

I WAS
BORN
TO
Dance

DR. ANN HIGGINS

I WAS BORN TO *Dance*

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Published by:
Caribbean Christian Arts Ministries International
P. O. Box N-7233, Nassau, Bahamas
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Cover Design & Layout by:
Marlon & Joanne Nicolls
www.creationdesignsgroup.com

ISBN # 0-97452152-3
For Worldwide Distribution
Printed in the United States of America

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Dedication

I dedicate this book to my husband,

Pastor Henry Higgins;

My children:

Tammy, Philip (deceased), Hilly & Achara;

My best friends

Daphne Barnes & Johnny Barnes;

and

The members of

Creative Christian Arts Ministries International.

Acknowledgements

I am so grateful to Renae Forbes who wrote the Foreword for this book over 10 years ago, knowing that it would be done some day.

To my daughter Achara, who helped me to make sense of what I wrote on scraps of paper and helped the book to take shape as she input it into the computer – “Thank You!” Leslie Taylor, I am also very grateful for your assistance with the typing of the manuscript.

To Keva Cartwright who encouraged me to write a book after I shared my testimony with her: “Your words of encouragement were not in vain.”

My heart is filled with gratitude for Marlon and Joanne Nicolls, for without them I would not have completed this book. Thank you Joanne for the cover design and layout of this book and for staying on me to finish it.

I extend my sincere thanks to Dr. Myles Munroe, who told me that there are many books inside of me to come out. Thank you for teaching me that my purpose is: ‘I was Born to Dance.’

Words cannot express how grateful I am to Bishop Neil C. Ellis who ministered strength back into me during the most trying time of my life. Your fatherly love and care healed my broken spirit, enabling me to complete this divine assignment. For this I shall be eternally grateful.

Foreword

DANCE DESCRIBES THE LIFE OF ANN PETERSON-HIGGINS

She definitely was born to Dance. The call on her life was like that of the prophet Jeremiah.

Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations. (Jeremiah 1:5)

Ann spent her entire life dancing and bringing joy to thousands of people from all walks of life. Dance is shut up in her bones waiting to explode with every expression of movement.

Like the prophet Jonah who rose up to flee unto Tarshish from the presence of the Lord (Jonah 1:3), Ann spent some of her early years running from the call that was on her life. Going in the opposite direction of her call took her into night life and bright lights.

In the year of 1975, after returning from New York city where she studied at the Dance Theater of Harlem and Luigi Jazz, she auditioned for her first production, *Girls A La Carte*, directed by Jack Mansel, at the El Casino, Freeport, Grand Bahama. After going through

six major productions and ten (10) years on the stage, the clock was now changing its time to purpose and destiny for her life. The call was now about to be answered. Ann had grown weary of running; during the course of her race she had obstacles in her way which hindered her: the drugs and late night parties, etc. Like Israel, the restored wife of Jehovah, God brought restoration to her in 1985 when she accepted the Lord Jesus Christ in her life. The command came to her in a prophetic way:

Sing, O barren, thou that didst not bear; break forth into singing, and cry aloud, thou that didst not travail with child: for more are the children of the desolate than the children of the married wife, saith the Lord. (2) Enlarge the place of thy tent, and let them stretch forth the curtains of thine habitations: spare not, lengthen thy cords, and strengthen thy stakes; (3) For thou shalt break forth on the right hand and on the left; and thy seed shall inherit the Gentiles, and make the desolate cities to be inhabited. (4) Fear not; for thou shalt not be ashamed: neither be thou confounded; for thou shalt not be put to shame: for thou shalt forget the shame of thy youth, and shalt not remember the reproach of thy widowhood any more. (5) For thy Maker is thy husband; the Lord of hosts is his name; and thy Redeemer the Holy one of Israel; The God of the whole earth shall he be called. (6) For the Lord hath called thee, as women forsaken and grieved in spirit, and a wife of youth, when thou wast refused, saith thy God. (7) For a small moment have I forsaken thee; but with great mercies will I gather thee. (8) In a little wrath I hid my face from thee for a moment; but with everlasting kindness will

I have mercy on thee, said the Lord thy Redeemer. (9) For this is as the waters of Noah unto me; for as I have sworn that the waters of Noah should no more go over the earth; so have I sworn that I would not be wroth with thee, nor rebuke thee. (10) For the mountains shalt depart, and the hills be removed; but my kindness shall not depart from thee, neither shall the covenant of my peace be removed, saith the Lord that hath mercy on thee. (Isaiah 54: 1- 10)

Ann began to walk this word into existence and there her ministry began, Dancing unto the King. The first dance she ministered was *I Surrender All*, which testified of all she had turned her back on to follow Christ and the call. In 1986, after attending a meeting at Fountain Gate Ministries with her Pastor, Dr. Myles Munroe, Ann was introduced to the Dance in the church for the first time.

After returning home, the hunger began and Ann desired to know more concerning her assignment in the kingdom of God and about the purpose that God had for her life concerning the dance. The late Dr. Fuchsia Pickett then invited Ann back to attend Fountain Gate Bible College for a few weeks.

In 1987 Ann opened the doors of the first Christian fitness and dance studio in the Bahamas. This led to the training of many young children in the area of the dance.

In 1988, one year later, she hosted the first Christian exercise T.V. program in her nation. Ann began to work

throughout her community teaching young people who could not afford dance classes. As a result of this, she was called upon by the Bahamas Government to help in the choreography of major productions in national events.

She has also been serving as the Dance Director at her church, Bahamas Faith Ministries, where God used her to establish the dance in the church for the first time. This was also new in her nation. From 1985 to present, her ministry has taken her into Africa where she spent six weeks preaching, teaching, and training men and women for the dance ministry; then into Australia and China where she went on tour to be in a musical called *The Gift of Life* directed by Joe Snieder of River of Life World Evangelism, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia; then into Germany and England teaching and preaching the gospel and dancing. Her travels increased as God began to open doors for her. She has touched so many lives through her dance ministry.

In 1994 she was appointed by the International Christian Dance Fellowship of Australia to be the Director of Christian Dance Fellowship, Bahamas. This allowed dancers to fellowship with other dancers around the world through newsletters.

In 1994 Caribbean Christian Dance Network (CCDN) was formed, having a governing board consisting of eight directors and six advisors. The Network is under the International Third World Leaders Association (ITWLA), which is a subsidiary of Bahamas Faith

Ministries International under the leadership of Dr. Myles Munroe. This Network hosts an annual dance conference which brings many dancers from around the world to the Bahamas each year.

Ann has studied under the mentorship of Dr. Myles Munroe for more than 18 years where she attended the B.F.M.I Bible Institute and Ministries.

She has contributed to the six major conferences that are held every year in the area of choreography and production. Her goal is to excel in the work of the Lord and to teach the next generation how to win souls through the dance by staying in His presence. The ministry of Ann Peterson-Higgins has been tested and tried and she has proven faithful to the call.

She gave birth to 4 children: Tammy, Philip (deceased), Hilly and Achara and she also has 10 grandchildren. Ann believes that the greatest leader is Jesus Christ, but her greatest mentor on earth is her spiritual father, Dr. Myles Munroe. She said, "I would follow him as he follows Christ."

— by RENAE FORBES



CHAPTER 1

My Life-Long Dance Partner

Most little girls dream about going to ballet class and becoming a ballerina, wearing ballet shoes and a tutu. I was never one of those little girls. I was far from wearing ballet shoes as I had three brothers who were older than myself and one younger. They took me everywhere they went, even in the bushes to shoot at birds. They were baby-sitters who had to keep their eyes on their little sister. They never allowed me to be a hindrance to their playtime even if it meant getting some bruises in the process, so I had to learn all the boys' way of playing.

After years of abuse, my mother finally left my father. She took the seven of her children and moved back to her hometown, the Island of Grand Bahama. My father

had an alcoholic problem. Between the ages of thirteen and fifteen I spent those years taking care of my two little sisters, Lana and Victoria, who were born after my younger brother, Elmore.

