

Mature LIVING

SEPTEMBER 2013

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LEGACY**

of Leadership,
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GRANDPARENTING

with an
International
FLAIR

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Celebrate HYMNS—

Both OLD & NEW

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WILL?

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You won't find it on a map, but a highway to heaven does exist. "The Roman Road" is explained in the Book of Romans in the Bible, and it tells how to go to heaven.

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We need God's power because we have a problem with sin. "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23). "Sin" means missing the mark or missing God's intended destination for us. None of us can reach that destination on his or her own because everyone is a sinner.

When we work, we earn money. Sin earns wages as well—wages of death. Because God loves all sinners, He has provided another route: "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 6:23).

The highway to heaven is found in Romans 10:9: "If you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved." We need to confess our sin and ask God for forgiveness. To confess Jesus as Lord involves agreeing with God about your sin and your need for salvation. You must repent of your sin, turning away from the direction in life in which you are going. To "believe in your heart" is to place your faith in Jesus, trusting that He died on the cross to pay for your sins. "But God proves His own love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us!" (Romans 5:8).

If you would like to have salvation in Jesus Christ, sincerely pray a prayer like this one: "Dear God, I confess to You my sin and need for salvation. I turn away from my sin and place my faith in Jesus as my Savior and Lord. Amen."

Share your faith in Jesus with a Christian friend or pastor. Becoming a Christian is your first step on the lifelong road of spiritual growth and service God desires for you. Follow Christ in believer's baptism by immersion and join a local church.

[FROM THE EDITOR]

10 JOY-FILLED YEARS

Later this month, I will complete my first decade as a grandmother.

I miss that sweet little baby who brought me such joy — and of course, the two little guys who followed. What precious memories I have of rocking them to sleep!

These days I have to stay alert when they're around. They are too busy being little pranksters to bother with being precious. But every once in a while, I get rewarded with an unsolicited "I love you, Gramma," and my heart melts.

The older boys have some interesting ideas about my work. After taking some "Gramma and the boys" photos, Will, my oldest grandson, told his mother, "Maybe we'll win the contest again." She asked what he meant, and he answered, "You know, the contest where we might get to have our picture in the magazine." I can only say, if this is a contest, it's rigged.

Seven-year-old Sam asked me about my work. "What do you think I do?" I asked. After he guessed that I was a janitor or a "food fixer," I showed him *Mature Living* and explained what an editor does. He exclaimed, "Oh, so you're the person who puts the words on the pages." Pretty good description, I'd say.

Six-year-old Andrew hasn't had much to say about the work topic, but he is the only one who will drop everything to help me bake or plant flowers.

I cherish these special times for what they are — gifts from God. I'm sure all you grandparents out there feel the same way.

Happy Grandparents Day!



"Every generous act and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights" (James 1:17a).

Mature LIVING

PARTNERS WITH CHURCHES TO EQUIP MATURE ADULTS AS THEY LIVE A LEGACY OF LEADERSHIP, STEWARDSHIP, AND DISCIPLESHIP.



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Partners with churches to equip mature adults as they live a legacy of leadership, stewardship, and discipleship.

Volume 37, Number 12 • September 2013

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Printed in the United States of America

COVER PHOTO: Micah Kandros Photography

Mature Living (ISSN 0162-427X; Item 005075227) is published monthly by LifeWay Press®, One LifeWay Plaza, Nashville, TN 37234, Thom S. Rainer, President. ©Copyright 2013 LifeWay Press®.

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To request writers guidelines, email matureliving@lifeway.com or write *Mature Living*, One LifeWay Plaza, Nashville, TN 37234-0175. Include a stamped, self-addressed envelope.



Dear *Mature Living*,

I wonder if Nancy Legat secretly recorded my life ["We Cannot Go It Alone!" March 2013]. She completely described me ... "rumbling, mumbling, and grumbling." I now realize I must depend on the Lord daily — even every minute of the day!

— Glenda Faye Pryor-Johnson, Marianna, Fla.

FROM MAY'S COVER GIRL

Thank you for the article and picture ["Creely Wilson: Can-do Woman," May 2013]. I'm hoping and waiting for God's "Well done" in heaven, but your including my daughter and me in such a relevant, well-done Christian magazine is surely a good temporary substitute!

— Creeley Wilson, email

TOPICS DON'T APPLY

I read *Mature Living* to understand my parents'

perspective. I noted in "The Seven Deadly Sins of Aging" [April 2013], that the intended age of your readers seems to end in the 80s. I am looking for ideas for parents in their 90s, and I'm not sure topics like laziness still apply.

— Donna Parsons, email

Editor's Note: Thank you for your comment. Since we serve a wide age range, we know that every article will not fit every reader.

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Confessions of an **INTERNATIONAL GRAMMA**

by Brenda Harris



Over the years, my husband, Mike, and I talked about the day we'd become grandparents. We imagined the joy of welcoming a newborn to the world. But, as usual, God had other plans.

Years before our daughter Stephanie married, when she was only a child herself, she informed us that one day, she would adopt. I never forgot that conversation; neither did she. So in early 2010, after 3½ years of marriage, it came as no surprise when she and her husband, Justin, began their journey, working with an agency toward a domestic adoption. Home studies, paperwork, and fundraising became the new normal for them. Our whole family was

experiencing a new road to parenting — and grandparenting. We were excited, but we were also traveling into unknown territory.

Answered Prayer

After more than 15 months of waiting and praying and hoping and waiting, God used one simple question to redirect the process and begin His plan to grow their family and ours. In May 2011, during a break at a leadership meeting, Jeff, a friend and co-worker, asked: “Would your daughter and son-in-law be interested in international adoption?”

I couldn’t speak for them, but I had heard Stephanie and Justin say many times that they would not close any door the Lord opened.

I called Stephanie to ask her. She was shopping in the paper goods aisle at Target and, as we talked, she began to cry — not your typical response in the toilet paper section! Jeff told her about a tiny 3½-month-old girl in Taiwan who needed a forever family. She was born prematurely and possibly had hearing loss and other medical issues. She was a fighter though and was ready to leave the neonatal intensive care unit and move to a baby center run by Christian missionaries.



Left: Brenda Harris greets her daughter, Stephanie, and her granddaughter, Amber Joy, at the airport.

Above: Dawn and Chris Hollomon traveled to Ethiopia in 2009 to adopt Myles, where they met Leul. He joined their family in 2010. Grandparents Marybeth and Ed Hollomon with their grandsons.

After Stephanie talked to Justin, they knew this was their daughter. Less than a week later, the missionaries officially asked Stephanie and Justin to be this little girl’s parents. God had orchestrated a birth plan on the other side of the world that none of us could have asked or imagined (Eph. 3:20).

