

# Newsletter: Reflections

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## A New Year

We may only understand partially what it meant for the things we endured last year. There will come a time when we will know completely what God was doing. It is an eternal promise 1Corinthians 13:12.

Feel free to email your comments at [daughtersohope@aol.com](mailto:daughtersohope@aol.com).



## All Things Work Together

And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose. Romans 8:28. March of this year will be Thermon's, my husband, second year of being cancer free. Thank God! One big change that took place when he found out that he had cancer was that we began to pray and have devotion together on a regular basis. For fourteen years I have been praying that my husband and I would come together to have

prayer and devotion. Our marriage is stronger than ever and he laughs more than he ever did before. As Cece Winans' song comes to mind (It wasn't easy but it was worth it.)

### PRAYER

"You are my Shepherd"  
The LORD is my shepherd; I have all that I need. You let me rest in green meadows; You lead me beside peaceful streams. You renew my strength. You guide me along right paths bringing honor to Your name. Even when I walk through the darkest

valley, I will not be afraid, for You are close beside me. Your rod and Your staff protect and comfort me. You prepare a feast for me in the presence of my enemies. You honor me by anointing my head with oil. My cup overflows with blessings. Surely your goodness and unfailing love will pursue me all the days of my life, and I will live in the house of the LORD forever. Psalm 23:1-6 By James Banks

--Linda Gary  
DOHM Founding  
President

## Prepared for the New Year???

2014 is gone, whew! We got through it with its ups and downs, twists and turns. Now, my question to you is... have you covered yourself for 2015? I don't mean if you prepared the traditional New Year's Day meal, you know black-eyed peas for good luck, collard greens for money and pork for progress (you know like a pig rooting forward).

I'm talking about a closer walk with Jesus, really getting to truly, intimately know him (Philippians 3:10). I mean picking up your cross (Matthew 16:24) and carrying it to the finish line, witnessing to the lost (Acts 1:8) like there is no tomorrow,

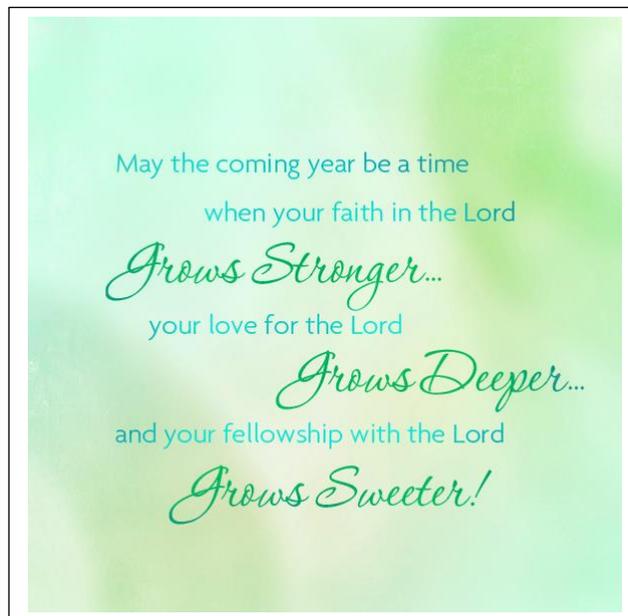
there very well may not be (James 4:13-14). I mean studying to show yourself an approved workman, rightly dividing the word of truth and not speaking on a subject of which you know nothing about, knowing that scripture will never mean what it never meant. I mean living the life you talk about to the best of your ability and letting God do the rest, knowing you can accomplish nothing without Him and that with Him all things are possible!

Every year you hear people talk about making New Year's resolutions. Well, we as people of God should always resolve to:

1. Follow Jesus no matter what the circumstance
2. Set our sights on things that are higher and nobler
3. Seek first His Kingdom and Righteousness no matter who or what may oppose us
4. Share the Good News of Jesus with people that He places in our pathway
5. Be passionate about bringing people with us to Heaven

I pray that "2015" will bring you Blessings Beyond Believe!

--Min. Geri Stancil  
DOHM Vice President



## Blessed by the Best

As I look back over the course of my life and think on the many times and ways God has blessed me, all I can say is WOW. The Lord has blessed me in spite of myself. I think of the times when I was a young child and not receiving the love of my parents but God so loved me that He provided me with other loving relatives to help fill that void. I often wondered if my life has any meaning and He will remind me by putting the right people in my life or hearing that song of praise or reading words of encouragement that gives me new life. The Lord continues to remind me and us each day of His wonderful and marvelous works. We are one of His wonderful and marvelous works. I sometimes struggle with not feeling good enough and being able to fit in but God says I made you to be unique and one of a kind. I am not meant to fit in to the crowd but to stand out showcasing God's greatness. Isn't that something, I (We) are important to God and He values each one of our lives. When we were born, we had purpose.

Life has a way of taking us off track at times and not focusing on the Master and His plans but thank God that is not the end. He will bring us back as long as we are willing to relinquish control over to Him.

