

Women of the Restoration

FROM THE RESTORATION WOMEN'S COUNCIL, CONFERENCE OF RESTORATION ELDERS

JUN – SEP 2011 • VOL. 11, ISS. 2

CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

**Sept 30 – Oct 2, 2011:
Fall Retreat**

*Pressing Forward with
a Steadfastness in Christ*
Contact Sylvia Powell at
(816) 240-0095 for more info.

To submit your testimonies,
stories, songs, poetry, etc.,
please send to Kathy Hood at:
pkhoodsongs@comcast.net OR
call 816-838-5260.

“For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God; Strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, unto all patience and long-suffering with joyfulness; Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light...” Colossians 1:9–12

EDIFYING ONE ANOTHER, REJOICING, PRAYING WITHOUT CEASING AND IN EVERYTHING GIVE THANKS

It's all about relationships. From the beginning of time throughout eternity, it's all about relationships. We are called to love God wholly and completely and to love our neighbors as we love ourselves. Every scripture, every person we meet, every circumstance in our lives calls for a response from us. God created us to love Him and to relate to others through the love He unconditionally gives to us. This newsletter's theme is a reminder that we are not in this life alone. We have opportunities each and every day to walk closer to our God, to edify the body of Christ through our loving service, and to reach out to those who are lost without the hope of Christ. This is only possible through prayer and dependence on the Holy Spirit. We have the promise "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me" from Philippians 4:13. What these "all things" are depend on our desires.

Each day is a precious gift. What we do with this gift is up to us. Will we diligently seek God's face and His direction? Will we be a blessing to those around us? Our circumstances can change suddenly. Our hopes and plans can fail. Trials and sorrows come as surely as good fortune and happiness. But regardless of what happens to us, within us our trust and confidence in God's goodness and His faithfulness can remain sure and steadfast. When we see God's hand in all things and praise Him for it, then He makes all things work to our good (Romans 8:28). Sometimes it is the storms in our lives that cause us to seek a closer relationship with God. So, whether we walk on the mountain top or through the shadow of the valley of death, we need not fear for He is with us (Psalm 23:4) and He will never leave us or forsake us (Hebrews 13:5). Let us rejoice together and encourage each other in our daily walk so that we will truly be His children.

RWC

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Reviewed by Phil Hood

In Everything Give Thanks

by Marsha Bird

I love the theme this year of "Get Ye Up To The Mountain of the Lord's House". It is such a visual description of what we all desire in our lives — that there will be a place where the righteous will dwell with the Lord and Enoch's city will return. It brings such hope to us all. Can't you just imagine looking towards the Center Place and seeing the Mountain of the Lord?

Can't you just see the "gathering in" of God's people as they come to Zion? I recently spoke to a young woman at our last retreat and she had an experience where she was shown that there were mountains all around the Independence area. It was a beautiful testimony and I felt very strengthened by it.

I personally am very afraid of heights. When I went to the Grand Canyon a few years ago I couldn't even go to the edge and look over it, as I was afraid I would fall in! Even going up the mountains in Colorado, I constantly reminded my husband how close he was driving to the edge and it made me dizzy to look over the side! I also get short of breath when I'm in high altitudes and have to be very careful where I'm walking as the ground is so uneven. So climbing that mountain isn't always as easy as it seems. We have to be spiritually and physically prepared to be able to do that. We all are experiencing different situations in our lives right now that are challenging us to come up to higher ground and depend on the Lord. Many people are going through very serious trials in their lives with sickness, unemployment, family problems, etc. This is where, as sisters in Christ, we can help lighten the load and physically help each other in our times of discouragement. It is a time when we need to be praying unceasingly for one another, going to visit each other, encouraging one another, strengthening the faith of one another until that person can see that God has been with them all along. We

need that in our lives. In this journey that we are all on, it is important to not feel alone. Each of us needs to know that God does have a purpose for all we are going through and is there to help us. We need to help each other "endure to the end". Can't you just see us going up the mountain together and grabbing hands when the going gets difficult, speaking words of encouragement, stopping to rest, to pray for help and being strengthened to go on? We will be carrying the little children in our arms and telling them testimonies about Jesus and how

precious they are to the Lord. We will all be singing songs of praise and thanksgiving to the Lord as we go.

