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Making A Difference

the monthly online magazine from
Beloved King Ministries

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**A NON-DENOMINATIONAL CHRISTIAN INTERNET MINISTRY
DEDICATED TO PROMOTING BIBLICAL TRUTHS NOT TAUGHT BY MAINSTREAM RELIGION**

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"God's Deal With YOU."

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**God is working in you, giving you the desire to obey him
and the power to do what pleases him.**

Philippians 2:13 (NLT)

Greetings and God's blessings to you all

If you are reading your very first "Making a Difference" I extend a special welcome to you and hope that you are uplifted by the inspirational contributions sent from all around the world for us to share. And if you have been a member of the Beloved King Ministries' flock for some time, whether you are a regular correspondent or a passive reader who has enjoyed receiving our magazine each month I want you to know that you are prayed for every single day. I love every single one of you and praise God for you.

I want to take this opportunity to express my personal thanks to **all** the Spirit-filled folk who have taken the time and effort to share items with us and especially to those dear people who have given of their personal harvest to help this ministry financially. If YOU have something that you believe is worth sharing, please take a moment to send it to us.

I pray that God will abundantly bless you as we begin another new year, that your prayers and petitions to Him will be heard and that you and those most dear to you will experience the touch of the Holy Spirit as never before. Where understanding has been difficult, I pray that the clouds of darkness will be lifted and that the full light of Jesus will shine through so that His truth shall prevail in wonderful new ways.

I pray especially for those of you who are sick or infirm or distressed. May the Lord's compassion uplift you to new heights because, by His stripes, you HAVE BEEN healed. In the name of Jesus, I banish Satan and his lying servants, masquerading as angels of righteousness, from the lives of everyone who reads this magazine.

David R Holt

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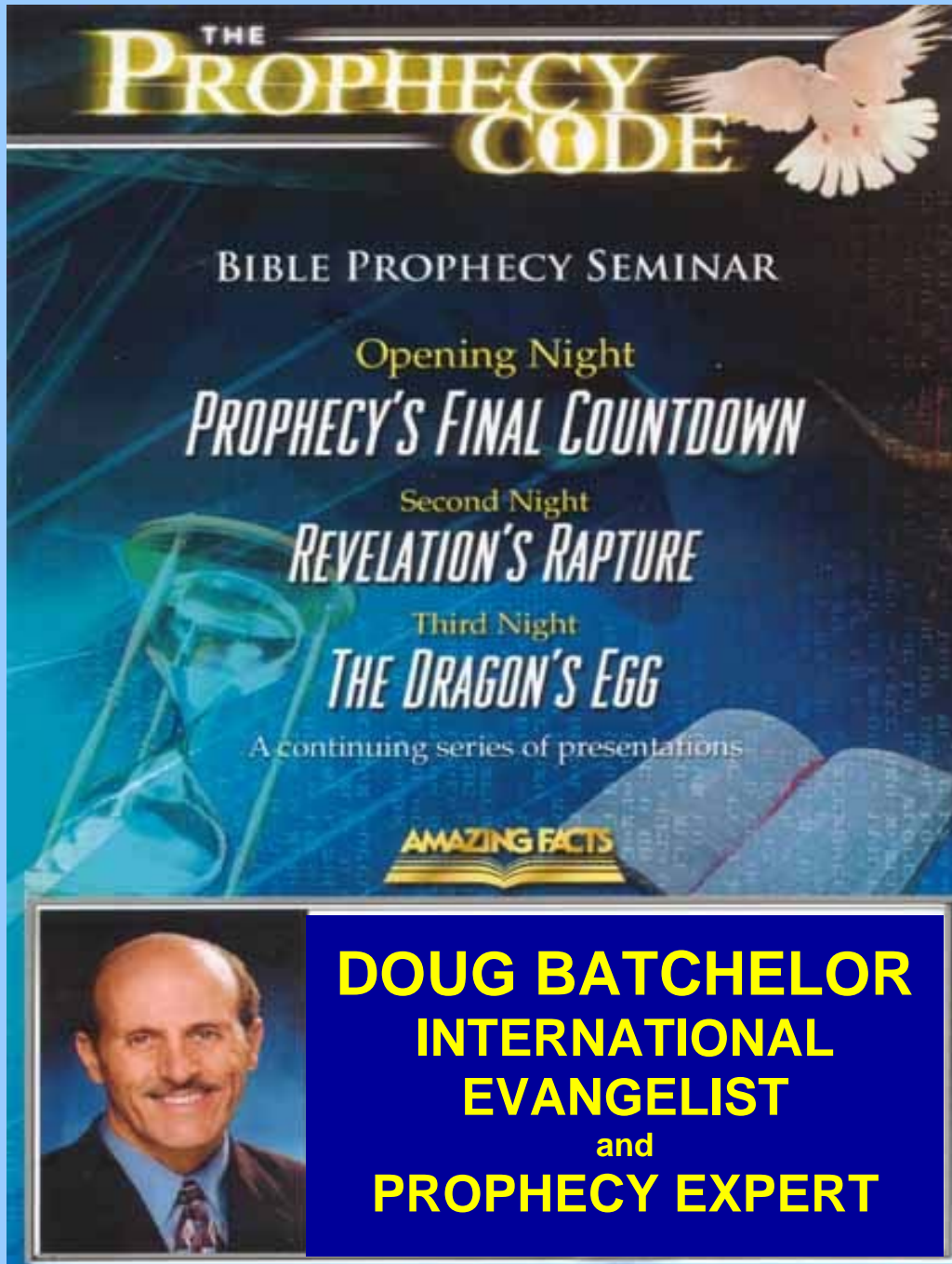
Mark Twain

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EDITORIAL



Completing Your Mission

The most important thing is that I complete my mission, the work that the Lord Jesus gave me – to tell people the Good News about God’s grace. (Acts 20:24 NCV)

In your Christian walk, what is the most important thing to YOU? Notice that, in the above verse, the MOST IMPORTANT thing to Paul was to COMPLETE his mission of sharing the gospel. So how is it with you?

Many Christians work tirelessly helping the poor, the needy, the sick, the imprisoned or travelling to famine or war-torn corners of the earth providing much-needed relief and all these things are very worthy and admirable causes. I have no doubt that such missions afford wonderful opportunities to tell those being helped about Jesus whilst demonstrating His love and the missionaries’ in truly practical ways. So why aren’t millions of oppressed people around the globe turning to Christianity?

Well, maybe they are – in their hearts. But what is being done by way of follow-up to the good works that Christians perform? What is being done to COMPLETE what was started in the name of Christ? The same writer – Paul – also wrote about spiritual gifts where he said, “There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but the same God works all of them in all men. Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. To one there is given through the Spirit the message of wisdom, to another the message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues. All these are the work of one and the same spirit, and He gives them to each one, just as He determines.” (1 Corinthians 12:4-11)

From this it is obvious that Paul received more than one of those gifts because his wisdom is undoubted and his acquisition of scriptural knowledge as a Pharisee student of Gamaliel would have been prodigious. Not only that, if Paul’s restoration of Eutychus at Troas is an example, he also had the gift of healing. Add to these Paul’s faith and it is easy to see why he was such a great apostle for the gospel. Of course ALL true Christians have what might be called *basic* faith but some receive the *spiritual gift* of a supernatural trust in the power of the Holy Spirit in them and Paul was such a person.

The Scripture above says that EACH ONE is given a gift or gifts ‘as He (the Holy Spirit) determines.’ However, Paul earlier opened his words with, “Now, about spiritual gifts *brothers...*” and the letter from which the quote comes with, “To the church at Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus and called to be holy...” which means that he was addressing himself specifically to Corinthian Christians rather than the general populace. That being the case, it would seem safe to assume that “each one” refers only to believers who can receive spiritual gifts today. The point here therefore, is discerning *which* gift or gifts the Holy Spirit has given to US - which work has each of us been given?

