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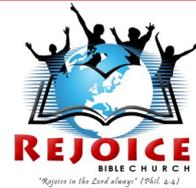
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MAY ISSUE

31 MAY 2013

Pastor's Corner

Pastor Mazwe Majola



This coming Sunday on 2nd June 2013 I will be concluding a series I started six weeks ago entitled, "Building up One Another". The Bible tells us in Ephesians 2:19 "You are a member of God's very own family and you belong in God's household with every other Christian". Notice that it says the church is a family. It does not say the church is like a family. It is a spiritual family. Thus, it is true that a Christian without a local church or a Christian who is not a member of any local church is an orphan.

Also in Romans 12:4-6 a church is described as a body of Christ. It says, "Just as each of us have one body with many members and these members do not all have the same functions, so in Christ we who are many form one body and each member belongs to all others, we each have different gifts according to the grace given us". Notice what it says, "each member belongs to all the others". Again and again, New Testament writers exhorted Christians to strive in building up the body of Christ to function effectively and to grow spiritually. Frequently they used a unique word to describe this mutual and reciprocal process, the Greek word "*Allelon*", most frequently translated "one another". In fact, excluding the Gospels, the word is used 58 times in the New Testament, Paul leads the list for frequency, having used the word 40 times.

I am passionate about a healthy church. And I am convinced that unity in the church is a *sine qua non* for a healthy and growing church. When I speak of Unity, I do not mean "**union**". Union takes place when we are joined together organically, as in marriage, a business partnership, or some other organisational match. Certainly you can be in a union but have no unity.

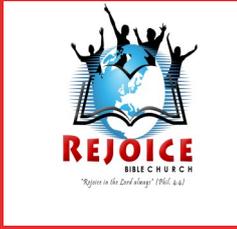
I am also not referring to "**Conformity**". Conformity means complying with accepted standards. Nothing wrong with compliance or allegiance but it does not translate to unity. I am not speaking of "**Uniformity**". Uniformity occurs when we do things the same way. I believe 'group think' can be dangerous at times. If we are too much alike, we stop growing, sharpening, and being sharpened by the people around us.

Nor am I referring to "**Unanimity**". Unanimity takes place when we totally agree. Certainly we should be agreeable and gracious, but we will not always agree. Forced unanimity can stifle a relationship.

By Unity I am not speaking of "**unison**". Unison occurs when choristers sing of same note as others. It makes a sweet harmony or concord. I have seen and heard people singing together with marvelous voices but with no unity amongst themselves.

I am speaking of unity which Christ accentuated in His prayer when He prayed His longest prayer on Thursday evening before His arrest. The prayer is found in John 17:20-23, "I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one. I in them and you in me. May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me". In this series I have implored, cajoled and encouraged Rejoice Bible Church family to love, embrace, accept, honour, forgive, serve, submit to and be of the same mind with one another. Paul exhorted Philippians, "Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others" (Philippians 2:3-4).

Rejoice! Revive! Reconcile! Repent! Renew! Release!



“Likewise, teach the older women to be reverend in the way they live, not to be slanders or addicted to much wine, but to teach what is good. Then they can urge the younger women to love their husbands and children, to be self-controlled and pure, to be busy at home, to be kind, and to be subject to their husbands, so that no one will malign the word of God (Titus 2:3-5)”

“I will instruct and teach you in the way you should go, I will counsel you with my loving eye on you (Psalm 32:8-9)”

Naomi's Circle

‘Mothers & Daughters walking in the footsteps of Christ’

The 13th May 2013 saw the birth of an incredible vision that God had for Rejoice Bible Church Women's Ministry, a vision that would see mothers and daughters walking together in the journey of life and following in the footsteps of Christ. This vision was in the form of Naomi's Circle!

Rejoice Bible Church Ministry has always had a union of mothers, matured ladies who frequently met to support and strengthen each other in prayer, empowering each other in matters of spiritual growth and other important areas of life. Much as these gatherings were beneficial to all involved, there was still a void in me as we kept going back to assessing the relationships we had with our children, particularly our daughters. We acknowledged that God expected us to do more, to play a more active role in the lives of our children in the church and nurture their lives based on the word of God.

For me personally, there was this constant voice persuading me to take action – as if God was saying:

‘I appreciate what you are doing to grow as mothers who know and love me but you have neglected my little girls, you have left your daughters behind on this important journey and this is goes against my will for you...’. It was almost a presentation of a challenge to me as a spiritual mother to the effect that: ‘the world is harsh out there and you will be failing in your duty if you do not provide the much needed guidance to your spiritual daughters on crucial decisions that will eventually determine their destiny’. I couldn't ignore this challenge anymore and am grateful that the union of RBC mothers shared in the same vision.