I want to share a testimony that began last year and it still unfolding. On Dec. 4, 2010, I injured my right hand and wrist carrying a heavy load of groceries. I noticed that my fingers started curling and that it was

very painful, but I thought it would be better the next morning. I awoke to much swelling and pain and couldn't use my hand. It was Communion Sunday and Rob had to leave early for a priesthood meeting. I am right handed and didn't even know if I would be able to dress myself and get to church. As I was lying in bed I began to cry and became very discouraged. I knew that I might not be able to go to church because it would take too long to get ready, and I felt very alone. Immediately the Holy Spirit bore witness to me that I needed to praise God in my affliction. At first I was very rebellious against doing that. I thought "praise God for my pain and not being able to get dressed!" Then my heart was softened and through my tears I began to sing songs of praise to God and thanking him for the many blessings in my life. I thanked him for always being with me even when I couldn't see beyond where I was. I asked him to help me get ready so that I could go to church. I began to feel uplifted and joyful and looking forward to the sacrament service. My situation had not changed but



Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another. Pray without ceasing. In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you. (1 Thessalonians 5:11,16-18)



In Everything (cont'd.)

my attitude had changed. It took me 2 hours to get ready to go to church but I made it. When I entered the sanctuary I felt such a peacefulness and a joy to be there. All through the service I was more in tune with the Holy Spirit than I had been in a long time. I was still in pain and struggling but that faded into insignificance with the power that I felt from the Lord. It was an experience I will never forget.

In the months that have followed I have been very strengthened and uplifted by the prayers and support of the Saints. The cards and telephone calls I receive have made me realize that others care for me. I have also learned that God wants us to keep our focus on him, his son Jesus the Christ, and the race that is before us. We don't spend as much time being self-centered if we

are Christ-centered. I am still struggling with my health but I am reminded constantly that I need to praise the Lord and see the positive instead of the negative. We never know why we are allowed to go through certain things in this life but one thing I am certain of, is that he prepares the way and never allows us to face it alone. Many times we are brought to a higher spiritual level because we are humbled and it causes us to become more dependent on God. I am a weak vessel and have to be reminded many times of what I need to do, but I testify that God is faithful and true and only does what is best for us. He is worthy of our praise as is his Son, Jesus the Christ. So as we climb that mountain together, may we always be thankful for our blessings and be found singing praises of joy.

Lessons Learned in Kenya

by Sylvia Powell

1 Chronicles 4:10 "And Jabez called on the God of Israel, saying, Oh that thou wouldest bless me indeed, and enlarge my coast, and that thine hand might be with me, and that thou wouldest keep me from evil, that it may not grieve me! And God granted him that which he requested."

Many years ago my husband, Jerry, and I started including Jabez's prayer in our morning prayers. This little gem of scripture found in the middle of a lot of "begats" has changed my life. When you pray this prayer and ask that God "enlarge my coast" be prepared for opportunities to open up to you that you never would have considered possible. Thus it was for me when I was asked to go to Kenya. I was so excited that I was going to be able to go and share God's love (and mine) with our Saints on the other side of the world. I definitely felt that this was an answer to that prayer — "And God granted him (her) that which he (she) requested."

During this trip I learned many life changing lessons. I'm going to share some of them with you. This newsletter is definitely not big enough to share our whole trip. I'm presently on page 7 of typing up my journal and I've only covered 6 days of our 19 day trip. You can expect Volume I to be on the best seller list in a matter of months. (Just kidding!) Here are some of those lessons I learned:

PATIENCE — The trip over to Kenya took us 4 long days. Our flight from KCI was detained due to a

Come to the
RWC Retreat
9/30/11 –
10/2/11
to hear the
story of the
concrete
boots!



security sweep (whatever that meant?); then there was a storm over Atlanta and we had to go to Huntsville, Alabama to get more fuel so we could circle over the Atlanta airport. When we finally disembarked it was 11:20 p.m. and our flight to Amsterdam had left at 10:50. It took me an hour on the phone to reschedule our flight. About 20 minutes into this call I wrote these words down and kept repeating them in my head: "God, this is your mission. May this delay be to your

Kenya (cont'd.)

glory. Please give me patience and let this situation work out the best it can." During our trip I found myself praying this prayer many times.

