



# WOMEN TODAY THRIVE

CELEBRATION  
ISSUE!

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2011

WOMEN'S MINISTRY AT THE CHAPEL AT CROSSPOINT

LINDA PENN, DIRECTOR

## "Joy Complete" by Kim Holet

If there is someone who knows how to be joyful, it must be God. After all, he is God so he has probably cornered the market on "how to be joyful". I love being joyful, although I do not do it enough. My kids do it often. The beauty of the first snow brought out squeals, jumping and bright eyes in my 4 year old. My husband gets giddy when he sees the first buck in the woods during hunting season. I can ride the high of a good shopping deal for a few days. These examples are simply moments of joy that pass like the weather changing. True, lasting joy is found somewhere else. John 15:11, *"As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete."*

From our first look at this verse, it seems to be tying love, commands and joy together. So, let's tackle what it says about love first. Jesus says that he loves us like the Father loves him. This is quite a statement. God loves perfectly. Jesus loves us like God the Father loves him. Jesus loves us completely and beyond all that we could ever imagine love to be. I know that you are thinking there must be a catch for something this good to be real. There is, except it's not bad. This perfect love is available to us and given freely but *we must remain in it*. We have the ability to walk away from God's love. We can choose to turn our backs. God doesn't revoke his love from us when we do something bad. He keeps it exactly where it was in the first place. The love is still there even if your back is turned. You just need to turn around.

So, we have this totally mind blowing love available to us that we can choose to accept or deny. Jesus tells us to remain in his love. How do we do this? Look at verse 10, he tells you. Keeping God's commands, keeps you in God's love. Sounds a bit legalistic doesn't it? Don't let that fool you-God is not legalistic. Why would keeping God's commands allow us to remain in Jesus' love? Well, in order to keep his commands, we have to stay close to Jesus. For example, how well do you do at the command "love your neighbor as yourself"? Your neighbor is not just the person living in the house next door to you, but rather your spouse, kids, family, co-workers, crazy drivers, lazy employees, arrogant bosses, McDonald's workers who always mess up your order...basically everyone on the face of the planet is your neighbor. Now take a quick survey of just this morning and see if you think that you loved everyone you came in contact with the way you would want to be loved. If you're honest enough to really do that survey, you would realize that it is impossible to love everyone as you love yourself unless...you are staying close to Jesus.

What do I mean by "staying close to Jesus"? Thinking of him, talking to him, remembering what he's said through his Word, asking him to help you to understand the person you are working with, telling him what you think about the current situation you are in, listening to him answer your questions...basically you have a relationship with him like you would your best friend.



This is where we often get messed up. We believed that getting all of the commands right will earn us favor, blessings or even our salvation. This isn't what Jesus is saying. He knows that you cannot keep all the commands perfectly. He knows that you cannot earn his favor or salvation. Why did he ask us to do

something he knew we could not do? So we would realize we need to be closely connected to him in order for him to form in us what the commands are trying to teach us. As we change to look, act and think like Jesus, we are living what God commands without even thinking about it. We are not "doing" anymore-we are living them out because they are a part of who we are.

Some ways we can stay connected to Jesus are through the practice of spiritual disciplines, including: fasting, praying, silence, simplicity, studying God's word, community and worship, just to name a few. These must be done for the right reasons or we tend to turn them into a legalistic "checking off the good Christian activity list" instead of the goal of connecting with God. If your desire in reading the bible is to connect with God, you will read slower, ask God what he wants you to learn, pray when something comes to mind to pray for and actually enjoy time with God. If you are studying the bible just to "check it off your list" or because someone told you it will make you have a better day, you will be rushing to finish and trying to use time with God like rubbing a lucky rabbit's foot.

Spiritual disciplines are great in keeping us close to God so that he can transform us into his likeness. The more you practice "hearing God" in the silence of your home, the more likely you will be able to hear him in the noise of daily life.

The verse we began with linked love, commands and joy together. When we love God, we will want to do what he says is good to do. When we stay close to Jesus in order to live out these commands, we will experience joy. Being in a close relationship with the greatest Love ever known will bring you such wonderful, heart fulfilling joy. God doesn't tell us to do things just because he can; he gives us commands to follow because he knows they will bring us joy. *"I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete"*.