A couple of years after he wrote the above to the Corinthians Paul wrote his letter to the Romans. In that letter, he admonished his readers not to think of themselves more highly than they ought but rather to think of themselves with sober judgement “in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you.” (Romans 12:3) Then he listed spiritual gifts again – but this time, they were slightly different. In his earlier letter, most of the gifts mentioned were of a much more psychological nature – wisdom, knowledge, prophecy etc. whilst, this time, they were more practical and the way that they should be applied was also given. “We have different gifts, according to the grace given to us. If a man’s gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith. If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is mercy, let him do it cheerfully.” (vs. 6-8)

Do you see the point here? It doesn’t matter what gifts you have been given – what matters is what you do with them. All Paul wanted to do was to use his gifts to the fullest possible *completion* of his mission; that of telling as many people as he could about the Good News of Jesus Christ and Him crucified for their salvation. He died doing just that – executed at the hands of the Romans. He never gave up. Thus, the most important thing to him remained the most important thing right until the day he died.

Nowhere does the Bible suggest that one gift is more important than another. In fact, the analogy is given later in 1 Corinthians 12 where spiritual gifts are compared with different parts of the body and each part has it’s specific function but also relies on the other parts performing theirs. So it is with spiritual gifts. Each one is as important as another and it is up to each one of US to use what we have been given to the very best of our ability. Peter put it this way: “Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God’s grace in its various forms.” (1 Peter 4:10) And remember, the Holy Spirit doesn’t choose the equipped, He equips the chosen! So I repeat the question that I began this editorial with: In your Christian walk, what is the most important thing to you? Regardless of whatever gift or gifts you have been blessed with, just HOW important is COMPLETING your mission?

VIA DOLOROSA

Click the link for a beautiful presentation

Food For Thought

Seize The Moment

For the living know that they will die,
but the dead know nothing;
they have no further reward,
and even the memory of them is forgotten.

Ecclesiastes 9:5

I would rather have 1 little rose from the garden of a friend
Than to have the choicest flowers when my stay on earth must end.

I would rather have a pleasant word in kindness said to me
Than flattery when my heart is still and life has ceased to be.

I would rather have a loving smile from friends I know are true
Than tears shed 'round my casket when to this world I bid adieu.

Bring me all your flowers today, whether pink, or white, or red;
I'd rather have 1 blossom now than a truckload when I'm dead.

Recalling the good qualities of deceased friends or relatives at their funeral is appropriate, but how much better to give sincere praise to them while they are still living. It may be the encouragement they desperately need.

As the apostle Paul closed his letter to the Romans, he publicly commended those who had helped & encouraged him in the work of the gospel. He not only greeted them by name, but he also expressed his gratitude for what they had done (16:1-15). What an example for all of us to follow!

Do we owe someone a word of thanks or appreciation? Don't put it off. Say it today. Tomorrow may be too late!

What a wonderful way to explain it.

A sick man turned to his doctor, as he was preparing to leave the examination room and said, "Doctor, I am afraid to die. Tell me what lies on the other side."

Very quietly, the doctor said, "I don't know."

"You don't know? You, a Christian man, do not know what is on the other side?"

The doctor was holding the handle of the door; on the other side came a sound of scratching and whining, and as he

opened the door, a dog sprang into the room and leaped on him with an eager show of gladness.

Turning to the patient, the doctor said, "Did you notice my dog? He's never been in this room before. He didn't know what was inside. He knew nothing except that his master was here, and when the door opened, he sprang in without fear. I know little of what is on the other side of death, but I do know one thing. I know my Master is there and that is enough."

From: Martha Valentine

Shared by Donna Mae Ashburn

"Not because I desire a gift: but I desire fruit that may abound to your account." Philippians 4:17.

This year more people are helping me with my missionary efforts. It really pleases because I know in the first place the needs are great and I know these people helping me will be blessed. What they are doing is for the GLORY OF GOD. In Matthew chapter 28 JESUS tells us to go and tell every nation, it's one of the last things that Matthew records that JESUS said. I really do get so many blessings, I don't lead the missionary efforts for any reward, I just want to help and when someone tells me they are praying for them and gives me a gift for them, that is a joy to my heart.

We have to be a beacon to the ones who are lost and have no joy in their lives and I know true joy only comes from GOD above. I know there are family members in my own life that need GOD but I can't reach them. I am not going to give up on them. Every nation means our nation too.

It's getting close to EASTER and the suffering reminds us of just what a gift GOD gave us when HE sent JESUS to die for us. Paul was telling the Philippians and it applies to us that he knew when we do things to GLORIFY GOD, he is happy because our accounts will abound. Works don't get us to heaven but when we have accepted CHRIST into our hearts we should be glad to do whatever GOD tells us to. So let's put a smile on our faces and go out and shine and share the joy with others.

"RECIPE FOR A MIRACLE"

Shared by Kimberley Combs-Baldwin

- 1 cup Tension
- 2 cups Stress
- 1 teaspoon of Guilt
- 2 heaped cups of Limited Time
- 3/4 tablespoon of Urgency
- A dash of "No Other Choice"
- 3 heaped cups of Faith

Fold ingredients gently into a bowl. Mix vigorously and add a few tears. You'll sweat a little as you knead the dough.

Pack it firmly between your hopes and dreams and form into a perfect little ball.

Sprinkle it with a little faith (I recommend Hebrews 11), rolling the ball in the flour until fully covered.

Place it under a veil of belief and allow it to rise.

Put it in an oven that has been pre-set at the perfect temperature for the heat of trials and tribulations.

Allow it to brown under the warmth of God's love.

Remove after due season and allow to cool in the confidence of His promise.

Garnish with your praises. Arrange neatly on a platter of thankfulness and serve to friends, families and, oh yes, strangers . . . invite them too!

Pass on the recipe to all who request it and let them know that with this recipe, they have the makings of a miracle!

Look Up

Shared by Paul and Joanne Recht

BUZZARD

If you put a buzzard in a pen that is 6 feet by 8 feet and is entirely open at the top, the bird, in spite of its ability to fly, will be an absolute prisoner. The reason is that a buzzard always begins a flight from the ground with a run of 10 to 12 feet. Without space to run, as is its habit, it will not even attempt to fly, but will remain a prisoner for life in a small jail with no top.

BAT

The ordinary bat that flies around at night, a remarkably nimble creature in the air, cannot take off from a level place. If it is placed on the floor or flat ground, all it can do is shuffle about helplessly and, no doubt, painfully, until it reaches some slight elevation from which it can throw itself into the air. Then, at once, it takes off like a flash.

BUMBLEBEE

A bumblebee, if dropped into an open tumbler, will be there until it dies, unless it is taken out. It never sees the means of escape at the top, but persists in trying to find some way out through the sides near the bottom. It will seek a way where none exists, until it completely destroys itself.

PEOPLE

In many ways, there are lots of people like the buzzard, the bat, and the bumblebee. They are struggling about with all their problems and frustrations, not ever realizing that all they have to do is look up.

**Borrow money from pessimists.
They don't expect it back.**

The Bible says, "Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another... (Romans 13:8)



MAILBOX



The following question was actually sent to another Christian E-zine but, in light of its generic nature as well as its appropriateness to Beloved King Ministries' message, I reproduce it here with my own answer. DRH.

Health, wealth and faith

Q. What is the *Word of Faith* or *Prosperity Gospel* all about? From what I've managed to gather so far, it teaches that people can achieve wealth, health and all their other needs simply through faith in God. If that's the case, why is it considered wrong and unscriptural? 3 John 2 (Amplified Version) states "Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in every way and [that your body] may keep well, even as [I know] your soul keeps well and prospers." This scripture seems to support prosperity of those who are in Christ, don't you think?

How about when Jesus said that we shouldn't worry about what to eat or drink but to seek first the kingdom of God? He then went on to say that our Heavenly Father knows that we need these things. Wasn't He talking about prosperity? How about Abraham, Job, Solomon and many other servants of God who were abundantly rich?

I understand that there are Christians who are poor, as in Jesus story of Lazarus and the rich man. I also understand that prosperity can't be used as a measure of faith or the Christianity. But having said this, my questions on prosperity still stand.

Reader in Ghana

A. You ask why it is considered wrong or unscriptural to believe that people can achieve wealth, health and all their other needs simply through faith in God. With apologies, I answer this question with another question; By WHOM is it considered wrong and unscriptural? Certainly not by me or this ministry! In fact, the Scripture says, "And my God will meet ALL your needs according to His glorious riches in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:19, emphasis added). So, whilst you don't actually ask it, the inference in your questions suggests that you wonder why all Christians aren't fabulously rich and amazingly healthy.

