

# We Will Pray

*Faith in the Marketplace*

Ignite The Fire Movement  
Summit Ministries Newnan Magazine

Volume 2 Issue 1 Summer 2022

**Sharing God's Love  
With Newnan**

**A Place At The  
Table**

**Book Review**

**GOD IS  
MY CEO**

**This Is What  
Happens When God  
Becomes Your CEO**



APOSTLE PARRIS MCCOY



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SUNDAY  
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11:00 AM

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PSALMS 127:1

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THEY LABOUR IN VAIN  
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Apostle Debra & Elder Kenneth Harris

# Editor's Note

## Marketplace Ministry



A professional eBook template for mul am a marketplace minister! In other words, I am a servant of God in the marketplace. Our Heavenly Father desires to have His servants serving in ministry in every facet of life. Ministry is not just for the House of God, but also for the marketplace, government, and the nation. When believers understand marketplace ministry, we are equipped to walk in purpose.

Marketplace ministry does not remove the training, teaching, and sending from the Church, but it compliments it by supporting the Apostle's doctrine in Ephesians 4:11-13. The Church is the training ground to prepare and equip us for marketplace ministry. The servants of this type of ministry should support their respective Churches and communities through giving.

In the Old Testament, the ministry of the marketplace was understood through the life of a king. There were kings, priests, and prophets, and they all had major ministry. Under the New Testament, God has ordained us with all three anointings. The Kingly anointing is the one we are dealing with in this article. It is the anointing for marketplace ministry. In the Old Testament, kings owned land, cities, and marketplaces. Ownership of marketplace ministry came as a part of their purpose and obedience to God. Are we willing to submit to God, our Abba Father, to walk in our purpose for marketplace ministry?

One website defined marketplace ministry as, "The directing of evangelism and other Christian activities toward the secular marketplace." I think the simplest definition is to be a disciple and witness for Christ in and through your work or business. A similar approach is having the attitude of being a full-time minister in the workplace." Why is it critical? Folks, there are many reasons why marketplace ministry is critical. In the secular marketplace, most of the people you work with are lost and need Jesus. You will interact with many who will never darken the door of a church. Because they are on their own turf in the marketplace, they are relaxed, and not spiritually on guard like they would be if you forced them into a church setting." (Christianfaithatwork.com/Marketplace Ministry)

God gave me a vision before I entered the marketplace ministry. I moved into this facet of ministry before accepting a higher call on my life. He gave me the name Lighthouse Beauty Salon. I later had to change the name for business purposes. It is and has always been the salon established to glorify God! To this day, I remain in marketplace ministry, because God called me to it. It is to my advantage to consult God before I come out of marketplace ministry. It is my belief that I will be released to operate fully in the apostolic. The Apostolic is a New Testament ministry gift of the apostle and prophet to bring the Body of Christ into unity of the faith (Ephesians 4:13) Of course, all ministry is equally important and established by God.

My prayer is this: Father, help us to understand the need for marketplace ministry so we can all be in one accord and in the unity of faith. Father, empower us to be Spirit led in this marketplace ministry for the glory of God, and for souls!

Amen

Apostle D. Harris



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**Community Prayer Rally**

August 20  
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**Community Prayer Rally**

October 15  
(Greenville Street Park)

**Community Thanksgiving  
Outreach:**

November 22  
(Howard Warner Community Center)

# Newman

## CITY CHURCH

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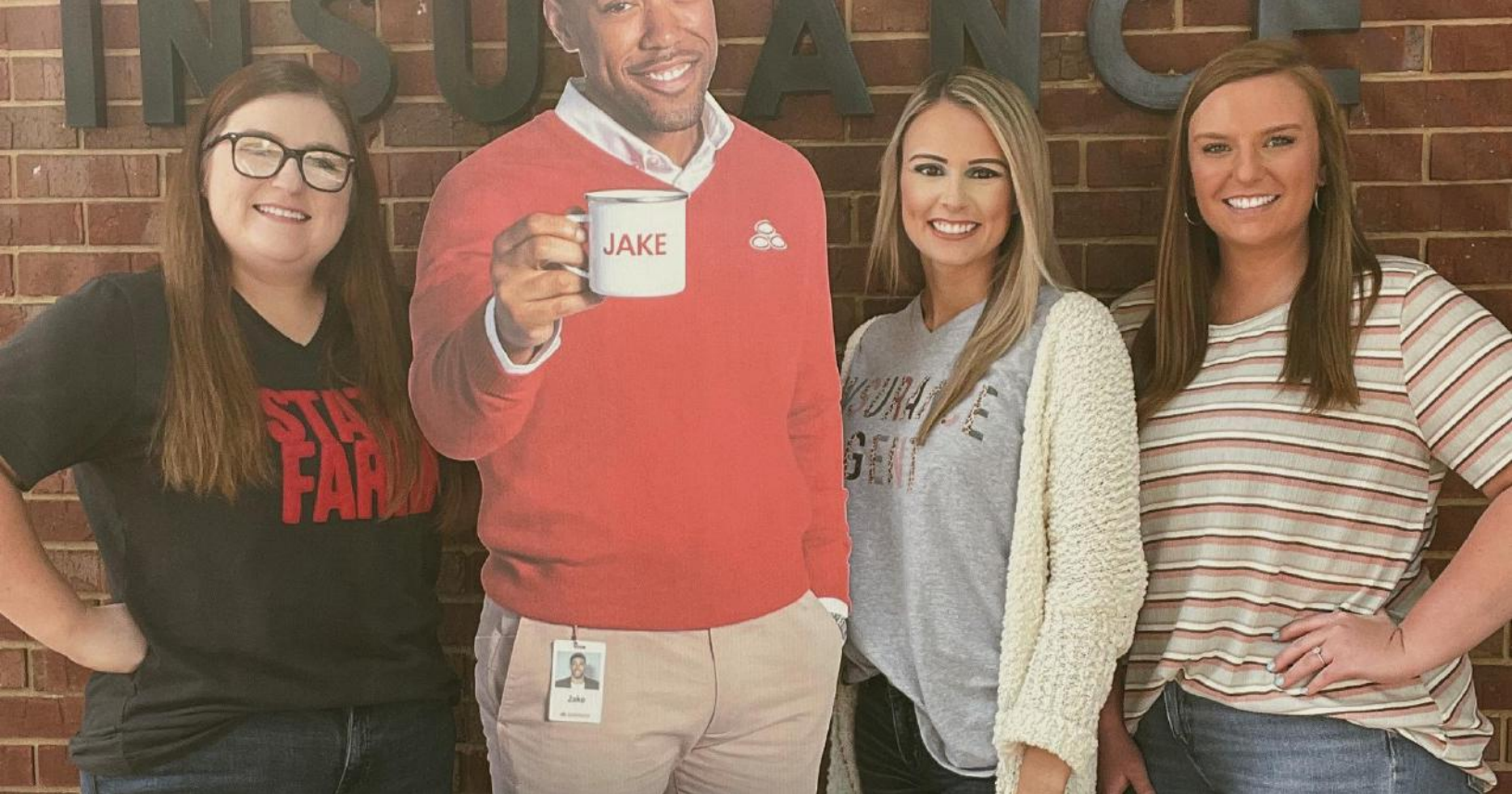


