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Making A Difference

the monthly online magazine from

Beloved King Ministries

QUEENSLAND, AUSTRALIA

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

Volume 7 Number 2

February 2006

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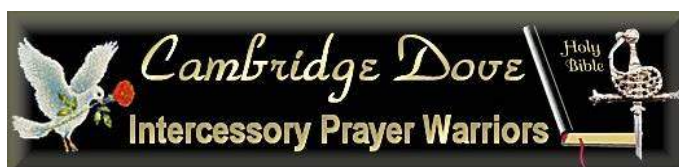
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May those who hope in you not be disgraced because of me, O Lord, the Lord Almighty; may those who seek you not be put to shame because of me, O God of Israel. For I endure scorn for your sake, and shame covers my face.

Psalm 69:6

GREETINGS and BLESSINGS TO ALL OUR READERS

Whether you are reading your very first "Making a Difference" or you have been a member of the Beloved King Ministries' flock for some time, 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. Be 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, 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

IMPORTANT REQUEST TO ALL READERS

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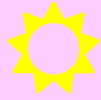
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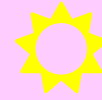
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Often, contributions express individuals' personal thoughts and readers are reminded that opinions and ideas expressed by contributors are not necessarily those of Beloved King Ministries or the editor.

Don't worry about avoiding temptation: As you grow older, it will avoid you.
Unknown



EDITORIAL



Count it All Joy

Isn't God amazing? At 4:10 on the morning of the second Sabbath of this year I was awoken from sleep by a tapping and grating sound outside my home. At first, I was too sleepy for it to register fully but, as it continued, I jumped out of bed and peeped through the curtains. There, to my horror, in the carport I saw a dark figure stooped over the driver's door of my car. Probably somewhat foolishly for a man my age, I grabbed a pair of shorts and rushed outside with the intention of apprehending the intruder. But he was gone.

The sound of me opening the front door must have alerted the potential thief and he had fled out of all sight. But he certainly left the evidence of his visit in a substantial hole made by what was probably a screwdriver all around the door lock which no longer worked either. Needless to say, that, along with loss of sleep – for I couldn't get back to sleep again that morning – left me rather debilitated for church.

Now to my opening statement: Pastor Travis' text for his sermon that day was James 1:2 – **“Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.”**

As you can probably imagine, I was astounded! Travis had prepared his Sabbath message during the preceding week, long before the incident in the small hours of that very morning and yet it was as though he had written precisely for me that day. I don't propose to elaborate on Travis' whole message here (although, if anyone wants one, I can send a CD of it – just let me know) but suffice to say that, by the end of it, I was no longer feeling despondent and dejected at the \$350 damage to my car. Had I not woken when I did, I probably wouldn't have a car at all any more! Now isn't THAT a blessing?

I am usually a very sound sleeper who slumbers through spectacular Queensland tropical storms and yet, on this day, a few small sounds woke me. Why was that?

God cannot stop evil running rampant through this world. Jesus Himself referred to Satan as “the prince of this world” no less than three times (John 12:31, 14:30 and 16:11). When Adam and Eve made the choice to believe the lie, sin was established into the earth and it has been rife ever since and will continue to be so until that glorious day when Jesus returns to claim – not people who are sinless; such people don't exist - **for ALL have sinned and fallen short of the glory God intended for them** (Romans 3:23) – but those who have openly acknowledged their sinfulness and sincerely asked for forgiveness AND made every effort to turn from their sinful ways. Because He gave humans the gift of freedom of choice, God couldn't stop that person from attempting to steal my car but He COULD alert me to it! Do you see the difference? I would suggest that the thief probably doesn't even acknowledge that there IS a God who loves him and so God cannot influence his actions. However, I DO accept God as my heavenly Father and His Son Jesus as my Creator and Saviour and, in so doing; I have opened myself to THEIR guidance and protection. Because of that, when God's angel awoke me, I was able to prevent a relatively small problem from becoming a major one.

At the time, still half asleep, I didn't stop to think of the consequences of taking on someone possibly a third of my age. I was bent on apprehending the potential thief without much thought for my own safety! But not only that, I have to admit that I didn't immediately thank God for enabling me to avert a much worse outcome – the loss of my car!

It took Travis' sermon to make me fully realise just how blessed I was that night. Rather than get into a fight, the thief ran. That may have saved my life! Because my car is an import, insurance in Australia is prohibitively expensive and so I had long ago elected to self-insure which meant that, had the thief not been scared off, I would now be without a car or sufficient funds to buy a replacement. As I listened to Travis' message, it occurred to me that he must have written it long before the events of only about seven hours before he delivered it and yet it exactly applied to me that day! The Bible tells us that God knows the end from the beginning (Isaiah 46:10) and I have no doubt that He directed Pastor Travis' mind to that topic just for that day.

Yes, we all must live IN this world of evil where ungodly people covet others' belongings and often take them but we don't have to be OF this world. I praise God and thank Him for waking me. I still have my car and I still have myself in one piece! I count it all joy that a small adversity reminded me that I should not be lazy and forget to fit my Club Lock when I park my car. Ever since that Sabbath morning it has been in place whenever I have left my car unattended. As the story “Two Travelling Angels” elsewhere in this magazine shows, everything is not as it may first seem. Maybe someone out there prayed for me that Friday night before going to bed and, because He loves us, God answered in the best way that He could.

DRH

Food For Thought

Why Friday?

By David R Holt

(Adapted from chapter 10 of "God's Deal With YOU")

I have a question. Where in the Bible does it say that Jesus was crucified on the sixth day of the week—the day we now call Friday? Answer—it doesn't!

But to so much as suggest anything to the contrary inevitably brings a plethora of responses ranging from simple dismissal as a misguided crank to outright condemnation and vilification. However, I want to suggest that all those responses are based on nothing more than traditional myths established by "mainstream religion" over many centuries. Therefore, I ask you to prayerfully consider the following before denouncing me.

If Jesus died on Friday afternoon and rose before dawn on Sunday morning, that, at most, could only be around 36 hours." Yes beloved, it could. So how does the discrepancy occur? To answer that, let us first look at what Jesus said on the subject.

*"For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of a huge fish, so **the Son of Man will be three days AND THREE NIGHTS in the heart of the earth.**"* (Matthew 12:40)

Now, no matter how anyone tries, it is **impossible** to make THREE DAYS AND THREE NIGHTS into anything less than 60 hours at the very least even by allowing for parts of days or nights to be considered as the whole thereof (known as 'inclusive reckoning,' as was Jewish custom). And since it was Jesus Himself who said it, it is safe to say that none but the most audacious would argue with it, so let's look a little further.

We know that Jesus and His disciples shared the Passover meal (The Last Supper) in the upper room on the evening before His crucifixion immediately before going to the Garden of Gethsemane where He was arrested. All four gospels say so. The day of the Passover is immediately prior to the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread, which is one of seven special annual Sabbath days on the Jewish calendar (discussed further in chapter 24). This always occurs on the 15th day of the first Jewish month of Abib (today known as Nisan), regardless of what day of the week this happens to be. The Jewish New Year began on the first day that the new moon was visible after (but not before) sunset following the spring equinox (which is, of course, on March 21st on our calendar). Being the day before the special Sabbath the Passover day is also known as 'Preparation Day' in allusion to the fact that all the work of preparing for the holy day (holi-day) was done on Passover day.

