

CHRISTIAN BUSINESS WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

To encourage and equip Christian business and professional women to reflect Christ in their world.

Sept./October 2005

By: Debra Roubik

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CBWA News/Events

CBWA Luncheon Location
North Phoenix Baptist Church
5757 N. Central Avenue
Lunch Price \$15 with RSVP
Lunch Price \$18 without RSVP
Or \$5 Program Only

RSVP
480-948-CBWA(2292)
cbwa@qwest.net
www.cbwa-az.org

Program Information
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We believe the Bible to be the inspired Word of God, without error, and the final authority in our lives.
We believe in one God eternally existing in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ died as a sacrifice for our sins, was raised from the dead, and that all who receive Him by faith are born of the Holy Spirit and enter into a relationship in which they are eternally secure.



THERS

OPINION OF YOU

** How the Human Tide Turns **

Human admiration is fickle. The human tide can turn on you any minute. That is why God makes it clear that we need to go right to Him for our sense of esteem. Two great stories in the Bible illustrate that.

Many of us think of David as the great victor killing the giant Goliath. However, if you read the stories of King Saul and David in 1 Samuel you will find many interesting, and usually overlooked events in David's life. David first found favor from King Saul for his musical abilities which soothed the king. He was also highly esteemed for his gallant victory over Goliath. So talk about being highly acclaimed; David had the king praising him for his musical talents and he had the whole country admiring his bravery and skill. He was the epitome of pre-Hollywood movie star. Yet the human tide quickly turned. After a honeymoon period, King Saul spent somewhere between 10-15 years pursuing David and trying to kill him! David spent those years as a fugitive—sleeping in caves, living in deserts and foreign lands. While most of the time he had a large band of outcast followers who stood behind him in battle and encouraged him, after the loss of their wives and children during a raid, this human tide began to turn on him as well.

Many of us in this situation would have become swallowed up in self-pity and

depression. Here is David, thinking back to when the prophet Samuel promised and anointed him as God's chosen one to be the next king of Israel. Yet he is spending year after year on the run, like some type of villain. On top of that, he ultimately becomes desired target practice for his own friends.

I don't know about you, but if I were David in this situation I would be thinking, "Okay God, something is wrong here. YOU PROMISED me that I would be king and look at what is happening to me. Nothing is going right here. I am spending the only life I have with no home, no money. All I do is run from enemies and now even my only friends are turning on me. Where are you God? I don't know if I can trust this 'God stuff' anymore."

But not David. In 1 Samuel we find the real reason why David found favor with God. Despite what many Christians would like you to believe, it was not because David did not whine. Read the Psalms! David wrote 73 out of the 150 Psalms and most of them start with a "poor me" tone. What we learn from the Psalms is that God

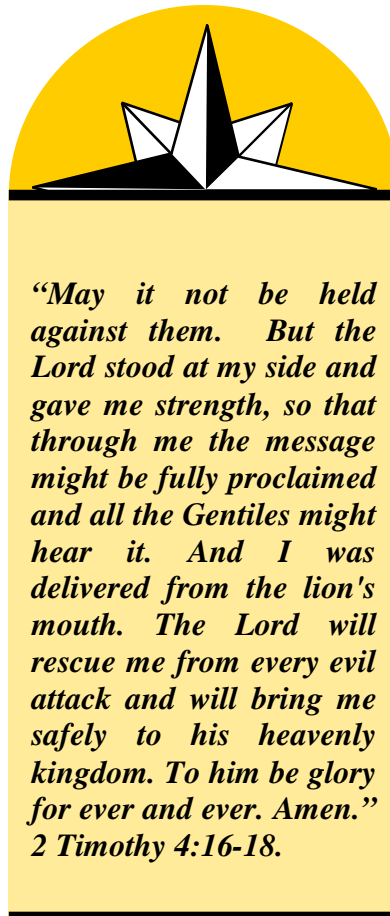
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didn't favor David because what he did or did not do. He favored David because they had an honest-to-goodness open relationship. **David was open with feelings of discouragement and questioning. But David did not let these feelings rule him.** He trusted God to work it out somehow. David steadfastly remained a man after God's own heart as Samuel describes David in *1 Samuel 13:14*.

David **did feel** discouraged when human tides turned against him. But what made David God's man was what he did with those feelings. Most of us would have had one of two reactions. Either we would have become paralyzed in our hurt and abandoned any visions that God had entrusted us with, or we would have become a "man of the world" plowing over and hurting everyone else to cover up our own hurt.

In contrast, according to the Bible, *"But David strengthened himself in the Lord his God."* *1 Samuel 30:6*. David turned to God and asked him for his encouragement and his strength to go on. And when you read the tone of the Psalms, by the end of almost every one, God does give David the hope and confidence he needs to continue being a Godly man. Almost all of David's Psalms end with an optimistic message.