8:30 AM + 10:00 AM + 6:30 PM

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## BLESSED TO BE A BLESSING

By: Casilee Mullis-Harper

My path to entrepreneurship in the insurance industry started early. As soon as I could drive, a family friend's insurance brokerage agency hired me at an entry level position where I took payments, greeted customers and transferred phone calls - all important tasks that prepared me for my future. Upon my high school graduation in 2015, I received an exciting career opportunity which gave me further responsibilities and advancement in the insurance industry: I became a customer service representative for a local State Farm agent. Thankfully, my work ethic, abilities and dedication were noticed, and I quickly advanced to a sales team member position. This is where and when I found my passion for the insurance industry and helping others. I knew that one day I would become a State Farm agent - I just didn't know when. God's timing is always perfect, and sure enough, six years later, in 2021, I opened the doors to my very own State Farm agency in my hometown of Newnan, Georgia.

I truly enjoy meeting new people and educating them on the importance of being properly insured for when the unexpected happens. Those who sign up as customers with me are not just my customers: they become my friends and family. With few exceptions, before my customers leave my office, I will tell them I love them, stay safe, and call me if they need anything. I try to be 100% present in my customers' lives personally and professionally, remembering them in prayer during their hard times and celebrating with them in good times. I am a big believer in "giving more in value than you take in payment."



Insurance work isn't a solo effort, however, and I couldn't operate my agency in excellence without my wonderful team. I adore and pray daily for my team members, Taylor, Kelsey, and Kaylin. They care about our customers just as much as I do, and they take ownership and work at this business like it is theirs.

My team and I love giving back to people in our community. My personal motto is "if you are blessed, use it to be a blessing," and together, we have done just that. Coming from a law enforcement family, it's important for me to do things that show appreciation for our law enforcement officers (LEOs). During my business opening, we hired the Frigid Frog Snow Cone truck to park outside the Coweta County Sheriff's Department on a hot day and served complimentary snow cones to officers. National holidays also give us reasons and ideas to interact with others. On "National Coffee With A Cop" day, we partnered with Heirloom Bakery to serve coffee and doughnuts to our local LEOs. Because children also have a special place in my heart, I look for ways to bless them, too. My team and I were so happy to be able to provide Easter baskets for eight local families who otherwise wouldn't have celebrated the holiday.

As I considered marketing ideas to both set my business apart from other competitors in my area and to raise money for local charities,

the thought came to me to partner on a special project with my husband, Tripp.

He grew up attending car shows and loves all types of vintage and modern cars and trucks. In May of this year, we turned our marketing vision into reality and hosted the first annual "Cruzin' Coweta Car Show" at the Coweta County Fairgrounds. While in process of planning for the car show, my mom was diagnosed with cancer - that awful "C" word that can rock your world. She has shown great strength through her diagnosis and treatment, and so many people have prayed for her and provided practical help. My husband and I decided that no one deserved the funds from our car show this year more than my mom: she is the most selfless and hardworking person we know, and we chose to help her and my dad cover her medical bills.



Tripp and I both enjoy car shows, and we both were excited to implement this idea. We wanted this show to be one where families could come have a great time, where car enthusiasts could both display and attend, and where proceeds raised would benefit a worthy cause. We also believed other businesses would join us to support our community and help market their own businesses, and they did. Hundreds of people came out for our first show, and it was a tremendous success! We're thankful to be able to help cover the costs of Mom's cancer treatments this year, and in future years, other local charities likewise will benefit from a portion of the event's proceeds.

Prayer has always been an important part of my life, but it's become more so since my mom received her cancer diagnosis. During this very difficult and emotional time for my family, I have received so much support, love and prayers from my extended family, friends, team members, customers, and community. I believe God has heard and is healing my mother, and she is greatly comforted by those prayers of my support network.

I am not shy to share my belief that God is the Way, the Truth, and the Life, and that His principles guide my life and work. Without Him, I wouldn't be where I am today, positioned to love and be a blessing to others. **WWP**



### Casilee Harper State Farm

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Casilee Harper is owner of the Casilee Harper State Farm Agency which she opened in her hometown of Newnan, Georgia on August, 2021. She enjoys meeting new people and educating them on the importance of being properly insured for when the unexpected happens. She strongly believes that if you do right by everyone and everything you do is with a pure heart, everything else will fall into place exactly how God intends. Casilee loves spending time with her husband Tripp, her family, and fur babies.





# RENEW YOUR STRENGTH THROUGH EXERCISE

By Linda Lane



Exercise - not many people love it, but everyone needs it. We need to renew our strength.

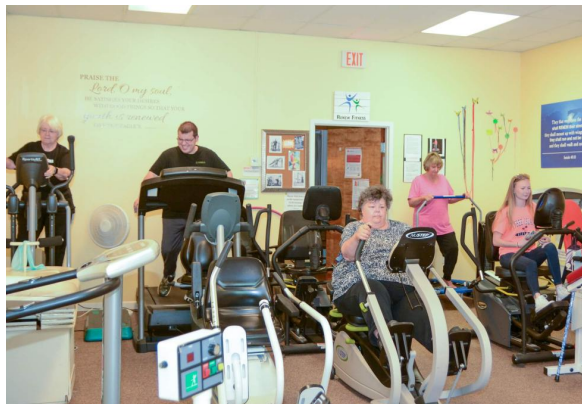
Working in a chiropractic office for seven years, I learned the importance of exercise and nutrition. Incorporating that importance with my Christian upbringing (my parents were ministers) fostered my joy in helping others.

I do not like traditional gyms and neither does my husband. We were introduced to therapeutic toning tables, and we were very impressed with the results. The toning tables move you while you push and work with them to get the best results. Using these tables is a unique way to exercise. Therapeutic toning is great for those who are at all levels of fitness.

It is very low impact and works well for people with limitations such as heart or stroke problems, diabetes, high blood pressure, leg or vein problems, swelling, respiratory problems, injuries and for those who have had surgery.

After praying about a name, we decided in 2015 on RENEW Fitness Center. The idea came from Isaiah 40:31 (NKJV), "Those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength. They shall mount up with wings as eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint." We added cardio, rehab equipment, an Infrared sauna, a relaxation area and more. We wanted a place where people could exercise on safe equipment, enjoy the peaceful and motivating atmosphere, and get good results.

