



The Link



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The PWOC Newsletter of the Southeast Region

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Coordinator's Corner

Hello
all!

I have so
enjoyed
the past
year

serving you all! Here we are again with another Fall Kick-Off Season... have you enjoyed beginning our focus of "Delighting in the Lord"?!! I pray that as we all study His word, gather together, and worship Christ, that we would all be focused on God first. When He is our delight, the desires naturally come. One thing that we may lose sight of is the *location* of these desires. The desires God will give us are those in our heart. God only looks at our heart. Sometimes, we may have a desire so hidden in our hearts that we ourselves may overlook its existence. This is where our wonderful Provider can step in! He will see the needs that we may not even realize we have, and He will act on our behalf—giving us a lifestyle that is free to worship Him in Spirit and in truth!

In the past month, God granted me a definite desire of my heart. While getting ready for our local Kick-Off, the tree cutting service showed up to the house, and removed two 100 foot pine trees from our front yard. While I have hoped since we moved in that they would be removed for safety reasons, I had not "listed" that in my mental list of desires of my heart. But, you know what? God sure did! After the trees had been taken to the ground, the workers showed me a large section of one of the trees that had already cracked, and had mold on the inside of the crack. I was told that "literally, one good wind, and this tree would have destroyed your house..." Not the thing anyone wants to hear! I praised God for the timing of the removal, but honestly, I was getting ready for the evening, and left it at that.

As our PWOC celebrated together that night, and focused on this verse, the Holy Spirit impressed on my heart what had actually been going on in my front yard that day! Provision!

Safety! Protection! What an awesome God we serve that He knows what is the most important to us. Not the tangible things we wish to acquire, not the things we might list quickly... but the lasting gifts that only God can give. God gave me the *true* desire of my heart. He gave our family safety. But ladies—it's not all about the trees! God gives us all so much! He gives us wonderful families. He gives us nourishment and the joy of friendships. He gives all believers salvation. He gave us the world, the sun, the moon and the stars. And best of all, He gave us life—in Christ! Praise Him for the desires He gives you daily, and those He will continue to bring forth in your life!

*"Delight yourself in the LORD
and He will give you the desires
of your heart."*

~Psalm 37:4

Jennifer

Thank You!

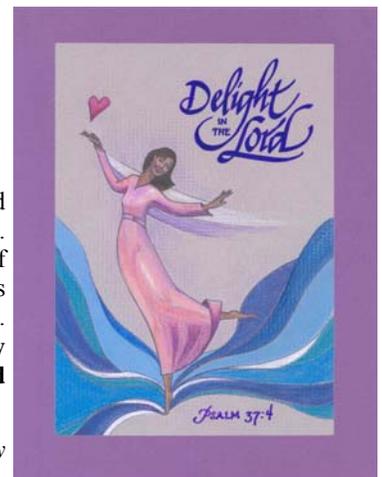
...to the following
installations for
turning your
quarterly reports
in on time:

Barksdale AFB, Charleston AFB,
Fort Benning, Fort Bragg,
Fort Campbell, Fort Knox,
Fort McClellan, Fort Polk,
Fort Rucker, Fort Stewart, Little
Rock AFB, MacDill AFB,
Maxwell-Gunter AFB, Mayport
Naval Station, Redstone Arsenal,

Robins AFB, Seymour Johnson
AFB, US Southern Command,
Wright Patterson AFB

Please take time to fill out and send this form back promptly. With continuous installation of new boards, it is important for us to receive these updates. **Reports are due on January 15, April 15, July 15 and October 15.**

Teresa Puckett, Secretary





By Becky Shirey
Robins AFB PWOC/
PWOC-SE Titus II

A Delightful Journey

*“Direct me in the path of your commands,
for there I find delight.”*
~Psalm 119:35

“I don’t want to go!” Jonathan cried when I awakened him for school.

“You love school, Jonathan. What’s wrong?” I asked.

“I don’t want to go!” he insisted, fighting back the tears.

This was unusual behavior for my son who was in kindergarten at the time. He usually couldn’t wait for school, but that morning he was glued to his sheets. When I finally got him out of his bed, he fumbled with his clothes, procrastinated at every turn, and was determined to find some way of avoiding school.

After a lot of coaxing, I learned that his class was taking a “trip to the moon.” The teacher had stressed that the trip was pretend, but Jonathan wasn’t so sure. He wasn’t certain he could trust his teacher. After all, he might literally end up on the moon!

Finally, I got Jonathan on the bus. He still wasn’t sure he wanted to go. But I knew he’d have to learn the hard way that he had nothing to worry about.

