

To God be the glory for the things He has done

To the Presider Sis Bobbie Stevenson,

To Moderator, Reverend Gregory Nichols and his entire cabinet, Board members and Trustees,

Auxiliary Presidents and Leaders:

Congress of Christian Education Reverend Donald Graves., WMU Sister Jackie Brown, Ministers' Wives and Widows Sister Patricia Jones, Laymen Deacon Glenn Moore, District Choir Deacon Fred Patton, Laymen Coordinator Rev James Jones , past president Sis. O J Smith all State and National Officers

To the officers of this ministry 1st V ice Deacon Ronald Boggess, Recording Secretary Sis. Bobbie Stevenson, Financial Secretary Sis. Garnetta Brooks, Corresponding Secretary Sis. Ella Thomas, Treasurer Brother Junior Sheard, Devotional Leader Sis. Mable Redmon, Calling/Contact Sis. Jean Traylor, Sick/Cheer Sis. Fannie Nelson, Youth Ushers Supervisor Sis. Rita Ford, Community Outreach Sis. Deidra Logan and to all the Ushers and Nurses of New Era, thank you for your continued support and cooperation

To my Pastor Reverend James A. Terrance Jr., President Sis. Brenda Hughlon, Ushers, Nurses and Greeters and members of the Friendship Baptist Church thank you for continued support and participation

We welcome Mt. Sinai Missionary Baptist Church Ushers to the ministry, Rev Alfred White Pastor

To my family grateful for your continued encouragement and support love you much

To all of my brothers and sisters in Christ Good Evening

Special thanks and love to my niece for words of introduction

Special thanks to Sis Kami Woodard and appreciation to you for blessing us this evening thru songs

“A Reason to REJOICE”

**“Rejoice in the Lord alway and again I say, Rejoice
Philippians 4:4**

God has been so gracious to us. Think of all the different ways he has blessed us- Some financially, others with great opportunities for service, others with relationships that are eternal, and for all of us the promises of life with him. But what will we do with these blessings? Will we hoard them, hide them, and keep them to ourselves, if we do our blessings will wither, crack and dry in our parched hearts. But one of the greatest ways we can thank God for his kindness, Mercy and goodness is by sharing these blessings with those around us especially Those in need who can never repay us for our kindness

Rejoice in knowing that God has everything under control. Deuteronomy 26:11
“And you shall rejoice in all the good that the Lord your God has given to you and to your house, you, and the Levite, and the sojourner who is among you.”

When you rejoice, you are opening the window to receive the blessings God has for you, The enemy loves to attack your mind, and will do everything he can to discourage you. Know that if you let God take over the situation and know that God has the enemy under control

God doesn't want us living in the past nor in the future, rather God wants us to live in the present, today is the only day we have for sure, so let's view it as a blessing from God and rejoice in it

Philippians 2:5 says “Let this mind be in you which is also in Christ Jesus”
You must understand that in order to get what God has for you, you must receive it and when you receive the blessing, Rejoice

Psalms 89:16 “In thy name shall they rejoice all the day: and in thy righteousness

shall they be exalted” whatever your problem may be, God’s everlasting peace is waiting for you. Don’t you know you can rejoice even when you have failed

Knowledge alone cannot produce joy, Joy results from active faith. Thus, as we put God’s Word into practice, watching His promises become a reality brings great joy, security and freedom. Real joy does not depend on our circumstance, our social status, our economic position or our health. Real joy depends on our faith in God. For that reason, we can Rejoice even when we are experiencing grief in all kind of trials James 1:2-3

We can rejoice when we face trials and receive them as evidence that we have genuine faith. Genuine faith is not only an advantage to us, but it brings praise, glory and honor to Christ

Psalm 66:20 “Blessed be God which hath not turned away my prayer, nor his mercy for me” God is always going to be here for you, see in the beginning was God. God knows just how we can reach heaven without failing in something along the way. God will make a way, so it’s okay. Rejoice knowing that everything is in His hands

God has left his fingerprints all over his world so we can know that he has been here and will not abandon the work of his hands

Joy is unspeakable, and truly comes in the morning, evening and night. You can rejoice knowing that you have joy. Psalm 5:11 “But let all those that put their trust in thee rejoice: let them ever shout for joy, because thou defendest them: let them also that love thy name be joyful in thee”. We can also rejoice in mercy

It’s a fact that God’s mercy endureth forever. Psalm 86:15 “But thou, O Lord, art a God full of compassion, gracious, longsuffering and plenteous in mercy and truth” I thank God daily for his mercy without it where would I be, God shows his mercy by letting us see another day.

We take mercy for granted;

I Samuel 2:1 “And Hannah prayed, and said my heart rejoiceth in the Lord, mine horn is exalted in the Lord: my mouth is enlarged over mine enemies; because I rejoice in my salvation” Hannah knew by trusting God that he would make a way for her and he did. God is still in the way making business today

Meditate on God's goodness. Consider the magnitude of what He has done for you by forgiving you of your sins and making you one of His dear children.

"...rejoice because your names are written in heaven."

I 'm believing in God to do something special in my life, so I am standing on the word of God believing what the word says about patience and waiting. Isaiah 40:31

"But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount Up on wings as eagles: they shall run and not be weary; and they shall walk and not faint.

God is faithful and patient with us, waiting and being available when we finally realize our need for him

This story was told at a funeral service. A little girl wandered away from home and became lost. She wandered around in the community and the neighbors began to question her. What was her mother's name and what was her father's name? Did she remember anything about her neighborhood? The little girl remembered that across the street from her house there was a cross. "You can take me to the cross and I can get home from there," she said

When we get home, how happy we will be! God gave us the victory through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ

So on our journey to heaven, we will encounter fear, failure, mercy, joy and patience, but if we wait and obey God's word –God can make our burdens-blessings; our sadness-gladness; our despair-hope; our failure-success, God can make our nothing -something; our disappointments-contentment and our sorrows –joy.

Just remember "A Reason to Rejoice" no matter what it is...rejoice, rejoice Come on everybody rejoice for this is the day the Lord has made and you should be glad about

Humbly, Submitted

Billie J. Edwards, President, New Era District Ushers & Nurses Ministry

Rev Gregory Nichols, Moderator