GRACIOUS — Everywhere we went the Saints laid out a feast for us, even in the humblest of homes. I sometimes wondered if we were taking food out of their family's mouths. They were so delighted, though, to be hosting us that I did not allow myself to dwell on that. If I had it would have lessened their gift to us and I wouldn't have done that for all the tea in China.

HOSPITALITY — Other than the first women's retreat that we stayed the weekend at Pat Chadwick, Judy Smith and myself stayed at Eric and Pam Odida's home and Sam and Judith Agwanda's home. No matter where we were we were waited on hand and foot and felt like princesses. After the first women's retreat we went to Sam and Judith's home. The peace we found in that home as we rested up for a couple of days was truly a God send. We knew this was a gift that God gave to us to get our strength back. It worked, too. At the end of our stay we were raring to go on to the next opportunity God had for us to share.



Age was no barrier at the retreats. We had lots of youth and babies, too.

UNCONDITIONAL LOVE — The people of Kenya are very loving. Even strangers (especially the children) would say to us "How are you?" The word for "fine" in Swahili sounded like "Missouri" so I was always able to remember it. The children, in particular, always wanted to shake our hands. There were always smiles everywhere we went. Their warm, loving ways were truly a blessing to us.

SACRIFICE — There were so many examples of sacrifice that were shown to us. At the first women's retreat (we did two women's retreats and two youth retreats) four of the women traveled down from Nairobi by bus and then walked a couple of miles back into where the retreat was being held. They got there about 2:00 a.m. One of the ladies was carrying a young baby. Some had to borrow the money to get there. This showed us how much they wanted to be at the retreat and the sacrifice they were willing to make to get there.

HUMILITY — Because the lighting wasn't always the best I found it difficult to see. Because of my limited eyesight I would sometimes stumble over tree roots, holes and hard to see steps. Pat and Judy got

The first women's retreat had 55 women attending from all over Kenya.

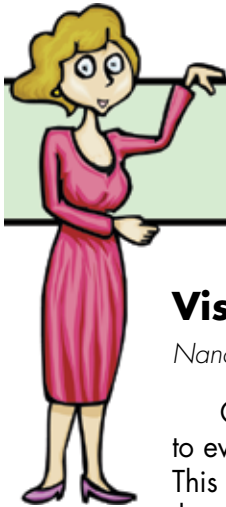


Kenya (cont'd.)

to the point where they would hold my arm and tell me when there were obstacles or steps. This was very humbling to "Miss Independent". Unfortunately, when we were going into the Nairobi airport to leave I didn't see a drainage grate and fell in the middle of the road. Because I had a heavy backpack on I wrenched my back. To say the flight from Nairobi to Amsterdam was difficult was a mild understatement. Sitting made my back spasm and those 8 hours seemed the longest in my life. When we reached Amsterdam we were informed that our flight had been cancelled. By this point all of us were ready to be home with our loved ones. I called Jerry and asked him to pray for me and he immediately called and got me on our prayer chain. The prayers worked as my back was much better the next day. I look back now and know that our layover in Amsterdam was God's way of allowing my back time to get better. I don't think I could have stood another 9½ hours sitting in a plane. The day after I fell I normally would have hurt worse but God blessed me. I was reminded, again, of what an awesome God we worship.

There were many other lessons that I learned. Pat, Judy and I will be sharing about our trip and showing pictures at the RWC Fall Retreat September 30 – October 2 at Odessa Hills Campground. We encourage you to attend and find out how truly wonderful our Kenya brothers and sisters are.

I would encourage you to start praying Jabez's prayer. God will open up all kinds of avenues for you to be of service to others. For you it may not be to go someplace like Kenya. It could be right next door at your neighbors for you. No matter where it is you will find that any time you share the love of the Lord with another that it will bring great joy into your life. God bless you as you set out to enlarge your coast.



