

NEWSLETTER TO THE

# Women of the Restoration

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

*“Wherefore he saith Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light.” Ephesians 5:14*

## COUNCIL MEMBERS RESPONSE TO THE THEME...

I have always found light to be truth. To bring something to light means to reveal or to make something public. Christ came to reveal to us who He is. He even tells us in John 14:6 “I am the way, the truth and the light! He didn’t just come for a few special people either, but for each and every one of us. We all experience different places of darkness, for some it’s not knowing about Christ at all, having no relationship with Him. For others that have a relationship, it can be easily compromised with doubt, fears or sin. And then there are many that sadly enjoy the darkness. This scripture contains so much hope because Christ not only calls to those who are asleep, but to those who are dead (spiritually dead) reminding them it is only in and through Him that light can be received. When Paul was writing to the Romans in chapter 13 he encouraged them to put on the “armor of light”, to “put on the Lord Jesus Christ”. He too knew how powerful the truth was and the protection Christ provides us when we accept it. John 3:21 says “he who loveth truth, cometh to the light..” Being a convert I can say I was not only awakened, but enlightened and invigorated. May it do the same for you is my prayer! ~Amy Burk

Do you know that you glow? Not just through your countenance, but physically glow? Research has found that our bodies emit visible light 1,000 times less than the sensitivity of our naked eyes. Scientists refer to this as ultraweak photon emissions (UPE’s), believing this light comes from biomolecular reactions that generate energy, creating photons as by-products. How creative is our Lord who placed His light within each of us! He tells us: I am the true light that lighteth every man that cometh into the world (D&C 90:1a), and we are to gird up (our) loins that you may be the children of the light (D&C 103:2). As you awake and arise, leaving behind those things which hinder you from enjoying the gift of living in the Kingdom of God, let Jesus’ light glow brightly in you and through you so that others may be a part of His Kingdom too! ~Barb Capps

When we physically sleep, we close our eyes; I’m sure there are expectations, but most of us close our eyes. When I imagine dead bodies, I picture all of them with their eyes closed. I say this because I believe that the Lord wants us to understand, in a physical sense, what he is trying to say in a spiritual sense. Spiritually speaking, day to day, too many of us walk around with our spiritual eyes closed. We MUST study, pray, seek and ask God to show us how to open our eyes and see the things that He wants us to see, in the spirit. Many of the battles that we are fighting today are of a

spiritual nature. The only way for us to be able to see the light of Christ is to open our spiritual eyes and let the light of our Lord into our hearts and minds. ~Stacy Pyatt

*Wherefore he saith Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light.” Ephesians 5:14*

### **COUNCIL MEMBERS RESPONSE TO THE THEME CONTINUED...**

This scripture reminds me of my walk trying to find Christ. I was raised and baptized in the Methodist church, but as a young adult I felt something was missing spiritually in my life. The Lord had awakened me and seeking to rise from the dead by searching for a new church home. I had considered several other denominations, but they all seemed lacking. The Lord knew exactly what I needed and placed me in a place that I was not really interested in going to, but due to a need I took a position at Sprint in 1987. I met Linda Guin there and my walk truly began seeing the light Christ was offering to me. I am forever grateful for the Lord leading me and that I was able to finally find the church home I was looking for. May we all not take for granted the special light that Christ seeks to continually bless us with, because the dark side is not where I ever want to go back too.

~ Mary Drummond

Several years ago, I felt the weight of my past sins like a heavy coat that I could not remove. I wanted so desperately to shed the “coat” and just have peace and joy. I would often pray for peace and beg God to take away the shame and guilt. I just wanted to be healed, yet I was still living under the “coat” of shame and guilt doing those things that were familiar, but not spiritually feeding my soul. In God’s perfect timing, I was able to shed that “coat” and through that I have found God’s love to be the most beautiful feeling I could ever receive. He awakened within me a desire to love Him. I recognize my complete dependence on Him if I want to have this abundant life that He desires for me to experience. I must make it a daily commitment to walk only in His Truth. I must not become so complacent that I forget to seek Him out in all that I am. It is my heart’s desire to wake up to each new day and seek Him first and foremost as I navigate through every moment. ~Jennifer

Schrunk

What do I think when I read this scripture? My Complacency is my first thought. Reminds me of all the excuses I give myself to put off those meaningful things in Christ I should be doing...” Work has been crazy. Dinners to plan and make. Family coming over. House to clean. Laundry to do. Gardening and planting to do. Potlucks, meetings and classes to prepare for. Life’s everyday crazy.” So, I tell myself when I do sit down to take a break, it’s ok to have a “DUH” moment. Yes, I have named this time. My “Duh” moments are reading sci-fi or fantasy.