It was from the age of fifteen that I was working and trying to help my mom take care of the household and go to school at the same time. My mom was a great woman of faith who prayed to God every day. Early in the morning she would get up and sit at her sewing machine and read her Bible and sing songs of worship to the Lord. That is why we could not escape such great a salvation.

It was not until my high school years that I was able to have the freedom to do some activities for myself. I started out as a cheerleader in high school and took dance classes three days a week. I still found the time to work after school to help out at home. I had such a great desire to dance. Even my ability to dance, I knew, came from God, and I would always ask Him to open doors for me to go to school and help me to find favor with teachers and producers. I always felt that He was teaching me everything I knew, even though I didn't know Him as I do now.

I didn't have parents who could have afforded to send me to school, as my mom was the sole bread-winner of the family. She spent her time working two jobs to take care of us. I was looking forward to completing high school and going on to college and pursuing dance, but

then came a detour in my life: I got pregnant my last year in high school with my daughter Tammy. I felt that getting pregnant was the worst mistake I could've made at that time. I felt all my dreams and hopes disappear. However, it was during that time that I began to dance in my room, making up movements and steps to African music. It wasn't a year after the baby was born that I got pregnant again with my second child, Philip. Now there were two children that I could not leave. My mother helped me to take care of the children so I was able to then join two of my school mates, Charles LaRoda and Livingston Bodie, and we started a dance group called *The Warriors*.



The Warriors. (L to R) Livingston Bodie, Ann Peterson & Charles LaRoda

My heart was still geared on going to school, and this was a way to now dance until I was able to attend school. Dance was shut up in my bones and I had to release it. We did a native show once a week on Monday nights in the casino on the show's night off. There was a very

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Ann, Shalimar & Charles



(L to R) Aunt Agnes, Ann, and Miss Ruth

popular dancer who was the queen of the fire dance by the name of Shalimar. I was very impressed with her dance and one day she asked me to come and join her dance group as a backup. I was so excited. I found myself always saying, "God, I know You have given me this gift." People would comment on my enthusiasm and excitement when I performed, but God was always my partner who I relied on to teach me.

I found myself finally making it to New York where I stayed with my aunt Agnes, who only had one leg. She lived in the Goodwill building in Astoria, Queens. I found myself dancing on weekends for all of my aunt's friends in the building during their socials. They all were disabled in one way or the other: some were mentally retarded, blind or deaf. I remember dancing in a costume I had made: the top bra had a skull of a dog in the center and the straps were pulled through the eyes of the skull and that's what I wore with a bathing suit bottom. When I reflect on how God allowed me to pass that way, then brought me back again, I sometimes regret not having the anointing in my life at the time to heal and deliver the sick and oppressed. But now, when I dance the lame and the sick are healed and those who are bound are set free.

My life-long Dance Partner was there all along, but I kept upstaging Him and never gave Him the opportunity to join in my dance. I would find myself dancing and dancing; the more I danced the more I wanted to dance.

There was an energy that never left me. I was known for my stage personality and energy. I just enjoyed the gift I had and was glad I could use it to make others happy, even though I could not find peace and joy myself and was empty inside. I thank God, my life-long Dance Partner never gave up on me. He saw me through. Now we are partners for life and we have accomplished so much together. With Him I can do all things because He strengthens me. He said He would never leave me nor forsake me. He told me He will be with me until the end. He told me He would be my Teacher and my Comforter. That's the type of dance partner you ought to have dancing with you. He has been dancing before the creation of the world. When the earth was void and dark, He danced upon the face of the earth and brought forth light and life. He wants to dance over every void and dark area of your life that needs His light so that you can be replenished.

If you don't know Him as Lord of the dance, just take this moment to ask Him to come into your life and be your life-long partner.

DEAR JESUS,

I INVITE YOU AT THIS MOMENT TO COME AND LIVE IN MY HEART. I CONFESS WITH MY MOUTH AND BELIEVE IN MY HEART THAT YOU DIED FOR MY SINS AND YOU HAVE BEEN RAISED FROM THE DEAD AND THAT I AM

FORGIVEN OF ALL MY SINS. TODAY I AM FREE
FROM EVERY HABIT THAT IS CONTRARY TO
YOUR WILL FOR MY LIFE. FILL ME WITH YOUR
HOLY SPIRIT AND MAKE ME A NEW CREATURE
IN CHRIST,

IN JESUS' NAME, AMEN.

CHAPTER 2



From Topless to Top Class

After returning home from New York at the end of the summer of 1975, I went and spoke to a producer who promised me that on my return he would consider hiring me in his show. Well, I got the job and there my career in dance took a turning point. This was now different from once a week native shows which I had previously participated in. This was now bright lights and late nights.

I was one of the least experienced dancers and Roslyn and I were the only two Bahamian girls in the show at that time. Roslyn was my best friend. Most of the dancers were from the U.S.A., England and Canada; they had years of dance training and were much more experienced

FROM TOPLESS TO TOP CLASS



Ann & Roslyn

than I was at the time. However, I was so excited I just wanted to dance. I would've done anything to dance, and I always said that I knew God gave me this talent. I wasn't a Christian but I was smart enough to recognize it was from God. The next step was to use it to bring glory to Him.

After six weeks of rehearsal with the Choreographer, I felt like giving up. He was a homosexual and was very confused. Classes went from 9am in the morning to 7pm in the evening with 1-hour breaks for six weeks. It's amazing how we work so hard to accomplish the things of the world but when it comes to the work of the Lord we can't even make a 1-hour dance rehearsal or choir rehearsal at church.

Finally, dress rehearsal time came, then the opening night of the show. After that it was two shows a night, smiling and entertaining people who were drunk, depressed, unhappy and miserable. We were supposed to bring laughter and joy to them. Many nights when the show was over, after trying to smile and entertain folks, I would go into my dressing room after the curtains came down and weep. Now who's going to make Ann smile or happy? I would then go out to the bar with friends, to the disco or somewhere to get high on cocaine.

After two years of that life on stage as a chorus dancer, the producer stated that he was very pleased with my stage personality which excited the audience. It was because I loved the art of expression through the dance

that it excited me every time I went on stage. But I was lacking the Source which supplied the joy, which was Christ.

It was now time for a new show, and the producer decided to make me a lead dancer in this new production. It only meant that I had to do more work and show more of my body. I had to lead some of the dances, and do it topless. At first I was a bit embarrassed and when I came out of the dressing room I would have a towel around me to hide from the stage hands, but when I ran on stage for my number I would throw the towel to the side. That only lasted for four weeks and then I just ran in the dressing room much faster instead. No one had even told me that my body was more costly than silver or gold, they never told me that a price was already paid for my body, so I was out there exposing it in a cheap way. This went on for twelve years of my life. I was like a puppet on a stage, being directed by the choreographer and the producer telling me what to wear.

Top Class

It wasn't until February 10th 1985 that I surrendered my body over to my Creator. I began to find my purpose as to why He created this body. I found out my body was now His temple and I could not defile it. My first knowledge of the dance from a biblical perspective came after meeting Dr. Fuschia Pickett and listening to her

teach on dance and worship at a conference at our church. I then decided to go on a Mission trip with my Pastor, Dr. Myles Munroe, to Plano, Texas at Fountain Gate Ministries where he was ministering. It was there that I saw men and women ministering in the dance for the first time. It was such a holy thing that I just worshiped as they were ministering. I was so blessed that I asked Dr. Fuchsia Pickett if I could come back for two weeks to attend the college and learn more about dancing unto the Lord. She said, “yes,” and two weeks later I was back in Texas. I went to the Fountain Gates College and I was like a thirsty man in a desert. I learned all I could while I was there, and returned home all excited that I had now received a little knowledge.