Since the first part of the biblical day is the dark part, the Passover started at sunset and continued until the following sunset so that the first act of Jesus and His disciples was to celebrate the Passover meal early in the evening on Abib 14th and then, following His subsequent arrest, He was shunted back and forth between the Sanhedrin, Pilate and Herod for most of that night and then, at about nine o'clock the next morning—still Abib 14th—He was crucified. It is true that Jesus and His disciples had already eaten their Passover meal earlier on Abib 14th than was usual because, as Jesus told them, *"I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer."* (Luke 22:15) This was, of course, because Jesus knew that His crucifixion was to coincide exactly with the majority of the ceremonial sacrifices of Passover lambs at the temple thus emphasising Jesus being the ultimate "Passover sacrifice" for the whole world.

The Bible tells us: *Now it was the day of Preparation, and **the next day was to be a SPECIAL Sabbath.** Because the Jews did not want the bodies left on the crosses during the Sabbath, they asked Pilate to have the legs broken and the bodies taken down. The soldiers therefore came and broke the legs of the first man who had been crucified with Jesus, and then those of the other. But when they came to Jesus and found that He was already dead, they did not break His legs.* (John 19:31-33)

After this Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus took Jesus' body down from the cross, wrapped it in linen and took it to a new, unused tomb. *Because it was the Jewish day of Preparation and since the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.* (John 19:42) where it laid, exactly as Jesus predicted, **for three days and three nights.**

Now there is no doubt that it was at around sunrise on the first day of the week (that is: the day we now call Sunday) that the women went to anoint Jesus' body and found the tomb empty—so, if we count back three days and nights from then, we arrive at first thing on Thursday morning. "How can this be?" you may well be asking. Well, if we look at the astronomical and Jewish calendars for the year 30 AD—which, being three-and-a-half years after Jesus' baptism in 26 AD, is generally thought to be the year of His crucifixion—we find that Abib 1st fell on what, in Jerusalem, would begin at the 5:55 PM sunset on Thursday, March 23rd, thus making the 14th starting at sunset on what would now be Wednesday April 5th in that year. This would have meant that the special Sabbath of the Feast of Unleavened Bread was on Friday. Thus we find that, in that particular week **there were two Sabbaths** on two consecutive days—the

special one on the sixth day immediately followed by the regular weekly seventh-day Sabbath.

This is actually confirmed in Scripture if we look at the original Greek text of Matthew 28:1. Almost every English translation of that verse reads, "**After the Sabbath**, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb" but, technically, that is not correct. The bold words are translated from the Greek, *opse de sabbaton* where "opse" means "at the end of" or "after" and "sabbaton" is the plural form of "sabbat"—meaning "Sabbath." Thus, the correct translation should be "**after the Sabbaths**." We need to remember that the original translations were made by medieval scholars already under over a thousand years' indoctrination into the "Good Friday" myth and to render *sabbaton* correctly, would have created problems that would probably have caused more difficulty than simply "losing" the correct interpretation.

Additional support for a fifth-day crucifixion will be found if the gospel reports of the days leading up to Jesus' crucifixion are examined in detail.

In John 12:1-2 we learn that **six days before the Passover, Jesus arrived in Bethany, where Lazarus lived, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. Here a dinner was given in Jesus' honour.** Then, in verses 12 and 13, we are told; **The next day the great crowd that had come for the Feast heard that Jesus was on His way to Jerusalem. They took palm branches and went out to meet Him, shouting, "Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the King of Israel!"**

Because it nicely fits in with a Friday crucifixion, this is usually referred to as "Palm Sunday" in most churches. However, Scripture **DOESN'T** say that Jesus rode into Jerusalem on the **first** day of the week.

Since no actual day of the week is given for these events, we are left with two possible scenarios. One depends on the system of inclusive reckoning which, as I have pointed out, was common practice in Israel at that time. Using this system of counting, the meal at Lazarus' home would have been on the weekly Sabbath and the entry into Jerusalem, as most people celebrate it, on the first day of the week, Sunday. Thus, by inclusive reckoning, Saturday would have been day 1 and "Palm Sunday" day 2, making day 6 Thursday. As I will show, this option fits better with the gospel accounts of the subsequent days.

The alternative suggests the dinner given in Jesus' honour at Lazarus, and his sisters Martha and Mary's home would not have taken place on the Sabbath since a non-religious 'party' on that day would have been contrary to Jewish law. So, if the dinner given was six days **before** the Passover, and Jesus' entry into Jerusalem was on the next day, it must follow that He went to worship at the temple on the Sabbath (Saturday), which was five days before the Passover. And Saturday is five days **before Thursday**, isn't it?

In the following, you will notice that Mark tells us that, on arrival at Jerusalem, Jesus went to the temple—which further supports the suggestion that it was the Sabbath. Taking up the story in Mark's gospel, immediately following where he repeats the shouts of the crowd as Jesus entered the city, he writes, "*Jesus entered Jerusalem and went to the temple. He looked around at everything, but since it was already late, He went out to Bethany with the twelve. The next day as they were leaving Bethany...*" (Mark 11:11-12) and goes on to relate the day's events, including Jesus clearing the temple of money-changers. This lends even more support for the previous day being the Sabbath since, on His first visit, Jesus would have seen the commercialisation of God's dwelling and, rather than disrupt the Sabbath, determined to return when it was over to sort the problem out. Moving on to verse 19, we read, "*When evening came, they went out of the city.*" This, in our system, was Sunday evening and, in the Jewish system the end of Sunday and start of Monday, the second day of the week. To avoid confusion, I will use modern chronology for the rest of this study.

In the very next verse, Mark starts, "*In the morning...*" This is Monday morning. Mark then goes on to tell the events of that day. It was a full day and included Jesus' divine authority being challenged by the chief priests, some parables and Jesus' graphic description that He gave on the Mount of Olives of the last days before His return, Matthew's account of which is given elsewhere in this book. The whole story takes up the next two-and-a-half chapters of Mark's gospel and closes, at the beginning of chapter 14, "*Now the Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread were only two days away, and the chief priests and the teachers of the law were looking for some sly way to arrest Jesus and kill Him. "But not during the Feast," they said, "or the people may riot."*" (vs.1-2) This is followed by an account of a woman anointing Jesus' head with expensive perfume as He was at the home of a man named Simon at Bethany on Monday evening.

We now need to review the two alternatives because, in verse 12, Mark proceeds to relate the preparation for the Passover meal in the upper room. If the inclusive reckoning method of counting the days was used, then Mark's statement that the Passover was 'only two days away' would have meant that it was the **next** day. (That is, the day he was referring to was day 1 and the next day was day 2.) If, on the other hand, inclusive reckoning was not used, then we are left with a whole day totally unaccounted for in any of the gospels, which I, personally, find very hard to imagine, which is why I favour the inclusive reckoning method. Besides, as I have already pointed out, **that** was the method of the day.

Finally, starting at verse 17, by which time it was evening and, in Jewish time, the start of the Passover, Mark tells the story of the Last Supper. So, whichever system of counting was used, this **must** have been immediately following sunset on Wednesday evening, the beginning of the Jewish fifth day. And as everyone who knows the story of Jesus' final hours is very well aware, within twenty-four hours He was crucified, dead and entombed.

NOWHERE does the Bible say that Jesus was crucified on the **SIXTH** day of the week.