Testimonies

Visit to the Taiwan Mission

Nancy Huffman

God has said that the gospel will go forth to every kindred, nation, tongue and people. This last April, my husband, Jay, and I had the opportunity to witness and take part in this. My daughter, Monica Moreland, has been helping with the ministry at the Taiwan mission for 5 years. Recently she announced that she will soon be returning to America, so we decided to take this chance-of-a-

lifetime trip to go visit her and to provide ministry at the wonderful mission there before she left.

It takes just over 23 hours to travel from Kansas City through Minneapolis and Tokyo to get to Taiwan. For those that don't know, Taiwan is a beautiful island just off the coast of China that has 23 million people who enjoy similar freedoms as we do in America. While we were there, we stayed at Monica's apartment in Taipei, which is a fast-paced city of over 2½ million people. It was amazing to see how many scooters there were and scary to see how they can fit a family of 5 or 6 on one scooter!

We only had five days to stay in Taiwan, and we

Luncheon Given To Honor Women's Leaders

On Saturday, August 27, 2011 women's leaders from 12 restoration branches gathered at Colbern Road.

Every year the Restoration Women's Council puts on a luncheon to show their appreciation for the willingness of the women's leaders to take on the responsibility of providing ministry for the ladies in their branch.

Many of the ladies shared their testimony about God prompting, and preparing, them to take on this role. Much thought and prayer is put forth by these dear sisters in the preparation of their activities. Many wonderful ideas were shared of programs that have been successful for them in the past and ones that they are eager to provide this year.

A lovely lunch was provided by the Women's Council. Our thoughts and prayers are with all of our women's leaders as they serve in this capacity.

Testimonies cont.

made use of every minute of it to see the sites and to visit with the church people. We traveled by bus, metro, taxi, rental car and on foot. If you know Monica, we were always on the run. She took us to see the National Palace Museum, which houses the largest collection of Chinese artifacts and artwork in the world, spanning over all the Chinese dynasties which covers 8,000 years. We ate at night markets, visited temples and shrines, and went to the second tallest building in the world (Taipei 101). Monica also took us to the Chinese opera as a Mother's Day gift.

One highlight was seeing Monica's school. The church is not registered in Taiwan because it is very expensive, so many missionaries need to get a full-time job to get a visa to stay. Monica works for a public elementary school. I was very proud, the director told me of the wonderful contributions she has made to the school. Monica has learned to speak and write Chinese and uses her creativity and talents in teaching and ministry.

The church classes take place on Tuesday and Friday nights and Sunday mornings. Between Friday night and Sunday morning, we had enough time to travel down the island with one of the active church people, who is considering baptism. We passed many little fishing towns, rice paddies, banana trees, and some of the most gorgeous mountain and ocean scenic views. We enjoyed seeing some of the beauty that this amazing island has to offer, and we had a great opportunity to share with this young woman who has many questions about the church.

We enjoyed getting to know everyone at the mission. There are many who are deeply considering baptism and some who desire baptism but must wait because of family issues. Friday night before class, we shared a delicious traditional meal with many of the church friends before going to class together. Jay taught the class that night on seeking after truth and what happens after we die, which are two key areas of interest for the Taiwanese people. We sang hymns and camp songs from an English songbook, and we used all three books of scriptures. They use a Chinese Book of Mormon that one of the members of the church translated many years ago, a King James' version of the Bible because it has Chinese and English side-by-side, and the Doctrine and Covenants in English, which they find to be very difficult. There were 13 Taiwanese people that joined us for class that evening, and a few helped with the translations, which took Jay some getting used to.

The class was followed by some fun and fellowship. They love to play ping pong. We were amazed at how much they enjoyed being together and were so eager to learn. They had a lot of questions and good conversation.

We spent that Friday night at the mission house, which is right off a busy street in town, with several bedrooms, bathrooms, a kitchen, an office, and a meeting room. It is five flights up, and we were very impressed when we saw it. There was a TV, and Jay was happy for the black board. The mission house is nice and open, and very clean.