Bless the Lord, O my soul,  
Who satisfies your mouth  
with good things,  
So that your youth is  
renewed like the eagle's.  
~ Psalm 103:1a and 5  
(NKJV)



We have scriptures on the walls, a prayer request book for those who want or need prayer, and Christian music (or oldies) plays most of the time. By providing Christian literature and Bibles for customers to read and sending out encouragement cards to those having difficulties, we offer a positive, nurturing environment. At Renew Fitness there is much laughter and everyone encourages each other.

We don't have to live our lives in poor health. The aging process can cause a series of health issues with our bodies. The earlier you start working on preventing these issues, the better quality of life you will experience. I tell our customers that they can do more of what God has called them to do and can enjoy the life He gave them more if they are feeling better.

Health is not just physical. Many people come in our center hurting physically and emotionally. I listen to them talk about their emotional issues, which sometimes adds to their physical pains. People need to know that someone cares and wants to help. They need a person who practices patience and encouragement for them. Each customer receives my help on the level they can work and we progress to more as they are able. Our customers work on different levels and their abilities improve over time so ultimately they can work as hard as they want. When people feel better physically, often their attitude also changes positively. They laugh more and interact better with others. They make friendships, and some pray for each other. Many customers have commented on the great atmosphere at our facility. It is exciting to see customers with whom we've worked having more energy, fewer aches and pains, required to take fewer medications, and many other benefits.



One customer commented that she was glad she could now kneel at church, and another customer's husband said since she had been coming to Renew Fitness, she was much happier. Some customers say exercise with us has helped them to enjoy their grandkids more, and many are able to travel more.

There are many benefits to exercising. Some just need a little push of encouragement that we offer to help them improve.

Many of our customers have been an encouragement and help to us in our ministry. We are so thankful for each one we serve and who helps us in ministry. Our customers' age span is pretty impressive: our youngest is 23 and the oldest is 91!

Our heart to help people extends beyond physical fitness. Throughout the year we contribute to organizations such as Healing Hands Ministry (funding the construction of an orphanage in Kenya), Toys for Tots and Meals on Wheels recipients (Christmas gifts), goodie bags for a women's shelter in Atlantam and more.

We also have hosted a special set-aside time for caregivers to come and relax while we nurture them. Our wonderful customers enjoy opportunities like these to participate in sharing with and encouraging others.

My husband, Jim, is a great encourager and helpful part of the fitness ministry. I am thankful for all of his support and hard work. Together, our goal is to help as many as we can improve their health so they can enjoy their life more. Would being healthier improve your life? Everyone deserves a better quality of life. **WWP**

### **Renew Fitness Center**

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Phone: 770.683.6100

Facebook: Renew Fitness Center

Website: [renewfitnesscenter.net](http://renewfitnesscenter.net)

After watching her own parents experience issues of declining health, Linda Lane understands the importance of taking care of your heath as early as possible, both mentally and physically. It is her particular passion to serve anyone 40 years old and older who is looking for a non- intimidating place to feel better, build confidence, and promote good health to help live longer and enjoy a better quality of life.



Ignite the Fire Movement & Summit Ministries Newnan

# COMMUNITY COOKOUT

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# SHARING GOD'S LOVE WITH NEWMAN

By: Lindsey Archer

Steppin' Out Performing Arts, located in downtown Newnan, provides instruction in dance, acting, music and more for children ages 0-adult. Founded in 2017 by Cassie Jackson and myself, the studio started as a remote company using local parks and recreation for our classes. We quickly grew and moved into our first, one-room studio home in Newnan.

I actually started my relationship with the studio as a parent. We were new to the area, and I did a lot of research about the type of studio with which I wanted my family to be a part. My background is as a performer and teacher, and I had previously run a children's performing arts company in Atlanta. Steppin' Out greatly appealed to me because of the types of the programs they offered and the strategic way they focused on growing and nurturing their students. Once I met Cassie, I quickly learned of her heart for others and for Jesus and also saw her passion for the arts and the community. Jesus, the arts, and community are three things that speak to me, too. Even during the pandemic, the growth of the studio continued, and Cassie approached me to join her as a business partner. My husband and I prayed about this and felt like the Lord was opening a door for our family.



Cassie and I, both being believers, feel like the Lord has called us to be a light in the community and to lead with His wisdom, mercy, and grace. John 8:12 (ESV) says, "Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." We have the blessing to share our passion for the arts with the youth of today and to encourage and teach them-not just in skills and technique, but in life lessons. Our daily prayer is that our love for Christ is apparent. As Christians, our worldview and approach to teaching are a part of this. We deeply care about our studio families and want them to feel the love and joy we hope to bring them when they walk in the door. Developing meaningful relationships with families and praying for and with them also is important to us. We also take into consideration and special care the types of music, costume, and themes we use within our studio. We've been given such an incredible opportunity to use our gifts, and we both feel very blessed to be serving God's kingdom in this way.

Our studio has continued to grow, and we moved last year into a three-studio space in downtown Newnan. This buildout was very intense, and our families were great to step in and help us along the way. We were so excited to be able to open our doors to even more families and more opportunities for the community that we both love so much. We have several performing groups within our studio (Musical Theatre Ensemble and Company) that perform at local events in and around Newnan. It's exciting to give these students opportunities to let their lights shine, too. We offer ballet, tap, jazz, musical theatre, hip-hop, acro, contemporary, acting, private piano and voice ... and the list goes on! Our younger ballet program is unique in that we offer what we call fairytale ballet. Every two weeks the ballerinas not only learn technique and skills, but also they hear a story and get to dress up in costumes and dance. Those little ballerinas love this as it engages them in a fun way. We also have instructors certified in Acrobatic Arts and Music Together and are able to teach their world-renowned curriculums at our studio. The Acrobatic Arts curriculum focuses on flexibility, strength, balance, limbering and tumbling. It is taught very carefully, allowing children to progress in these areas safely. Music Together is an early childhood music and movement program that focuses on music education and child development in a practical and creative way.

We are also in the process of getting approval to start programs in several of the local elementary schools. This will be an incredible outreach opportunity for our studio to bring the arts to local schools.

We love to offer our space for other events and have allowed local churches to use the space when needed. We also hosted a holiday market last November for Newnan's Small Business Saturday to allow local artisans and vendors a place to share and display their beautiful art and handmade goodies. It was a great way to meet people in our community who came in to shop and learn about the studio while also opening up our space for the vendors to get needed exposure and business. Ever looking for ways to evolve and meet new people with whom we can share God's love, we're also in talks now with a local yoga teacher about offering classes and offering the proceeds to benefit different local ministries.

