

Christian Women's Job Corps

of Kerr County



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March 2009

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This I Know

My husband Joe and I have been married almost 30 years, have raised our children, just sent our youngest to college and have started our second honeymoon. Shortly after the holidays Joe was diagnosed with a rare cancer. As our world began to unravel, I had to step back and hang onto what I know to be true of God.....not what I knew in my head about Him, but what I knew deep in my inner man. I came up with four things I **know** to be true of God in my life. I began learning them (in my head) as a little girl in Sunday School, but I have **experienced** them as I've leaned on Him through other difficult times in my life.

This is what I KNOW about God..... **He is good, He is faithful, He loves me, and He is with me.** Things have not always turned out as I would have liked. Not all of my prayers have been answered as I would have wanted. But these four truths have been my anchor. I have seen His goodness (Psalm 27:13 and Psalm 136:1) over and over again in my life as He has helped me **through** difficulties. I've discovered His faithfulness (Lamentations 3:23) to provide strength, peace and wisdom as I have cared for my mother who has a debilitating autoimmune disease. I have been overwhelmed by His love for me (Jeremiah 31:3) and continually ask for a greater revelation of His love. His love for me has given me courage to face things when I have felt overwhelmed. His love is the one thing we have to depend on.

 *Cont'd on P. 2*



Kathleen Maxwell

Helping Women All Over the World

Discover Their Value



Kathleen was invited to Indonesia last fall to speak to 480 women.

God is opening doors for Job Corps ministry all over the world!

Kathleen presents some CWJC materials to a very grateful Indonesian woman.



Above: Notice the "crowns". All the women are wearing tiaras like those given to the participants of the Job Corps. We're all daughters of the King!

Meet the Spring 2009 Class



Back Row: Leslie Brennan, Latisha Ferguson, Maria Ruiz & Eliza Arredondo. **Middle Row:** Susan Rodriguez, Julie Maxwell, Mary Gomez, Denise Stevenson, Melinda Lockett & Terry Young. **Front Row:** Brenda Timmons, Ellie Wiles, Ruthi Ortegon & Wendy Conley.

For you are a people holy to the LORD your God. The LORD your God has chosen you out of all the peoples on the face of the earth to be his people, his treasured possession.

Deuteronomy 7:6 (NIV)

Touching the lives of some to affect the lives of many.