How did David turn the hurt to hope? By journaling, praying, asking and remembering. I imagine that David must have replayed the story of God's faithfulness to Israel. He must have replayed the story of Joseph becoming governor of the land only after being a slave and a prisoner. He must have replayed the story of Noah seeing land only after spending many years in ridicule for spending all his free time building an ark, and



many days nauseated with sea sickness. And he must have replayed the story of God bringing the Israelites freedom from slavery only after many, many plagues had to visit the house of the Pharaoh because he was too stubborn to let his slaves go. He must have replayed many "tapes" (or in the digital age, shall we say "CDs") in his mind with the song that Moses sang when the God finally had had it with the Pharaoh—swallowing the Pharaoh and his army with walls of water. *"The LORD is my strength and my song; he has become my salvation. He is my God, and I will praise him, my father's God, and I will exalt him."* *Exodus 15:2*.

David is not the only Bible star who struggled with fickle human approval. Paul was stoned, shipwrecked and imprisoned many

times. The human tide turned on Paul too. In fact, his most heartfelt letter can be read in *2 Timothy*. He laments that while he was put on trial, three of his good friends had left him. Even though Doctor Luke was still with him, he still felt the pangs of desertion. *"At my first defense, no one came to my support, but everyone deserted me."* *2 Timothy 4:16*. So how did he take this hurt and use it in his letter to encourage his friend, young Timothy? *"May it not be held against them. But the Lord stood at my side and gave me strength, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it. And I was delivered from the lion's mouth. The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and will bring me safely to his heavenly kingdom. To him be glory for ever and ever. Amen."* *2 Timothy 4:16-18*.

Today, Paul would have replayed the digitized mental CDs of the earthquake that set him free from prison before, the stories of getting up after stonings and floggings and his supernatural rescue at sea.

So we too need to remember to ignore the swells and depths of the human tide. Like David and Paul, practice playing the mental "tapes/CDs/MP3s/whatever" of how God has been your strength in the past. Like with David, Moses, Joseph and Noah, it may take some time before your living circumstances obviously change. But taking a slow ride on a sometimes obscured, steady stream with God is better than riding the fickle, tumultuous ebbs and flows of human approval—any day.

Debra J. Roubik is an economic consultant, speaker and bible teacher. She specializes in synergizing theoretical research, expert knowledge and Scriptural insights into practical solutions to economic, political, business and personal issues. Call 623-561-2816 or e-mail droubik@cox.net for details.

By Elizabeth Ajame Boyer

Just Keep



Swimming...

I recently viewed "Finding Nemo," the story of a little clown fish taken from the Great Barrier Reef, to be given to a little girl of dubious personality. The gist of the story is that Nemo's father, Marlin (who is a bit paranoid and neurotic), comes after him to save him from certain woe at the hands of human beings.

Shortly after his journey begins he runs into a pretty blue fish, named Dori, who decides to assist him in his search for his son. Dori is a happy little fish with a terrible memory. She doesn't remember from moment to moment what she is doing or where she is going, but she decides she is happy with Marlin, searching for Nemo. I relate fully to Dori's happiness and glee for life.

The reason I even bring up this story is Dori has a theme for her life that she explains early to Marlin. Even when you are sad or fearful, there is only one thing to do: Just keep swimming, just keep on swimming, which she sings to Marlin, to his frustration. This attitude coincides nicely with *Hebrews 12:1,2* - "Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured

the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God."

We, as Christians, are in the race of our lives. We are encouraged and urged to continue our efforts no matter the situation, regardless whether we feel lost, or confused, full of anguish or un certainty.

What sometimes seems even more difficult, is we must continue even if we are comfortable, contented and at peace. In the '60's and '70's, we had a saying, "Keep on truckin'." It just meant to keep on going.

The term "race" in the New Testament referred mainly to Grecian sports, such as running on foot, horseback, or in chariots. Much preparation was made for the contests, and to win the prize was considered a great honor. Even as we watch professional and Olympic athletes, we see programs on TV related to the contestants on what they are doing to prepare. There are athletes who come from all over the United States to run in the mountains around Flagstaff, AZ. Additionally, they use the swimming pools of Northern Arizona University to train. At the height of over 7,500 feet, they build their cardio-

vascular structures to endure long periods of running, swimming, cycling.

So, how do Christians prepare to "run the race?" **First**, spending time in the Word and praying is probably the best way to begin. Discipline your life to include

God each day. Read your Bible; write down your thoughts about a scripture verse. **Secondly**, go to church and hear the Word of God. Join a Bible study group; listen to Christian tapes and Bible tapes. Find your favorite speaker on the radio and make time to listen to his sermons. The Bible says "*Faith comes from hearing. . . the Word of God.*" *Romans 10:17*. Build your faith and build your spiritual muscles. **And thirdly**, act like a Christian. The Olympian athletes *act* like athletes. They eat right; they get enough sleep and study the sport which they perform. They *practice* being athletes. We must practice being Christians until it becomes second nature to us.

As we practice being Christians, we become more like Christ each day. We take on a "Christ-like" appearance. We decrease so that Christ may increase, and we do that when we "just keep swimming, just keep on swimming."

