

# Oaks of Righteousness

July 2004

From Broken Lives  
to Mended Hearts



## Blades of Grass

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*"I have given you knowledge and understanding to remain healthy and free of disease. Anything you don't know, ask. I have provided the Son for warmth, to melt away the coolness of the night. The warmth from this sun will bring growth to you. I have provided the rain, to nourish you, to allow every part of you to be full and active."*

With a sigh of relief, I rested in the soft, cool refreshment of healthy, thick green grass—God's nature-crafted mattress. As I lay there, a picture of the Body of Christ as "blades of grass," flashed before me. We are the place where people are to find rest, warmth from the coldness of sin, the refreshment of living water for a dry, thirsty world. I began to wonder just how healthy each blade of grass was. God designed each of us to seek life from our creator. In order to flourish, each blade extends its roots deep into the sustaining earth, where it draws water and nourishment. Each of us needs His living water, Jesus, to refresh us, cleanse us, and give us life. It is through that life we can sustain our health in times of heat and coldness. Deep roots allow the grass to withstand the cool of the night and the warmth of the sun.

## Focus and Balance

God designed everything to have a balance. God promises to teach us all things through the Holy Spirit, which He has given us. Is it because we try to do so many things that we fall short of what our duty really is.

What happens when we don't do our part, what God has called us to? How many of us have our hands and minds in several areas,

How healthy are our roots? Can we receive the fiery heat or the stiff coldness of a purging trial in our life? In each area of our lives where we do not seek our creator, the most High God, we will lack vibrant life and nourishment. In order to go deep in the spiritual things of God, we must avoid looking for quick fixes and quick gratification, which cause us to stay on the surface.

So many times we want to help our brothers and sisters beside us, but no matter what we do, they still remain unhealthy. As much as we would like to create growth in our brothers, we cannot put down roots for some one else. However, a young plant can enjoy the shelter of its healthy neighbors—the shelter of prayer and a Godly atmosphere which can partially shield the vulnerable from turmoil. Remember, though, staying deeply rooted in the Lord, staying healthy, is our reason-

able service. Each blade of grass is responsible to be healthy, thick and green. ✨ Pastor Virginia Robinson

Let my teaching fall like rain and my words descend like dew, like showers on new grass, like abundant rain on tender plants.

Deuteronomy 32:2



but are unable to completely flow in our own gifting? When we operate in our gifting, God gives us provision. How many ministries or organizations are doing a little of everything, but not focusing in on what God designed for them to do? Operating in too many areas can actually deny someone else the opportunity to use their gifts. When we work in areas outside of our gifting and calling, it creates tension, re-

quires extra effort, and usually produces poor results. When will we begin to work together, allowing each to specialize where God wants us? When we exercise what God has put inside us it blesses the body, our family, and us individually. ✨ Pastor Virginia Robinson

## Uganda Mission Trip

In March of this year Bobby and Juliette Alston, Oaks prayer ministers, went on a short term mission trip to Uganda with a team from Liberty Church. They had been asked to share Elijah House principles. With the assistance of Richard and Virginia Robinson, Oaks founders, four starter lessons were incorporated into a workbook format. Lessons covered such subjects as the Biblical Basis of Christian Prayer Ministry, Generational Sins and Curses, Bitter Root Judgments, and Inner Vows. These were intended for the bishops, pastors and leadership of Jubilee Christian Church, as well as for those parishioners interested in prayer ministry. Oaks of Righteousness donated the workbooks, titled "Christian Prayer Ministry Training Starter." In addition, Elijah House books by John and Paula Sandford were donated by Oaks to the bishops to further their Christian education and personal walk with the Lord. One of the books, "Restoring the Christian Family", was especially poignant. The traditional Uganda culture outside of the modern cities is male dominated. The women do the bulk of child rearing, domestic duty, and even agriculture work. In this culture, husbands are not very relational with their wives. Women are often seen as subservient. The men on the ministry staff of Jubilee Christian Church are being encouraged to spend more quality time with their wives and children. They are learning to serve their wives. This particular Elijah House lesson was very helpful to them.

