

**Compassionate Outreach Ministries**



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*We Are Reaching Out,  
Not Out Of Reach*

**Women's Retreat**

This year's Women's Fellowship Retreat is being held June 26-28th in Montgomery, Ala. Fees for the trip are due by June 1st. Get ready for an enjoyable and life-changing excursion!

**O Taste And See That The Lord Is Good**

**Seared Pork Chops Over Rice Pilaf**

By Sister Brenda Lyons



Ingredients

- 2-4 pork chops
- 1 box of Zatarain's Rice Pilaf
- 12 oz. box of frozen green peas
- 1/2 cup of Italian Dressing
- Paprika
- Olive Oil

Directions

- Marinate pork chops in Italian dressing for 10-20 minutes
- Prepare Zatarain's Rice Pilaf per box instructions
- Add 1/2 box of peas to rice before covering to simmer
- Heat 1 tablespoon of olive oil in skillet
- Remove pork chops from Italian dressing and sprinkle with paprika on both sides
- Brown pork chops in the skillet (3 minutes per side, no longer than 7 minutes in total)
- Put rice in the center of the plate and 1 pork chop on each side.

*(Look for a delicious and easy recipe from Sis. Brenda Lyons in each newsletter)*

**Evaluating Friendships**

ble or intangible. We need friendships with people that deposit good words, good deeds and good ideas into our lives.

**Do my friends gossip about others?** Read Proverbs 25:18 A person that gossips is like a sword that cuts people and a sharp arrow that shoots a victim. Gossip is harmful to the person that is the subject but also to the speaker. It is a sin. If the person that you are in relationship with is a gossip, they probably gossip about you as well. It takes just as much energy to say something good and true about a person as it does to say something bad and false. We need friendships with people that recognize that there is life and death in the power of the tongue. We should all choose life!

**Do my friends share my spirit?** We want to be sure that we are equally yoked in our friendships. We want friends that have a similar spirit to our own. If you are passionate about the things of God (and you should be), you should have friends with the same passion. Read I Samuel 18 to examine the friendship between Jonathan and David. Before they met, Jonathan had been so excited about God that he went up against his enemies in the name of the Lord when everyone else was scared. God gave him the victory. Later, when he saw David do the same thing with the giant Goliath, Jonathan felt a love for David because they were alike in the spirit. Jonathan saw his own love for God in David and so his soul was knit with him. We need friends like this.

**Can I count on my friends for prayer ?** Read Daniel 2:1-14. A certain king had a dream but forgot what he had dreamt. He wanted the wise men of the land to not only interpret his dream but to tell him what the dream was. When the men were unable to do it, the king was furious and he threatened to kill them all. Daniel was confident that God was able to reveal the dream and the interpretation to him and he went into prayer. Daniel also called on his friends to pray for him. Daniel knew that praying friends are valuable friends. It is good to have an intimacy with those that have fellowship with God and an interest at the throne of grace.

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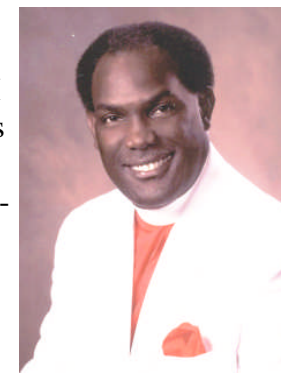


COMPASSIONATE OUTREACH MINISTRIES

**Heart-To-Heart Newsletter**

**Dear Bishop Dennison**

**Q.** The summer months are upon us and I am looking forward to attending my annual family reunion. I am concerned this year because I have received some questionable advice from my Brothers and Sisters in Christ about partaking in the activities planned. As a group, my family will have a banquet, a talent show (singing and dancing), a basketball tournament, a card playing tournament (spades and bid whist), a bar-b-que (where we always dance the electric slide) and a church service. In the past, I have enjoyed engaging in all of these things. However, some of my friends in the church have told me that participating in the family talent show is not right because it is not a gospel talent show. Also, they say that playing cards is wrong, even though we are not gambling. Finally, I have even been advised not to dance the electric slide with my family. I am certainly a Christian and I would like to please God. At this point, I am not convinced nor convicted that these things are wrong. Please provide me with a biblical understanding on these things before I attend. I sincerely want to do what is right and avoid things that are wrong. Is it really wrong to sing "We Are Family" in the talent show with my sisters? Is it really a sin to play cards at the reunion? Is it really a problem with dancing with my family? Thanks in advance for your answer.



