

December 2015

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I am calling on you, Father, from the Garden Earth to untwine these vines that stifle me.

Cultivate me.

Loosen the soil around me.

Cutaway these lustful vines of hate and greed that seek to breed in me.

Free me.

Free me from these vines of humanity that bind me.

Roll back

The dark clouds and let the sweetness of sunshine beam down on me
As the dew drops from heaven flower me into the woman I was meant to be.
Breathe on me your mercy and grace as I blossom in your almighty presence.

I Samuel 17:4

Thank you, God, that in my battles you will give my enemies into your hands.

Luke 3:22

I believe by faith that because I am in Christ, you say to me as you said to him,
"You are my beloved. In you I am well pleased and find delight."

Now that faith lives in me I have finally blossomed!

And all will see how truly, truly awesome you can be to have created one such
as me.

Amen.

THE BLOSSOM

By: Mary Viola Williams



December

Darien Allen	Derek Jackson
Patricia Bailey	Shirley Lindsay
Irene Brown	Tyrary Livingston
Jazmine Brown	Mary Matthews
Kenisha Clark	Antoine McClary
Mildred Davis	Jabriah Mins
Walter Dean	Vanessa Moore
Marcia Friend	Catherine R. Neely-Hurst
Jawan Hall	Betty O'Briant
Anthony Hargrove	Patricia Payne
Edward B. Holden	Jasmen Rice
Maelena Holman	Ian Simmons

February

Linda Alexander	Dorothy M. Cross-Nunn	Cassandra Reeves
Barbara M. Anderson	Lucinda Crummedy	Sha-ron Rice
Carolyn E. Bailey	Isabella A. Dowery	Marlene R. Thompson
Cheryl Bass	David Griffin	Myeshshia Thompson
Deborah Bates	Joanne Kent	Bernice Tucker
Jerry Bethea	Joseph Martin	Harriett E. Williams
Tequiala Bradley	Deanna Miles-Brown	Toinette Woodson
Tanae Brown	Josephine Morton	Cherita Young
William Chambers	Carlous Palmer	Michael Young
Naifeese Clark	Sonia Queen	

January

Avis Anderson	Kimberly Goggins	Irma Riddick
Joyce Baylor-Thompson	Annie Dora Hardee	Lea Simmons
Joseph A. Bradford	Ellen V. Harvey	Jameela Smith
Maxine Bigby Cunningham	Diamonique	Stanley Smith
Linder Davis	Hunter	Darius Stepney
Annette Davis-Edwards	Willie Lacy	Grant Thomas
Levi English	Bernadette Lewis	Kobe Thomas
Janai Fields	Joshua Lindsay	Majenta Thomas
Lori Ford	Jeanette McDaniel	Shantae Truitt
	Samantha O'Briant	Shantell Truitt
	Ollie Rather	Phyllis L. Woods
	Charlotte Richards	

Happy Birthday



LOVE
like
JESUS
"By this they will know"



"I need a Valentine."

What better one than one who has walked, talked, and prayed with the Father? One who knows how to love through all kinds of weather, one who has weathered the storm and still loves, one who has seen it all and still loves, one who has had good and bad times and still knows how to hold on to God's unchanging hands. You, my child, are that Valentine.

Submitted by the Young At Heart Ministry
Shirley Lindsay – Group Leader
Evelyn Wooly – Co-Group Leader

Christmas Song Picture Game



In December, most homes smell of baked goods, but growing up, my family home smelled of *peppermint*. You see, December was a busy month for the Allen family. My dad, James Allen, Sr. was known as the 'Candy Man.' Come December, my siblings and I worked in our dad's candy business "Phyllis Ann Fine Candy."

My dad made unique Christmas candy. He made baskets, regular size candy canes, medium size candy canes, and candy canes the length of a walking stick *all out of peppermint candy*. Our work day started after daddy got off of his regular job (engineer for the City of Baltimore).

We'd work up until Christmas Eve making and delivering Christmas candy. People all over Baltimore ordered our candy. Daddy would also see that the 'Temple Ensemble' had their canes for the holiday; for the Ensemble were his children too. Here lately, I've been thinking back over my life; where I've come from, where I am, and where I'm heading; and I can't help to think of the times spent in the basement of 3022 Walbrook Avenue making candy that put joy in people's heart and smiles on their faces. To tell you the truth, this was probably the Allen children's first job and something we took pride in. It didn't stop with the Allen children, but continued with some of the grandchildren: Andre', Joey and Wiley. Everyone had a job to do and we did it well.

So I guess you could say, I'm little sentimental this year thinking back over my days in that basement. Don't get me wrong, we used to fuss because during this time, you didn't have time for TV, friends, or play because candy had to be made. I thank my daddy for instilling in me a business sense. I believe my creativity comes from him.

CHRISTMAS Memories

BY: DELORES ALLEN

ANSWERED PRAYER

God Grant Me
The SERENITY to accept the things I cannot change:
DEATH
My Daddy, My Mama, My Past

I was
Angry, Outraged, Enraged!
Victimized, Traumatized, Paralyzed.
Yelling, Screaming, Crying
Was anybody listening?

***I am
Survivor, Over Comer, Victor***

God Grant Me
The COURAGE to Change the things I can:
RELATIONSHIPS
With my children, with my spouse, with my Self

I was
Scared, Unnerved, Terrified!
I felt so embarrassed, guilty, ashamed, and remorseful.
Hiding, Pretending, Ignoring and Denying
Could anybody make the “elephant” leave the room?

***I am
Hopeful, Joyful, Peaceful***

God Grant Me
The WISDOM to know the difference:
SURRENDER
Ask my God; Trust my God; Obey my God

I was
Confused, Unfocused, Undisciplined!
Disorganized, Disillusioned, Diseased
Mindless, Clueless, Meaningless
Who will stay with me?

***I am
Stating, Standing, Stepping***

My Prayer, answered by God
AMEN.

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