### In this issue...

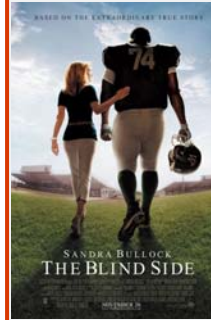
Joy Complete.....	1
THRIVE Happenings.....	2-3
Death By Chocolate.....	4
Calendar .....	5
Testimonies.....	6-8

**About this issue...**



As you may have noticed, this issue's a bit different from normal newsletters. It's a Celebration Issue with testimonies about how God's been working in the lives of some of our ladies this past year. One goal of THRIVE women's ministry is to glorify God with all that we do whether in bible study, worship, service or being in community. The joy of knowing God should pour out of our lives to impact and encourage others. This is why we do small group bible studies. We understand that if our ladies take steps toward knowing God more, the joy of their relationship with him will impact ladies around them. With each woman loving God with their life and pouring out the joy that comes from knowing God on to others, we will have a powerful, passionate group of ladies changing WNY with Christ's love. Getting into a small group bible study is an easy and fun way to know God more and connect with other ladies from our area. It is wonderful to meet someone who is at the same stage of life with which to share hope and wisdom. It is also great to meet someone who is further along in life and can be an encouragement for what life brings in the future. As you read this issue, enjoy the testimonies of God's work in many lives and consider getting connected so you too can have a chance to celebrate with us! THRIVE Small Group Bible Studies start Mon., Jan. 24 and Tues., Jan. 25. Pick up a brochure at the THRIVE Table.

**MOPS & POPS  
MOVIE NIGHT  
Friday, February 18  
6:30-8:30 pm  
Fireside Room**



Bring your own take out dinner to enjoy with your hubby. Free childcare provided ( must reserve space ahead of time ). Popcorn, candy and drinks provided.

For more information, contact Melanie Budz at 716-434-1460



**COSTA RICA MISSIONS TRIP  
March 5-13, 2011**

God is redesigning our trip to Costa Rica in 2011. A team of around 30 men and women have committed to being used by God to build for His Kingdom by:

- Sharing their faith in Christ by personal testimony
- Partnering in ministry with the Costa Rican people
- Using our skills to teach spiritual growth to all ages, mentor, build and construct with our hands and work together
- Outreach to the homeless – meet the needs of men, women, & children
- Sharing leadership skills to pastors and their wives
- Presenting the 101 Renovation vision to South America
- Encouraging the local churches in Costa Rica
- Establishing the Costa Rica PRAY initiative throughout the region



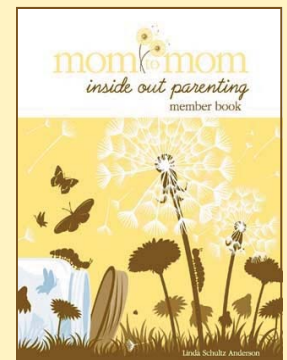
How can you help:

- Pray for us as we prepare to go
- Support our fundraisers so that we would have adequate funds to go and have the needed supplies and materials for the trip.

Contact Linda Penn for more information: [lpenn@thechapel.com](mailto:lpenn@thechapel.com)

**Mom to Mom Testimony:**

When MOPS ended for me a couple of years ago I remember feeling sad that a part of my life, where I communicated with other women in a godly way about parenting, was over. Then I heard about Mom to Mom starting, and it was literally an answer to my prayers. As I listen each week and talk with other mothers I am learning such practical, grace-based methods of parenting and I feel that God is truly transforming my heart and influencing how I raise my daughter. As women dealing with the many struggles of daily life, it is reassuring to be able to share with other women and realize that you are not alone in those struggles. We need each other...we need the gentle reminders that Mom to Mom gives us on how important it is to honor God, to honor our husbands and to leave a legacy of worship for our children that Psalm 145 calls us to do - "One generation will commend your works to another; they will tell of your mighty acts." (Psalm 145:4) Because of Mom to Mom, I'm excited and encouraged to seek the Lord and His will for nurturing my daughter and transforming my family.



