

SEPTEMBER 2010

# GOD-365

## A DEVOTIONAL AND PRAYER JOURNAL



### **A Dose of Reality**

Submitted by Minister Sandra Cabrina Jenkins

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Revelations 20:12 - And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.

As I listened to Pastor Southall preach “The Power of Pain”<sup>1</sup>, I got stuck on one point – “a dose of reality”. Pastor used the example of how death did not discriminate during Hurricane

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<sup>1</sup> Rev. Charles J. Southall, III, Romans 8:21-22, “The Power of Pain”, September 5, 2010.

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Katrina. I thought back to a short piece I wrote for one of my seminary courses<sup>2</sup>. Below is an excerpt:

*The flood waters did not discriminate when it rushed over the levee walls and crushed houses in predominately white neighborhoods; affluent African-American neighborhoods; or the poverty stricken streets of many neighborhoods. All of the dead bodies that floated in the waters received the same treatment. The Coroner's office did not segregate rich neighborhood drowning victims from poor neighborhood drowning victims. All races were put in that same black body bag and hauled off to a freezer to await identification. Blacks, Whites, Asians, and Latinos, all had to drive that same highway, park in the same parking lot, walk down the same side walk and enter the same door to that cold morgue that housed their loved ones. There was no such thing as "white grief" "black grief," "Asian grief" or "Latino grief". We all shared the pain of death. My prayer is that we can share the glory and beauty of life. Sandra Cabrina Jenkins, "If the Federal Government..." August 28, 2007*

The reality of our existence is that we are born, we live, and we die. God, as our creator, decided to grant us life at birth and God determines when the last breath will leave our bodies before death consumes our flesh (not our souls!) If you are reading this, life is your reality (dead people can't read!). We determine the life we will live between birth and death. Will you select the path that God has set for you or will you select your path? How you survive the trauma, successes, challenges, set-backs, triumphs, and pain in your life is dictated by your relationship with Christ. Please make sure that you read the preceding sentence carefully. Please understand that Christianity does not exempt us from the harsh realities of life or privileges us above others because of the successes and triumphs in our lives. Regardless of the hue of our skin, our economic status, or our educational backgrounds, we are equally victorious in Christ. As Pastor Knatt reminded us in his sermon in Baton Rouge on Sunday, "life is but a vapor!" Do not allow your vapor to dissipate before you experience the reality of living in Christ Jesus. May we all live and respect the preciousness of life to the Glory of God. **Amen.**

Notes/Thoughts: \_\_\_\_\_  
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My Prayer:

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<sup>2</sup> The Preaching Ministry of Martin Luther King, Jr., McAfee School of Theology, Mercer University, Atlanta, GA