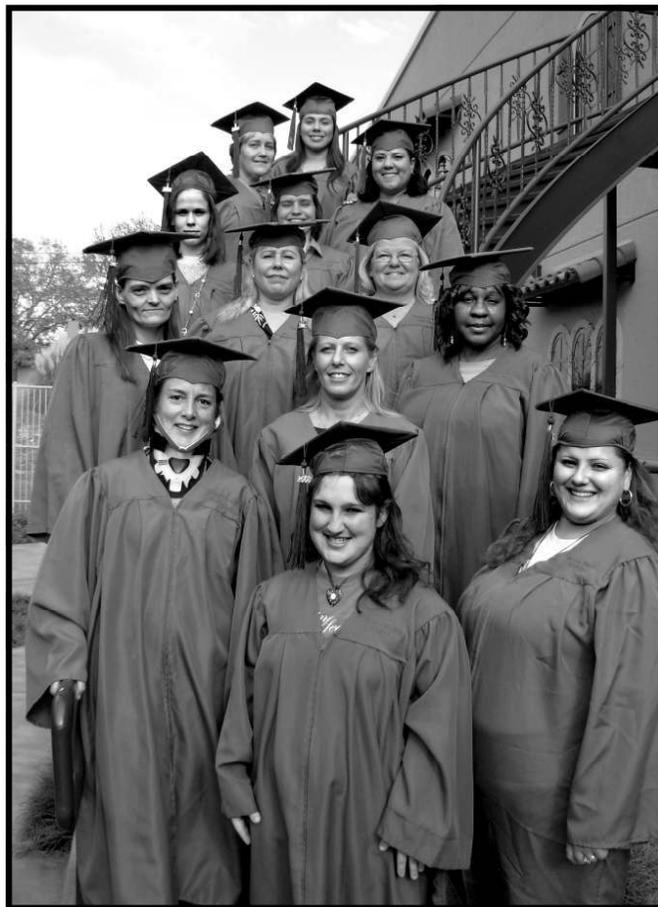
CWJC Graduation – Cont'd from p. 4

give up. She relocated to Kerrville with her sons and made up her mind that a hurricane was not keeping her from finishing what she had started. Her determination and her family's needs were more compelling than a policy. Her graduation was a statement that God's plans for Lisa and her sons take priority over a weather disaster.

This class also dealt with a life-threatening car accident involving a class member. While her survival was against the odds, her weeks in hospital ICU and recuperation caused her to miss numerous class sessions. Again, her determination to return and complete the semester – and to make up lost class time – were an inspiration to her classmates and volunteers. Even with limited mobility, she completed her goal. Her graduation was a tribute to God's purposes for her as she continues her physical rehabilitation and plans for the future for herself and her daughters.

This semester more than 240 volunteers from over 30 area churches combined to provide Bible study, life skills education, computer training, and multiple layers of support to these 13 women from Kerrville and surrounding areas. And each student represents God's unique plans and her determination to overcome difficult odds. Each woman has a personal mentor to support and encourage her as she gets job training and sets new priorities for herself and family.

If you would like to be a part of Christian Women's Job Corps of Kerr County as a student, a volunteer, or a financial supporter, call 830-895-3660. Information is also available on the website, www.cwjckerrcounty.org. All financial contributions are tax deductible. 🌿



From Top, from left to right as you go down:
Toni Moreno, Delilah Williams, Myrna Delgado, Sarah Stone, Tamara Mason, Becky Switzer, Susan Elizondo, Karla Burton, Lorrie LeGalley, Lisa Self, Carlotta Woodfox, Leslie Willman & Julie Gallegos.

This I Know – Cont'd from p. 1

I know I am precious to Him and He is always loving me. That gives me the confidence I need to face tomorrow! And I know He is **with** me. Psalm 16:8 says, "I have set the Lord always before me, **because He is at my right hand**, I will not be shaken. Therefore, my heart is glad and my inner man rejoices and my flesh shall rest in hope." I have felt the presence of God holding my hand as I've walked in unknown and scary situations with my mom and now with Joe. And, in all of these situations, God has shown me that joy in the midst of trials is part of my inheritance as His daughter. Habakkuk 3:16-19 says, "....that I might rest in the day of trouble....Although the fig tree shall not blossom, neither shall fruit be on the vine, and the field shall yield no food, and there shall be no herd in the stall; Yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will joy in the God of my salvation. The Lord God is my strength...." I have chosen to rest in my day of trouble and to rejoice in Him. Jesus paid the price for me to experience joy in spite of what I am going through. And I can only have that joy as I walk and abide in Him each day and spend time in His presence.

Many people have head knowledge of God. They know a lot about Him but don't have a vibrant, daily relationship of walking with Him, knowing Him and experiencing Him. There is so much of God for us to discover! He is relational and it is in experiencing Him that we learn who He really is and who He wants to be for us. Please pray for us as we wait for our miracle and I pray that you will grow with me in **KNOWING His goodness, faithfulness, love and presence.** 🌿

*And we have known and believed the love that God has for us.
God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him.*

1 John 4:16 (NKJV)

Two Very Special People . . .

Ella Mae Lee

Not many organizations can claim to have volunteers that have been working with them for 10 uninterrupted years. The CWJC is one of those blessed with being able to claim such a prize, and Ella Mae Lee is indeed a treasure.



Following her retirement from her 25-year-plus job at the Hill Country Telephone Cooperative in March 2000, her friend Cleo told Ella Mae about the opportunity to volunteer at the Christian Women's Job Corps. At the time, CWJC's executive director was Patty Crick. With a smaller pool of volunteers, Ella Mae was willing to do "whatever needed to be done," just as she does today, but her regular contribution for several years was providing Wednesday lunches.