This scripture makes me realize my “Duh” moments are those times I am sleeping. That I need to read his word. His word has worth. It will draw me closer to my Father. It will alter my heart and life. His word will encourage, give peace and has more meaning than anything else. His word brought life, where there was none. His word in our hearts can win battles we are not even aware of.

So Why do I sleep in these “Duh moments? He is asking me to arise in Him. And He will give me light and in that light is love, joy and peace. This scripture is a challenge and is a goal for every day on Earth, at least for me. This scripture is a constant reminder there is more than “Duh” moments. ~Michelle Turner

*Wherefore he saith Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead,  
and Christ shall give thee light.” Ephesians 5:14*

### **COUNCIL MEMBERS RESPONSE TO THE THEME CONTINUED...**

I have been struggling with some losses and some other things in my life. I have prayed, a lot. I have started to feel joy again. That has helped me heal and move forward more than I have ever realized. At this point in my life, the joy is soaking into my soul and I am starting to be able to show my God given joy to others. The light of Christ is also permeating my whole soul and beginning to shine outwardly. That joy and light is bringing me such joy, hope and love and I am praying these show and bless others. May the joy and light of God shine on you. ~Monica Rush

### **MEET OUR NEW COUNCIL MEMBERS**



Mary Drummond lives in Grain Valley, MO and has 3 children, plus several grandchildren. She is a convert to the church, was baptized in 1989 and attends the Colbern Restoration Branch. Mary has been active within the church having taught Sunday school, assisted with retreats, and has helped with different congregational activities. She is currently the Women's Leader at Colbern, which she has done for many years, and is co-facilitating the Healing Hearts program. Mary is excited to be a part of the Women's Council, saying *“I have had a heart for the women for many years and look forward to expanding my service to a larger group of sisters.”*

Stacy Pyatt has been a church member all of her life. Her parents Paul and Jackie Frinsthal attend Colbern Road Restoration Branch and Stacy and her daughters attend Missionary Branch. *Stacy has accepted a position on the council and says, “I am excited to serve the Lord within such a wonderful circle of ladies; the Restoration Women’s Council. Thank you so much for this opportunity.”*



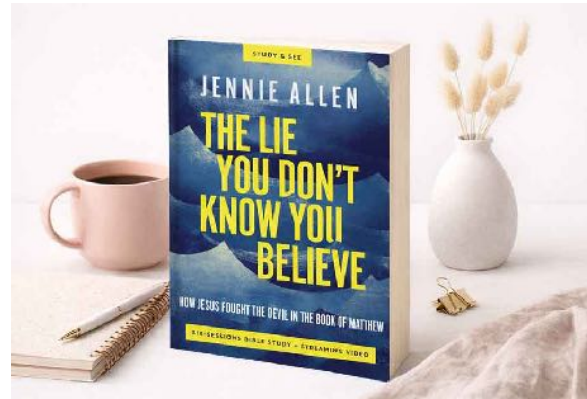
# Book Review

## The Lie You Don't Know You Believe

by Jennie Allen

*Reviewed by Nicole Capps*

If you are feeling stuck, overwhelmed, alone, or carrying a heaviness you can't quite explain, I would encourage you to read this book. In *The Lie You Don't Know You Believe*, Jennie Allen explores three core lies that the enemy tempts us to believe—lies we may have unknowingly accepted for far longer than we realize. She emphasizes the importance of identifying and naming these lies, because only then can we begin to confront them with truth.



