciation Month

October has been recognized around the globe as Clergy Appreciation Month. This month presents a great opportunity to say "thank you" to the servants of God who have made a difference in your life. Because the bible commands us in I Timothy 5:17, to "Let the elders who rule well be counted worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in truth and doctrine," we know that it is appropriate to show appreciation for our spiritual leaders throughout the entire year. Seven ways to show your appreciation are listed below.

PRAY. Prayer is the most powerful weapon you can use to help your pastor and his family. The pastor and his family experience problems like everyone else. Take time to ask the Lord to bless them in their very important ministry.

LEARN FROM YOUR PASTOR'S MESSAGE. Apply the truth of your pastor's preaching to specific areas of your life. Try each day to work on your relationship with God, and you'll honor your pastor and the lessons that he has taught.

GET INVOLVED. Your pastor works hard to turn your congregation into a true community. Reward him by taking an active part in church programs and activities.

BE COMPASSIONATE. Pastors are just as human as the rest of us. Show as much compassion for them and their problems as they would show for yours.

GIVE POSITIVE FEEDBACK. Let your pastor know when one of the sermons that he preached has been a blessing to you or how the example that he set served to help you make the right decision.

SAY THANK YOU. Write a heartfelt letter, send a sincere thank you card, or purchase a thoughtful gift to let your pastor know that he is appreciated.

HONOR HIS FAMILY. Give honor to your pastor by honoring his family. Remember, they make a lot of sacrifices for the ministry too. (Adapted from hawaiiforum.org).

A Golden Nugget For The Married Folks

Oftentimes in marriage, both the husband and the wife want to get a point across and neither hears what the other is saying. All spouses should take heed to the lesson on listening found in James 1:19 "Therefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath."

Special Recognition

HAPPY WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

Mr. James & Mrs. Kim Barton	8 years	10/16
Mr. Dennis & Mrs. Carla Blount	17 years	9/1
Mr. Lee Ray & Mrs. Deborah J. Harden	13 years	9/3
Mr. Gerald & Mrs. Kym Mobley	23 years	10/12
Mr. Rodney & Mrs. Terrie Robinson	17 years	9/1
Mr. Darrell & Mrs. Glenda Russell	25 years	10/1
Mr. Michael & Mrs. Roschella Rutledge	18 years	9/22
Mr. Charles & Mrs. Maxine Rutledge	3 years	8/29
Mr. Jeffrey & Mrs. Rita Williams	15 years	10/2

*Dear Bishop & First Lady Dennison, We recognize you as our spiritual leaders. We love you. We value you. We appreciate you. We thank God for you. We ask God to richly bless you, your marriage, your children, your ministry, your health and your finances. We support your calling and we submit to your vision. We honor you because of the difference that you have made in our lives. We see your sacrifice and your obedience and we are grateful for it. We are proud of you for the decisions that you make. We are glad to be in the right place, at the right time. We know that we have the right Bishop and the right First Lady. Sincerely,
The C.O.M. Family*

Happy Birthday

To Everyone Born
in the Months of
September & October

We Love You, We Do!

Bible Memory Verse

Acts 1:8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.