

## COMMUNIQUE

### 3RD ANNUAL TRI-STATE WOMEN'S COUNCIL WEEKEND SPIRITUAL RETREAT

“FEAR NOT, DAUGHTER OF ZION”

JUNE 21-23, 2013

AMERICA'S KESWICK CHRISTIAN RETREAT CENTER

601 Pinewald Keswick Road. Whiting, NJ

The Retreat kicked off on the evening of Friday, June 21, 2013, with the guests arriving and checking into their rooms. There was dinner and the Opening and Evening Programs commenced thereafter.

Led by the Master of Ceremonies, Sis. Temi Fadairo, the Evening Program consisted of Ice Breaker activities organized by Sis. Bola Amon, and a rousing Inspirational Intro given by Sis. Victoria Dada.

At 12 midnight, Sis. Hope Idowu led the group in a ground shaking Night Prayer Vigil until 1:30 AM.

The Saturday activities commenced with an early morning Praise Walk led by Sis. Tola Olorunnisola. The group was able to walk and perform exercises on the beautiful grounds of the Retreat Center.

The Saturday Program commenced after breakfast with Welcome Address by the Chairperson of the Tri-State Women's Council, MC Olayinka. There were more IceBreaker activities, and our spirits were stirred to receive from God with joyous praise and worship.

The Retreat was blessed with 2 gifted Guest Speakers who encouraged and motivated us with the soul stirring Word of God:

CAROLINE ILOGIENBOH: Author, Speaker, and founder of Essex Girl's Talk- A program designed to help female juveniles involved in the court system to make better life choices.

REV. LOLA ATUNRASE: Pastor, Co-founder Cornerstone International Ministries, Speaker and Director of Women of Destiny International.

Powerful Revival, led by MC Olowu - Revivalist Parish, and Prayer Sessions, filled the remainder of the afternoon program. The prayer sessions included the traditional "Prayer Basket" where attendees anonymously write 3 personal prayer points on an index card, put them back in the basket, the cards are shuffled and distributed. The objective is that when you pick a card (hopefully not your own) you pray for the person who's card you picked, according to their prayer points.

The Afternoon program concluded with testimonies from 3 attendees. Concerning how they had sown a seed of faith through prayer at the previous Retreat, and the Lord, in His infinite mercy, blessed one with a beautiful set of twin boys, the other with a bouncing baby girl, and the third with passing her exams with flying colors!

The Evening Program was centered on a dialogue session where important issues were discussed. The issues included:

The loss of Celestial youth to other Christian denominations and the reasons this is occurring.

The need for "Orientation" in Celestial Church to enable the youth, new members and even seasoned members to understand why we do things in Celestial the way that we do them, and the true Spiritual significance.

The possibility of including other Celestial Women, outside of the Tri -State - such as NY, MD and others in the Retreat: even if it's just the day program.

Holding the Retreat on the same weekend every year (preferably Holy Mary Weekend), this way every one knows in advance when the Retreat will be holding.

The importance of attending the Convention whenever it is being held, and if that is not possible, reading the Communique, so that one may be aware of the things going on in CCC USA Diocese.

The Retreat concluded on Sunday, after breakfast with a vote of thanks from the Chairperson, and a closing prayer.

There were a total of 22 people in attendance for the sleepover portion of the Retreat, and 42 people in attendance during the Saturday Program.

The Celestial Parishes represented were:

JJP Parish, PA

Revivalist Parish, NJ

VOG Parish, NJ