



DIVAS CONNECTION

July-September 2007

Volume 1 • Issue 2

Happy Anniversary **DIVAS!**

By Roline Thomas (DivaT)



Roline Thomas

By definition, an anniversary is about the past. We celebrate the fact that, over the past year lives have been touched, new relationships have been established, and most of all, God has been glorified.

The DIVAS Ministry was commissioned by God to minister to the spiritual and emotional needs of the total woman. We purpose to communicate to every woman her status as an image-bearer of God, affirming her dignity, worth and giftedness, and inviting her to cultivate a personal relationship with our Lord Jesus Christ. As I reflect over the past year, I rejoice in the fact that this ministry continues to fulfill its God given purpose and mission. We have laughed together and cried together. Although the sistas reside in different locations across the world, our bond is so close that when one of us is hurting we all feel the pain.

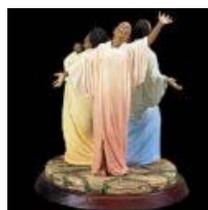
It has been an honor serving as leader of the DIVAS Ministry. My faith and my ministry continues to grow as I am challenged to lead this unique and diverse group of women. I am daily humbled and at the same time nourished and inspired by the privilege of being let into the lives my DIVA SISTAS. Having the opportunity to shepherd and give leadership to this ministry, while at the same time sharing the journey of ministry with you, is another great and cherished privilege for me.

Borrowing the words of a country Baptist preacher-----DIVAS Ministry is getting "goder and goder".

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Love & Encouragement from a few **DIVAS!**



This ministry has been a great blessing to me and the ones that I have come in contact with because it has made see some of my faults and answers some of my questions and to meet others with the same problems as I. I love the DIVAS Ministry. Thank God for the vision that He gave DivaT for us yearning women of God. Thank you DivaT for being obedient to the voice of God for again my soul has been blessed!!! —Prazndiva (Berle)

There are not enough words to express how grateful I am to you, (Diva T), DivaBear, Unique Diva, DivaLynn and all the Intercessors for Divas Ministry. I am so appreciative for all the hard work you Sistahs do. My body, mind and soul have been ministered to and educated from the kitchen to the bedroom to the sanctuary. Not only have I grown in my Christian walk of life but I have gained knowledge and new friendships. Thank you so much. You are a God-sent. I pray God's continued blessings in your ministries. —Mil (DivaJaz)

Divas!



DIVAS in the Spotlight

by Vanessa Miller



KERPASHA DAVIS
 “UniqueDiva”
 DIVAS Relations Coordinator

Kerpasha Davis, known to us as UniqueDiva, is an administrator and web designer by trade, who hails from Albany, Georgia. She is married and the proud mother

of one six year old boy, with one on the way. Unique’s husband works for the cable company, and is a wonderful husband and father.

Unique has many hobbies, which include shopping, reading, travelling, music, interior designs, and fashion. She stays very busy, as she holds many positions in her home church. Unique is a member of Lion of Judah International Ministries in Albany, where she serves as a Psalmist (Praise and Worship Team), Minstrel (Keyboard player), Daughter of Shiloh and GOLD (liturgical dancer), deaconess, teacher, armor bearer, webmaster, usher assistant, and a member of the prophetic team. Additionally, Unique assists her husband in Multimedia ministry, and serves as an administrative secretary and executive secretary to her Apostle and his wife.

Regarding her ministry call, Unique says,

In this season I believe that God has called and anointed me to minister and teach young women. God has allowed many to see and receive me as a “Big Sister”. In my conversations I hear a cry to be held accountable for a Godly, virtuous and holy lifestyle among women. (Prov. 31:10) Through this, there is an opportunity to reveal spiritually guidance and instruction. Many times being single has been a negative status, however singles can enjoy being a saved, single and successful D I V A (divinely inspired, virtuous & anointed).

My God given assignment is go into all the world proclaiming His word and speaking the truth to all, making apostolic impact on all I come in contact with.