**"The Lord has called us to be a light in the community and to lead with his wisdom, mercy, and grace."**



It's such a blessing to be in a position to offer these types of events and to see how God can use them! I'm very grateful to have a business partner who also is a believer and who, like me, seeks God first above all else. We are so excited to see how God will continue to use our studio in the years to come! **WWP**

### **Steppin' Out Performing Arts**

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Lindsey Archer is a transplant to the Newnan/Coweta area but so glad the Lord called her family here to serve. She is wife to her love of 20 years, Drew, who is a local pastor at Christ Presbyterian Church, and mom to three amazing children. Lindsey earned a BFA in Theatre Performance from Valdosta State University and has worked as a performer, choreographer, director and teacher around various parts of the country. She is co-owner of Steppin' Out Performing Arts in Newnan.





# Showing God's Love to Those in Our Community Who Are in Need.

**AO**  
**HOUSE**  
*A Ministry of First Baptist Newnan*

Our goal is to help individuals and families through difficult times by providing food, clothing, and prayer. Lastly, they are told of God's everlasting gift – **Jesus Christ.**



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# CREATIVELY SHARING GOD'S HEART

By: Margie Conway



I recently told someone that Creative Heart Studio was my gift from God containing only the things I loved to do and none of the things I did not! My joys include spending time with God, sharing my faith, pointing people who hurt to God, the One True Healer, helping others and being creative.

In 2016 I experienced what I called a breakdown. I felt I would not survive, but in truth it was a shaking up of my nest. It moved me toward much-needed healing from childhood trauma and away from a manipulative marriage that included placing two children up for adoption.

God has made me aware that eagles pad their nests with soft items to comfort their newborns; as the eaglets grow, the mother begins to remove the padding from the nest, revealing uncomfortable sticks and rough objects so that the eaglets are ready to leave.



I had made a bubble around my life for awhile - a safe place for me to exist. My bubble developed slow leaks, and finally when it burst in 2017, I was a mess.

I had always packed away the past and moved forward, but now I was letting it all out. Every single time that I shared anything I had experienced, other women came to me and shared their own experiences. I cried out to God to give me the words to say to them, and He answered me. I was led to a group that had an excellent program for women who had been through domestic violence and abuse. I took classes from a local counseling center including pastoral counseling and life coaching, as well as online seminary and life coaching classes, and I became certified to teach. God allowed me to add art therapy to the mix of classes because I am by nature a creative person. He also led me to create healing pieces of art that I am able to use to tell others of His goodness and mercy.

The Bible says 'so that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God' in 2 Corinthians 1:8 (KJV). God has been showing me ways to do this for others.

I started a women's group at my local church, but several other opportunities presented themselves and led me toward the center we now occupy. As Creative Heart Studio, we share space inside Happy Life Nutrition in downtown Newnan. We have a nook for women to come for one-to-one talks, Bible studies, Chronic Joy studies for women with chronic illness, and Her Journey groups for those from a history of abuse. We host workshops for natural alternatives like essential oils and herbs, have art therapy programs, and offer a community crafting time. We have a small selection of Christian gifts such as jewelry, cups, journals, devotionals, and small decorative items. Our nook is small, but it is utilized well. When we have a gathering too big for the studio, we move it into the dining room at Happy Life.



We were blessed to start a local radio show in January 2022. When 2021 ended, I would have told you with much certainty that I would never do anything like a radio show. I did not like being in the spotlight or talking on microphones. But the Lord had different plans and our program started with a solo show of me sharing my testimony and the mission of our network. Now I look forward to Thursday mornings when I record each week. We have a network of women who share their resources and information, tying in a Biblical aspect to every show. After the show airs, we turn the discussion into a podcast that is widely circulated online. We also have begun featuring different members and their areas of expertise in workshops; details about them can be found on our Facebook page. Our women's network also prepares and distributes "blessing bags" to diverse groups of women each month. These bags contain oil samples, lotions, herbal teas, and small treats. We include coupons from and information about the groups and businesses involved, and we always provide scripture and inspirational messages. As of the beginning of May 2022 we have distributed more than 1500 bags in the Newnan area.

Since our focus is primarily on women with most of our activities, we have started the Coweta Christian Business Owners Directory to include our Christian brothers and sisters and their businesses that will benefit our clients.

This online and print directory features local businesses which are put through a vetting process with references to make sure our clients receive dependable Christian service from the providers we list.



God is blessing us in many areas. Our mission is to be a light that shines on the path to Him for others who need healing or just a little more joy and peace in their lives. We get to do this daily and enjoy ourselves while we go about His business.



He has moved so many people into my life through these activities, and I am amazed each time to see what He has planned. Please come visit us. We always have something going on, and we enjoy having new people drop in. **WWP**

**Creative Heart Studio**

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Margie Conway is a creative life-long learner who loves God with all of her heart. With certifications in life coaching and art therapy, she shares her experiences with others to help bring about healing and to increase joy and peace. She does this through workshops at a local studio, on a radio program, website, social media and podcast. Margie is a mother to five, grandmother to three, and wife to one lucky husband.



# A PLACE AT THE TABLE

By: Jennifer Turton



**"The more I have matured in my faith, the more I have begun to understand that the power of connecting table experiences is sacred by God's design."**

In Ancient Hebrew culture during the days of Jesus, daily meals were essential to family and community life. Without modern conveniences, the women of the family spent the bulk of their days preparing the family's food from scratch. As men worked at their craft or in the fields, women faithfully ground wheat, made bread, and drew water from wells. The food they prepared wasn't necessarily fancy or extravagant, but it was imbued with care and love. Meal times provided a respite from work and a chance to connect, share stories, and reinvigorate strength. Gathering around the family table acted as the cornerstone of cultural connection. That is sadly not true much anymore in our current society.

Even so, while I am neither Hebrew nor ancient, I was blessed to grow up in a family that prioritized sharing meals around a table. No matter how busy my mother and father were, they kept our family dinners sacred.

Like the ancient Hebrews, the food wasn't necessarily fancy or extravagant, yet the connecting conversation was rich. For the brief hour or so that dinner spanned, time stopped, and the six of us could truly connect. We discussed the activities of the day, the heartbreaks and victories facing our family, and our upcoming adventures. We shared belly laughs about inside jokes that only our little brood would understand.

We discussed the activities of the day, the heartbreaks and victories facing our family, and our upcoming adventures. We shared belly laughs about inside jokes that only our little brood would understand.

Those table exchanges were the lifeblood of my family and a legacy that my parents gifted to me and my three siblings. In fact, the more I have matured in my faith, the more I have begun to understand that the power of connecting table experiences is sacred by God's design. Yet, this type of table-based connection has become more and more neglected culturally. We spend our days hustling, rushing, and relying on fast food while we binge-watch our favorite shows. That's a far cry from the care, love, and hospitality of a family dinner table.

The COVID19 pandemic that caught the world by surprise in 2020 highlighted this fault line in our culture. Especially during the original shutdown phase, families were forced to be at home together and were isolated from all outside sources of community. While for countless families this brought about an unhealthy and toxic situation, for many others it was an unexpected invitation towards health and connection.

