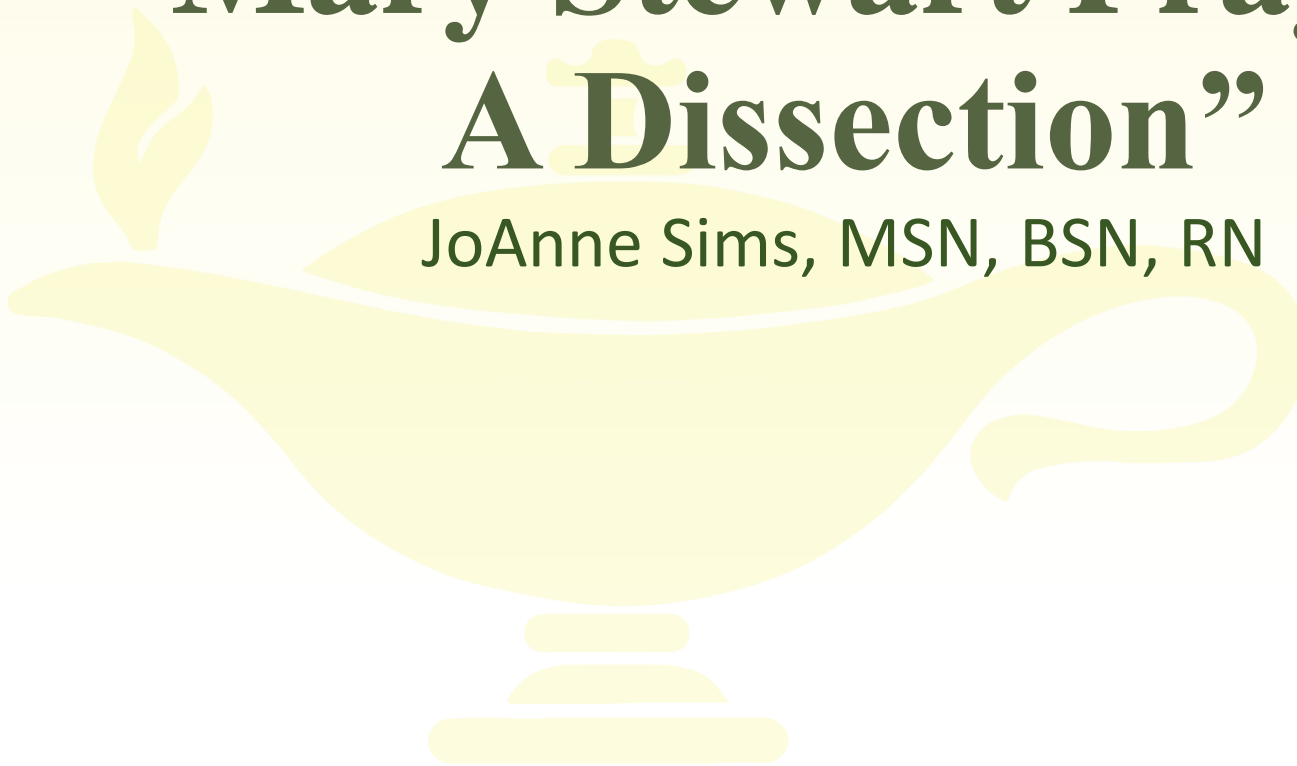


# **“Understanding the Mary Stewart Prayer: A Dissection”**

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# Objectives

**By the end of this presentation the participants will be able to:**

- 1.State the origin of the Mary Stewart Prayer**
- 2.Understand the impact of personal behavior in group settings**
- 3.State two effects that judgement has on individual members**



Mary Stewart who was born in 1876 in Ohio, but spent her childhood in Georgetown, Colorado, high up in the Rockies. As the principal of a high school at Longmont, Colorado, she was described as a little bundle of energy, dignity and personal charm. It was while she was principal that this collect was written and has been used by the Women's Institutes and other organizations around the world as their club creed. ... Mary Stewart died at the age of 67, on April 1, 1943, in Ohio.