When the Lord first used me in the dance I didn’t even understand what was happening. Judson Cornwall had just finished teaching one night at our church on worship. After the teaching, the church began to worship and the Holy Spirit moved and I prophesied in the dance. That was the first time I had ever done such a thing, then one of the singers interpreted the prophecy. I didn’t know of prophecy in the dance until my Pastor got up and explained to the congregation what had just happened. So you see, the Lord used me because of my heart. I had a longing desire to know more about God.

One year after I got saved I was in Tulsa, Oklahoma, visiting Oral Roberts University where my Pastor had a preaching engagement. We met a group called *Souls of*

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Fire on campus where they were rehearsing. We joined them in prayer and worship. In the group there were three persons whom I knew: Keith, David and Dorcus. After the meeting, Dorcus said to me, *"The Lord has a word for you and we would like for you to come with us so we can talk to you."* I did what she had asked while the others in the group got on the bus and went back to the hotel. David and Dorcus walked me over to the campus where they were staying. She then began to speak into my life. She said, *"The Lord is going to use you to minister in the dance; people will be healed and saved when you dance. You will train others and they too will dance with the anointing; and you will be on T.V."* As she spoke into my life I did not quite understand because this was all new to me. I only knew a little of prophecy, and after dancing for 15 years in the casino, now that I was saved, I never wanted to dance ever again because I did not think that it was godly. God, however, was now moving me into another class. I was no longer a show for men, but rather, on display for God. He was now bringing me into a *Top Class* position and the Lord has done truly what He had spoken through Dorcus.

Six months after I heard those words spoken to me, my Pastor was planning a Youth Alive Conference and he came to me and said, "Ann, God has given you a talent. You may have used it the wrong way all these years, but now He wants to get the glory." He then said to me that he wanted me to dance at the Conference and the first

thing came to my mind was, “What will everyone think of me? What about all the people who knew of my past? When they see and hear that I am now dancing in church, they will laugh and say, ‘She is not truly saved.’” You see, I was never taught that I could dance unto the Lord; I was told that dancing was of the devil and I learned that from Christians when I was growing up. They told me dancing was not meant for the church.

Now here I was, asked to dance unto the Lord at this Conference, and this battle was raging in my mind, but my Pastor sat me down and explained to me so that I could fully understand that my worship is to be focused on the Lord. My heart should be poured out unto God. The night I was going to minister I spent that day in fasting and prayer. The intercessors prayed with me before I ministered. I began to talk to the Lord and I said, “Father, You know my heart and You know this dance must bring glory to Your name. People who knew me in the past are watching and waiting to see what is going on.”

My Pastor got up and introduced me by first sharing my testimony and by that time I was weeping just listening to my own testimony. I had chosen the song *I Surrender All To Jesus*, for I truly wanted to surrender all to Him and that song was so appropriate for me to minister. By the time I got on the platform, tears were flowing down my cheeks. I hugged my Pastor and stood waiting for the music to begin. As I began to minister, my eyes were so full of tears, I could hardly see the people in

the congregation. The anointing fell upon me and I could no longer dance freely, but I felt as though I was moving about almost in slow motion. All around me became cloudy and I began to hear people weeping and praising the Lord. By the middle of the dance people were falling to their knees. The Lord began to heal and deliver people. The whole church went into worship and I ended up on the floor weeping and speaking in tongues. That night people came and knelt at the altar and got saved. Even the next day people were calling the church and talking about how the Lord had healed them. The Holy Spirit then brought back to my memory the prophecy that said, *“When you dance, people will be saved and people will be healed.”* This was the greatest and the most powerful move of God in my life at that particular time, and it was used by God to take me from where I was to where He wanted me to be.

The second part of the prophecy said, *“You will train others.”* After my Pastor had been so blessed by the ministry, he said, “I want you to train dancers to minister unto the Lord,” and six months later we did our first Christmas Production. We started out with two dances using two worship songs; that was the beginning of our dance ministry. It has been over sixteen years now since we have been ministering unto the Lord in the dance. We go into schools, in parks, play grounds, we minister for Government functions and travel overseas to minister at churches, hospitals, etc. God has been faithful.

The third part of the prophecy said that *I will travel all over the world*. Well, my first trip took me into Zimbabwe, Africa. After spending some time in the dance studio with dancers in prayer and worship it was right then, face down on the floor in His presence, that He spoke to me. I saw children by the hundreds; they were dark-skinned and looked like the children I saw in a geography book on Africa. Then the Lord spoke to me and said, "I want you to teach my children how to worship me in the dance. I am taking you into Africa." I began to weep on the floor. I had never been to Africa, but I always heard about it when I was a little girl. I knew it was far away from home and I had so much fear and pre-conceived ideas about that place. Out of fear I began to question myself as to whether or not it was truly the Lord who spoke to me.

That very first night of our Third World Believers Conference, a Bishop from Africa, Ezekiel Guti, came to me after the service and commented on the dancers, saying their ministry blessed him. He then went on to say to his wife, "I think the Lord would have us to invite her to Africa to teach our people." He turned to me and asked, "Would you come?" I knew I had to say yes, because God had told me about going to Africa just a few hours before. I was invited to come a month from the invitation, but it was not God's timing. After seeking the Lord for the right time, He provided and made it possible for me to go four months later. The

same anointing went with me to Africa. I taught over 300 dancers. I ministered in a stadium with about 65,000 people and traveled throughout Africa ministering in the churches for six weeks, watching people being healed as I ministered in the dance; demons crying out without anyone touching them; people surrendering their lives to Christ freely. God was glorified in a mighty way and I was glad that He saw it fit to use me. Many other trips since that time took me to China, Australia, Trinidad, throughout the Caribbean and the U.S.A.

The fourth and last part of the prophecy said that *I'll be on television*. The very first time I was on television was through my fellowship church that hosted a T.V. program called *Choices*. I went on with my Pastor, Dr. Myles Munroe, who was the host at that time. I began to share my testimony and that was a great event for me



FROM TOPLESS TO TOP CLASS



because the Media reached more people than we thought. The other islands in the Bahamas found out that the girl who was a lead dancer in the casino, who was well-known and popular in the secular world system, had now given her life to Christ, and this left some of them in a state of shock. The second time on the same show I was on with my daughter who had at that time given her life to Christ because of the change God had done in her mother's life. To God be the glory! From that point on, God began to use me on television. I started doing 5-minute exercise clippings. That then led to a half-hour regular T.V. program on air called *Exercising By Faith*. It aired for about nine years. There is nothing too hard for God! He has taken me to the top of the class where I can sit with Him in heavenly places and look down on every circumstance and situation. I now know that my purpose is to be at the top, not the bottom; the head, not the tail.

CHAPTER 3



A Star With No Light

Lucifer was called Day Star, Son of the Morning in the scriptures. This is an indicator that he was a star shining in the universe; he was brilliant. In Ezekiel 28:17 he was the light bearer. Ezekiel 28:17 says:

“Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty; thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of brightness. I will throw thee to the ground, I will lay thee before Kings that they may behold thee.”

Lucifer shined in the heavens; but although he was a star, he fell. Remember, we are the Kings and Priests on this earth, but we must remember that Lucifer still tries to make us believe that we can be a star by his corrupt ways. He was an anointed Cherub that was on the mountain of God. Every precious stone was his covering; the sadius, topaz and the diamond, the beryl, the onyx, and the jasper, the sapphire, the emerald and

the carbuncle and gold: the workmanship of his tabrets and of his pipes were prepared in the day he was created (Ezekiel 28:13). Today, fallen man still tries to use the elements of the world to try to shine among men. Every Hollywood star tries to see who can accomplish some of these *stones*, thinking it can bring them that brightness to make them shine in the world.

In the theatres and on stage, there are hundreds of lights. When the curtains go up, there you are in front of thousands of people trying to be a light bearer. The very fact that we use so many lights proves we have no light. Satan is trying to get his position back by using man. But the position has already been taken; we are now the light of the world.