Red Tape and Waiting

A normal pregnancy takes nine months; adoption is totally unpredictable. Even though the baby had been born and the referral had been made, the process to bring her home was not

simple. When two countries are involved, adoption can drag on for what seems like eternity. Finally, eight months after that initial phone call, Stephanie and Justin flew halfway around the world to meet their daughter and bring her home.

Nothing could have prepared me for the love I felt for that precious baby girl. From those first pictures and a few email exchanges with the missionaries who cared for her, I was hooked — deeply in love and firmly convinced that God’s plan for her and for our family was most certainly through international adoption.

Nothing could have prepared me for the love I felt for that precious baby girl.

Welcome Home

On January 6, 2012, when they walked through the airport and I got my first “in person” glimpse of her, I was overwhelmed. I cannot imagine loving her more or knowing with more clarity that she was (and is) God’s gift to us.

Amber Joy is now a brilliant and precocious 2-year-old who has Gramma and Poppy wrapped around her finger! Watching Stephanie and Justin grow into caring, loving parents and witnessing the curiosity and wonder of Amber Joy are beautiful reminders of God’s promises: “Children are a gift from the LORD” (Ps. 127:3a, NLT) and “Grandchildren are the crowning glory” (Prov. 17:6a, NLT).

Highs and Lows

As much as we love Amber Joy, international adoption has been a challenging journey. Well-meaning friends, family members, and even strangers have questions, some spoken and some whispered when they thought we weren’t listening. Yes, adoption is expensive, and sometimes heartbreaking — just like

all parenting. Yes, there are thousands of children in this country who need a good home and loving parents, but that doesn’t negate the fact that children all over the world are waiting for a forever family. Yes, raising a child from another culture is hard. And yes, there are prejudices and stares and sometimes inappropriate reactions to our international family.

From my vantage point as an “International Gramma,” I believe adoptive families, as well as every family, need prayers, not criticism. They need encouragement, not judgment. Why not use adoption as an opportunity to show the love of Christ, to love like He loved, regardless of race or gender or circumstance?

As children, many of us sang: “Jesus loves the little children, all the children of the world. Red and yellow, black and white, all are precious in His sight. Jesus loves the little children of the world.” Can we do any less?



Brenda Harris is a freelance writer, editor, and conference speaker, living in Murfreesboro, Tenn. She and Mike love to travel.

ALL IN THE FAMILY

International adoption stirs up a wide array of emotions and responses. Grandparents and great-grandparents experience those same waves of questions, concerns, and cares. Some even bring their own prejudices into the equation.

I asked other international grandparents to share their initial responses:

- “At first I had mixed feelings. I was really caught off guard when they called and told me. I was not ready to hear that it would be international.”
- “I couldn’t understand why they didn’t want a baby from America.”
- “I didn’t handle the news well. I was worried, especially because their adopted daughter’s brain wasn’t fully developed. Now I adore that little girl!”
- “Adding an [international] baby to our all-Caucasian family made me do some down-to-the-heart thinking. It all came back to my daughter and son-in-law’s happiness and fulfillment.”
- “There were so many ‘firsts’ that we missed, such as hearing his first cry and seeing his first smile. But, the ‘firsts’ that I did have were the most heartfelt moments in my life. God took our ordinary family halfway around the world to

bring home my daughter's first born son, and I was able to be with them through the entire journey."

I also asked some adoptive parents to share their feelings about family responses:

- "My grandfather was adamant that we should not adopt a child of another color. His prejudice was deep."
- "My in-laws' main issue was with race, and it hurt tremendously when they said it. But they've had no issues accepting or loving them since then."
- "My dad has been great, though he has expressed mild disappointment that we're adopting internationally instead of from foster care."
- "I think my husband's parents have been more excited about our adoptions than they were about the births of our biological children."
- "My husband is adopted, so his parents were good to go."
- "Both sides of the family were negative. It was very hurtful and took a lot of prayers and patience on our part."
- "My parents expressed concern about the stability of adoption, about the health of international children, and about my heart. Now they are totally head over heels in love with my son."



Above: Our cover models, Dorothy and Karl Johnston, with their grandchildren, Will and Rosa Maxwell, who were born in Guatemala and adopted in 2002 and 2003. Dorothy married Karl in August 2012, so in a way, she is Will and Rosa's "adopted" grandmother.

• "My husband's mom and my parents are devout Christians, so their animosity was heart wrenching. Explaining to them that we were switching to international adoption was like we had said, 'We are now adopting aliens from planet Mars.'"

Grandparenting is such a blessing, but it's also a great responsibility. Offer encouragement. Pray for their marriage. Pray for your attitude and any prejudices you may have. Invite God to fill you with His love, and open your heart to the precious life God brings into your family!

The MUSIC MAN *of Eskaton Lodge*

by Sue Tornai



"Come on and hear, come on and hear, Alexander's Ragtime Band!"

As if guided by the upbeat music of Irving Berlin's 1911 hit, wheelchairs and walkers roll toward the large meeting room at Eskaton Lodge in Gold River, Calif. There, dressed in white pants, red shirt, and a white cap, Jerry Jingles sits on the piano bench, strumming his four-stringed guitar and singing old songs and hymns.

For a little while, the residents put aside their feelings of loneliness or pain to enjoy Jerry's music. He delivers a little history and lots of humor with songs

from Irving Berlin, Gene Autry, the McGuire Sisters, the Beatles, and many more. Heads bob, arms sway, and voices join in for an hour of smiles and nostalgia.

"My mom sang these songs around the house when I was a little girl," a lady from the audience calls out. Her eyes sparkle as she sings along with the old melodies.

A new resident exclaims, "I almost didn't come, but I'm glad I did. You make me so happy I could cry!"

"Music changes everything," says Carole Webster,

the activity director. "Some of our patients in memory care do not respond to treatment, but they smile and sing along to their favorite songs."

"That happened one day when I sang and played 'Follow the Yellow Brick Road,'" Jerry adds. "A woman who hadn't spoken in months, maybe even years, grinned and sang along with me."

Jerry learned to play the banjo, ukulele, and four-stringed guitar in college. "We had fun singing the old

songs then,” he says, “and I still enjoy singing with people my age who live in convalescent homes.” Jerry takes his music wherever he goes — even to his hometown in North Dakota where his 107-year-old aunt lives in a senior home.

Jerry Jingles closes the hour at Eskaton with “Brighten the Corner Where You Are,” a song that represents what he seeks to accomplish with his humor and music.

One man stands after Jerry’s last song and says, “That was wonderful. When are you coming back?”

Jerry replies, “Lord willing and the creek don’t rise, I’ll be back in a week.”

Or sooner. Along with others from his church, Jerry returns to Eskaton Lodge on Sundays to sing hymns, share a devotional message, and pray for the residents.

