

Women in the Church Newsletter

*Transformed to pursue the glory of God in our daily lives
-Becoming What We Behold-*

Mark your calendars!

- *WIC Annual Meeting:
August 29, 9am-12
- *Leadership Training:
September 18-19
- *Leadership Retreat:
October 9-11

Missionary Focus

**Frank & Cindy S-
WARM**

**Rostislav & Irene
Bilosevitch-
Gideons, Ukraine**

**Sam & Elizabeth
Goodwin-
Germany**

**Harold & Sarah
Schepian- SERGE,
Philadelphia**



Transformed by
Susan Hunt

*Circles 2 & 3 will be studying Chapter 7

*Circles 1 & 4 will be studying Chapter 8

Chapter 8: Mary's Son and Savior

Whether a woman is a life-giver or a life-taker her legacy is, to some degree, passed on to the next generation. Hannah's life-giving legacy traveled through the years to a teen girl in Nazareth. When young Mary is told that her virgin womb will carry the Life of the world, she identifies herself as a servant: "Behold, I am the servant to the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." Had she been disciplined with the story of Hannah? Probably so. Compare her prayer of praise in Luke 1:46-55 to Hannah's own prayer in 1 Sam. 2:1-10. Prayers travel a long way. They are not limited to our own life-span. Who are you praying for?

Another aspect discussed in this chapter is the often hard topic of forgiveness. Jesus submitted to the Father's eternal plan and purpose, he suffered hell in order to accomplish that purpose, and he prayed for the forgiveness of those whose sin he bore. The power of this forgiveness frees us from bondage to sin and bursts into our lives to redeem all the effects of the curse of sin. Forgiveness liberates us to forgive. This is, indeed, an awesome thing that God does with his people. Our flesh may not be pierced with stones, but our hearts are. By God's Word and his Spirit we are reminded that we have been forgiven, and we are empowered to forgive. It's just another aspect of our Transformation into the image of Jesus.

Testimony Corner: Leighann Meek

For a few months now there has been a phrase that I have become very familiar with whether I say it to myself, or others are saying it to me. This phrase was "count your blessings". This would be the response I would hear to the negative outlook on life. So, I began counting my blessings thinking that would fix my problems and joy would fill my heart. Looking back on this I am not surprised that this did not work! I began to pray that the Lord would show me what I was missing. I continued to list my blessings before or after doing my devotional, and for a week and a half, as I did this, I would pray that the Lord would open my eyes to what I was missing. I asked Him to fill my heart with joy. One evening I randomly decided to pick a devotional on an app on my phone. This devotional was all about times of trials and how we are blessed just simply because we are children of God. That immediately set my perspective back where it needed to be. As I read this devotional, I began to realize that the blessings I counted really meant nothing at all with out the greatest blessing of all... being a daughter of the King. Because I had been waiting and praying, that message held so much more weight. The Lord knew all along exactly what I needed to hear; He knew that my eye was off the prize. I had become so consumed with the negatives. Yet in the grand scheme of things they were being used for my own good and weren't truly negatives at all. Blessings seem weightless if we aren't remembering the greatest blessing of all. The blessings I listed after this were so much deeper. Blessings like, "I am grateful for my parents" became lists of specific things they had done for me that day that I was truly grateful for. My joy had been temporarily taken in a sense because I had forgotten that my true joy is found in Jesus Christ, and nothing outside of Christ will bring me that joy. The greatest blessing of all is being adopted by the heavenly Father.

Ephesians 1:3-5 "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love he predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will..."

