

Wise Women Speakers Association Newsletter

Speaking The Truth In Love...!

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Dr. Anne K. Robey-Graham Joins WWSA!



Dr. Anne K. Robey-Graham is passionate about helping others share their personal stories to understand how God works in and through his children. She has a heart for the church and especially for those who try to live their lives honoring God. Anne grew up in a parsonage next door to the church where her father pastored in Colorado. She married a pastor, Wayne Robey, and they spent the next 28 years in ministries in Tennessee, Indiana, Colorado, Maine and Arizona.

Then, Anne was untimely widowed at the age of 48. Reeling from the shock of losing her husband and trying to understand how to respond to a loving God when things go wrong, she experienced new hope and recovery in unexpected ways: through the encouragement and love of other widows, friends and family, a community that embraced her, and the beauty of God's creation.

Anne's passion for storytelling facilitated her healing and helped her bring to light inspirational stories of ordinary women who became widows. She is the author of *Widows' Words of Hope*, a workbook published by CarePoint Ministry, which is designed to help widows move through their grief and find hope. She is also a published author of numerous articles, poetry, short stories and a dissertation.

Anne is an adjunct professor of communication and is a frequent speaker at conferences, retreats and seminars for businesses, nonprofit organizations, educational institutions and ministries. Besides her ministry experience, she also spent years working outside the home in business and education institutions.

Her infectious gratitude and enthusiasm for life are inspirational. Her passion for learning and helping people understand each other make her sessions engaging and practical. She does not shy away from tough topics, and turns her audiences to scripture to see God's perspective and find renewed enthusiasm for responding to a loving God. She challenges audiences to make choices to transform their lives personally, professionally and spiritually.

Anne has an Ed.D. in Higher and Postsecondary Education from Arizona State University. She conducted her dissertation research on multigenerational learning and tailors her speeches, courses and seminars to encourage people to understand and learn from other generations. She holds an M.A.Ed. in Adult Learning from University of Phoenix and a B.A. in Communication from University of Colorado.

Anne knows firsthand the risks and rewards of making life changes in mid-life when she met Dr. Gordon Graham, a widower from Alberta, Canada through a Christian online dating site! Enjoying the second chances that God brings, they fell in love, married and after a year of living and ministering in Alberta, they now live in Arizona. Anne has two grown children, a son-in-law and a daughter-in-law, three delightful grandchildren, and three stepchildren.



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Speakers' Page!



Protecting Your Spiritual Identity

By Karen Thomas

I recently attended a seminar about identity theft, the crime that we seem to hear more and more about daily. During the presentation, attendees were cautioned to safeguard financial information, important papers and unique identifiers, such as social security numbers and birth certificates. For many in attendance, the information provided a genuine wake-up call, a recognition that we must actively engage in the protection of our identities. Many criminals are using the newest technology to take what doesn't belong to them.

It occurred to me upon leaving the seminar that every believer must be as vigilant about protecting her spiritual identity. That is, we must know who we are in Jesus Christ and actively engage in the protection of that identity. John 10:10 tells us that Jesus came so that his followers could experience abundant

life; however the thief has come to steal, kill and destroy.

Sometimes, a believer permits her spiritual identity to be stolen because she chooses to trust her emotions, rather than to trust the Word of God. This occurs when feelings tell us that we are lonely, unloved or unlovable. In contrast, God's Word tells us that we are loved with an everlasting love. Our spiritual identity, then, is that of children loved unconditionally by a God willing to give His Son, Jesus, for our salvation. God loves us so much that He has promised to supply all of our needs. He loves us so much that He has given us the gift of eternal life. Feelings might convince us that we're too tired to continue life's journey. Our true identity in Jesus tells us that the joy of the Lord is our strength. At other times, a Christian may agree with the world's message to her. That message may suggest that without playing by the world's rules of "dog eat dog" or stepping on people to get to the top, one can never be successful in a career. As Christians, we know that the real truth is to treat people as we desire to be treated and that God can open doors for us to which only He has the key. If a Christian believes Hollywood, she is lulled into believing that marriage brings misery and grief. The Word of God, on the other hand, tells a woman that her identity as her husband's helper can provide a life of love, joy, commitment and companionship.

