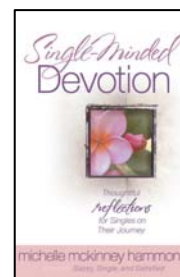


FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Contact: Brynn Thomas, Pure Publicity
541.953.6994 or Purepublicity09@aol.com

Satisfying Secret Longings Successful Living for Today's Single Woman



Chicago, IL – According to statistics from the U.S. Census Bureau, there are **95.9 million unmarried Americans** 18 and older. Currently, **53%** percent of unmarried Americans are women. With more than half the U.S. population comprised of unmarried women, who better to relate to the spiritual and emotional needs of this group than one who has battled those same secret longings and soul yearnings, yet remains secure and content as a single Christian woman?

Through personal perceptive wisdom and candidness, best-selling author and relationship coach **Michelle McKinney Hammond** encourages and challenges singles to keep their focus off the "single" label and direct their focus on God. In her new release, ***Single-Minded Devotion: Reflections for the Single Journey*** (Harvest House Publishers), Hammond provides more than 275 relevant-for-today devotions supporting Hammond's message for today's single woman. "Remember, you're not single after all. You're engaged and waiting for your divine Fiancé to complete the preparations for your marriage celebration," Hammond writes.

Hammond's insight comes from her personal story as a single woman who has persevered through relationship heartache and tragedy, yet maintained a daily priority to live in a close relationship with Christ. Hammond's desire is to motivate unmarried women to overcome heart issues, discover their divine purpose, reach out in service to others, and find lasting fulfillment in whole-hearted worship. A sampling of her wisdom include:

- **Adam & Eve** – "How we deal with authority in our families, on our jobs, in our activities, and at church reveal where we're at in submitting to God. Our ability to be great mates is only as great as our ability to be surrendered to God."
- **Cain & Abel** – "Independence can be as much a curse as it is a blessing. 'In-dependent.' The very structure of the word encourages us to go within ourselves. To depend on no one but ourselves. . . . This is a very common malady among singles."
- **Joseph** – "Trust me, when you have something deposited in your spirit by God, others will see you coming. You don't need to proclaim God is with you, announce who you are, or describe how important you are."
- **Samson** – "Remember: The person who keeps your secrets holds your strength. This is why God tells us to guard our hearts with diligence."
- **Ruth** – "Sometimes geography – physical and mental – has everything to do with our blessing. Where we are may be the hindrance to receiving what God wants to give us. . . . We get in our own way more than we know. Our insistence on remaining where we are can rob us of where we want to go."
- **Woman at the Well** – "How we see ourselves colors our expectations and sets us up to sometimes attract the very things we don't want. The Samaritan woman at the well had obviously died by degrees, burrowing deeper and deeper into self-hatred and resignation. This is how we sometimes miss the very blessings God has reserved for us."

Single-Minded Devotion includes Scripture passages, thought-provoking questions, Biblical character analogies and an earnest prayer – all with personal, practical application in mind. Each chapter resonates with applicable subjects that include "Uncovering true relationship," "Sure path to love and fulfillment," "For a time such as this," "God through everything," and "We are never alone."

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About the Author:

Michelle McKinney Hammond is founder and president of HeartWing Ministries, which seeks to inspire men and women to live life to the fullest for Christ. She has authored more than 30 books, including the bestsellers *Sassy, Single, & Satisfied* and *What to Do Until Love Finds You*, all of which focus on improving relationships. Michelle is also a singer, speaker, and former co-host of the decade-long, Emmy-winning TV show *Aspiring Women*. She lives in Chicago with her three Shi Tzu dogs. Michelle is a seasoned media guest and has been featured in *The New York Times*, *Chicago Tribune*, *The Chicago Times*, Bill Maher's *Politically Incorrect*, *Essence Magazine*, *Fox Morning News* and *Ebony Magazine*. Visit www.michellehammond.com for more information.

About Single-Minded Devotion: Reflections for the Single Journey

Single-Minded Devotion by Michelle McKinney Hammond. Published by Harvest House Publishers. September 1, 2009. Soft cover, 288 pages. \$13.99. ISBN: 978-0736913775.

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Suggested Interview Questions

For Michelle McKinney Hammond

- What did you learn about yourself while writing this devotional? What did you learn about your relationship with God?
- What are some common struggles for today's single? How can this devotional meet their needs?
- Who are some of the Bible characters profiled in this devotional? Who most resonates with you and why?
- Please share what God revealed to you about the woman at the well, and why so many women today can relate to her state of discontent.
- Michelle, you have devoted your career to writing about relational and heart issues. Over the span of your career, what has been the most important lesson you have brought to today's singles?
- You say one of the most misunderstood Scriptures is Psalm 37:4, which states, "Delight yourself in the LORD and he will give you the desires of your heart." How has this verse been misinterpreted?
- You talk about making peace with your singleness. How did that happen for you?
- Tell us about your D.I.V.A. events and how people can stay in touch with you?

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Statistics Regarding Single People (U.S. Census Bureau):

"National Singles Week" is observed during the third full week of September (Sept. 20-26 in 2009) as "Unmarried and Single Americans Week," an acknowledgment that many unmarried Americans do not identify with the word "single" because they are parents, have partners or are widowed.

61% percent of unmarried Americans 18 and older have never been married.

52.9 million: Number of households maintained by unmarried men or women. These households comprised 45 percent of households nationwide.

32.2 million: Number of people who live alone. They comprise 28 percent of all households, up from 17 percent in 1970.

45% percent of black women have never been married, compared with 23 percent of white women. Black women long have cited the lack of "qualified" black men to get into relationships as cause for their decision to remain single.