Perhaps the most important starting point is what the Word says in Proverbs 28:9 where a clear statement is made that the prayers of anyone who turns his ear away from hearing (and, by obvious extension, OBEYING) Divine Law are nothing more than an abomination to God. This simply means that, no matter how much a person may SAY he/she loves Jesus, unless that person follows Jesus' own admonition, "If you love me, keep my commandments." (John 14:15, 21), their profession is nothing more than lip-service. It therefore follows - as Jesus also said - if a person professing to be a Christian is following the teachings of some apostate church rather than biblical teachings, they are worshiping Him in vain (Mark 7:6-9).

The only categorical description of the "religious" word, "sin" in the whole Bible is found in 1 John 3:4 where we are told that "sin is the transgression of the Law." Jesus' brother, James explains that, contrary to what many churches teach today, there is, in fact, only ONE Law (James 2:10) with ten "clauses." That is why, when a person breaks (transgresses) the least of the Ten Commandments - whichever one he or she may consider that to be - he/she breaks the whole Law. That being the case, his or her prayers are an abomination to the Lord.

Now we also need to understand that there is a marked difference between breaking the Law in error and DELIBERATELY breaking it. God is NOT a tyrant. If some poor trusting individual has, as he (or she) SHOULD be able to do, entrusted his Christian education to the church of his heritage or his choosing, it isn't unreasonable to assume that he will do his best to follow that teaching. This is why James warns that teachers will be judged more harshly (James 3:1) because, when they teach error, they lead whoever trusts them, ultimately, to destruction (See Matthew 5:19 too). Personally, I don't believe that God will ever abandon someone who has put their trust in lying teachers to die (the first death) without being given the opportunity to learn the truth but the problem is that, when that truth is shown to them, they are often so besotted with their chosen church that they flatly refuse to even countenance any "new" teaching that throws doubt on their false traditions. In effect, Satan has them right where he wants them! This is why Jesus said they worship Him in vain. Nevertheless, the admonition to Ezekiel (3:18-21) makes it very clear who will be held responsible.

Hebrews 10:26, 27 leaves absolutely no doubt what the fate of those who DELIBERATELY transgress the Law will be though. They are those who have had the lies of their traditional denominational teachings shown to them but, for whatever reason, have chosen to ignore the warnings. This may be, for example, because, if they are deeply involved in their church, they are terrified of losing their closest friends but, let's face it, if those so-called friends spurn them because the enlightened one attempts to remove the scales of deception from their eyes (as, having learned truth, they naturally should and would when they love them), they weren't REAL friends anyway so what's the loss in the big picture? Jesus actually spoke about this in some detail in Matthew 10:34-39.

There are those teachers who confuse obedience with "legalism" because they fail to understand that the true Christian keeps the Law because he HAS BEEN SAVED as a physical and mental demonstration of his profession whilst the legalist keeps the Law in an utterly futile attempt to GET SAVED. When Jesus paid the wages of sin on the cross He did it for the WHOLE WORLD not just a select few and so it isn't HIS decision who actually will be saved. It is OUR decision. Now there will be those who see that as a very radical statement but, when it is carefully considered, it actually becomes glaringly obvious. On seeing Jesus, John the Baptist said, "Behold the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world." So, that being the case, how come every single person who has ever lived or will live won't be in the kingdom? Let's even qualify that question a little: Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth and the life. NO ONE comes to the Father but by Me." Therefore, the question makes more sense if it reads, 'How come every single person who acknowledges Jesus as the promised Messiah won't be in the kingdom?' And, believe me, they won't! Jesus said so in Matthew 7:21-23. Can you imagine ANYTHING more horrifying that to stand before the Saviour of the world and hear those devastating words, "Away from me, I never knew you - you who have worked iniquity!"?

The answer is obvious. Simply SAYING, "I know Him." is going to cut it. Jesus' beloved disciple John wrote, "The man who says, 'I know Him,' but doesn't do what He commands is A LIAR and the truth is not in him." (1 John 2:4). The longest chapter in the Bible, Psalm 119 spends 176 verses extolling Divine Law and, in verses 151 and 152, assures the reader that ALL God's commands are true and that the writer (possibly Ezra) learned long ago that God established His statutes to last FOREVER. Jesus said that heaven and earth will disappear before the least tiny bit of the Law (Matthew 5:18) and, as far as I know, heaven and earth are still here!

Now I'm sure I don't need to tell you that the One referred to as "God" in the Old Testament was the pre-incarnate Jesus. 1 Corinthians 8:5, 6, 10:3 and 1 Timothy 6:16 make this abundantly clear. So it therefore follows, where Jesus said, "Keep MY Commandments," He was referring to the Law that HE wrote on stone with His finger some 1400 years before manifesting Himself in the flesh to save His beloved creation. The Law is not negotiable. It is faithful and just; it is trustworthy and stands steadfast for ever and ever (Psalm 111:7, 8).

On the matter of faith, even Jesus disciples - who walked and talked with Him and witnessed His awesome power first-hand - didn't have enough faith to heal a demon-possessed boy. After He had driven the demon out, they asked Him privately why they had been unable to do it and He told them quite bluntly that the ONLY reason was their lack of faith.

Before He became human, Jesus told Jeremiah that He knew the plans He had for his people - plans to PROSPER them; to give them a hope and a future. It IS the Divine Plan for believers to enjoy good health and prosperity in all their forms. But when people deliberately break God's law, their prayers are an abomination so how can they expect to receive the promise? When they ask with doubt, they are, as James 1:5-8 warns, double-minded people like waves of the sea tossed by the wind and SHOULD NOT EXPECT TO RECEIVE ANYTHING!!! There isn't anything cryptic or hard to understand in the Word. Yet there are teachers who work tirelessly to convince those who have put their trust in them not to obey it. To be honest, I have no idea why. Some preachers have become fabulously rich teaching lies but it must be acknowledged that those preachers DO have the gift of oratory and so why don't they use it to teach TRUTH? I cannot personally see how teaching truth would adversely alter their success - in fact, according to the Word, it would increase it! There can be only one answer to the question this poses: Those teachers and preachers are very well described in 2 Corinthians 11:13-16. They are servants of Satan posing as servants of righteousness and, as the Word says, their end WILL BE what their actions deserve! Psalm 37:1, 2 delivers the message concerning those rich preachers so don't even waste time fretting over them. God's watching!

Ultimately, we will stand alone before the Judgement Seat. Contrary to what those lying preachers say, THE WORD says that each will be judged ACCORDING TO WHAT HE/SHE HAS DONE (Revelation 20:12b) and that faith without works is DEAD (James 2:26). Yes, we ALL sin and fall short of God's planned glory for us but He is loving and merciful. When we realise we have slipped up and broken His Law (as opposed to wilfully and deliberately breaking it - as, for example, people who pray to dead people's statues or Sunday-keepers do) and sincerely apologise and ask for forgiveness, He EAGER to give it. He REJOICES to give it!

Finally, we also need to remember that, whilst God DOES answer the prayers of the obedient, sometimes, His answer is "No." Because we are human, we display human frailties and often submit our WANTS rather than our genuine NEEDS to God. But He knows what is best for us and, often, because He knows the end (or the POTENTIAL end) from the beginning, He knows that, if he granted some people's requests for financial prosperity, those people would cease to realise whence all that prosperity came and, ultimately, drift right away from Him. Yet again, this is very well explained in God's Word. In Deuteronomy 8:17, 18 Yahweh warned Moses and the Israelites, "You may say to yourself, 'My power and the strength of my hands have produced this wealth for me.' But remember the Lord your God, for it is He who gives you the ability to produce wealth, and so confirms His covenant which He swore to your forefathers as it is today." Therefore, even though we may never know it in this life, maintaining our dependence upon God may ultimately be a blessing - the greatest blessing we could have!

Roger's Story

*By Lonnie Melashenko
Shared by Travis Manners*

Roger had just left the military and was eager to take his uniform off once and for all. He was hitchhiking with a heavy duffel bag. Flashing his thumb to an oncoming car, he lost hope when he saw that it was a shiny black limousine, so new that it had a temporary license in the back window – hardly the type of car that would stop for a hitchhiker.

But to his surprise, the car stopped and the passenger door opened. He ran to the car, placed his duffel bag carefully in the back, and slid into the leather-covered front seat. The friendly smile of a handsome older gentleman with distinguished gray hair and a deep tan greeted him.

"Hello son. Are you on leave, or are you going home for good?"