The shutdown forced many parents to actually sit down at the table with their children and enjoy a meal together. For the first time in many decades, the family table was used for more than a dumping ground for book bags and purses. During one of the hardest times our planet had ever experienced, families were reconnecting around their tables. God's design of gathering, connecting, and exploring together resurrected joy and belonging!





Sadly, however, not everyone has experienced the miraculous love of a table gathering. The truth is that many of us feel like we don't belong, aren't invited, or aren't worthy of a place at God's proverbial table. This immense need has been near and dear to my heart for a very long time. As a teacher for almost a decade, I ministered to at-risk teenagers by inviting them to my classroom which acted as a type of "family dinner table" where students always had a reserved seat! While I was unable to overtly verbally share my faith, students quickly noticed something was different in my classroom. They felt the presence of a God that loved them dearly and wanted them to be His. After about ten years in that ministry, though, I began to feel a shift in my calling. God blessed me with an amazing husband after years of singleness and waiting. He moved us to Newnan, and He called me to step away from teaching for a season.

During a personal retreat in 2021, I took time away by myself to seek the Lord. The purpose was to really get quiet and truly listen to the Holy Spirit.

As I prayed and sought, God gave me the vision of creating a business called The Gathering Place Table. He impressed on my heart that the purpose of this business was to foster table connection through events where people can have fun, explore new topics, practice creativity, and share a good belly laugh.





It seems overly simple, but I truly believe that this type of service is part of what is missing in our world. When people attend our events, they slow down for a while, smile a little bigger, share laughter and joy with others, and are nourished by yummy food.

The purpose undergirding this business has been so incredibly clear to us - creating a place at the table for each individual as God has done for each one of us. We spend time praying over which events to put on, when to put them on, and where to "go" next. We also intentionally pray over each individual who attends one of our events because we believe it is a divine appointment that we get to interact with them. This company is truly God's, and we approach leading this business with a surrendered heart to how He leads.

We are all in need of the type of table fellowship from ancient days gone by. Won't you join us? You always have a seat at The Gathering Place Table! **WWP**

## The Gathering Place Table

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Jennifer Turton is a member of the Coweta County community and lives in Grantville with her beloved husband, Jeremy, and goofy puppy, Charlie. After receiving a call from the Lord, she has courageously launched a new small business after a decade-long, high school teaching career. She enjoys bringing beauty and joy to the world and connecting people from all walks of life. She spends her days in fellowship with the Lord and surrendered to His will. You can usually find her chatting with friends or family while sharing a laugh and a glass of sweet tea!

# NEXT LEVEL AGENCY: ELEVATING CELEBRATIONS, LOVING PEOPLE

By: Erin Walton







If you think about it, few things are true for the large majority of people. My husband, Jason, and I believe that one thing is true for all people: there are certain benchmark events which deserve a celebration and company to witness them. Our business, Next Level Agency, is set up to help create those celebration moments, and our story is pretty unique.

It all started for me about 22 years ago when I was asked to sing and play piano at someone's wedding. Then I was asked again for another. And again. After being a part of a few weddings as a musician, it opened my eyes to how many other pieces and parts there were to weddings. Fast forward a few years, and I am sitting in a home working on floral arrangements with my mom and then-fiance, Jason, for a wedding that my mom was working on. We were working with my mom to make some money to save for our own wedding for which we were preparing.

Another layer of this rolled in when Jason, who is a local pastor, began officiating weddings for the students who were in his college ministry at the time. From there, we met some people who owned wedding venues and started connecting with them and even working for them when we could. We looked at it as building relationships, never thinking that it would develop into a business. I didn't realize it at the time, but God was working even then to birth what we now know as Next Level Agency.





Since 2017, our Next Level Agency team has been creating events and environments to help people celebrate special moments. It started out with a couple of weddings here and there and has blossomed into a full-scale event planning business specializing in weddings and parties. We offer event planning and day-of coordination. We also offer floral, decor, officiating, and a few other services upon request, provided using several reputable local vendors who specialize in the areas of cakes, catering, photography, videography, and hair and makeup.



We formalized the business in 2019 after a few weddings in the years prior to that where I was either a day-of coordinator or a full planner for the event. What sets us apart from the rest is that we build relationships with our clients and take care of all the details of the events so that clients and their families don't have to. With our background in ministry, it has been easy to see God working behind the scenes and bringing people to us who not only need our business - but also who need what we have to offer as people.



It really is a ministry. I find myself walking through situations with families - helping them to navigate the relationship side of events and weddings. It really is amazing what it does for our clients to just have someone with whom to talk, or for a mom to be able to express her feelings about her only daughter getting married and moving away. Or for a bride whose parents have passed away and who needs someone with whom to discuss plans.

It is in those moments, one after another, where God allows me and our team to be used in a more significant way than making flowers for the event or executing the timeline of the day. We even help with premarital counseling for couples who desire it in the days leading up to their wedding.

I also believe in being budget-conscious. I definitely do not want anyone going into debt by planning their event. I always strive to help make the event the most cost-efficient while at the same time making it look like everything that you have dreamed about.

One of my favorite things about our business is the team that we have created to make these events happen. Many of our employees are single moms, or stay-at-home moms and a dad, who are supplementing their income without having a day-to-day job on top of what they have at home. Several of our team members attend church with us and are relatively new to faith or are returning to church after some time away.

Another way that we see God moving is the ability that we have had to now give more back to our community. For the last several years, we have been able to donate to causes that we care deeply about that we would not have been able to otherwise. In particular, we have been able to give significantly to our church's yearly Golf Tournament that raises funds for Teacher Care and Student Care in our school system here in Coweta County.







I would love to see our business continue to grow and to set an example in an industry that is often all about how much money you can make. Our goal is to continue to love on people during their moments of celebration by taking care of the tough parts to give them the ability to celebrate. We also will continue to take care of our team who makes it all happen, and as we continue to build relationships with some of the best vendors around.



I think that God desires us to do everything that we can with excellence - and that includes celebration. **WWP**

### **Next Level Agency**

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Erin Roesel Walton attended Point University where she received a Bachelor of Science in Music with Specialization in Vocal Performance and Pedagogy. In addition, Erin holds a minor in Business Administration as well as a minor in Biblical Studies. She has served in her current role as the choral director for Madras Middle School in Newnan, Georgia since January 2005. Over the last five years, Erin's hobbies of event planning and floral design have now become a full-fledged business. She lives in Newnan with her husband, Jason, and their three children Elijah, Caleb and Emerson.