I wondered later if I was a lot different from Jonathan. Am I reluctant to trust God sometimes? Am I afraid He will lead me where I don’t want to go? More often than not, my fears are of not getting my own way. I know His plans are good, but maybe my idea is better.

Recently, I read an excerpt from Tim Hansel’s book, Holy Sweat. He recounts how he first saw God as a judge, keeping track of thing he did wrong. Later when he met Christ, it seemed that life was like a tandem bike ride with God in the back helping him pedal. At some point, God suggested they change places, and life was never the same. This is how the author put it:

When I had control, I knew the way. It was rather boring, but predictable.... It was the shortest distance between two points.

But when He took the lead, He knew delightful long cuts, up mountains, and through rocky places at breakneck speeds, it was all I could do to hang on! Even though it looked like madness, He said, “Pedal!”

I worried and was anxious and asked. “Where are you taking me?” He laughed and didn’t answer, and I started to learn to trust.

I forgot my boring life and entered into the adventure. And when I’d say, “I’m

scared,” He’d lean back and touch my hand....

I did not trust Him, at first, in control of my life. I thought He’d wreck it; but He knows bike secrets, knows how to make it bend to take sharp corners, knows how to jump to clear high rocks, knows how to fly to shorten scary passages.

And I am learning to shut up and pedal in the strangest places, and I’m beginning to enjoy the view and the cool breeze on my face with my delightful constant companion, Jesus Christ.

And when I’m sure I just can’t do any more. He just smiles and says, “Pedal.”

The PWOC-USA theme verse for this year is truly about surrendering control of our lives.

“Delight yourself in the LORD, and He will give you the desires of your heart.”
~Psalm 37:4

As we prepare our hearts for another year in our local PWOC’s and for the upcoming National Fall Focus, may we relinquish more of ourselves to Him. He is certain to show us exciting paths we had never considered before, and thrilling desires we didn’t know we had. Life becomes an exhilarating journey. And who knows? With God as our guide, we might just skip the moon and shoot for the stars!



By Nancy MacKenzie
Fort Polk PWOC and
PWOC-SE Assistant
Coordinator

Moving Day

Wow, where did our summer go? As I am writing this I am watching two moving vans load up, one “on-loading” to the left; and the other, “off-loading” to the right. I am dreading another set of tearful goodbyes and anticipating a welcome visit with a new neighbor. Secretly in my heart I am praising God that it’s not me this time.

Tom, Katy and I moved to Ft. Polk last summer. It’s a two year assignment so we know our time will roll around soon enough.

Moving to Ft. Polk is always an interesting process. First, there’s the denial of being sent to “Camp Swampy” and dreading telling friends and family that we are actually being sent there, and “no we didn’t do anything wrong” to get the assignment. Actually, “IT’S NOT THAT BAD”—really! We have lots of wildlife, including reptiles in our backyards, and all types of plants and flowers. The culture is unique and I have enjoyed learning about where the Acadian culture came from and have a new appreciation for the hardships they endured during the 1600-1700’s to become the culture they are today. The plantations are gorgeous on the Cane River and Natchitoches is truly a “Steel Magnolia” kind of place. I have learned how to eat

“Mud-bugs,” crawfish, and enjoy the fine cuisine of “Jack’s All You Need” Texaco station—home of the best cheeseburger in the world, Krispy Kream Donuts, an assortment of VooDoo Dolls, alligator heads, t-shirts, and about 50 types of hot sauce that begin with all types of names like “melt your socks off,” or “hotter than the swamps,” etc.

Then, there is the actual mechanics of the move. How do we deal with the small housing and going through our “stuff” to see what goes to storage and what stays with us in quarters? This can be an interesting, painful, joyful, cleansing process. First, I go through everything, discarding trash, old

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Hungry People and a Mountain

By Mabelle Kindle
Robins AFB PWOC and
PWOC-SE Titus II

Are you excited about going to the mountains of Asheville for Fall Focus? Are you hungry for the things of and for the Lord Himself? Have you ever wondered why, of all the miracles of Jesus (excluding his resurrection), the feeding of the five thousand is the only one recorded in all four gospels? I had not, until this question was asked in our Tuesday night Bible Study. There must be something more to this miracle than bread and fish being multiplied to the point of giving a whole new meaning to “leftovers!” Let’s look at this miracle, the location, it’s elements and the people involved.