NOWHERE does it say that Jesus rode a donkey's colt into Jerusalem on the **FIRST day** of the week. It **DOES SAY** that He was crucified on Preparation day and, as it **DOES STATE**, the next day was a **SPECIAL Sabbath**.

When properly translated, the Bible **DOES STATE** that the women went to the tomb **after the Sabbaths** (plural).

But, **MOST IMPORTANTLY, JESUS HIMSELF PROPHESED** that He would be in the tomb **FOR THREE DAYS AND THREE NIGHTS**.

So I submit to you that there is absolutely nothing sacrilegious or heretical in proposing that **Jesus was actually crucified on the day we now call THURSDAY**. Even though it is accepted without question as **fact** by practically every church professing to be Christian, I suggest that **"Good Friday" is nothing but a tradition!** If you have a problem with this suggestion, my only request is that you ask yourself **why**. Do you prefer to believe a church tradition or Jesus' own words?

Therefore, yes, we should be keeping "Good Friday" as a holy day—**not** as a commemoration of Jesus' crucifixion—but because, as Yahweh decreed, in the year of Jesus' crucifixion, it was the Feast of Unleavened Bread!

Before leaving this subject, because someone is bound to ask, we need to make reference to Luke's version of the Last Supper because he wrote, *"Now the Feast of Unleavened Bread, called the Passover was approaching...."* (Luke 22:1) and *"Then came the day of Unleavened Bread on which the Passover lamb had to be sacrificed."* (v. 7) Here again, we have what would seem to be a contradiction because all other references to the Feast of Unleavened Bread (in particular, Yahweh's own instructions in Leviticus 23—see chapter 24 of this book) place it one day **after** the Passover whilst Luke implies that they are the **same** day. The only suggestion I can make for this discrepancy is that Luke, unlike the other three gospel writers, was a Gentile and thus, possibly, not as familiar with Jewish customs.

Whilst I don't personally believe it is a salvation issue (you may disagree with that), I am still concerned that Christians could be falling under satanic deception. As I say elsewhere in my book, one of Satan's favourite "tools" is the wedge where he slips the very thin end of it into a person's "belief system" where it will be hardly noticed (as in the case of "Good Friday") and then he imperceptibly drives that wedge of lies steadily deeper and deeper until it splits the lies he teaches so far away from the truth that it **BECOMES** a salvation issue as, most noticeably, with the substitution of the true Sabbath which involves disobedience to divine Law.

So the question remains; what is best—to strive for truth, or settle for traditions that have no biblical foundations? The choice is yours.



MAILBOX



Day Names

Dear Brother David

Thank you for your response to Paul D (Making A Difference, January 2006). You were right where you said that there are other readers who ask the same question. I was one of them!

The way that you spelled out the origins of the day names we use today and how they relate to the numbered days of biblical times was SO simple. It leaves me wondering WHY anyone would even consider changing the Sabbath and I have resumed reading your book from the BKM website because I am guessing that it contains the answer. Your past statements that Satan has created lifestyles for us that keep us very busy are sooooo true! I started reading your book a long time ago but, with the pressures of everyday life, I got sidetracked and haven't read it recently. Now I intend to rectify that situation.

Thank you for your inspired teaching on biblical truth my brother in Christ.

In His love,

Jenny McK

Dear Jenny,

Thank you for your kind and generous words. As a person I am certainly no different to anyone else though. The only difference is that, some years ago, God *allowed* me to fracture my spine which meant that I was laid up for some months during which time I was able to make an intensive study of the Bible and biblical history. The things I learned during those months were as eye-opening to me as they have been to those with whom I have shared them. When I realised how many lies established religion teaches, I just HAD to write it down.

Yes, the answer to your question IS in my book and so I encourage you to continue reading. But, as I say in the foreword, don't take ANYTHING I say as truth without first checking it out in your Bible. God bless you as you study Jenny. DRH.

Hands!

Shared by Nancy Wall

**A basketball in my hands is worth about \$19.
A basketball in Michael Jordan's hands is worth about \$33 million.
It depends whose hands it's in.**

**A baseball in my hands is worth about \$6.
A baseball in Mark McGuire's hands is worth \$19 million.
It depends on whose hands it's in.**

**A tennis racket is useless in my hands.
A tennis racket in Venus Williams' hands is a championship
winning.
It depends whose hands it's in.**

**A rod in my hands will keep away a wild animal.
A rod in Moses' hands will part the mighty sea.
It depends whose hands it's in.**

**A sling shot in my hands is a kid's toy
A sling shot in David's hand is a mighty weapon.
It depends whose hands its in.**

**Two fish and 5 loaves of bread in my hands is a couple of fish
sandwiches.
Two fish and 5 loaves of bread in God's hands will feed thousands.
It depends whose hands it's in.**

**Nails in my hands might produce a birdhouse.
Nails in Jesus Christ's hands will
produce salvation for the entire world.
It depends whose hands it's in.**

**As you see now it depends whose hands it's in.
So put your concerns, your worries, your fears, your hopes, your
dreams, your families and your relationships in God's hands
because...
It depends whose hands it's in.**

**This message is now in your hands.
What will YOU do with it?**



The Sherry Walter Message

(with assistance from Darshan Singh and Job Anbalargan)

“Wail, Woe to the Day!” Ezek 30:2

The message that the Holy Spirit wants to give through us is a message of **judgment for the year 2006. We speak His words of judgment from His Holy Word.** Let us give all the more importance to His Word this year and fear Him.

God has given His people enough time to repent of their sin, to forsake the same and to return to Him for revival. But the people of God continue to live in sin despite the long-suffering of God. God has been sending His prophets and warning them against His judgment.

The year **2006** is a year of **judgment** and **revival**. Judgment for those who do not do His will and who continue to live in sin! Revival for those who repent and turn to Him! **We did warn the people of God about the sin of adultery being committed by them by way of remarriages by divorcees during the life time of their spouses.** If revival has to be sent by God to our churches, we should repent of such **abominable sins** and turn to God for revival. Revival will break out if we prophesy unto the dry bones. Prophesying unto the dry bones means speaking out the right truth of His word to the right people who are spiritually dead in such sins. **If revival has to take place in our midst, we should speak out the right word of the truth to the dry bones i.e. the children of God dead in this abominable sin.**

“For the day is near, even the day of the Lord is near:..” (Ezek 30:3)

What day you may innocently ask!

“Doom has come to you, you who dwell in the land, a day of trouble is near, and not of rejoicing in the mountains.” (Ezek 7:7)

The time has come, the day draws near, for the wrath is on their whole multitude” (Ezek 7:12)

This is because people did not heed to the umpteen warnings by the true prophets of His to repent and turn back from their sins and abominable deeds!

“It will be a day of Judgment, a day of darkness and gloominess, a day of clouds and thick darkness” (Joel 2:2)

“For the day of the Lord upon all nations is near; as you have done, it shall be done to you, your reprisal shall return upon your own head” (Obadiah 15)

God has waited for a very long time for His people, pastors and evangelists, and false prophets and false apostles to repent and change their ways! O but have they?

Now for these who still have not changed their ways!

Alas for the day! For the day of the Lord is at hand. It shall come in as destruction from the Almighty (Joel 1:15)

Friends, do not take this message lightly!

