### LaDonna C. Osborn







#### Dr. LaDonna C. Osborn



is a lifestyle

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#### LaDonna Osborn

### Introduction

Are your days filled with supernatural peace and calm, or are you plagued by anxieties and fears because of life's circumstances and disappointments? There are many influences that try to threaten the peace that has been promised to believers by Jesus Christ. How are we to deal with these challenges?

How does a person maintain peace in times of crisis?

When difficulties arise, when there seems to be little hope, what are we to do?

I have prepared this Sermon-In-Print to help you discover and experience a peace that can be consistent even in life's most devastating situations. It is possible. My life and ministry have taken me to people of scores of nations, of many cultures, and of most major religions. People everywhere are searching for truth, for what is real, for what works in practical application. Empty religion does not have the answer. Ideology and ritual do not bring peace. But according to the Bible – God's Word – there is a peace that is valid and that never leaves us.

This pocket book brings to you words of hope, of instruction, and of invitation to step beyond the present turmoil of your life, into a new dimension of peace and confidence. As you read, believe that God is speaking to you. He loves you and desires to be the central reality of your life. He wants you to experience His presence and His peace even in the midst of life's challenges. Trust Him and you will discover *Peace Is A Lifestyle.* 

The Author

This message was preached live by Dr. LaDonna C. Osborn and has been edited for publication in this *Sermon-In-Print Series*.

## PART ONE: Jesus Is the Prince of Peace

Webster's Dictionary defines *peace* not only as "a state of tranquility or quiet," but also as "freedom from civil disturbance" and "freedom from disquieting or oppressive thoughts or emotions."

We now live in a time where civil disturbance is a reality in virtually every nation of the world. All one has to do to tap into the negative emotion birthed by current events is pick up the daily paper or watch a television news broadcast. Is it possible that, in the midst of the turmoil of life, we can attain and maintain a lifestyle of peace? The good news is that the answer is yes because Jesus is the Prince of Peace.

In Isaiah 9:6, we find the prophetic words spoken about Jesus that foretell His authority and His reign. For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on His shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Jesus is the reining, all-powerful, ever present Peace who has come and who is here.

Luke 1:68-79 is another passage that is significant for our understanding as we discover that Jesus is the Prince of Peace. The angel presented this truth to Zechariah, and out of his mouth came the most beautiful prophecy. This prophecy is in the present tense because Zechariah is talking about the birth of his son, John the Baptist. But it is also foretelling the life of the Christ child, the Prince of Peace.

Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, because he has come and has redeemed his people. He has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David (as he said through his holy prophets of long ago), salvation from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us—to show mercy to our ancestors and to remember his holy covenant, the oath he swore to our father Abraham: to rescue us from the hand of our enemies, and to enable us to serve him without fear in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.

And you, my child, will be called a prophet of the Most High; for you will go on before the Lord to prepare a way for him, to give his people the knowledge of salvation through the forgiveness of their sins, because of the tender mercy of our God by which the rising sun will come to us from heaven to shine on those living in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the path of peace.

Matthew 3:3 (NKV) says of John the Baptist, *This is he who was spoken of through the prophet Isaiah: "A voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way for the Lord; make his paths straight.*" We see that John the Baptist spoke as a man *and* as a prophet of God as he proclaimed, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." Mt. 3:2

Notice a very important technicality in this passage from the Book of Isaiah. The punctuation in

some English translations is misleading. This voice of one crying is often punctuated, "The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord.'" Because we know John lived in the desert and he dressed and ate in an unusual manner, we think of him out in the wilderness, crying out like a wild man. But that is not what the Scripture says, and it is not what the original Hebrew expresses. The phrase is punctuated more accurately this way, "The voice of one crying, 'In the wilderness, prepare the way of Lord, make His path straight.'" This conveys a totally different meaning about the one who is crying (or calling loudly) and about those who are being called.

