



Extraordinary Women

By Sarah Beauregard

Sonya Hairston is a Financial Advisor of Citigroup Smith Barney. In addition, she is President and CEO of her own company, Classic Affairs, Inc. Classic Affairs' mission is to provide etiquette and protocol training with a unique focus on the grace, values, and ethics of a more innocent time; and to provide superior, individualized event planning for affairs big and small. In addition, Sonya helps people define and accomplish their dreams and life goals,



**Sonya
Hairston**

identify financial roadblocks, answer the question "am I going to make it" and create a plan to get there. Hairston grew up in New Haven, Connecticut. After high school, she attended the University of Virginia graduating with a BS in Education. She is the eldest of four

children — one brother and two sisters. "I am the only one that has yet to be married. I have one wonderful daughter, who is an awesome woman of God in her own right. She graduated from UVA and now recruits for the Family and Community Medicine program at Meharry Medical College, works with Life 412 at Christ Church and picked up where I left off volunteering with the senior high youth group."

A skilled and seasoned executive with an MBA in Marketing, Hairston has a wealth of experience working with both non-profit and for-profit companies. A Nashville resident, Hairston is also very active in her community, spending time on the boards and committees of several organizations, including the Frist Center for Visual Arts, Marketing Council; Books from Birth of Middle Tennessee, Board of Directors and Co-Chair of the Communication and

Outreach Committee; Williamson County Child Advocacy Center, Legacy Ball Chair of Entertainment Committee and Printing Committee; the Junior League of Nashville Strategic Planning Committee, Public Relations Chair-elect, Chair Diversity Awareness; Celebration of Women Event Chair; and the Ronald McDonald House. Hairston also has been a member of several civic groups, including the Senet Society of the United Way, the Nashville Downtown Rotary Club, Young Leaders and Andrea Walks.

When asked "How did you come to know the Lord?" Sonya responds, "I have been in church most of my life. I can remember being able to hear God's voice clearly as early as fifth grade. I remember when I was baptized in the Holy Spirit we tarried for it but I had read in the Bible that it was a gift, so every time I would start working I would stop because it was no longer a gift — I was earning it. When I finally spoke, it was during a service and the Presence of God was powerfully present and

I started worshipping and God changed my language."

Demonstrating a passion for women's issues, Hairston served as one of the founding leaders of All About Women, an annual two-day event designed to connect women with the different health services provided in Middle Tennessee and to educate women about health issues. In its first year, the event raised in excess of \$200,000 in monies and in-kind donations and attracted more than 100 vendors, each providing a free service or giveaway to every attendee that visited their booth.

Hairston also has a similar passion for youth issues, having volunteered with the GAP Youth Training Services, Junior Achievement, and the youth ministry at Christ Church. In addition, Hairston has served as a mentor for inner city teen girls and has given her time to several other youth-related organizations in both volunteer and fundraising capacities. Sonya loves the arts, is a voracious reader, and is committed to effecting change in her community.



Sonya Hairston and Ann Crisman enjoy a sunny afternoon at the Women In Leadership Retreat.

Hairston brings this commitment, as well as a deep respect for truth, fairness, goodwill, and service above self, to her work and to every endeavor that comes her way. She has brought the same level of energy and passion to raising her daughter.

W.O.R.D. purpose

Women Of Royal Destiny

Women Of Royal Destiny: nurturing, mentoring and motivating the women of Christ Church.

A Celebration of Women 2007



by Kimberly Wenger

On September 8, 2007, Christ Church's Women's Ministries

hosted a community outreach event designed to draw women from the community into the church for a one-day event. This event was designed to reach out to the women in our community, celebrating them through a tangible expression of the love of Christ.

Sponsors and vendors were brought in to set up display areas/booths with information that was helpful to women – educating and empowering them. We also offered free seminars, entertainment, health screenings, and exercise classes.

We are thrilled to report that we had a total of 46 vendors, 6 sponsors, 28 seminars, and 14 exercise classes. Vanderbilt Medical Center, who did our health screenings, estimates that our attendance for the day was approximately 1245. The American Red



Volunteers Diane Sanderlin, Shaun Gordon & Patty Martin

Cross had a blood drive in honor of Emma Lou Vineyard and had 68 donors. Due to the health screenings, one woman found out she had diabetes and another was sent to the emergency room due to a health condition of which she was unaware. The YWCA was able to assist 6 women who were in domestic violence situations; many other women received prayer, and there were touching reports of Divine Appointments throughout the day.