Elizabeth Ajame-Boyer, Graduated from ASU at 40 years old, in 1996, with BA In Political Science. She has lived in AZ all but 2 years of her life. Married 31 years, two children, two grandchildren. Works as an Administrative Assistant, a photographer, And breeds Cocker Spaniels. See her website at: www.abcockers.com.

CBWA NEWS

Get Involved with CBWA

At each luncheon, there will be sign up sheets for those wanting to be more involved with CBWA – Our ministry includes prayer, e-team, core registration, marketing, newsletter and special events. Please consider what areas you'd like to share your talents and gifts to support the CBWA ministry today!

Email Directory

If you haven't signed up already with your email information, please send it in today. We are encouraging CBWA members to keep in contact with an email directory on our website. You decide how much information to share on the form provided on our website. Log on to www.cbwa-az.org for more information.

LUNCHEON MEETINGS

- **Monday, September 12, 2005**
RSVP by Wed., Sept. 7, 2005

Living Like Jesus, Serving Like Jesus, Influencing Like Jesus – Councilwoman Peggy Bilsten

This crazy, busy world can make it hard to remember to keep Jesus first. Peggy Bilsten will speak about how to live like Jesus, serve others and influence others as Jesus would. Please join us for this inspirational lunch.

Peggy Bilsten is Councilwoman for District 3 and the vice mayor for the City of Phoenix. She and her husband Tom have been married over 20 years and have two children, Tom Jr. and Jenny.

- **Monday, September 26, 2005**
RSVP by Wed., Sept. 21, 2005

Forgiveness – Kathi Bishop

Everyone is talking about forgiveness! Even non-Christian groups are emerging to show the value of forgiveness. Unforgiveness can be stifling and debilitating. So how can we let go of the hurt and be able to begin a relationship again? It's not impossible. You can get victory!

CBWA Financial Facts

Noncash Donations – recently at our Annual Garage Sale there were some great clothing donations (shoes, suits, dresses, purses etc) that we then sent to A Second Look Consignment Superstore for resale. We would like to encourage other CBWA women, with noncash donations during the year, to go directly to A Second Look Consignment Superstore in the Paradise Hills Shopping Center 10620 N. 32nd Street, Phoenix, AZ 85028 and contribute under the CBWA account or bring your items to any CBWA luncheon and we'll drop them off for you!

Please consider involving CBWA as part of your financial ministry by using the enclosed envelope. "They gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability..." 2 Cor. 8:3

CBWA luncheons are held at North Phoenix Baptist Church located 5757 N. Central Ave (Bethany Home and Central Ave).

12:00 - 1:15 p.m.

Lunch Price is \$15 - or \$18 no RSVP or \$5 Program only.

**** NEW LUNCH PRICES ****

RSVP by phone at 480-948-2292, line #1, email to cbwa@qwest.net or online at www.cbwa-az.org

Kathi Bishop graduated from ASU and worked in the media for 10 years. She teaches through the women's ministry at East Valley Bible Church and volunteers at Surrey Garden Christian School. Kathi has been married to Chuck for 22 years and has three children, Tanner, Becca and Paul.

- **Monday, October 10, 2005**
RSVP by Wed., October 5 2005

Faith and the Silence of God – Dr. Fred Chay

Have you ever felt that for all your praying and trying to talk to the Lord, at times He seems forever distant? It is during these times of the silence of God that we as Christians feel alone and alienated. Come join us as we seek to

understand these difficult times in the Christian life.

Dr. Chay has served as a pastor, a parachurch leader and a seminary professor during the past 30 years. Currently he serves as the Director of Doctoral Studies and Associate Professor of Theology at Phoenix Seminary.

- **Monday, October 24, 2005**
RSVP by Wed., October 19, 2005

One Woman Story

A CBWA favorite! Two of our members will share her own "One Woman Story" about how God has impacted her life, both personally and professionally.

Upcoming Luncheons...

November 14 – Jim Wehrheim
November 28 - To be announced
December 12 – Pastor Dan Yeary with a Christmas Message

December 26– no luncheon – Christmas Break

The *CBWA Connection* is a bi-monthly newsletter published by the Christian Business Women's Association, a nonprofit organization based in metro Phoenix area, Arizona. Newsletter ideas and comments, and editorial contributions supporting CBWA's statement of faith are welcome. The *CBWA Connection* is an outreach of CBWA and donations are tax deductible. To help underwrite newsletter expenses, a suggested donation of \$25 would cover the annual cost of preparing and mailing each newsletter. Editor: Joy Cervantes, cervantes@mpmcpa.com; Copy Editor: Laura Carpenter; Proofer: Shannon Carpenter; Newsletter Advisors: Diane Lippard and Laurie Ficarra; Newsletter Layout: Amber Miller; Printed on recycled paper by United. **CBWA 24-hour Phone 480-948-CBWA (2292)** www.cbwa-az.org Email: cbwa@qwest.net.



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