-Michelle O'Brien-Foster

(Mom to Mom meets the 2nd and 4th Thursdays. Register at [thrivewomen.com](http://thrivewomen.com))



# Fish Fry Fundraiser

featuring Krolick's Barbeque Catering  
HELD IN THE CROSSPOINT THEATER

**Friday, January 28, 2011**

**4:30 PM—6:30 PM**

Drive Thru—Pick Up—Dine In

**TICKETS \$10 EACH**

Call 631-2636 x273 or stop by the THRIVE Table



Interested in a one-on-one mentoring relationship with another Christian woman to help you grow in your faith?

Then you'll want to sign up for the next **Orientation Coffee**, which will be held on **Tuesday, February 1, 2011** with Training & Kick-off on the following Tuesday, February 8. Both meetings will be held at 6:30 PM in the Fireside Room of The Chapel. Sign-up on the sheet at the THRIVE Table today.



WNY Regional Church Initiative for Prayer

Concert of Prayer

40 Days of prayer

Starting on Ash Wednesday, March 9, 2011 to Easter Sunday, April 24, 2011.

All materials provided.

Contact Linda Penn at lpenn@thechapel.com

## Concert of Prayer

The Concert of Prayer is to kick-off WNY Pray for THRIVE, The Chapel and WNY area with praise and prayer as we seek to impact our region with Christ's love.

**Monday night February 28, 2011 6:30-8:30 pm**

**Tuesday morning February 29, 2011 9:30-11:30 am**

Both will be held in the CrossPoint Theater

Men & women from The Chapel & other churches are welcome to join us for an enjoyable time of worship, thanksgiving, and prayer for ourselves, our government and our world.

Childcare will be available for Chapel participants only. Registration for childcare will be at the THRIVE ministry table.

## 2 Day Event

### Thriving in a Stepfamily

Friday,  
April 1, 2011  
6:00 pm-8:30 pm

### The Smart Stepmom

Saturday,  
April 2, 2011  
9:00 am-12:00 pm



**Laura Petherbridge**



Brochures available at the THRIVE ministry table in the atrium

Registration opens Feb. 2011.  
Go to [www.thrivewomen.com](http://www.thrivewomen.com) to register.

Hosted by The Chapel at CrossPoint  
WNY Churches are invited.

**\$35** for couples for both days  
**\$20** for couples for Friday night or Saturday morning only  
**\$20** for individuals for both days  
**\$15** for individuals for Friday night or Saturday morning only  
Cost includes a **FREE Italian Buffet** on Friday night for the first 500 registrants

# Death By Chocolate



**Guest Speaker  
Julie Barnhill**

**Monday, January 17, 2011**

**6:30-9:00 pm**



**Invite your friends!**

**No tickets required**

*Sorry, we are unable to offer childcare for this event*

## Who is Julie Barnhill?

*“Speaking and writing with a seasoned confidence and gravitas shaped by years of following after Jesus and tripping, tumbling, wiping out, and being compelled to get back up again in the pursuit of what is eternal. “I have enough years between me and initial salvation to know what matters, what remains, and Who is worthy of our passionate spiritual pursuit.” -Julie Barnhill*

Julie is married and has three children; Kristen, Ricky-Neal, and Patrick Michael. She says that her kids are sometimes annoying, always amusing, challenging, stubborn, funny and argumentative children. She is the wife to one (who would want more than that anyway?) who has co-owned her dream of speaking and writing since the year they first met. She is the author of eleven books, MomSense Magazine and is a popular columnist

Julie has had guest appearances on a wide-variety of media outlets including: Oprah, Focus on the Family, Family Talk, Dick Clark, FOX-News, TX, and Family Life.

She has also been a part of international speaking events including: Budapest, Hungary; Beijing, China; Vienna, Austria; Wiesbaden, Germany; Johannesburg, South Africa; London, England; and Debrecen, Hungary.

Julie's bold yet friendly kick-in-the-pants speaking delivery and writing style challenges audiences everywhere to go (much) broader and deeper in their life with Christ—to get serious about truly loving Him with all their heart and soul and mind and strength.