“for the day of the LORD is great and very terrible; and who can abide it?” (Joel 2:11)

“For what good is the day of the Lord to you? It will be darkness and not light” (Amos 5:18)

“It will be as though a man fled from a lion, and a bear met him! Or as though he went into the house and a serpent bit him.” (Amos 5:19)

Therefore it is high time to avoid this great day of darkness, disaster and disrepute and that we repent of our shameless sins **and deceitful** ways, and go back to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

The Scriptures tell or in fact very sternly warn us that there will be **no blessings** but only and only **curses** “**On The Day Of The Lord”** some of the curses can be seen in the book of Prophet Joel;

- 1. A day of destruction from God.** (1:15).
- 2. A day of darkness and gloominess** (2:2).
- 3. A day of clouds and thick darkness.** (2:2).
- 4. A day of invasion of earth by the armies of the Lord coming from Heaven** (2:2-11).

5. **A day of devouring fire destroying all before it** (2:13).
6. **A day when men will be much pained and discouraged** (2:6).
7. **A day when supernatural beings and all heavenly beings will appear on Earth to destroy multitudes** (2:4-11, 3:14).
8. **A great and terrible day with only a few living through** (2:11, 31).
9. **A day preceded by a great day of Holy Spirit outpouring** (2:28-32).
10. **A day when all nations gathered against Jerusalem will be destroyed** (3:2, 16).
11. **A day of war and destruction** (2:1, 3:9-16).
12. **A Day of Judgment for the nations** (3:111-12, Mt 25:31-46).
13. **A day of decision – one to decide the ruler-ship of the Earth forever** (3:11-14, Rev 11: 15, 10:11-21, 20:1-10).
14. **A day of darkness of the sun, moon and stars** (3:15, Mt 24:29-31).
15. **A day of great earthquakes** (v 16, Zech 14:4-5, Rev 16:17-21).

“I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh” Ezekiel 36: 26.

Therefore Hosea 12:6 says, **“So you, by the help of your God return; observe mercy and justice, and wait on your God continually.”**

Read Hosea 14:1 also.

In fact the sixth seal in Revelation 6:17 announces and introduces the Day of the Lord.

“For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?”

The prophet Joel confirms that the time of great tribulation and the heavenly signs precede the Day of the Lord.

“The sun shall be turned into darkness, and moon into blood, before the coming of the great and awesome day of the Lord” (Joel 2:31)

The Day of the Lord is the time of Gods' wrath on those who have set themselves against Him and His prophets who give His messages.

Read Jer. 46:10, Zeph 1:14-16, Acts 2:30, 1 Cor 1:8, 5:5, 2 Cor 1:14, 1 Thes 5:2, 2 Thes 2:2, 2 Peter 3:10

“Wail, for the day of the Lord is at hand! It will come as destruction from the Almighty.” Isaiah 13:6

God will do great things through the hands of His true servants who do not project their images but carry on their ministries with all humility, preferably, as teams. God will change their wilderness and will fill their coffers with blessings.

In the Christian nations, there will be severe judgments and in the non-Christian nations, there will be revivals.

The last chapter of the last prophetic book of the Old Testament speaks of the Lord's judgment: **“For, behold, the day cometh that shall burn as an oven; and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble: and the day that cometh shall burn them up, saith the Lord of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch..”**

“Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord”

And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse” (Mal.4:1, 5, 6).

We are inching forward to the great and dreadful day of the Lord with every day passing before our eyes. God is sending the Elijahs in our midst who perform a similar ministry of John the Baptist for preparing the way of the Lord for His second advent. Let us not ignore their messages!

What about you O Christian? Are you a vessel of wrath fitted for destruction? This year is the time to make sure all hearts are right before the Almighty God! The hour is very late!!!! Repent for the Kingdom of heaven is at hand!

What if God, willing to shew his wrath, and to make his power known, endured with much longsuffering the vessels of wrath fitted to destruction: Romans 9:22

Ye serpents, ye generation of vipers, how can ye escape the damnation of hell? Matthew 23:33

We have warned you to FLEE from the wrath to come!

HEED THE WARNING!

MOMENTS TO CONSIDER

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

Are You in the Book?

Dr. Harvey D. Schneider

Some of America's most prominent families are listed in the Social Register. Their club memberships, college affiliations, and other facts are given for the over 30,000 families listed. It is published each November, updated in May, costs \$125, and is sold only to the families that are listed in it.

There is only a very small percentage of the population listed and some see their listing in the Social Register as a sign of recognition of their success. Although some might dream of one day being listed, I have no major concern that I am not.

However were I was not listed in the Lamb's Book of Life (Philippians 4:3; Revelation 21:27) I would have much to be concerned about. The Lamb's Book of Life is the book that has all the individual names of those going to Heaven because they have put their faith in Jesus, the Lamb of God, and are trusting Him to lead them in this life.

The Apostle John wrote, "And there shall in no wise enter into it (Heaven) anything that defileth; neither whatsoever worketh abomination or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life." (Rev 21:27)

Years ago I attended Mobile University in Mobile, Alabama. One of the classes, Worship, attended services at a number of denominations and faiths. One of them we attended was a Friday night service at a Mobile synagogue. We faced the speaker and behind him was a wall with a metallic tree, apparently a depiction of the Tree of Life. Doors were present in the tree and they were opened and scrolls were removed and were walked up and down the aisles during part of the service.

After the service the class had a meeting with the rabbi and he told us that the scrolls were the Pentateuch, the first five books of the Bible, which had been hand written by a scribe on vellum, which is lamb's skin. The Jewish scrolls written on vellum are in a way symbolic of the Book of Life.

The following verse came to mind, "Behold, I have graven thee upon the palms of my hands; thy walls are continually before me." (Isaiah 49:16)

It is evident from the above verse that the Lord's nail scarred hands contain the names of those who believe in Him. Jesus, the Lamb of God, is therefore also the Lamb's Book of Life.

After Jesus' resurrection when Thomas looked at Jesus' palms he fell to his knees saying, "My Lord and my God." (John 26:28) Had he seen his name in the Lord's palms?

Jesus responded, "Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed, blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed." (John 26:29)

Do you believe that your name is engraved in Jesus' palms? True, you have not seen it, but do you believe you are going to Heaven because of what He has done for you?

Job wrote, "Oh that my words were now written! Oh that they were printed in a book! That they were graven with an iron pen and lead in the rock for ever!" (Job 19:23-24)

Job was hoping that his words would be carved in rock for his defence. 1 Corinthians 10:4 tells us that Jesus was the Rock that followed the Israelites in the wilderness. Are your sinful words written on Jesus who is both the Lamb's Book of life and the Rock? Do the stripes, the scars received for the whipping He endured as the penalty for your sins, state that in your defence "YOUR SINS; PAID FOR IN FULL?"

Sitting on the Fence

Author Unknown – Adapted

There was an large group of people assembled. On one side of the group stood Jesus. On the other side of the group stood Satan. Separating them, running through the group was a fence.

Both Jesus and Satan began calling to the people in the group and, one by one, each having made up his or her mind went to either Jesus or Satan.

Eventually Jesus had gathered around him a number of people from the group, as had Satan. One man joined neither group. He climbed the fence that was between Jesus and Satan and sat on it. Then Jesus and the people who had chosen to be with Him left. So also did Satan and his people.

The man on the fence sat alone.

As this man sat there, Satan came back and appeared to be looking for something that he'd lost.