Jerry takes Jesus’ admonition, “You are the light of the world” (Matt. 5:14), to heart as he uses his talents to brighten the corners of peoples’ lives for God’s glory.

ML

Sue Tornai, her husband, John, and their dog, Maggie, reside in Lake Almanor, Calif.



Can a protein
originally found in
a jellyfish improve
your memory?
Scientists say,
“Yes”!

Can a simple protein hold the key to improving your memory?

Researchers have discovered a protein that actually supports healthy brain function.*

Robert Pastore, Ph.D., a member of the New York Academy of Sciences explains, “As you age, you lose about 30,000 brain cells a day and that impacts every aspect of your life...how you think and how you feel.”

Fortunately, scientists made a significant breakthrough by developing a scientific process to produce a protein called “apoeaquorin” that can support healthier brain function, sharper mind and clearer thinking.*

Supports healthy brain function*

According to Dr. Pastore, “These proteins are vital and found naturally throughout the body. As we age we start to lose some of these proteins. When this happens you may start to experience mild memory difficulties.”

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PRVMATLIVV1



hymns OF FAITH for TODAY'S CHURCH

by Terry C. Terry

If you think **the traditional hymns of our faith** are dying a slow death, you need to **meet Keith Getty.**

I once heard a speaker say we learn most of our theology from hymns. I've always been intrigued with the depth of many hymn lyrics and how they amplify what we learn from Scripture, so I jumped at the opportunity to spend time with a young hymn writer.

The first time I met Keith Getty, I was impressed with his heart. Fresh from Northern Ireland, he was talking with LifeWay Worship about the 2008 *Baptist Hymnal*. The second time I saw him, he was leading worship at Nashville's Schermerhorn Symphony Center as we celebrated the hymnal's release. At our third meeting, I got a taste of the God-given passion and the spiritual depth that drives this young man to compose hymns that both inspire worship and reinforce biblical truth.

A Passion for MUSIC

Born in Belfast, Ireland, Keith grew up in the Presbyterian church. His church background, as well as his parents' interest in music, undoubtedly fostered his interest in music. He describes himself as a "classical nerd," saying his main interests as a young man were playing the piano, listening to congregational singing, and discussing theological topics on Saturday nights.

In high school, Keith's well-developed musical skills brought opportunities to arrange music for top musicians. However, he admits his faith was immature when he left home to attend Durham University of England. In order to "get well," as he puts it, he realized his faith had to "catch up" with where his life was. He found traditional church music to be "a huge refuge from the chaos and humdrum" of much of contemporary Christian music.

PHOTOS PROVIDED BY KENDRA FLOWERS, JEREMY COWART, AND KURT HEINECKE;
BACKGROUND PHOTO ISTOCKPHOTO.COM



PARTNER and Collaborator

In 2002, Keith's friend, John Lennox, a world-renowned mathematician and Christian apologist, introduced him to his niece, Kristyn Lennox. She was attending a nearby university and working as a studio session singer.

The two became friends and collaborated in writing lyrics for some of his tunes. Grinning, Keith explained, "It took her a long time to realize just how physically attractive I was." They were married in 2004.

Coming to AMERICA

The Gettys moved to Cleveland, Ohio, to partner as music missionaries with Alistair Begg's Parkside Church. The church provided housing and prayer support. In 2010, they moved to

Nashville where they could receive more expert assistance with all the components of Getty Music. As they pursued opportunities to improve their music and business skills, they also took on parenthood with the arrival of Eliza Joy in 2011.

Musical INFLUENCES

Keith's early musical influences include his Irish heritage, his Presbyterian upbringing, and his education in church music history. Each of those factors "informed how I think about music," he says.

A later influence comes from Broadway, specifically from George Gershwin. Keith admires the way Gershwin infused classical technique and Yiddish folk music into memorable tunes like "The Man I

COMING TO AMERICA

Asked about any problems adjusting to life in the South, Keith said, "The first time I heard the phrase *y'all*, I thought I could say *w'all*," for "we all," as in "W'all are going to Atlanta next week." He adds, "Every time we go home ... it's just bizarre. To Irish people, my accent is pure American."

Love," "Summertime," and "Fascinatin' Rhythm."

Based on these factors, Keith determined to write hymns that incorporate a rich text, modern folk music for congregational singing, the ability to stand the test of time, accessibility to young and old alike — and a bit of Broadway influence as well.

Setting GOALS

In their writing, Keith and Kristyn are driven by two goals: to write hymns and to be stewards of them.

When asked about "The Power of the Cross," Keith lists several important things about the song. "We wanted to write something that allowed people to look at the seriousness of Christ's suffering, why He had to suffer and bear the weight of sin," he explains. He

"THE POWER OF THE CROSS"

Oh, to see my
name

Written in
the wounds,

For through Your
suffering I am free.

Death is crushed
to death;

Life is mine to live,
Won through Your
selfless love.

This, the pow'r
of the cross:

Son of God —
slain for us.

What a love!
What a cost!

We stand forgiven
at the cross.

The Power Of The Cross
Written by Keith Getty
and Stuart Townend

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feels that much of modern worship music is disproportionately positive because it fails to give a complete picture of God, a realistic model of songwriting as seen in the Psalms, or a true reflection of the frailties of humanity.

MESSAGE to *Mature Living* READERS

"The role of the older generation is huge in church life," says Keith. While physical maturity leads to frailty, with spiritual maturity "we have a more joyful joy, a greater peace, and a more passionate love for those around us. I think the role of the older generation is to live that out in grace. We have to make sure we are a voice

of encouragement for what is good."

Keith sympathizes with people of an older generation who miss the rich theology found in traditional hymns as well as robust congregational singing. He hopes they can connect with the contemporary influence as much as possible, but still be able to enjoy the traditional music and hymns in worship and other venues. **ML**

For more on Keith and
Kristyn Getty, visit
<http://gettymusic.com>.

Terry C. Terry chased that PhD in musicology in large measure because he loves the richness of theology in great hymn texts. He and his wife, Marvis, live in the Nashville area.

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CHANGING *the Rhythm of* LIFE

by Pat Baker



I felt like the **BUSIEST WOMAN** in the world, or at least in my neighborhood. Most of **MY BUSYNESS** took the shape of parenting three daughters.

After the girls left for school each day, I immediately checked my to-do list and then tried to mark everything off the list before the girls came home.

One morning, I ignored my list. Instead, I sat down in the living room with no preconceived plan in mind. I stared into space for a while, thinking, *I don't have time for this*. But I found myself savoring the unfamiliar quiet moment. The silence was broken when I heard these words come out of my mouth, "Lord, I am going to give You three minutes every day to read the Bible and pray." This definitely had not been written on my to-do list!