# MOTHERLESS DAUGHTERS FOUNDATION: LOVING AND LEADING THE YOUTH TO SUCCESS

By: Rosalyn Uter



The Motherless-Daughters Foundation (MDF) is a non-profit organization committed to encouraging the growth and development of young girls who, due to unforeseen circumstances, are entering their adolescent years without the support of their birth mother. This is accomplished through programs focused on self-awareness, social development, and community involvement. Serving and leading these young women demonstrates to these beautiful souls the importance of caring for one another. As explained in Psalm 27:10, God wants us to know and expect that even though our mothers and fathers may abandon us for whatever reason, He promises to take us up [adopt us as His child] to care for us as His very own. This mindset places these precious children at an advantage. God-ordained programs like MDF are a living testimony of God's care for His children. Our hope is to provide an environment that will build character, promote confidence, and uplift youth in our communities.

MDF also supports the college aspirations of participants with educational funding. In fact, two scholarships were awarded in April.

The MDF inaugural "Youth in Aviation Camp," was held at Hartfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport in April. The curriculum was designed with the help of United Airlines First Officer Maurice Mack, First Officer Rob Harmon, and First Officer Justin Thompson. Hands-on training spanned the fundamentals of aeronautics flight operations and prepares youth with aviation career preparation and opportunities. Curriculum covered the theory of flight operations, the theory of flight and more. Twenty teens (both males and females from Clayton and South Fulton Counties),

including two youth volunteers, participated in the free program.

Angelyne Butler, mayor of the City of Forest Park and a sponsor of this event, lauded the visionary program, the talented mentors, and the generous participation of the Atlanta Airport. She explained, "By opening your doors and pouring into the students, you made a life-altering impact on all of us. And for that we are forever grateful! By cultivating the spirits and minds of these youth now, that places them one step closer to their divine destiny."

In Scripture, God commanded that we care for children. He says, "Shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion.

But willingly, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but eagerly; not domineering over those in your charge but being examples to the flock. And when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory" (1 Peter 5:2-4 ESV). Airport leadership shared the sentiment. Hartsfield-Jackson General Manager Balram "B" Bheodari shared, "As a former Army pilot who now leads the team at the world's busiest airport, preparing the next generation of pilots is particularly important to me. I am excited about the potential of these 18 would-be pilots who were immersed in learning what it takes to take flight.



Our team at Hartfield-Jackson was happy to do our part to promote aviation. It reflects one of our strategic pillars which focuses on social responsibility."

We at MDF are always appreciative of those who lock arms and join us in the work that God is leading us to do. Xerona Clayton, world renowned civil rights leader and founder of the Trumpet Foundation and who, in conjunction with Turner Broadcasting, created the Trumpet Awards to honor Black humanitarians who have succeeded against all odds, is one of the organization's most ardent supporters. Designated as "Honorary Mother," of the MDF group, Mrs. Clayton is committed to the development of the MDF young mentees.





If you ever needed a hand up, and most of us did, then being able to extend a helping hand from our abundance is refreshing.

It is our joy to help change lives for the better through MDF programs. As we continue to express God's love by allowing Him to manifest through us, the sky isn't even the limit!

We are grateful to God for expanding our borders. We now not only are helping the spirit and soul of young women, but we also have stepped up to nurture young men as well. To God be the glory! As we are faithful with our resources and time, we wholeheartedly expect to see tremendous personal and spiritual growth of these precious young men and women. **WWP**

### **Motherless Daughters Foundation**

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My name is Rassalyn Uter , I am the founder of the Motherless Daughters Foundation. which was founded in 2012. We provide a year-round mentoring program for the participants of the organization. I am also the owner of Xclusive Hair Studio and Spa which I opened Feb 2000.



# NEW BEGINNINGS: HELPING KIDS SOAR BEYOND THEIR CIRCUMSTANCES

By: Kasheva Hill



Created in 2014, New Beginnings is a 501(c)3, nonprofit organization that assists under-served youth in Coweta County. Our organization provides food, clothing, shelter, school supplies and transportation to/from work/job interviews. Our goal is to meet the physical, social and emotional needs of those aged 14-19 who seek assistance. Our vision is "That America's youth - regardless of color, creed, and socioeconomic status - all be given the same opportunity to learn, live, and achieve beyond the boundaries that have been unknowingly set while also learning the importance of giving back to others."

While we assisted countless numbers of teens within our first three years of operation, we felt we hadn't achieved the impact we desired nor touched the lives of all the youth we knew we could reach in our community.

As a result, the New Beginnings Board of Directors and I went back to the drawing board, seeking God's direction for our organization through dedicated fasting and prayer. As a result, we decided to create and offer a tuition-free, outdoor summer youth camp, and that became one of the GREATEST decisions we would ever make. Camp New Beginnings is geared toward children aged 6-12. Meeting at least one or more of the qualifications from our non-profit criteria list, camp attendees come from single parent households, lower income households, homes where grandparents are raising their grandchildren, and other situations that typically put stress on children and limit their social and emotional development. We have become known especially for hosting this camp.



Camp New Beginnings became an instant success! Why? Because it attracted excited children who normally would spend their summer breaks at home alone or with friends or family while their parents went to work. Campers meet new and diverse friends, explore the great outdoors, and have the opportunity to swim twice a week. Camp hours run from 9am - 5pm, Monday through Friday, and the activities occur all summer long.



Camp New Beginnings reintroduces disadvantaged youth to the great outdoors all day, getting them back into nature and what God created us to enjoy. Because we want campers' full attention and participation all day, we created a no cell phone policy. Their activities include field trips, arts and crafts, recreational time, fishing, hiking, camping, and horseback riding.





Our daily camp routine is as follows: after breakfast is served, our prayer circle is in order.

Then we stretch to get our minds, attitude and body ready for another very active day outdoors. Mondays include camping, hiking, or fishing. Tuesdays are ball field and pool day. Wednesdays are our “Great Adventure” field trip day. On Thursdays, we as a group volunteer in the community, and Friday activities are a repeat of Monday’s. Our Wednesday field trips include visits to theme parks, arcades, horseback riding, canoeing, media broadcasting offices, and a list of many other places.



Each participating camper/family has a corporate or individual sponsor that is arranged through New Beginnings. Most often the families don’t know who their sponsor is, but they are extremely grateful and realize that their sponsor’s generosity keeps the program worry-free for the adults who ordinarily might not be able to budget for such a luxury as an all-expenses paid summer camp experience for their camper/s.



Previous camp sponsorship donors included Mr. Otis, Piedmont Paving Inc.( PPI), American Legion Post 57, Dunkin' Donuts in Sharpsburg, Newnan Utilities, Family Patterns Matter, Newnan Walmart, Newnan Target, Papa John's on Temple Avenue, Welcome Farms, Firehouse Subs, City Of Newnan’s Lynch Park, and YMCA Lynch Pool.

New Beginnings was birthed from the seed of an idea given to me by then-superintendent of Coweta County Schools, Dr. Steve Barker, who also was my former high school principal. I had taken custody of my deceased aunt's four children after her death.