The man said, "Have you lost something?"

Satan looked straight at him and replied, "No, there you are. Come with me."

"But," said the man, "I am sitting on the fence. I chose neither you nor Jesus."

"That's okay," said Satan. "I own the fence."

In reality, there is no middle ground, no fence to sit on! If you do not chose to follow and obey Jesus you have chosen Satan as your father. One of the two groups is headed for heaven. The other is headed for the Lake of Fire. Which group are you in?

We Are Called to Be Like Trees

Randy B. Culp by way of Cup O'Cheer, (Adapted)

Compiled by Kimberly B. Quiggle (cupocheer@sc.rr.com)

On my way to church, there were several acres of land being cleared. While my son lamented the "loss of habitat", I watched the activity with little more than a passing interest. At first they bulldozed the underbrush into small piles, I think more to improve access than anything else. Then I watched as the tree harvesters pulled out the hardwoods, no doubt to be milled and fashioned into furniture or fine veneers. Next they pulled the large pines, straight, tall, excellent for lumber or telephone poles and piled them high on trailers bound for the mill.

That's when I noticed a stumpy, gnarly, twisted pine tree whose branches were deformed. This tree had taken root under some overhead power lines and as it reached upward the power company had cut it back to avoid its interference with those power lines. This frequent, indiscriminate, cutting, had forced the poor tree to grow in odd directions with great lumps covering the wounds where its limbs had been cut back. The lumber harvesters passed it by, in favour of the tall, straight trees, useful for building houses, furniture, decks and the like. I thought how true this is of us. God has created us to be tall straight and useful, but our proximity to earthly things corrupts that intent.

The next day I noticed that "stumpy" had been cut down and piled up with several other less than stately trees that, for one reason or another, were of no use to the lumber mills. I thought that those useless lumps were destined to be burned, their noble intent squandered by playing to close to the world.

To my surprise, however, they were not burned, but were loaded onto trucks just as the tall, straight pines had been. That's when I noticed the name of a local paper mill on the door of one of the trucks; "stumpy" and his friends were going to be used for paper. Paper that might carry the news to an eager public, or post a notice about a lost puppy, or a page in a book teaching my son, or a marriage certificate, or a pay check, or a page in a bible that contains the words; "For God so loved the world..."

"Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the Lord; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper." (Psalm 1:1-3)

I saw this as a lesson that teaches that God can use each of us. No matter how wounded and scarred we are, no matter how twisted and rough we've become, no matter how useless we may seem to others, God has a use, a purpose, and a place for each of us. His heart yearns for us to be the best that we can be.

A tree two thousand years ago became a cross, an altar, so the Lamb of God could offer Himself as a sacrifice that we might be redeemed and become fruitful trees. Are you doing your best to live up to your call?

Impossible to Ignore

By Ken Pierpont
ken@kenpierpont.com

Our first-born is an especially diligent young man. Even when he was just a lad you could count on him to attack a job and bring it to completion.

One summer afternoon I asked him to vacuum out the van. He eagerly ran, got the vacuum and an extension chord and went to work. He did a great job, but that was not the end of the story. About six or eight days later we noticed a very unpleasant odour. It was a mystery. We could not find it. At first we thought it might have been a dead mouse or maybe road-kill out on the highway but the stench just grew stronger every day.

I was forced to investigate. (If I recall my wife was considering going to visit her mother until I solved the mystery of the wretched odour). I traced the odour to the west side of the house. We had an enclosed front porch. On the side farthest from the front door we had a huge chest-freezer full of meat. It was a little distance from the outlet so to get power to the freezer we used an extension cord. We only had one. It was the one we used to vacuum the van.

When our boy finished his job he must have been distracted by the call of the creek or the flight of a butterfly. Maybe it was his dog or his brothers or sisters, or maybe the mail man and he was eager to get it in for mom and dad. Maybe I came along and asked him to mow the lawn. Maybe it was time for baseball practice. Maybe he could smell dinner cooking and he was eager to eat. Whatever it was that distracted him, he forgot to plug the freezer back in.

At first no one knew. At first there was little harm and little damage. Our life went on as usual. Eventually, though, the meat spoiled and ruined and rotted. The evidence of ruined meat was impossible to ignore.

At first the presence of sin unconfessed goes unnoticed. Life goes on in its normal way. But unconfessed sin is a little like a freezer full of rotten meat cooking on the porch. You can ignore it but it will not go away. Eventually it will become the biggest thing in your life. Eventually it will demand your attention. Eventually it will dominate our life.

John the Baptist and the Lord Jesus came preaching repentance. I think Peter said it beautifully, "Repent and be converted that your sins will be blotted out and seasons of refreshing will come from the presence of the Lord."

Repentance is like a fresh spring breeze that blows away the foul odour of sin. What a gift repentance is! Paul wrote, "If God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth; and that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will." (2 Timothy 2:25-26)

This evening, think on the rich privilege we have to repent. Think on what a gift repentance is. The Kingdom of Heaven is near at hand to you in your home tonight. It is as near as your eagerness to repent.

To see Ken's own online magazine, visit www.kennierpont.com

The following is the philosophy of Charles Schultz, the creator of the "Peanuts" comic strip. You don't have to actually answer the questions. Just read straight through, and you'll get the point.

1. Name the five wealthiest people in the world.
2. Name the last five Heisman trophy winners.
3. Name the last five winners of the Miss America.
4. Name ten people who have won the Nobel or Pulitzer Prize.
5. Name the last half dozen Academy Award winners for best actor and actress.
6. Name the last decade's worth of World Series winners.

How did you do?

The point is, none of us remember the headliners of yesterday. These are no second-rate achievers. They are the best in their fields. But the applause dies. Awards tarnish.

Achievements are forgotten. Accolades and certificates are buried with their owners.

Here's another quiz. See how you do on this one:

1. List a few teachers who aided your journey through school.
 2. Name three friends who have helped you through a difficult time.
 3. Name five people who have taught you something worthwhile.
 4. Think of a few people who have made you feel appreciated and special.
 5. Think of five people you enjoy spending time with.
- Easier?

The lesson: The people who make a difference in your life are not the ones with the most credentials, the most money, or the most awards. They are the ones that care.

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 page 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

Jesus *

My Guardian Angel *

Guardian of Hope and Wonder *

I Prayed For You *

SONG

Count Your Blessings *

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Ten Things the Lord Won't Ask *

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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

Parent's Wish

Shared by Malta O'Gorman

Click the link and turn up your speakers!

Quote of the Month

*Money can't buy you happiness,
but it does bring you a more pleasant form of misery.*
~Spike Milligan

**The older we get, the fewer things seem worth
waiting in line for.**

Two Travelling Angels

Shared by Nancy Wall

Two travelling angels stopped to spend the night in the home of a wealthy family. The family was rude and refused to let the angels stay in the mansion's guest room. Instead the angels were given a small space in the cold basement. As they made their bed on the hard floor, the older angel saw a hole in the wall and repaired it.

When the younger angel asked why, the older angel replied, "Things aren't always what they seem."

The next night the pair came to rest at the house of a very poor, but very hospitable farmer and his wife.

After sharing what little food they had the couple let the angels sleep in their bed where they could have a good night's rest.

When the sun came up the next morning the angels found the farmer and his wife in tears. Their only cow,

whose milk had been their sole income, lay dead in the field.

