



The Circle Connection

Southeast Region
Ladies Uplift
Circle

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Greetings from our President:

If asked “who are you?” how would you answer? Perhaps you would say I am a mother, a grandmother, a daughter, a widow, a wife, an American, a Floridian, a woman, a Christian, a student, a teenager, an elderly woman, a teacher, a home maker, and the list goes on and on. All of these are appropriate answers to the question posed, but do they truly define who you are? I want us all to consider a deeper, more meaningful answer to the question “who are you?”

We play countless roles in our lifetime, as noted above. At any given moment we could be multiple things to multiple people. And those “roles” change constantly. So if we are to define our identities by the things we do there is no way to get a handle on the essence of ourselves. We also tend to get caught up in and sometimes overly attached to those roles. When change comes, and it always does, and something takes away one of our roles many times we go through depression, confusion, and a huge identity crisis.

However, as Christians we must remember that when we went to the water and were baptized, our perceived identities “died” with Christ and were “born again” with only one true identity, that of being a child of God. Our identity should be rooted firmly in the fact that we are heavenly

beings, to be reunited eternally with God. These things of earth are only temporary. If we remember who we really are at all times we can weather all the storms of this natural life.

As Paul so eloquently reminds us “We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed; Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body....For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens”. II Corinthians 4:7-9; 5:1

When we identify who we really are it is easy to find meaning and purpose for this natural life. Ultimately it is to recognize that we need to serve God and allow Him to use us to His honor and glory. I recently heard a quote “God doesn’t need our capabilities. He needs our availability.” If you make yourself available to God He will use you. Jesus was sure of his purpose, to do the will of His Father. While we may not be perfect like Jesus, God has purpose and plan for each of us. My prayer is that we might all do the will of the Father in our own unique and individual ways.

Give Me Understanding Lord: A Lesson on Inward and Outward Beauty.

On January 26, 2008, at the Forest Hills, FL local, the Southeast Area Ladies Uplift Circle hosted a day-long fellowship event titled "Give Me Understanding Lord: A Lesson on Inward and Outward Beauty". Although the event was open to all sisters and friends the focus of the day was on our young women. The desire to conduct this special event stemmed from the recognition that the Southeast Area has many young women, baptized and unbaptized, who face many challenges in this present day. The hope of the officers of the Circle was that this would be an opportunity for those women to learn how to incorporate God and the Church in their everyday lives as well as learn to rely on the support they have from their sisters of all ages.

The event was divided into three key components. The first part focused on our inner beauty and utilized the means of a seminar, prepared and facilitated by Sis. Anne Moore. Sis. Anne felt the Lord's inspiration as she introduced and expounded on the themes of learning to know God through developing an understanding of His ways, gaining wisdom, exploring faith, and being of service. The themes were taught to us through biblical character studies of Solomon, who prays for understanding, and King Benjamin, who in the book of Mosiah extols his people concerning faith and serving his fellow man and God. It was a blessing to have more seasoned sisters present to share testimonies of how they have learned to rely on the Lord.

After a thought provoking and blessed seminar our group spent the rest of the afternoon enjoying a spa-like atmosphere. As

we snacked on punch and cookies there were various activities under way including lip and hand treatments, manicures, hair and make-up applications, and very relaxing neck and shoulder massages given by two professional massage therapists in the community who donated their time to us. We also enjoyed making a photo frame craft and fellowshiping.

Around 5:30 pm the photo flashes lit up the room amidst a scurry of 35 women getting all dressed up and ready for the third part of our event, a formal dinner at a local Italian restaurant. It was the intent of the Circle to treat our sisters, once they were not only feeling but looking beautiful, to a fine dining experience to celebrate each and every woman present. The atmosphere was euphoric as the group dined on a delicious meal received small trinkets to remember the day and truly felt the blessings of spending a spirit filled day with one another.

This was a day never to forget, not just for the massages and the fine dining, but most importantly because the Lord's spirit was there and consumed every part of the event. The Ladies Circle thanks all those who worked so hard to make this day happen and those who received the blessing.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR:

When: September 20, 2008
Where: Hollywood, FL
What: SE Area Ladies Circle Meeting

Hollywood Circle News

The sisters in Hollywood have been blessed with new circle members and have continued to meet the first Wednesday, and added the third Sunday (afternoon) of each month when possible. We have found this allows those sisters who live a distance from the branch building to attend as well as those who are unable to drive at night.

We have been reading and studying different topics from both the Bible and Book of Mormon. One of our recent lessons dealt with "Fervent Prayer". We had wonderful discussions on: How we pray....

Stay Focused – unwavering
Is your heart right?
Ask earnestly – fervently
Ask in the name of Christ
Have Faith
Listen to the Spirit
Pray without Ceasing
Pray with Thanksgiving

In another lesson we were reminded of the importance of praising God and giving thanks for all things. We read in the early history of America how the pilgrims gave thanks. Our nation set aside a day of Thanksgiving after Abraham Lincoln made it a national holiday in 1863.

In Psalms 118:1 David writes, "Oh give thanks unto the Lord; for he is good: because his mercy endureth forever."

The circle sisters praise God for the joy we find in the Gospel and have been encouraged and strengthened when we meet together as circle sisters.

Recipe Corner

Judy's Orange and Pineapple Cake

1 yellow cake mix (not the one with pudding or butter in the mix)
½ cup oil
4 eggs
2 cans mandarin oranges 8oz. drain one (I have used the publix brand it is 11 oz. so I don't use all the juice)

Beat the above ingredients together for 3 minutes.

Then pour into a 9x13 in. greased and floured pan

Bake 35- 40 minutes at 350 degrees.

Let the cake cool.

Then top the cake with:

8oz. Cool Whip, 20oz. crushed pineapple, and 1 small pkg. instant vanilla pudding.

*Beat pineapple with juice into the pudding for 5 minutes. Then fold in the cool whip.

Southeast Area Ladies Circle Fundraiser Cobbler Campaign

At our recent business meeting, it was voted that each local will be preparing and selling Cobbler Mix to benefit the Area Ladies Circle.

This is an opportunity to fellowship within your local while preparing these delicious, inexpensive treats (\$3 per bag).

All money collected should be forwarded by June 30th to Sis. Flo Perri, Area Financial Secretary. More details will be provided to your local officers.