In Uganda, ministry time was split between Jubilee Christian Church, in the capital

city of Kampala, and a new mission church in the village of Buggadde, located several miles outside of Jinja. Bobby and Juliette had several opportunities to teach and preach at each location. There was a special training session for the leadership of Jubilee Church in Kampala. This included many of the bishops and pastors. As the Lord led them, the team taught about Christian leadership development. One of the concepts was that their time was no longer their own; it all belongs to God. They are on God's time now. Using an interpreter, Bobby and Juliette summarized the starter lessons. They taught the concept of walking in forgiveness that prevents bitter roots from rising up within them. They encouraged the leadership that to do so would maximize their effectiveness in serving their people. The team shared personal testimonies about walking at a higher level of accountability and doing things for Christ with a spirit of excellence.

Revival messages were preached in the main church at Kampala during the team's first weekend in country. The Spirit moved mightily in each opportunity. The Ugandans were hungry for God's word and wanted to grow in the Lord. Many of them were young Christians desiring more solid food. With no prior planning or coordination, each team member's message or testimony carried a similar theme. Don't limit God; expect big things from the Master. He wants to move you beyond what you know as reality now into the fullness of His grace and abundance. It was amazing to see how well the messages flowed together. This was truly the work of

God.

During the second weekend in Kampala, the prayer ministry team worked with people who were interested in pursuing prayer ministry or who were looking for healing. Once again, personal testimonies were shared. An impromptu teaching was given, designed by God, on how He uses our relationships with one another to help heal us. Using the workbooks, Bobby and Juliette, working through an interpreter, shared all four lessons in a condensed fashion. Juliette likes to say that she never knew Bobby could talk so fast.

The bulk of the mission trip was spent in the village of Buggadde. Many of the children in the village have never seen a "white" person. Many of our team members were quite a novelty to the villagers. In the afternoons, the team taught this young congregation within the grass walls of the newly constructed church. At night, messages were preached to the village from a platform lit by 3 bare light bulbs. Uganda has the most interesting bugs that are attracted to light at nighttime. Altar calls were challenging; the team alternated laying hands on people and swatting bugs.

Working through interpreters, they taught about generational sins and curses, inner vows, bitter root judgments, and bitter root expectations. Interspersed throughout the teachings,

the Alstons shared relevant parts of their testimonies. Not only did the congregation give positive feedback but also team members talked about how the teachings affected them. It is amazing to see that the Elijah



*Mission trip to Uganda, Africa.*

**Altar calls were challenging; the team alternated laying hands on people and swatting bugs.**



*Being in Uganda was much more than just a cultural experience.*

*Uganda Mission Trip Continued*

House biblical principles, written for a Western audience, still apply to people who live in remote villages halfway around the world.

The team, in agreement with Dave Cain and Apostle Wilson Kulaba, decided early on in the week that the men of the village should be the focus of the evangelism crusade. If the men accepted Christ, they were sure to bring their households along. The men of the church were exhorted "to love their wives as Christ loved the church." At

night, the men on the team shared their testimonies and preached to the men of the village, challenging them to become real men by accepting Christ. Altar calls were held each night following the preaching. Many men accepted the challenge to receive Christ into their hearts. Following the call for salvation, the altar was opened each night for healing and deliverance. Pastor Dave or Apostle Wilson would lead this with the team down in front to lay hands on people. This was a special move of the Holy Spirit as the

team could not understand the villagers and they could not speak English. We learned to move in the Spirit.

The Alston's counted it as pure joy to see how God used the Elijah House principles to build relationships and bring healing into lives. God's Word truly goes out and does not come back void. It is amazing to see that people who live halfway around the world in remote areas have the same heart, the same hurts, and the same hunger for God's love and His total healing. 🙏

**We want to thank Juliette Alston for writing the Uganda article.**

**If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer.**

**Matthew 21:22**

*Prayer Requests:*

\*Pray for the speakers and the students who are participating in our first Restoration Series, a Breakthrough seminar with a specific focus. Pray for protection and for God's will to be done through this series, this is His work not ours and we want Him to have the Glory and to see persons walk in more and more freedom and blessings.

\*Pray for Oaks, God is opening new doors and we need volunteers to support the work we are called to do. Pray for protection and discernment and for the resources needed to continue the work. Pray for clarity of purpose.

\*Pray for volunteers and supporters, active and at rest, that Father will minister to them from His Rest.

\*Pray for our leadership, nationally and locally. Pray for the anointed outpouring on the President and all in authority over us.

\*Pray that God will make Himself manifest to hungry hearts and that people will be ripe to receive His blessings.

\*Pray for wisdom for the prayer ministers as they seek His heart for healing ministry.