The younger angel was infuriated and asked the older angel how could you have let this happen? The first man had everything, yet you helped him, he accused. The second family had little but was willing to share everything, and you let the cow die.

"Things aren't always what they seem," the older angel replied. "When we stayed in the basement of the mansion, I noticed there was gold stored in that hole in the wall. Since the owner was so obsessed with greed and unwilling to share his good fortune, I sealed the wall so he wouldn't find it. Then last night as we slept in the farmer's bed, the angel of death came for his wife. I gave him the cow instead.

Things aren't always what they seem."

From God Today Devotionals by Cheryl Curtis

(See the link on the next page)

For everyone born of God has overcome the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. (1 John 5:4)

As we watch events in the world unfolding before us daily, and news reports reflecting the worst of each event, we may be left feeling hopeless, turning away complaining about how bad the world has become. It is very easy to forget that we know the answer the world needs. Jesus is the answer. It is just as easy to buy into the blame game, pointing the fault at politicians, the public school system, the courts, video games, music, etc. God dwells in the hearts and lives of each who have accepted His gift of grace through Jesus Christ. The changes we are demanding and anticipating will begin within each of us. The love of God that has been placed in our hearts is contagious and we can hope that it will some day become an epidemic. While it may be true that the world pounds us with a pessimistic view, we must remember that the enemy blinds the world for he is the god of this world, but we have the light of Jesus Christ within us, and He has overcome this world. He is greater than all. We have a hope and we should concentrate on being vessels of the hope and good news of Jesus Christ to the world. With God abiding in us, we can and will make a difference in our families, our country, and our world.

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

TO BRING A SMILE

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

Such Wisdom!

Shared by Sue Belosev

An atheist professor of philosophy speaks to his class on the problem science has with God, the Almighty.

He asks one of his new students to stand and.....

Prof: So you believe in God?

Student: Absolutely, sir.

Prof: Is God good?

Student: Sure.

Prof: Is God all-powerful?

Student: Yes.

Prof: My brother died of cancer even though he prayed to God to heal him. Most of us would attempt to help others who are ill. But God didn't. How is this God good then? Hmm?

(Student is silent.)

Prof: You can't answer, can you? Let's start again, young fellow. Is God good?

Student: Yes.

Prof: Is Satan good?

Student: No

Prof: Where does Satan come from?

Student: From...God...

Prof: That's right. Tell me son, is there evil in this world?

Student: Yes.

Prof: Evil is everywhere, isn't it? And God did make everything. Correct?

Student: Yes.

Prof: So who created evil?

(Student does not answer.)

Prof: Is there sickness? Immorality? Hatred? Ugliness? All these terrible things exist in the world, don't they?

Student: Yes, sir.

Prof: So, who created them?

(Student has no answer.)

Prof: Science says you have 5 senses you use to identify and serve the world around you. Tell me, son...Have you ever seen God?

Student: No, sir.

Prof: Tell us if you have ever heard your God?

Student: No, sir.

Prof: Have you ever felt your God, tasted your God, smelled your God? Have

you ever had any sensory perception of God for that matter?

Student: No, sir. I'm afraid I haven't.

Prof: Yet you still believe in Him?

Student: Yes.

Prof: According to empirical, testable, demonstrable protocol, science says your GOD doesn't exist. What do you say to that, son?

Student: Nothing. I only have my faith.

Prof: Yes, faith. And that is the problem science has.

Student: Professor, is there such a thing as heat?

Prof: Yes.

Student: And is there such a thing as cold?

Prof: Yes.

Student: No sir. There isn't.

(The lecture theatre becomes very quiet with this turn of events.)

Student: Sir, you can have lots of heat, even more heat, superheat, mega heat, white heat, a little heat or no heat. But we don't have any thing called cold. We can hit 458 degrees below zero which is no heat, but we can't go any further after that. There is no such thing as cold. Cold is only a word we use to describe the absence of heat. We cannot measure cold. Heat is energy. Cold is not the opposite of heat, sir, just the absence of it.

(There is pin-drop silence in the lecture theatre.)

Student: What about darkness, Professor? Is there such a thing as darkness?

Prof: Yes. What is night if there isn't darkness?

Student: You're wrong again, sir. Darkness is the absence of something. You can have low light, normal light, bright light, flashing light.... But if you have no light constantly, you have nothing and it is called darkness, isn't it? In reality, darkness isn't. If it were you would be able to make darkness darker, wouldn't you?

Prof: So what is the point you are making, young man?

Student: Sir, my point is your philosophical premise is flawed.

Prof: Flawed? Can you explain how?

Student: Sir, you are working on the premise of duality. You argue there is life and then there is death, a good God and a bad God. You are viewing the concept of God as something finite, something we can measure. Sir, science can't even explain a thought. It uses electricity and magnetism, but has never seen, much less fully understood either one. To view death as the opposite of life is to be ignorant of the fact that death cannot exist as a substantive thing. Death is not the opposite of life: just the absence of it. Now tell me, Professor. Do you teach your students that they evolved from a monkey?

Prof: If you are referring to the natural evolutionary process, yes, of course, I do.

Student: Have you ever observed evolution with your own eyes, sir?

(The Professor shakes his head with a smile, beginning to realize where the argument is going.)

Student: Since no one has ever observed the process of evolution at work and cannot even prove that this process is an on-going endeavor, are you not teaching your opinion, sir? Are you not a scientist but a preacher?

(The class is in uproar.)

Student: Is there anyone in the class who has ever seen the Professor's brain?

(The class breaks out into laughter.)

Student: Is there anyone here who has ever heard the Professor's brain, felt it, touched or smelled it?..... No one appears to have done so. So, according to the established rules of empirical, stable, demonstrable protocol, science says that you have no brain, sir. With all due respect, sir, how do we then trust your lectures, sir?

(The room is silent. The professor stares at the student.)

Prof: I guess you'll have to take them on faith, son.

Student: That is it, sir.. The link between man & god is FAITH. That is all that keeps things moving & alive.

Editor's note: Some versions of this story state that the student was Albert Einstein but there is no record of the great physicist ever being involved in such a debate. Still a great story though!

Notable Headlines from the Past

Man Struck by Lightning Faces Battery Charge

Go Granny!

One Sunday a preacher told the congregation that the church needed some extra money and asked the people to prayerfully consider giving a little extra in the offering plate. He said that whoever gave the most would be able to pick out three hymns.

After the offering plates were passed, the preacher glanced down and noticed that someone had placed a \$1,000 bill in offering. He was so excited that he immediately shared his joy with his congregation and said he'd like to personally thank the person who placed the money in the plate.

A very quiet, elderly and saintly lady all the way in the back shyly raised her hand. The preacher asked her to come to the front. Slowly she made her way to the preacher. He told her how wonderful it was that she gave so much and in thanksgiving asked her to pick out three hymns.

Her eyes brightened as she looked over the congregation, pointed to the three handsomest men in the building and said, "I'll take him... and him... and him."

Announcement in a church bulletin

Please remember in prayer the many who are sick of our community.

John had been convicted of murder and sentenced to death.

The last day of his life had come.

The warden awakened him and said, "Since this is your last day, John, you can have anything you want to eat."

"I'd like some watermelons," he said.

"But," protested the warden, "they won't be ripe for six months!"

"I can wait," John said.