All of the Gospels record the location of this miracle as a “solitary” place. It was in a hilly area around the Northeast region of the Sea of Galilee, near the town of Bethsaida which means “House of Fishing.” Have you ever thought about how mountains, in the Bible, whether literally or figuratively, play into the recorded events? Figuratively speaking they can represent obstacles such as fear, sorrow or burdens. They can also represent the sinful attitudes and motives in and of our hearts. These “mountains” can only be “cast into the sea” by absolute faith in the Lord to do it. They also represented solitary places of learning and testing and certainly places of experiencing God in ways that left individuals filled with awe, wonder and power. Sisters, are we needing some solitude? Do we need to be taught? Do we need to be filled with awe, wonder and power?

(Continued from page 2)
receipts, old OSC newsletters and post flyers, etc. Then, comes the painful part. What to really take for quarters and what goes to storage. The storage stuff is the hardest decision to make because in many cases we may never see it again, literally, or know how many years it will stay there. Remember, “It’s Just Stuff”!

The joyful and cleansing part is going through our “sentimental baggage,” the pictures, old programs of changes of commands for dear friends, invitations to events, chapel bulletins that we just couldn’t part with, etc. Something happens over the years of doing this process. Each time I deconstruct my life and my world. I pull it all out and examine everything that’s ever

The Gospel of Mark reports that Jesus went “up into the hills and called to Him those He wanted, and they came to Him.” How interesting... Jesus called those He wanted and they came to Him! Is Jesus calling us to a “mountain?” In Matthew’s Gospel it says that when Jesus saw the approaching crowd He had compassion on them and healed their sick. In the Gospel of Mark he states that the people were like sheep without a shepherd and Jesus began “teaching” them many things. According to Luke, Jesus “welcomed” them and spoke to them about the “kingdom of God.” Are we in need of healing, whatever that healing may be? Are we feeling a little like lost sheep looking for our shepherd? Do we need to be “taught” more about the Kingdom of God and our unique part in it? Is Jesus calling our individual PWOCs to a mountain?

We also find a very interesting point that all four Gospels report. Jesus instructed the disciples to have the people “sit down” **BEFORE** they were fed. Oh yes, He knew they were hungry, but before the blessing could come to them, they had to be in a “position” of obedience to receive everything He had “planned” (John 6:6) to give them! Doesn’t this remind us of Mary “sitting” at the feet of Jesus, while He “taught”? He took five loaves of barley, and two fish. According to Ruth Lascelle, the number five in the Bible signifies God’s grace to man in man’s weakness! The number two signifies among other things, fellowship and testimony. Just think of all the wonderful implications of these two elements as it relates to this miracle!

meant anything to me. In many cases it’s just a bunch of tattered notes of board meetings, old field day ribbons for my three children, an old refrigerator magnet of a previous PWOC kickoff. Some of this stuff is from the last move that I felt I needed to hold onto and classify into a filing box—yeah, right!

I always emerge from this process raw and exposed, shiny and smooth. I feel lighter, freer and revel in the memory of the old packing out war stories and tales of the road. My favorite is the time the packers packed the skillet full of scrambled eggs only to be opened a few months later! That was special!

All moves are different. Sometimes it’s just moving to an adjoining state or from off-post

What was the point of this miracle? If it was only to satisfy a physical hunger that’s one thing... but the Lord always had an eternal point to make. He, as the “Bread of Life,” was symbolically, giving them bread that would be, as the Gospel reports it “...more than enough.” Did the individuals participating in this dinner realize the significance of the miracle? Probably not, but we can. We have the advantage of having the completed Word of God which teaches us “all things” through the power of the Holy Spirit. Are we daily “delighting” in His Word, in His presence and in Who He is? We can, but it is a choice. We have to choose to come to the “mountain” of a solitary place, obediently sit at His feet and let Him feed us with the bread that will never leave us “hungry!” Are we going to share this “bread” of grace and salvation and the “fish” of testimony and fellowship with a starving world and fulfill the first aim of PWOC?

I hope you can come to the mountains in Asheville, and be ready to partake in what our Mighty God has already prepared for us in the way of workshop leaders, keynote speakers, praise and worship leaders and the beauty of His handiwork! Hope to see all of you at Ridgecrest!

*“Let everything that has breath praise the LORD.
Praise the LORD.”
~Psalm 150:6*

to on-post or a new neighborhood. More often than not, it’s a move from one end of the world to the other.

Does PCS time get any easier? It definitely does not, but when I get settled in the new location I always look back and truly value those friends I made, prayers shared and answered, and just keep adding to my much worn address book.

So remember to reach out to others and show the love of Jesus Christ as we settle in this year. It’s contagious and—just think—for me it’s only 45 more weeks until the moving van arrives again for move #22!