I just got out of the army, and I'm going home for the first time in several years," answered Roger.

"Well, you're in luck if you're going to Chicago" The man Smiled.

"Not quite that far," said Roger, "But my home is on the way. Do you live there mister?"

"The name's Hanover. Yes, I have a business there." And with that, they were on their way.

After giving each other brief life histories and talking about everything under the sun, Roger began to have this strong compulsion that he should witness to Mr. Hanover about Christ. But witnessing to a wealthy business person who obviously had everything he could ever want was a scary prospect indeed. Roger kept putting it off, but as he neared his destination, he realized it was now or never. He knew that Jesus had promised that he would be his co-partner on this co-mission; he knew that Jesus had promised that he would give him the right words to say. So taking a deep breath he just did it.

"Mr. Hanover," began Roger, "I would like to talk to you about something very important." He then proceeded to him about what God had done in his life and explain the way of salvation, ultimately asking Mr. Hanover if he would like to receive Christ as his Savior. To Rogers's astonishment, the big car pulled over to the side of the road.

Great he thought! Thanks God now I have to walk the rest of the way.

Then a strange and wonderful thing happened. The older man bowed his head to the steering wheel and began to cry, affirming that he did, in fact, want to have Jesus enter his heart. He thanked Roger for talking to him saying, "This is the greatest thing that has ever happened to me." Then he dropped Roger off at his house and traveled on towards Chicago.

Five years went by, and Roger Simms married, had a child, and started a business of his own. One day while packing for a business trip to Chicago, he came across the gold-embossed business card that Mr. Hanover and given him years earlier.

Roger looked up Hanover Enterprises and found it in downtown Chicago in an imposing high-rise office building. The receptionist told him that it would be impossible to see Mr. Hanover, but that if he was an old friend, he would be able to see Mrs. Hanover. A little disappointed, he was led into a poshly decorated office where a woman in her 50's sat at a huge oak desk.

She extended her hand. "You knew my husband?"

Roger explained that Mr. Hanover had been kind enough to give him a ride back home.

A look of interest passed across her face. "Can you tell me what date that was?"

"Sure" said Roger. "It was the day I got out of the Army, It was May 7, five years ago."

'And did anything special happen on your ride. . . anything unusual?"

Roger hesitated, wondering if his witness had created some source of tension between the two that had resulted in their separation. But he felt the prompting of the Lord to be truthful.

"Mrs. Hanover, your husband accepted the Lord into his heart that day. I explained the gospel message to him, and he pulled over to the side of the road and wept, and then chose to pray a prayer of salvation."

Suddenly she began to sob uncontrollably. After several minutes she regained enough control to explain what had happened.

"I grew up in a Christian home, but my husband did not. I had prayed for my husband's salvation for many years and I believed God would save him. But just after he let you out of the car, on May 7, he died in a horrible head-on collision. He never arrived home. I thought God had not kept his promise; I stopped living for the Lord five years ago because I blamed Him for not keeping his word. Thank you so



The Sherry Walter Message

MERCHANDIZING MY HOUSE!

I have never seen Jesus so angry in the Gospels!!!

This is what the Lord says:

“Woe to you ministers, who have profited through my gifts and my anointings: Selling your wares in my name.

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| How-tos: | - how to have revival | - how to worship |
| - how to pray | - how to cast out demons | - how to grow your church |
| - how to control your people | - how to make sermons | - how to, how to, how to, |

You make me angry!!!! You have profited and made my house a den of thieves! You surely will be overturned and brought down!

Judgment will begin in my house... Freely you have received and freely you must give!

However you have bought and sold my glory and my Gifts: Seduced people so that they would seek you and not me!! Setting yourselves on the throne of their heart! Don't you think I see these things? Glorifying in all I have done in your churches.

While my son was on earth, he was wroth with the money changers: Overturned them: Who was angry at him and sought to kill him for overturning their tables? The Pharisees - religious ones who were profited by those who bought.

I even say to you who have bought: Repent of this - you all are guilty, both the sellers and the buyers. How dare you merchandize those things of my glory? Freely you have received and freely you must give!

You need not that any man should teach you! I am your Teacher. I am your Deliverer. I am your Healer. I am to be all things to you. I am a jealous God!

So many are idolatrous, seeking other things and ways rather than me! Flesh, flesh, flesh....

Man has copyrighted himself in his books, videos, CDs - his works, not mine! Woe to those who have lied, cheated and profited in my name!! I will surely bring down every evil work.

Have you not wondered why it is that you are having trouble? You are cursed because you have angered me.

Repent now!! And let go of your pride and egotistic ways. Seek not your own. Humble yourselves now!!

Draw near to me before it is too late!! The time of my extended grace is drawing near to an end!!! Wake up you who are sleeping. The alarm is sounding! Judgments are at hand!!"

Dear Brothers and Sisters, we are living now on borrowed time! God is changing, correcting and shaking all that can be shaken. Please take heed and realize that we are living in a time when God is about to overthrow, uproot and destroy anything that is NOT RIGHT IN HIS HOUSE!

To me this passage says it all! Pray and ask the Holy Spirit of God to reveal to you who and what this fig tree is. So often when I read the Word of God I see layers, many nuggets hidden for us in our day and time. Yes this can be literal for that day, but also for our time now. I believe the FIG TREE NOW can mean our RELIGIOUS ORDER, THE WAY WE SEE CHURCH meetings AND IT'S SYSTEM, denominationalism, barriers, false doctrines all these things which ministers and ministries have done in the past, I believe it all will be overturned. WE HAVE DONE IT WRONG!!

God is truly angry with the \$\$\$\$ the way we have handled the Glory; the Money; and the Popularity (power).

Just a voice crying.

The Fig Tree Withered (Matt. 21:18, 19)

¹² Now the next day, when they had come out from Bethany, He was hungry. ¹³ And seeing from afar a fig tree having leaves, He went to see if perhaps He would find something on it. When He came to it, He found nothing but leaves, for it was not the season for figs. ¹⁴ In response Jesus said to it, "Let no one eat fruit from you ever again." And His disciples heard it.

Jesus Cleanses the Temple (Matt. 21:12-17; Luke 19:45-48; John 2:13-22)

¹⁵ So they came to Jerusalem. Then Jesus went into the temple and began to drive out those who bought and sold in the temple, and overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who sold doves.

¹⁶ And He would not allow anyone to carry wares through the temple. ¹⁷ Then He taught, saying to them, "Is it not written, 'My house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations?'" But you have made it a 'den of thieves'."

¹⁸ And the scribes and chief priests heard it and sought how they might destroy Him; for they feared Him, because all the people were astonished at His teaching. ¹⁹ When evening had come, He went out of the city.

A MOMENT TO CONSIDER

*Shared by Harvey and June Schneider,
Servant Soldier Ministries*

Just Because I Love You

By Melva Cooper

"...Love the LORD your God, and walk in all His ways, obey His commands, be faithful to Him, and serve Him with all your heart and your soul." Joshua 22:5 (NLT)

My phone was ringing again!

It seemed I had heard that same sound at least fifty times and the day had hardly begun.

Monday mornings in my office as the Pastor's Secretary at a fairly large church could become hectic in a hurry. First, there was a staff meeting with my coworkers. This was necessary to get our day and week coordinated as we went many ways in our ministry for Jesus.

Then, the mail somehow always accumulated into a large heap over the weekend. Taking care of the day's appointments, plus making new ones for the future kept me busy.

So, when my phone rang one more time, I reluctantly picked it up and answered it in an appropriate way. To my surprise there in my ear was the voice of my three year-old granddaughter, Faith.

"Grandma, I just want to tell you that I love you," Faith's happy voice spoke from the phone. Instantly my physical body and emotions relaxed as those soothing words filled my being.

"I love you, too, Faith," I answered with a smile on my face and tears of joy in my eyes.

"Bye, have a good day, Grandma," and Faith was gone.

But, the memory of her affection uttered ever so tenderly over the phone, cheered me the rest of the day. Gone was the earlier stress as I basked in the devotion of my young granddaughter.

Surely God must be just as happy if we take a minute of our fast-paced day to stop and send a simplistic childlike prayer to Him. We don't even have to use a high-tech telephone.

"Lord, I just want to tell you that I love you," whispered from your heart to His, would delight Him immensely. Anxieties that you are not even aware of will be released as you proclaim, "Have a good day, Jesus," in a worshipful and adoring voice.

