



# Lift Up Your Head with Christian Women's Job Corps

June 2011

A ministry of WMU

Site Coordinator  
Shelia Banks  
5025 Spring Creek Drive  
Guntersville, AL 35976  
256-572-8969 Shelia cell  
www.cwjcofguntersville.org  
sheliabanks49@yahoo.com

## On the Front Lines

By Site Coordinator Shelia Banks

A few months ago CWJC and I had a birthday. Where did the time go? How did we make it this far? Where did these donors and volunteers come from? Will they still keep coming and giving? Will they lose their passion for this ministry?

I said, "Lord, If you'd told me how hard this was going to be, you know I would have said, 'I can't do that.'"

But, the Lord brought to mind the miracles I've seen and the lives He's changed through this awesome ministry. I said, as I've said before, "I love my job!"

It was four years ago in January that I first sat in the CWJC office provided by my church and looked through my site coordinator's training manual — a manual I got from the Woman's Missionary Union in their training program two months before.

It's pretty thick! *How we have grown and grown up!*

We went from nothing to having 63 graduates in eight sessions; from a handful of my friends trying to do everything all at once to groups of special volunteers — instructors, mentors, board members, meal providers, office help, people who give us money for expenses, people who underwrite the cost of getting one woman through four months of training, one-of-a-kind donors and volunteers who meet special needs the women have.

God's kingdom has new citizens because of this program. We fulfill Jesus' Great Commission and Great Commandment through this program. The women who persevere in what they learn have become overcomers, better mothers, got jobs, got married, got their GED, got training, gone to college, joined churches, walked away from bad habits and bad relationships, found their sense of self-worth in Jesus and their backbone in society.



Shelia and Randall Banks

It was not easy four years ago. But now this organization is stronger, the workload shared, and new people continue to come and make life on the front lines easier. It is still hard on these front lines sometimes, but the blessings outdo the heartbreaks! *I praise God for all of you, and "I still love my job!"*

*P.S. My husband, Randall, is such a great support to my CWJC ministry, and I just wanted to include his picture in the newsletter this time, to surprise and thank him!*



**ALL CWJC past participants and friends have a Bible Study every Wednesday, including summer, 9-11 a.m. at Lake City Assembly of God**

\*\*\*

**The CWJC Fall Session Begins August 23**

### May 2011 Class

*Left to right. Jessica Fernandez, Ashley Terrell, Malerie Chaneyworth, Mary Trevino, Michelle Werner, Michelle Rush, Charlene Snyder, Shelia Banks, Beverly Reece, Holly Jackson, Tiffany Martin, Danielle Hovesepion.*

## Snapshot of a Class

Nineteen women began the CWJC Spring 2011 session back in January. Eleven women ranging in age from 19 to 46 completed it in May.

Only two of them live in what might be called a traditional marriage, and all but one have children. Two drove from New Hope and one of these had perfect attendance.

Some needed gas money, car repair, medical treatment for their children, emergency dental care, a friend in the courtroom. All needed somebody to care about them.

As they revealed their lives to us, we learned that at least four were repeatedly

raped as children by someone they trusted, and at least three turned to drugs -- both of these experiences seem to produce a woman filled with rage and devoid of hope. (*CWJC requires participants to be clean from drug use before they begin the program.*)

Most dropped out of high school. All without high school education began the GED preparation class offered during the CWJC program. One has already taken her GED test during the session and passed. We asked for additional help for a math tutor and the Lord filled that need.

None was employed at the beginning of class and two got jobs even as classes continued. Now that classes are over, we pray others will use the information and skills

they have been taught to complete their education and find employment.

Almost all of the graduates from this class spoke of finding new hope and courage through faith in God, and five spoke of a specific salvation experience. Four that we know of are attending church.

**PLEASE PRAY.** They have been filled with information about doing life a new way -- both practically and spiritually. Please pray for them as they now work with their CWJC mentors to get this new information integrated wholly into their lives.

## Invitation to Ministry

by Assistant Site Coordinator Nancy Bonner

Oh, how our women need a real friend! A Christian friend to talk to and help them understand freedom in Christ and how faith works out in the day-to-day living of life.

That's what a mentor does. Every CWJC graduate has had a lot of new learning poured into her life. What they need as they leave is someone to help them get that learning incorporated into a lifestyle.



Nancy Bonner



One of my most meaningful tasks as assistant site coordinator for CWJC is to train, guide and encourage mentors. Near the end of a session when Shelia and I soul search and pray about who to “pair-up” — graduate and mentor — we often find that the Lord has sent exactly the ones that are right for the job. We find these beautiful women through you. Please refer your Christian friends to us at CWJC, for we find that this special ministry is exactly what certain God-called women find spiritually uplifting.

If you could listen to some of our mentors, you would hear them say things like, “I was reluctant, worried about the time it would take, wondering if this is something I could do, but it turned out to be such a blessing to me (when I thought I would be the one to bless someone else).”



