

ONE GOD NATION



Spring Issue

LOVE:
The driving
force behind
charity in the
community

An amazing
woman and
her 'Follow
Me 2 Forty'
movement.
Meet Nicole
Sheppard.

**Character
Corner:**
Stories of
come-back
and give-back

**Christian
Networking:**
Where do
you go to
connect
with fellow
believers?

April 2015

The Editor Speaks



The day I've been dreaming of for 6 years has finally come to light! I am so humbled by God's power and purpose in and around me. He gave me this dream for One God Nation before it even had a name. After learning about the things ordinary people do every day without any accolades or little recognition, I decided to give them a voice the whole world could hear.

One God Nation Magazine was birthed with no personal benefit to me in mind except for knowing that I was able to share people's good deeds with the rest of the world who may not have ever known otherwise. Great charities or organizations with minimal exposure tend to slip through the cracks or take a back seat to what mainstream media deems as "Breaking News". But I beg to differ. People sacrificing for other people and making a difference for other people, in my opinion, is news worth sharing. If it were not, then why do fortune 500 businesses and smaller businesses take an interest an invest in some kind of charity?

What's unique about OGN is it focuses on charity outside of religious walls. It supersedes the idea of religion and tells the true meaning of charity, which

has little to do with a demonstration.

Acts 10:24 states "Then Peter said, 'Of a truth, I know that God is not a respecter of persons, but He that worketh righteousness is accepted with Him.'"

Am I saying that we don't need a spiritual foundation or follow the Bible's instructions on being a part of a church structure on a consistent basis? Absolutely not! We benefit tremendously from attending worship service. It is the bread that sustains us and helps us grow in Christ. But once we've been equipped with God's word and filled with His love and nourishment, we take that equipment outside the church walls (where life happens) and we apply it.

My prayer for you is that you will be enlightened by this magazine. That you will be opened to new ideas of how to build the Kingdom. That you and everyone you share this with will find inspiration to do your part in reaching outside "the box" to the world and showing them the difference between religion and relationship with a living God.

Peace and Love,

KaTracy Sullivan

Editor-In-Chief

katracy.sullivan@gmail.com

Follow me on twitter @OneGodNation



Special shout out to my awesome family who loves me for reasons I don't know. My husband of 19 years, Damon, my son, DaMyron, and my daughter, Tamaris.

Community Spotlight



Nicole Sheppard and the “Follow Me 2 Forty” Movement

A Licensed Professional Counselor and a High School Counselor, Nicole has years of experience and exposure in helping people better themselves.

With a husband and 3 children of her own, Nicole not only enjoys an active life, but she often finds herself looking for another opportunity to encourage or help someone else.

In June 2013, she started “Follow Me 2 Forty” non-profit work because she wanted to find a way to give back to her community each month. Since then, Nicole and her children and other charity lovers have gone to parks to pick up trash, participated in the Komen Race, and organized and gave away canned goods to the needy with Mission Arlington.

“One of the first places we went to was a senior assisted living home and painted the nails of the elderly as well as had a party with them.”, Nicole says. “It was a fun experience, especially for my children who had never spent time with a group

of elderly women doing something for them in that manner. We met a woman who was 100 years old and full of life!”

When asked what makes her non-profit work unique in comparison others who are doing something similar, Nicole shared that it vision is a monthly outreach that helps women and children and anyone can get involved. Volunteers don’t have to be a certain age or gender. She posts on social media outlets like Facebook and Instagram to get friends to join her and meet her out in the community to help others. It’s random, spontaneous and fun!

The feedback from people who have been following the Follow Me 2 Forty movement has been tremendous. Many see Nicole as a woman with a desire to help many people through giving and being a positive asset to the community in which she lives. She won’t stop until lives have been touched and impacted in such a way that it allows others to feel Christian love through her and her children’s acts of service as well as her friends.

One of her most memorable community events that Nicole holds near and dear to her heart is the Habitat For Humanity house project in 2014 in which she and her volunteers helped build a house for a family in Fort Worth, Texas. “It brought joy to my heart to know that I was a small contributor to the future happy home to a family by helping put nails in the walls of the home and by sawing wood. It was a new experience for me but one that I tackled in order to be a blessing to a family I didn’t know and probably will never meet.” says Nicole.

Nicole has been featured in blogs and articles about her non-profit, including Lifetime Fitness gym’s web page. Her story and journey continues to expand. She has even inspired many to start their own non-profits, one of which was her personal trainer who started a “Follow Me 2 Sixty” journey.

This phenomenal woman is definitely one to follow. Keep up with Nicole by emailing her at nickisheppard@hotmail.com.

Character Corner

These extraordinary people are reaching out into the community to help those who don't have a voice. Let's meet some ambassadors of character.