If you're wrestling with a holy discontent, ambitious for a deeper spiritual life and hungry for more of Jesus, Julie Barnhill urges you to “go for it” as she equips her audience with the knowledge, inspiration, and spiritual truths to live a life of passionate discipleship in the totality of everyday life.

## **Women's Sports Ministry – It's Time to Get in the Game!**




Do you enjoy team sports? Have you been sitting around and wondering how you can participate in the ministries at The Chapel? Then it's TIME FOR YOU TO GET IN THE GAME!


**We are proud to announce an expansion of Women's Sports here at The Chapel.**

Beginning in 2011 there will be many options for you to choose from: Softball, Basketball, Golf, Volleyball and Bicycling... just to name a few. Becoming involved in an organized sports program provides a unique opportunity for the Christian athlete to affect change. That opportunity not only brings new relationships with team mates, but provides a way to share our faith with those on opposing teams as well as those who are spectators at our games.

In addition, you don't have to be a member of The Chapel to become involved in our sports program, so invite that friend that is looking for a sense of community. Our goal is to provide a healthy platform on which we have multiple opportunities to share the love of Jesus with those around us.

If you are interested in building relationships and enjoying some healthy competition, then GET IN THE GAME! Stay tuned for more updates on our new programs. Any questions or comments? Contact Jodi Miller at [jodimiller@roadrunner.com](mailto:jodimiller@roadrunner.com).

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
January 2011						1
2 Worship 9:00 & 11:00am	3	4	5	6 MOPS 9:30 am	7	8
9 Worship 9:00 & 11:00am	10	11	12 Cornerstone Craft Night 6:30 pm	13 Mom to Mom 9:30 am	14	15 Cornerstone Dinner 5:30 PM
16 Worship 9:00 & 11:00am	17 Death By Chocolate 6:30-9:00pm	18	19	20 MOPS 9:30 am	21	22
23/30 Worship 9:00 & 11:00am	24/31 Evening Edition Starts 6:30 pm	25 Morning Break Starts 9:30 am	26	27 Mom to Mom 9:30 am	28 Fish Fry Fundraiser 4:30-6:30 pm	29

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Morning Break 9:30 am Cornerstone Chapel 8:00 pm	2	3 MOPS 9:30 am	4	5 Tour de Romance Event 7:30-9:00PM
6 Worship 9:00 & 11:00am	7 Evening Edition 6:30 pm	8 Morning Break 9:30 am	9 Cornerstone Craft Night 6:30 pm	10 Mom to Mom 9:30 am	11	12
13 Worship 9:00 & 11:00am	14 Evening Edition 6:30 pm	15 Morning Break 9:30 am	16	17 MOPS 9:30 AM	18 MOPS Moms/Pops Nite 6:30-8:30pm	19 Cornerstone Dinner 5:30 PM
20 Worship 9:00 & 11:00am	21 Evening Edition 6:30 pm	22 Morning Break 9:30 am	23	24	25	26
27 Worship 9:00 & 11:00am	28 Concert of Prayer 6:30-8:30pm	March 1 Concert of Prayer 9:30-11:30am	February 2011			

## Marriage Mechanics: A Biblical Tune-Up For Your Marriage

(Meets Monday nights from 6:30-8:30 pm)

I was so proud to see all the men who came to the 1st class, and kept coming! Especially my husband. I wanted to take this class so badly. We have a good marriage but I want a great marriage. My husband said "yes!" I was jumping up and down with excitement. My kids were jumping up and down too! How wonderful to agree with your spouse to take a Bible study about marriage! Thank you God! We now look to God's word not the world to find the answers we need about intimacy, finances, communication, forgiveness, oneness, selflessness and resolving conflicts, to name a few. We are learning how to have a healthy marriage so our children can see what a Christian marriage looks like. We are learning how to support each other, respect each other, appreciate each other and love each other. We are each others greatest fan so we try not to criticize one another. We are human and we all make mistakes but we also have the Holy Spirit in us to guide us. We are held to a higher standard as children of God. We don't want to let our heavenly Father down. We want to make Him proud. We are so grateful for all of His blessings. We thank God for gently guiding us to Him. We thank God for each other.

