

# MENTORING WOMEN IN TRANSITION

## CONNECTOR

### THE MENTOR

#### WOMEN OF FAITH WHO WELCOME OTHERS INTO THEIR PRESENCE

But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them."  
**Luke 15:2 (NIV)**

### THE MENTEE

#### WOMEN OF HOPE THAT BUILD CONFIDENCE IN RELATIONSHIPS WITH MENTORS

And Ruth said, "Intreat me not to leave thee, or to return from following after thee: for whither thou goest, I will go; and where thou lodgest, I will lodge: thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God."  
**Ruth 1:16 (KJV)**

### THE TRANSITION

#### INVITING OTHERS TO A NEW WAY OF LIFE

Bid the older women similarly to be reverent *and* devout in their deportment as becomes those engaged in sacred service, not slanderers or slaves to drink. They are to give good counsel *and* be teachers of what is right *and* noble.  
**Titus 2 (AMP)**



**GENEENE HIBBLER**

As an active member of Cedar Hills Church; Geneene Hibbler assists her husband of 18 years, Pastor Steve Hibbler in ministering to a culturally diverse flock and by leading mission activities that reach the lost. She is the parent of four children, two daughters, Sabree (22), and Sanaiah (6); two sons, Justin (17) and Jehryl (13). She is the Director of the Wisconsin Chapter of Priscilla's Lost and Found, where she serves women in transition by helping them meet their spiritual and personal goals.

She has been blessed with the ability to work effectively and harmoniously with representatives of diverse religious institutions, governmental agencies, non-profit groups, and the general public. She truly enjoys serving the Lord and His people, while using all the gifts He has granted her.

# MENTORING WOMEN IN TRANSITION

## CONNECTOR

### THE MENTOR

#### WOMEN OF FAITH WHO WELCOME OTHERS INTO THEIR PRESENCE

**But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them."  
Luke 15:2 (NIV)**

I would like to begin this **Connector** by thanking Rev. Arnetta McNeese for "Godly Instruction." During a Priscilla's Lost and Found Director's Meeting in 2009, she instructed the Chapter Directors, to have a **Retreat Day**. She encouraged us to take a day off; set aside some time from ministering to others, and allow God to tell you why you have been called to the Mentoring Ministry. During our **Retreat Day**, we were required to spend **(2) hours in PRAYER or (2) hours in BIBLE STUDY**.

Being obedient, I began my Retreat Day in **PRAYER**, petitioning God for clarity on why He has called me to the Mentoring Ministry. While in **PRAYER**, the Lord said to me, "**Allow each encounter with a person to be: AN OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE.**" He led me to the following scriptures: **Titus 2, Titus 3** and **Mark 10:35 – 45**. Before I knew it, my **(2) hours of BIBLE STUDY**, had come and gone and I continued to embed myself in the Word. God gave me clarity, as I read, **Titus 2 and Titus 3** and learned the qualities of sound ministry.

If you are a **MENTOR**, and you are not being affirmed or challenged while serving, I encourage you to complete the interactive studies found in the book, "**Woman to Woman: Preparing Yourself to Mentor.**" Edna Ellinson and Tricia Scribner (2011). Allow the (18) studies inside this book to affirm and challenge you as: a **SERVANT**, an **ENCOURAGER**, a **TEACHER**, a **COUNSELOR**, and a **GUIDE**.

Before you begin reading the book, schedule Your Retreat Day. Take a few moments to allow this "Heart Reflection," from the "**Reflections From the Heart of God, Devotional Bible for Women (NKJV),**"

by Nanette Kinkade and Thomas Kinkade (2001), to minister to your heart.

# MENTORING WOMEN IN TRANSITION

## CONNECTOR

### REST AND RECEIVE

Put down your pens and pencils. Put aside your mental checklists. There is nothing else for you to do, but to receive and to be. It is so easy for Christians to emphasize activity because activity exists in the realm of the tangible, observable, and quantifiable. We can count conversations, number our devotions, chalk our charities, and secretly hope that the tally proves our worthiness to receive God's love and attention. But as He says throughout His Word, God cares about our hearts and right motives more than our resume.

