



The Tablet



HeavenGates Ministries, Inc.

June 2013

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The Beginning

HeavenGates Ministries, Inc. began in 1997 in a one bedroom apartment. Rev. Donna M. Humphries, Founder/President, received God's favor and purchased a three bedroom home in 1998 as a hospitable place for strangers. The ministry became incorporated in 2003 with a mission statement to provide a sanctuary for female offenders and indigent women seeking to be reconciled with society and their families through the use of faith-based Biblical principles. HeavenGates is an affiliate member of Walking The New Life Ministries, Inc.

In 1997 a young woman found herself without shelter and was accommodated with housing until 2000. In 1999, a mother and two daughters moved in and stayed until the spring of 2002. In the fall of 2002, a mother, her daughter and infant son moved in and stayed until the fall of 2006; the ministry had equipped her to become self-sufficient by providing the necessary tools to maintain a place of her own. In the summer of 2006 a mother and daughter with special needs moved in and stayed until the summer of 2012.

The president stated that the ministry has been faced with many challenges and obstacles but they continue to forge ahead knowing that that which God has destined for them shall come to pass. With the last residents moving out in June 2012, housing will no longer be provided at the president's home. The ministry is now looking at obtaining grants to open a facility which will house a minimum of ten women.

Over the years, HeavenGates has had the pleasure of seeing the fruit of its labor. Its residents have graduated from high school, are attending or have already graduated from college, and have secured employment. They have persevered under extreme measures of discouragement, disappointments, learning curves, divorce, and everyday hardships, but nevertheless, they persevered. They are moving forward accomplishing their dreams, encouraging and ministering to others that nothing is too hard; and that there is a God who will supply their every need if they will allow Him to.

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WEBMASTER. NEEDED!

Please consider donating your time and expertise to assist in revising and/or maintaining our web page.

Meet the Founder

Rev. Donna M. Humphries is an ordained minister with an evangelistic calling. She was born and raised in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and is the mother of one daughter and grandmother of two.



Donna moved to Harrisburg, PA in 1982, working for the Pennsylvania Directors' Association for Community Action (PDACA). While baptized in 1987 at the Goodwin Memorial Baptist Church, she did not earnestly begin her walk with God until 1992, at which time she began doing prison ministry. On May 29, 1993, she received her call to the Evangelistic Ministry.

A graduate of Gladstone High School and Sawyer Business School, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Sister Donna has taken classes at Community College of Allegheny County, Harrisburg Area Community College, Penn State University-Harrisburg, American Management Association, Pinecrest Bible Correspondence School, Technical Ecumenical Center of Harrisburg (TECH) and the Imani Christian School, Harrisburg, PA. She has also taken classes with the Central Baptist Association.

In service to the larger church/community she taught Bible Study at Promise Place, a transitional housing for

Meet the Founder cont.

women and the women's work release facility in Harrisburg, PA. Other ministering has been done in the Dauphin County Prison, Muncy State Correctional Institute, Allenwood Federal Correctional Institute, and Camp Hill State Correctional Institute under the auspices of the Pennsylvania Baptist Laymen Institutional Ministry and Walking The New Life Ministries.

Sister Donna served as an Associate Minister of Goodwin Memorial Baptist Church, licensed in August 1996 and ordained in December 1998 under the pastorate of the Rev. Alfred E. Smith. She was instrumental in the reorganization of its New Members' Class, served as its coordinator and taught classes on Salvation, Sin, Redemption and Repentance.

Sister Humphries also served as the Assistant to the Pastor at Walking The New Life Christian Fellowship and taught the New Members' classes. She is the Director of Women's Services for Walking The New Life Ministries, Inc., Harrisburg, PA, and is a Prison Fellowship certified trainer.

She served in the following capacities: Board member of The PROGRAM for Female Offenders, an organization that provides services to women who have been through the judicial system; vice president of the Lighthouse Outreach Center, a transitional living facility for women; member of the Interdenominational Christian Women's Fellowship Ministries (ICWFM); and a fellow of the Presbyterian Church, U.S.A. Administrative Personnel Association.

She currently serves as Walking The New Life Ministries' instructor for the Prison Fellowship's Going for the Gold Reentry Program with female inmates in Dauphin County Prison, and also serves as Board Secretary for All God's Children Ministry, a nonprofit program that ministers to youth incarcerated in the prison system and the community at large.

I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvelous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well. (Psalm 139:14)



Behold, I will do a new thing; now it shall spring forth; shall ye not know it? I will even make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. (Isaiah 43:19)

Meet the Residents

1997 ~ 2000

Shirelle, a displaced young woman moved in with Rev. Humphries in 1997 and as a result, HeavenGates Ministries was birthed. She owned and operated Strictly Nails Salon in Midtown Harrisburg for a number of years and received her Evangelistic License while a member of Mt. Calvary Church of God In Christ. She attended Oral Roberts University and Harrisburg Area Community College. She married in 2006 and moved to the Atlanta, Georgia area.

