

GOD BLESS AMERICA



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COMING EVENTS

August

- 8/9
Leadership Mtg.

September

- 9/6 CWC Picnic
- 9/13
Early Bird Service
Starts @ 8:45 a.m.

STAY CONNECTED

Come Join Us!

Who: Women of all ages

When: Sunday Morning
@ 9:00 a.m.

Where: Room 14

Email: women@cwcmanteca.org

Facebook: Cwcwomen
Manteca

Virtuous Women

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Virtuous Woman

Gaining Independence With God's Help

"But Jesus looked at them and said to them, 'With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible'." - Matt. 19:26

With our nation's independence coming up, the thought arose of how one gains her own independence. Independence from . . . childhood, school, finances, etc; breaking away and standing on our own. Initially, the thought is a bit exciting; breaking away from what you once knew and making your own way in the world. We all want to be independent to some degree, right? We want our children to be independent as well. It is interesting, in searching through the concordance of the bible there was not a single verse written that specifically spoke of "independence". There were however, women in the bible who strived for independence. These valiant women often separated themselves and stood alone for their beliefs.

Esther, the queen of Persia, was such a woman. Haman, Xerxes newly appointed Prince, persuaded the King that all the Jews should be killed off. Esther decided she must go to the king and convince him to save her people. *"And so I will go to the king, which is against the law and if I perish, I perish!"* Esther 4:16b After studying this scripture I realized that although Esther went to the king on her own, she had also told the Jews to fast and pray for her. Even she herself, prayed reverently to God for His help. The fact that Esther prayed and asked for prayer from others shows that while she believed she needed to stand alone, she was not alone, but always with God. God really does not want us to be independent from Him! How can we grow up, or go off to school or even start a new financial endeavor without God's help? He is what allows us to stand up and begin to do what we never thought we were capable of doing. HE makes all things possible. ~ Michelle Edache

SPOKEN WORD WHO ARE YOU?

Who are you?

How do you see yourself?

Do you see yourself as God sees you or did you believe the lie that someone with a skewed vision told you? Once we believe the lies we begin to live our lives as though it is the truth. Who's lie are you living by?

Did someone tell you that you were not good enough or say that you would never amount to anything? Did someone say that you were too -- ? After we buy into the lies, we begin to create stories based on those skewed thoughts that continue to give power to our limitations. Merriam Webster defines "skewed" as 'changing something so that it is not true or accurate'. I ask you, who are you? How do you see yourself? Do you see

yourself as God sees you? Maybe no one ever told you a lie, but did you assume one? Did you compare yourself to someone else? The reality is that we are 'one of a kind', individuals formed and fashioned by the Creator. Who are you? How do you see yourself? If you believed the lie, can you begin to now see yourself as God sees you? Begin to see yourself 'fearfully and wonderfully made' Psalm 139:14. See yourself as the apple of God's eye. See yourself as part of a chosen people, of a royal priesthood. See yourself as fully capable and equipped with everything that you will need to do what you were placed on this earth to do. Again, I ask you, who are you? How do you see yourself? Will you continue to believe the lies? Who's report will you believe? ~ Tonique McNair

Transitions

Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. —James 1:17

In August of this year I will be making one of the biggest transitions of my life, so far. This may be one of the few times that I am doing it without fear. I wouldn't say that I don't like change. But like most people, I do like having something in my life that is constant; that doesn't change.

Almost every major change in my life so far has had to do with school. My transition from a private Christian school to a public school was very hard for me. As was my transition from junior high to a high school in another city, where I didn't know anyone. I remember getting in the car after the first day of high school and bursting into tears because of how miserable and lonely I felt. Change and transition was not easy for me then and is still a struggle for me now.

But God has used these situations to prepare me for this next season in my life. When I have talked to people who have already gone to college they all tell me about how hard it was to adjust to being alone in a new environment. As I stated previously, this



used to be something that was really hard for me. Now, I am excited about the change! I'm not fearful about going to a new city by myself because I know that it is a transition that is necessary and that I will make it.

God uses changes and transitions in our lives to help us grow in ways that we may not have on our own. For example, if you plant an apple tree in a pot, it will only grow to a certain height. Eventually, the tree needs to be put in the ground so that its roots can mature and it can begin to produce good fruit.

As a result of being "replanted" I am now producing fruit. At CWC I work as a greeter at the Lift, because I know what it's like to feel uncomfortable in a new place. With my new found independence, I can also go to college with confidence knowing that I am not alone. I'm not afraid or unsure because God will always be with me and He has used change to force me to grow. Through these situations, God has taught me that He is my constant. I can trust Him because, unlike my situations or surroundings, He doesn't change. ~Amina Edache

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~ Amina Edache

FINDING GROWTH IN FORGIVENESS BY MONA LOPEZ

It was the summer of 2012, I walked into church on Sunday desperately searching, looking for answers to my pain and shame. My marriage was over and no chance of reconciliation, our words were few and sometimes not very nice. I listened to the tugging at my heart and joined Paragon, a discipleship program I [had] contemplated for years. My marriage was still uncertain, but as I began to get into my Word and share bible stories from the NT with my husband. I found he was very knowledgeable and knew exactly how the story ended. This would floor my mind and I would say, "Then what's wrong with you? You know the word but your heart is stone cold." Of course, I didn't say that. My relationship with the Lord continued to grow and the encounter I had with Him lasted 3 days. The love I felt from my daddy in heaven was like nothing I would ever imagined. Slowly, my marriage began to mend . . . I was in full surrender to the Lord and He turned my shame into forgiveness. I now cry for joy, not pain or shame. The words the Lord spoke to me, are from Isaiah 1:18 "Come now let us reason together," says the Lord, "Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall be as wool." We all can receive this promise, if we just allow Jesus to work in our lives. Today, my marriage is stronger and more loving than ever, we both serve the Lord with happy hearts and we are so in love with each other again. Thank you Jesus and thank you Paragon.

Did You Miss It?

Much has been happening since you've stopped by! The Women's Class has been gaining spiritual strength with Lisa Beveré's *Girls With Swords*. In our in depth study we discussed how the Word is a sword (weapon) that should be both studied and wielded. First we learned how we were **chosen** by God and as such we became a direct target for the enemy. We learned how we are Heroes and how we use the cross as



a sword. Over the course of our study we began to understand how we are trained by God's word to be warriors to fight our daily battle against the enemy. Lastly we understood how to arm and equip ourselves with the word. Whew! We are powerful in Christ.