

2018

MOMENTS THAT MATTER



By Chrystal Hurst

I'm grateful that my family is close.
We get together often - holidays,
birthdays, and just because. As
thankful as we are for the opportunity
to spend time with each other
frequently, I think we would all admit
that sometimes we look at each
other and think... are we getting
together again?

In all honesty, the meeting up "just because" can feel like a strain sometimes — like one more thing to do in a long list of things I am already struggling to get to.

It's easy to lose sight of the fact that the most abundant things in life are also easily taken for granted.

In recent weeks, my perspective has shifted. An upcoming move for part of our family will make it a little less often that we are all together. As the date of the change creeps closer, I'm acutely aware of how important each moment is now and has been over the years.

Why? Because our perspective changes when we realize that what we have now isn't promised forever.

As I reflect on changing seasons, I've spent time looking through old photos and my heart is acutely aware that many of the everyday moments have been the very moments that my life — our lives — have been made of. And I am grateful.

Life is change. This means that we ought to always maintain an attitude of gratitude so we never lose sight of what there is to appreciate and celebrate in our everyday.

The problem is the everyday can often just seem like a string of moments that hook together. Usual. Unexciting. Uneventful. But if you live long enough, you will realize that the usual, unexciting, and even uneventful moments have been a gift. The gift of life is to live your moments full because it's in the moment to moment that you create a life that matters.

While life is change, Jesus never changes. Hebrews 13:8 says that Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and forever. And the same God that never changes states over and over in His Word that we are to be a grateful people. 1 Chronicles 16:34 says, "Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; His love endures forever". 1 Thessalonians 5:18 tells us to, "Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus". Colossians 3:17 reminds us that in "...whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him".

God wants you to be grateful — for the spectacular celebrations in your life but also for the uneventful day to day.

And if you choose to look at your life with the lens of a grateful heart, you might just discover the the usual, unexciting, uneventful everyday are the wonderful moments that makes for a very meaningful life.

Chrystal is an energetic, life-loving "girl-next-door" who loves encouraging others to fulfill their potential in Christ. She firmly believes in Jeremiah 29:11, "I know the plans that I have for you..." and she desires to help others believe and apply that truth to their lives as well. In addition to her work in ministry, Chrystal works at home as the COO (Chief Operating Officer), cultivating hearts and commanding chaos. She is a mother of five and homeschools three boys around the kitchen table while hugging two adult girls, a son-in-love, a granddaughter and grandson every chance she gets. Chrystal is grateful to share her life with a gentle giant named Jessie who had no idea what he was getting into when he asked her to marry him, bless his heart.

THIS MONTH'S VERSE FOR MEMORY/MEDITATION:

In everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

1 Thessalonians 5:18

JULY PRAYER FOCUS

Pray for our conferences!

Pray for those leading, volunteering and attending.

Pray for extra strength for those putting in long hours to provide an environment that will bring hearts and souls closer to the Lord.

SAVE THE DATE!

IT'S ALMOST TIME! HAVE YOU REGISTERED?



As women, we know life can quickly spin out of control where we find ourselves in a stormy season that can rock or uproot our world. God's promises you peace...for when you are Anchored: God's Got You.

We are excited about this year's conference lineup of amazing Kingdom women who are passionate about God and committed to helping you become anchored, knowing that God's got you in every season of life. Join Dr. Lois Evans, Anita Carman, Eleanor Webb, June Evans, Beverly Crawford, Chrystal Evans Hurst as our Praise & Worship Leader and Conference Emcee Priscilla Shirer.

Register today at <u>ocbfchurch.org/dfj</u> and get ready to experience God personally, His people collectively, and His purpose uniquely just for you!

The cost is \$35 with children's ministry available for \$10 per child. Registration for childcare is required.

HOT TOPICS

RACE · SEXUALITY · FALSE THEOLOGIES

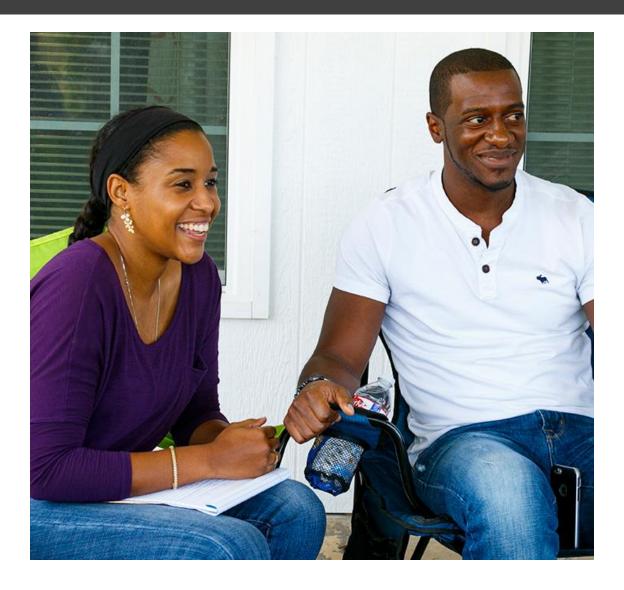
Don't miss hearing Pastor Tony Evans on the failure of the Church to set God's standard in the culture.

THAT'S WEDNESDAY NIGHTS @ THE CLIFF

Have you joined us for Summer Hot Topics? If you haven't, you're missing out! Pastor Evans has done an excellent job addressing hot topics in our culture today. We are having thought-provoking conversations on race, sexuality and false theologies. Don't miss the power-packed Wednesday night service. There are still a few weeks remaining. Oh and did we mention there will be food trucks? Hope to see you there!

Note: Due to the holiday, there will be no Bible Study on July 4th.

PRE-MARITAL COUNSELING



Come discover God's amazing truths about marriage and become equipped to say 'I Do' in our 10-week Premarital Course, offered quarterly with classes weekly on Tuesday evenings.

WHO SHOULD REGISTER?

- Seriously dating couples
- Engaged couples
- Couples who have at least six months before their anticipated wedding date.

Click here for more information and to register.

ENCOURAGEMENT FOR YOU



Want to read more words from encouragement from ladies of OCBF? Visit the <u>Encourage</u> <u>Yourself</u> on the Women's Fellowship webpage.

NEED MORE INFORMATION?

For more information on anything mentioned in this newsletter, click on the button below to be redirected to the <u>Women's Fellowship webpage.</u>

OCBF Women's Fellowship







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