I think of the many ways over my life that the Lord has bought me from the pit and elevated me. He has delivered me from the hands of the enemy many times and I am truly thankful and grateful for a GOD who loves me that much to look after me and keep me in His care. I reflect over being blessed with children and a husband, roof over my head, food to eat and jobs. He didn't have to allow me any of it but I am so glad He did. When I was out of work He provided for me and my family. I have never lacked for my needs, I may not have my wants but my needs are met daily. In His word He promises to provide ALL of our needs not some but ALL according to His riches in glory. God has many blessings in store for us but we must be willing to abide by His laws and continue to strive

to live a righteous life before Him.

My Lord has supplied me with a family and friends who love me and helped to create the person I am today. I thank God for all of my adversities, trials, struggles, tribulations, whatever you want to call them because it is through the rough and tough times that God is building character and strength within me. He allows the trials in our life so that we can lean more on Him, to know that we cannot make it in this life without God's strength. It is not by our might but God's that we survive each day. His word states that His grace is sufficient for thee, and each day He gives us grace.

Take a moment and think back over your life and you will see the many ways and times that Lord has blessed and kept you. He loves you unconditionally and wants you to live a life of abundance and not in defeat. For greater is He that is in you than He that is in the world.

--Tomiko Hankerson  
DOHM Secretary

*"...the Lord has bought me from the pit and elevated me"*

**Each person must live their life as a model for others.**

**Rosa Parks**

*"Now Lord ..."*

## Lord It's Just Not Convenient

Looking back on last year's experiences I have to admit I had some uncomfortable moments. Starting the New Year 2014, I frequently heard "God is going to do a new thing." I strongly agreed since I was in a new circumstance, so whatever He did was going to be new for me. I found myself trying to finish my studies with no full-time employment, very unsure about my future, how I was going to make it. So when the water heater broke earlier that year I had to spend money I didn't want, not knowing the future. This household repair was very inconvenient to say the least. A couple months later the kitchen sink backed up another repair cost, also very inconvenient. I found myself saying, "Now Lord I know these are normal home expenses, but we need something to live on and a roof over our heads, can we really afford to see money go like this now?" Balancing school work with church commitments and family was starting to put a strain on my time, and I was not even working a full-time job, where did the time go. It just was not convenient trying to do all that was asked of me.

Friends asking for my time and for different reasons, it just was not convenient. A little later in the year, three different car repairs ate away at money reserves, plus getting sick and not able to fully function. I purposed to increase my time in bible study and review church leadership material, dealing with all these was not convenient.

But God should not be viewed as a convenient god. We cannot put Him in a box and say this is how I want to spend my time, income and energy, now don't interfere. I could not have navigated the past year still full of hope and expectations without God. He lets me know it is He that wants to orchestrate my life. He knows my desires and what is best for my future. I may have my doubts; make mistakes along the way; feel like I am being really inconvenience; however it is not about me, but about Him, the lifter of my head. Thank you Lord!

--Constance Lowe  
DOHM Treasurer

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**"It's not the load that breaks you down, it's the way you carry it."**

**Lena Horne**

**"Living in the moment means letting go of the past and not waiting for the future. It means living your life consciously, aware that each moment you breathe is a gift."**

**Oprah Winfrey**

**Daughters of Hope**  
P. O. Box 583  
Glendale, MD 20769

**Phone:**  
443-422-DOHM (3646)  
**E-mail:**  
daughtersohope@aol.com

Helping Oppressed People  
Everywhere



**We're on the Web!**  
**Daughtersofhope.org**

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

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

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## Women's Retreat 2015

Ladies lock in your early bird price now with your deposit, early bird ends March 16.

Date: October 22-24, 2015

Title: Go Get It  
Theme: Possess the Land (get your blessings)  
Place: Lancaster, PA

What's Next: If you are not already, get on our mailing list to be sure to receive a registration form and information on all upcoming events.  
daughtersohope@aol.com

**"Every great dream begins with a dreamer. Always remember you have within you the strength, the patience, and the passion to reach for the stars to change the world"**

**Harriet Tubman**

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## Testimonial from 2013 Retreat

**D**elightful, God-focused  
**O**utstanding speakers  
**H**elpful Hostesses - - Linda, Connie, Geri, Tomiko

**W**ealth of reading materials offered  
**O**pportunities to grow closer to God  
**M**arveling at how God works in our lives  
**E**nergetic and fun activities like sessions by Min. Lori Ford  
**N**ot a wasted moment  
**'S**o nice to fellowship with sisters who love the Lord

**R**est times- - active times – a good mix  
**E**ating was no problem – food was excellent  
**T**ime set aside for one-on-time prayer support  
**R**egistration to Check-Out Smooth Sailing  
**E**nergized to return home relaxed and renewed  
**A**sking God to revive the strength of DOH for October 2015  
**T**rying to get money together for the next retreat

--Rose Mathews