

M.A.S.T.

Ministry Assistants Standing Together

- To identify and properly relate the various roles of the BCS on the church staff
- To provide an opportunity of fellowship for those with similar interests and to stimulate an interchange of ideas.
- To develop a better understanding of the work to the church
 - improve performance
 - increase personal effectiveness
 - become acquainted with the latest tools
 - encourage the interests of others in the vocation of the church secretary.



♥ The Heart of Our President ♥

My Sisters in Christ,

Our theme has been 'illuminate' "For You are my lamp, O Lord; and the Lord illumines my darkness." 2 Samuel 22:29. At our last meeting we had the pleasure to meet Tiffany Lassiter with Cooperative Christian Ministries, who shared with us how the CCM *illuminates* in our community by trying to minister to so many and all with various needs, from single mothers to families who need extra care to help them rehabilitate and become independent families. Tiffany also shared with us how churches can partner with them to help accomplish the work of the Lord in our area.

My devotion this morning was titled "No Place is an Island", by Chuck Swindoll and what Chuck was basically saying we need each other. He said, "working together is Plan A for survival. And since we're so different (thanks to the way God built us), love and acceptance are not optional luxuries. Neither is tolerance or understanding, or patience. You know all those things you need from others when your humanity crowds out your divinity."

In other words:

Love each other with genuine affection, and take delight in honoring each other. Never be lazy, but work hard and serve the Lord enthusiastically. Rejoice in our confident hope. Be patient in trouble, and keep on praying. When God's people are in need, be ready to help them. Always be eager to practice hospitality. (Romans 12:10-13 NLT)

Why? Because each one of us are worth it. Even when we don't act like it or feel like it or deserve it.

It is the hope of the leadership that through this theme we have been able to encourage each of you to *illuminate* where you are. Each of us have many different things going on in our lives and with the people we love, sometimes those situations feel hopeless, grim, or even dark. But it's through those times that our lights can shine bright for others to see and question what is different about us.

Krissy



NCBSA CONFERENCE

November 13-15

Ridgecrest

Have you RESERVED your room? As always your registration form is located on the back of NCBSA newsletter. Be sure you fill it out and submit it to Gail Thompson along with your payment. A \$50.00 deposit will hold your room and the balance will be due in September. You need to reserve your room as soon as possible. The cost is \$225.00 double occupancy (Private room is additional \$85.) (Includes membership, conference fee, room at Ridgecrest, and meals).

Upcoming Dates

- CBA Luncheon**
Thursday, September 14
12:00 noon
- Pastor's Appreciation**
October
12:00 noon
- CBA Luncheon**
Thursday, December 14
12:00 noon

True Freedom

When you think about July 4th what comes to mind? Perhaps you think about a day off from work with picnics, fireworks, and those red, white, and blue flags displayed in front yards along your neighborhood. This is all good, but the one word that comes to my mind is **freedom**. It is a fact that we live in the United States of America where we can voice our opinions freely, and can vote for the people

of our choice. These are very good reasons why we should never take our **freedom** for granted.

Have you thought about the American flag and all that it stands for? This emblem of the greatest nation on earth is placed on graves of our honored dead who fought for us to remain a free nation, and it flies high during times of peace, as well as war. "Old Glory" is its name.

There is another real **freedom** we can have. We can display it every day of the year, and that is our **freedom "In Christ"** to live a life to glorify Him, so that His banner of love, truth, and peace can be seen by all. It is a flag flown high in

the castle of my heart (taken from a song). We can be free in our spirit to serve the Creator of the whole universe and that my friends, is **True and Freedom**. Romans 8:2 says, "For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus made me **free** from the law of sin and of death."

Just like the flag that represents **freedom**, Jesus is a banner over us, protecting and shielding us. He is the "Glory and the Lifter of our heads: at all times. Let **freedom** ring out in your heart today.

(Article from CBN-Cathy Irvin)

Let's Talk

Keeping the Covenant

All "born again" believers have indeed been given the "grace" to become the "children of God." There are unlimited benefits and blessings that are given to us because of our "elder brother", Jesus Christ.

There are so many scriptures that validate and confirm our status as children of the Heavenly Father. Here are some of them:

1. John 1:12 "But as many as receive Him, to them He gives power to become sons of God."
2. Galatians 4:6 "And because we are sons, He sends into our hearts the spirit of His own Son crying, Abba Father."
3. 1 John 3:1 "Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called the children of God."
4. 1 John 2:28 "And now, little children, abide in Him, so that when He appears we may have confi-

dence and not shrink from Him in share..."

In these critical days we must learn to enjoy and participate in the unlimited benefits and privileges that we have as children of God.

Just as David "cut the covenant" with Jonathan (1 Samuel 18:3 and 20:14-17), it afforded all of Jonathan's family covenant benefits for life. Even so, we enjoy the royal benefits because of the blood covenant made between the Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ.

Let's look at the benefits that Jonathan's son, Mephibosheth, received because of the covenant. (2 Samuel 9).

1. He received the king's favor (verse 1)
2. He received the king's forgiveness (verse 3)
3. He received the king's fellowship (verse 4)
4. He received the king's fortune (verse 7 & 9)
5. He received the king's food (verse 10 & 13)
6. He received the king's family (verse 11)

Think about it! Mephibosheth lived like a "dead dog", crippled (not only physically, but emotionally and spiritually crippled). He was filled with bitterness and hate for the very King that loved him. He

crawled around in a desert place, not realizing that he had a covenant right to sit and reign with the king!

Don't allow any desert place or any "crippled-ness" in you life to prevent you from returning to your position as a daughter of the Family of God in covenant with Christ Jesus, the firstborn of many children.

Let's quit "barking like dogs" and start praising our God! We are His true daughters!



And I'm proud to be an American where at least I know I'm free. 'Cause there ain't no doubt I love this land

God bless the USA!

