

Newsletter: Joyous New Year - God's Grace, Mercy, and Peace be with You!

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Mission: To equip women to overcome life challenges and find God's purpose and fulfillment through prayer, teaching and mentoring relationships

Vision: Daughters of Hope is called to lead women towards spiritual, emotional and physical wholeness through the application of biblical principles to their lives.

A Message from DOHM President

Greetings,

Have you made room for the King of Kings?

"Lift up your heads, O you gates! And be lifted up, you everlasting doors! And the King of glory shall come in. Who is this King of glory? The LORD strong and mighty, The LORD mighty in battle. Lift up your heads, O you gates! Lift up, you everlasting doors! And the King of glory shall come in. Who is this King of glory? The LORD of hosts, He is the King of glory. Selah" (Psalms 24:7-10).

Have you made room for the King of glory, or were you busy buying gifts, baking cookies, and sending cards this past Christmas? What do you do when a guest comes? You clear your schedule so you can spend quality time with them; you clean the room, put the best fresh towels out, and fresh linen on the bed. You may also put fresh flowers in the room. Let 2021 be the year where you clear your calendar and clean your heart and let the King of glory come in. Jesus is waiting for you. "I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh." (Ezekiel 36:26).

Do not lose hope. Keep the faith no matter what has supervened in 2020. "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." (Hebrews 11:1). "Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." (Romans 15:13). "Oh, love the Lord, all you His saints! For the Lord preserves the faithful, And fully repays the proud person. Be of good courage, And He shall strengthen your heart, All you who hope in the Lord." (Psalms 31:23-24).

We are all looking forward to 2021; I know I am. There will be an open forum in February, and we have other exciting things in store for you.

-- Linda Gary, DOHM President

"And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful." (Colossians 3:15).



GLORY
TO
GOD
IN THE
HIGHEST!

Pressing Towards the Goal . . .

Every year, we find ourselves making new year's resolutions. These may include improving finances, finding a new job, or going on a diet to improve our health. Spiritually, are you also including things of God in your new year's resolutions that you can further press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus? Are you planning to make sacrifices to be committed to have more time in prayer, bible study, ministry, or discipleship? Will you strive to have a greater hunger and thirst to go deeper to know God in laying hold of what He has purposed for which Christ Jesus has laid hold of you?

In Philippians, Paul gave up everything – family, friendships, and political freedoms in order to know Christ and His resurrection power. We, too, have access to this knowledge and power. But to fully experience it, we may have to make some sacrifices. Paul's goal was to know Christ, to be like Christ, and to be all that Christ had in mind for him. As Christians, don't allow anything to take your eyes off our goal; who is Jesus Christ. We, too, must lay aside everything that makes us complacent in our walk with God that we forsake anything that may distract us from being effective Christians. This does not mean that we should not pause and reflect on the calendar year's turning. In Psalms 90:12, Moses appealed to God in prayer to "teach us to number our days, so we may get a heart of wisdom." Time is a gift to us from God, and He instructs us to use it wisely and ask Him what He wants to happen in our lives. Reflecting on 2021, what small steps can you make toward the purpose and plan God has for you for the new year?

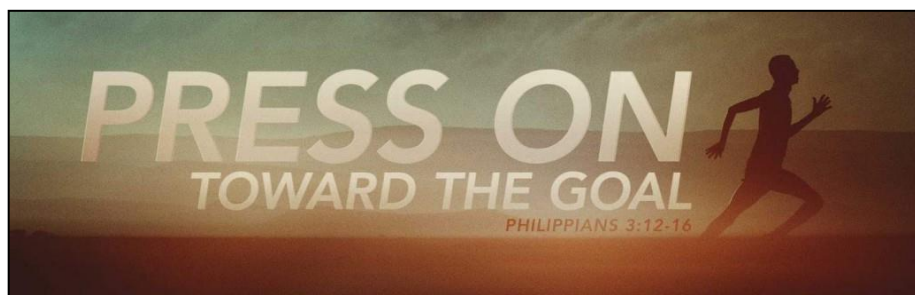
God never promised that this life would be easy, but He did promise to be with us providing all that we will need to endure and persevere that we are victorious. This year will bring the good and the bad. So, as you make your new year's resolutions, also meditate on the verses below that speak to spiritual declarations from God's word that you are fully equipped and prepared to press towards all that will come before you in this new year. In doing so, as you make your plans, in line with God's plans, they will become purposed and active during the new year.

Spiritual Declarations - Philippians 4:13, Colossians 1:11, Joshua 1:8, 2 Corinthians 9:8, Deuteronomy 28:7, Deuteronomy 28:13, Romans 15:13, 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, Philippians 1:6, Philippians 4:6-7, Isaiah 55:11, Psalm 103:3, Proverbs 12:14, Proverbs 18:20, Jeremiah 23:29, Job 22:8, Isaiah 60:1, Romans 10:17, Philippians 4:8

-- Linda Price-Smith, DOHM Member

Philippians 3:12-15
(NKJV)

"Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing *I do* forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus."