The next day, I did a trial run with my promise. I frequently glanced at my watch to make sure I didn't go over the three minutes.

In a matter of weeks, I stopped looking at my watch. The three minutes grew to 30 minutes — some days even longer. As the minutes grew, my love for God's Word grew. I memorized Scripture. I turned to my pastor husband to explain verses I couldn't understand. I started pouring over Bible commentaries and referring to concordances.

I learned from Scripture that one of the Holy Spirit's jobs is to teach spiritual truths, so I depended on His instructions. As more truths were learned, I knew the Bible was doing exactly what it claimed to do.

I became comfortable talking with God. I wanted to spend more time with Him. I asked Him to direct my day. I confessed my shortcomings. I interceded for my family and those who were going through life's storms.

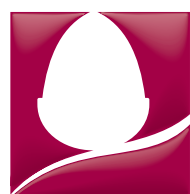
I had given God only three measly minutes a day, but He opened His hands, welcomed my commitment, and multiplied in ways only God could.

As the minutes with God grew, new purposes for my life surfaced. I stepped into the book publishing world, and from there I became engaged in some of the most exciting speaking engagements and travels of my life. I began sharing scriptural truths I had learned. I let

women know that God can start making heart changes in their lives when they give Him three minutes a day.

Starting with my meager offering to God, I had taken the baby steps necessary to begin a lifetime of spiritual discipline that would continue to change the rhythm of my life. **ML**

Pat Baker lives in Bolivar Mo. The arrival of two great-grandchildren in the past three years has totally changed the rhythm of her life, and she loves the pace.



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RIGHT or WRONG?

by Linda Tomblin

“He is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock. When the flood came, the river crashed against that house and couldn’t shake it, because it was well built” (Luke 6:48).

As a young Christian, I often had difficulty knowing what to do. I still do. But back then, it seemed there were so many rules of Christianity. None of my immediate family members were Christians, so I couldn’t ask them. And when I went to our pastor or a teacher, I was told, “Submit to Jesus and follow His teachings.” I knew that, but how could I determine what was right and what was wrong?

One day, I asked an 85-year-old woman in our church, “How do you know what’s right or wrong in questionable situations?”

“Do you remember the hurricane we had last year?” she asked.

“Sure,” I said. “It tore up lots of homes.”

“But there were still some standing after the storm. Those homes had been built on a strong foundation. And as a young Christian, you need to build a strong foundation, too, so that nothing can shake you.”

“But how do I do that?” I queried.

“If you’ll spend some time each day reading your Bible and asking God to help you understand, I guarantee you’ll find the answers to your questions. Obeying Jesus

doesn’t mean keeping a set of man-made rules. To me, it means being faithful and committed to walking through life with Him.

“The Bible is the heart of your Christian life. You can filter everything through the Word — every question, doubt, uncertainty, misgiving, or anything you’re afraid to ask someone else. And in the process, you’ll gain His wisdom and strength.”

“Will I be as wise as you then?” I asked her.

“Well, that’s another question entirely,” she said, laughing as she patted my shoulder.

Linda Tomblin has been writing for 30 years and has articles in numerous publications.

SEPTEMBER

Read the Bible Through Plan

- 1 Proverbs 21—23
1 Corinthians 6
- 2 Proverbs 24—26
1 Corinthians 7
- 3 Proverbs 27—29
1 Corinthians 8
- 4 Proverbs 30—31
1 Corinthians 9
- 5 Ecclesiastes 1—3
1 Corinthians 10
- 6 Ecclesiastes 4—7
1 Corinthians 11
- 7 Ecclesiastes 8—12
1 Corinthians 12
- 8 Song of Sol. 1—4
1 Corinthians 13
- 9 Song of Sol. 5—8
1 Corinthians 14
- 10 Isaiah 1—4
1 Corinthians 15
- 11 Isaiah 5—7
1 Corinthians 16
- 12 Isaiah 8—9
2 Corinthians 1
- 13 Isaiah 10—12
2 Corinthians 2
- 14 Isaiah 13—14
2 Corinthians 3
- 15 Isaiah 15—18
2 Corinthians 4

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PRAYING EFFECTIVELY *for People You Don't Know*

by Kaye Johns

“Keep asking, and it will be given to you. Keep searching, and you will find. Keep knocking, and the door will be opened to you” (Matt. 7:7).



- 16 Isaiah 19—22
2 Corinthians 5
- 17 Isaiah 23—25
2 Corinthians 6
- 18 Isaiah 26—29
2 Corinthians 7
- 19 Isaiah 30—32
2 Corinthians 8
- 20 Isaiah 33—35
2 Corinthians 9
- 21 Isaiah 36—39
2 Corinthians 10
- 22 Isaiah 40—41
2 Corinthians 11
- 23 Isaiah 42—43
2 Corinthians 12
- 24 Isaiah 44—47
2 Corinthians 13
- 25 Isaiah 48—50
Galatians 1
- 26 Isaiah 51—53
Galatians 2
- 27 Isaiah 54—57
Galatians 3
- 28 Isaiah 58—60
Galatians 4
- 29 Isaiah 61—63
Galatians 5
- 30 Isaiah 64—66
Galatians 6

We know we are supposed to ask, seek, and knock, but it can be difficult to pray for people we don't know personally.

We want to be faithful to pray, but we're often praying health, financial needs, or travel mercies for strangers. I find it's easier to be persistent in prayer with a kingdom purpose.

It is always appropriate to pray the following requests:

1. **The lost will be saved.** Who can know a person's heart but God? Even people who attend church may be simply going through the motions.
2. **Prodigals will return.** Sometimes God uses the trials in peoples' lives to bring them back when they have strayed.
3. **Babes in Christ will mature.** Some people have been saved for years but have failed to grow. What blessings they are missing!
4. **The mature in Christ will continue to grow.** We praise God for those who are growing in Christ and doing their best to live surrendered lives for His glory. Let our prayers strengthen and uplift them.

For more on praying for those we don't know, call 1-800-949-PRAY or email: prayerpower@learntoprayer.org.

Kingdom Prayers for Any List

May those who are lost be born again, rescued out of the kingdom of darkness, and brought into the kingdom of Your Son.

Turn the prodigals around. Bring them to the end of themselves. Help them come to their senses and return to You.

Convince those who are not growing that they need to be in the Word and in prayer.

Encourage those who are faithfully growing in Christ. May they hear their Shepherd's voice more clearly and sense His presence more fully than they ever have. May they sense Your pleasure.

May these prayers be answered as You see fit, to bring about Your kingdom purpose for Your glory.

Kaye Johns and her husband, **Jim**, have served full time with *PrayerPower Ministries* since 1994. Their ministry website prayerpowerministries.com offers practical prayer materials, many as free downloads.