Jesus spoke to them saying, I am the light of the world.
He who follows me will not walk in darkness but will
have the light of life. (John 8:12)

If you are outstanding, or the principal person in a production, then you are known as the *star* of the show. They said to me that I was one of the stars of the show. We know that stars have a light that shines, but I was walking in darkness. I had no light, therefore, the world must be in confusion as to what a real star is. The opposite of dark is light. *Light is that force, agent, or action in nature, which, by its operation upon its argons of sight, renders objects visible.* The word is used in a figurative sense to denote illumination of the mind, prosperity, purity, etc. Jesus Christ is called the *Light of the World* because of His

A STAR WITH NO LIGHT



I was a star but had no light

power to illuminate the mind of man and of acting as a guiding beacon to His followers, who in turn serve as lights to their fellowmen. Light comes from God.

“And God said, Let there be light and God saw the light, that it was good, and God divided the light from darkness.” (Genesis 1: 3-4)

Psalms 119 says, “Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path,” and Psalms 130 says, “The entrance of thy word gives light; it gives understanding unto the simple.”

God divided the light from the darkness, so there was no way that I could be a shining star until He divided the light from the darkness in my life. I danced every night on stage for two hours, entertaining about two thousand people a night. I was a star but I had no light. If I had the light of Christ inside of me, imagine the seeds of joy that could have been planted in the lives of millions of people who watched me perform.

God cannot use you if you are a performer; you have to be a worshiper. Worship comes from a true and pure heart. God wants you to be a star that shines forth His glory. Now I fully understand the importance of being sold out to God. Only then can He take your gifts and talents to bring glory to His name. After yielding myself to God and all that I had, including my ability to dance, He was able to use me. I was then able to dance and watch blinded eyes open, the lame walk, and demon-possessed persons delivered. He promised He would restore what

the locusts and the cankerworm had stolen.

I sometimes think about the times when the ambulance came to the Casino and took people out who suffered heart attacks after gambling and being entertained; a life I could not save because I had neither light nor life in Christ. When my own mother was sick and about to die, I didn't even know how to pray for her; thank God she was a child of the King. She is absent from the body, but now present with the Lord.



CHAPTER 4

The Light of the World Causes the Star to Shine

It is only the Lord who can take a star with no light, like myself, and turn me into a light which attracts lives to the Greatest Light of all – Jesus the Christ. I remember going to China with a group of 30 persons from Australia, in a production called *The Gift of Life* directed by Joe Snieder of Australia. We went to China by way of cultural exchange. Government Officials greeted us at the airport, and hosted a banquet for us in every province we went to. These men did not know about Christ and we were not allowed to minister Jesus Christ as freely as we do in the western part of the world, so our life had to be demonstrated to these men. After one night of ministering at one of the theatres, one of China's leading artists drew a picture of me and presented



Ann with an Australian Group on Tour in China

it to me, then quoted: *“You are like an angel of light. When you dance I just see light all around you. There is something different about you.”* I knew that it was the illuminating power of God reaching His people the way He wanted to through the dance.

The song that I danced to was *“Love in any Language”*. In all we say and do, we have to demonstrate the love and light of Jesus Christ. The most exciting part of the trip for me was after two weeks in China, our tour guide, Tom, got saved and filled with the Holy Spirit while we were holding a prayer meeting the very last night of our tour. I am sure after being with us for two weeks, hearing us sing praises on the bus and talking about the Lord, Tom had something imparted to him and I knew it was the Word and the love of God that was shed abroad in his heart.

God is looking for those who would be a witness in the earth of His love. We are the evidence that He is the light that lights every man that has accepted Him.

That very night after I had explained salvation to Tom, he said that he was 30 years old and knew that he needs God. I just wept for joy after hearing him speak those words. All God wants is a willing and obedient heart. God knows the needs of every human being. Don't be afraid to step out and use your talents and abilities to bring glory to God.

During a trip to Bermuda in November of 2001, I was invited to minister at a high school. After sharing my testimony with the students and telling them about Jesus, I ministered in dance to the song *"That Name is Jesus"*. After the children were dismissed, one young man on his way out of the auditorium, stopped in front of me and said, *"Miss, I don't know what it was I saw, but when you were dancing I saw something dispersing from you like sparks of lights."* At that moment I had a flashback of the time I was in China and the artist said he saw the same light glowing from me. It was the illuminating light of Jesus Christ shining as a witness of His glory that was upon me for my assignment. When I gave my talents to the devil he did nothing good with it, but after I gave it to God, He began to multiply it back to me.

The dance school that I now own has had hundreds of children pass through its doors. They learn how to worship the Lord in the dance and some are now teaching others. The seeds have been multiplied. The harvest is plenty but the laborers are few. God needs you as a laborer in His Vineyard.

The dance is very powerful and meaningful; the dancer's feet were made to crush the head of the serpent. Let your light burst forth into darkness so that men can begin to see the glory of the Father in you. You be that shining star that lights the world so that men can be drawn to the Father.

CHAPTER 5



Worshipping in the Heavenlies to Affect the Earth

I remembered praying one morning asking God to take me to the next level in Him; to show me the things He desired for me to walk out. It was almost time for me to host CCDN's 9th annual Dance Conference. We were just about to come to the end of the 8th year, which meant 'new beginnings', but I never realized, as I sought the Lord, that I was moving into a new beginning in Ministry in my life. The Lord spoke to me and said, "The theme for the next conference is 'Worshipping from the Heavenlies to Affect the Earth,' so that My kingdom will come and My will be done on earth as it is in the heavens."

WORSHIPPING IN THE HEAVENLIES



Just before the conference each year, I would seek the Lord for the next year's theme and direction. I remembered as we prayed that year the Spirit of Warfare, through intercession, was very intense. I also recall, at dance rehearsal each time we met, there was something that had to be dealt with before rehearsing. There were either disagreements or someone's feelings getting hurt. There was always something to pray about and resolve. I knew that the conference was going to be different because the mandate the Lord had given me was unique: 'Worshipping in the Heavens.'

When you decide to move into the heavenly realm, you will come up against principalities and wicked spirits in high places. I remembered II Samuel 22; this was David's prayer when God delivered him from the hand of Saul and all of his enemies. In verse 34, God wanted me to know that He was preparing my feet for the high places; He was giving me feet like a deer. In verse 35, He told me He was going to teach my hands to war. So I prepared myself for war. My dance had become a dance of warfare for that season. God was preparing me for battle.

Because of the assignment that was ahead of me, God also prepared the people that were to be at that conference that year. I had many plans in place for the conference. The dance team met twice a week to prepare themselves. I could recall, every time we went into deep warfare and intercession for the conference, I kept telling the dancers

that I was not going to be there long; and that they were to take everything God had taught them through me, and run with it, putting what they learnt into practice. This prophetic word came more than once or twice. God was preparing them. I did not know when, or even understand what God was going to do, but I knew that a shift was taking place in the spiritual realm.

As time drew near, there was much tension in the Dance Ministry. I had to do a lot of correcting and rebuking. Persons were upset and decided they would find a way to destroy the Ministry that I was operating in. The Bible says the Devil is the Accuser of the Brethren. He will go back into your past and find the things that God has put in the Sea of Forgetfulness and draw it back into the future. The bible says as far as the East is from the West, I remember your sins no more. Where there is true repentance, God honors it.

It was about 6 weeks before the Dance Conference was to begin when two of the dancers felt the need to slander my name. They went on an assignment to remove me from my position as the Director of the Dance Ministry. We know that we do not fight against flesh and blood, but against principalities and wicked spirits, rulers of darkness that are in high places. So I knew the devil was up to something because of the assignment that was ahead of me.

As the Lord spoke to me in my time of prayer, He said, "You will go through the fire but it will purify you." You

see, there were a lot of things in my past that God wanted to put an end to so that I would never go back to it. He was allowing the enemy to burn the bridge between holy and unholy, even if it meant using that which is evil for it to work together for good.