*1 Corinthians 13:4-8 Love is patient...is kind...does not envy...does not boast...is not proud...is not rude...is not self-seeking...is not easily upset...keeps no record of wrongs...does not delight in evil...rejoices with the truth...always protects...always trusts...always hopes...always perseveres...never fails.*

-Jacqueline Furlani



Do you ever feel so tired and so pressed for time that you think, "I can't handle one more thing in my life, especially not at church." You might think, "*Church is the place where I need to be filled up, where I need to be served. Please don't ask me to sign up for ministry, or to go on a mission trip, or to watch someone else's kids in the nursery on Sunday?*"

Let me tell you, I have two very small and active girls and I feel that way a LOT...like I can't handle one more thing on my "to-do" list, and that maybe this really isn't the season of my life when I should be serving anyway.

There are times when there may be some truth to those feelings—times when you've over committed and over extended yourself. I am the QUEEN of trying to juggle too many things! However, I would also challenge you to look at what is going on in your life and to see where your time is being spent. Just as we are to tithe a portion of our money (because it is God's after all!), so should we do so with our time. Are you using your skills, interests and talents in some form to better your church community?

This past summer I received a phone call from the Chapel's new MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers) leader, Annette.

"Lisa, I heard that you like to write and that you might be interested in joining the MOPS steering team. We'd love to have you if you're interested. We could use someone to write our newsletter," Annette said.

I was genuinely interested but struck momentarily by panic.

"Annette, I'd love too. But, how in the world do you do that with kids? Attend more meetings? Write newsletters? Plan the monthly meetings?"

I realized in some ways my question was redundant. I mean, this was MOPS after all. All of these women were in the same boat—struggling to juggle the demands of their lives as the mothers of small children with outside interests and many other responsibilities.

Annette said something to that very degree to me. Something along the lines of, "We just do."

I did agree to join the leadership team and I am glad for that. I have to tell you that when you offer God your time, when you step forward and offer your skills to help build your church body in some way, He totally blesses you in return.

I could have just attended MOPS this year, but I'm not sure I would have enjoyed it half as much. I have made stronger connections with women because we are working together towards a common goal. I see them more often, am forced to email them on more occasions and, even if we have nothing else in common (which is not likely to be true, because we are, after all, ALL moms!), we have the common denominator of this team that we are mutually a part of and somehow that brings us closer together.

My experiences this year have not been a burden, as a matter of fact they have been a blessing. Alright, I'll be totally honest, there are times when I feel a little bit stressed because I do have an extra meeting to attend or because the newsletter is due to the church office the next day and I'm up until midnight working on it, but, in all honesty, the blessings outweigh any stress involved.

I feel sad when I meet people who have been in church for months, or even years and feel disconnected. I have seen it in my own life, and that of my husband's as well (who serves as part of the worship team)—we both grow spiritually and feel a deeper sense of connectedness when we are serving in ministry. We are happier, better and more spiritually aware people for it.

God has designed us each with a unique set of qualities and characteristics. We weren't meant to wander alone, we were meant for fellowship with Him and with the community of fellow believers. If you are feeling disconnected just ask God where you can plug in. I guarantee there is a spot waiting just for you and you will feel blessed for filling it in.

-Lisa Littlewood

(MOPS meets the 1st and 3rd Thursdays. Contact: [mops@thechapel.com](mailto:mops@thechapel.com))

What **Essentials** has done for me...

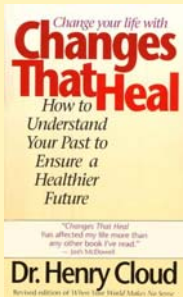
The 1<sup>st</sup> time I took Essentials it opened my eyes to a new relationship with God. It taught me how to listen for what God had in store for me. That led me on journeys I could not have imagined including going to Haiti last February and leaving notes for my 119 neighbors last Easter telling them that I was going to pray for them. The 2<sup>nd</sup> time I took Essentials it deepened my understanding and faith in my walk with God even more. It led me to be a table leader where I now have the joy of watching a small group of women grow in their love and faith in Jesus. Watching them grow in their faith and knowledge has been a blessing and wonderful but also challenged me again.