“Come, Christians, Join to Sing”

by Terry C. Terry

Do you remember Celestial, Cherub, and Carol graded choirs for children? I was in the Carol Choir when our minister of music handed out an anthem arrangement of this hymn. It was the first two-part music we had tried. Mr. Prestidge asked me, along with my friend Dean, and some other boys, to learn the “alto” part. I was thrilled to learn to sing harmony, and I developed a strong affinity for this hymn. I thank God for graded choir programs!

Christian Bateman, a Congregational minister in Edinburgh, Scotland, wrote “Come, Children, Join to

Sing” for the children in his church. It was published in 1843 in *The Sacred Song Book*, a children’s hymnal that eventually sold over six million copies.

Children was later changed to *Christians*, and the hymn enjoyed widespread popularity, first appearing in a Southern Baptist hymnal in the 1964 *Christian Praise*.

The music was a popular Spanish folk melody; hence the tune name MADRID.

This hymn reminds me of Psalm 95:1: “Come, let us shout joyfully to the LORD, shout triumphantly to the rock of our salvation!”

(Also read Ps. 75:1; Ps. 150:2; and Rev. 5:12.)

This serious call to worship invites us in stanza one: Come, Christians, let’s join together to sing, “Hallelujah! So be it!” Raise the roof with loud praise. Let everyone who has the heart and voice come rejoicing before His throne to sing praise: “Hallelujah! So be it!”

The second stanza has that troublesome word *condescend*. In this context, *condescend* means “to waive the privileges of rank,” or “to descend to a less dignified level.” Yes, He did condescend when He was born, and yes, He will condescend when He returns for us! Come, lift your voice, and let praises fill the sky, “Hallelujah! So be it!” He is our Guide, our Friend; He will come down to our level, because His love will never end. “Hallelujah. So be it!”

Stanza three: Praise Christ yet again, life will not finish the song, “Hallelujah! So be it!” On the shores of heaven itself we will still love His goodness. As we sing forever: “Hallelujah! So be it!”

Terry C. Terry is retired from *LifeWay Worship*. He holds a Ph.D. in musicology and is worship leader for a Baptist church in Nashville. He and his wife, Marvis, love spending time with their grandson, Ethan.

Chicago Doctor Invents Affordable Hearing Aid Outperforms Many Higher Priced Hearing Aids

Reported by J. Page

CHICAGO: A local board-certified Ear, Nose, Throat (ENT) physician, Dr. S. Cherukuri, has just shaken up the hearing aid industry with the invention of a medical-grade, affordable hearing aid. **This revolutionary hearing aid is designed to help millions of people with hearing loss who cannot afford—or do not wish to pay—the much higher cost of traditional hearing aids.**

"Perhaps the best quality-to-price ratio in the hearing aid industry" – Dr. Babu, M.D. Board-Certified ENT Physician

Dr. Cherukuri knew that untreated hearing loss could lead to depression, social isolation, anxiety, and symptoms consistent with Alzheimer's dementia. **He could not understand why the cost for hearing aids was so high when the prices on so many consumer electronics like TVs, DVD players, cell phones and digital cameras had fallen.**

Since Medicare and most private insurance do not cover the costs of hearing aids, which traditionally run between \$2,000-\$6,000 for a pair, many of the doctor's patients could not afford the expense. Dr. Cherukuri's goal was to find a reasonable solution that would help with the most common types of hearing loss at an affordable price, not unlike the **"one-size-fits-most" reading glasses** available at drug stores.

- **Designed By A Board-Certified Ear, Nose and Throat (ENT) Doctor**
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- **100% Money Back Guarantee**



He evaluated numerous hearing devices and sound amplifiers, including those seen on television. Without fail, almost all of these were found to amplify bass/low frequencies (below 1000 Hz) and not useful in amplifying the frequencies related to the human voice.

Inspiration From a Surprising Source

The doctor's inspiration to defeat the powers-that-be that kept inexpensive hearing aids out of the hands of the public actually came from a new cell phone he had just purchased. **"I felt that if someone could devise an affordable device like an iPhone® for about \$200 that could do all sorts of things, I could create a hearing aid at a similar price."**

Affordable Hearing Aid With Superb Performance

The high cost of hearing aids is a result of layers of middlemen and expensive unnecessary features. Dr. Cherukuri concluded that it would be possible to develop a medical grade hearing aid without sacrificing the quality of components. The result is the MDHearingAid PRO®, starting well under \$200. **It has been declared to be the best low-cost hearing aid that amplifies the range of sounds associated with the human voice without overly amplifying background noise.**

Tested By Leading Doctors and Audiologists

The MDHearingAid PRO® has been rigorously tested by leading ENT physicians and audiologists who have unanimously agreed that the **sound quality and output in many cases exceeds more expensive hearing aids.**

DOCTORS AND PATIENTS AGREE: "BEST QUALITY SOUND" "LOWEST AFFORDABLE PRICE"

*"I have been wearing hearing aids for over 25 years and these are the best behind-the-ear aids I have tried. **Their sound quality rivals that of my \$3,000 custom pair of Phonak Xtra digital ITE.**" —Gerald Levy*

*"I have a \$2,000 Resound Live hearing aid in my left ear and the MDHearingAid PRO® in the right ear. **I am not able to notice a significant difference in sound quality between the two hearing aids.**" —Dr. May, ENT physician*

*"We ordered two hearing aids for my mother on Sunday, and the following Wednesday they were in our mailbox! Unbelievable! Now for the best part—they work so great, my mother says she hasn't heard so good for many years, even with her \$2,000 digital! **It was so great to see the joy on her face.** She is 90 years young again." —Al Peterson*

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What Inheritance WILL YOU LEAVE?

by Betty Barram

"A GOOD MAN LEAVES AN INHERITANCE TO HIS GRANDCHILDREN"

(Prov. 13:22). When I read this Scripture, I thought,
We'll never be able to do that for our grandchildren.

In our day, preachers usually had trouble making ends meet. We used to laugh and nod at the old saying, supposedly said by church members, "Lord, You keep him humble; we'll keep him poor."

When we think of an inheritance, we tend to think of money. On the birth of his first grandchild, my neighbor told me he was going to set up a trust fund for her. Another man declared he was starting a college fund for his grandchild.



How wonderful to be able to do this for our grandchildren. We weren't able to save enough money for our five boys' college educations, but thanks to scholarships, summer jobs, and, above all, God's faithfulness, all five earned degrees.

Knowing an inheritance can mean many things, not only money, I began to wonder what inheritance we would leave our family.