I see us, as followers of Christ, in this cry. *We* are crying to those who are in the wilderness of sin, isolation, loneliness and everything that is associated with separation from God and all of His goodness. *We* are that voice, and our message is that the Prince of Peace, Jesus Christ, has come.

As we reflect on the path that Peace endured to offer Himself to us, we see that it began in the heart of God. Because of His love, God took the initiative and came looking for us. His promise was that, through the cross, all humankind could be redeemed by the One who is the Prince of Peace.

In Genesis 3:15, immediately after Adam and Eve turned away from God, He spoke the first promise of the coming redemption. Throughout the record of the Old Testament, the prophets continued echoing this promise. Their prophetic utterances of God's coming deliverance were like a thick liquid, flowing with divine determination. Out of that flood of God's love, we hear the voices of the prophets, making clear the announcement of the coming Redeemer as they declare, "The promise is coming and you will recognize Him. He will be gentle, loving, compassionate, a lamb...the Prince of Peace."

John the Baptist was a New Testament voice that God placed on the scene at precisely the intended moment in time. It was as though all the previous voices that had echoed through the flow of God's love merged into John's proclamation as he said, "Now it's *your* time. Have you done all you need to do? Are you ready to recognize the One who has been promised through all of the generations?" What God began with His promise in the garden, the prophets continued through the passing generations, and finally, John the Baptist announced to everyone: "Now is the time!" God sent His Son, Jesus Christ, as the Prince of Peace in order that we might be able to be reunited with God and experience His *peace* as our daily lifestyle. But this new reality does not just *happen*. There is something that we are to do so that we can benefit from what God has accomplished on our behalf. We must understand and receive this peace that has been provided for us.

### PART TWO: Understanding Peace

Because of what Christ did for us on the cross, God's peace belongs to each person who has chosen to believe in and receive Jesus Christ. But in order for peace to be our daily reality, there are five things that we must understand. Using *P.E.A.C.E.* as an acronym will help us to remember each vital truth that unlocks the secret to a peace-filled lifestyle as God's children.

P The penalty is *paid*. According to Zechariah's prophecy, we understand that Jesus came to give the knowledge of salvation to His people through the remission of

sins. In Christ, who gave His life on the cross, our sins have been done away with, and there is nothing more we can do to be rid of them. Our sin is not remitted (removed) when we repent; our sin was remitted when Christ paid sin's penalty of death as our substitute on the cross. When we repent and accept Christ and His sacrifice on the cross, His life comes to us and the benefits of His death and resurrection become ours. Not only is this one of the great truths of our faith as Christians, but this is the good news that we are to announce to our world. None of the world's empty religions dare to suggest that the sinful human condition can be reversed. Only through faith in the Prince of Peace can our death penalty be satisfied and our lives restored to a beautiful and peace-filled relationship with God. If we are going to have a lifestyle of peace, then we must remember that the penalty for all of our sin is *paid*.

\* \* \*

*Everyone* is included. The Scripture reveals that this message of peace is for *all* who sit in darkness under the shadow of death. For those who have

committed deeds that may have resulted in imprisonment or in the destruction of their own bodies, these words take on a powerful, literal meaning. But they are also true for those who have never engaged in such activities. Although I was only seven years old when I accepted Christ, I knew that what Christ did on the cross was for *me*; it was *my* sin that put Him there.

The fact is, we are *all* in darkness before we come to Christ. Before our decision to receive Christ's life we were *all* living under the shadow of death. It was the absolute authority over our lives. But because the Prince of Peace has come, we have heard and believed the good news that *everyone* is included in God's redemption plan.

A *Acknowledge* God's gift. According to the prophecy of Zechariah, it is because of the tender mercy of God that peace can now be ours. Peace does not belong to us because of anything that we have done, but rather because of *who* He is. He is merciful. He is compassionate. He extends His grace

to us. God has already provided peace for us because of His great mercy. We cannot work for it. We cannot earn it. We cannot pay for it. All we are asked is to simply *acknowledge* it. Faith agrees with what God has said.

