Date:     June 18, 2009

Plenary Title: Keynote Speaker
Workshop/Plenary Number : Closing Plenary

Presenter:
  Gloria Burgess, Ph.D.

Summary/Main Ideas:

Dr. Gloria Burgess is the author of *Dare to Wear Your Soul on the Outside*. She emphasized the need for service to others and changing the world around us for better. She explained that we are called to connect and use our skills, gifts, talents, resources and passion to serve others, creating opportunities that transform lives of many around us. To answer this service call, she stated that we should begin with transforming ourselves. We have to first change ourselves before we can change the world. She gave many examples of how women, as mothers mobilized actions resulting in social justice and change around the world just by answering this calling.

Using many personal life stories, she explained how tough life experiences and being treated as if invisible, over time can result in pain, lost of hope and doubts in ourselves. However, with strong encouragements from families [biologically and socially constructed families] and friends, one’s life journey will still be on the right paths. So, it takes all of us to give helping hands and encouragements to each other so that we can be all that God intended for us to be no matter what, come what may.

She closed by asking everyone in the audience to get their act together, put on their traveling shoes and get on the road show to be of use to others.