The Plan for Mary to Unite the World

By Brent Whinfield

The Marian phenomena, which consists of tens of thousands of sightings, or apparitions of Mary, the mother of Christ, is clearly a deception on a massive scale.

With the knowledge of the Biblical teaching on the state of the dead we know that each and every sighting is a manifestation of the miracle working power of demons, since Mary, the mother of Jesus, is still resting in her grave awaiting the return of Jesus and the resurrection.

Yet, the enormous numbers of sightings and the impact that the Marian movement is having, coupled with an understanding of last day events, as given in scripture, compels us to examine this phenomena.

This examination reveals astonishing events that lead us to believe that we may well be seeing the evidence of the devil's overmastering deception that is calculated to deceive the world.

In 2 Thessalonians 2: 8-12 we read: "And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of His mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of His coming: Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness."

Certainly the Marian apparitions are spiritualism. The dictionary defines spiritualism as, "A belief that spirits of the dead communicate with the living." Through these apparitions, Satan is preparing the world for his ultimate deception which will take place when he personates Christ in a false second coming.

As Satan's designs are fully accomplished, the world will be united. It seems very possible that it will be "Mary" who will appeal to everyone, according to their beliefs. She will say that the one whom they most need is coming to bring love, unity, peace, justice, and prosperity. All the world will wait in great expectation hope and joy, for the coming of their Saviour, who will actually be Satan in a counterfeit second coming.

By appearing in Fatima, the devil has planned a masterful deception to include the entire Moslem world. The Moslems now bow down to worship the images of Mary in the processions of the North African Catholics. It is believed that they will be led to worship her "Son" at his coming. If she were to appear as a woman clothed with the sun, as has been predicted, the pagan religions, based on sun worship, would be likely to join the multitudes in worship.

The Marian phenomena could be what will unite the world. For "Mary" could introduce the "second coming" to the Jews as their Messiah, and to the Christians as Jesus Christ and to Moslems as their Imam Mahdi. Buddhists might recognize their Buddha in his fifth incarnation. Hindus could find Krishna and the new age could find the Matryeia, the Cosmic Christ. All, but the very elect of God, will welcome Satan as their saviour.

GREAT LINKS

Please make the time to click the titles and visit the web sites below.

Their owners have put many hours work into producing beautiful testimonies, most of which take only a few moments to read and enjoy.

A big "Thank you" to all the dear friends who have taken the time to send these to us.

If you would like your web site to be included in this column, please [email](#) us.

We would love to hear from you.

If you enjoy what these talented folk have created, their names and contact information are on the pages.

So why not sign their guestbooks and add an encouraging comment.

If you have any difficulty opening links please see the instructions on the last page of this magazine.

* Indicates the site includes music

POEMS

[A Little Glimpse of Heaven](#) *

[The Lord Bless You](#) *

[Jesus Loves Me](#) *

MULTIMEDIA

[The Goodness of Life](#) *

[Never Hurry](#) *

SONGS

[Glory Train](#) *

"God's Deal With YOU"

By David Rex Holt BA

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God's Deal With YOU will inspire you to draw closer to God while challenging you to examine where you stand in obedience to God's Word. What did Jesus mean when he said, "If you want to enter life, obey the commandments?" What is spiritual warfare? What is faith? What kind of praise does God desire? These questions and more are some of the issues that are addressed in God's Deal With YOU. This book will challenge you in ways that no other book can. You will be challenged in areas you never even thought of. The truths shared in this book are straight from the Word of God. Reading this book has helped me to understand what obeying God really means. The Scriptures came to life in ways I never thought possible! If you want to be challenged in your walk with God and if you are ready to truly examine your heart then this book is for you!

Yvette Burleigh

TO BRING A SMILE

A cheerful heart is good medicine
(Proverbs 17:22a)

DIED IN SERVICE

Shared by Nancy Wall

One Sabbath morning, the pastor noticed little Alex standing in the foyer of the church staring up at a large plaque. It was covered with names with small flags mounted on either side of it.

The seven year old had been staring at the plaque for some time, so The pastor walked up, stood

beside the little boy, and said quietly, "Good morning Alex."

"Good morning Pastor," he replied, still focused on the plaque "Pastor, what is this?" he asked.

"Well, son, it's a memorial to all the young men and women who died in the service." the pastor said.

Soberly, they just stood together, staring at the large plaque.

Finally, little Alex's voice, barely audible and trembling with fear, asked, "Which service, the 9:00 or the 11:00?"

**Don't let your worries get the best of you.
Remember, Moses started out as a basket case.**

A Nun's Story

Shared by Donna Mae Ashburn

The convent had been presented with a new car; a red Mini Metro, the pride of its breed. Sister Lucy, the only qualified driver, became the chauffer. Every Saturday she would drive the Reverend Mother into town for the shopping.

All went well until a holiday weekend when the town was so packed with people and cars that it became evident that there was no earthly place to park. "Don't worry, Reverend Mother," said Sister Lucy. "You go into the supermarket and I'll drive around the block until you come out."

Off sped the car and the Reverend Mother bustled around the store shopping quickly, then rushing back to the curbside. There she stood for five, ten, twenty minutes. No sign of Sister Lucy. Where could she be? Eventually the Reverend Mother approached a patrolling policeman. "Excuse me, Officer," she said. "Have you seen a nun in a red mini?"

"No," replied the officer, "but these days nothing would surprise me!"

The Best Headlines of the year 2003

Something Went Wrong in Jet Crash, Expert Says

Think About It!

A Steven Wright Gem shared by Nancy Wall

A clear conscience is usually the sign of a bad memory.

AND,

TO BRING A TEAR

Maybe of joy - maybe of sadness

NOT ENOUGH STARS!

Shared by Donna Mae Ashburn

"I like to play with the stars," a little girl told her pastor 1 day when he came to visit her. She was confined to bed because of a severe spinal deformity and her bed was positioned so that she had a good view of the sky. She wanted it that way so she could see the stars. "I wake up a lot at night and can't get back to sleep," she told the minister, "and that's when I play with the stars."

Her pastor, curious about what she meant by that, asked, "How to you play with the stars?" The child answered, "I pick out one and say, 'that's Mommy.' I see another and say, 'that's Daddy.' And I just keep on naming the stars after people & things I'm thankful for - my brothers and sisters, my doctor, my friends, my dog." And on and on she went, until at

last she exclaimed, "But there just aren't enough stars to go around!"

Do we ever feel that way when we think about the many blessings God has showered on us? Of course, we could never name all our physical, spiritual, temporal and eternal blessings. But from time to time, it's good to remember with gratitude His many gifts. As we do, like that little girl, we'll feel like exclaiming, "There just aren't enough stars to go around!"

Thanks, O God, for boundless mercy
From your gracious throne above;
Thanks for every need provided
From the fullness of your love!
In Jesus' name.

We Serve an Awesome God

By Bill Hekman

Pastor Calvary Life Fellowship in Indonesia

We know that 80% of the town of Meulaboh in Aceh was destroyed by the Tsunami waves and 80% of the people also died. This is one of the towns that were hit the hardest. But there is a fantastic testimony from Meulaboh. In that town are about 400 Christians.

They wanted to celebrate Christmas on December 25th but were not allowed to do so by the Muslims of Meulaboh. They were told if they wanted to celebrate Christmas they needed to go outside the city of Meulaboh on a high hill and there celebrate Christmas.

Because the Christians desired to celebrate Christmas the 400 believers left the city on December 25th and after they celebrated Christmas they stayed overnight on the hill. As we all know the morning of December 26 there was the earthquake followed by the Tsunami waves destroying most of the city of Meulaboh and thousands were killed. The 400 believers were on the mountain and were all saved from destruction.

Now the Muslims of Meulaboh are saying that the God of the Christians punished us for forbidding the Christians from celebrating Christmas in the city. Others are questioning why so many Muslims died while not even one of the Christians died there.

Had the Christians insisted on their rights to celebrate Christmas in the city, they would have all died. But because they humbled themselves and followed the advice of the Muslims they all were spared destruction and can now testify of God's marvelous protection. This is a testimony of the grace of God and the fact that as believers we have no rights in the world. Our right is to come before God and commit our lives to Him. Our right is kneeling down before the Lord almighty and committing our ways to Him.