\* \* \*

*C Choose* to follow. The Old Testament prophet said that He will guide our feet. This did not imply that He would force us. We must *choose* where we put our feet. We must *choose* to follow Him who is gracious, who has paid the penalty of our disobedience, who has chosen to include us, who accomplished our salvation because of His mercy and who is committed to walk with us and to guide us. At every moment, with each decision, every day of our lives, we must *choose* to follow Him who is the Prince of Peace.

\* \* \*

*Everything* is going to be all right. The Scripture says that not only will He guide our feet, but He will also guide us into the way of peace.

Regardless of the circumstances that surround us, we can trust that He is guiding us into the way of peace. When seemingly impossible obstacles lay before us, we can remember that He is guiding us into the way of peace. And because we know that He is guiding us into the way of peace, we are assured of this: *everything* is going to be all right. The Prince of Peace never leaves us nor forsakes us. Peace will bring us through every time.

## PART THREE: Making Peace Our Lifestyle

As we move toward making peace our lifestyle, we do so by refocusing our thoughts and affections on the Prince of Peace and what His peace can mean to us. Once we understand the guarantee of our peace and the message that peace brings us, then we can respond in a way that will ensure a lifestyle of peace.

What is the *guarantee* of our peace? Because God has removed our transgression from us, the guarantee of our peace is the promise that *everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved* (Joel 2:32). Our peace is God's gift. It is in His great love and mercy that He gave His life for us while we were still sinners.

The guarantee of our peace is that we can *choose* to follow. Jesus said, "Whoever will come after Me, whoever will follow Me, will lay down their life and take up Mine...." We have the power to choose to call on the name of the Lord and to allow the Prince of Peace to be the Lord of our lives.

\* \* \*

What is the *message* that peace brings? *Peace declares, "If the penalty is paid, then you do not have to live in the past."* 

Many Christians do not understand that because the penalty of their sin is paid completely, there is no necessity for guilt or remorse or for grief over past deeds or omissions. My friend, when you allow Christ to heal your yesterdays, you will begin to live in a new dimension of peace. The Apostle Paul makes the bold statement, *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: the old has gone, the* 

#### PEACE IS A LIFESTYLE

new has come (2 Corinthians 5:17).

\* \* \*

Peace declares, "Your life is of great value."

If what God did in Christ is for everyone, peace is now standing before you saying, "You are valuable; you are significant; your life is of great worth." The enemy of God may lie to you and tell you that someone else is more valuable to God than you. But this is contrary to the message of peace. Your value has already been determined by the enormous price that Christ paid for you with His own blood.

\* \* \*

Peace declares, "God is not mad at you."

When my father, T.L. Osborn, spoke those words by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, a hush came over the packed convention center where he was preaching. Those simple words were like a divine shock to the hearts of the listeners. Think of it: God is not mad at you! His mercy has never wavered. His tenderness has never repented. His grace has never altered. His compassion has never withdrawn. There may be times when you think that you are not doing enough or that you are disappointing God. There may be times when the enemy lies to you, saying, "That weakness in your life—that personality flaw—has angered God, and He has decided not to use you." That is *not* the truth! Peace comes to you and says, "God loves you and is with you. He has pleasure in you. He trusts you. God is not mad at you."

\* \* \*

#### Peace declares, "You are not alone."

Remember that God is present with you and that He will guide you through your life-journey. You can depend on it. You do not have to decide where to go or what to do. You are not required to know everything that may happen tomorrow. You are to trust the God who is present with you. When you begin to think, "Should I take this job? Should I move? Should I get involved with this particular person?" pause and ask the Lord for guidance. Let Him guide you, and you will discover that you are living the lifestyle of peace. The Prince of Peace is your present guide and companion.

#### PEACE IS A LIFESTYLE

\* \* \*

Peace declares, "Enjoy the journey."