We know that we protect our personal identity by shredding credit card statements, checking our credit reports, shopping only on secure online sites and being very careful about sharing personal information. How do we protect our spiritual identity? Before we can protect, we must know what our identity is; in other words, we must know who we are. We can only learn who we are from our Creator. God has told us who we are in the Bible, which is our secure site. Therefore, we must regularly read, study and meditate on the truths of God's Word. Just as with personal identity, we must be careful as to whom we share our spiritual identity with. You might recall that in Genesis when Joseph interpreted the dream that showed him with authority over his brothers, they quickly began to mock him and work to destroy his spiritual identity. Today, the same thing can happen. If we share intimate details of God's plan for our lives prematurely or with the wrong people, the thief will come to steal what God has planted and he will use the very people to whom we handed over the information. Nothing replaces a daily communion with the Lord, for it is our credit check. In the private time of prayer, meditation and reverence, the Lord will surely alert us to any issues that are giving the enemy a toehold in our identity. As we commune daily, we can be certain that our spiritual identity will be protected and remain unscathed.



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Networking & Fellowshiping With North Carolina Women Of Faith

On August 1-2, 2008, the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina presented its 2008 African American Women's Conference in Clemmons, NC. WWSA members Arlene Overton, Carrie Pegues, Dr. Sara Stevenson and Karen Thomas attended this uplifting Conference, along with more than 100 other women from North Carolina and other states along the east coast.



Keynote Speech Audience



L-R: C. Pegues, A. Overton, K. Thomas, S. Stevenson



Prayer Line - (704) 808-9480

WWSA Speaker Rev. Belinda R. Stokes, Sr. Pastor, Doers of the Word Christian Fellowship Church, Charlotte, North Carolina, has established a prayer line. Anyone can call for prayer between 7:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m., on Mondays.



"Mutual Appreciation"

WWSA speakers (l-r) Pat Schulz and Rev. Belinda Stokes share a moment at the successful book signing for *Sweet Lemonade* at Borders Book Store in Southpark Mall in Charlotte, NC on August 30, 2008.

L-R : *Sweet Lemonade* author, Pat Schulz and Rev. Belinda Stokes



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WWSA Speaker Pat J. Schulz Partners With Community Organization for Fundraiser

Celebrating 12 Years of Excellence in Book Publishing 1996-2008

MAKING SWEET LEMONADE GETS **RAVE** REVIEWS -
Author, Pat J. Schulz



Upcoming Signings:

- Sept 6 - Charlotte Literary Festival - *On site at the Author's Row* - www.charlotteliteraryfestival.com
 Sept 12 - Stein Mart - Providence Road @ The Promenade 1:00 - 3:00 pm
 Proceeds benefit the Wayne E. Mitchell Center, non profit for youth training and character development
www.wemcenter.org
 Sept 13 - Stein Mart - Independence Blvd - Matthews 1:30 - 3:30 pm
 Proceeds benefit the Wayne E. Mitchell Center, non profit for youth training and character development
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THE ENHEART - WAYNE E. MITCHELL CENTER PARTNERSHIP:

Making Sweet Lemonade aligns with the Wayne E Mitchell Center objectives as it is tool for successful living and serves as a prevention from the adaptation of maliced environments and negative behavior that children in underserved communities are often exposed to. We invite the larger community to support this endeavor because children who become adults repeating generational violence become a handicap to the entire society; economically and psychologically. Many persons have endured senseless crimes as a results and at times their entire families have suffered. The program addresses character development, and institutes healthy decision making skills, as well as positive relationship building skills. The wisdom and lessons within the story of Making Sweet Lemonade is a useful supplement for the program's curriculum. It also serves as a case study model for advocates, educators and administrators who serve disadvantaged youth.

The author is actively engaged in partnering with agencies advocating for children and families, education systems, various support systems, as well as marketing to the general public. She's independently distributed Making Sweet Lemonade into 26 states and 5 international countries, and it's popularity is quickly picking up momentum as a well loved inspirational gift. The book has recently gained the endorsement of best selling, motivational author George C. Fraser and William Milliken, the National Founder of Communities in Schools. This is the front end of a positive life-changing movement. Each individual book sold is a micro activity, but just like the movie "Pay it Forward," before you know it ... something great has occurred on a macro level.

TO SUPPORT THE WAYNE E. MITCHELL CENTER CONTACT: 704 649 2780

SEE WEBSITE FOR MORE REVIEWS AND MORE INFORMATION: www.enheartpublishing.com

Excited about the Future of Making Sweet Lemonade

~~~~ THE AUTHOR IS COMMITTED TO SUPPORTING THE [BARIUM SPRINGS HOME FOR CHILDREN](#), THE WAYNE E. MITCHELL CENTER, AND OTHER AGENCIES ADVOCATING FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO SPONSOR A BOOK FOR THE BARIUM SPRINGS HOME FOR CHILDREN, OR ANOTHER NON PROFIT AGENCY, PLEASE CONTACT US. [info@enheartpublishing.com](mailto:info@enheartpublishing.com)



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