Shirelle is a sergeant at the Atlanta Department of Juvenile Justice. In 2012, she received her Bachelor's Degree in Counseling from Point University, East Point, GA. She and her husband are the founders/pastors at the United Kingdom Apostolic Ministries in Locust Grove, GA. She is the founder of SHE Ministries (Sisters Supporting and Helping Each Other) and also ministers to female pastors and pastors' wives.



1999 ~ 2002

Melva and her two daughters came to HeavenGates in 1999 from Pittsburgh, PA. While in Harrisburg, Melva received her Certified Nursing Assistant certificate and worked for various nursing and group home facilities, as well as the Pride of the Neighborhood School as a teacher's assistant.

While with HeavenGates, the family joined Walking The New Life Christian Fellowship; and the youngest daughter surrendered her life to Christ and was baptized. In 2005, Melva and her daughters moved back to Pittsburgh.

Melva works for Three Rivers Youth at one of its therapeutic group homes as a residential counselor 3. She also serves as the vice president for HeavenGates Ministries.

The oldest daughter, a student at Pittsburgh Technical Institute's Nursing Program is currently doing her clinical work. She also works as a residential assistant at a mental health facility.

The youngest daughter is a student at Allegheny County Community College (ACCC) and works two jobs; her goal is to become an ophthalmologist. She sings beautifully and also does liturgical dancing.

2002 ~ 2006

Danielle, her 5 year old daughter and 3 week old son, came to HeavenGates in 2002 from Delaware. For two years, in an attempt to reconcile her marriage, she would off and on move out to be with her husband. However, she finally realized that his dependency on drugs, at that time, took precedence over the well-being of his family.

Danielle, a Certified Nursing Assistant, found employment with various agencies and PinnacleHealth System, Harrisburg Hospital. She credits HeavenGates with helping her to become a good housekeeper and meal planner. Her church family teased her regularly, lovingly referring to her as the "corn dog queen". Danielle moved to her own

apartment in 2006 and continues to maintain her household and has become an accomplished cook. She enrolled in Harrisburg Area Community College (HACC) Nursing Program and continued working full-time at PinnacleHealth System Harrisburg Hospital campus.

In 2011 she switched her career goal and entered HACC's Surgical Technology Program. Danielle just received her Associate of Science Degree and is now a Certified Surgical Technologist. She did her clinical work at Holy Spirit Hospital, PinnacleHealth System Harrisburg Hospital and Hershey Medical Center. She has been hired by Penn State Hershey Medical Center and began full-time employment with them this month.

She serves as the church clerk for Walking The New Life Christian Fellowship and also as the secretary for HeavenGates Ministries. She states that it has been a rocky road full of ups and downs and disappointments but gives thanks to God realizing that His favor has been on her life. She also thanks God for her church family and other individuals that He placed in her life. Both her children surrendered their life to Christ and were baptized at Walking The New Life Christian Fellowship.

Her daughter is a typical teenager. She started running track in high school but injured her foot. She took piano lesson and could be found singing at church. She now lives with her father and is being home schooled.

Her son will be entering 6th grade this fall. At his graduation, he was noted as a future journalist; he loves to read and is a regular honor roll student. He is active in sports and loves playing football, basketball and baseball; he also works out at a local boxing gym. He plays the piano as well as the trumpet. You can regularly hear him preaching and teaching the Word of God at their church, Walking The New Life Christian Fellowship.

2006 ~ 2012

Yvonne and her daughter came to HeavenGates in 2006 for a visit and decided that they wanted a change of location. Within two months of coming to HeavenGates, Yvonne secured employment with PinnacleHealth System. In 2010, she enrolled in Kaplan Institute's Medical Assistant program while still working for PinnacleHealth System.

Her daughter graduated from John Harris High School in June 2012. While in her senior year, she helped other students in her class and also did an internship with the school district in their administrative office. She had made up her mind that she wasn't going to attend the prom and held firm until the week before. She was blessed with a beautiful gown and the necessary accessories; she went to the prom alone. Rev. Humphries stated that it was a pleasure to assist her and be her chauffeur for the night. She is a very special, beautiful and gifted young lady; she gained courage in knowing not only whose she is but who she is. Her grandmother and great grandmother came from Pittsburgh for the graduation and all sat and watched with tears in their eyes as she walked across the stage to receive her diploma.

While with HeavenGates, both Yvonne and her daughter joined Walking The New Life Christian Fellowship. While there, they surrendered their life to Christ and were baptized. The daughter has a beautiful voice and could be heard singing at church. She also did liturgical dancing and when called upon, would provide a mini sermon or be worship leader on Youth Night. There's something about the power of God that makes one want to cry when you see how He can change a person.

Both Yvonne and her daughter moved back to Pittsburgh. Yvonne is seeking employment and her daughter, who loves to cook and is good at it, is enrolled in Job Corps and is currently attending classes at Allegheny County Community College in its Culinary Arts Program.