On Sunday morning, we enjoyed a worship with 23 Taiwanese in attendance. As each came in, their smiles filled the room, and they each brought in a beautiful Spirit. Jay shared some thoughts and then served Communion to us and the four Taiwanese members in attendance. What touched me the most was how everyone bowed down during the prayers. I felt the Spirit so strongly and then realized that everyone had knelt and bowed their head, each respectfully and earnestly listening to what was said. What a humble and obedient people they are. We were very impressed by their love, honesty, meekness, and obedience. They are needed in the Kingdom.

After the service, the ladies quickly set out the food for a delicious potluck. They eat very healthfully, except for the yummy cream-filled cakes that "Yung Mama" insisted we eat, I had two! They act like a family; everyone is so kind to each other and respectful. I had brought gifts, and they had gifts for us. We stayed afterward for Jay to administer to a young, non-member woman.

We hated to part with them. Prayers are definitely needed for this amazing group. They have more to learn and are eagerly seeking more light and truth. However, as Monica returns to America, there's no one coming to replace her as of yet. We know she is worried about the future of the mission. She has prepared them to try to teach each other, and she will still send them lessons from America until another person goes to provide ministry. Please pray for God to sustain this dedicated group and that those who need to go to provide temporary or long-term ministry will be provided.

The Lord is truly working with this group and has big plans for them. We were grateful for the opportunity to meet with them and look forward to seeing them again, even in Zion. I appreciate how much they have done for Monica, they were family for her.



Slight Detour to Humor

THE CHILDREN'S BIBLE IN A NUTSHELL

IN THE BEGINNING, which occurred near the start, there was nothing but God, darkness and some gas. The Bible says, "The Lord thy God is one", but I think He must be a lot older than that. Anyway, God said, "Give me a light", and someone did. Then God made the world.

He split the Adam and made Eve. Adam and Eve were naked, but they weren't embarrassed because mirrors hadn't been invented yet. Adam and Eve disobeyed God by eating one bad apple, so they were driven from the Garden of Eden . . . not sure what they were driven in though, because they didn't have cars. Adam and Eve had a son, Cain, who hated his brother as long as he was Abel.

Pretty soon all of the early people died off, except for Methuselah, who lived to be like a million or something.

One of the next important people was Noah, who was a good guy, but one of his kids was kind of a Ham. Noah built a large boat and put his family and some animals on it. He asked some other people to join him, but they said they would have to take a rain check.

After Noah came Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Jacob was

more famous than his brother, Esau, because Esau sold Jacob his birthmark in exchange for some pot roast. Jacob had a son named Joseph who wore a really loud sports coat.

Another important Bible guy is Moses, whose real name was Charleton Heston. Moses led the Israel Lights out of Egypt and away from the evil Pharaoh after God sent ten plagues on Pharaoh's people. These plagues included frogs, mice, lice, bowels, and no cable. God fed the Israel Lights every day with manicotti. Then he gave them His Top Ten Commandments. These include: don't lie, cheat, smoke, dance, or covet your neighbor's stuff. Oh yeah, I just thought of one more: Honor thy father and thy mother.

One of Moses' best helpers was Joshua who was the first Bible guy to use spies. Joshua fought the battle of Geritol and the fence fell over on the town. After Joshua came David. He got to be king by killing a giant with a slingshot. He had a son named Solomon who had about 300 wives and 500 porcupines. My teacher says he was wise, but that doesn't sound very wise to me.

After Solomon there were a bunch of major league prophets. One of these was Jonah, who

was swallowed by a big whale and then barfed up on the shore. There were also some minor league prophets, but I guess we don't have to worry about them.

After the Old Testament, came the New Testament. Jesus is the star of The New. He was born in Bethlehem in a barn. (I wish I had been born in a barn too, because my mom is always saying to me, "Close the door! Were you born in a barn?" It would be nice to say "As a matter of fact I was.")

