

## First Things First with Msny. Richardson



The First Jurisdiction Illinois Women's Department held their 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Women's Workshop Saturday, September 22<sup>nd</sup> at the beautiful and spacious Reed's Temple Church of God in Christ. The theme this year was "Seeking God through, Prayer, Obedience and His Word. Our Jurisdictional Supervisor, Mother Charlotte Eades, who is the host of this workshop, stated that the theme this year emphasizes our need to draw closer to God's plan and that it is a very appropriate theme for these end times.

The committee selected some great topics for the workshop and the instructors pulled together some very relevant and inspiring information to give to those that attended. This year we could only select one class to attend, but we were all able to come together for the class summary, which gave us an opportunity to get to hear what the other classes had to offer.

Mother Elvie Owens, Sis. Christine Jones, Sis. Marilyn Thomas and Sis. Danielle Gipson along with myself attended from Emanuel. Sis. Marilyn Thomas shared some highlights on the class that she attended on page 5 of this newsletter.



Mother Charlotte Eades

The topics and the respective instructors for the workshop were:

*The Wings of Prayer - Evangelist Angelic' Fluker*

*Embracing Without Understanding - District Missionary Vivian Vaughan*

*Delighting in the Word - Missionary Elizabeth Kindred*

*Securing Your Faith in Trouble Times - Missionary Janice Elizabeth Carter*

*Taking a Stand Against the Giants in Your Life - Missionary Janet Markham*

Each year Mother Charlotte Eades selects someone from the women's department to receive the "Mother Mary Davis Award". This award is the highest award given in the women's department. The 2012 recipient was our very own District Missionary of the D.A. Reed Sr. District; Mother Maggie Booker who is a dedicated worker and staunch supporter of the Women's Department.

Also during this workshop we heard from our Jurisdictional Prelate, Bishop Ocie Booker who always encourages us with very positive and inspirational tidbits. (Visit [www.fjicogic.org](http://www.fjicogic.org) to view pictures.)



Hats off to the committee for a workshop that was well put together!

## 24th Annual State Women's Workshop



The 24th Annual Women's Workshop was a great event. We could choose one of five sessions to attend. I chose "Securing your faith in troubled times." The instructor was Missionary Janice Elizabeth Carter. She so elegantly told us about faith as in Hebrews 11:1 "now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." However, the Missionary gave us several meanings of faith such as follows: -Faith- A confident belief in the truth, value or trustworthiness of a person, idea or thing. Belief that does not rest on logical proof or material evidence and belief and trust in God.

Troubled times- A state of distress, affliction, danger, or need, a condition of pain, disease, or malfunction and to agitate, to inconvenience, to bother. Msny. Carter told us to hold on to our faith in troubled times by praying in faith and allowing the word of God and the Holy Spirit to have full control of our lives and the situations, distress or pain we are dealing with. So do not back down when trouble comes. Believe and act on God's word. She said "Don't give up, God's got you on hold."



*Submitted by: Sister Marilyn Thomas*

### Are You a Consecrated Vessel?

Joyce Meyers: "Promises for Your Everyday Life"

The Bible refers to us as earthen, or frail, human vessels (see 2 Cor. 4:7). Like stoneware formed on the potter's wheel, we are made of clay (see Is. 64:8). God formed Adam out of "the dust of the ground," according to Genesis 2:7, and Psalm 103:14 says, "He knows our frame, He [earnestly] remembers and imprints [on His heart] that we are dust" (AMP).

Though we are weak and imperfect, when we fill our vessels (ourselves) with the Word of God, we become containers of His blessing, ready to be poured out for His use. All of us are valuable to the Lord, God can use even cracked pots!

But first we must be wholly consecrated to God. Second Timothy 2:21 reminds us, "Whoever cleanses himself [from what is ignoble and unclean, who separates himself from contact with contaminating and corrupting influences] will [then himself] be a vessel set apart and useful for honorable and noble purposes, consecrated and profitable to the Master, fit and ready for any good work."

Today, when you become a set apart vessel, God will do incredible things through your life.