I John 4:12



Fall Focus 2004 Prayer Focus

By Teresa Puckett
Fort Gordon PWOC,
PWOC-USA Prayer
Coordinator and
PWOC-SE Secretary

For the months of September and October will be asking each region to pray over a specific prayer need. As you are near and dear to my heart and knowing Jennifer's heart toward unifying and ministering to ladies, it is appropriate to ask you to pray over the Fall Focus attendees.

With the overwhelmingly wonderful response we are receiving from the multitudes of ladies who will be attending, this year's Fall Focus will present some unique opportunities and challenges. Ladies will be staying at Ridgecrest and in area hotels. To accommodate more people at Ridgecrest, some groups will be placing more women in each room—true sisterhood bonding! The dining hall will seat 800 but not 1,200 so we will be eating our lunch meals in two shifts. There is no problem in seating during the general sessions; in fact, the dynamic there is in the opposite direction. Where we have traditionally been seated snugly in a hotel ballroom, the auditorium will seat up to 2,500 allowing ladies to spread out much more. With all of this in mind, pray for hearts to be open to the *new thing* God has planned in advance for each woman present. Pray for women to arrive excited by what God has, is and will do during Fall Focus. Pray that women remember the reason we are gathering—to

bring praise, honor and glory to our God and to receive His specific blessings and gifts for us.

Prayers for health and safety for the attendees and their families are *always necessary*, but one specific request would be for *unity* within the PWOC group as a whole. With the opportunity for ladies to be spread out a bit around the area and in the auditorium, it is our desire to foster an environment while we are together to truly be "Workers Together for Christ." May *unity abound* and may *joy and grace prevail!* May the Spirit of the Lord fall on the attendees in a way none of us have ever experienced and may our walk with God be taken to the next level. For those who are attending who do not know our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, personally or are sitting on the fence, may their hearts hear the Word of the Lord spoken directly to them and may they enter into new life. Jesus came so that we would have life and have it abundantly! How incredibly exciting! ☺

Let us not forget to pray specifically for our attending chaplains. Remember, we would have no ministry apart from our military chapels and we are there to support our chaplains. May we minister to these men and women in such an incredible way that they would feel the love of Jesus fresh and new in their lives. We will be honored to have our PWOC-USA Chaplain Advisor, Chaplain Council, in attendance. Please pray over his health and safety and that we would be a blessing to him while he is there. Another honor we have is the opportunity to host the Army Chief of Chaplains,

Chaplain Hicks. We continue to hope that our Air Force and Navy Chief of Chaplains will also be able to join us. All of these men of God have extremely demanding schedules, and we truly consider it an honor when they are able to attend Fall Focus. Join with me in praying that each would feel welcome and that Fall Focus would be a time of refreshing for them.

In addition to the regional prayer need, we are asking all the regions to pray over the Leadership Selection Committee. May God impart His wisdom on each person serving on the committee and may they hear directly from God as to who He desires to place in leadership for PWOC-USA. May ladies respond obediently to the call to step forward and go through the Leadership Selection process. We know that God sometimes asks us to take a walk in obedience and go through a process without "receiving the prize." Please pray that God would protect the hearts of the ladies who are not to serve Him in this capacity at this time. Although we each desire to serve God exactly where and when He calls us, a "no" answer can still hurt. Let those He has selected to be our leadership step forward with confidence in God's call. May they serve with humility and grace, following Jesus' example of true servant leadership. Finally, may God bless those He has called to lead with PWOC participants who are willing to serve their new PWOC-USA board to the fullest of their ability.

Let us petition God for the impossible and watch His glorious hand move as He accomplishes His purposes!

Without you...

There would be no Link to other women in the military chapels. We **NEED** articles that pertain to your outreach events, your successful Bible studies, the PWOC aims, mission statement, or annual theme:

"Delight in the Lord"

Articles should be **300 words or less**, edited, and ready to print. Please submit articles and a photo (if available) for the **January** newsletter **NO LATER THAN December 3, 2004** to Teresa Puckett at tmpuckett@hotmail.com.

Note: The newsletter be posted in its entirety on the PWOC-USA web site during the quarter in which it is published.

Please Note

We have had difficulty emailing information to some installations. Although we are using the email addresses provided on the quarterly reports, some emails are still not getting through.

Your PWOC-SE board respectfully requests that you update your accepted email list by including the board members addresses (see page 1). By doing so, we will be able to keep you up-to-date on the latest information concerning the Southeast Region and PWOC-USA.

It is our policy not to abuse this *privilege* by sending email "forwards." Thank you for your assistance.