Have confidence that everything is going to be all right because your Master is continually guiding you in the way of peace. Because you trust that His presence is with you, you do not give up. You are able to enjoy each day, each experience, each moment and each breath because God is leading. He is guiding you in the way of peace, so He as the Prince of Peace stands before you and smiles, saying, "Be happy and enjoy the journey."

\* \* \*

How do we respond?

When we hear the good news of Christ as the Prince of Peace, we must respond. We must do something. Once we understand the guarantee of our peace and hear His message, we are responsible to adjust certain attitudes that are contrary to His truth. Let's discuss five of the most common, peace-negating attitudes that plague people.

*First* is the "if you only knew" attitude. When people who are living in the past hear that the penalty

of their guilt has been paid and there is nothing to separate them from God's goodness, they will often think to themselves, "If you only knew."

My friend, it does not matter what people may know of your past because God, who knows everything about you, has included *you* in His redemption plan. God already knew everything about you when He gave His Son for you. He knew everything when His tender mercy was extended toward you. Get rid of the "if you only knew" attitude and allow peace to be your new reality.

**Second** is the "it doesn't matter" attitude. There are people who live their lives, clinging to the attitude that they are not important. They know that redemption includes them, but they have surrendered the value of their lives to the lie that they are not of sufficient worth to receive God's blessings. They may know intellectually that their life has great value, but they allow this attitude of defeat to remain fixed in their minds.

If this is you, then I plead with you now, on behalf of the Prince of Peace, to remove this negative and self-destructive attitude that says, "It doesn't matter." The truth is that everything concerning you does matter to God. If you have a desire in your heart, it matters. If you have a need in your life, it matters.

**Third** is the "yes, but..." attitude. There are those who know that God is not mad at them and understand that His gift is a gift of grace and mercy. They will say *amen* to the truth, then in their next breath add, "Yes, but I have this problem," or "Yes, but I have to work this out first."

When you fully accept the reality of the Prince of Peace, you will allow Him to replace the "yes, but..." attitude with one of total peace in every area of your life. Remember that God is not mad at you. He is happy with you. If God is on your side, then who can be against you? Who can separate you from God and His love and His power and His victory? Do not allow the "yes, but..." attitude to nullify God's peace-gift to you.

*Fourth* is the "you don't understand" attitude. People often feel plagued by deep loneliness, especially during holidays and on important personal occasions. I can say to you, "Peace says that you are not alone; you can choose to enjoy His presence." The peaceignoring attitude will respond by saying, "You just don't understand. None of my family is nearby. No one calls me. I am all alone." My friend, I am telling you I do understand, and I know that you are never alone when you are in relationship with the Prince of Peace.

When you become weary and are tempted to feel lonely, you may begin to believe that no one understands or cares. This is when the Prince of Peace will come and sit right there with you, comforting you with His faithful presence. How could anyone ignore the presence of God and choose instead to accept loneliness? Replace the "you don't understand" attitude with the joyful reminder that Peace has come to live with you.

*Fifth* is the "I don't know how anything good is going to come of this" attitude. We often hear people say things like, "This is just an impossible situation. We are expecting a baby and we have no health insurance," or "The place where I've worked for ten years has gone out of business. I don't know how I'll find work." How often have *we* been guilty of allowing

this attitude to govern our own lives?

You see, all of these attitudes are natural excuses that resist the supernatural presence of God in our lives. Faithless attitudes shackle God's people with fear, guilt and anxiety. But Peace yearns to emerge as the divine reality that replaces all that distracts, discourages or demeans God's children.

Peace is not just a word; it is *life*. Peace is not a mood; it is the way you *live*. Peace is not an attitude; it is a *person*—the Prince of Peace, the Lord Jesus Christ. It doesn't matter who you are or what circumstances you may face in life: you *can* live a lifestyle of peace. Peace can be your lifestyle because the Prince of Peace has come to establish His throne in your heart and to rule and reign as your Savior and Lord.

