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### Impact Paper

When I reflect back to my genogram and ecomap, I learn that women in my family are survivors. There had being many challenges in their lives, some were degrading and humiliating. This was during the time of depression and hardship, women of color had no rights, and higher education for my family was impossible. My family was poor; my grandfather was a slave he died on the plantation. I am not ashamed of him because he set the path of freedom for the generation to come. His wife, who is my grandmother, left him because she had another ideal for freedom. She never divorced him but she came to Chattanooga and worked on the mountain and became a Nanny. When I look at my family tree, I see being free do not always mean freedom. My mother's father walked away and never came back. She was raised in a single parent home. They had no mental illness in their family but her sister and her brother were alcoholics. My grandmother Agnes' role changed when my grandfather left. She became a preacher and the head of her house. She was a stronger-willed woman, the church said, she could not preach in their church because God made women to be over children in the house, and a man was called to preach the gospel. They put her out of the church. My grandmother believed in determination, she began to preach the gospel in high crime neighborhoods. This means "stand for something or you will fall for anything". My grandmother had a favorite saying, "If your word is good, you can live anywhere in the country, and people will respect you. If not, you will become a slave to yourself". My father was an alcoholic, he believed, "children should be seen and not heard". This did not make sense to me as a child, and it does not today. He died at the age of 42; my mother

became the head of the house. She raised 9 children and several grandchildren. She cleaned house for a living, but never wanted her children to have that type of occupation. She had another ideal for freedom, she believed salvation and education is the only true way for freedom. When we had family night, she would say; “education would free you from poverty but Christ will free you from bondage of self”. My mother died last year, December 13, 2006.