

NEW HOPE WOMEN'S BREAKFAST

By Myrtle Tate

On Saturday morning, January 29, food, friends, fellowship and inspiring messages were enjoyed by over 50 women and young ladies who attended our first New Hope Women's Breakfast Meeting. After the opening prayer and blessing of the food the buffet line was opened and we enjoyed a variety of food and beverages. After this wonderful physical food and fellowship, we were ready to hear what our speakers had to share with us.

Our first speaker was our very own Brenda Gula, who spoke to us about "Our Sufficiency in Christ." From the book of Colossians she showed us in Christ we are complete, we lack nothing and He is all we need. It's not Christ plus something else, whatever that something may be, such as rituals to try and gain favor with God, self-afflictions, law-keeping, etc. Paul tells us in Col. 2:10, God has made us complete in Christ. He is our hope, our source of life, our victory over sin and death, He is our EVERYTHING! We can go to him with any problem; He is our Mediator and Redeemer. And it is through Him we understand who God is.

Brenda concluded by saying in Christ we have nothing to fear and there is nothing we can't accomplish and nothing we can't overcome. Just remember, we possess all sufficiency for all things in Him. We don't need to add anything else in order to enjoy a relationship with Him.

Our keynote speaker was Reverend Betty Griffin-Keller, wife of Pastor Billie Keller and Director of Music Ministry and Women's Ministry at New Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church in Pasadena. The topic of Rev. Griffin-Keller's message was "Pursue God's Purpose for Your Life." Many of us have asked what is God's will or purpose for my life, what does He want me to do, what is my spiritual gift, or do I have a spiritual gift?

Rev. Griffin-Keller read from John 14:15, "If you love me you will obey my command" (do as I say). The closer we are to God the easier it is to use our spiritual gifts and walk in His purpose. The Devil doesn't want us to find our purpose. He wants to trick us any way he can to slow us down by putting negative people in our path or negative things in our minds. Things like: I'm too old or I'm not smart enough or you can't do this or that because you are a woman. But with God we can overcome these things. She admonished us to get away from negative people and don't allow them to bring you down.

If God can use a mule He can use a woman! She reminded us God didn't make "no junk." Psalm 139:14 says we are "fearfully and wonderfully made." And from the book of Hebrews we are told we are "royalty." So we must walk with our heads up and always be aware that our body language says a lot about us. We can lift others up or bring them down by our body language.

God has given each of us spiritual gifts. Teaching, helping, encouraging, giving, mercy, and hospitality are a few of them. So seek out your gifts, find God's purpose for your life

and pursue it. Merge your passions and gifts together. And remember that God will get us through hard times when we stand in His purpose.

Rev. Griffin-Keller is a breast cancer survivor and she shared with us a little of her story. When told she had cancer she reminded God that she was “made in His image.” She armed herself with what she called her “coping” scriptures such as Psalm 28:7-8 and Psalm 38. And she meditated on these scriptures as she went through her treatments and waited for God to intervene. She said sometimes when faced with a battle we have to stand still and wait on God before He says, “OK, march.” And these are the times we must be able to call upon scriptures for support.

She admonished us to always have scriptures we can call upon when we go through hard times – scriptures that praise God for His goodness and mercy and those of thanksgiving and comfort. She admonished us to keep our eyes on Jesus and everything around us will be alright. He is the only one who can direct our path. God is saying He can do exceedingly more than you can imagine if you just stand on His purpose.

I spoke to several of our guests and New Hope sisters after the meeting and everyone was pumped up and gave the same response. It was great, I’m glad I came and I hope we do it again. Thanks to Celestine Olive for her hard work putting everything together and Joyful Voices for providing the music.