We see in Isaiah 45 verse 7, God said:

“I form the light and create darkness I make peace and create evil, I the Lord do all these things.”

I was on one of our Islands called Inagua, at a speaking engagement. I was on a 21 day fast, and it was coming to the end of the fast with three days to go. On the last day, I was scheduled to return home and there was bad weather between Nassau and Inagua and the plane had to return to Nassau. The next flight out of there was not until Wednesday, which was two days later. They sent me back to my hotel room, where I spent the next two days. Even though the fast had ended, I spent the extra days in that room seeking the Lord. During that time I had the TV on TBN. First, Paula White came on and preached a word that I felt was for me only, then Pastor Myles came on with a word and he taught on “Vision and Destiny.” After that, T.D. Jakes came on and talked about: “Your Pain is for A Purpose”. I felt that God was now preparing me for the journey of being slandered. I began to look into the Word about slander.

I got back home and I began to hear news of how people were talking about me. I immediately went into the Word to remind myself of what God said. In Leviticus

19:16, He said, “Thou shall not go up and down as a talebearer among thy people; neither shall thou stand against the blood of thy neighbor.” I realized who ever was doing this to me was going against the Word of God.

True repentance comes from the heart. When we give our lives to Christ and become born again of the Spirit, we are still living in a body of flesh that has been trained to do the things of the world for many years. As God is the potter and we are the clay, everyday as we spend time in the Word, we are being chipped on and molded into His image. If we repent of our past mistakes, God is faithful and just to forgive us and cleanse of from all unrighteousness, and no one can change that.

However, by this time I was emotionally crushed and hurting inside because I had poured out my love, talent, my time and possessions to help and assist those who had risen up against me. The Lord kept reminding me that it was not them, but that the work He was doing in me and through me needed pruning.

One day as I was praying, the phone rang and a lady gave me her name, which I didn't know, and said, “God gave me a word for you.” By then, I was not trusting in anyone, but I decided I would go to the house she directed me to in order to get the letter she wrote for me. This is what she wrote:

“You are a vessel of honor and God knows your heart.
You have been a blessing to many, but they seek to

destroy you, however, God said He will protect you. God is taking you through a shedding and a pruning. He said, 'stand still and see the salvation of the Lord.' The Lord said He will fight your battle. He will not let you be devoured, but you are being tested. God is taking you to the next level. Nevertheless, the solid foundation of God stands, having this seal: the Lord knows those that are His and let everyone that names the name of Christ depart from iniquity. In His great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay, some for honor and some for dishonor. You are His vessel of honor, therefore, if anyone cleanse himself from the latter he will be a vessel of honor sanctified and useful for the Master, prepared for every good work (2 Timothy 2:21)

I realize now that God was letting me know in His eyes he saw me as sanctified and useful for Him as long as I had cleansed myself from all sin and iniquity.

I then realized that God was sending words of encouragement for me to hold on to, and that I had to forgive those who spoke evil against me, no matter how many times. Matthew 18:21 says,

"Then came Peter to Him and said Lord how often shall my brother sin against me and I forgive him? Seven times? Jesus said unto Him, I say not seven times but seventy times seven."

He also said in Colossians 3 verse 13:

"Forbearing one another and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any, even as Christ forgave you, so also do you."

I feel that even as someone is reading this, you can identify with my testimony and you can hear the Holy Spirit saying, “forgive.” Stop reading and pray and ask God to give you the power to forgive and release those who hurt you in Jesus’ name. I know you are disappointed; great expectations cause disappointment. Release the bitterness and anger. Eph. 1:7 says,

“In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace.”

Even the person who wronged you deserves the riches of God’s grace. The Lord wants us to obey His Word, no matter how painful it is. I had to praise Him, dance before Him, worship Him through all of my pain and disappointment. I also had to show those who had hurt me terribly, that my intentions towards them were pure, honest, and heartfelt. The Word told me in Eph. 4:32,

“Be ye kind to one another, tender hearted, forgiving one another even as God for Christ sake hath forgiven you.”

It was now two weeks before the conference, and by now, Pastor had gotten a hold of what was going on. So many things were happening at once. I had met a wonderful young man, Henry, whose vision was the same as mine. We were dating for about six months, after being single for 18 years. However, that time was a bitter-sweet mixture of joy and excitement as well as pain and sorrow.

On the day that I made an appointment to see my Pastor to introduce Henry, I was told by the Directors of the Ministry that they needed to meet with me before the meeting time which I had originally set. I remember before going into that meeting, I had called my sister Vickie – who is a mighty intercessor – and she prayed with me. Afterwards she said, “The will of God shall be done, and you must go through this, but He will be with you.” The Lord also said to me, “Just be silent and I will fight your battle.”

In the meeting that morning, as I was confronted on accusations against me, I bore through all of the pain and embarrassment of things of the past that was talked about by my accusers. As I was almost in tears, I heard the Holy Spirit say, “Be still! Your past is under the Blood.” Those divine words brought much comfort to me during this very turbulent time in my life.

There were also words spoken that were untrue. Even those things God would not allow me to respond to. The Lord told me to be still and do not respond. My head swarmed with things to say and do, but I surprisingly remained still. I said to myself, “This is not me; the person I know of in the past (the unregenerate me) would have gotten up and tried to be violent, and speak out in rage. I became convinced then, that the Ann of the past no longer existed.

But in turmoil I cried out to God in my heart, “God, why did you allow them to do this to me?” I even began

to question, “Can’t these men of God discern that this is a plan of the devil to destroy, not just the dance ministry, but the whole church? Can’t anyone see spiritually what’s going on here?” God did not answer me then, but He took me back to Ezekiel 36, the chapter He had LaShon—one of the dancers who assisted me—give me three weeks before the meeting to prepare me. That scripture told me everything that was going to happen, especially verse 3:

“Therefore prophesy and say thus saith the Lord God, because they have made you desolate, and swallowed you up on every side that ye are taken up in the lips of talkers, and are an infamy of the people.”

I then realized that God had prepared me for such a time as this. As you read Ezekiel 36, you will see that the promise for me was great in verses 9, 10, and 11. He encouraged me that He was with me and that He would multiply to me what ever I had lost and increase and bring forth fruit and do better for me than at my beginnings, so I will know He is God.

1 “Son of man, prophesy to the mountains of Israel and say, `O mountains of Israel, hear the word of the LORD. 2 This is what the Sovereign LORD says: The enemy said of you, “Aha! The ancient heights have become our possession.” 3 Therefore prophesy and say, `This is what the Sovereign LORD says: Because they ravaged and hounded you from every side so that you became the possession of the rest of the nations and the object of people’s malicious talk and slander, 4 therefore, O mountains of Israel, hear the word

of the Sovereign LORD: This is what the Sovereign LORD says to the mountains and hills, to the ravines and valleys, to the desolate ruins and the deserted towns that have been plundered and ridiculed by the rest of the nations around you-- 5 this is what the Sovereign LORD says: In my burning zeal I have spoken against the rest of the nations, and against all Edom, for with glee and with malice in their hearts they made my land their own possession so that they might plunder its pastureland.' 6 Therefore prophesy concerning the land of Israel and say to the mountains and hills, to the ravines and valleys: `This is what the Sovereign LORD says: I speak in my jealous wrath because you have suffered the scorn of the nations. 7 Therefore this is what the Sovereign LORD says: I swear with uplifted hand that the nations around you will also suffer scorn. 8 ``But you, O mountains of Israel, will produce branches and fruit for my people Israel, for they will soon come home. 9 I am concerned for you and will look on you with favor; you will be plowed and sown, 10 and I will multiply the number of people upon you, even the whole house of Israel. The towns will be inhabited and the ruins rebuilt. 11 I will increase the number of men and animals upon you, and they will be fruitful and become numerous. I will settle people on you as in the past and will make you prosper more than before. Then you will know that I am the LORD. 12 I will cause people, my people Israel, to walk upon you. They will possess you, and you will be their inheritance; you will never again deprive them of their children. 13 ``This is what the Sovereign LORD says: Because people say to you, "You devour men and deprive your nation of its children,"