He is our Father and is very capable to care for His children. Praise the Name of the Lord.

This will give you the chills

Phil. 4:13 states: "I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength."

A young man who had been raised as an atheist was training to be an Olympic diver. The only religious influence in his life came from his outspoken Christian friend. The young diver never really paid much attention to his friend's sermons, but he heard them often.

One night the diver went to the indoor pool at the college he attended. The lights were all off, but as the pool had big skylights and the moon was bright, there was plenty of light to practice by.

The young man climbed up to the highest diving board and as he turned his back to the pool on the edge of the board and extended his arms out, he saw his shadow on the wall.

The shadow of his body was in the shape of a cross. The man felt a strange feeling, like someone was speaking to him. Instead of diving, he knelt down and finally asked God to come into his life.

As the young man stood, a maintenance man walked in and turned the lights on.

The pool had been drained for repairs.

A man from Norfolk, VA called a local radio station to share this on Sept 11th, 2003.

His Name was Robert Matthews. These are his words:

"A few weeks before Sept. 11th, my wife and I found out we were going to have our first child. She planned a trip out to California to visit her sister. On our way to the airport, we prayed that God would grant my wife a safe trip and be with her. Shortly after I said 'amen,' we both heard a loud pop and the car shook violently. We had blown out a tire. I replaced the tire as quickly as I could, but we still missed her flight. Both very upset, we drove home.

I received a call from my father who was retired NYFD. He asked what my wife's flight number was, but I explained that we missed the flight. My father informed me that her flight was the one that crashed into the southern tower. I was too shocked to speak. My father also had more news for me; he was going to help. "This is not something I can just sit by for; I have to do something."

I was concerned for my Father because he had never given his life to Christ. After a brief debate, I knew his mind was made up. Before he got off of the phone, he said, "Take good care of my grandchild." Those were the last words I ever heard my father say; he died while helping in the rescue effort.

My joy that my prayer of safety for my wife had been answered quickly became anger. I was angry at God, at my father, and at myself. I had gone for nearly two years blaming God for taking my father

away. My son would never know his grandfather, my father had never accepted Christ, and I never got to say goodbye. Then something happened.

About two months ago, I was sitting at home with my wife and my son, when there was a knock on the door I looked at my wife, but I could tell she wasn't expecting anyone. I opened the door to a couple with a small child. The man looked at me and asked if my father's name was Jake Matthews. I told him it was. He quickly grabbed my hand and said, 'I never got the chance to meet your father, but it is an honor to meet his son.' He explained to me that his wife had worked in the World Trade Center and had been caught inside after the attack. She was pregnant and had been caught under debris. He then explained that my father had been the one to find his wife and free her.

My eyes welled up with tears as I thought of my father giving his life for people like this. He then said, 'there is something else you need to know.' His wife then told me that as my father worked to free her, she talked to him and led him to Christ. I began sobbing at the news. Now I know that when I get to heaven, my father will be standing beside Jesus to welcome me, and that this family would be able to thank him themselves. When their baby boy was born, they named him Jacob Matthew in honor of the man who gave his life so mother and baby could live."

Do You Believe in Easter?

Edith Burns was a wonderful Christian who lived in San Antonio, Texas. She was the patient of a doctor by the name of Will Phillips. Dr. Phillips was a gentle doctor who saw patients as people. His favourite patient was Edith Burns. One morning he went to his office with a heavy heart and it was because of Edith Burns. When he walked into that waiting room, there sat Edith with her big black Bible in her lap earnestly talking to a young mother sitting beside her.

Edith Burns had a habit of introducing herself in this way: "Hello, my name is Edith Burns. Do you believe in Easter?" Then she would explain the meaning of Easter, and many times people would be saved. Dr. Phillips walked into that office and there he saw the head nurse, Beverly.

Beverly had first met Edith when she was taking her blood pressure. Edith began by saying, "My name is Edith Burns. Do you believe in Easter?"

Beverly said, "Why yes I do."

Edith said, "Well, what do you believe about Easter?"

Beverly said, "Well, it's all about egg hunts, going to church, and dressing up."

Edith kept pressing her about the real meaning of Easter, and finally led her to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ.

Dr. Phillips said, "Beverly, don't call Edith into the office quite yet. I believe there is another delivery taking place in the waiting room.

After being called back in the doctor's office, Edith sat down and when she took a look at the doctor she said, "Dr. Will, why are you so sad? Are you reading your Bible? Are you praying?"

Dr. Phillips said gently, "Edith, I'm the doctor and you're the patient." With a heavy heart he said, "Your lab report came back and it says you have cancer, and Edith, you're not going to live very long."

Edith said, "Why Will Phillips, shame on you. Why are you so sad? Do you think God makes mistakes? You have just told me I'm going to see my precious Lord Jesus, my husband, and my friends. You have just told me that I am going to celebrate Easter forever, and here you are having difficulty giving me my ticket!"

Dr. Phillips thought to himself, "What a magnificent woman this Edith Burns is!" Edith continued coming to Dr. Phillips. Christmas came and the office was closed through January 3rd. On the day the office opened, Edith did not show up.

Later that afternoon, Edith called Dr. Phillips and said she would have to be moving her story to the hospital and said, "Will, I'm very near home, so would you make sure that they put women in here next to me in my room who need to know about Easter."

Well, they did just that and women began to come in and share that room with Edith. Many women were saved. Everybody on that floor from staff to patients were so excited about Edith, that they started calling her Edith Easter; that is everyone except Phyllis Cross, the head nurse. Phyllis made it plain that she wanted nothing to do with Edith because she was a "religious nut". She had been a nurse in an army hospital. She had seen it all and heard it all. She was the original G.I. Jane. She had been married three times, she was hard, cold, and did everything by the book.

One morning the two nurses who were to attend to Edith were sick. Edith had the flu and Phyllis Cross had to go in and give her a shot. When she walked in, Edith had a big smile on her face and said, "Phyllis, God loves you and I love you, and I have been praying for you."

Phyllis Cross said, "Well, you can quit praying for me, it won't work I'm not interested."

Edith said, "Well, I will pray and I have asked God not to let me go home until you come into the family."

Phyllis Cross said, "Then you will never die because that will never happen," and curtly walked out of the room.

Everyday Phyllis Cross would walk into the room and Edith would say, "God loves you Phyllis and I love you, and I'm praying for you."

One day Phyllis Cross said she was literally drawn to Edith's room like a magnet would draw iron. She sat down on the bed and Edith said, "I'm so glad you have come, because God told me that today is your special day."

Phyllis Cross said, "Edith, you have asked everybody here the question, 'Do you believe in Easter?' but you have never asked me."

Edith said, "Phyllis, I wanted to many times, but God told me to wait until you asked, and now that you have asked..." Edith Burns took her Bible and shared with Phyllis Cross the Easter Story of the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Edith said, "Phyllis, do you believe in Easter? Do you believe that Jesus Christ is alive and that He wants to live in your heart?"

Phyllis Cross said, "Oh I want to believe that with all of my heart, and I do want Jesus in my life."

Right there, Phyllis Cross prayed and invited Jesus Christ into her heart. For the first time Phyllis Cross did not walk out of a hospital room, she was carried out on the wings of angels.

Two days later, Phyllis Cross came in and Edith said, "Do you know what day it is?"

Phyllis Cross said, "Why Edith, it's Good Friday."

Edith said, "Oh, no, for you every day is Easter. Happy Easter Phyllis!"

Two days later, on Easter Sunday, Phyllis Cross came into work, did some of her duties and then went down to the flower shop and got some Easter lilies because she wanted to go up to see Edith and give her some Easter lilies and wish her a Happy Easter. When she walked into Edith's room, Edith was in bed. That big black Bible was on her lap. Her hands were in that Bible. There was a sweet smile on her face. When Phyllis Cross went to pick up Edith's hand, she realized Edith was dead. Her left hand was on John 14: "In my Father's house are many mansions! I go to prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, there you may be also." Her right hand was on Revelation 21:4, " And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes, there shall be no more death nor sorrow, nor crying; and there shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away." Phyllis Cross took one look at that dead body, and then lifted her face toward heaven, and with tears streaming down her cheeks, said, "Happy Easter, Edith - Happy Easter!"