If our relationship with God feels anything other than restful, it is likely that we are injecting our own agenda or working through the motions of worship without ever truly entering God's presence. True worship requires truth in your inner being, fully exposed before the eyes of God where you and He meet together in intimate union. It is your special place with God, your sanctuary where your soul is refreshed with living water, your sins are wiped clean, and your spirit is ignited by the passion of His love.

Now is the time for true worship. Works will flow from the power He Himself will give you. God is calling you. So put all else aside and sit at His feet. Rest and receive from Him the love and power He longs to lavish on you, His chosen child. I Pray That You Experience,

**"THE GREATNESS IN SERVING!"**

## THE MENTEE

### WOMEN OF HOPE THAT BUILD CONFIDENCE IN RELATIONSHIPS WITH MENTORS

**And Ruth said, "Intreat me not to leave thee, or to return from following after thee: for whither thou goest, I will go; and where thou lodgest, I will lodge: thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God."**

**Ruth 1:16 (KJV)**

We all long for relationships that are meaningful and full of purpose. I remember being in my mid-twenties, and longing for someone to take the time to mentor and encourage me on the many transitions I made as I became a ministry wife, a mother, and now a ministry leader. Of course, I had many great role models: my mother, Earnestine Oliver, my grandmother, Lee Voin Oliver, Pastor Ella Flowers, and my 6<sup>th</sup> grade teacher, Mrs. Betty Nabors. These women shaped me during my formative years, and they helped me through adolescence. It was not until I made the transition to adulthood that I truly desired to have someone to pour into my spiritual life. By the grace of God, I was introduced to Christian Women Connection (CWC), formerly known as Women of the Church of God. Through ministry resources, retreats, convention, and during one-on-one ministry sessions, I have been

# MENTORING WOMEN IN TRANSITION

## CONNECTOR

mentored by some of the most humble women of God, I know. It is with great appreciation, that I have been the beneficiary of what God imparted in them, and now I share it with other women. Many of them are battling drug and alcohol addictions, unemployment, homelessness, and all sorts of abuse.

Many of these women commit to a one-year mentoring relationship and build a support system that carries them through their transition. I have discovered that the mentees that are successful in completing an entire year of mentoring have been successful in reaching new heights on their climb to spiritual maturity. They also possess the following traits:

1. Honest and ready to face reality.
2. Enjoyed the learning process.
3. Disciplines and showed reasonable progress throughout the mentoring relationship.
4. Committed to her vision and the mentoring relationship.

Two of my former mentees, have gone on to be active in the CWC Ministry in their local congregation. Yvonne Wilbrandt-Ayala (Local CWC Treasurer) and Abby Weatherspoon (Former, Local CWC President), also have contributed to this Connector, by providing activities for you to share with your mentee.

### **HEARING FROM GOD**

By: Yvonne Wilbrandt-Ayala

**ACTIVITY OBJECTIVES:** Women will create a prayer Journal, while interpreting the bible and applying it to their personal situation. Upon completion of this activity participants will be able to:

- Identify scriptures in the Bible that speak to them in the midst of a personal trial.
- Begin a prayer journal by writing down prayers, struggles, concerns, or praises to God.
- Use scriptures to encourage others to listen for God's voice to gain direction for their lives.

**LESSON PREPARATION:** Select a quiet, clean, cozy location where you and your mentee can sit together.

# MENTORING WOMEN IN TRANSITION

## CONNECTOR

Pray over the space, and then pray about a time when you were in the midst of a storm and needed to hear from God.

**MATERIALS:** Bible, individual note books for journal writing, pen or pencil. YouTube Video of

“Jesus, Friend of Sinners,” by Casting Crown. [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ipwEtvWL\\_3c](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ipwEtvWL_3c)

**JOURNAL WRITING:** Take a few minutes to write down a struggle or problem you may be or have gone through.

Write as if you are talking to God, asking for advice, seeking God’s wisdom and guidance.

**SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES:** As you read, identify which one of these scriptures applies to the struggle you indicated.

Philippians 1:6

Psalm 37:4

Joshua 1:9

Hebrew 4:16

John 13:35

Philippians 4:8

Ephesians 2:10

Ephesians 2:10

Philippians 4:6

Psalm 120:1

Isaiah 40: 31

Galatians 6:9

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. What are some ways God talks to His people?
2. Has God ever talked to you? What did He tell you?
3. Did you ignore what you heard from Him because it wasn’t what you wanted to hear?
4. Did you find encouragement in the scriptures provided?
5. Did you feel the scriptures enabled you to encourage others?
6. What will you do now, when you hear God’s voice?

