

Christian Women in Action >>>>
5917 Bond Court
Alexandria, VA 22315

Address Service Requested



www.cwiaholyspirit.org

Non-Profit Organization
US Postage Paid
Alexandria, VA
Permit No. 5705

Are You Growing Spiritually?



CWIA Prayer Breakfast Meeting

Saturday, July 25, 2015

9:00 am – Noon

SPRINGFIELD EMBASSY SUITES

8100 Loisdale Road, Springfield, Virginia 22150

Phone: 571-339-2000

Near Metro BLUE Line—Springfield

For info/tickets, call Patti: (703) 971-3633

Kathleen Murray: (703) 451-5737

Edelmira Cruz: (703) 266-4850

Cost: \$20 - Full Buffet Breakfast

NOTE!!! Out next prayer breakfast will be moved to Saturday, SEPTEMBER 19TH due to Pope Francis' visit to Washington, DC.

www.cwiaholyspirit.org



GROWING SPIRITUALLY
GROWING SPIRITUALLY

**My dear Brothers and Sisters
in Christ Jesus, the Peace of
the Lord be with you!**

Nothing brings as much joy as the arrival of a newborn baby. The parents marvel at the perfect gift God has given them, and watch with both delight and nostalgia as the child passes each new milestone – sleeping through the night, sitting up, crawling, and finally taking that first step. But what would happen if the baby never grew or learned how to do all those things? The parents would quickly grow concerned.

Now imagine how the Lord feels when we fail to grow spiritually! Like a good parent, He is concerned with His children's' development. That's why He admonishes us to "grow in His grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ." (2 Peter 3:18)

The Greek tense of the word rendered *grow* signifies continuing action. God's desire is that we keep growing in spiritual maturity until the day we die. None of us ever reaches a point when we've grown enough and can retire in the Christian life.

If we stop maturing, we don't just stay where we are in our relationship with Christ. We begin to slide backwards into old patterns of sin and doubt. Furthermore, a lack of growth leaves us to deception. (2 Peter 3:18) Cults and false teachers prey on those who don't know what they believe. If we're not grounded in the Scriptures, Communion, Confession, etc., we may fall for whatever new idea or experience is floating around in our culture. I know very well because of what comes to me so very often because of people following their own will.

How do we know whether we're growing spiritually? Unlike physical growth, spiritual maturity can't be tangibly measured, nor can it be evaluated by the sin we avoid or how often we go to church. Although these are important and can be evidence of growth, genuine maturity is determined by our relationship with our Lord. To help you gauge where you are in your spiritual life, I'd like to suggest a few qualities that demonstrate growth.

(continued on next page)



First: We'll have an increasing awareness of our sins and weaknesses. Spiritual growth results in greater sensitivity to the Holy Spirit's conviction. What we once considered to be acceptable thoughts, attitudes, or practices, will be more clearly seen as sinful in the light of Scripture. (2 Peter 3:18) Knowing they grieve the Holy Spirit, we'll quickly confess our wrongs and turn away from them in genuine repentance. Maturity also brings recognition of our weaknesses and a greater understanding of why we feel, think, or respond in a certain way. This self-knowledge helps us shore up our weak areas so we don't fall into temptation. (Heb. 12:12-13)

Second: We will start seeing life from a divine perspective. When God's word shapes our thinking, we will view our problems and hurts through God's eyes. (Ps. 119:18) Instead of being mere hardships, our trials and temptations will be seen as opportunities for growth and greater faith. (James 1:2-4) Service will become a high honor rather than a burden or inconvenience. God has planned specific works for each of us to do. (Eph. 2:10) When we discover what they are and give ourselves wholly to them, the Christian life becomes a wonderful and exciting journey. Since God has called me to teach and use the gifts of the Holy Spirit, I'd never truly be happy doing something else. Each time I prepare a teaching, I discover treasures in God's Word I've never noticed before. My service to the Lord is a delight and it can be the same for you. Now, these teachings are not for everyone, but only for those who wish to grow and mature in the Holy Spirit. To others they may be very boring, and you're not even really reading this; but to those who wish to learn, you will thank me for it.

No matter what He calls you to do, it is essential to view everything as coming from the Lord – whether blessings or hardships. That's one of the most powerful lessons I've learned. At one point in my life when I was being rejected and reviled, this principle prevented me from becoming bitter, self-defensive, and hostile. I knew the Lord could stop the situation, but He didn't. Therefore, if HE was allowing it, I could trust that He could use it for my good – to test, to train, and sanctify me. (1 Cor. 5:3-5) I became very strong and totally dependent on Him. (Ps. 40:8) When we become more like Jesus, we'll want what HE desires. The old temptations, once so appealing, no longer have a hold on us. We've discovered the blessing of obedience, and giving becomes a joy! Amen!

Your Servant,

Stella Davis



You are invited to our **prayer breakfast meeting** on **Saturday, July 25, 2015 at 9:00 a.m.** at the **SPRINGFIELD EMBASSY SUITES** at 8100 Loisdale Road, Springfield, VA 22150. Hotel is off of I-95 at Fairfax Parkway exit. 9 miles from Alexandria – 14 miles from DC. Metro: Blue Line to Springfield. Call Embassy Suites directly for pickup info: (571) 339-2000. For info: www.cwiaholyspirit.org or call Patti (703) 971-3633. Price is \$20. Includes a splendid Buffet Breakfast, and all tax/gratuities. Bring a friend. Great speakers, fellowship, praise & worship. Men and women are invited. **The Lord is waiting for you!**

July 25th Guest Speaker: COLLEEN ANN GALLI. Colleen is a member of St. George Valley Catholic Church in Maryland. Her pastor is Father Paul Nguyen. Colleen, a mother of two grown children and wife of 29 years, was raised an agnostic; no faith or religion. At the age of seventeen, Colleen was attacked (beaten, stabbed and strangled) by a serial killer; that assault resulted in a near death experience which delivered her into God's holy light. Like a loving father, God scooped up Colleen, embraced her, turned her around and sent her back to Earth. Upon her return she committed her life to serving God. Colleen's relationship with the Lord grew as she came to know the Holy Spirit and her love to share Jesus Christ and His love and joy with others. Colleen has worked with the Peace Corp, the United Nations, Catholic Relief Services and the United States State Department. She also served in the Army Security Agency of the United States Army. Come and hear the rest of her story as she will have you in tears and laughter. Learn how a loving God returned her back to finish her work here on Earth.

NOTE!!! OUR NEXT PRAYER BREAKFAST DATE WILL BE MOVED TO SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19TH DUE TO POPE FRANCIS' VISIT TO WASHINGTON, DC.

Bible Study: Thursday mornings, Annandale area. Alelu: (703) 642-8378

Intercessory Prayer Meetings: Mondays, 10:30am-1:30pm. Stella: (703) 971-3633

Prayer Chain: For prayer, email our Prayer Chain at fraven1@verizon.net.

Save The Date! Men and women are invited to our annual CWIA Charismatic Conference that will be held on August 21-23, 2015. Go to our website for more info and updates. We will be celebrating our **40th Anniversary!**

Want to Volunteer?: Let the Board members know what your spiritual gifts are so you can put them to work for the glory of our Lord! We can always find work for you.



Our dear Sister in Christ, Yvette Berry, went to her eternal life on May 17, 2015. Those of us who knew her will miss her loving and happy face, always smiling, no matter what. One could see the love of Jesus and Holy Spirit in her face and life. Yvette was the Chairperson of the CWIA Hospitality Team. Please say a Hail Mary for her soul.