Jennie not only exposes these harmful thought patterns but also provides practical, scripture-based steps to help readers break free from them. Through different verses, she shows that freedom is not only possible, but available to us right now. I loved the example of how Jesus left us a clear guide of how we can overcome each lie presented.

At the heart of the book is a choice: we can live in God's kingdom of truth and light, or remain stuck in the darkness of the enemy's lies. This decision shapes how we think, live, and experience freedom.

"If all this struggle is making you feel crazy and exhausted, know that you're not alone. You're not weak. You're not broken beyond repair. You're not the only one who feels like they're paddling in the middle of the ocean while everyone else seems to be floating effortlessly. You're living in the middle of a war. And the war wants you stuck in shame. Stuck believing you have to fix yourself. Stuck believing you'll never be free. But there's another way. There's a better kingdom you can choose."

One of the most impactful aspects of the book is how Jennie uses scripture to remind us that God can and will set us free from any bondage we find ourselves in. While we may still be tempted to believe lies, we are not powerless. By rooting ourselves in God's truth, we can walk in freedom and experience peace, regardless of our circumstances.

# SAVE THE DATE

## FALL RETREAT

### September 12<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup>

### Odessa Hills Campgrounds



# Testimonies

## Simplify

by Natalie Prater

*"Our life is frittered away by detail, simplify, simplify". -Henry David Thoreau*

This quotation is on a bulletin board in my classroom, and I read it every day. However, I do not always follow its advice. I want to simplify and give up the world to gain Christ.

The world around us constantly clamors for our attention. It offers a dazzling array of possessions, ambitions, anxieties, and entertainment, all packaged as things we *must* have or *must* worry about. But as the quote by Thoreau reminds us, and as the scripture confirms, a life focused on these details is a life frittered away.

We read in Romans 12:2: "And be not conformed to this world; but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God is." The enemy of our soul wants us to conform—to blend in, to get caught up in the same endless pursuit of worldly cares. But God calls us to transformation, which begins with a renewed mind—a mind cleared of the clutter of the world.

Think about the time and energy we spend worrying about things that, in the grand scheme, are temporary: our finances, our career status, the opinions of others, or the latest trends. When we allow these worldly concerns to dominate our thoughts and prayers, we miss out on hearing the perfect will of God. We fill the space meant for divine guidance with our own earthly wish list.



The words of Jesus in Matthew 6:28-34 are a profound antidote to this worldliness. He asks us to look at the birds and the lilies. They neither sow nor spin, yet the heavenly Father provides for them with impeccable care. What is His message to us? "Therefore, take no thought for these things, but keep my commandments wherewith I have commanded you."

This is the essence of simplification: removing the noise of the world so that we can clearly hear and follow the voice of God. It is a call to radical trust. When we truly believe that God will provide for our needs—our food, our clothing, our well-being—we are freed from the constant anxiety that defines the worldly life. We can trade the heavy burden of "taking thought" for the light yoke of obedience.

Let us commit to simplifying our lives, not just by cleaning out our closets, but by purging our hearts and minds of unnecessary worldly distractions. Let us make room for God's presence, focus on His commandments, and experience the abundant life He promises to those whose faith is not little, but fixed firmly upon Him.

# Testimonies

## from Rwandan Sisters

### Divine Ineza



I grew up with divorced parents and it was a deep depression to me cause I always envied the kids at my age for having both parents. The divorce led to poverty where they had to separate also the properties they had and my Mom and Dad had a loan so we were left with nothing and studying was hard for us. Years passed, and I had that pain, envy, depression and anxiety, but once I entered in the Church of Christ and had baptism I felt change in life and freed myself from the past and only focused in the future. And I decided to always trust God and His plan for me in everyday life though we past through a lot but here we are all grown up and healthy because of God.