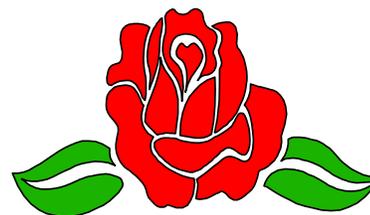
Unique has a website, www.queenkdesigns.org, that she uses to provide non-profit organizations with websites and business forms and materials at an affordable price. She realizes that a lot of churches and ministries cannot afford these services, so her website is there to meet that need at a more affordable price. Her goal through this business is “To Serve the Kingdom in Excellence”.

Unique says she joined DIVAS because she likes the name, and believes that we can all be godly DIVAS. Her goal as a DIVA is to *show that there are women of God with style and class that can be virtuous and holy without compromising or conforming to the world’s standards to get what they want.* She emphasizes being able to be attractive and stylish, and not looking “thrown away” compared to others because she serves the Lord. She says, *God is King of kings, so as one who reigns with him, I should look and be as one who is a king or queen.*

She says that during her time as part of the DIVAS, she has learned a lot about dealing with different people and personalities, and about when to speak and when to keep silent, along with many other valuable lessons. DIVAS has helped her to believe that she is indeed a DIVA, and to walk and act like one who is virtuous in every area of her life.

Unique’s final thoughts about herself:

My mission and goal in life is to carry out God’s will and purpose that He has placed on the inside of me. I’m not trying to be like anyone else other than who God created me to be! I am fearfully and wonderfully made, therefore I owe him my UNIQUE PRAISE!!!





**Diva Mika's
TECH
TIPS**

By Tamika Sue Cashaw

Keep your computer cool this summer. Summer means heat. Heat causes your computer to run slow. To help your computer beat the heat this summer:



1. Elevate your computer off the floor.
2. Place your computer in a cool part of the house.
3. Don't run your computer on extremely hot days.
4. Keep the area around your computer clean and dust free.



**CAMILLE'S
(JR. DIVA)
BBQ BATTERED
CHICKEN**

Ingredients:

- 1 Cup buttermilk
- ½ cup Kraft's Honey Smoked BBQ Sauce
- McCormick's Grill Mates BBQ Seasoning
- 4 Boneless Skinless Chicken breast, cut into 1 inch pieces
- ¾ cp all purpose flour
- ½ tbsp salt
- ½ tsp pepper
- Vegetable oil

Preparation:

Mix buttermilk, BBQ Sauce, and ½ tbsp BBQ seasoning in a large Ziploc bag. Add chicken and refrigerate for 4 hours. Occasionally turn the bag.

Remove chicken from bag. In a mixing bowl, combine flour, salt, pepper, and 1 ½ tbsp BBQ seasoning. Dredge chicken in flour mixture.

Fry in vegetable oil until golden.

The Atmosphere of My Heart

With war raging all around me
When sin tries to prevail
Let my heart maintain the atmosphere
Where You'll continually dwell

Though Satan comes against me
To trouble me on every side
May this temple ever be a lace
Fit for Your Spirit to reside

Though my flesh sometimes feels weak toward You
When it's time to kneel and pray
Lord, please grant me Your strength to overcome
And draw nigh unto You every day

Help me guard the atmosphere of my heart
From the poison that tries to creep in
Though turmoil may be all about
Let Your peace abide within

Though the god of this world operates in the air
You reign inside my heart
Lord, please preserve this atmosphere
That Your Spirit will never depart

Vanessa L. Miller

07/23/05



Where is your Power?

By Renee Abshire

What power do you possess to change those around you? What a complex question this is! For do we really recognize who we are, and what we have within us.

Society as a whole looks upon the outward appearances, and determines a person's worth by their ethnicity; education; or physical essence. Many people determine where you are going by your past. But God has an entirely different value, and balance system. Psalm 139:14; *for I am fearfully, and wonderfully made.* Genesis 1:26-27, God said; *let us make man in our image. So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he him; male, and female created he them.* We are the expressed image of our Father. We have all been created equally before him, and each other.