14 therefore you will no longer devour men or make your nation childless, declares the Sovereign LORD. 15 No longer will I make you hear the taunts of the nations, and no longer will you suffer the scorn of the peoples or cause your nation to fall, declares the Sovereign LORD.” 16 Again the word of the LORD came to me: 17 “Son of man, when the people of Israel were living in their own land, they defiled it by their conduct and their actions. Their conduct was like a woman’s monthly uncleanness in my sight. 18 So I poured out my wrath on them because they had shed blood in the land and because they had defiled it with their idols. 19 I dispersed them among the nations, and they were scattered through the countries; I judged them according to their conduct and their actions. 20 And wherever they went among the nations they profaned my holy name, for it was said of them, ‘These are the LORD’s people, and yet they had to leave his land.’ 21 I had concern for my holy name, which the house of Israel profaned among the nations where they had gone. 22 “Therefore say to the house of Israel, ‘This is what the Sovereign LORD says: It is not for your sake, O house of Israel, that I am going to do these things, but for the sake of my holy name, which you have profaned among the nations where you have gone. 23 I will show the holiness of my great name, which has been profaned among the nations, the name you have profaned among them. Then the nations will know that I am the LORD, declares the Sovereign LORD, when I show myself holy through you before their eyes. 24 “‘For I will take you out of the nations; I will gather you from all the countries and bring you back into your own land. 25 I will sprinkle

clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your impurities and from all your idols. 26 I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. 27 And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws. 28 You will live in the land I gave your forefathers; you will be my people, and I will be your God. 29 I will save you from all your uncleanness. I will call for the grain and make it plentiful and will not bring famine upon you. 30 I will increase the fruit of the trees and the crops of the field, so that you will no longer suffer disgrace among the nations because of famine. 31 Then you will remember your evil ways and wicked deeds, and you will loathe yourselves for your sins and detestable practices. 32 I want you to know that I am not doing this for your sake, declares the Sovereign LORD. Be ashamed and disgraced for your conduct, O house of Israel! 33 “`This is what the Sovereign LORD says: On the day I cleanse you from all your sins, I will resettle your towns, and the ruins will be rebuilt. 34 The desolate land will be cultivated instead of lying desolate in the sight of all who pass through it. 35 They will say, “This land that was laid waste has become like the garden of Eden; the cities that were lying in ruins, desolate and destroyed, are now fortified and inhabited.” 36 Then the nations around you that remain will know that I the LORD have rebuilt what was destroyed and have replanted what was desolate. I the LORD have spoken, and I will do it.’ 37 “This is what the Sovereign LORD says: Once again I will yield to the plea of the house of Israel and do this for them: I will make their people as numerous as sheep, 38 as numerous as the flocks for offerings

at Jerusalem during her appointed feasts. So will the ruined cities be filled with flocks of people. Then they will know that I am the LORD.”

After that meeting, I had to face the same Pastors to introduce Henry to them, and say to them this is the man I would be dating. After 18 years of being single, for me, this was supposed to be the most exciting day for me. I looked forward to this day for many years. I didn’t think joy and pain would have greeted each other on this day.

Henry knew everything I was going through and he washed me in the Word daily. That is how I made it through. All the friends had disappeared, all of the church family were now talking and whispering as I passed them by. But Henry stood with me. He reminded me of what God said about me.

A day after the meeting, I had to fly to New York to minister, and through the pain, I preached Ezekiel 36 to the people. I was now speaking out of my life’s story. At the end of the sermon, over 50 persons were at the altar weeping and crying, those who were wounded and needed healing. As I encouraged the congregation to worship, the presence of the Lord came into the place and healing began to flow upon God’s people. He then spoke to me and said, “This is why you have to go through: for the sake of bringing others through.”

At that very meeting, the pastors and prophets gathered around me and began to minister to me. Pastor

Paul, who was the host pastor, said to me, “Did you take a good look at your conference brochure? There is a picture of you in the clouds. This year your theme is ‘Worshipping in the Heavenlies.’ You have gone into the realm of where the principalities and wicked spirits are. You are in the war zone, so the attack has been great. This conference will be one of the most powerful conferences you ever had.”

As I returned home, I had one more week before the conference began. By this time, my pastor had arranged to pray for me in front of the congregation for restoration. As it was the Sunday before the conference began, most of the delegates from overseas were already there in our Sunday morning worship service. Also, by now, all of the local dancers and speakers had cancelled from attending the conference and others were discouraged from attending. I was also encouraged to cancel the conference. I knew all the things God had spoken to me, and canceling the conference was not part of the plan. No matter what, I had to go on with God’s assignment.

On that Sunday, my pastor called me up to address the congregation. He wanted to put the incident behind and pray for me. He had me speak a few words and I only talked about God’s mercy, forgiveness and the cleansing power of the blood of Jesus. I knew that many wanted to hear me say, “Yes, the accusations are true and I am guilty.” So many lies were mixed in with the truth, but I knew God’s grace had covered it all.

The conference began the next day. I was so wounded, all I could do was be there to receive God's love and healing. God replaced all those who promised to be there, and was with those who stuck with me through it all. I thank God for Daphney, my best friend, who through many overseas calls, spoke into my life and prayed daily for me. Henry, who was my strength of support, had choreographed the whole production, including the opening number. The song was written and given to me by one of the ministers I met in New York. That song, the minute I heard it, I knew was the song for the conference.

'War in the Heavenlies' was opened with a production put on by a combination of dancers from Henry's dance company, Rebirth Dancers, as well as those who remained with me from CCDN, my dance company. Some were dressed in white and others in black, representing the fight of Angels in the Heavenlies with smoke machines making it look like the clouds. After the first night of the conference, we knew that the battle had already been won.

The conference went another way from the previous times. We had closed sessions at night. Warfare through dance took place every night during worship. Pastor Ben prophesied for over an hour in music and the Word. Each night as the presence of the Lord moved, dancers got delivered, healed, and prophesied to. Demons left people as the dancers danced around them. Testimonies of so many were expressed each night. The walls came down and the

glory of God began to move throughout the room. During that conference we had over 70 young persons give their life to Christ and also many baptized in the Holy Spirit and speaking in tongues.

Restoration was now taking place as we went through the war zone. God taught our hands how to war and our fingers how to fight. (Ps. 144:1). Our feet had crushed the head of the serpents and scorpions and all of the power of the air (Luke 10:19). All week long we prayed for the dance ministries throughout the world, who the enemy had attacked, like he did to us. We prayed for our Nations. We covered everything the Holy Spirit brought before us. We knew it was a spiritual attack and we had to break through the heavenlies so that the kingdom of God would come on earth as it was in heaven. That was our assignment.

By the last day of the conference, the Lord had strengthened me and restored my soul. I cried out to the Lord like David did in Psalm 51 verse 12,

“Restore unto me the joy of my salvation and uphold me with thy free spirit.”

Psalm 23 is my life, especially verse 3,

“He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name’s sake.”

God would do it for His name’s sake.

I had to live out the story of Joseph. (Genesis 37-46). I was victimized because I was loved by my pastor, who

was my spiritual father. There were persons who were my brethren in Christ, who were very jealous of the love and respect he had for me. Many times as he returned home, he would brag on me, about how people talked about the great work I was doing in the ministry, as he traveled around the world. I felt that the likeness of the coat of many colors that Joseph wore, which was given to him by his father, was given to me by my spiritual father when he gave me the authority over the Ministry of Dance. All of the evil reports that came to the father from the brethren were intended to destroy me. I was also accused of sexual misconduct by the 'spirit of Potiphar's wife', as Joseph was.