At first they'd lived with their grandmother, but it wasn't working out well: they were skipping school and coming in late at night. Because I worked inside the jail at the Coweta County Sheriff's Department, my mom and grandmother both thought my home would be a better fit for them. When I met with Dr. Barker to enroll the children in school, he heard their story and saw my determination for them to succeed. He felt my guidance could benefit other children - others needed this same help that I was giving my family members.

Because we are a non-profit organization, every aspect of our operation gives back to the community.



We look forward to another year of helping children and young adults through our year-round programs, assistance and activities, and also by providing Camp New Beginnings for disadvantaged children (ages 6-12). Visit our Facebook page to learn more or to make a donation and become a partner in our exciting work. **WWP**

### **New Beginnings**

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I am the founder, administrator and grant writer for New Beginnings. You can call me Kay. I'm also a Georgia realtor and Newnan resident. I am joined in managing this important endeavor by board members who also give of their time and talents to help shape the visions and policies for New Beginnings activities.








# THIS IS WHAT HAPPENS WHEN GOD BECOMES YOUR CEO

By: Kelly Staple





**Faith: complete trust or confidence in someone or something.**

Similar: Trust, Belief, Confidence, Conviction, Credence, Reliance



When I first started my beauty business eight years ago, I had no idea how much I would need God to take the lead to help my business become successful. I had spent some time planning and writing a business plan, making vision boards, designing my website, setting up my social media profiles etc. I had earned a bachelor's and a Master's degree in business and marketing, but it wasn't enough to help me navigate all of the twists and turns associated with entrepreneurship.

The first few years were trial and error. I did everything I could think of to help promote and market my business, but nothing worked. After spending a few years spinning wheels, going nowhere, I decided to write prayers for my business.

I said these prayers daily and became intentional about including my faith in God in my business. I thanked God in advance for sending me clients - not just any client - but clients who would refer and recommend my beauty services to others. I also asked God to bless those who supported my business in any way.

I realized the previous way I handled my business wasn't working. I tried the traditional route, following all of the rules and guidelines, and I even took extra training classes. I quickly realized that experience from trial and error is the best teacher when it comes to entrepreneurship. After having several revelations, I decided to not only just pray for my business, but also to hire God as my CEO. He calls all the shots; I just show up to do the work.

Slowly but surely, I began to see my clientele grow and expand beyond Coweta. God not only began to send me the clientele for whom I prayed, but He also expanded my business into surrounding areas. Not only are my clients referring me to other people, but they also have given me gifts (makeup products, tools for my makeup kit, and future makeup classes) to help me continue in my business.





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God has used people to help me expand into the next phase of business. So much has happened, and I know it's God. I remember when I used to sit up all night to create marketing flyers for social media. I don't do that as much anymore because the appointments come in before I even think to make a post.

In 2019, trusting God and taking a huge leap of faith, I went full-time in my business. I had faith that he would instruct me on what to do, how to do it, and when to do it. I remember sitting in my kitchen, feeling God leading me to put my business listing on Google. I initially thought it would be a waste of time because I had no physical location, but I did it. To my surprise, people started booking appointments. I made a small space in the front room of my apartment and set up shop to go full-time as a makeup artist. I was unsure if Newnan had room for me or even needed a makeup artist, but God quickly showed me just how much I was needed. I was overwhelmed with a new understanding of how God literally has plans for us, bigger than our own.



For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. (Jeremiah 29:11 NIV)

Once I decided to relinquish control to God, I spent most of my days in awe of how awesome God really is to those who love him. As my faith grew, I really began to see how much God desires to be involved in our lives, including our small business. God gave instructions on how I should run my business, starting with a name change. I was literally in the kitchen when it happened; I heard the name loud and clear. It was at this moment Blushed & Co. was born. I had been working under another business name, but I had to change the name of the business. He gave me fresh ideas to help my vision become cohesive, and he even gave more business ideas to help my business expand beyond beauty services. Once these ideas began to come to me, I had to re-write my original business plan, and it's nothing like my original plan. I do believe the first business plan had the potential to be lucrative, but the one God has given me, I know is lucrative.



**"But remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth, and so confirms his covenant, which he swore to your ancestors, as it is today."**



I've experienced more blessings in my business since God became the CEO. God cares about every detail of our lives, including how we show up in the marketplace as Kingdom Entrepreneurs. The key is knowing that we can trust Him with every detail. Knowing that even God himself is business-minded gives me the assurance that I made the right choice when I decided to make God my CEO. **WWP**

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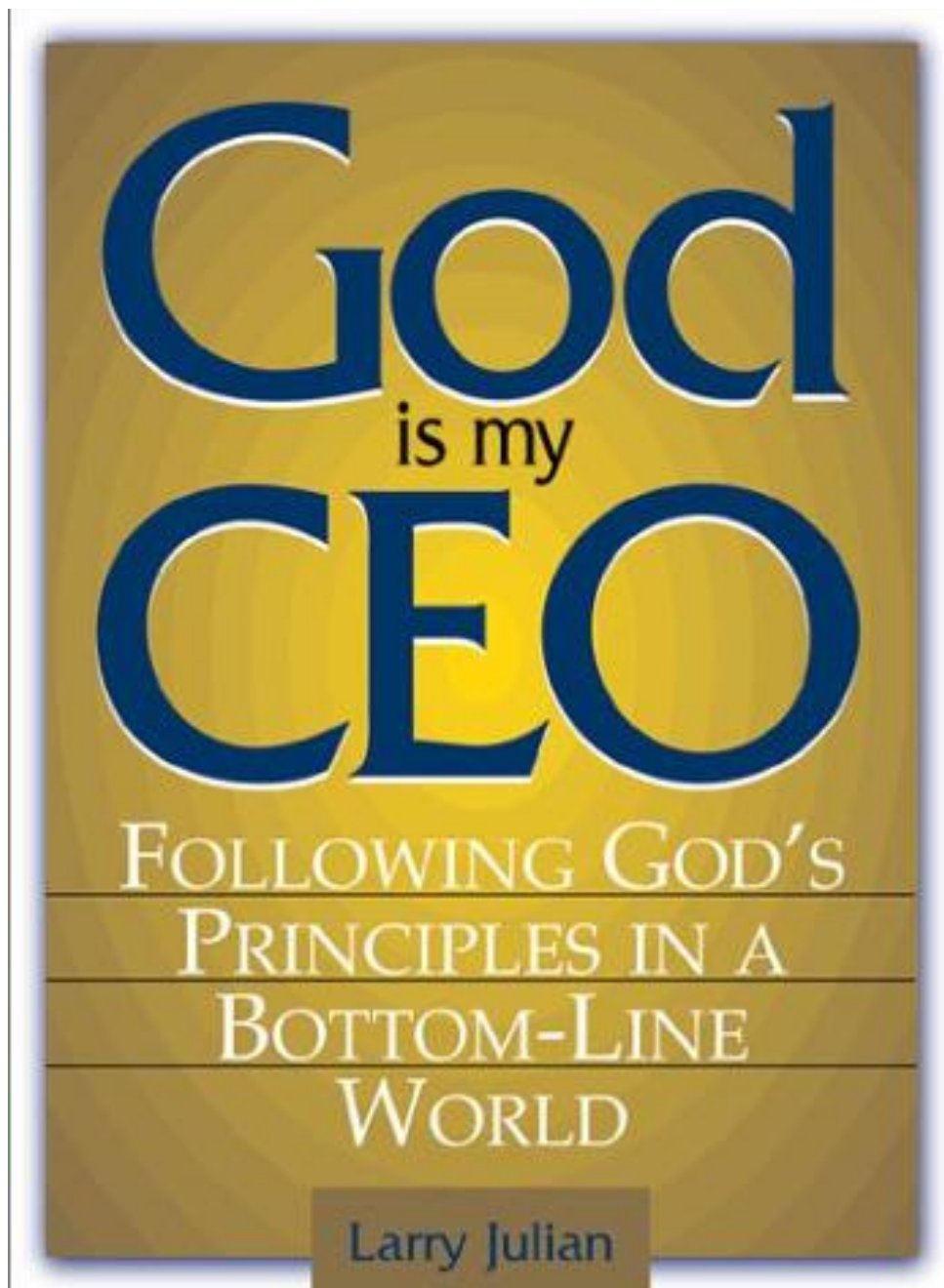
Kelly Staple, a Newnan native is the CEO & Lead Makeup Artist for Blushed & Co. LLC., which was founded in 2017. Her passion for business and entrepreneurship is a result of watching her mother build and grow her own salon business. She enjoys making other women blush and feel beautiful. She currently resides in Grantville, GA with her husband Ryan and their fur baby, Bella.