How is it then, that we allow the enemy to dictate to us what we are, and what we are going to do. When God has clearly told us; Jeremiah 29:11, *For I know the thoughts that I think towards you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.* Do you really know who you are? Do you know the power that lives within you? Romans 8:11, *But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.* What kind of power is this? This is the power that gives us the authority to walk into the devils camp, and take back what belongs to us. Remember Jesus conquered death, hell, and the grave, and took the keys of hell, and of death; Revelations 1:18. He defeated all things that we may walk in total victory.

There remains one problem that lies within every believer's path, and this is the warfare of our souls. It is the battlefield of our minds, and our choices. How many times has the enemy placed an idea within your mind, and you allowed that thought to grow, and before you knew it you had begun to speak that thing. Proverbs 6:2, *Thou art snared with the words of thy mouth, thou art taken with the words of thy mouth.* Proverbs 18:20-21, *A man's belly shall be satisfied with the fruit of his mouth; and with the increase of his lips shall he be filled; Death, and life are in the power of the tongue, and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof.* This is the truth of our own defeat. Once we allow our mouth's to speak those words of destruction; then life is given to that seed that waits dormant for the soil to be added, and our mouth's add the soil for it to be planted, and grown.

God has laid out all things before us within the word. He even gives us the answer to the question that we ask foolishly everyday. Deuteronomy 30:19, *I have set before you life, and death, blessing, and cursing; therefore choose life, that both thou, and thy seed may live.* You may ask how do I choose life? We choose Christ in everything we do, and in everything we say. There used to be an old saying "What would Jesus do". My question to you is what would Jesus do?

Galatians 5:22-25, *But the fruit of the spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance, against such there is no law. And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections, and lusts. If we live in the Spirit; let us also walk in the Spirit. This is who Jesus was, and this was his response to every situation.* What is your response today? If it is anything but this, then you need to crucify your flesh as verse 24 says. We have to die that Christ may live within us.

So how do we change those around us? Well the first thing we have to understand is what has God actually called us to do, and what has he equipped us to do. Only God can change a heart, but he has equipped us with one of the most powerful gifts he gave this world, and that is the gift of LOVE. There is nothing like the love of God. It is unconditional, it is never changing, it is constant; it is humble. For it will reach to the depths of your sin, and cover your multitude of sins, and it will draw you to repentance. What each, and everyone of us need is the pure love of God. It is because of this love that we have redemption today. It was this love that held Jesus to the cross. His love gives us hope, and births within us life to see ourselves through his eyes as valuable, and precious.

Here in lies the key that God has given to each of us. The key is the power of his love. His love can change the hardest heart, and heal the deepest sin. His love is the one thing that can unlock any prison door, and set all captives free. We each hold within our hands these keys to the kingdom of God, and it all lies with you. Will you choose to use this key, or will you choose to turn a deaf ear to the truth of his love for you, and others.

DivaT journey's to **AFRICA!**

Jambo! (Hello)

This past May, DivaT embarked on a 12-day mission trip to Nairobi, Kenya. The mission team consisted of 4 couples from her church, St. Mark Baptist Church in Little Rock, AR, who served as speakers/teachers for the Ridgeways Baptist Church Couples Convention, under the pastoral leadership of Pastor Elijah Wanje.



The team conducted marriage seminars over a three day period. Each couple was assigned to a district meeting which divided the couples into smaller groups. Some of the topics included: God's Purpose for Marriage, Building Companionship, Resolving Conflict, Accountability in Marriage, and Midlife Crisis.

DivaT and her husband (Pastor E. Thomas) also had the honor of being the guest speakers at the Convention's Banquet. Approximately 150 couples listened intentionally as they spoke on *"Harmony through the Sweet and Sour"*. After the message, they answered questions relating to marriage issues that were submitted by some of the attendees. Culminating the experience, Pastor Thomas delivered the 11 a.m. Sunday morning worship message at Ridgeways Baptist Church.



The team also got an opportunity to minister at a few schools in the city, one of which was located in the poverty stricken slums. The condition of the school was deplorable, however, the school's administrator never stopped testifying as to how blessed they were.