Nature

There are those things over which we have no control:

Genetics. We've all heard, "It's in the genes." Perhaps you've inherited your mother's red hair or your father's brown eyes. Maybe your children are tall like their grandfather or slim like their grandmother. Whatever the combination, isn't it wonderful to know that each one of your physical traits, your children's, and your grandchildren's, was specially chosen by the Master Creator? He "created [your] inward parts" and "knit [you] together in [your] mother's womb" with great care (Ps. 139:13).

Characteristics. We often hear, "He talks just like his dad," or "She has her mother's graciousness." It is gratifying when we see positive characteristics in

"You will never know the result of your parenting until you see your children's children raised."

our children, though we may cringe when we see negative characteristics emerge.

Nurture

We can't help passing on a long nose or thinning hair, but what about things we do have a say in that we can pass on to our family?

Common Values. Some positive characteristics, such as patience, good morals, and a genuine concern for others, may very well be passed on. After visiting my hometown, a friend told me she had run into my mother on the street-car, carrying a large bag of groceries to take to a poor family. My mother, who was no longer driving, did not let that prevent her from doing what she had always done — help others. She would often quote, "Cast your bread upon the waters, for you will find it after many days" (Ecc. 11:1, NKJV).

At our friends' 50th wedding anniversary celebration, their eldest son said, "I've always been grateful for the values Dad and Mom instilled in us. In our company, we have

training sessions to do just that for our employees. When a colleague remarked to me, 'You have an inner core of values,' I knew where I had gotten those values."

Spiritual Values. We are fortunate if we were exposed to Christian values during our formative years. I was raised on Romans 8:28: "We know that all things work together for the good of those who love God: those who are called according to His purpose." My mother often repeated those words to us, but, more importantly, she lived them. When my father died, Mom depended on those words, and in turn, she built them into her three children. What a wonderful inheritance she left us!

I read once, "You will never know the result of your parenting until you see your children's children raised." May God's Word prompt each of us to leave a priceless inheritance to our family. **ML**

Betty Barram *lives in Salem, Ore. and is a member of First Baptist Church. She enjoyed being a pastor's wife for 52 years.*

NO, NOT FOREVER

A Prayer of Thanks for an Overheard Conversation

by Charlotte Poteet



Lord, yesterday, one of Your saints encouraged me, although he had no idea of it. I did not know him, nor did he know me. But I saw his face, and I knew he belonged to You. Actually, I was encouraged by several of Your people, but an injured old saint in particular was the focus of an overheard conversation.

My husband and I sat in a booth of a restaurant, waiting for our lunch to be delivered. I glanced at an elderly couple as they walked slowly past. That's when I knew they were Yours because I saw the light in their faces. In just the one glimpse, I saw the peaceful demeanor, the smiling eyes, the hope, and the joy of two people who belong to You. They moved slowly; his shoulder was painfully frozen in an awkward position. Still, his face showed contentment.

They had barely passed our table when they were hailed by friends sitting in the booth behind us. The couple stopped to exchange pleasant greetings. Then one friend inquired, "The shoulder's still a problem?"

"Yes. Nothing to be done about it."

"So, this is it forever?"

"Oh no! Not forever. Just until I get home. I'll get a new one then!"

All chimed in with happy agreement. Their smiles and cheerful voices expressed a mutual agreement among the group. They spoke joyfully of Your kingdom; all were expecting the same eternity with You. The frozen shoulder is not an issue; it's just a temporary inconvenience.

Once the good-byes were spoken, the couple walked past us a second time. Their faces spoke even more. They can't wait to see You, Lord! **ML**

Charlotte Poteet lives with her husband in Kennesaw, Ga. They attend New Salem Baptist Church. Charlotte feels called to write stories of faith that encourage the Lord's people to persevere and to remember God's greatness.

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LABOR DAY

by Charles Hendrix

Whether we realize it or not, during our working years, we spent nearly a quarter of our lives at work. Even after we have retired, we look forward to relaxing and enjoying Labor Day.

In 1894, Congress passed an act to pay tribute to American workers. President Grover Cleveland signed it into law, designating Labor Day as a legal federal holiday on the first Monday of September.

Labor Day provides an opportunity for us to recognize and honor the working men and women who have built America to its present stature, with the highest standard of living and the greatest production the world has ever known. It is the only federal holiday dedicated to plain people rather than heroes and historic events.

Though they may no longer be observed, some traditions have surrounded this holiday. When I was a student, the new school year began the day after Labor Day, the symbolic end of summer. It was also considered to be



**"Heaven is
blessed with
perfect rest but
the blessing of
earth is toil."**

~Henry van Dyke

the last day of the year for wearing white apparel.

Work was ordained by God from the very beginning. In fact, the Bible describes God's act of creating as work (Gen. 2:2). Adam worked in the Garden of Eden before he and Eve sinned, and he continued to work after, although the ground had been cursed by sin and death.

The Bible mentions many occupations during biblical times: Abraham was a herdsman; David was a shepherd; Peter, Andrew, James, and John earned their living as fishermen; and Paul was a tentmaker.

Like His earthly father, Jesus worked as a carpenter. Being human, as well as divine, He likely had calluses on His hands. Surely He experienced the burning sensation of sawdust in His eyes and nostrils and knew weariness after a long day in

the workshop. His instruction to His disciples, "Come away by yourselves ... and rest a while" (Mark 6:31), shows His compassion for us.

Paul instructs in Colossians 3:23: "Whatever you do, do it enthusiastically, as something done for the Lord and not for men." As retirees, our volunteer service in our churches and communities should continue with the same values we held during our vocational years. Our work ethic should reflect the life and character of Jesus as we tend to our duties. That's one way we draw seekers to our Savior.

I recall a story about an old farmer who was selling his best cow. The prospective buyer asked the farmer about the cow's pedigree, butterfat production, and monthly output of milk. The farmer said, "I don't know what a pedigree is, and I

don't have any idea about butterfat production, but she's a good cow and she will give you all the milk she has." Perhaps we should follow the example of the milk cow and give all that we can in the services we provide.

Our prayers for Labor Day should be to remain diligent in our service to our fellow man. Our passion to feed those who are homebound should not waiver. The visits we make to the hospitals should bring as much joy to us as to the patient. Even our trip to a funeral home is meant to bring comfort to bereaved family members. These activities will keep us busy and provide a loving service to our church family.

ML

Charles Hendrix and his wife live in Fannin, Miss., where they are members of First Baptist Church. He is retired from a local weekly newspaper.



Where's the OPPORTUNITY in This?

by Steve Rogers

Paradox: the concept that two diametrically opposed ideas are both true.

One paradox of life is this: Every obstacle is also an opportunity. These words are two sides of the same coin.

Many proverbs and quotes express this idea.

- In 15 B.C., the Roman poet, Horace, said, “Adversity has the effect of eliciting talents which, in prosperous circumstances, would have lain dormant.”