### PART FOUR:

# Get Ready– The Prince of Peace Has Come

John cried out, "*In the wilderness, prepare the way of the Lord…*" And I say to you right now, whatever wilderness you may be in, get ready because the Prince of Peace has come!

In Luke 2:14, we see that the peace that Jesus *is*, was announced by the angel, accompanied by a multitude of the heavenly host: *Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests!* And Jesus, the Prince of Peace, said, Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid (John 14:27). In John 16:33, He said, I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world. Get ready... because the Prince of Peace has come!

Right now, consider the truth that Jesus is the Prince of Peace. Believe that He has made a lifestyle of peace available to you. Then choose to receive Him and recognize His presence with you. God has taken the initiative and has come to you in a way that has captured your attention. He has touched your heart and stirred your faith so that you can respond and say *yes* to Him.

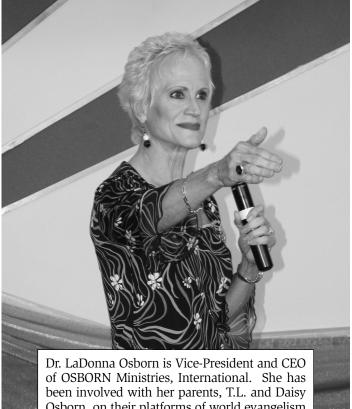
You have heard His words and, as you choose to believe, the overtaking presence of God's peace is washing over you, filling all of the broken places of loneliness, apprehension, insecurity and regret. He is washing away all of the things that would disallow the Prince of Peace from reigning in your life. Pray this prayer, believing that God hears you:

Thank You, Lord Jesus, that You have come to

me through this Sermon-in-Print. The words of truth have shown me how much You truly love me. Thank You for giving Yourself for me so that I can belong to You and enjoy Your wonderful peace. I accept You as my Savior and as my Lord. I believe that where You are, there is peace because You are the Prince of Peace. Thank You that You have come to live with me. Your peace is now mine. I reject my old attitudes of fear and inferiority and hopelessness. I accept You and the reality of Your presence. You are my peace in every situation. Thank You, in Jesus' name! Amen.

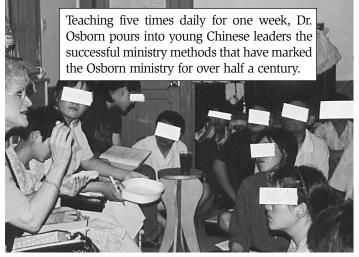
My friend, the Prince of Peace comes to you... restoring, comforting, assuring, guiding, forgiving, healing and blessing your life. From this day on, not only will you live the lifestyle of peace, but you will be a voice of hope to people all around you who do not know the peace that you have received. You are now the voice that reminds others that because Jesus is the Prince of Peace, peace can come to them and become their redeemed lifestyle.

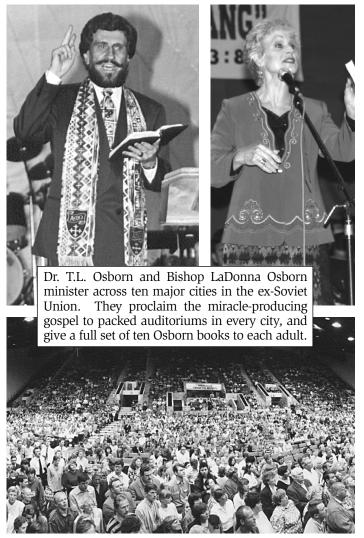
Write to me and tell me how this Sermon-in-Print has helped you. I love you and want to be an ongoing blessing in your life.



of OSBORN Ministries, International. She has been involved with her parents, T.L. and Daisy Osborn, on their platforms of world evangelism since she was a child. Her life is a living example of Christ's love for people, and she now carries the gospel into this century's new frontiers including China, Russia, French-speaking Africa and the ex-communist nations of Eurasia.

Dr. LaDonna Osborn with young underground believers in China, holding a Mandarin translation of T.L. Osborn's book, *Healing the Sick*. (Eyes are covered to conceal identity.)