DivaT is grateful to the DIVAS for covering the mission team with prayers. To DIVAS she says *asante sana* (thank you very much).



For the Single Sistas

In Philippians 4:11 Paul says, *"Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content."* The Greek word for content means "satisfied with one's lot".

On your job, your supervisor will not trust you with additional responsibility if you are not putting forth the best effort and performing in excellence with the present tasks he has assigned you. You will never get a promotion by griping and complaining about your current position nor will it come by fantasizing about being in the position of another. A single person must be satisfied with the place God has positioned him to be in order to be trusted with more.

Too many times, singles spend time seeking out marriage and never appreciate being single. So, first and foremost, ENJOY your singleness. Do all God has called you to do.



I SHALL NOT WANT!

By Vanessa Miller

I shared on the message board a while ago about a problem I had with seeking the approval of others. As I began talking to God about it, I found that the problem was bigger than that. I was looking to others for what can only be truly found in God. That was a profound revelation for me.

Suddenly I understood some of the problems in many of my relationships. There is guaranteed to be trouble when you expect something of someone that they are not capable of providing. Certainly a mere mortal cannot fill the place in my heart that was intended to be filled by God and God alone.

It's a delicate balance because in this life, we need people. We need family, friends, associates, yes, even enemies. All of these relationships help make us who we are. The problem comes when our priorities get out of whack. If God is in his rightful place in our lives, we will be able to weather the storms that involve our family, friends, and the rest of the people in our lives.

So as I prayed, I told God that I wanted him to be my source. The Bible says we look to Jesus because he is the author and the finisher of our faith. That means he wrote the book on our life, and he's able to bring to pass everything he has spoken about us. For every need we have or ever will have, provision is already made. All that we need from start to finish is in him.

The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want. The twenty-third Psalm is so familiar to many of us, that we can probably quote it in our sleep, but when it came to me in light of this particular situation, I suddenly saw it in a whole new light. The Psalm relates everything to a sheep and shepherd relationship, but everything mentioned serves as an example of a need that God, our shepherd, provides:

He maketh me to lie down (Rest)
In green pastures (Sustenance)
He leadeth me beside the still waters (Peace)
He restoreth my soul (Restoration/Refreshing)
He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake (Guidance)
Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil (Protection/Security)
For thou art with me (Companionship)
Thy rod and thy staff they comfort me (Comfort/Assurance)
Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies (Favor)
Thou anointest my head with oil (Promotion/Approval)
My cup runneth over (Joy)
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life (more Favor!)
And I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever (Acceptance)

We're all like puzzles with missing pieces, and we try to find the right piece to fill the void in us. When the puzzle comes out of the box, all the pieces needed to put it together were in that box. Sometimes we search all over for a piece of the puzzle that was there all along. You may have thought it was insignificant and pushed it to the side, and it got covered up by things that seemed more important at the time. But it was there all along. He was there all along. You may have even seen the piece early on, but as the puzzle of your life was in the beginning stages of coming together, God didn't seem like the right fit. He didn't seem like the solution you were seeking. So you sought for a piece to complete you. You searched high and low, looking for what you needed in other people, but they are a puzzle themselves, and they don't have the piece to fill your void. Only he can do that, he is the missing piece.

My prayer for each of us is that as we go through life and things happen in our various relationships, we realize that God is our source. He's a constant, unlimited supply for every need we may have. People our fallible and prone to fail just as we are, but as long as we our connected to our main source, we shall not want!



Thank You DIVAS
By Mil Bennett-Powell
(Diva Jaz)

I asked God for one true friend;
 "I only need one", I pled.
 Not one friend did He send,
 He sent me my Divas instead.

Divine Divas fashioned by God,
 We're directed by Diva T;
 Whose **Inspiring** character encourages all
 To be the best that we can be.

Though **Virtuous** women we all lay claim,
 Not withstanding, we're not so consumed;
 With religion that we don't take the time
 To enjoy the Boom Boom Room.

I thank God for my **Anointed** friends
 And I thank you Divas too;
 For allowing me in your **Sista**-hood,
 And blessing me the way you do.