During His life, Jesus had many arguments with sinners like the Pharisees, the Democrats, and the Republicans. Jesus also had twelve opossums. The worst one was Judas Asparagus. Judas was so evil that they named a terrible vegetable after him. Jesus was a great man. He healed many leopards and even preached to some Germans on the Mount. But the Democrats, Republicans, and all those guys put Jesus on trial before Pontius Pilot. Pilot didn't stick up for Jesus. He just washed his hands instead. Anyways, Jesus died for our sins, then came back to life again. He went up to Heaven but will be back at the end of the Aluminum.

His return is foretold in the book of Revolution.

The most wasted of all days is one without laughter — E.E. Cummings



RESTORATION WOMEN'S COUNCIL'S

FALL RETREAT

"PRESSING FORWARD WITH A STEADFASTNESS IN CHRIST"

Odessa Hills Campground
September 30 – October 2, 2011

Because of the urgency of the exciting day in which we live, we strongly encourage our sisters of the Restoration to attend this retreat. Pat Chadwick will be teaching a class on prophecy in the last days and how we can better prepare ourselves to meet the challenges that lie before us. Please remember the retreat in your prayers and consider ahead of time the scripture for the weekend. **II Peter 3:10-12.**

The retreat will begin at 6:30 p.m. Friday night. At this time you will pick up your schedule and get settled into your cabin. Activities will start at 7:00 p.m. We anticipate that it will be a wonderful weekend of study, fellowship and worship. The retreat will conclude with a communion/dedication service and brunch on Sunday. The cost for the 2 night's lodging, 4 meals and Friday night snack is \$39.00.

- Please bring:
- Bedding for a single bed, towels and toiletries
 - Appropriate clothes (comfortable, modest, suitable to warm/cold weather)
 - Scriptures

Please send your reservation in prior to September 24, 2011 to: Mary Prater, 15500 TC Lea Road, Independence, MO 64050. Indicate if you are part of a large group. Make your checks payable to Conference of Restoration Elders.

There are RV hookups and a handicap cabin available.

Please contact Sylvia Powell at (816) 240-0095 if you have any questions.

REGISTRATION FORM

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone #: _____ E-mail _____

Branch attending _____ Part of a large group

Cabin _____ Handicap Cabin _____ RV hookup _____ Meals only (\$20.00) _____



Words of Wisdom

INFORMATION YOU CAN USE

Avocados

"...All wholesome herbs God hath ordained for the constitution, nature, and use of man, every herb in the season thereof . . . to be used with prudence and thanksgiving." DC 86:2a

I am not an expert when it comes to the Word of Wisdom. However, I'll do my best until the right person comes along (hint, hint) to fulfill the need for the newsletter. I must admit that it's pretty exciting when I discover that some of my favorite foods are actually good for me. Not only good for me, but they also serve a dual purpose of helping both the inside and the outside of the body. In other words, I can consume it and I can also apply it.

Let's look at the Avocado. I love them! I've been eating them since I was a child. I enjoy them in salads, guacamole dip, as a snack or as an entire meal. This green oval, also known as an alligator pear, is considered a fruit and is native to Mexico and Central America. The creamy rich avocado is considered the world's healthiest fruit, because of its nutrient contents such as Vitamin K, dietary fiber, potassium, folic acid, Vitamin B6, Vitamin C, and Copper. The avocado is rich in protective antioxidants and essential fatty acids, which help keep skin plump and smooth while only containing reasonable calories. Eating the fruit can also help replenish the protective layer of fatty acids that surrounds skin cells, keeping moisture in and preventing dehydration. The avocado or an avocado extract is good for prevention or treatment of breast

cancer as well as prostate cancer. The toxin (which is not dangerous to humans) found in avocado, can kill cancer cells. Scientists believe that the toxin has a great effect on the heart muscle tissue as well as on tissues of the mammary gland. Avocados contain oleic acid, which is a monounsaturated fat that may help lower cholesterol. It is also a good source of potassium, a mineral that helps regulate blood pressure and helps guard against high blood pressure, heart disease or stroke. One cup of avocado has about 23% of the Daily Value for folate which is important to heart health. By applying an avocado mask to the skin, you can also help slow down the aging process. When the oil in the avocado comes in contact with the skin, it stimulates collagen and elastic production. It is a moisturizing mask and therefore helps to slow down the aging process. Now for a couple of recipes. The first one is for the outside and to be applied to the face. Not to be confused and eaten, although it sounds like you could.