The task ahead was a tough one indeed but we knew that it was God's will, and His will would never lead us where His grace would not protect us. Similarly, we were encouraged by *Psalm 32:8-9* citing: *‘I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go, I will counsel you with my loving eye on you’.*

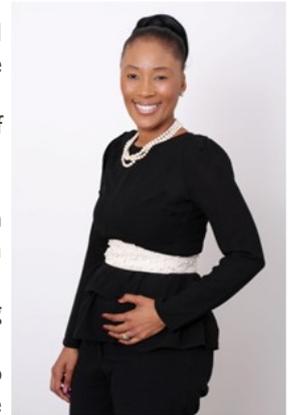
So what's in a name – Naomi's Circle?

The name was revealed to me by God during our first main gathering and prayer with our daughters and it just made sense as it linked to the book of Ruth clearly illustrated our objectives, through the relationship that Naomi and Ruth had. Naomi represents a matured woman who in a lot of ways represents a lot of who we are and some of our experiences as older women – she is a daughter herself, a wife (although now widowed), a mother, mother-in-law and member of the community. She is also one who knows the impact of loss, lack and sadness and experienced trials of all kinds in her life. Even in all this, she knew the Lord God, she held in to him and still led a life that reflected grace, hope and restoration.

Furthermore, just like you and I - Naomi is also one who made mistakes and bad decisions due to pressures of life, e.g. perhaps by returning (with her husband Elimelek and her sons) to the land of the Moabites, (Ruth 1:1) but somehow, the steps she took later in her life restored her past failings through God's grace. One more thing to ponder on - most of us have at some point felt embittered, feeling that God had forgotten us, right?

There was a time when Naomi was so troubled that she actually denied who she was and what her name represented, namely: "Pleasant, delightful, lovely". Hence when she returned home and the woman of Bethlehem called out "Is this Naomi?" she was quick to correct them saying: "Do not call me Naomi; call me Mara, (which means bitter) for the Almighty has dealt very bi

terly with me" (Ruth 1:20). Life dealt her some bitter blows and Naomi's spirit was crushed but even then, she knew God was with her. As mothers and daughters in Christ we also feel embittered and yes just like Naomi, we hold on knowing that God is indeed still with us. So Naomi in her imperfections as a woman was a name and character I believe God revealed to me as one we could identify with as mothers and daughters alike.



Role of Naomi's Circle

It is interesting that Naomi is recognised more for the role she played in Ruth's life, bringing her up loving and caring for her not just as a daughter in law but her own. She played a role model and mentorship role, a role which we as mothers of RBC intend to emulate. Ruth was born a Moabite (or Gentile) and inherited a mother and family in Naomi by marriage and she clung unto that which was good. Neither circumstances nor things past were able to hinder her from laying hold of that which was more precious. She was young and had a chance to go back home (after she lost her husband) when Naomi presented the opportunity to her but Ruth was one who knew what was precious for her and clung to her destiny. **So who does Ruth represent in our lives?** She represents a companion, exactly what her name means, one who has love, respect, obedience and a teachable spirit. As mothers, we want to raise daughters (not just biological ones) who will represent this character too, jointly building a strong relationship just as Naomi and Ruth did – a relationship formed on fully trusting the Lord no matter our circumstances.

The word of God says: *'Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding. Seek His will in all you do and He will direct your paths'* (Proverbs 3:5-6) and therefore relationships that will be developed and enhanced through Naomi's Circle will be based on our faith and the trust we have in the Lord, no matter the trials.

The founding scripture for this ministry is Titus 2:3-5:

'Likewise, teach the older women to be reverent in the way they live, not to be slanderers or addicted to much wine, but to teach what is good. Then they can urge the younger women to love their husband and children, to be self-controlled and pure, to be busy at home, to be kind, and to be subject to their husbands, so that no one will malign the word of God.'

Mothers in their very nature are teachers and this is exactly what Naomi's Circle aims to do. The difference here is that the teaching is not to be one way because mothers will learn from the daughters just as the daughters learn from them – they will then take the teachings to the much younger ones. Also, it was through Ruth that God began to weave restoration back into Naomi's life. Remember Ruth gleaned the barley harvest in the field of a wealthy man named Boaz who was a close relative of Naomi's dead husband. She found favor and the two women were able to eat and survive. We aim to build such mutually beneficial relationships - our love and support for each other will also bring a change as a result of us being in each other's lives.

The 'Circle' represents a continuous union that has no beginning or an end, founded on sound teachings about what God expects from us. The circle represents: unity, eternity, continuous love and support, one purpose, one mind, one family and one God. It is a connection of women with needs to women with gifts. Summarily, our objectives are aimed empowering young and older women them with information that affects all areas of their lives while strengthening them in their walk with God. Our monthly sessions (every 3rd Saturday of the month) are not only aimed at praise, worship and fellowship but they will also include sessions with experts who will be invited to share information on issues, including but not limited to:

Health matters – Cancer, Depression & Anxiety, HIV/AIDS, etc

Personal Relationships – Family, Friends and Love

Career Planning and Growth

Financial Management

Image Consulting – how does a Naomi or Ruth present herself in a way fitting for God

Spiritual Matters

How to be a virtuous woman and much more.