Bishop Larry J. Dennison

**A.** *I Corinthians 6:12 says, "All things are lawful unto me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any." The bible says that some things are right in all cases, for example: love, patience, forgiveness, holiness, etc. The bible also says that some things are wrong in all cases, for example: drunkenness, slander, fornication, idolatry, adultery, etc. However, there are some things which the bible does not mention explicitly. These things can be considered disputable matters, like the issues addressed in your questions. I believe that as Christians we are to avoid any and all activities that are subject to be called into question by unbelievers and believers. This includes those activities mentioned in your questions. When facing disputable matters, ask yourself these questions. Will this activity lead me into sin? Will it glorify God. Will it build me or someone else spiritually? Does it follow Christ's example? Does it give me the opportunity to worship Christ?*

*(Continued on page 3)*

**Inside this issue:**

Dear Bishop Dennison	1
Arms of The Ministry	2
What Is A Mother	2
Evaluating Friendships	2
Men's Fellowship	3
Summer Camp	3
Special Recognition	3
Clergy Appreciation	3
Women's Retreat	4
O Taste And See	4

**Dates To Remember**

May 24-25	Men's Weekend Celebration
June 15	Father's Day
June 23-27	Vacation Bible School
June 26-28	Women's Retreat
July 5	Church Information Meeting
July 12	Unity Walk
August 3-8	W.O.R.D. Conference

## Arms of the Ministry

God loves a cheerful giver! A local bank is offering an incentive program that has the potential to offer financial power to Compassionate Outreach Ministries. When an individual opens up a free checking account at SunTrust, the bank will donate \$100.00 to the charity of the account holder's choice. The donation is made in the account holder's name.

According to Brother Eugene Jones, the coordinator of the SunTrust Program at Compassionate Outreach Ministries, "It is really a very small thing to do. It does not require a lot to open up a bank account. If only 300 members would participate in this program and select our church as the charity, we can collectively raise \$30,000. As much as God has done for us through Compassionate Outreach Ministries, none of us should hesitate. Members should be lined up in front of the bank when the bank opens tomorrow."

The conditions of the program are quite minor, but should be duly noted. First, the deadline to open an account that qualifies for the incentive donation is June 30th, 2008. Second, when an individual makes an application to open a free checking account, a credit check will be done and the applicant must be credit-worthy to be approved. Third, once the account is opened, the account holder must accept and use the Visa Check card to make a purchase using the card. Fourth, after the first purchase is made using the card, the account holder must complete and submit a redemption form to SunTrust Bank. Fifth, all redemption forms must be received by the bank by August 15th, 2008. Sixth, the offer is limited to one donation per household. And finally, accounts must be open and in good standing with a balance of at least \$1.00 at the time that incentive payments are made. All incentives will be mailed by September 30, 2008.

There are 5 SunTrust branches in the Gainesville area and most offer weekend hours too. If you are not able to make it in to a branch, you can open an account over the phone or by using the internet (there is a minimum deposit amount when using these options). Members may direct all questions about the program to Brother Eugene Jones. Also, please inform Brother Jones once you have opened your SunTrust account. What a very easy way to support the church that 1) teaches and preaches the full gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, 2) serves as an agency in the community to aide humanity with prayer, counseling, clothes, food and household items, and 3) witnesses souls delivered and made free from sin, minds elevated, broken hearts mended, bodies healed and miracles performed, all by the power of God.

## What Is A Mother?

A mother really knows you  
A mother really cares  
She keeps you in her fondest thoughts  
And always in her prayers  
She loves you very dearly  
As she has right from the start  
She is the one to turn to  
When you need a helping heart  
*Mother Inez McKinnon*

## Evaluating Friendships

It is not good for man to be alone. God has created us to be in fellowship with others. We are human and we have need for love, fellowship and relationship. We want our relationships to be pleasing to God and beneficial to our spirit man. It is good to evaluate the friendships that we have. Ask yourself the following questions to evaluate your friendships. **Do my friends encourage me to walk in holiness or do they give bad advice?** Read II Samuel 13:1-18. Amnon lusted after his ½ sister Tamar. He revealed this secret to his friend Jonadab. Unwise Jonadab advised Amnon to set up a scheme so that he could rape his sister. We need friends that will strengthen us when we are tempted and persuade us to follow the Word and not the flesh! Read Psalm 1:1. Blessed is the man that does not walk in the counsel of the ungodly. We need to avoid friendships that offer ungodly counsel.