A Mexican guy shuffles into a bar with a big beautiful parrot on his shoulder.

"Wow", the bartender blurts out, "where did you get him?"

"From Arizona," the parrot responds, "they're all over the place."

THE TOP TEN PREDICTIONS FOR 2006

Shared by Julie Sanders

1. The Bible will still have the answers.
 2. Prayer will still work.
 3. The Holy Spirit will still move.
 4. God will still inhabit the praises of His people.
 5. There will still be God-anointed preaching.
 6. There will still be singing of praise.
 7. God will still pour out blessings upon His people.
 8. There will still be room at the Cross.
 9. Jesus will still love you.
 10. Jesus will still save the lost.
-

Think About It!

A Steven Wright Gem shared by Nancy Wall

All those who believe in psycho-kinesis, raise my hand.

AND,

TO BRING A TEAR

Maybe of joy - maybe of sadness

DOGS

Shared by Malta O'Gorman

Being a veterinarian, I had been called to examine a ten-year-old Irish wolfhound named Belker. The dog's owners, Ron, his wife, Lisa, and their little boy, Shane, were all very attached to Belker and they were hoping for a miracle.

I examined Belker and found he was dying of cancer. I told the family there were no miracles left for Belker, and offered to perform the euthanasia procedure for the old dog in their home.

As we made arrangements, Ron and Lisa told me they thought it would be good for the four-year-old Shane to observe the procedure. They felt as though Shane might learn something from the experience.

The next day, I felt the familiar catch in my throat as Belker's family surrounded him. Shane seemed so calm, petting the old dog for the last time, that I wondered if he understood what was going on. Within a few minutes,

Belker slipped peacefully away. The little boy seemed to accept Belker's transition without any difficulty or confusion.

We sat together for a while after Belker's death, wondering aloud about the sad fact that animal lives are shorter than human lives. Shane, who had been listening quietly, piped up, "I know why."

Startled, we all turned to him. What came out of his mouth next stunned me. I'd never heard a more comforting explanation.

He said, "People are born so that they can learn how to live a good life -- like loving everybody all the time and being nice, right?" The four-year-old continued, "Well, dogs already know how to do that, so they don't have to stay as long."

Live simply. Love generously. Care deeply. Speak kindly. Leave the rest to God.

The Flock

By Wayne Harmon and Shared by Jolene

A flock of sheep was grazing in the pasture where the Shepherd had led them. Some of the sheep began to discuss why the Shepherd took their wool. One group said that He took it simply to prove to them that He was in charge. Another group was of the opinion that He did so because He had no wool of his own; thus He had to wear theirs. Still another group held the opinion that He took their wool for other reasons. The debates went on and on, day after day. Eventually the flock found themselves divided into smaller groups. The groups would eat in the same pasture, but in different areas. Often the self-appointed "leaders" in the groups would try to persuade members of other groups to join theirs. These leaders would often meet together in the middle of the pasture and butt heads trying to subdue each other. Each one wanted to have a bigger group within the flock. The more they thought they knew about why the Shepherd took their wool, the more they thought they were better qualified to lead the flock than the Shepherd.

Soon these leaders began to criticize the Shepherd Himself. When the grass was long, they griped about how difficult it was to walk through. When it was shorter than they liked, they complained about how hard it was on their necks to stretch down to graze. When there was nothing at all to complain about, they complained that it should be that way all the time. No matter what the Shepherd did for them, they focused on what He didn't do. Whenever the Shepherd chased away a wolf, they complained that He shouldn't have led them near the wolf in the first place. They began to brag about how they would lead the flock if they were in charge instead of the Shepherd. It never occurred to them that they couldn't see as far as the Shepherd could see. They didn't think about the fact that none of them was able to wield the staff to drive away the wolf.

One little ewe, however, wasn't affected by all this debate and division. She wasn't the biggest sheep in the flock. In fact, she was one of the smallest. She certainly didn't produce the finest wool, and her offspring didn't add to the greatness of the flock. She walked with a limp from a broken leg from when she was chased over a precipice by a wolf. Her face was scarred from that attack, too. The Shepherd had found her stuck in the rocks, broken and bleeding. He had taken her in His arms and carried her back to the flock. He set her leg, cleaned her wounds and kept her warm at night while she healed.

She never left the Shepherd's side. She followed Him all day and slept by Him each night. To her, the best pastures were wherever He led her. She listened to His voice all day long. She didn't always understand what He was saying, but

she just loved the sound. Her favourite times were when He would sit and let her climb into His arms. There she would put her head on his chest and just quietly listen to His heart beat. That was the most comforting sound to her in the world. That was the sound she had listened to during those long nights when He had held her while she healed. She didn't always understand His words, but she knew His heart.

One day the "leaders" of the various groups within the flock decided to ask her why the Shepherd took their wool, and what He did with it. She looked at them and said, "I have no idea why He takes it, or what He does with it. I just wish I had more to give Him. He's the Shepherd. He may do with me what He wishes." Then she said, "I have to go to Him now. He just found the remains of one of the sheep that wandered away, ignoring His voice, and was devoured by the wolf. He is weeping now, and I can't let Him mourn alone."

Before she left, one of the "leaders" asked sheepishly, "Why do you love the Shepherd so much?"

"Why, silly," she replied, "Because He loved me first!"

OBITUARY

COMMON SENSE

We mourn the passing of a beloved old friend, Common Sense, who has been with us for many years.

No one knows for sure how old he was, as his birth records were lost long ago in bureaucratic red tape.

He will be remembered as having cultivated such valuable lessons as knowing when to come out from the rain, why the early bird gets the worm, life isn't fair and maybe it was my fault.

Common Sense lived by simple, sound financial policies (don't spend more than you earn) and reliable parenting strategies (adults, not children are in charge).

His health began to deteriorate rapidly when well intentioned but overbearing regulations were set in place.

Reports of a six year old boy charged with sexual harassment for kissing a classmate and a teacher fired for reprimanding an unruly student only worsened his condition.

Common Sense also lost ground when parents attacked teachers for doing the job they failed to do themselves in disciplining their unruly children.

It declined even further when schools were required to get parental consent to administer Panadol, sun lotion or a Bandaid to a student, but then could not inform parents when a student became pregnant and wanted to have an abortion.

Common Sense lost the will to live as the Ten Commandments became contraband, churches became businesses and criminals received better treatment than their victims.

Common Sense took a beating when people were no longer allowed to defend themselves from burglars in their own homes and the burglar could sue for assault.

Common Sense finally gave up the will to live after a woman failed to realize that a steaming cup of coffee was hot. She spilled a little in her lap and was promptly awarded a huge settlement.

Common Sense was preceded in death by his parents, Truth and Trust, his wife, Discretion and his children Reason and Responsibility.

He is survived by three stepbrothers, I Know My Rights, Someone Else Is To Blame and I'm A Victim.

Not many attended his funeral because so few realized he was gone.



This month we continue the serialisation of David Holt's booklet,

Did Jesus Tell Lies?

It is subtitled "A Children's Story For Adults" because, even though it IS really a children's story, there are lots of adults who need to hear it too. So why don't you ask your parents to read each episode out loud when the whole family are together and then you can all talk about it and share your own answers to the question that is the title.

