

## Convention 2017 Speech: A Women in the Bible

Composed by Denise Lalonde Morris

As your Education and Health Chairperson I promote a Healthy Body and Mind which in turn allows your spirit to respond to God's call. My spirit has responded by adopting a woman from the Bible known as Naomi. The wife of Elimelech and mother-in-law of Ruth she lived in an age where women had to listen to their husbands and obey their wishes. Disobeying the wishes of God, Naomi had to leave the land of her birth and follow her husband. During the trip Naomi lost both her husband and two sons. This meant she had to survive in a land that was full of debauchery and sin. One of her daughter-in-law's Ruth helped her to return to Bethlehem in the state of poverty and affliction. Once back home Naomi's daughter-in-law Ruth married the wealthy and respected Boaz. The marriage insured Naomi's land was redeemed and it allowed her descendants to claim their inheritance. The marriage also challenged Israel's laws of racial purity. The union of Ruth and Boaz produced a son. Ruth's son Obed was nursed by Naomi. Obed became the grandfather of King David.

Now how does this relate to Health and Education! Naomi shows how you can succeed when the worst things in the world happen. She had to battle overwhelming loss of family and her home. She faced hunger and poverty {as she came from a family with considerable wealth}. She had to adapt to the customs of a new land. Naomi overcame thinking of only herself, nursed the infant Obed as her own and dedicated a lot of her time in her elder years to helping those less fortunate as herself.

Without a doubt, I believe there are many of you that can draw many parallels to Naomi's life with your own. How many of you care for your grandchildren? Do any of you give up hours of your time to help the poor, homeless and the sick? How many have watched members of your family turn their back on God? How many out there can raise their hand because your have lost loved ones to illness, sudden death or reckless ends due to accidents of their doing or someone else? Do any of you know people who are in a mixed race or mixed religion union? Although Naomi lived a very long time ago life's problems are still there. With the love of God we always seem to carry on. Please remember That God never gives us anything in life that he doesn't think we can handle.

Madame President this ends my Report.