Finally, Naomi's circle is about leaving a legacy, one that current/ future husbands, in-laws, sons and daughters of our 'Ruth's and Naomi's', our communities, our country and continent and the whole church of Christ will benefit from and be proud of. I encourage you to start and continue praying to God to reveal the true Naomi or Ruth in you and then step out boldly to reclaim your position in the work of God.

Always remember this though, the road will not always be smooth, just hold firm to your faith and the promises of God, know that even with the trials, Ruth's blessings were limitless – in the end, she was part of a family line which was not ordinary but one out of which came our Saviour Jesus Christ.

(Matthew 1:5-6).

Come join us for the next session on the morning of **Saturday the 22nd June 2013** at our home Rejoice Bible Church and be part of our circle of mothers and daughters - let us walk together and continue to encourage one another as the word of God commands:

'Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as you are already doing'

(Thessalonians 5:11)

Our blessed destiny awaits!

Yours in Christ

Matshepo Majola



**“Good planning
and hardwork
lead to
prosperity, but
hasty shortcuts
lead to poverty
(Proverbs
21:15)”**

Naomi's Circle Launch

The launch of Naomi's Circle on Saturday, 11 May 2013 at Rejoice Bible Church was a great success.

The launch was amazing and heavenly haven – I couldn't believe how lovely it was, I'm still at The launch in my mind and will be for a long time ... We couldn't have done more to make it blissful and memorable for our visitors, and it was a privilege to spend time with all the beautiful people who attended.

The atmosphere was welcoming and filled with a spirit of love.

Mrs. Matshepo Majola responded to God's call to start the circle because she is passionate about preaching and reaching out to people. Several weeks before launch day, I remember asking her “what is our biggest challenge we have with the launch of Naomi's Circle?” Without hesitation she said, "So many things, so little time. The to-do list seems endless. I need to spend more time meeting people, building my launch committee team, and communicating the vision. Right there and then I knew that Saturday the 11th of May was going to be the start of great and amazing things to come.

The celebrations started with the agreement that Jesus is the hope of the world and that he has great dreams that are bigger and greater than we can imagine. That didn't stop us from dreaming about some of that reality and how God may show himself through this Circle of Women that is emerging. Speakers shared some of their dreams that God had laid in their hearts and most of them took us to a time of surrender and focus as we looked at scripture, through song and prayer. It was a great start to what God is doing.

I was really impressed at the way the participants all took a different angle and a different direction and really found their own voice and way to express the concept, God was at work.

We were then blessed with a powerful Sermon from Mrs. Matshepo Majola which was based on the Seven Principles of an Eagle. The Sermon was very inspiring, we were tremendously blessed. It helped us to understand that we are in situations where we have come to discovered that the place where we are is not actually the place we are supposed to be and due to much commitment we are termed to have been tied down in a way yet we are double minded of living the place. We were taught of what are the implications and how can one go about this?

And that very situation that we are facing right now could be a trial of endurance and change. God makes His children to walk through such times because it's the only way He prepare you to meet His plan for your life. To take away what is unnecessary, and shape up your character and attitudes. But God never forsakes or leaves behind His children at these times of correction. He is with you because He wants to renew your strength at the end of the trial period. The 7 principles were provided in the message to show how to wait upon the Lord for divine renewal. Wait upon the Lord – and you will soar like an Eagle.

The launch ended with the lighting of candles which reminded us what Jesus said: "I am the light of the world" (John 8:12). The presence of the light reminded us of Jesus' coming into our world and into our lives. At the end of the service, the light was carried out to show that Jesus Christ is for all people everywhere.... Good planning and hard work lead to prosperity, but hasty shortcuts lead to poverty (Proverbs 21:5).

By Happy Maluleka



*“Trust in the Lord
with all your
heart and lean
not in your own
understanding
(Proverbs 3:5)”*

Naomi's Circle Expectations

In my own space this is what dawned in my mind when the Naomi's circle was introduced.

What i know now... i would not have known :

Had i not been through the impossible- How would i know He is a God of possibilities. Had i not found myself walking under the storms-How would i know He is my shelter, Had i not lost my way and focus in my journey-How would i know He is my compass.