I was thrown into the prison of bondage and I could no longer freely move into the Ministry of Dance which God had called me into, because of the pain that I carried in my belly. The chains of accusations wrapped around my feet, as venomous words threatened to still my dance before my King forever. How can I live without dancing before my Lord in worship? Will I ever be able to experience the liberty I had in His presence which I had become so used to and enjoyed so much? When will this throbbing pain go away? Questions flooded my mind.

But just as I was cast into the prison of demotion without much hope of recovering, God came and lifted me out and promoted me as a Dance Leader in the country by the Government. Seven days later, I was transferred from the Ministry of Education to the Ministry of Youth,

Sports and Culture by the Minister of Culture himself, The Hon. Neville Wisdom (Gen 39:4). I had found favor in his sight. The call that God had on my life could not be stopped. I had faith in God and trusted Him. In that season, God used me to be a prophet to the Minister and to pray for him daily and he would always ask for an interpretation of what God was saying in that hour. God had now assigned me for that season in the Ministry of Youth, Sports and Culture office.

Like Joseph, God would not let the dream die. He kept promoting me. The Honorable Minister of Youth, Sport and Culture, decided to hold the first float parade in The Bahamas on December 25th, 2002 and January 2003. He wanted hundreds of Liturgical dancers to participate in the event and Henry and I were given the responsibility of gathering the youth from the churches, schools, and communities. That was history in the making in our country and in our lives. The event was in the media and the newspaper for 6 weeks before, and even days *after* the event.

On several occasions, I accompanied the Minister of Youth, Sports and Culture on radio and television interviews leading up to the event. I felt like Joseph from the pit to the palace. What was meant for evil, God had turned it around for good.

Like Joseph, God had placed me in the position where my brothers had to come to me for help and I had to help them. Exodus 23:5 says,

“If you see the donkey of someone who hates you fallen down under its load, do not leave it there. Be sure you help him with it.”

“If your enemy is hungry, give him food to eat, if he is thirsty, give him water to drink.” (Prov. 25:21)

“But I tell you, love your enemies, do good to those who persecute you.” (Matt. 5:44)

Luke 6:35 is a scripture that our flesh never wants to bow to because of hurt and pain, but God says that in order for us to be sons of the Most High God, we must walk in the Word. It says:

“But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them, without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great and you will be sons of the Most High God, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked.”

One day I met some of the dancers who had done me wrong and we were at the same prayer breakfast. They had ministered that morning and after the meeting the Lord spoke to me to take them to my house and bless them all with new dance garments. There were six of them in total. I just obeyed the voice of the lord.

Romans 12:20 says,

“On the contrary, if your enemy is hungry, feed him, if he is thirsty give him something to drink. In doing this you will heap burning coals on his head.”

And finally, God wants us never to pay back wrong for wrong, but always try to be kind to each other and

to everyone else. (I Thessalonians 5:15)

When we move to the high places we will have to break down the idols in our lives, the things that cause us not to walk holy before God (Deut. 12 verses 1-10).

1 These are the decrees and laws you must be careful to follow in the land that the LORD, the God of your fathers, has given you to possess—as long as you live in the land. 2 Destroy completely all the places on the high mountains and on the hills and under every spreading tree where the nations you are dispossessing worship their gods. 3 Break down their altars, smash their sacred stones and burn their Asherah poles in the fire; cut down the idols of their gods and wipe out their names from those places. 4 You must not worship the LORD your God in their way. 5 But you are to seek the place the LORD your God will choose from among all your tribes to put his Name there for his dwelling. To that place you must go; 6 there bring your burnt offerings and sacrifices, your tithes and special gifts, what you have vowed to give and your freewill offerings, and the firstborn of your herds and flocks. 7 There, in the presence of the LORD your God, you and your families shall eat and shall rejoice in everything you have put your hand to, because the LORD your God has blessed you. 8 You are not to do as we do here today, everyone as he sees fit, 9 since you have not yet reached the resting place and the inheritance the LORD your God is giving you. 10 But you will cross the Jordan and settle in the land the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance, and he will give you rest from all your enemies around you so that you will live in safety.

After worshipping in the heavenly realm and being tested and tried, we will come out as pure gold. We must pass the test or we will have to start all over again.

After I went into the high places to be tested, I came out purified by the fire of the Holy Ghost. My attitude toward my enemies was different. My love for God and mankind were greater and I had moved to another level in God. My walk with Him was more disciplined and I was ready for the next assignment of the vision He had placed in my heart.



CHAPTER 6

Partners Fulfilling the Vision

Without a vision the people perish. A vision is something seen other than by the ordinary sight, as in a dream. God's revelation to us burns within us. We need to understand what God's word says in Habakkuk chapter 2:1-3:

1 I will stand upon my watch, and set me upon the tower, and will watch to see what he will say unto me, and what I shall answer when I am reprov'd. 2 And the LORD answered me, and said, Write the vision, and make it plain upon tables, that he may run that readeth it. 3 For the vision is yet for an appointed time, but at the end it shall speak, and not lie: though it tarry, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry.

The vision burned within my heart for a long time. The Lord had shown me and spoken to me concerning the vision that He placed within my heart. It was so much. I said, “Lord, how will I do all of this?” Then I remembered going to New York in January 2002 to minister at Prophetess Judy Brown’s church. The Spirit of the Lord had moved in such a mighty way through the dance. I bowed with my face to the ground and Prophetess Brown stood over me and began prophesying. She said, “God is pleased with you. He knows that the next level of ministry you cannot do alone. You have gone through much but you have been faithful to the call. You have maximized your years of singleness and now He is getting ready to bless you with a mate. One who, together with you, can carry the vision to the next level.”

I began to ponder these words. On that same day I preached at another church, Battalion Pentecostal, under the invitation of Pastor Paul Cockfield. Four of the prophets stood by me after I was finished to give me a word. The same word came forth concerning a mate. He told me, “God said your lonely days are over. The Lord is getting ready to bless you and the vision is about to come to pass. He is now going to give you your heart’s desire in a mate.

I flew home the next morning and while on the plane I thought of all these things that were spoken to me.

The next morning after arriving home, as I jogged along the beach, I stopped at a prayer meeting which

was held by Sister Norma. After praying, she gave me a prophetic word. She said, "I see a wedding for you very soon. Also, your mate is going to treat you like a Queen. He will take good care of you."

After 18 years of being single, marriage was very far from my mind. I was enjoying my single years traveling all over the world preaching and dancing for the Lord. This was the first time, for two weeks straight, all I heard from the Lord prophetically was about me having a mate. I said, "Lord I am happy being single. What are you saying to me?"

The following week which was the 3rd week in January 2002, we were planning for the 2002 Carifta Games. My assignment was to find two other choreographers to help choreograph the opening ceremonies for that event, so I contacted Christine Forbes and Henry Higgins. For the next few weeks, we began to spend a lot of time together planning and preparing dance numbers. During that time, we were able to talk about God's plan for our lives and where we were heading. To my surprise, Henry and I had similar visions. We both were so excited as we talked about the vision and what we wanted to do.

Henry and I were friends for 10 years – just friends. I never dreamt we would end up in a relationship.

Well the dancers traveled to Anguilla for a conference and one morning, while we were praying with the group on the beach, the Lord ministered to us and all of us were

weeping. We knew God was doing something different with us. The change was taking place. Henry said to me, "I would like to speak to you after the workshop today." I hesitated, but by evening, he reminded me again. Well, it was in Anguilla on the beach when he asked the question... "Will you marry me?" It was then I remembered the words spoken to me by so many persons those few weeks in January.

It was now May and I said "Yes," to him. Pastor Angela Williams was on that trip to witness a word she had previously given me come to pass..."God is going to bless you with a husband," she had said seven months before in Barbados to me.

Henry and I prayed and covenanted with each other. Six months later we were married, which would have made it one year since we started dating each other. Our engagement was not with a ring, but with a covenant sealed by prayer.