Divas
Connecting



DivaLynn & DivaT

In March, Divas Director Roline Thomas (DivaT) and her husband Earnest had the honor and privilege of meeting Reno resident and Divas Newsletter Coordinator Vanessa Miller (DivaLynn) in Las Vegas, Nevada.

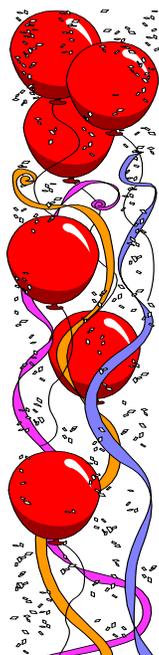
"The highlight of my vacation was meeting Nessa! I felt like I was meeting a celebrity----but also a long lost sister. When we first caught sight of one another, we ran with arms open, to one another", said DivaT.



DivaLynn & Earnest

DivaLynn added, "I had a blast in Vegas! SisterT is every bit the DIVA that I expected. Big Daddy (Earnest) is such a nice guy, I really felt like I was hooking up with family. Time was too short."

Let's Celebrate!



Birthdays

- Sis Abshire 6/29
- GraceandMercy 7/5
- DivaLuv 7/7
- CESharp 7/11
- HolyGhostGirl 7/24
- DivaLynn 8/10
- 1CuteDiva 8/27
- Bronzee 9/10
- Che'Diva 9/12
- MinistryMinded 9/18

Anniversaries

- CESharp 6/16
- Che'Diva 7/10
- 1CuteDiva 7/17
- DivaMika 7/28
- Bronzee 7/30
- ZJLegacy 7/31
- DivaJaz 7/31
- DivaT 8/8

THE NEWSLETTER NEEDS YOU!

There are so many things that can be included in the DIVAS CONNECTION! You may have an inspiring story or testimony, a funny happening from your congregation, your children, or from your marriage. Perhaps you have enjoyed writing and would like to simply share your gift with us. Please feel free to contribute, comment and suggest items for OUR newsletter.

This newsletter is for you, and preferably from you. I'm sure you would get tired of always hearing from me, and not from anyone else so submit your article(s) soon. Deadlines are as follows:

- For April issue - Feb. 10th
- For July Issue - June 10th
- For October Issue - September 10th
- For January Issue - February 10th.

Guidelines are listed on our website, www.DIVASMinistry.org. Articles can be emailed to DivasConnection@divasministry.org.



Behind DIVAS Ministry



Roline Thomas (DivaT) is founder and director of DIVAS Ministry and co-director of Earnest and Roline Ministries. A gifted and anointed teacher and minister of the gospel, Roline is married to Pastor Earnest Thomas and they have four daughters and two grandchildren. Roline, a native of New Orleans, LA, resides in Little Rock AR.

email - DivaT@divasministry.org



Cathy Jacobs (DivaBear) is the DIVAS General Coordinator, overseeing the total work of the DIVAS Ministry. Cathy is prayer warrior with a heart for ministry. She is passionate about her call to minister God's Word to women. Cathy resides in Baltimore, Maryland.

email - DivaBear@divasministry.org



Kerpasha Davis (UniqueDiva), DIVAS Relations Coordinator, serves as the ministry's human resource person. Kerpasha is responsible for discovering the needs and concerns of members by keeping in close contact with the women. A psalmist of the highest order, she sings words of inspiration and peace. Kerpasha resides in Albany Georgia with her husband, Ricardo, and their son.

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Vanessa Miller (DivaLynn), of Sparks, Nevada, serves as the DIVAS Connection Newsletter Assistant. A gifted writer, musician, teacher of the Word, Vanessa is a compassionate and loving woman of God. She ministers messages of hope and encouragement in the DIVAS Ministry.

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Tamika Sue Cashew (DivaMika), of Bellwood, Illinois, serves as the DIVAS Special Projects Assistant. With her vast knowledge of computers, she conducts computer training classes within the DIVAS Ministry. Tamika is married and the proud mother of two sons.

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THE 411.....

DIVAS Ministry

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Earnest and Roline Ministries

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