One of the seminars was led by Dr. Asa Andrew, a board-certified physician who founded The Center for Natural Medicine in Nashville. He has a nationally syndicated radio program called Empower Your Health and has just finished working with Ken Abraham to publish a book by the same name. He spoke passionately about the responsibility we have to our families and loved ones to care for our bodies. If we do not take care of ourselves, we may not see our children grow or our quality of life may be so poor that we cannot participate in what is going on around us. He shared his personal testimony about being diagnosed with Type II Diabetes. After his diagnosis, he changed his lifestyle and was able to completely recover from diabetes without the use of prescription medicine.

Other guests included Fitness Coach

Don Nava, author of *Fit After 40*; Dr. Marilyn Tucker, author of *The Nashville Diet* and recording artists Cheri Keaggy and Christy Sutherland. Seminars were held on parenting, recovering from divorce, managing adversity, resume writing, time management, cooking, cake decorating, caring for aging parents, and home organization. There was also a fashion show sponsored by TJ Maxx that used models from our own church family.

Volunteers helped to plan and host the event. God answered our prayers and we were blessed with 218 volunteers. They were divided up into committees and each committee had a chair and co-chair. The committees were Booths/Vendor Relations, Childcare, Follow Up, Giveaways, Finance, Hospitality, Legal, Logistics, Marketing, Outreach, Parking, Prayer, Presentations, and Sponsors. A volunteer appreciation banquet was held on September 29 to thank all those who worked with us to accomplish our goal.

Women's Ministries hopes to make this an annual event. Our tentative date for 2008 is September 20. We hope that you will all join us in some way next year, either as a volunteer or an attendee.



Dr. Asa Andrew speaking about taking care of ourselves.



Volunteers help give information out as needed.

Worth the Read



by Jill Fetters

Same Kind of Different As Me

By Ron Hall &

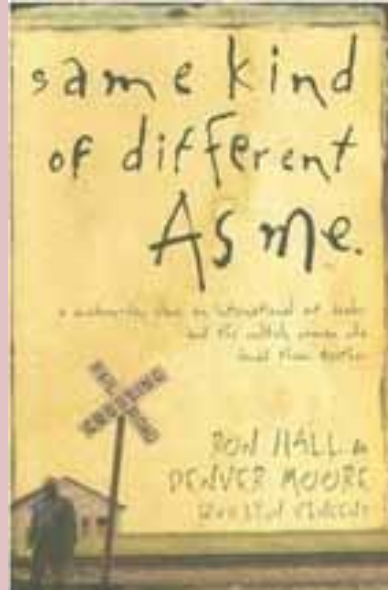
Denver Moore with Lynn Vincent

Published by Thomas Nelson

Not often do you find a memoir written from two very different perspectives. Ron Hall, a native born Texan, describes in his own words how he grew up from humble beginnings to hob-knobbing with the rich and famous as an international art dealer. Denver Moore, a modern-day African American slave from deep south Louisiana, transported to Ft. Worth, Texas after serving a lengthy prison term, tells his story as a displaced, homeless man. Their lives intersect when Ron's wife, Debbie, answers a calling from God to minister in the Union Gospel Mission in downtown Ft. Worth. Debbie encourages her husband to become involved with her ministry. When he agrees, he soon meets Denver – the meanest homeless man in town. Eventually, the two develop a very unusual friendship.

I love how this book alternated chapters between Ron's and Denver's voices. The writing style was great and the chapters short. This was an easy read.

One of the main themes was friendship, specifically the friendship between Ron and Denver. Ron sought after Denver upon his wife's insisting he should befriend him. As a means of pity for a homeless man, Ron started to invite Denver to have meals with him or to have a cup of coffee. After several encounters, Denver asked Ron if he really wanted to be his friend or if he simply wanted to



“catch and release” as he had heard some fishermen do for sport. From that point onward, Ron and Denver became true friends. It was a relationship I admired and enjoyed reading about.

One of the main characters in the book is Ron's wife, Debbie. As he described her, she was a beautiful, classy lady who married Ron after they attended college together. Both she and Ron did not become Christians until after they married and attended a friend's Bible study for married couples at their home. Debbie challenged the Bible teacher with piercing, unanswerable questions for several weeks until finally, both she and Ron trusted Christ as their Savior. Thereafter, they started a family and had two children – a son and a daughter.

It is important to note that Ron wrote of his great successes as an international art dealer. But, Debbie – she pressed into God. She truly wanted to know Him and to be His disciple. As Ron entered into the most prestigious part of his art dealing career, Debbie started her work with the homeless at Ft.

Worth's Union Gospel Mission.