WOMEN OF EXCELLENCE: LIVING VICTORIOUSLY

I Decree & Declare

A luncheon was held at the Lincoln Avenue Church of God, Pittsburgh, PA on Saturday, April 13, 2013. Rev. Humphries shared with those in attendance that regardless of the challenges, circumstances, obstacles, situations, and/or trials that we go through, we are women of excellence and as a child of the Most High God, we can decree and declare how we choose to live. While we are faced with things on a daily basis they do not dictate our outcome. As women of excellence, we must understand that our destiny has already been written and we are just travelling the designated path to reach it. Each participant received a copy of the declaration and Rev. Humphries had everyone repeat it. She stated that when we decree and declare a matter we are speaking into existence that which we believe based on the Word of God.

- I will bounce back from every disappointment.**
- I will bounce back from every sickness.**
- I will bounce back from relationship problems.**
- I will bounce back from financial difficulties.**



These setbacks were simply a setup for my greater comeback. It's only a matter of time before I come back stronger, healthier, increased, promoted, better than I was before!

Save the Date

3rd Annual Conference

EMBRACING THE BLESSINGS AND PROMISES

December 14, 2013

Zion Assembly, 2105 N. 5th Street

Harrisburg, PA 17110

Workshop Topics:

Living Past the Hurt

Help My Unbelief

Lip Sync

Corrective Lens

Who Are You?

Slay It Or Be Slayed

No More Shackles

Detailed information will be forth coming. If you are not on our mailing list, you may contact us at humphries@heavengatesministries.org, 717.903.3599 or via our website: www.heavengatesministries.org.

DAILY ENCOURAGEMENT

The Daily Encouragement began in 2010 and continues to be sent out daily, Monday through Saturday. Thanks to those of you who sent a note stating that the daily messages have been an inspiration to you. If you would like other individuals to receive the daily encouragement as well as other information about HeavenGates Ministries, you may forward their contact information to me or have them contact me directly at humphries@heavengatesministries.org or 717.903.3599. We are always happy to share God's Word.



THANK YOU

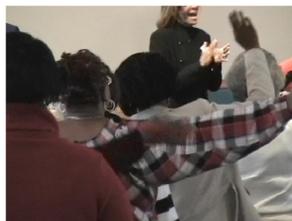
The Board of Directors takes this opportunity to extend its heartfelt and sincere appreciation to each individual, organization, ministry, and/or church that has been a blessing in supporting HeavenGates. Be assured that your generosity is appreciated; we thank God for all that has been done to aid us in meeting the needs of others and look forward to your continued support.

ACTIVITIES

Breakfasts and luncheons have been hosted in Harrisburg and Pittsburgh, PA since 2003 and have been attended by women from area halfway houses, senior centers and the church at-large as follows: 2003 and 2004 at the Neighborhood Center, United Methodist Church, Harrisburg, PA; 2009 and 2011 at Lincoln Avenue Church of God, Pittsburgh, PA; 2011 at First Baptist Church, Edgemont, PA; and 2012 at Monumental A.M.C., Steelton, PA. The 2012 luncheon also included a blood pressure screening and other informational handouts sponsored by PinnacleHealth System.



Rodman Street Missionary Baptist Church in Pittsburgh, PA, hosted our conferences in 2010 and 2011. Each conference included five-seven workshops to afford participants the opportunity to choose two area of need. A health screening was provided Services, as well as informational booths relative to Awareness, Diabetes Education, and other topics centers, halfway houses and shelters. A clothing individuals to select clothing and/or shoes to assist opportunities (jobs, housing, schooling, etc.) as our changing society.



workshops which best relate to their particular by Duquesne University's Center for Pharmacy Aids/HIV, Rape, Domestic Violence, Cancer relating to individuals from work release bank was also available which allowed them to take advantage of the various they reentered and/or became reacquainted with

REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE

HeavenGates operates on the donations provided by individuals who have a heart for women who have made mistakes and/or who have found themselves without shelter. We all, at one time or another, have found ourselves in situations and circumstances and have been recipients of another person's generosity. We would appreciate and welcome your financial assistance. We are praising God for a minimum of 30 individuals who will commit to partnering with us by making a monthly contribution of \$30 or more. However, we appreciate donations in any amount. Please consider making a donation to assist us in helping individuals who have found themselves in situations and/or circumstances not to their liking. Your gift is tax-deductible pursuant to current IRS regulations.

\$100 \$50 \$30 \$25 \$10 Other \$ ____

monthly quarterly annually

This is a one-time gift

I will pray for HeavenGates

I would like to be contacted about HeavenGates.

Please mail your check and/or money order to:

HeavenGates Ministries, Inc.
545 Division Street
Harrisburg, PA 17110

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

HeavenGates is in need of a webmaster. Please consider donating your time and expertise to assist in revising and/or maintaining our web page.



HeavenGates Ministries, Inc.

For more information and/or volunteer opportunities, please contact:

HeavenGates Ministries, Inc.
Rev. Donna M. Humphries
Founder/President
717.903.3599
humphries@heavengatesministries.org
www.heavengatesministries.org

Mission

Provide a sanctuary for female offenders and indigent women seeking to be reconciled with their families and society, through the use of faith-based Biblical principles.

HeavenGates Ministries, Inc.,
a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization,
is an affiliate of Walking The New Life Ministries, Inc.