First of all I would like to greet you in the name of Jesus Christ. I am going to tell you about by testimony after getting married, after getting at my own home. I married into the family of my husband. They hated me at the extent there is one of them who took me to witch doctors without my acknowledgement, and what witch doctors do is taking us to evil spirits and being a slave to dark power But God showed me that through prayers. I thought that couldn't happen cause I believed the family and God saw that I loved them though they did that, and God protected me to live. But in those tragedies my husband thou he seemed like he didn't care about that he stood by my side. I thank God for protecting me and protecting my home and we are still together with 2 kids and we have been together for 20 years. I take this opportunity to tell my fellow sisters who don't have marriage yet that they have to believe God, nothing else that matters in life (except) prayers, pray and God will answer your prayers whatever situation you are in. Thank you

### Vestine Untohoza



### Elisabeth Mukontinoli



My name is Elisabeth Mukontinoli from Rwanda. I am a wife and mother of two children. After joining Church of Jesus Christ, I was baptized and became a new creation in Christ. Through this journey, I have learned the power of faith, forgiveness, and humility. My life has been transformed by God's grace, and I am grateful to walk in His love each day.

# Gatherings

## 2026 Winter Gathering

by Mary Drummond

The Restoration Women's Council Winter Gathering was January 31<sup>st</sup>. The Oak Grove Restoration Branch hosted this gathering welcoming sixty-five women in from the cold with tulips on the tables in the fellowship hall to remind us that spring is not far off. It was wonderful to see so many women brave the cold to attend and share in the activities. The theme for the morning was from Ephesians 5:14, "Awake Thou That Sleepest."

Mary Sue Kennon led the women in a hymn sing with songs and scriptures to prepare us for the morning. Sheila Lidberg shared a devotion centered on our omniscient God. She read scripture and pulled different notable thoughts from authors, Ruth Chou Simons and Timothy Keller. Jessica, Hannah, and Miriam Holmes with Carianne Lidberg provided the Ministry of music. The words of their songs were beautiful reminding us that the Lord has a work for all of us to do, but we must "awake and respond." Lisa Postlewait provided a fun activity in the fellowship hall for the women to get to know each other. We sat at two long tables and every three minutes switched partners, with one side of the table moving down one person. She provided cards with questions that were serious and fun that the ladies answered about themselves. As the activity progressed the voices got louder and laughter was heard as our sisters enjoyed sharing with old friends and making new ones.

We returned to the sanctuary for another beautiful song by the Holmes family and our class. Sherrie Smith taught our class sharing her hope for us that God would bring good things that would provide, help, healing, strength, and courage as we seek to follow him. She shared her testimony called "her quiet miracle" and said she is now "awake" and knows what the Lord would have her do. She provided a handout titled "Awake to a Remembrance of the Book of Mormon and its Purpose and Mission," along with sharing several scriptures and testimonies that tied back to her handout. She shared the importance of bringing the Book of Mormon to the Lamanites, which we have been admonished to do. We must seek to understand our role in fulfilling that commandment. Several books and articles were referenced, including the Book of Mormon Deeps Vol III by Roy Weldon and articles from glyph notes on the precolumbiansi.org site. She spoke about when we unite in prayer how it can make such a difference. Be diligent in your prayers. She shared an excerpt on prayer from "Imagine the God of Heaven" by John Burke. God wants to hear your prayers and know that your sufferings matter to him. The ultimate goal that she wanted the us to take away is that we should treasure the Book of Mormon. The book belongs to the Lamanites, but down through the ages, the saints have been and are the custodians of the book praying that one day their descendants will except this book with its special message. The morning activities were closed with Oak Grove providing lunch.





# Hymn Review

## Blessed Assurance

By Amy Burk

I want to tell you today about 2 ladies. The first one is Phoebe Knapp. Phoebe was an amateur musician, a composer, but not a song writer. Her friend on the other hand had written many hymns and gospel songs. Knowing that, Phoebe asked this friend to listen to her music and tell her what it said to her. Most of us have probably had a friend ask us to listen to or read something, and then give them our opinion of it.

Now this friend of Phoebe's had every reason to negative. She was blind, so I'm sure she felt quite alone and in the dark at times, but she knew her life circumstances were only a matter of perspective. This also wasn't the first time she had been asked to do something like this. It was said that often times other composers would ask her to write lyrics to their music. When visiting ministers would come to town they would also ask her to write something about a particular subject, only later to be found by a composer who ended up composing music specifically for those writings.