On February 15th, 2003, with permission from the Honorable Prime Minister - Cabinet Office, we had a national wedding held in the middle of Rawson Square, Down Town Nassau. It was the first cultural wedding to ever take place in the Bahamas. People came from everywhere. The visitors from the cruise ships had a great opportunity to see a Bahamian cultural wedding with dancers, Junkanoo, horse and carriage, and a red carpet to walk down the aisle on. Our wedding ceremony was officiated by Bishop Neil Ellis and the Father Giver

was the Hon. Neville Wisdom, the Minister of Youth, Sports and Culture and Pastor Paul Cockfield from New York.



There were over 40 persons that gave their lives to Christ after I preached the gospel that day. Couples renewed their vows also. The prophetic was spoken over our lives by prophets Vernon Blue, Paul Cockfield, and Ben Smith. The word was so profound, we are now walking it out. That day the spiritual and the cultural were married, and the Lord handed us the nation.

We knew that the arts were to be taken back in our nation and now God had found us, whom He knew would not be afraid to step into that calling.

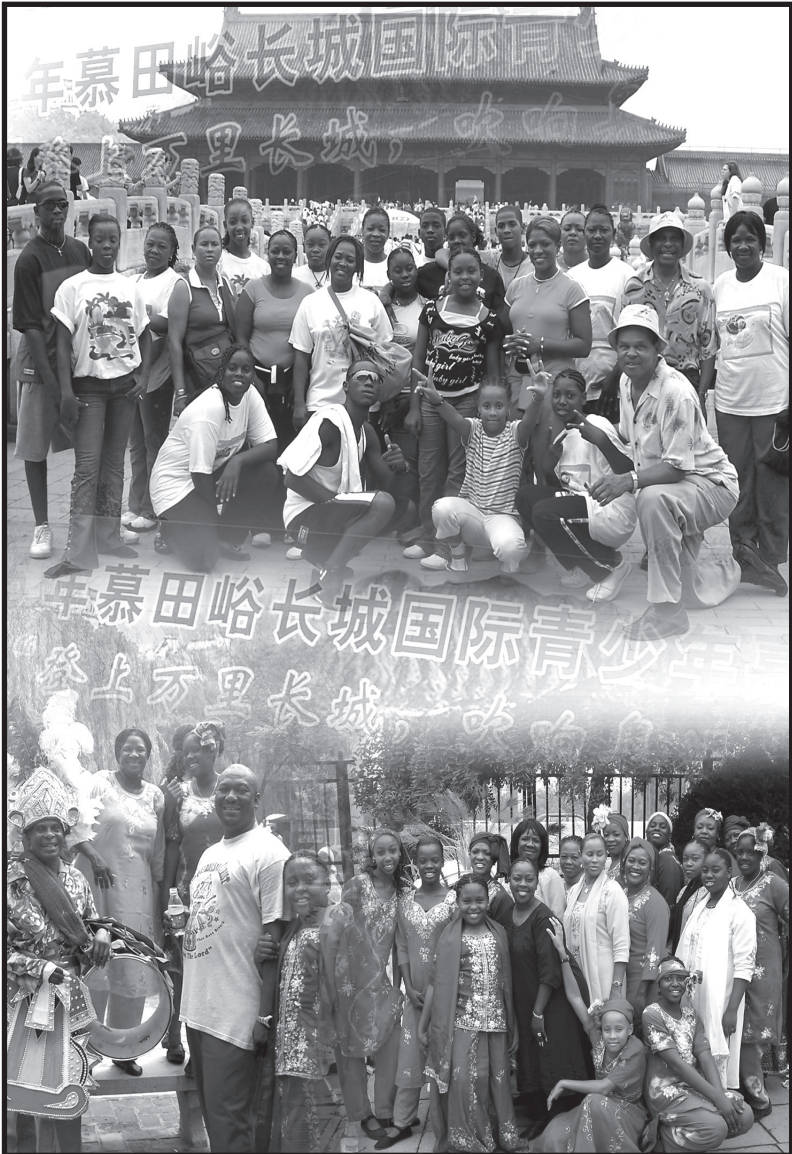
Henry, who was now my husband, had already put everything in order before we got married. Now we had both combined the dance school and the dance company as one. Our work began to double. The school began to increase. The Lord took me back to Ezekiel 36 verse 11, the word He had given me two years before:

I will multiply upon you, man and beast and they shall increase and bring fruit and I will settle you after your old estates and will do better unto you than at your beginnings and you shall know that I am Lord.

At all of the major events that we were called on to coordinate, we were able to gather hundreds of children to take participate on every occasion. The school and the dance company grew larger as well.

The following year we were invited by the Chinese Government to participate in the Meet-In-Beijing Festival in China. We were able to take 25 young persons to experience evangelism through the Arts. The Dance

Company was so well received we were welcomed back the next year and that time we were able to take more of the youth of the nation with us.



The same year we formed the Christian Junkanoo Group, which drew a lot of young persons, who eventually gave their hearts to the Lord. We used it as a tool to win the lost. Some of the young people were able to go on the second trip to China with the group. We made a great impact and were put on television in China.

In January 2004, Creative Christian Arts Ministry International was formed. This became a base for all the ministries we were operating in: CCDN Conference, Youth Corp Dance Company, Conquerors for Christ Junkanoo Group, Dance School, etc.

Our evangelistic outreach has taken us all over the world. We travel almost every week, mostly on weekends, teaching and preaching the gospel through the Arts. Our jobs in the Government give us opportunities to interact in Cultural Exchange from other countries and meet people in the Arts.

The Lord has blessed us and we have become partners in the gospel to see God's work be done on earth as it is in the heavens.

While preaching in Fort Pierce, Florida, for Pastor Tommie of The Flock that Rocks Church, I was listening to Minister Angela Seals speak and this was the prophetic words that I received as she taught:

The Body of Christ is crying out. Darkness is upon the face of the earth. My Spirit wants to move, but man seeks to do it his way and not My way. The voice of the Lord shall come through the prophetic demonstration

as a voice to the people that do not have an ear to hear what the Spirit of the Lord is saying to His people. The Spirit of the Lord moved within the midst of darkness and dispelled the plans of the enemy. When those that are chosen stand in the gap and pray, then God moves and heals the land. The voice of the Lord is calling for those that will pray, those that will seek His face and stand in the gap for the King who rules the nation. For God will do nothing in the earth unless a man stands in the gap.

The Lord is calling us in this hour to stand and be watchmen on the wall. Once you have been called to a vision, God requires your faithfulness. There must be one vision. More than one is division. You must be able to agree on the things that God had given you to carry out. The things you do must glorify God. He alone deserves the glory; it belongs to Him.

When making decisions, we must bear in mind the following verses of scripture:

He guides the humble in what is right and teaches them his way. (Psalm 25:9)

I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you and watch over you. (Psalm 32:8)

Do it God's way:

Teach me your way O Lord, lead me in a straight path because of my oppressors. (Ps. 27:11)

Do God's Will:

Teach me to do your will for you are my God, may your good spirit lead me on level ground. (Psalm 143:10)

If we follow the pattern of God for the work He has called us to do, we will affect the world with our gift.

The **G** in 'gift' means for us to **Go**;

The **I** means He will give us an **Invitation** to go;

The **F** means He will give us **Favor** when we go where we are invited;

The **T** means He will give us more **Time**. Time to go where we are invited with favor upon us and time to walk out the Invitation. That is what will happen when we use the gift God gave us.

Isaiah chapter 60 verse 1 says to me as much as it says to you, *'Arise and shine, for your light has come and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.'*

The Art forms—including music, dance, drama, writing, etc.—are all gifts from God, specially given to us to EXPOSE HIS GLORY; and for this reason our gifts must be used.

God has taken me—a star with no light—out of darkness and wrapped me in His glorious light; clothed me in His righteousness and patiently guided me into the purpose for which I was born, and that is: **'I WAS BORN TO DANCE!'**

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