The commitment is for a year, and some mentors are willing to mentor a second new friend. If you are a Christian woman who is willing to test these waters to see if this could be the ministry the Lord has for you, please call me. When we begin the new session in the fall, I will contact you about training and we will see what the Lord has in mind for you. Contact me at 256-582-9632 this summer or at the Lake City CWJC office after mid August, 256- 582-8509 to express an interest. “There’s no charge for just looking...”

At left is two-time mentor Geneva McClendon (top right) with her newest friend, Holly, and two-time mentor Shirley Powell (bottom, right) with Tiffany—her newest friend!



**Board of Directors.** Not only are they talented, hard-working, capable, passionate, committed, and dedicated to ensuring CWJC has what it needs to be a viable, thriving organization, they work together and do “servant jobs” as well as governing jobs. *They also have fun!*

In addition, several volunteer as meal providers, mentors, instructors, and take on chairmanship of fundraising projects and events. Sometimes one is able to fulfill a vital individual need for a participant.

*Standing left to right:* Michael Ferguson, Sarah Martin, Jean Ann Scott, Lee Hogle, Roy Rollings, Beverly Miller, Mark Brickey, Jo Gray, Jennifer Collins, and Rick Douglas. *Seated:* Assistant Site Coordinator Nancy Bonner, Board Chairperson Charlene Miller, and Site Coordinator Shelia Banks. Two directors not pictured are Claudette DeMuth and Dianne Whitaker.

## This Time It's Me

*Popular local singer and songwriter Liz Riehl has written a song she's been singing at CWJC Celebrations of Hope since the spring of 2010. CWJC was scheduled for the Celebration at her church, Episcopal Church of the Epiphany, and when she was asked to sing, Liz attended rehearsal and heard the women's testimonies on Wednesday before graduation on Saturday. She heard so clearly the condition of their hearts and wrote this song/poem/music in a couple of days. Amazing. Thank You Lord, and thank you Liz.*

Broken and blinded, lost in the dark  
Abuse and loneliness was hardening my heart!  
Feeding my fears; I watched my faith starve!  
'Til I finally, crumbled to my knees.

Prisoner still from the battle in my mind,  
How was I to leave this all behind?  
Felt a touch of tender loving care,  
As He reached out to catch all my tears!

This time it's you, Jesus,  
This time it's me.  
I thought forever, I never would see!  
Your perfect timing, only fifteen weeks.  
This time it's you, Jesus, This time it's me.  
  
I had been hiding, could not show my face.  
Then Jesus found me and put me in my place!  
I've searched my lifetime. I'm now where I should be!  
He holds me in His hands, for all the world to see!

This time it's you, Jesus, This time it's me.  
This time forever, I will ever see,  
Found Paradise, in only fifteen weeks!  
This time it's you, Jesus, This time it's me!!

I can do everything through your strength in me!  
This time it's you Jesus! This time it's me!!

©2010,L.Real

## Help Wanted

- Join the prayer team. We need more prayer warriors!
- Cook a simple noon meal for 25-30
- Instructors
- Possible GED Special Tutors—probably math
- Some general, sensible legal advice for the women from time-to-time
- Money! Help us fund the next session Bibles, books, nursery workers, insurance, gas for the van, stamps, paper

Gifts to CWJC Guntersville are tax deductible under IRS rules for 501(c)3 charitable organizations.

Make checks payable to “CWJC” and mail them to CWJC, 5025 Spring Creek Dr., Guntersville, AL 35976.

## Two Things You Should Know

CWJC Guntersville funds its program with gifts and two fundraisers each year. We ask for outright gifts from individuals, businesses, churches and organizations. In the fall, we put on the best dinner theater ever, **BEST OF THE BLESSED**, followed by sale of hand-blown, beautiful **Christmas tree ornaments**.

Board member Claudette DeMuth is chairperson of **BEST OF THE BLESSED** for 2011, which is scheduled **Sat., Oct 1 at the Church at Lake Guntersville**. Two confirmed entertainers so far are crowd pleasers **Zac Hicks and Four for Him**.



**Dec 2010 Class**

*Left to right. Erin Galloway, Amy Sparks, Elaine May, Jeenifer Ammons, Michelle Dowdy, Krystal Sims, Rachel Morton, Erin Jones*



**April 2010 Class**

*Back, left to right. Shelia Banks, Dondi Glenn, LaShunda Faulks, Diana Taylor, Tonya Norman, Karen Dennis, Jennifer Hampton, Andrea Faulks. Front left to right, Marie Smith, Melissa Vanderdver, Amy O'Connor, Jennifer Davis.*



Lift Up Your Head with  
 Christian Women's Job Corps  
 5025 Spring Creek Drive  
 Guntersville, AL 35976

***SAVE THIS DATE!***

Saturday, Oct. 1  
 6 p.m.

**BEST OF THE BLESSED!**

CWJC's Dinner Theater  
 Great Food  
 Great Entertainment  
 A Sell-Out Favorite