

May 2022

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GOSPEL TABERNACLE NEWSLETTER

## "The Woman God Sees"

WRITTEN BY: PASTOR LYDIA TORRES

Growing up in a dysfunctional family may have one feeling vulnerable and even questioning the existence of God. As a child, I wondered does God see all the injustice that I've had to endure. Living with a mentally ill mother, abandoned by my father at age two, and having a maternal grandmother confess that "I would not amount to anything" was devastating. The knocks and storms of life can leave one in a whirlwind of unforgiveness, anger, and bitterness with no way out. For a long time, my perspective was that God had forsaken me. Then, I read the story of Hagar (e.g., Abram and Sarai's Egyptian maidservant) whose name means "forsaken" (e.g., in Hebrew) who was visited by the angel of the Lord in the middle of the wilderness in an unnamed well. Hagar had been beaten by life, mistreated, and abused so severely that she fled into the wilderness. Hagar's life has now been irreversibly altered, and her future seemed bleak. No doubt it surprises her that anyone—especially the angel of the Lord—would notice her or visit her. The "God who sees" saw Hagar in her lowest moment and called her by name. Some of Hagar's negative choices brought her to the wilderness experience because she became haughty after becoming aware that she was bearing Abram's child and Sarai could not bear children. The Scripture states, Hagar despised Sarai which created conflict between Hagar and Sarai. Hagar, a young girl who came from a low economic status background, instantly became a woman of stature for bearing Abram's child, as he was a rich man. The angel of the Lord told Hagar, "Where have you come from and where are you going?" Hagar was quick to respond to the angel of the Lord by saying, "I'm running away from my mistress, Sarai." The angel of the Lord told Hagar, "Go back to your mistress and submit to her" (Gen. 8:8-9). Going back to be Sarai's maidservant must not have been an easy choice for Hagar because it meant she had to submit and surrender her will to Sarai. Hagar was not only pregnant with Abram's child. She was pregnant with the angel of the Lord's promise "I will increase your descendants so much that they will be too numerous to count." The angel of the Lord not only call her name but described to Hagar what kind of child she would give birth to. Hagar was impacted by the visitation of the angel of the Lord that this Egyptian woman acknowledged "You are the God who sees me." No one else had noticed Hagar's pain of having to become a surrogate mother for Sarai at a young age, but God did. Despite her failures and shortcomings, the angel of the Lord called her by name, permeated her with the promise that her descendants would be too numerous to count, describes what her child would be like, and allowed her to name the well "Beer Lahai Roi" for she declared, "I have now seen the One who sees me." (Gen. 16:8-13). Hagar was in a crossroad where if she returned to Sarai, humbled herself, and made the right choice, she and her descendants would be blessed. I felt that I was this little girl caught up in the middle of a wilderness storm who could not overcome the past trauma or accomplish anything in life because of the desert experience, I had to endure. But God! The "Waymaker," who is the King of Kings... But God! Who is the Great I am declared me, "Blessed and highly favored of Him...no matter what my wilderness experience looked like. But God! Called me, "the apple of His eye." But God! Who created me in my mother's womb" is writing my story and it looks nothing like the storm of life that I've been through. I had to make the choice of granting forgiveness to those who hurt me and refrain from harboring bitterness if I wanted to be blessed by God. He is the same God that wants to send the angel of the Lord to restore you from the past pain, negative confessions over your life, disappointments, shortcomings, losses, failures, and write your story. Let God write your story, shame the devil, and shut every mouth that confessed that you would never make it or amount to anything. He is an immutable God who wants to transform your perspective from one of I will never make it to: I am the woman God sees as a pastor, preacher, missionary, singer, author, counselor, daughter, wife, mother, and woman of God. God's thoughts about you are much higher than yours or mine. In God's narrative He always wins since He is not a loser and has never lost a battle. I encourage you to "Pray Until Something Happens (P.U.S.H)." Giving up is not an option for you because "You are the Woman God Sees." I declare you blessed Woman of God!





## UPCOMING EVENTS

### SERVICE TIMES | SUNDAYS & WEDNESDAY |

Discipleship Hour: 9:30 AM

Main Service 10:30 AM

Wednesday: Service/Class times: 7:00 PM

### SERVICE TIMES | FRIDAY (SPANISH SERVICE)

Every Friday in the Lighthouse upstairs at 7:00 PM.

### WEEKLY CORPORATE PRAYER

Every Wednesday in the sanctuary at 10:00 AM.

### FRIENDS CROWNING CEREMONY

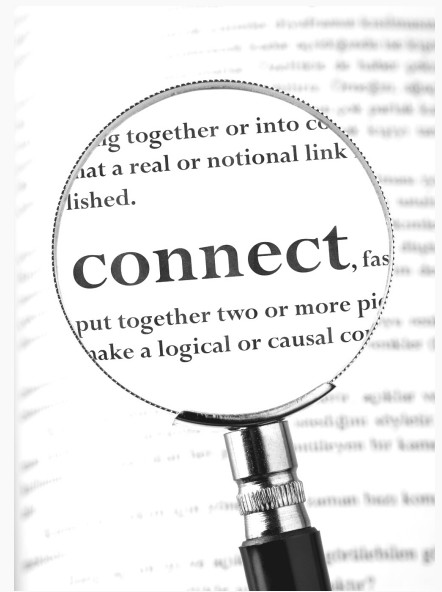
May 22, 2022 at 6:00 pm.

More Information:

Email | [contact@gtchurch.net](mailto:contact@gtchurch.net)

Phone | 910.892.4011





## REMINDERS

- 1. Open Prayer: Every Wednesday at 10:00 am in the sanctuary.
- 2. Sunday Service:  
**10:30 am**  
LIVESTREAMED via Facebook too!
- 3. Need Prayer?  
Leave a prayer request on our website!

## CHURCH INFORMATION

**Address:** 2105 W Cumberland St.  
Dunn NC 28334  
**Email:**  
contact@gtchurch.net  
**Phone Number:**  
910-892-4011

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## WANT TO CONNECT?

Visit our Social Media Accounts for more Information!  
FaceBook: <https://www.facebook.com/GospelTab/>

## NEED PRAYER?

We would love to agree with you in prayer, if you have any prayer requests, email [prayer@gtchurch.net](mailto:prayer@gtchurch.net).