1 Corinthians 16:13-24

Through It All (Lesson Learned)

Lately, I find myself thinking about the times we live in, not so much about the pandemic, but more so about what going through this pandemic has shown me about people. Their deceptiveness, greed, hate, arrogance, and pride. The price gouging that is going on now when people are losing jobs, homes, and lives is heartbreaking. I find myself asking how one can be so insensitive? But God always has a remnant, and I see people giving food to the hungry, helping those who have lost their homes find housing, and helping those who have lost their jobs, pay their bills, and find employment, some employing them in their own companies. I see our youth, who many seem to have nothing good to say about, designing masks for first responders and others, for no cost, just asking for donations that will allow them to purchase materials to make more. I see youth starting food pantries to feed those in need, making sandwiches for the people living on the streets; these youth do not usually get media time.

I pray for those who are so blind and selfish that they cannot see beyond "me and mine" that this pandemic will cause them to see and understand that we all need each other to survive. God has shown me so many things during these past months, one of which is we (the Church) need to stop compromising with the world and stand firmly on the precepts of God; we must realize that showing love does not mean accepting or going along with actions that are clearly contrary to what Jesus taught, but stand firmly proclaiming the word of truth, and if they are opposed or offended let them take it up with God. Our commission is to spread the gospel in love, and if they do not accept it, shake off the dust and keep walking, we have a lot of people to get the word to before Jesus returns.

"The soul that sinneth, it shall die. The son shall not bear the iniquity of the father, neither shall the father bear the iniquity of the son: the righteousness of the righteous shall be upon him, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon him." (Ezekiel 18:20 KJV).

-- Min. Geri Stancil, DOHM Vice-President



Plight (Faith) of the Caregiver

I never thought that I would be taking care of my mother, but that is exactly what I have been doing for many years. I always saw her as a strong independent woman who could overcome and do anything. Well, what she could not do was defeat the debilitating disease that has ransacked not only her body but her mind, life, and me and my husband's life. It seems that my whole life, even in childhood, was centered around caring for others. I took care of my baby brother when I was 10, had my first child at 20, my second at 23, along with caring for their father, who is a paraplegic. Those all came with their own set of challenges but nothing like the challenge of caring for a parent who can no longer care for themselves.

It takes a tremendous toil on the caregiver; their focus is making sure that the loved one has what they need physically and emotionally. This is not always easy and can become very frustrating at times. I also work a full-time job, am a wife, mother, and grandmother, and everyone has a pull for my time and attention. It can become very draining and annoying, but then you count the blessings that God has provided as He keeps me and helps me maintain focus on what is essential; loving and caring for my mother while I have the opportunity. I guess to some; it can seem to mean when a caregiver says, "I am tired and don't want to do this anymore." I would venture for no one to speak on the issue unless they have walked in that person's shoes. The most common comment I get is at least she is still here with you, and in theory, it sounds good, but when your parent is a total dependent like a baby and cannot communicate with you, it's not fun, and you do not understand why this has happened to your loved one.

I understand that the God I serve is loving and is ever-present even in the direst circumstances. Just because life can be challenging does not mean there is no joy. There are times when I am caring for my mom; we have bits of laughter. Those moments bring me some peace to know that a part of her still exists. I also have comfort in knowing that she loves the Lord and served Him wholeheartedly when she was able to. She was a source of strength to her family and her church. Her spirit is sweet and endearing. I can count on one hand the number of times I have heard her raise her voice. What puts a smile on my face are the stories I hear from her church family on how much they love my mom and that she was just a joy to be around. Her smile is infectious, even in her sickness.

I praise God for the chance to honor my mother in this season of life and continue to ask for the strength and guidance to do what is right. It is not easy, but it teaches me a lot about who I am and how God wishes to use this situation for His glory. So, if you are a caregiver, don't dismay; God has not forgotten about you. Lean on to God for supernatural strength to run the race.

Meditation Scripture: "Cast your burden on **the Lord**, and he will **sustain** you; he will never permit the righteous to be moved." (Psalm 55:22 ESV).

-- Tomiko Hankerson, DOHM Secretary



Different Path, Same Purpose



"Though the way may not be clear"

Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.

Proverbs 3:5-6 (KJV)

I have been saying to myself and shared with a few that God did a big shift in 2020. He changed our direction; He changed our path. It's like we were merrily going down a particular road, and then it was all stopped. Where we thought we were going and how we were going to get there has changed. It's like God said, I need to change the path you are on because it will not accomplish my plan. He changed our trajectory.

If He needed us to hurry up and get more use of technology for communication, well, He accomplished that. If He needed us to spend more time with our families, look how He achieved that. If He needed us to pay more attention to our children's schooling, becoming teacher, hall monitor, guidance counselor, and principle in some cases, He achieved that. If He needed us to pay more attention to our spending, find out what we really need to live on, some had a rude awakening, so I think He achieved that. If He needed us to slow down, well, He achieved that. If He needed us to call on His name more, I know He achieved that. If He needed us to recognize His many blessings when we look at our nation and the world, it brought to the forefront what others do not have access to, like the US; He achieved that. If He needed us to stop taking relationships for granted, particularly those we cherish, He achieved that.