- Helen Keller observed, “Character cannot be developed in ease and quiet. Only through experience of trial and suffering can the soul be strengthened,

ambition inspired, and success achieved.”

- In *The Sound of Music*, Maria sighed, “When the Lord closes a door, somewhere He opens a window.”

- Warren Wiersbe put it simply: “The bumps are what you climb on.”

This concept comes straight from James 1:2-4: “Consider it a great joy, my brothers, whenever you experience various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. But endurance must do its complete work, so that you may be mature and complete, lacking nothing.” James says, in

effect, that the obstacle you have just encountered — that boulder in the middle of life’s road — is there for your benefit. You have the opportunity to develop more joy and patience. But it doesn’t stop there. Your patience (or endurance) will serve to make you fully mature, “lacking nothing.” God will use that obstacle to sand off all of your rough edges — your imperfections — and make you more like Him. The theological term for this process is *sanctification*.

When that next obstacle crash lands in your path, causing a delay or detour on your carefully planned itinerary, perhaps God wants to take some heavenly sandpaper to some of your rough edges for a little hands-on sanctifying. God has a destination for you. However, God is not so much interested in how you get there, but what you are like when you finally arrive.

So when that obstacle comes (and it will), instead of getting frustrated, ask, *Where’s the opportunity in this?*

Steve Rogers is president and co-founder of the Adrian Rogers Pastor Training Institute in North Palm Beach, Fla. A well-known author, songwriter, and speaker, he co-wrote three books with his father. He and his wife, Cindi, have a daughter and a 3-year-old grandson.

APPLE DESSERT WRAP



SUNDAY BREAKFAST WRAP



MEAT AND VEGETABLE WRAP



SOUTH OF THE BORDER WRAP



SUNDAY BREAKFAST WRAP

2 eggs
2 8-inch tortillas *
¼ cup low-fat cheese, grated
black pepper
optional: fresh spinach, cooked asparagus
spears, turkey bacon

Spray a non-stick skillet with vegetable spray. Heat skillet on medium until a few drops of water sizzle when dropped. For each wrap, break egg into skillet, cover and reduce heat to simmer. Turn egg with a spatula. Cover eggs with a tortilla and replace cover on skillet. Cook about 2 minutes. Remove from skillet and sprinkle cheese and black pepper over egg. Use spinach, asparagus, or bacon if desired. Fold in thirds. Serve immediately.
Yield: 2 servings

**Whole wheat tortillas may be used.*

APPLE DESSERT WRAP

2 8-inch whole wheat tortillas
4 ounces Neufchâtel cheese
½ cup apple sauce or apple butter
¼ cup chopped walnuts
cinnamon
confectioners' sugar

Warm tortillas, covered with a damp paper towel, in microwave for 20 seconds. Spread with cheese, apple sauce or apple butter, and walnuts. Sprinkle with cinnamon. Roll up while still warm. Slice if desired. Dust with confectioners' sugar. Serve immediately.
Yield: 2 servings

SOUTH OF THE BORDER WRAP

4 8-inch tortillas
1 can refried beans
1 medium tomato, diced
1 medium red onion, cut in rings
2 cups fresh spinach
1 avocado, cut in strips
1 cup low-fat cheese, such as mozzarella

Warm tortillas, covered with a damp paper towel, in the microwave for 20 seconds. Spread refried beans on top side of each tortilla. Place tomatoes, onion, spinach, and avocado on top of refried beans in the center of each tortilla. Sprinkle each tortilla with ¼ cup cheese, then fold in thirds.
Yield: 4 servings

MEAT AND VEGETABLE WRAP

4 8-inch tortillas
1 cup leftover chopped beef roast or baked chicken
1 large onion, cut in rings
1 bell pepper, cut in strips
1 stalk celery, diced
salsa

Warm tortillas, covered with a damp paper towel, in the microwave for 20 seconds. Simmer meat with onion, pepper, and celery until tender. Divide between the tortillas. Place ingredients in center of tortillas. Fold in thirds. Serve warm. Top with salsa, if desired.
Yield: 4 servings



ALLELUIA!

The Lord Reigneth!

by Laverne Hart

As you search up, down, backward, forward, and diagonally for words in this puzzle, thank Jesus for His wonderful love and great sacrifice. The solution is on page 37.

“The LORD reigns; Let the earth rejoice ...
The heavens declare His righteousness,
 AND ALL THE PEOPLES SEE HIS GLORY”
 (Ps. 97: 1,6, NKJV).

A	L	M	I	G	H	T	Y	G	O	D	R	O	N	O	H
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- ☐ Almighty God
- ☐ army
- ☐ beast
- ☐ blessed
- ☐ blood
- ☐ brimstone
- ☐ clean
- ☐ crowns
- ☐ earth
- ☐ fire
- ☐ flame
- ☐ flesh
- ☐ heaven
- ☐ honor
- ☐ horse
- ☐ image
- ☐ iron
- ☐ judge
- ☐ kings
- ☐ lamb
- ☐ linen
- ☐ Lord of Lords
- ☐ miracles
- ☐ nations
- ☐ omnipotent
- ☐ prophet
- ☐ ready
- ☐ rejoice
- ☐ righteousness
- ☐ rod
- ☐ saints
- ☐ sayings
- ☐ sword
- ☐ true
- ☐ vesture
- ☐ war
- ☐ winepress
- ☐ wrath



STEPPING OUT

Do you want an activity that

- promotes good health,
- is available to almost everyone,
- requires no expensive equipment, and
- is enjoyable when other activities are too difficult?

If so, make walking part of your daily exercise.

Getting Started

• Warm up by walking slowly or in place for 5 minutes.
Include gentle stretches.

- Walk 5 to 10 minutes.
- Cool down for 5 minutes.
- End with gentle stretches.

Add more walking time as your body adjusts. Build up to 30 minutes, five days a week. Use correct posture and movement.

For even more fun, invite friends to join in as you walk your way to good health!

Carolyn Tomlin, Jackson, Tenn., writes for numerous Christian magazines. She is co-founder and co-teacher of *Boot Camp for Christian Writers*. Email Carolyn.tomlin@yahoo.com.

Healthy Walking

- Lowers LDL and raises HDL cholesterol,
- Reduces blood pressure,
- Promotes sleep,
- Helps control weight,
- Improves attitude,
- Reduces stress, and
- Keeps the body flexible.

FOR THE RIGHT SHOES, SELECT

- proper arch support
- firm heels
- thick soles to cushion foot and absorb shock.

HOUSE *Call*

by Jannette Morrow, M.D.

My mother has been forgetful for years, but lately she asks the same questions over and over. Recently she even accused me of stealing from her. Could this be Alzheimer's disease?