I prayed to God and asked Him once again where He wanted to use me. As an RN I am comfortable in hospitals and nursing homes and God seemed to be directing me toward possibly helping someone spiritually while in that setting. So I decided once again to come out of my comfort zone and approached Linda Penn about it and she directed me to Pastor Rich. We met and had a really good talk and they are going to train me to take me on my next journey. I guess the moral of my story is to open your heart and He will direct you. Trust in Him, He is good!

-Linda Caffrey

(Meets Mondays 6:30-8:30 pm & Tuesdays 9:30-11:30 am)



"Changes that Heal" has been a powerful influence in my life and how I have changed in relating to myself, others and God. I had these preconceived notions about how God was too busy for me. I was not interested in getting closer to significant people in my life because I was afraid of being abandoned. Also, my thoughts, were that I didn't deserve their love, God's or otherwise. These preconceived notions hindered me from bonding, healing and growing into an 'adult' and living the life God would like me to live. "Changes that Heal" will meet you right where you are emotionally and spiritually. Weekly readings, discussion with others, and watching weekly videos will help you grow in understanding yourself, others and God. God is so good. Because of this study, I have found a new love of myself, a forgiving heart for others and have started a walk with Christ that I never knew could be so sweet. You will not be disappointed with this study whether a seasoned Christian or a newbie.

(Meets Mondays 6:30-8:30 pm & Tuesdays 9:30-11:30 am)

-Michele Alagna

Soul Purpose has been an amazing experience for me. I am so thankful for each of the women in my group and I know God brought us together in Christian community for many reasons. Together we have deepened our faith walk, encouraged each other in tough times, been challenged as we've served and lived out "Kingdom Come" principles together. I'm so grateful that the environment is right to live out community as God intended. Each of us has received a taste of the God-designed trust relationship and call to Bible based accountability. For me, God has used the venue of Soul Purpose to draw me even closer to Him and for this I am thankful! What a privilege to spend time each week with other women whose lives have been invaded by the eternal life of Christ, and who have a deep desire to grow in their faith. I find that the encouragement and support that comes from this small group is highly effective to bring about personal, God-centered transformation in my life. We are indeed designed for community and I am thankful for the impact that these godly Soul Purpose women have had on me. Together each of us has been empowered to better impact our sphere of influence with Christ's message. Anyone looking for a loving, accepting, honest community should consider engaging in a Soul Purpose group. I have found this to be a place where you can bring your questions, dreams, needs and struggles. Love and acceptance is lived out to its fullest in Soul Purpose.

-Sonya Grabau



(Meets Mondays 6:30-8:30 pm & Tuesdays 9:30-11:30 am)

## BREAKING THE HOLD OF UNFORGIVENESS –Marriage Mechanics

“*And forgive us our sins as we have forgiven those who have sinned against us.*” Matthew 6:12.

I have a reason to celebrate! But first let me give you a little background about my story. I am 40 years old, a wife for 14 years and a mother with three kids. My parents were both alcoholics and drug addicted. I met my father for the first time at 8 years old and he died when I was 19 leaving me to deal with the guilt of our very broken relationship.

I was forced to be a parent living in a child’s body at a very young age in the relationship with my mother. Due to her addictions, I was both neglected and rejected and she was unable to protect me against the physical, sexual, verbal, and emotional abuse I encountered as a child. Mom was killed last year as a passenger in a car that went over a bridge, and once again I was left carrying the guilt of our broken relationship. I was devastated with unanswered questions about their love for me and I now lost the hope of ever sharing my heart with either one.

You may be asking what can I possibly have to celebrate after such tragedy. Well, let me tell you that through it all, even times when I was unaware, my heavenly Father never left me nor did he forsake me. He loved me when my parents could not. The Lord took my scars and turned them into stars that shine bright for His glory. As far as I am concerned, God turned into good what was meant for evil. He brought me to the high position I have today so I could save the lives of many people. *Genesis 50:20*

Satan tried to destroy me with the death of my mother. I was diagnosed with chronic depression, prescribed medication and put on sick leave from my job. I had started hiding in my closet so no one would know that I was losing control. Enduring the tears, panic attacks, heart palpitations, and body pains, I withdrew from family and friends while putting all my unhappiness on my kids and my husband.