**EXCHANGE YOUR JOURNAL WITH YOUR MENTEE:** Select a scripture from the list above that can encourage your partner regarding the situation she wrote about. In her journal, write the scripture you selected that could encourage her the most, and then write a few sincere lines, to let her know that God cares, and so do you.

**CLOSING PRAYER:** God, open our ears to hear your voice and our eyes to see your wondrous works. God, speak to us, use us Lord. We want to be your hands and feet here on earth. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

# MENTORING WOMEN IN TRANSITION

## CONNECTOR

REFERENCE: Christian Women's Connection (n.d.). Retrieved August 2012 from <http://www.womenofthechurchofgod.org/AboutUs>

## THE TRANSITION

### INVITING OTHERS TO A NEW WAY OF LIFE

**Bid the older women similarly to be reverent *and* devout in their deportment as becomes those engaged in sacred service, not slanderers or slaves to drink. They are to give good counsel *and* be teachers of what is right *and* noble.**

**Titus 2 (AMP)**

### COMPLETE LOVE

By: Abby Weatherspoon

**OBJECTIVE:** To gain acceptance, love and identity thru Christ. Despite persecution, isolation, and pain Jesus' unconditional love is ever present and all encompassing. In this lesson, we'll examine the promises God made to his children and how we can claim victory over our struggles.

**PREPARATION:** On a piece of paper, make a list of the roles you fulfill (for example: mother, sister, wife, etc.). Think deeply about the responsibilities and expectations within each of your roles. Circle the roles you feel you fall short in fulfilling. Put a rectangle around each role you have felt someone else feels you fall short in fulfilling. Keep this list in front of you for reflection as you continue the lesson.

**SCRIPTURE CITATIONS:** Psalm 103:11-12; Matthew 11:28-30; Ephesians 4:31-32; John 13:34; Matthew 5:43-45; Romans 12:2

Are you ready to believe in God's promise to us and leave all your transgressions by the wayside to continue onward on life's journey?

This process calls for a transformation of your heart and mind. We cannot continue in the ways we once did and expect different results in our lives. Paul warns us in Romans 12:2 (KJV) "and be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God." You see, when we line ourselves up with God's will, we gain a sense of acceptance and perfection that is undisputable. Jesus commands us in John 13:34 (KJV) to

## MENTORING WOMEN IN TRANSITION

# CONNECTOR

“...love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.” While we were on our path of despair, He loved us, took us in His arms, and led us towards a brighter path of prosperity. Why is it so difficult to extend a fragment of that mercy and grace to those around us? We may feel that the act of love or forgiveness is undeserving or will go by unacknowledged. We forget that our Father in heaven is able to forego any feelings of disappointment or hurt we may have caused Him, time and time again. He continues to remain at our side. Where would we be today on our journey if He hadn't done that? How will the lives of those around you be impacted if you refuse to be tenderhearted or gracious?

I want to encourage each of you to once examine the list of roles from the opening activity but do so through different eyes. Instead of focusing on the short comings, embrace the fact that God has blessed you to be in this role. He doesn't make mistakes nor are His actions purposeless. By making a conscious decision to follow His will and grow in His wisdom, we find peace and love that will overcome any circumstance or adversity in our lives.

**CLOSING PRAYER:** *Heavenly Father, I thank you for being the perfect example for our lives. We honor you and seek to praise you every day with thanksgiving as you pulled us out of the darkness and into your divine light; even when we were undeserving of such. I offer my heart, mind, and soul to you Lord right now; have your way in my life. Lord, help me to remember the commands you've given me as your child; to not conform to the ways of this world but to be transformed by the renewing of my mind. I rebuke the enemy and all of his lies, in the name of Jesus, because I know that the enemy just seeks to steal my joy and hinder my growth. I thank you Father for each person you've put in my path. Lord, help me to see others, as well as myself, in the way that you see us. I give all praises and ask these things in the mighty name of your Son Jesus. Amen.*