Phyllis Cross left Edith's body, walked out of the room, and over to a table where two student nurses were sitting. She said, "My name is Phyllis Cross. Do you believe in Easter?"

If you believe in Easter, send this story on. God works in wonderful ways, and to believe in his power is to truly be free. If Jesus had e-mail, He'd do the same for you.

DEVOTIONALS

If you enjoy stimulating, succinct and scripturally sound devotionals, I highly recommend that you have a look at the following web sites where you can read some past messages and enrol for the regular mailings.

[God Today - Daily Word](#)

(Click ARCHIVE at the top left)

[Life Changing Love](#)

A verse of Scripture for your soul and a smile for your spirit.

[Share A Prayer](#)

A short daily prayer, succinct, sincere and tastefully presented.

RECOMMENDED WEBSITES

[Amazing Facts](#)

Reaching the world with God's end-time message

By Doug Batchelor

[The Advent Message](#)

The TRUTH, the whole TRUTH and nothing but the TRUTH

By Brent Whinfield

[CC's Christian Corner](#)

Christian love from the heart of a wife and mother

By Yvette Burleigh

[The Philosopher's Pearl](#)

Some thought provoking ideas for sceptics

BEYOND PRISON

With Yvette Burleigh

Greetings in the Name of Jesus Christ!

This month I continue to share from the thought-provoking book,
History of Modern Prisons by Dr. Stephen E. Jones,
which compares prisons of today with what the Bible has to say.

This month we look at

The Bible's Solution – Conclusion

Permission is granted for non-commercial purposes to copy and freely quote from the contents of this book.

It's About Forgiveness

The ultimate purpose of God's system of restitution for theft is to obtain forgiveness for the criminal. There is no forgiveness for the thief in our modern system of "justice." Why should the victim forgive the thief, when he has lost so much stolen property and then had to spend more money on attorney fees to prosecute him? Why should society forgive the thief, when they have been made liable to defend him, pay for his prison sentence, and support his family while he is in prison? Why should either of them forgive the thief, when they live in fear of the day he is released, often embittered and unrehabilitated, free now to take vengeance upon them?

And for that matter, why should the thief forgive the victim and society in general after they have caged him up like an animal and subjected him to dehumanizing treatment by the modern prison system? Why should the thief forgive society for sinning against God's judgments, instead of giving him meaningful work by which he may redeem himself? Sending anyone to prison is simply a legalized form of kidnapping done by an entire society. It is a crime worse than mere theft. Thus, the thief has been victimized more than all of us. And then, when he is finally released, his ability to find lawful work is seriously hampered by the label: ex-convict.

Americans often look with disdain at other countries, where they chop off a thief's hand for stealing. In fact, many people mistakenly believe that the law of God advocates chopping off a hand for theft, and this is one of their reasons for despising God's Law. Because they have been grossly misinformed about both God and His Law, they have allowed the modern prison system to continue victimizing everyone and rehabilitating no one. Then when the thief is released, we create for him the "ex-con" label and severely handicap him from finding work for the rest of his life. We have little right to criticize the Saudis for giving thieves a physical handicap (chopping off a hand), when we ourselves handicap them in a different way.

Under God's Law, forgiveness is mandatory (Matt. 18:21 and 22), because there is every reason to forgive the offender once he has paid full restitution to the victims. The victim has been repaid at least doubly for his losses, and society has not been made liable in any way for the sins of others. The thief has had to redeem himself from the bondage of sin, and once the debt has been paid, he is restored to full citizenship, and his past sins are no longer remembered (Isaiah 43:25). Psalm 130:4 confirms this, saying,

4 But there is forgiveness with Thee, that Thou mayest be feared [respected].

Obtaining forgiveness is the key to rehabilitation. In any system of justice, whether at home or in society, there must be forgiveness if we hope to restore sinners. Without forgiveness, there is only punishment, and such systems encourage rebellion and anger. Only God's judicial system knows the true value of forgiveness in its treatment of crime. Because there is forgiveness with God, we have respect for Him as a Divine Parent.

Conclusion

The Great American Experiment has long been a Great American Failure. There will never be enough money to build enough prisons to house all the inmates that the unjust prison system perpetuates. The only alternative seems to be to give them shorter sentences, or to put them on parole to make room for others. The public does not like this, but they know of no alternative to the problem. They need to read the Bible, or at least to read this short booklet.

Thus, we are caught on the horns of the proverbial bull. We can choose overcrowded, wretched conditions for the inmates, which even the court system knows is cruel and unusual punishment—or we can reduce their prison sentences and put unrehabilitated thieves back on the streets, where they have great difficulty finding work and often end up stealing again.

There is only one true solution. As a nation we must repent of our own way and turn to God's perfect Law. We must stop teaching that God's Law is somehow authored by a cruel or unjust God (or Satan). We must search the Scriptures to see what God really has to say about property crime and how to resolve it as a nation. As Bible believers, let us work toward that end.



CHILDREN'S CORNER



How well do you know your Bible?

[Click Here For Some NEW Bible Quizzes](#)

This is a different link to the one we have run for the last few months so, if you enjoyed the other one, have a go with these.

Don't You Just Love 'em?

Some excerpts from children's letters to God
Shared by Nancy Wall

Dear GOD,
If we come back as something –
Please don't let me be Jennifer Horton, because I hate her.
Denise.

The Red Flower

Once upon a time, there was a very naughty little girl who just COULDN'T behave herself. Her name was Valentina and she lived a long, long time ago in a far-away land called Siberia across the sea. It wasn't that Valentina wanted to be naughty but she just seemed to be always getting into trouble. If something got broken, it was always when Valentina was the last to use it. When her teachers asked her not to talk in class, she just whispered. And if there were chores to be done at home, Valentina was always somewhere else! And she really *DID* like to tease her two younger brothers. Do you know anyone like her?

In Siberia in those days not many people believed in God or prayed because the government had made all religions illegal. But Ivan and Petrushka had never lost their faith in God and in the salvation of Jesus Christ. They had brought Valentina, Yuri and Sergei up to read the little Bible that they had always kept hidden in their little cottage. Before every meal they all held hands and thanked God for watching over them. So, even though Valentina was often naughty, she never did any really wicked things that broke God's commandments because her mother and father had brought her and the boys up in the knowledge that, if they broke God's laws, they hurt Him very much and made Him very sad.

One day, in the middle of winter, Valentina was coming home from the little school that she attended in her village. In Siberia winters are VERY cold and ice and deep snow lay all around her home. There was just a narrow little pathway that the men of the village had cut through the deep snow. Now everyone in the village - even the littlest of the children - knew that they must *never, ever* touch the icy walls on each side of the pathway because, if they did, there was a risk that their warm hands might melt the thin ice crust just enough for the walls to come crashing down on top of them. If that happened, not only would the pathway be blocked but someone could even be buried alive in the huge mountains of snow.

But Valentina was also very forgetful and, on this particular day, as she made her way homeward, she saw something bright red inside the snow-wall of the pathway. It looked like a bright red flower. But it couldn't be. There were no flowers in the middle of winter surely! Valentina's curiosity got the better of her and she forgot the golden rule about never touching the sides of the pathway. What did she do? Yes, you guessed it! She not only touched the icy wall but she even tried to dig the red object out of the snow using a pencil from her schoolbag!

That did it! The wall began to crumble. At first, just a few small chunks of snow and ice fell to the ground. But with each piece that fell, a bigger hole was left until there was nothing supporting the snow above. CRASH! With a loud rumble, down came piles and piles of snow on top of Valentina. She yelled at the top of her voice but all that did was bring *more* snow down until there was no Valentina to be seen.

Meanwhile at home, Valentina's mother, Petrushka was busily preparing a nice hot dinner for her family. Darkness fell over the village and there was no sign of Valentina. Her brothers, Yuri and Sergei were there

gathered around the nice warm log-fire with their father Ivan anticipating the delicious meal that they could smell cooking. "Where's Valentina?" asked Ivan. "Is she staying at Misha's house tonight?"

"No" called Petrushka from the kitchen. "I thought she was with you and the boys."

Suddenly a slight wave of panic swept through the house. They all knew that no one could survive for very long outside at night during the harsh winter. Ivan quickly put on his big, thick coat and boots, grabbed the oil lantern and made for the door. "Wait," cried Petrushka. "We must say a prayer before we do anything else."