Mary Stewart



# The Mary Stewart Prayer

The prayer was written about 1904 At the time Mary Stewart was the principle of the Longmont High School. In later life, Miss Stewart served in an number of Positions; Dean of Women at the University of Montana, Assistant Director General of the U.S. Employment Service, Superintendent of Indian Education, U.S> Department of the Interior; and as national officer of the National Federation of Business and professional Women's Club's



# Mary Stewart

“It was written as a prayer for the day. I called it a [‘Collect For Club Women,’](#) because I felt that women working together with wide interests for large ends was a new thing under the sun and that, perhaps they had need for special petition and meditation of their own. This must have been true for the Collect has found its way about the world, especially wherever English speaking women get together. Indeed it has been reprinted in many forms in many lands.”





# Why is it important to understand the prayer?

- Our Founder's ascribed to the tenants of the prayer
- The prayer was adopted by Chi Eta Phi Sorority, Inc. to be said before all business meetings in 1932
- The prayer was written to address women and their communication



# Keep us, O God, from pettiness

pet·ti·ness ['pedēnəs]

## NOUN

undue concern with trivial matters, especially of a small-minded or spiteful nature.

**"the sheer pettiness of the officials was quite startling" •**

lack of importance or worth; triviality.

**"these awesome moments lift us above the pettiness of the world"**

We can be persuaded by a different opinion, agree to disagree, or force the point, which can lead to pettiness.

[Titus 3:9](#) warns us to “avoid foolish controversies and genealogies and arguments and quarrels about the law, because these are unprofitable and useless.”

In other words, avoid petty arguments, especially about spiritual matters.



# Let us be large in thought, in word, in deed



Thought: Thinking big, thinking beyond what we see.

Words: Using our words carefully, considering the implication of these words on others.

Deeds: Thinking about how what we do effects others in the long run.





# Let us be done with fault-finding and leave off all self-seeking.

Judge not, that you be not  
judged. Matt 7:1

fault-finding [fôlt 'fîndiNG]

NOUN

faultfinding (noun)

continual criticism, typically  
concerning trivial things.

"the traditional manager will  
attempt to get results by fault-  
finding"

synonyms: criticism ·  
captiousness · caviling · quibbling  
· niggling · pedantry



pre·tense ['prē,tens,  
prē'tens]

## NOUN

an attempt to make something that is not the case appear true.

a false display of feelings, attitudes, or intentions.

- May we put away all pretense and meet each other face to face, without self pity and without prejudice

**FAKE**



# May we never be hasty in judgment

## How can I tell if I'm being judgmental?

- Judging someone else might include:
- Avoiding that person
- Making fun of them
- Seeing their behavior as attention seeking
- Holding other negative thoughts about them
- Using language that might hurt their feelings



# **I'm just going to leave this right here..**

**You rate others based on their appearance**

**You constantly gossip about others**

**You form opinions of others based off what people say**

**You assume people are lying without evidence**

**You rate people based off the people they hang out with**

**You leave no room for mistakes or forgiveness**

**You are disgusted with people who disagree with you**

**You maintain a negative outlook or mood**

**You always take other peoples inventory**



# May we never be hasty in judgement

How can judging other people affect them?

- Judging someone can have similar effects to other forms of discrimination.
- People describe feeling isolated, ashamed, misunderstood, criticized and demeaned.
- Judging can also result in people being less likely to talk about what they're going through and ask for the help they need.

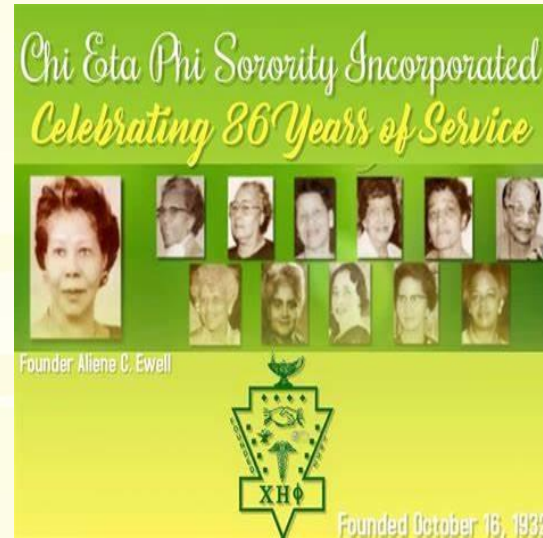




# and always be generous.

A generous lifestyle is where you realize just how well God has provided for you and that leads you, in return, to a desire to be a generous giver to others.