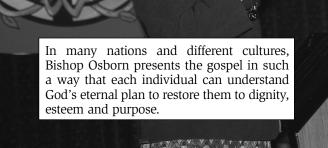




Sharing her joy, this woman testifies of her miracle healing from an incurable disease. She tells the people, "Now I know that I am valuable to God. He saw me, He cares for me and He has healed me."

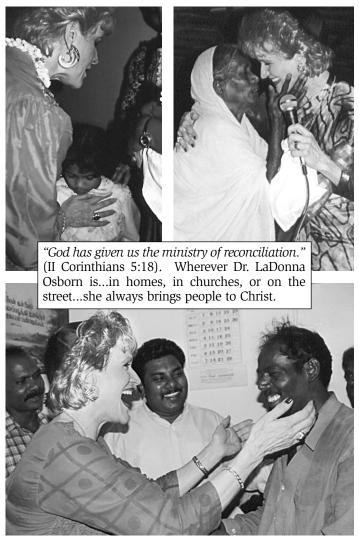


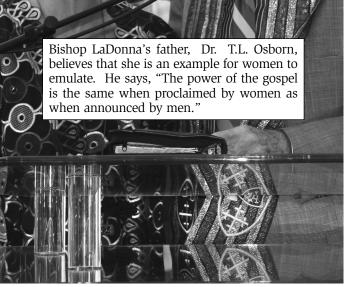
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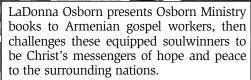
To see a woman preach the gospel with such power, astonishes the people attending her meetings. When Dr. LaDonna Osborn prays, God confirms her ministry with miracles, which is evidence that women, as well as men, can serve as Christ's representatives in gospel ministry everywhere.

Mighty miracles confirm the gospel that Bishop LaDonna preaches in Uganda, China, India, Papua New Guinea or wherever people will believe the redemptive message of Christ.

As we stand before the MULTITUDES of needy

As we stand before the MOLITIODES of needy people, our gaze is fixed on the Person of Jesus Christ. It is HIS LIFE that is expressed through us. His ministry continues through us. His words are what we declare. His love is our motivation. His passion is our mission. We are His ambassadors." – LaDonna Osborn

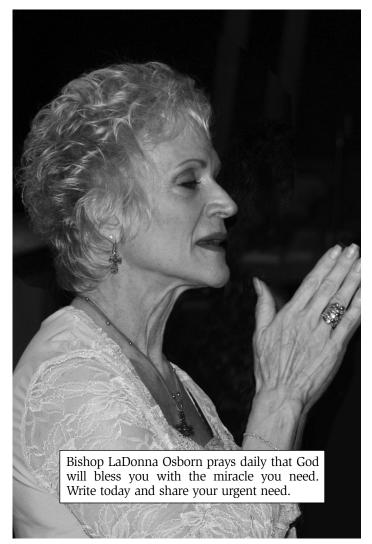








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# | about the author LaDonna | Osborn

LaDonna Osborn is Vice-President and CEO of OSFO International, the world missionary church established by her parents, T.L. and Daisy Osborn, nearly six decades ago.

Dr. LaDonna's fresh vision and leadership, combined with the established ministry and solid experience of her father, T.L. Osborn, have positioned the organization for expanded outreach into new areas of the world including Russia, French-

Her life's passion is to share the Good News of Christ speaking Africa, Eurasia and the world's largest nation, China. Today, the Osborn ministries share the Gospel of Jesus Christ on every continent, reaching nearly 90 nations of the world through evangelism, mass-miracle crusades and the distribution of books and literature published in 132 languages.

She has served as pastor of International Gospel Center in Tulsa, Oklahoma, and is founder and bishop of the International Gospel Center Fellowship of Churches and Ministries, an international network of over 600 churches.