Elizabeth Navarette-Savage takes a S.T.A.N.D.



Born in El Paso, TX, Elizabeth is a wife, mother, grandmother, and sister to many. She is founder of S.T.A.N.D Organization (Stand Together Against Nationwide Domestic-Violence) located in the city of Arlington, Texas.

S.T.A.N.D. consists of 6 Board Members, 7 members, and 30+ volunteers.

A survivor of domestic violence herself, Elizabeth knows what it means to experience an abusive spouse and to suffer great loss. In 1995, she lost 3 of her children in a house fire. "God kept me and now my heart is to help others." Elizabeth says.

There was a time when domestic violence was a man on a woman but now it has changed where both are being abused. As a result, S.T.A.N.D. offers help to both women and men along with children. They also have a program that focuses on the abuser.

S.T.A.N.D. has hosted a 5k/10k for the past two years in honor of victims of domestic violence. They partner with several shelters in various cities as well as volunteer with the City of Arlington Police Department to help take care of the city.

Learn more by visiting www.standagainst.org or on Facebook (S.T.A.N.D Organization) or on Twitter (@OrgSTAND).



Sherrie Johnson-Jacobs and the Kingdom Ryders



Born in Hughes, AR, Sherrie had aspirations for her career which brought her to Texas in 2004. She felt a burden from God to give back to those in need and started Kingdom Ryders in 2012.

This organization made up of 12 volunteers, including her husband of 9 years, Jonathan Jacobs. They have done several partnerships in and around their community from Texas to back home in Arkansas.

we were blessed to give away over 100 backpacks to children in my hometown Hughes. The smiles on those children and parents faces were priceless and it reminded me of what my purpose here on earth was."

Those who have been blessed by the service of the Kingdom Ryders would describe their efforts as passionate people who are willing to go the extra mile to make sure the needs of others are met.

When asked what challenges her organization sometimes faces, she emphasizes the importance of knowing your limits. People who are habitual givers and have a true heart for people have to balance the desire to help everyone. "Just knowing the right time and staying focused on that one area until the next assignment." says Sherrie.

Follow Sherrie and her crew on Facebook ([kingdomrydersclub](https://www.facebook.com/kingdomrydersclub)), Twitter (@[@kingdomryders](https://twitter.com/kingdomryders)), and Instagram ([kingdomrydersclub](https://www.instagram.com/kingdomrydersclub)).

"A good early story about our charity is one year

Character Corner



June Evans and the Treasured Ladies Club

A licensed minister and motivational speaker, June Evans has experienced her share of challenges at a young age. Married at 18 and divorced at 22, she wanted to influence change in the lives of teenagers. This brought about the Treasured Ladies Club which June founded in 1999 in Waco, TX. Currently in 4 districts and servicing 150 girls, June's goal is to cover 8 districts and service 500 girls.

Motherhood and a firm suggestion from her children was the motivation that catapulted her into her dream.

What makes Treasured Ladies Club so unique is the focus of socializing and encouraging high school girls.

June uses every platform afforded to her such as schools, colleges, youth camp, youth organizations, and sororities. Organizations such as Girls, Inc. and Girl Scouts have been impacted by Junes' efforts.

As if that wasn't exciting enough, Treasured Ladies Club has a 100% high school graduation rate, 95% college attendance rate, and zero pregnancies.

June's organization is comprised of an assistant (a former Treasured Lady herself) and various volunteers who help on occasion. She hopes to get more permanent team members to partner with her to reach a bigger audience.

In addition to the Treasured Ladies Club, June also hosts an HIV/AIDS 5k/Walk each December to raise awareness.

Visit www.JuneEvans.com or follow her on Twitter (@June Speaks) to learn more about June or to support her cause.



David Robinson, Jr. and Young Scholars

A graduate of Jackson State University, and currently Asst. Director of Community Engagement at UTDallas, understands the importance of education, especially that of African American males.

While working for Dallas County Community College District (DCCCD) office, David was exposed to underrepresented male populations. He saw the need to establish an event that would be educational and exciting for young men wanting to exceed in the classroom. Hence, the African American Male Academic

Bowl made it's place in the community as an annual event beginning in 2009.

In an interview with CW33 News, David states "They study for months at a time. Once they get here they know that if they don't advance after that first round... that's it!"

Averaging 70 – 100 volunteer sign-ins annually, AAMAB continues to receive support from major organizations such as McDonalds, UT-Dallas, DCCCD, Sen. Royce West, AT&T. Young Scholars also partners with and supports the Project Still I Rise, Inc. organization (www.PSIR.org).

Although finding male mentors to help is one of his biggest challenges, David remains passionate about seeing young men succeed academically.