Moving with her family from her birthplace of Arkansas to Kerrville at the age of eight, Ella Mae grew up in this area and married a native of the area. Her husband's work as superintendent of a state-run fish hatchery took them to Mineral Wells where her children were born.

Today, Ella Mae can be found at the CWJC on Thursdays – and any other time they need her – serving as receptionist, presiding over the kitchen, and helping out with whatever needs to be done in the office. A major project she has been working on is putting together "history books" of the Job Corps' people and activities over the years. With her long association with CWJC, Ella Mae is just the right person to take on that project.

What has motivated Ella Mae Lee to continue her work with the Job Corps year after year? In addition to seeing God's blessings on the ministry and in the lives of the women participating in the program, she says the dedication of Patty Crick, Kathleen Maxwell, Debbie Ridout and others has served to encourage and mentor her in her service to the Lord.

"I love Ella Mae's love for the Lord," said Kathleen Maxwell, "and don't think we could do a graduation without her organizing things in the kitchen. She's wonderful!"

Thank you, Ella Mae, for your unselfish willingness to serve the Lord by serving the women the Lord leads to this ministry. 🌿



Victoria Benson

"Hang in there."
"Stay the course!"
"You can do it!"
"Don't give up!"

What's the common denominator with these phrases? Why, it's Victoria Benson, of course!

Toddlers can drain even a young mother of a lot of energy. Having a toddler and being in the last trimester of her pregnancy with her second child would have been a good enough reason for most people to put off a 12-week intensive training course. Not so with Victoria Benson, a graduate of the Fall 2007 class. She was determined to see it through, and she did, finishing just one month before her second child's entrance onto the scene. She not only completed her Job Corps training during that time, but worked on obtaining her GED at the same time!

What was Victoria's motivation? Was it the Beth Moore *Breaking Free* Bible study, which she says was the best part of her time at the Job Corps? Was it the constant "push" she got from Kathleen and Debbie that "you can do it!" It was the helping and pushing she got there that benefitted her most because she "didn't have anybody pushing me, helping me." Whatever it was that kept her going, the results are a success story that needs to be told.

Having come through the foster system herself, Victoria can empathize with the young people she comes into contact with through her "awesome job" with Baptist Child and Family Services. Victoria is their Youth Marketing Specialist and her responsibilities include helping foster and other impoverished youth establish a cleaning business and a lawn care service.

Now that Victoria Benson has this very fulfilling job with Baptist Family and Child Services, has she reached the pinnacle of her goals in life? No – Victoria has enrolled at Northwest Vista College in Kerrville and will be studying Sociology to enhance her abilities to lead other foster youth to a brighter future.

Congratulations, Victoria, and God bless you as you endeavor to meet the needs of the youth in our communities. 🌿

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Not a Hand Out"*

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CWJC Graduation - Fall Class of 2008

Deana Blackburn

The evening of Wednesday, November 12, 2008, may not be a turning point for many Americans, but for 13 Hill Country women, it was a lifetime memory. These women constituted the 19th graduating class of Christian Women's Job Corps of Kerr County. The audience of family, friends, community supporters, and CWJC volunteers and staff celebrated with them all as the 197th graduate crossed the stage. And, while every class is unique and special, this 19th class overcame some memorable hurdles to reach that night of celebration.

One hurdle was called Hurricane Ike, and another involved a trauma care unit in a distant city. The old saying is that rules are meant to be broken, and the fall class of 2008 illustrates how God's plans for women in need or difficult transitions are more important than "rules." For the first time, a student joined the class mid-semester. The woman had lost virtually everything when Hurricane Ike devastated her home near Baytown, where she was a student at CWJC. The program there had to close for the semester because of the damages to its facility. This student, however, was not one to

 *Cont'd on P. 2*

*A Special "Thank you!"
for the extras in our new building
to Robin & Stacie Jones,
owners of Legacy Stone,
for their donation of
granite counter tops, and
John & Nancy Turner
for the fountain.*