What was God after in the past year, we may never know for sure, but I believe a shift has happened. As I ponder this, I also now see I need to shift myself. I need to move my chair, change my position, clean off my glasses. With the last year of change, I tried to change and strain myself to accomplish the things I used to do, like so many others. It was uncomfortable, strange, and I think I may have said, "when things get back to normal, I will then be able to ..." But I need to shift into a new place, not tell the Lord to put it back the way it was. If I am willing to change my position, then perhaps it will not be such a strain to reach for my purpose. Different situations, different visions, but the goal is still within reach. If I am still reaching for the cup, my goals, from where I have always sat, I may find it difficult. I need to move from where I am and reach it from a different angle. But if I still want to get it with the old plan, I may find myself frustrated and complaining. You know those voices, "I don't understand this," "this makes no sense," "this is just crazy," and on and on. Therefore, I decide to settle within myself the road has changed, ask my guide (Holy Spirit) how to travel this different path. God has always had all of our best interests at heart; stop looking in the rearview mirror.

1 Peter 1:6-7 - So be truly glad. There is wonderful joy ahead, even though you must endure many trials for a little while. These trials will show that your faith is genuine. It is being tested as fire tests and purifies gold—though your faith is far more precious than mere gold. So when your faith remains strong through many trials, it will bring you much praise and glory and honor on the day when Jesus Christ is revealed to the whole world.

-- Min. Connie Lowe, DOHM Treasurer

Unexpected!

This is a poem that I wrote while taking a class about dealing with unexpected events in our lives in a godly manner.

Fear not, Your word tells me,
But darkness ahead is all I see,
So how can I not fear
For the way is not clear?

I am full of shame.
You, Lord, are not to blame.
I need to trust, I need to trust!
Faith, deep belief, is what I seek.

Unexpected! Unexpected!
The unexpected sometimes comes before morning's light.
The phone call . . .

- About the accident or the sudden death or the child's arrest "Oh Mom, I'm in trouble."
- A routine doctor's visit but something suspicious is found
- Fear surrounds!

Many things I received during
These few short weeks
But one truth I'll hold tight to is
In the midst of the unexpected
To see You, Lord
Your love, Your perfect will.

Prayer: Dear Lord, thank You that there is no event in my life that is unexpected by You. Not only do You know what is coming, but You know how You will use each event in my life to gradually lead me and mold me into the godly person You want me to be. Please help me to relax and let You lead me step by step. Amen.

"And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to His purpose for them." (Romans 8:20 NLT)

-- Rose Matthews, Guest Writer

BE ALERT!!

**See God in
the
Unexpected**

Habakkuk 3:17-19
(NKJV)

"Though the fig tree may not blossom, Nor fruit be on the vines; Though the labor of the olive may fail, And the fields yield no food; Though the flock may be cut off from the fold, And there be no herd in the stalls—Yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will joy in the God of my salvation. The LORD God is my strength; He will make my feet like deer's feet, And He will make

If you are struggling, do not struggle alone. You can contact us at daughtersohope@aol.com for prayer, just to talk, or leave a prayer request.

- "Therefore comfort each other and edify one another, just as you also are doing." (1 Thessalonians 5:11).
- "As iron sharpens iron, So a man sharpens the countenance of his friend." (Proverbs 27:17).
- "Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ." (Galatians 6:2)



Endurance

Several scriptures compare the Christian walk to a race. It is more like a marathon than a sprint because the goal is to make it to the end. Most of the people who participate in a marathon do it as a personal challenge. They don't necessarily want to be the first to cross the finish line. They are primarily interested in making it to the finish line. Although they are aware of the possible stumbling blocks they may face, unbearable fatigue, tired legs, burning chest pains, and an overwhelming desire to quit before they finish the race. They enter the race and are committed to overcoming them all. Christians face stumbling blocks and painful obstacles, and our race is not quick and short-lived. It is a long-distance race that lasts until the end of our lifetime. Just as the marathon runners do, we have to overcome the things that hinder us along the way. Both require self-discipline.

Paul reminds us in 1 Corinthians 9 of an important distinction between the race we as Christians run and those who compete in games (like the marathon). They do it to win a corruptible crown that will not last, but the crown we as Christians receive will last forever. In James 1:12, it says, 'Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because having stood the test, they will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him.' Christians are continuously admonished in scripture to endure. Having eternal life as our reward upon completion is more than enough of an incentive for us to endure the painful impediments in our Christian lives. It is the sufferings that produces perseverance. So, let us eagerly lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us.

"Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it. And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown." (1 Corinthians 9:24-25 NKJV).

-- Cornette Cole, DOHM Member

Daughters of Hope

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DOHM Upcoming Events

Listed below are some of the Daughters of Hope Ministry planned events for 2021. Updates will be provided once details are confirmed.

- Monthly Prayer Conference Call – Every 2nd Thursday, 6:30-7:30 pm. If you are not receiving notifications and would like to participate, send an email to daughtersohope@aol.com to receive details.
- Open Forum – "New Beginnings, The Wisdom of Letting Go" February 26, 2021
- DOHM Tea – May 2021
- 2021 Women's Conference – October 2021