\*Pray for our youth, especially for those going on mission trips this summer; God is raising up a new army for His purposes.

\*Pray for each other that our hearts and spirits will be open to hear and receive from Father's heart.

\*Pray for our clients: marriage issues, identity issues, depression, abuse, grief and Dissociative Identity Disorders. Pray for protection for them so they may be hidden while they are becoming vulnerable in the healing process.

\*Pray for the new trainees in our program. Pray for their ability to hear God. Pray for sensitivity to the hearts of our clients.

\*Pray for Richard and Virginia as they develop the new training programs that God has birthed in their hearts.

*Coming Soon to Liberty Church:*

**August 3rd** Elijah House Basic 1 Video School. Cost is \$300.00 ( includes all textbooks and workbook).

**August 3rd** Break-through To Joy. 12 weeks of live teachings and small group following each talk. Cost is \$140.00.

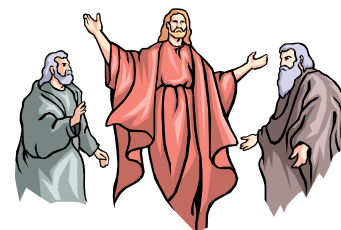
**November 9th** Theophostic Basic Seminar

**Sign up on the Waiting List for Men and Women's Restoration Series**

***Childcare is provided for all events.***

Please go to our website at [oaksofrighteousness.org](http://oaksofrighteousness.org) and sign up today.

Any questions? Just call our office at 770-428-8157.



*Praise the Lord for all He has done and all He has yet to do.*

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### An Appreciation Picnic on July 24th

for Oaks Donors, Leaders, and Participants

**Date:** July 24th, 2004

**Time:** 12:00 Noon

**Place:** Kellogg Creek Day Pavilion

Bells Ferry Rd. (North) to Kellogg's Creek

Turn left on Kellogg's Creek

Turn left into Park

**RSVP:** Please call our office and let us know if you are coming so we'll know how many people to plan for.

## *Keeping an Open Heart Before the Lord*

The enemies of our souls and hearts are subtle and, oh, so sly. Every step we take to get closer to the Lord, to answer that still, small voice in the depths of our being, seems to attract an attack from the enemy. There was a popular expression during my growing-up years: "Little pitchers have big ears." Do you remember that one? It has an application to our spiritual walk also.

Every time we seek the Lord, if there is any residual tendrils of un-confessed sin in our hearts, the enemy has a legal right to revisit us and torment us with another variation of the original lies we believed about ourselves. Some call them inner vows, or lies or strongholds, but they all have one thing in common; we don't trust God to do what He said He would do. Every new revelation from Father God, every new desire to be closer to Him, to worship Him more, to minister His life into others, to pray for others, to hear from Him, to speak His Word—these indications that the Lord is doing a good work in our lives, these set us up for a battleground experience. It is true that the battlegrounds become smaller or even change shape with each victory.

The reason we still struggle is that we didn't fully repent of these residual sins; and they are still plaguing us in each new circumstance.

There is only one cure. Just as we asked God to come into our hearts and save us, we must ask Him to come into our hearts and reveal to us any hidden agenda that is not of Him, any mo-

tive, any attitude, any aspect of our personality type that leans toward un-loveliness—such as criticism, judgment, envy, jealousy, etc. These things sometimes come like a flash across our minds. Sometimes it happens when we are preparing our hearts for communion. Other times a sinful thought comes right after a wonderful church experience—at a time we might think we shouldn't be vulnerable to such a distraction. What to do when these unlovelies rise up to meet you? Pray. Such a small word, pray. Turn it over to the Lord; forgive those who spitefully used you, pray for the situations you don't like or that seem to be moving in the wrong direction. Pray for God's manifest presence. Most of all, speak and pray blessings into the lives of others, even those you don't know well. Flash prayers are a wonderful way to get your mind off of the nagging thoughts clogging your walk. Release blessings to others; they will certainly come back to you.

We must keep our hearts open to allow Father to show you the good, the bad and the ugly inside. As we repent and receive our forgiveness, we keep the roadway ahead of us clear and uncluttered so Father can deliver us from evil thoughts and demonic influences before they can roost.

Is your heartscape clean? Give Father permission to sweep out the ugly and the bad and to plant the good.... He delights in doing that... and you will be delighted, too. ☺

Blessings, Lisa

Director of Manna Ministry  
Prayer division of Oaks