To learn more, visit www.aamab.org or follow David on Facebook at Young Scholars.

Walk The Walk

A New Church In Mansfield, Victory Church, Is On The Move!



From left to right, Aalim, Jr., Tanya, Aalim, Sr., and Taaj

Since its launch on September 6, 2014, Victory Church has been a beacon of light for the Arlington-Mansfield area. This fellowship lead by Lead Pastor, Aalim Bakari has grown and is still growing every week.

What makes this church unique is that it focuses more on serving outside the church walls. Along with his wife, Tanya Bakari, their hearts are to build a thriving local church that not only teaches the truths of the Word of God, but engages the community and transforms lives.

The vision of Victory Church is to ENGAGE, IMPACT, and INFLUENCE the world with The Gospel of Jesus Christ.

“We have embraced our mandate to “Go and make disciples...” Matthew 28:19 Starting with, our own community, Mansfield, Texas.” says Pastor Aalim.

The strategy for Victory Church is not like many either. Victory Church is a church that IS the community and it impacts the community from the outside in.

Here are just a few of the initiatives that they have been able to accomplish with support of their partners:

September – December 2014: Saturday Worship Services

November – December 2014: Partnered with Danny Jones Middle School for their annual canned food drive, assisted with them raising over 800 toys for the Toys for Tots Drive and provided clothing and toys for kids for Christmas

February 2015: Hosted first Danny Jones Teacher’s and Administration Appreciation to continue cultivating and fostering a presence in the school

March 2015: Formulated the V-Street Team for Evangelistic and Outreach Efforts

“We live a lifestyle of outreach, it’s not a special program, ministry, or event, but a part of our daily DNA.” says Pastor Aalim.

Victory Church services are held Sundays at 10 a.m. at Danny Jones Middle School in Mansfield, TX.

Visit them at www.IGotVictory.com or follow them on Facebook at Victory Church.



Networking & Shout Outs



(l) Darlene Lewis poses with James Taylor, a former inmate who she's helped secure employment.

One God Nation would like to give a shout out to Darlene Lewis of Lewis-Barnett Employment Finders, Inc. for her superior service to an often neglected population, ex-prisoners.

Original article written by Lorraine Chow and posted on www.powerfulblackstories.com (Mar. 6, 2015).

In Little Rock, Ark., Darlene has given thousands of former inmates a second chance to contribute to society, local station THV11 reports.

For the past three decades, Darlene Lewis's nonprofit organization has helped ex-offenders prepare for interviews, assisted with job placement and provided help with resume writing and GED prep — all at no cost.

Last year alone, the nonprofit aided 2,000 men and women find full-time jobs, reports say. The organization also helps with housing and advocates for offenders in court.

Lewis started her nonprofit in 1987 for very personal reasons. "I had a son go to prison many years ago and when he got out of prison it was so difficult for him to get a job," she tells the station.



In a small town in Arkansas, there lives an extraordinary woman named Faye Gaines whom the City of Marianna knows quite well. She loves music, going for power walks, and preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ.

What makes Faye so unique is that although she has some physical handicaps, she is making a huge difference in people's lives in her local community...and she does it all vision-impaired and partially deaf.

Faye, who just recently received her ministerial license in November 2014, has managed to organize several events on an annual basis over many years such as the Resurrection Seed Campaign (an annual church project fundraiser), Spiritual Operation Give Up (a school supply drive), Hands of The Harvest (elderly services support for free fans), and the Canned Goods & Clothing Drive (collected items go to local churches to aid their members in need).

When she was a teenager, Faye was sent to school for the blind to get an education. Because she didn't understand why she was separated from her siblings, she felt alienated. As she got older, she wanted to be the voice for others who had disabilities to let the world know that they want to be accepted and included. Her message is "Don't look at my disability, look at my dream."

One God Nation would also like to give a shout out to Faye Gaines for her unwavering efforts in her community.

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Contact Ronnie Worthington

Phone: 828-409-6624

You think it we can create it!

Facebook: Worthi Wear

Instagram: Ronnie Worthington

Email: Worthiwear@yahoo.com



We make custom shirts, dri-fits, hoodies, and more for all ages.

Resources

www.2ndChanceAtLife.US

www.pigeon.ly

tools.simplyyouthministry.com

www.dare2share.org

<http://tonyevans.org/miracle-of-the-million/church-school-partnerships/>

Upcoming Events

CHRIS TOMLIN: Love Ran Red Tour

Friday, Apr 24 2015, 7:00 PM

Verizon Theatre at Grand Prairie

Suspect Hollywood: Mystery Dinner Theatre

Sunday, Apr 26 2015, 5:00 PM

Pleasantview Baptist Church

4400 Pleasantview Dr.

Arlington, TX 76017 (map)