The depression began to destroy my marriage so I decided to enroll my *husband* into the Marriage Mechanics Class here at the Chapel so they could help fix *him* to be what I wanted him to be. I felt like I did not need to be fixed because I was not the problem; *he* was. But I was willing to go to class with him as his moral support. Then God began to do a work in me in such a way in the class that it went from *Marriage* Mechanics to *Cordie* Mechanics. God told me to take the log out of my eye before I judge anyone else. My focus was shifted and God began to fix me by first showing me all the ugliness inside me – selfishness, resentment, unforgiveness, and hurt.

With all of this inside a person how can there be a good marriage? After all, isn’t marriage just a word that describes two hearts trying to operate as one. God showed me that with a heart like this I was setting my husband up for failure because I was unable to allow his love for me to penetrate such a barrier. I now understand all the “No matter what I do, it is not enough” from my husband. He was right; he did not hold the key to unlock that void that only God could. My life changed when God lead one of the leaders of Marriage Mechanics to give me a book entitled “The Importance of Forgiveness”. This book was the key to my freedom - the beginning of the restoration of my marriage was beginning. It taught me to repent for holding grudges and for not forgiving people.

Unforgiveness is first an act of disobedience to God - we are to forgive everyone, even the undeserving. My unforgiveness towards my parents and other abusers separated me from God. I was reaping the same measure of unforgiveness I gave others. What a load lifted off my shoulders - I felt like I just had lost a lot of weight. Now that I am reconnected to God, I can see the hurt, shame, guilt and weakness of my parents. This may sound strange but God is allowing me and my parents for the first time to have that heart to heart talk we never had; even while they are absent from here. It is amazing how God works. I am now free to say, scream, and cry out all the hurtful things they did or did not do to me. Things that I would have never have had the heart to say to them face to face because I was always trying to protect them. God then speaks for them by saying it was never my fault, and I was not a bad little girl who deserved it, but that I was a beautiful, strong little girl. One who they never wanted to reject, but wanted to protect from their lifestyle of shame, and they did love their little girl in the ways that they knew.

“Lord, I celebrate you for breaking the chains of unforgiveness in my life. I am free from that dark childhood and have love for everyone that was a part of it, no longer holding grudges or judgments. The awareness of knowing I did nothing wrong as a child and was always worthy to be loved has been very healing for me. My hope that my relationship with my parents could be made right and I could finally feel love from them were dashed and gone to the grave with them, but You stepped in and said NO! Lord, I praise you for being the alpha and omega, the power of life and death is really in your hands. I thank you for letting me feel wrapped in my parent’s arms and loved for the first time. Generational curses have been broken and I am now free to give and receive love. My children, and their children will now be free to forgive and be forgiven. Thank you Lord, you are AWESOME.”

-Cordie Daniels

## Marriage Mechanics: A Biblical Tune-Up For Your Marriage

meets Mondays  
6:30-8:30 pm



### What is THRIVE?

**T**HRIVE is the Women’s Ministry at The Chapel—a place where you can safely explore, truly encounter & whole-heartedly experience the love of Jesus. Get connected with other women...get connected with God. THRIVE is all about connecting women to women, meeting them where they are and taking them where they need to go. THRIVE is a place to believe that Jesus died on the cross for you, that you are made in His image, and that He has a plan and purpose for your life. It is also a place for you to become the woman, wife, mother, grandmother, and/or professional that God wants you to be. Join us!

### Transformed by the Word

Honoring Christ

Reaching the World

Influencing Others

Virtuous Living

Embracing Womanhood



THRIVE is the Women’s Ministry at  
The Chapel at CrossPoint  
500 CrossPoint Pkwy.  
Getzville, NY 14068  
716.631.2636

[www.thrivewomen.com](http://www.thrivewomen.com)

THRIVE Ministry is a part of The Chapel at CrossPoint’s Kingdom Come family of ministries that seek to ensure that every man, woman and child has repeated opportunities to hear & see the Gospel of Jesus Christ.