



## Loss to Restoration!

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I recently read the book, *Face to Face with Naomi and Ruth* by Janet Thompson. After reading this book, I spent some time rereading the book of Ruth. The opening verses in chapter 1 take us through the early years of the relationship between a woman named Naomi and her daughter-in-law Ruth.

Naomi's world had fallen apart. A famine had driven her family from Bethlehem to the pagan land of Moab. Her husband and two sons had died there; neither daughter-in-law had children to provide them a future. When Naomi heard that there was food in Bethlehem, her hope was renewed. Naomi and Ruth returned to Bethlehem during the harvest season. As poor widows they were permitted by law to glean barley in the fields. They were able to look forward to a new life and a new future. Better than the life of illness, death, and loss that lay behind them.

The story of Ruth is about crisis and healing on several levels. At the most basic level, it describes the financial recovery of Naomi and Ruth, who dangled on the verge of destitution, but managed to climb back up.

Maybe you can remember a time when you were Naomi—when a loss in your own life caused you to question your faith. Or maybe you experienced a loss that caused you to seek faith for the first time. It might have been a loss of a friend or loved one, the loss of a job, or a move to another city. Or maybe you were Ruth, in that you rose up from all your loss. You were able to find new friends and new loved ones, and a new or renewed faith. You were able, in a sense, to be restored and start again.

Woman who participate in a CWJC program have experienced difficult times too. They are seeking to leave their life of poverty, depression, divorce, spiritual and emotional pain and are reaching out for a better future.

At JOH/CWJC of Loudon County we have volunteers and mentors who are prepared to help. They have a love and concern for women who have experienced loss. They offer love and support to women who need help. Our CWJC instructors and mentors instill hope, and offer instruction to each participant that can lead them to a happier future. Like Naomi and Ruth, they are able to be restored so they can look forward to a new life and future.

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

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If you know of a woman in Loudon County who desires a better future – we are accepting applications for our next class. Contact the office by calling 865 816-3403.



### Save the date for our Awareness Dinner!

We will be hosting a complimentary Awareness Dinner on Thursday, May 19, 2011 at 6:30 p.m. Please plan to join us at the Baptist Association office for an informational meeting. We will be sharing the exciting things that are happening at Journey of Hope / Christian Women's Job Corp® in Loudon County.

#### Teaching Skills for Life....

We will introduce our volunteers, mentors, and board of directors. We will explain how we can help by giving a *Hand Up Not a Hand Out* to women in Loudon County. We will share how our program can help women progress step by step to personal growth and a more self-sufficient life. The dinner is FREE and the evening is not a fund raiser. However, we do need to know if you intend to come. So please call us at 865 816-3403.

## Qualified?!

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I once heard a saying that has stuck with me, and it goes like this...  
*"God does not call the qualified, He qualifies the called."*

The Bible is full of stories about ordinary men and women whom God called to do extraordinary things, and provided them the words and skills they needed to do what He called them to do. From Moses and Isaiah to Peter and Paul, we see God giving mere men just what they need to fulfill His call.

Jesus called mere fishermen, Simon and his brother Andrew, when they were casting a net into the lake and said "Come, follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." Mark 1:14 NIV. They were not trained evangelists and speakers, but with God's help and Jesus' instruction, they could be, and would be!

Jesus sent out His 12 disciples and said to them: "On my account you will be brought before governors and kings as witnesses to them and to the Gentiles. But when they arrest you, do not worry about what to say or how to say it. At that time you will be given what to say, for it will not be you speaking, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you." Matthew 10:18-20

*Pat Kimbrough*  
 Board of Directors / Secretary

And as you wish  
 that others would  
 do to you, do so  
 to them.

**Luke 6:31**

## Our Journey

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Christian Women's Job Corps® programs around the country offer participants training in budgeting, résumé writing, marriage, parenting, interview skills, Bible study, etiquette, proper dress, health and a host of other areas.

In 1994, national and state Woman's Missionary Union staff and volunteers met in Dallas, TX to develop a program to address the needs of impoverished women. Five pilot sites were started in San Antonio, Texas; Washington, DC; Chicago, Illinois; York County, South Carolina; and Bismarck, North Dakota.

After several additional meetings and the success of the pilot sites, 1997 marked the official launch of CWJC. In 2004, the Christian Men's Job Corp® was formed. Both ministries seek to model the behavior of Christ as He met emotional, physical and spiritual needs. The leaders want to share God's compassion with those who are hurting.

CWJC was recognized by the White House as a viable program for assisting women in need, and the national director was named as one of the 18 founders of the Vice President's Welfare to Work Coalition to Sustain Success.

In 2005, a group of dedicated Christians met and determined that they would like to bring a CWJC program to Loudon County. The result of those meetings was Christian Women's Job Corps of Loudon County becoming a reality.

Deb Ninis was the first site coordinator. The first group of three participants began Bible study with one of the ladies becoming the first program graduate.

In early 2008, the board of directors determined that they wanted to better define who we are. Knowing that life is a journey, not a destination and each of us are on the journey they decided that "Journey of Hope" more clearly defined CWJC of Loudon County. As a result, the name expanded to Journey of Hope / Christian Women's Job Corp® of Loudon County.

The journey for members of the Board of Directors has been one of challenges. However, when the outlook was darkest, God always sent someone to reaffirm that there is a ministry opportunity for us in Loudon County.

JOH / CWJC has a community-based Board of Directors, 501 (c)3 non-profit status. We are unlike any other job corps program, because it is not just a program, it is a ministry. This ministry is made possible by individual volunteers and churches who provide financial and prayer support and who donate many volunteer hours.

***Journey of Hope***  
**CHRISTIAN WOMEN'S**  
**JOB CORP**

Calvary Baptist Church  
 Education Building

300 West 1<sup>st</sup>  
 Avenue

Lenoir City, TN 37771

Phone:

(865) 816-3403

We're on the Web!

[www.journeycwjc.org](http://www.journeycwjc.org)

## All Things are Possible...

A husband's death, a job loss, a disability, illness or addiction can be overwhelming. Hopes, dreams and plans can simply go cold. For some women, a change is not the difficulty, but a lifelong belief handed down from previous generations – a sense of being stuck with no power to move forward. Escape from these feelings can be difficult, but it's far from impossible



JOH / CWJC provide women with a hand up in sustaining successful employment and meeting life goals. Women receive training in both life skills (rearing children, budgeting money) and job readiness (computer training, customer service skills, etc.). Each woman is involved in Bible study and matched with a trained Christian woman who will be her mentor as she travels the road from dependency to self-sufficiency.

Improved communication, self-awareness, goal setting and time management skills can give participants the competitive advantage to find employment. Partnerships with East Tennessee employers also provide participants a path to employment, although no guarantee of employment can be made.

If you are a woman who is ready to put in the effort, we can offer you encouragement, nurture and support as you become self-sufficient and able to provide for yourself and your children. We will help you build up your determination and persistence. You will have an opportunity to "see it like it could be," and believe in all your possibilities. Most importantly, we would like to help you experience God's love, forgiveness and grace.

JOH/CWJC of Loudon Cty.  
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 Lenoir City, TN 37772