Dr. LaDonna Osborn is a member of the College of Bishops for the International Communion of Charismatic Churches, which represents over 7,000 pastors, 9,000 churches and more than ten million believers worldwide.

Her ministry, based on the message of redemption, includes preaching, teaching and mass-miracle crusades. She brings a powerful influence to international church ministries, and is widely recognized and respected as a leader in world missions.

Dr. Osborn has four children and 16 grandchildren. She and her husband live in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

# Books by Dr. LaDonna Osborn



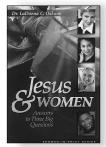
#### **God's Big Picture**

Although the Bible is a multifaceted book, written over a period of 2000 years by more than 40 different authors, it contains a remarkably simple message of God's redemption plan for people. This message is commonly known as *the gospel*. Once the overarching message

of the gospel is understood, each person can discover their own divine purpose and can live as the unique person God created him or her to be.

In God's Big Picture, Dr. LaDonna Osborn paints a verbal portrait of redemption, a panoramic view of the progressive story of God's plan for humanity, comprised of four biblical events: *Creation* (God created us,) *Deception* (Satan tried to destroy us,) *Substitution* (Jesus redeemed us,) and *Restoration* (we are restored to God).

Popular, trendy teachings come and go. Only the gospel of Christ's redemption produces enduring change in human lives. Once you understand these four redemptive truths, you will develop the confident and consistent faith in God that produces balanced and successful Christian living as you fulfill His purpose for your life. **GBP** 135 pgs – \$7.95



### Jesus and Women

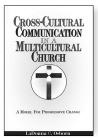
Throughout the world today, women are faced with issues concerning marriage, motherhood, employment, business ownership, civic service, church involvement and much more. There are many voices, both in and out of the

Church, that are all-too-eager to define a woman's "proper place." But the only source for valid direction is the person of Jesus Christ, who always offers hope, dignity and esteem to all who come to Him.

In this *Sermon-In-Print Series* pocket-book, Dr. LaDonna Osborn identifies three important questions that arise from encounters Jesus had with women as recorded in the Bible. These three questions are still being asked today in both the Church and secular society:

- What are we going to do with the women?
- Why bother with the women?
- Why talk to the women?

Jesus' response in each encounter gives us clear-cut answers to these questions. Don't struggle with religious tradition or man-made limitations one more day. Discover your own unique identity and begin to fulfill God's purpose for you. JW 61 pgs – \$3.95



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This book includes a model for progressive change among multicultural groups in a local church through a seven-week course of Bible study. These insights, ideas and suggestions will be helpful in guiding you into and through the compelling and rewarding journey of cross-cultural communication in your multicultural world.

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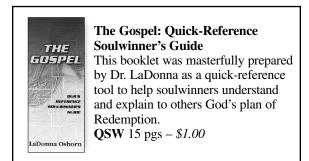


this book.

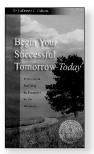
#### New Miracle Life Now

Dr. T.L. and Dr. LaDonna Osborn's ground-breaking new book succeeds in communicating the gospel in non-Westernized language, bridging the East-West language barrier to present Christ to the Eastern World. Believers will discover a fresh perspective of faith when reading

Inspired by a burning desire to reach the Eastern world, which does not relate to the Westernized, Christianized language and culture, the Osborns present the timeless gospel story with a NEW approach. Believers will see the familiar message of Christ and Redemption with a fresh perspective when reading this book. NEW terms – NEW definitions – NEW words. Share NEW MIRACLE LIFE NOW with your friends and those of other faiths. NM 240 pgs – \$7.95



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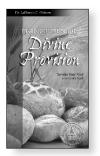
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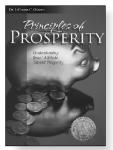


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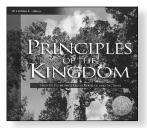
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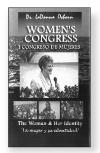
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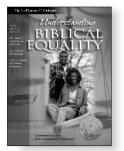
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