Phoebe's friend was Fanny Crosby. As Phoebe played her music that day Fanny exclaimed "Well, that says blessed assurance Jesus is mine!" And so the most famous of all her work was born out of an attitude of faith and gratefulness. The term "Blessed Assurance" is not scriptural in and of itself but by definition assurance means to be certain or confident, free from doubt. Blessed assurance would then mean a holy or unshakeable confidence in the certainty of truth. When we dwell on what we don't have or can't do it is actually only because we doubt God can use it for good. We must apply our foundational truth of the scripture to measure all our circumstances. Hebrews 10:22-24 says *"Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; for he is faithful that promised us; and let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works;"*

I know not all of us can write like Fanny Crosby, but we can align our hearts and train ourselves to think the way she did. Despite all the adversity she faced she still found a way to be useful by praising God and bringing her love and compassion towards him to others. Fanny was person who could see past the darkness of this world to shed a greater light on the glory of God. Because of that attitude and outlook it was easy for her to be found praising God at all times. Psalms 34:1-3 says *"I will bless the Lord at all times; his praise shall continually be in my mouth. My soul shall make her boast in the Lord; the humble shall hear thereof and be glad. O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt his name together."*

As you read her song think about how it makes you feel and what your response will be.

*Note: I have inserted the word "Zion" for the original word of "rapture".* Think of Jesus as ours, being filled with His goodness, mercy and love so that we can truthfully sing, say and show that our story is to praise him not just all the day long, but all our lives long.



# BLESSED ASSURANCE

By Fanny Crosby

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine;  
Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!  
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,  
Born of His Spirit, washed in His blood.

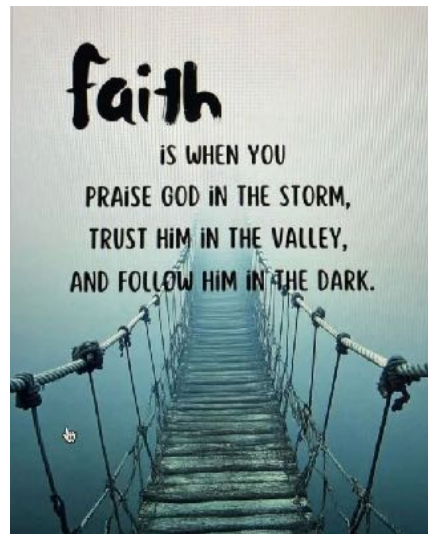
*This is my story, this is my song,  
Praising my Savior all the day long.  
This is my story, this is my song,  
Praising my Savior all the day long.*

Perfect submission, perfect delight,  
Visions of “Zion” now burst in my sight;  
Angels descending, bring from above  
Echoes of mercy, whispers of love.

*This is my story, this is my song,  
Praising my Savior all the day long.  
This is my story, this is my song,  
Praising my Savior all the day long.*

Perfect submission, all is at rest,  
I in my Savior am happy and blest;  
Watching and waiting, looking above,  
Filled with His goodness, lost in His love.

*This is my story, this is my song,  
Praising my Savior all the day long.  
This is my story, this is my song,  
Praising my Savior all the day long.*



## 2026-27 Women's Council Members

Amy Burk [amy.burk311@aol.com](mailto:amy.burk311@aol.com)

Barb Capps [cappsbarb@yahoo.com](mailto:cappsbarb@yahoo.com)

Mary Drummond [Drummond.mary580@gmail.com](mailto:Drummond.mary580@gmail.com)

Stacy Pyatt [srfrinsthal@yahoo.com](mailto:srfrinsthal@yahoo.com)

Monica Rush [amwjdr4jesus@gmail.com](mailto:amwjdr4jesus@gmail.com)

Jennifer Schrunk [jenniferschrunk@yahoo.com](mailto:jenniferschrunk@yahoo.com)

Michelle Turner [smtturner3346@outlook.com](mailto:smtturner3346@outlook.com)

**Find us on facebook**



**Restoration  
Women's Council**

Please feel free to reach out to us if you have any questions.

### EPHESIANS 5:14

KING JAMES VERSION

Wherefore he saith,  
Awake thou that sleepest, and  
arise from the dead, and Christ  
shall give thee light.