# GOD IS MY CEO ... FOLLOWING GOD'S PRINCIPLES IN A BOTTOM-LINE WORLD, 2ND EDITION

Book Review

By: Connie J. Singleton



# **GOD IS MY CEO ... FOLLOWING GOD'S PRINCIPLES IN A BOTTOM-LINE WORLD, 2ND EDITION**

*by Larry Julian*

God's principles for life also are good for business. In *God Is My CEO*, author, speaker and executive coach Larry Julian gives real-life illustrations and case studies of successful, Fortune 500 executives (and others) who have incorporated time-tested, biblical principles to lead and grow their companies and the people who work for them.

Often it takes a situation beyond the control of a leader to make it clear that God desires to guide them. "Your work is important to God. Your calling lasts a lifetime. Your work serves a purpose beyond yourself. And the significance of your work is eternal," Julian notes. Conoco Executive Archie Dunham agrees: "Following God's plan is the ultimate win-win solution. Of course, we don't use God for our success; He uses our talents for His purposes."

The book is 320 pages and addresses specific challenges common to both large and small businesses. Discussed are overarching biblical principles that tie to those challenges, and personal stories of executives across a multitude of fields and disciplines who have successfully integrated their faith and applied principles that helped their companies, their shareholders, their employees, and their customers. Each chapter features two case studies, a synopsis of what was learned by the executive as he/she worked through the issue, a conclusion, and discussion questions to consider individually or in a group.

You'll discover leadership secrets and work-life balance principles from corporate executives (whose names you may or may not know) of Chick-Fil-A, Popeye's Louisiana Kitchen, The Ritz Carlton, The ServiceMaster Company, United Health Group, and more. Sports leaders like Tony Dungy, former head coach of the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, Leslie Frazier, head coach of the Minnesota Vikings, and Jerry Colangelo, former owner of the Phoenix Suns and the Arizona Diamondbacks discuss the importance of leading with character in order to win in the workplace and on the court/field. Even a former governor and congressman, Al Quie of Minnesota, shares how, while in office, he determined to overcome the "us vs. them" mentality so often found in politics. He advises, "Amazing things happen if individuals can operate as Jesus did."

Subject areas addressed in the first ten chapters include: Purpose, Success, Courage, Patience, Leadership By Example, Yielding Control, Servant Leadership, Love, Priorities and Redemption. The final chapter walks readers through the development of both a business plan AND a personal, professional and spiritual development plan. You'll consider scripture passages to guide your leadership, and you'll work through related steps to put your knowledge into action. Especially helpful is a section on choosing strategic partnerships to help you and your plan succeed. While many people choose to lead "Lone Ranger" style, Julian explains, "Sooner or later we discover that God blesses us through people. He's constantly bringing people into our lives to help us fulfill His purpose. We don't fulfill God's vision, mission, and purpose for our lives in a vacuum - we're part of a team bigger than ourselves."

If you're ready to integrate your Sunday beliefs with your Monday through Saturday workweek, this is your roadmap.

Connie J. Singleton serves as Managing Editor of We Will Pray! Magazine. She has worked in healthcare, publishing and education and has co-authored and published a book with an Atlanta-based women's ministry executive. She has written for Newnan-Coweta Magazine and The Newnan Times-Herald, and she especially enjoys sharing the stories of those who find joy in living or life purpose from their hardships.





# Special THANK YOU!



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## Start Your New Life With Christ

You can have a real, lasting peace today through a relationship with Jesus Christ. Start your four-step journey now!

### **Step 1: God loves you and has a plan for you!**

The Bible says, "God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, [Jesus Christ], that whoever believe in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life" (John 3:16).

Jesus said, "I came that they may have life and have it abundantly"—a complete life full of purpose (John 10:10)

But here's the problem:

### **Step 2: Man is sinful and separated from God.**

We have all done, thought or said bad things, which the Bible calls "sin." The Bible says, "All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23).

The result of sin is death, spiritual separation from God (Romans 6:23).

The good news?



### **Step 3: God sent His Son to die for your sins!**

Jesus died in our place so we could have a relationship with God and be with Him forever.

“God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us”  
(Romans 5:8).

But it didn’t end with His death on the cross. He rose again and still lives!

“Christ died for our sins. ... He was buried. ... He was raised on the third day, according to the Scriptures” (1 Corinthians 15:3-4).

Jesus is the only way to God. Jesus said, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but through Me” (John 14:6).

### **Step 4: Would you like to receive God’s forgiveness?**

We can’t earn salvation; we are saved by God’s grace when we have faith in His Son, Jesus Christ. All you have to do is believe you are a sinner, that Christ died for you sins, and ask His forgiveness. Then turn from your sins—that’s called repentance. Jesus Christ knows you and loves you. What matters to Him is the attitude of your heart, your heart, your honesty. We suggest praying the following prayer to accept Christ as your Savior:

“Dear God,

I know I’m a sinner, and I ask for your forgiveness. I believe Jesus Christ is Your Son. I believe that He died for my sin and that you raised Him to life. I want to trust Him as my Savior and follow Him as Lord, from this day forward. Guide my life and help me to do your will.

I pray this in the name of Jesus. Amen.”



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