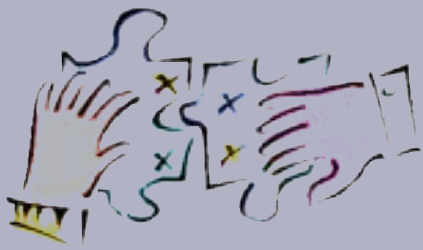
Denver's life history is quite different. I learned from reading this book that although slavery was abolished during the Civil War, it is still very much alive in parts of Louisiana. The book carefully unveils a thread of abandonment and hardship woven through Denver's life that lands him on the streets of Ft. Worth, Texas, by choice. It was better off for Denver to be homeless than working on a farm in southern Louisiana.

The remarkable thing about Denver is the reality of his relationship with God. He had such a strong faith in God that he routinely prayed to Him all night long. Not only did Denver know how to pray, he knew how to listen to God's speaking and working in his own life.

The book title is a quote from Denver, as only Denver could say it. Truly, all of us are created equal yet in God's image. We are all born and we all will eventually die. We all must come to a realization that we need a Savior. No matter where you were born or how much money you have, we are all the same – really. All must give an accounting someday before God.

I like that this is a story. People like to tell their stories. Jesus told stories and people learned from them. I've been reminded by reading this book that life is precious and to strive to hold onto those things that last – relationships.

I have a strong feeling this one will likely be made into a movie. I suggest you read the book first! You can purchase “Same Kind of Different As Me” in your local Borders, Barnes and Nobles bookstores or online.



common ground

Sister Connection: encouraging and serving one another in the love of the Lord.

Live, Love, Laugh

By Karen Collins

He is my ever present help in my times of trouble.

When I buam fearful, anxious, uncertain or confused He is there to bring me comfort and direction.

Most of the time, at least many, many times, I'm not even aware of the fact that I've called upon Him. He comes in, sometimes like a flood, but more times than not, He comes like a whisper, just a quiet knowing that He is there.

A peace is covering the situation. Yes, the circumstances still remain. The situation, the trial, the storm still rages, BUT He is in my boat. He has everything under control.

All I have to do is to keep my eyes on Him. But if or when I look upon the circumstances and begin to sink, He is at my side lifting me up and placing me safly back in the boat.

No matter what the trial may be, He is my ever present help.

He is the comfort of my soul.



Co-leaders – Carol Sorbo and Karen Collins

A Woman with a Purpose

By Martie Rader



I have a card on my desk I look at many times a day. It says, "You are important to the work God is doing." This gives me encouragement every day. Not that I am

important, but that it is GOD who is doing the work. Whew! That sure takes a load off my mind every morning!

Do you come into your workplace in the morning feeling like you have the load of the world on your shoulders? Do you dread your workday? Do you dread greeting and working with your coworkers? Is the work you're assigned drudgery? Do you watch the clock more than you watch your deadlines? If so, perhaps you need to shift the responsibility of the day onto the shoulders of a God who is already at work. Then step back, relax and take a deep breath. Think about it, God knows your day long before you wake every morning. He's planned the direction of your steps, the conversations you will have and the accomplishments you will achieve. He knows your frustrations, your dreams, your hopes and your needs. He knows the outcome of the day. And He's got it all

under control. All you have to do is show up to your workplace and let God take over.

"For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." – Jeremiah 29:11 NIV

So if God is taking everything you do under His wing and all you have to do is breathe easy and let Him lead you, why do you even need to show up at work every morning? The answer is because YOU are important to the work GOD is doing. Can God do it alone? Sure – but He needs you and me to be purposeful in what we do to help Him accomplish His goals. If we don't show up, there is no one to answer the important phone call, or to respond to that question. No one would be available to direct that strategic meeting or to help that frustrated customer.

So what is our "purpose" in the work God is doing?

I speak with a team of women called "Women with Purpose". (www.womenwithpurposeonline.com) We facilitate an event called "A Day at the Fountain" with women's groups around the USA. Our mission statement is, "To know Him and make Him known."

As we go through our daily routines,

they may become monotonous in our own strength. As we forge through the day, shoulder to the wheel, we push to achieve another goal or cross another hurdle, get home exhausted and wonder how we did all we accomplished today and if we can make it through another day.

I'd like to offer a suggestion. At the beginning of the day, release your plans; release your schedule and your agenda. Offer them up to God who is already at work for your best each day. Replace your anxiety, worries and cares with these thoughts. "He already has it under control. God is at work this morning, and I am important to what He is doing. I am here as a unit of the body of Christ for God to utilize in His plans. My purpose is to know Him and make Him known." That's all. If every thought I think, word I speak, contact I make exalts and glorifies Him – then I will grow in knowledge of who He is and cast a light of his countenance on everyone I meet, every day!

That makes all of us a Woman with Purpose! "Then the way you live will always honor and please the Lord, and you will continually do good, kind things for others. All the while, you will learn to know God better and better." – Colossians 1: 10 NLT