Avocado Anti-Aging Moisturizing Face Mask

Puree a ripe avocado and mix it with $\frac{1}{4}$ cup of sour cream which has lactic acid to help exfoliate dead skin cells. Spread over your face and leave on 10 minutes before rinsing with water.

Spinach, Avocado and Orange Salad

6 oz. pkg. fresh baby spinach or
8 cups fresh baby spinach and/or
assorted torn greens

2 oranges or 3 tangerines,
peeled and sectioned

1 cup fresh raspberries or
quartered strawberries

2 avocados, halved, seeded,
peeled and sliced

$\frac{1}{4}$ cup raspberry vinegar

$\frac{1}{4}$ cup olive oil

1 tsp. Dijon-style mustard
2 tsp. granulated sugar or honey
Place spinach on a large serving
platter or divide among individual
salad plates. Arrange raspberries,
orange, and avocado on spinach.

For Dressing:

In a screw-top jar combine
vinegar, oil, Dijon-style mustard, and
sugar. Cover and shake well. Pour
over the spinach mixture. If desired,

sprinkle with ground black pepper.
Serve immediately so the avocados
don't brown. Makes 6 servings.





Inspirational Book Corner

Reviewed by Phil Hood

Miracle at Philadelphia

Author, Catherine Drinker Bowen



The author states, "In the Constitutional Convention, the spirit of compromise reigned in grace and glory. As Washington presided, it sat on his shoulder like the dove. Men rise to speak and one sees them struggle with the bias of birthright, locality, statehood . . . One sees them change their minds, fight against pride and when the moment comes, admit their error."

If you ever wondered what it was like during those hot, precarious summer days and early autumn of 1787; to be confined by day inside the stifling hot State House of Philadelphia with a politically, socially, and geographically diverse group of mostly young men, this book is for you. In fact, this book is for every American. It is scary to think how fragile this nation's beginnings really were. That is why George Washington referred to it as the miracle of Philadelphia.

The author takes very little liberty with opinion and sticks with the copious notes and comments taken at the convention and in private letters and newspaper articles written at the time. By week 5, Washington wrote to Hamilton that he almost despaired. The convention relied on Washington's presence. He was revered by almost all. Many of the men despised each other, but they did respect each other. The meeting itself was a chancy thing. Congress had met the previous February in New York, "for the sole purpose of revising the Articles of Confederation." There had been nothing said of a new Constitution. To the thirteen states, the articles had been enough. America truly was a confederation of individual states during the waning years of the War for Independence.

This book is very in depth yet exciting to read. What struck me was the similarities between then and now, accented by the startling differences. We as then, are a nation at the crossroads. We watch as our own Congress meets behind closed doors, discussing the fate of our nation. We look to strong leaders, moral men, to come to compromise over debt ceilings and taxes and freedoms. But the differences are great. We seem to lack the great men like Washington, Hamilton, Franklin. We still see the bias of birthright, locality, and statehood, but we don't see men rise to change their minds by conscious conviction. We hardly ever see men fight against pride and most importantly, we don't see men, when the moment comes, "to admit their error."

One final thought. The author makes it clear just how important George Washington's role was in this Convention's start and it's conclusion. Washington always made it known how much God played a role in this gathering and in his personal life. This was not false modesty or posturing. To his colleagues this was reassuring. Throughout the four months he presided over the convention, he never rose to speak. Only on the last day, September 17th, did he rise to take part in the debates. In his silence lay his strength. Yet his presence kept the Federal Convention together. Every generation needs great men, for every generation has great needs. We are still waiting on ours. *(Available at Barnes and Noble)*

The Women's Council is a part of the Conference of Restoration Elders. It operates under the guidance and direction of that Conference.
Contact person for comments or questions about this newsletter is Kathy Hood, pkhoodsongs@comcast.net 816-838-5260 or womenscouncil@eldersconference.org.
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