So Father put his big arms around his wife and the two boys and said, "Father God, we don't know where our daughter is and it's freezing outside. Please help us to find her soon and watch over her until we do. We all ask this in the name of Jesus." And the others all said a loud "Amen" before Father set off into the night with the lantern in one hand and a shovel in the other.

Out in the darkness, fortunately for her, Valentina was not buried under loads of snow but, by chance, the red thing that had first caught her eye had turned out to be a picture of a red flower on the side of a big empty packing crate that had been caught in the first snowfalls and got buried before anyone could move it. When the snow had come tumbling down, it had torn one end off the crate and Valentina had been able to crawl inside in the nick of time. So, whilst she had room to move and air to breathe – for a while anyway, Valentina was still encased under all that snow and ice.

Like most naughty girls, Valentina wasn't crying. She was much too tough for that! But she was scared. She was big enough to know that she needed to keep warm and, most of all, that she needed to find a way to get air into the crate. So she took a piece of the broken end of the crate and began to use it to poke a hole upwards from the top of the opening.

Valentina's father ran down the pathway through the snow until he came to a place where the walls were all collapsed and the whole cutting filled up with ice and snow. "Oh! Dear God, my little girl is buried in all that!" he cried. "Please don't let her be frozen to death. PLEASE!!!" and then he began to dig frantically into the huge white mountain. As he dug, he began yelling, "Help, HELP!" and again prayed that some of the villagers would hear him. But no one did.

Father was scared to dig too frantically because he might accidentally hit his daughter with his shovel. For what seemed like hours he dug shovelful after shovelful of snow out of the cutting but, the more he dug, the more that fell down. Then he heard voices calling his name. Lights appeared in the darkness as several neighbours came running through the night.

"Petrushka told us that Valentina is missing." A friend said. "Is she buried in here?"

"I don't know," puffed Ivan without stopping his frantic digging. "But I have to look here because she might be." Without thinking what he was saying, he added, "Jesus will protect her but we must work fast."

"Who's Jesus?" asked the man but didn't wait for an answer because he had started helping to shift the mountain of snow. Soon all the men were digging and the pile of snow began to show signs of getting smaller. Even though the temperature was well below zero, the men were sweating from their efforts. "We have to keep digging" yelled Valentina's father. "If we stop, we'll freeze and Valentina will suffocate."

All of a sudden, the tip of a broken plank poked up out of the snow and, within seconds, Valentina was in her daddy's arms.

"I knew that I would be alright." She said. "I knew that you and mother and Yuri and Sergei asked Jesus to look after me so I wasn't scared. But I knew that I would need to work to keep warm and I had to make a hole so that I could breathe so I just started digging!" she added in a very matter-of-fact way. "I remember that we learned that verse in Proverbs in the Bible that says, 'Trust in the Lord with all your heart' so I just told God that if He would save me, I would do my best not to be so naughty in the future."

Everyone cheered and there was lots of happiness that Valentina had been found and rescued. They all returned to the village where Petrushka had hot soup ready for them all. When she served it, Ivan decided that he could no longer keep his Saviour secret and so he gave thanks to God for answering their prayers for Valentina and for the hot soup.

Several of the village men asked about this Jesus that Ivan had spoken to. "He is our best friend" Ivan said simply. "The government says He doesn't exist but we know that He does and that He answers our prayers to His Father in His name. Look! There's our little daughter safe and sound! That's because we trust Him."

And do you know what? From that day on, Valentina was a MUCH better girl. Whenever she felt like doing something even a little bit naughty, she stopped and had a BIG think and then remembered that night when she gave her family such a nasty fright and her promise to God. And from then on, every winter evening, Valentina's mother personally checked that ALL her children were safe and sound in front of the fire.

There's another verse in the Bible that Valentina learned a bit later on. It is in Romans 8:28. "We know that all things work together for the good of them that love God" and she knows, first hand, just how true that is!

After hearing Ivan's prayer, lots of the people in that village asked him and Petrushka to teach them about God and Jesus and many of them gave their hearts to the Lord because of Valentina's mistake. Nowadays the government has changed and the people are allowed to worship God and so the village now has a small church where Valentina and her husband and their children still give thanks to God for answering Ivan's prayer all those years ago.

The Earth Trembled With Fear

By "Malta"

On the cross at Calvary our blessed Saviour died.
Gave Himself freely that all man should live
Pain and agony He suffered as His blood was shed
Yet willing He gave His life to save sinful man.
You know the angels wept that day
You know the Heavenly Father's heart was sore
As the thunder roared and darkness fell
The earth trembled with fear.

Such beautiful love expressed that momentous day
When my Saviour so obediently freely gave all
His precious body hung upon that rugged tree
His blood spewed out to wash you and me.
You know the angels wept that day
You know the Heavenly Father's heart was sore
As the thunder roared and darkness fell
The earth trembled with fear.

An awful price my Jesus paid that fateful day
To pardon you and me from certain hell
But He did not waver; no not a step
As this was the will of the Father He kept.
You know the angels wept that day
You know the Heavenly Father's heart was sore
As the thunder roared and darkness fell
The earth trembled with fear.

Such beautiful love beyond human expression
My Jesus proved His great wealth of affection
The curse of the law now forever removed
As His body was broken on Mount Calvary.
You know the angels wept that day
You know the Heavenly Father's heart was sore
As the thunder roared and darkness fell
The earth trembled with fear.

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As our long-time readers know, I have always thought of "Making A Difference" and Beloved King Ministries as OURS and not as "mine."

Without YOU, this ministry is nothing.

It is the loyal and loving support of our readers who readily share the stories, jokes and testimonies that they write or find that ensures that there will be a magazine each month.

"Making A Difference" will always be free to anyone who enjoys it. But that doesn't mean it costs nothing to produce and distribute.

I AND THE BKM TEAM PLEDGE TO PRAY FOR EVERYONE ON THE BKM MAILING LIST EVERY DAY

I PLEDGE TO DO ALL WITHIN MY GOD-GIVEN POWER TO BRING DOWN AND DESTROY SATAN'S COUNTERFEIT DECEPTIONS THAT ARE BEGUILING GOD'S SINCERE AND BEAUTIFUL CHILDREN.

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PLEASE WRITE TO US

Tell us a little bit about yourself, your own spiritual needs as well as how knowing Jesus has changed your life and the sort of person you would like to partner.

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(Please make all checks payable to D.R. Holt since the Australian banks won't accept anything else!)

Jesus said,

"Give and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured unto you." (Luke 6:38)

AND

WE NEED - YOUR PRAYERS

**SATAN DOESN'T LIKE WHAT THIS MINISTRY IS DOING! WE ARE A THREAT TO HIM!
SO PLEASE ASK GOD, IN JESUS' NAME, TO SURROUND US WITH GUARDIAN ANGELS.**

God bless you all.

David R Holt

PRAYER

Please click the above link.

*I would rather live my life as if there is a God,
and die to find out there isn't,
than live my life as if there isn't,
and die to find out there is.*

OPENING LINKS

Some readers have emailed us to say that clicking the hyperlinks in "Making A Difference" doesn't work. I don't know why that is but one easy way to get the addresses and access the websites is as follows:

1. Highlight the title using your mouse (it doesn't matter if you highlight the music asterisk too - it will still work).
2. With the title highlighted, click "Insert" on the menu bar at the top of your screen. This will give you a drop menu.
3. On the drop menu, click "Hyperlink." This will open a window titled "Edit Hyperlink."
4. Highlight the html address in the window labelled, "Type the file or web page name."
5. Copy the address by pressing Control and C together.
6. Close the "Edit Hyperlink" window by clicking the cancel button.
7. Then open your web browser (Internet Explorer or Netscape Navigator).
8. Place the cursor in the "Address" window at the top (or, if you already have an address in there, just highlight it).
9. Press Control and V together. That will copy the URL into the window.
10. Press Enter and the page will open.

I have done the above and it took just 23 seconds from step 1 to seeing the web page so, as you can see, it isn't really as hard as the ten steps make it seem!

If this magazine has been forwarded to you by a friend and you would like to be added to our regular mailing list please click [here](#) and, if you are too busy to write anything else, just type **PLEASE ADD TO MAILING LIST** in the subject box and your name(s) in the body of the email. Also, if the email address that you want the magazine sent to is different from the one you send the request from, please type that in the body of the email too.

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