Chapter Two

Sometime, a bit later on before they died, Adam and Eve had two sons whose names were Cain and Abel. By this time, people had started giving presents to Jesus to show Him that they loved Him and also to say they were sorry for what Adam and Eve had done when they disobeyed Him. Jesus must have told the people what sort of presents He liked and so Abel, who was a shepherd, took some meat from one of his newborn lambs to Jesus who was very pleased with his gift. Cain, who was a farmer, took some of his crops, even though that was not what Jesus wanted. You see, Cain thought that Jesus had lied to him when He told him he wanted lamb and so he worshiped Jesus the way HE wanted to rather than the way Jesus liked to be worshiped.

So Jesus rejected Cain's gift and that made him very angry indeed. In fact, he was SO jealous of his brother that he went out into the fields and killed him. Yes, the very first person born on the newly made earth was a murderer! Jesus was very angry and, since He had already shut people out of the Garden of Eden, he sent Cain away into the desert where nothing would grow to wander for the rest of his life - all because he thought that Jesus had told him a lie!

About 1300 years and several generations later there were lots of people and, because Adam and Eve had given up their rule over the earth to Satan, everyone was really wicked and violent. No one obeyed Jesus any more and He was really sorry that He had ever made people. So He decided to destroy everything He had made. But because He still loved them even though they made Him very sad all the time, and because He is very merciful, He decided to give them one last chance.

Up 'til then it had never rained. All the trees and plants were watered by the dew that settled during the night and the rivers and streams all came from springs bubbling up out of the ground.

Now, at that time, there was a descendant of Adam and Eve's named Noah. He was a good and obedient man and so Jesus went to see him.

"I'm going to make it rain." He told him, "Water will fall out of the sky for forty days and nights and it will flood the whole earth and everyone - all the people and all the animals - will be drowned. But because you are obedient and serve me properly the way I like to be served, I am going to tell you how you and your family and anyone else who wants to be saved can escape what I am going to do. I want you to build a huge boat big enough to carry all the animals I will bring to you. You have 120 years to build it before the rain will start to fall."

So Noah set to work building a big ship exactly as Jesus had told him to. Just imagine it! There was this old man building a huge boat miles away from the sea and much too big to sail on the river. Back in those days there weren't any big road transporters to put it on - there weren't even any big roads! As the ship, which was called the Ark, started to take shape Noah's neighbours came to look what he was doing.

"Why are you building a huge ship on dry land?" they asked him.

"The Lord has told me to build it because He is going to send a flood that will drown everyone that isn't on this ship when He closes the door. You can come with me if you want to be saved." They laughed and made fun of Noah but, because he was a man of God and loved his neighbours, he just kept right on working and inviting them to join him.

"Silly old fool!" they jeered, "Whoever heard of water falling out of the sky? You don't seriously believe that do you?" In effect, what they were telling Noah was that Jesus had lied to him!

One day, when everything was ready, Jesus brought all the animals to the Ark and they filed aboard. There were two sorts of animals. The ones that ate nice fresh leaves and fruits were called "clean" and the ones that cleaned up the earth by eating rubbish were called "unclean." Jesus brought seven pairs of each of the clean animals and two pairs of each of the unclean ones. Noah and his wife and their three sons and their wives climbed the gangplank and Jesus Himself came and closed the door. Can you imagine the scene? Noah and his family looking down from the top deck with all the people standing around laughing so much that there were tears rolling down their faces.

Then the sky darkened as heavy clouds rolled over. There was a flash of lightning and a loud rumbling. The people looked up and, slowly but surely, just as Noah had told them, water started to fall out of the sky. It mixed with the tears of laughter still on their faces. It got heavier... and heavier... and heavier. Suddenly the people weren't laughing any more. Some of them started to yell out to Noah, "Open the door and let us in." but the door had been tightly closed by Jesus Himself and couldn't be opened.

After a few hours of non-stop torrential rain the water had formed into huge puddles. And, after a few days, all the low-lying land around had become lakes. People's homes were flooded and they were running in terror trying to find things to make boats. But the water rose too quickly for them to be able to escape. The Ark started to float and soon the flood covered the whole land. And so except for the eight people on the Ark, everyone was drowned because they thought that Jesus had lied to Noah and took no notice of his warnings.

After forty days, just as Jesus had said, it stopped raining and soon the flood waters started to go down. When 150 days had passed the Ark came to rest on a mountain and all the animals and Noah and his family got off and made new homes on the dry land. No doubt Jesus thought that, by drowning all the wicked people and only saving a good man and his family, He had solved the problem. But he hadn't!

Jesus promised Noah that He would never destroy the world by flood again and, as sign to forever remind people of His promise, He made a beautiful rainbow in the sky. Before much time had passed, Noah's sons and their wives had families and the people spread out across the world.

So DID Jesus lie to Noah? Have a talk about what happened and see what the grown-ups think. Next month we'll have a look at some more people who thought Jesus lied to them.

Don't You Just Love 'em?

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

Dear GOD,
Who draws the lines around the countries?
Jan

"What does love mean?"

Shared by Suzanne Belosev

A group of professional people posed this question to a group of 4 to 8 year-olds.

Over the next few months we will share some of their answers.

They were broader and deeper than anyone could have imagined.

"When my grandmother got arthritis, she couldn't bend over and paint her toenails anymore.

So my grandfather does it for her all the time, even when his hands got arthritis too.

That's love."

Rebecca - age 8

HAVE YOUR SAY!

Do you have any questions?

Do you have any suggestions?

Do you have any ideas?

Do you have any revelations?

YOU DO!

Then why not visit a great Christian forum site where YOU can post your very own thoughts, opinions and ideas as well as post questions where everyone visiting the forum can offer their answers?

Click below to visit this great web site where YOUR comments are important.

WFC Christian Forums

By the way, just because this site is owned and operated by a great Christian teenager, it's NOT just for young people.

EVERYONE IS WELCOME

So, whether you are 9 or 90, why not take a while to visit right now and register as a contributor?

THE BKM PLEDGE

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.

THERE ARE SEVERAL WAYS YOU CAN BECOME MORE INVOLVED

WE NEED - PRAYER PARTNERS

If you would like to partner someone in regular prayer sessions through a mutually convenient Internet medium

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.

**WE NEED - REGULAR FINANCIAL PLEDGES
FOR AS LITTLE AS FIFTY CENTS A WEEK**

(That's twenty-six dollars a year!)

**YOU CAN BECOME A PARTNER IN THIS MINISTRY
AND MAKE A MEANINGFUL DIFFERENCE**

**TEN PERCENT OF ALL PARTNERSHIP DONATIONS IS GIVEN TO HELP STRUGGLING
MINISTRIES AND OUTREACH PROGRAMMES IN THIRD-WORLD COUNTRIES**

Email your pledge NOW and send all donations to:

Beloved King Ministries, 1 Pinehaven, 176 Ewing Road, Woodridge, Queensland 4114, Australia.
(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

(click the link)

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.

Also, if your name is incomplete in the recipients list (i.e.: first or surname only or email address only),

because our address book is now so big, please help us by letting us know your full name so that the lists can be updated and duplication is minimised. For this please type **UPDATE** in the subject box. Thank you so much for your help in this.

On the other hand, if "Making A Difference" has been sent to you in error and you have not enjoyed reading it and would like to be removed from the mailing list, please accept our apologies and click [here](#) and type **UNSUBSCRIBE** in the subject box and the email address to be unsubscribed in the body of the email.