

Wise Women Speakers Association Newsletter

Speaking the Truth In Love...!

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Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Celebration

On this year's Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday, I had the pleasure of celebrating with others at Doers of the Word Christian Fellowship Church (DOWCF) here in Charlotte. WWSA member Rev. Belinda Stokes is the founder and senior pastor of this new, dynamic and growing fellowship of believers. In follow-up to this celebration, she sent out the following email that I thought you would enjoy reading. It's reprinted in its entirety below.

"President Barack Obama set up a program encouraging Americans to provide opportunities for people to serve in their local communities. The President's program kicked off with the Dr. King Holiday. In response, DOWCF held its first Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Worship Service and Youth Workshop on January 19 at noon. The purpose of the day was threefold--"Remembering the Legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.; Celebrating the Inaugural of President Barack Obama; and Preparing Future Generations." Music was rendered by guest psalmist Min. Catrina Pegues. A special surprise guest delivered the sermon--a CD of one of Dr. King's sermons was played. An excerpt of Dr. King's "I Have a Dream" speech was delivered by ninth grader Robert Carr and "Dr. King's Letter to African-American Christians" was read by Nora McEachin. In tribute to the day, Pastor Stokes read her original work entitled "Today" and Carrie Johnson Pegues read her prophetic poem "We Need a New Vision" which was written a few years ago and embodies the character, spirit and vision of President Obama. Lunch and a Youth Workshop facilitated by usaservice.org volunteer Fernanda Tate-Owens concluded the day."

On page two is a copy of the email received from President Obama thanking Rev. Stokes for having a Dr. King holiday event that afforded an opportunity for Americans to serve in their local community?



PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURAL COMMITTEE

Rev. Belinda --

Thank you for being part of the most open inauguration in our nation's history.

As we begin the work of remaking America, we must draw on the common hopes that brought us together this week.

I'm counting on you to keep the spirit of unity and service alive.

You can visit <http://www.pic2009.org/whitehouse> to learn about our plans to bring change to America, and how you can get involved in the work ahead.

We face many challenges. But we face them as one nation.

And we have seen, time and time again, that there are no limits to what we can accomplish when we stand together.

Our journey is just beginning.

Thank you for all you do,

President Barack Obama

The Accolades Don't Stop There For WWSA Members!

WWSA member Dr. Sara Stevenson and her husband Donald Stevenson rejoiced that their book, *Get A Clue! Why Relationships Don't Work*, was selected as the literary pick of the month by Pastor Jason A. Barr, Jr. (Macedonia Baptist Church, Pittsburgh, PA) for the month of January. In an email to me and others, Dr. Stevenson wrote, "We wanted to let our friends and colleagues know that the book is continuing to gain visibility and popularity throughout the country. God is truly blessing our efforts to help others to experience healthy and happy marriages and relationships. Please continue to pray for the ministry of the National Christian Family Resources Council (NCFRC).

If you would like to purchase this book, you can do so at Amazon.com or by contacting Dr. Stevenson directly at 832-324-1690. Her email and website addresses are: stevenson@ncfrc.net and www.ncfrcministry.org.



Speakers' Page!

I'm Souled Out!

by Pastor Belinda R. Stokes

Bishop Hezekiah Walker has a song entitled "I'm Souled Out". Some of the lyrics are "I am souled out, my mind is made up, no room, no vacancies...I'm souled out." The song is about being single minded and totally committed in our devotion to the Lord.

Paul in his epistle to the Philippian church in Chapter 3 verses 13-14 is saying the same thing. He had grown in his walk with God to the point that His relationship with God was the most important thing in his life. Because it was preeminent, it was his goal to know Jesus, to be like Him and to fulfill God's purposes for His life. He was consumed by his desire to finish his Christian race and receive the prize of a home in heaven and the crowns and rewards that awaited him there. In other words, Paul, too, was "souled out".

To be "souled out" means that your mind, emotions and will are attuned to winning your race. It means that you are so obedient, faithful and focused that you do not allow anyone or anything to distract, deter or derail you.

Not having attained his goal yet, Paul tells us how to become "souled out." He says we must forget the past—past life, past failures, past victories. The past is just that—past. We must be determined not to look back like Lot's wife. We cannot win the race by looking backwards. We cannot look to the left, to the right, down or back but we must look forward with our eyes fixed on the prize at the finish line. Paul also said we must continuously reach for the goal. We must press or push forward. We must be of the mind set to do whatever is necessary to finish.

Being "souled out" is not an attitude that you acquire when you become born again. On the contrary, it is the result of experiencing God in our lives and becoming a mature Christian. As we grow by a steady diet of the word—reading, studying, meditating and doing the word—and living by faith, our connection with the Lord gets stronger. We learn experientially that God is who He said He is.

As we mature in our faith, we come to the "Ah Ha" moment, the light comes on and we comprehend who God is. We now understand that He loves us eternally, will never leave or forsake us, that He is not a man that He should lie and that He has a purpose for our lives. We also see that God's plans for our lives are good, He's sovereign and knowing Him is of utmost importance. This revelation about who God is should influence every aspect of our lives--the way we talk, work, serve, worship and live.

When we are "souled out," we are seeking first the kingdom of God and His righteousness. God promised that He would provide our daily needs if we do this. Currently in America we are in crisis mode on every front—financial, moral, education, political, government, social, cultural, etc. It is only as we keep the Lord before us, believe His Word, do His Word, trust Him wholeheartedly, not compromise, be about God's business and glorify Him in all things, will we the Body of Christ be able to survive, prosper and be victorious. The key, the answer, the solution, the remedy to thrive when all around us is crashing down is to be "souled out."

The buzz words in America today are "change" and "yes, we can." Let's purpose in our hearts to change, to become "souled out." "Yes we can" by intentionally growing in the Word, being doers of the Word, living by faith and developing our relationship with the Lord. Then we, too, can sing "I am souled out, my mind is made up, no room, no vacancies, I'm souled out."