Living generously is living gratefully and offering to others without worrying about getting something in return. It is gratitude in action. A generous life is a life lived with our hands open. A generous lifestyle is an intentional way of living that reflects a life touched by God.





# Let us take time for all things and make us to grow calm, serene and gentle

## Calm

- Not showing or feeling nervousness, anger, or other strong emotions. (adj)
- the absence of violent or confrontational activity within a place or group. (noun)
- make (someone) tranquil and quiet; soothe. (verb)



se·rene  
[sə'rēn]

**ADJECTIVE**

calm, peaceful, and  
untroubled; tranquil.

"her eyes were closed and she  
looked very serene"



gen·tle  
['jen(t)l]

## ADJECTIVE

having or showing a mild,  
kind, or tender temperament  
or character.

synonyms:

kind · kindly · tender · benign ·  
humane · lenient · merciful ·  
forgiving · [more]  
moderate in action, effect, or  
degree; not harsh or severe.



# Teach us to put into action our better impulses, straightforward and unafraid

- The implication that we need to be taught to put into action our better impulses means that it is not a natural state of man or woman to be nice.
- The verse in the prayer implies that to use our better impulses take some courage on our parts

**It's so easy  
to hate. It  
takes  
strength to  
be gentle  
and kind.**



**Grant that we may realize that it is  
the little things of life that create  
differences, that in the big things of  
life, we are as one**

**Catch for us  
the foxes,  
the little  
foxes that  
ruin the  
vineyards,  
our  
vineyards  
that are in  
bloom. Song  
of Solomon  
2:15**





# And, O Lord God, let us forget not to be kind!

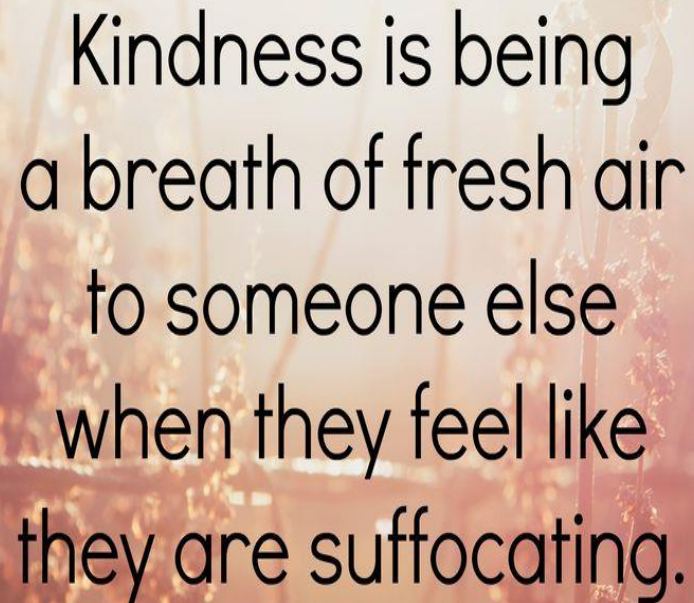
**kind·ness**

**['kīn(d)nəs]**

**NOUN**

**the quality of being friendly, generous, and considerate.**

**Going out of your way to do something that benefits someone else**



Kindness is being  
a breath of fresh air  
to someone else  
when they feel like  
they are suffocating.





# Now what...?

- Now that you know, what are you going to do?
- How will your behavior change?
- How can this information change the trajectory of your chapter?
- How can this information change the trajectory of this organization?



# References

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- The Holy Bible: The New International Version. (2005) Grand Rapids, MI Zondervan
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May 31, 2019