The Naomi's Circle launch reminded me that the journey is still on. We are all in the Relay-race where everyone has a role for us to be a winning team for God. As we are running in our own tracks we need to be focused to the finishing line and also be mindful of the opponents camp racing against us and our youth. The Song “Jesus is the answer” came to mind to remind me that we need to be the answer for this sick World. In our motto we say “we are walking in the steps of Jesus Christ”. Therefore we need to save our daughters and sons from this crazy world through the “Walk the talk” and vice versa. Proverbs 3:5 Says “Trust in the Lord with ALL your heart and lean not in your own understanding”. If we trust and obey God and journey with Him...oh what a fruitful and splendid life we will have!!! I expect to see God in the move with us and more to be revealed to us!!!

By Ntombiyethemba Mthimkhulu





**“Therefore
encourage one
another and build
each other up,
just as you are
already doing
(Thessalonians
5:11)”**

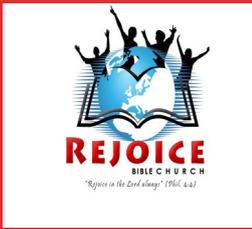
Naomi's Circle Expectations

In my life Naomi's Circle is not just a ministry but a circle of influence, empowerment, equipping, a circle of restoration and revival, It is a circle of a second chance from God to experience the joy of being a daughter and experience the liberty Christ gives. This circle is like a second home where I am afforded the chance of belonging to mothers who love, care and build me according to the Word and principles of God, a circle that gives me the opportunity to realise who God has created me to be and on the same note run after my dreams as a young lady. Naomi's Circle is a God institute that will groom the Naomi's and Ruth's that do not conform but live according to the pattern of God, the mothers that will transfer wealth of wisdom to their daughters and the daughters that will rise up and take the world by storm not compromising their godly values or compromising themselves but daughters who will become Trail Blazers and beacon of lights that are courageous and immovable in God.

My expectations from Naomi's Circle:

- 1 I desire to grow more in God as a Virtuos Woman who fears and loves God
- 2 To be a woman with a godly Character that reflects Christ
- 3 To be pruned to become a Vessel that is a life giver to other Women that are broken and hurting.
- 4 Learning to be a daughter who daily demonstrates a charitable spirit
- 5 Learning how to have confidence in the Woman that God created me to be
- 6 To be taught how to be a sterling future Mother and an outstanding wife who reflects Christ to her family.
- 7 Learn how to strive to be a better woman who isn't restricted by her past mistakes.





“You are a member of God’s own family and you belong in God’s household with every other Christian (Ephesians 2:19)”

Ministry Updates

Women Ministry

We bless the Lord as the mothers and daughters of R.B.C for the great move of the Holy trinity in our hearts and our lives in general. We have been having regular women’s fellowship on Thursdays weekly, and occasionally meeting once a month on Saturdays to basically uplift each other and grooming each other spiritually.

The significance or importance of Naomi’s Circle:

1. Strong ties between mother’s and daughters will be established.
2. The knowledge of the word of God and it’s practicality will be increased and shared.
3. Parties we learn through other’s experiences in life and also empower each other.
4. Broken hearts will be mended through the help of our Lord, as we tread forward and not dwelling on our painful past and bitter encounters in life
5. Through the formation of Naomi’s Circle, different avenue’s will be explored, touching and addressing issues like KINGDOM FINANCE, whereby our ladies will be taught on how to deal with money, career guidance and so forth.
6. Lastly, the importance of this will be for the Naomi's to teach the Ruth's about issues surrounding women in general and the importance of serving God in spirit and in truth. Of course we will be sharing recipes and teaching each other on the role played by a woman not only in church but in the society as well

Our expectation as Naomi’s Circle is that at the end of the day, we need to see or breed a community of women that will go out there and make a difference . We don’t want to be ordinary women, but we want to be known and seen as women of virtue, God fearing and leave a print wherever we go. We are expecting this circle to not end up in R.B.C, but to grow to other parts of Soweto , go provincial, national and we are also trusting God that it will one day even grow international. Lives are bound to change to the better, we are expecting tear’s to be wiped of the aching mothers and daughters as we will be working together towards a change of our hearts and situation, whereby only God can be able to take away the pain and replace it with a new song. This is just the beginning, we have only had our first meeting and we are trusting God for good things to come, lively and educational and informative teachings which will be shared as we go. We would like to congratulate R.B.C for this wonderful ministry, which we know will make a big difference in the hearts of many, even to our young men and father’s in the church.

By Ms Xoli Madi

Contact Us

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Women's Ministry – Ms Xolisile Madi (073 269 9605)

Boys to Men Ministry – Mr. Ngoma (073 461 3891)

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Young Adults Ministry – Miss Nomcebo Shabangu (082 390 4586) and Miss Diketso Mogwena (084 476 3030)

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Events and Hospitality – Miss Happy Maluleka (079 538 8154)

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Sound – Zweli Mkhuma (084 221 9788)

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Membership Ministry – Ms. Ntombiyethemba Mthimkhulu (072 560 1747)

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