**Do my friends make more deposits into or more withdrawals from your life?** Read Genesis 29:18-30. Jacob made a deal with his uncle Laban. Jacob would work for Laban so that Jacob could earn the hand of Rachel, Laban's daughter. Laban was not a man of integrity and his word was no good. He said one thing but meant another. Jacob gave and gave, but Laban paid him with his daughter Leah, instead of Rachel. Jacob worked seven more years to earn Rachel. Eventually he had to cut Laban off. He was giving much more than he was receiving. Some people only want to be in relationship with you because of the things that they can get. Deposits and withdrawals can be things that are tangi-

## Dear Bishop

*(Continued from page 1)*

*Let love limit your liberty. Even if you think that the activity is not sinning, consider the weaker brother who does. You wouldn't want to be a stumbling block to anyone would you? Romans 14:21 says, "It is good neither to eat flesh, nor to drink wine, nor any thing whereby thy brother stumbleth, or is offended, or is made weak." To be more specific, I would not recommend that you sing the song, dance the electric slide or play cards. Instead of singing the secular song "We Are Family," why not encourage your family to sing "I Need You To Survive" by Hezekiah Walker. With respect to dancing, there are examples in the bible where dancing was inappropriate and was not done to please God (Exodus 32:19 & St. Mark 6:22). Secular dancing has traditionally been linked to worldly and satanic activities and is still associated with drinking, partying, clubbing and sensuality. As a Christian I recommend that you avoid secular dances. Finally, card playing has long been associated with witchcraft, superstition and fortune telling. It has been said that the design of cards was a way of expressing dishonor and mockery of God, our Heavenly Father. Some have placed the origin of the design with the king representing satan and the queen representing Mary, the mother of Jesus. It is pretty clear that the origin is indicating that our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ is the son of Lucifer. This is blasphemy. As a Christian, I recommend that you have nothing to do with playing cards that make a mockery of God.*

## Special Recognition

### HAPPY WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

Mr. Henry & Mrs. Roberta Bell	32 years	5/17
Mr. Buford & Mrs. Claudia Brown	33 years	5/28
Mr. Timothy & Mrs. Erica Gilchrist	7 years	5/5
Mr. Rodney & Mrs. Vanessa Mitchum	20 years	6/1
Mr. Charles & Mrs. Brenda Williams	18 years	6/29
Mr. Willie & Mrs. Regina Wims	5 years	6/29

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY

To everyone born in the months of  
May & June  
*We Love You, We Do!*

### Congratulations Whitlee Jones!!!

Whitlee maintained a high level of scholarship and received special recognition for making A/B Honor Roll at Eastside High School. We are proud of you.

### Congratulations Class of 2008!

We Expect Great Things!

### Congratulations Javon Smith!!!

Because of his academic success, Javon has been inducted into the National Achiever's Society. Keep up the good work!

## Men's Fellowship

Get Ready For Men's Fellowship Weekend 2008! On Saturday, May 24th, the men will play basketball at the Eastside High School Gym from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. Later, they will meet for dinner from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm at Juniors Restaurant. Not only are all of the men from Compassionate Outreach Ministries encouraged to attend, but each man is also asked to bring a visitor. In fact, Bishop Dennison has promised to buy dinner for all of the visitors that are introduced to him by brothers from the church. On Sunday, May 25th, an all men's choir will sing in the Sunday Morning Worship Service. Any man interested in singing should contact Bro. David Holmes, Jr.

## Summer Camp

Compassionate Outreach Ministries is offering a summer camp for children. For only \$60.00 per week, your child will enjoy fun activities, breakfast, lunch, snacks, and fieldtrips in a safe and loving environment. The camp day begins at 7:00 am and ends at 5:30 pm. There are a limited number of spaces and admission will be granted on a first come, first serve basis. Please see Sis Lois Johnson for more info.

## Clergy Appreciation

The Pastor's Aide Board is busy making plans for this year's celebration of Clergy Appreciation Month. The month of October is set aside to acknowledge the contribution of pastors all around the world and we want to make this year's celebration better than ever before. At this time, we have a little more than four months to get ready. You may begin to make donations for the Bishops' Appreciation in the weekly offering, making sure to mark on the envelope that the contribution is for Clergy Appreciation Month. Please see Elder Samuel Neal or any member of the Pastor's Aide Board for additional info.