Alzheimer's disease is the most common type of dementia.

While many seniors may experience some forgetfulness, dementia is not a normal part of getting older. Alzheimer's disease causes changes in the brain that may begin years before anyone notices a problem. This kind of memory loss often starts slowly but worsens over time, taking away a person's ability to function independently.

The problems your mother is experiencing may indicate Alzheimer's disease. People without dementia can usually remember something later, figure out how to solve a problem, or continue a conversation even if they can't think of the right word. However, someone with Alzheimer's has problems thinking and understanding language. She may forget something learned or done recently or become suspicious if something is lost because she can no longer retrace her steps. Some other signs include problems learning new things, decreasing ability to plan, and getting lost at home or other familiar places.

If your mother's difficulties are a concern, have her examined by her doctor or a geriatric specialist. He or she will talk to you and your mother about her medical and family history and perform a physical exam.

Her doctor will probably want to do testing to make sure your mother doesn't have any conditions that may resemble or worsen Alzheimer's, such as a low thyroid or vitamin B12 level, certain medications, or depression. The doctor may also test your mother's thinking, memory, and writing ability.

If the diagnosis is probable Alzheimer's disease, help is available. Although currently no treatments or medications can cure Alzheimer's, there are medications that, at least for a time, help slow down the process. Talk to your mother's doctor about how to plan for her needs as she gradually declines. Your community or local church may also have support groups. Additionally, organizations such as the Alzheimer's Association have helpful information on caring for a loved one with this condition.

Dr. Jannette Morrow is a geriatrician and internist who now writes full time after over 25 years of clinical practice. She lives in North Wilmington, Del., and is raising her younger brother, Joseph.

This article is for informational purposes only and is not intended as a diagnosis or recommended treatment. Please consult your physician for answers to your questions.

GRANDPARENTS' Brag Board

Just Checking

My grandson, Mason, age 9, woke his dad early one morning, asking, "Dad, what is my name?"

"Son, your name is Mason. Why are you asking me such a question?" his dad answered.

"Because my teacher said Alzheimer's can start in a person as early as 40," Mason explained. "Since you are 40, this is a test."

—Sara Ellis, Nashville, Tenn.

Double Trouble

My 5-year-old twin granddaughters, Patricia and Catherine, came to visit. As usual, they turned their backs to me and said, "Tell us which one is who, Pawpaw."

When I guessed right, one looked at the other and said, "We need to change shirts before Mawmaw sees us."

—Travis Ponder, Phenix City, Ala.

Don't You Know Me?

I was having trouble getting 2½-year-old Mackenzie out of her car seat. "I help, Granny," she offered.

As she tried to undo the clasp, it snapped open. "Thank You, Jesus!" I said.

"I not Jesus; I Mackenzie!" she quickly replied.

—Carlene Whitley, Red Springs, NC

A Place to Avoid

During a worship service, our 7-year-old grandson, Austin, listened closely as our pastor preached about idolatry. He stated, "Idolatry is everywhere. It is all around us."

Tugging on his dad's sleeve, Austin said, "He's right. We have a Dollar Tree in town,

don't we, Daddy?"

—Patricia Moak, Bogue Chitto, Miss.

True Confessions

My daughter-in-law asked 3-year-old Aaron, "Did you know that Gran made that bear blanket for you?"

"Yes," Aaron said. "I saw her making it."

"Oh, but you couldn't have seen her. You were still in my tummy," his mother replied.

Sheepishly, Aaron explained, "Yes, but I peeked!"

—Kathy Strawn, College Station, Texas



Silly Question!

My great-granddaughters, 1½-year-old Harper and 2½-year-old Hadley, went to the state fair with their parents. The next day,

their grandmother asked what they rode on at the fair. With a questioning look on her face, Hadley answered, "My stroller."

—Johnnie Foster, Brandon, Miss.

Send submission of 25-125 words to Grandparents' Brag Board, *Mature Living*, One LifeWay Plaza, Nashville, TN 37234-0175 or matureliving@lifeway.com. Include name, address, phone number. Stories may be edited and will not be returned.

Cracker Barrel

On Labor Day, let's celebrate
Our workers — A to Z —
Plus those who labor to find work
In this economy.

—*Jacqueline Schiff, Moline, Ill.*

The first day of kindergarten
Is known as "Boo Hoo Day."
Most of the kids bravely don't cry;
It's the mothers who have wet eyes.

—*Raymond Bottom, Brandon, Miss.*

I used to enjoy nothing better
Than a shopping day at the mall,
But that was before dress designers
Started making their frocks too small.

—*Betty Sexton, Corpus Christi, Texas*

Autumn will soon be in the air;
The weather will turn cool.
As an added bonus to this time,
The kids are back in school.

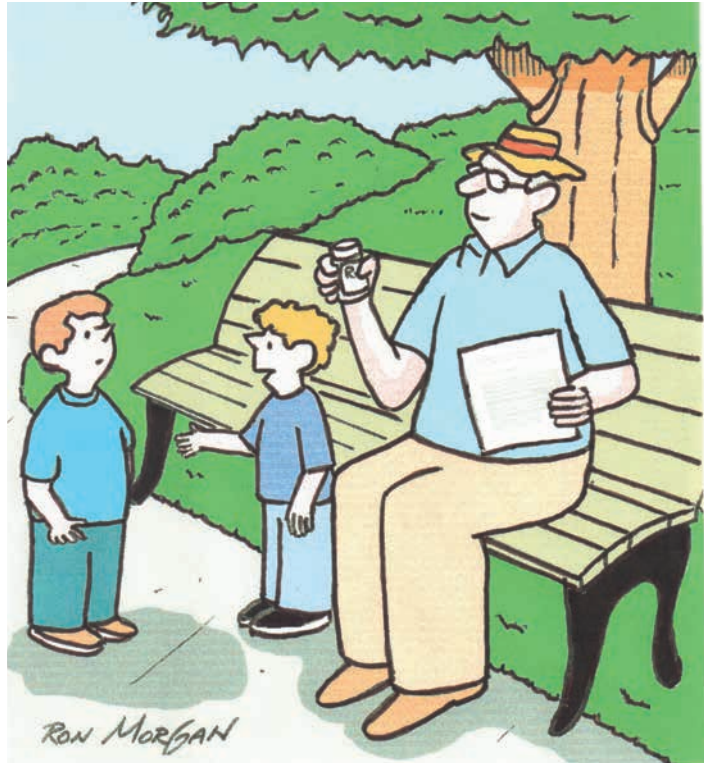
—*Ralph J. Polk, Jr.,
Warrenton, Va.*

In recent days I find
Some improvement to my mind:
It seems that my forgetter
Keeps getting better and better.

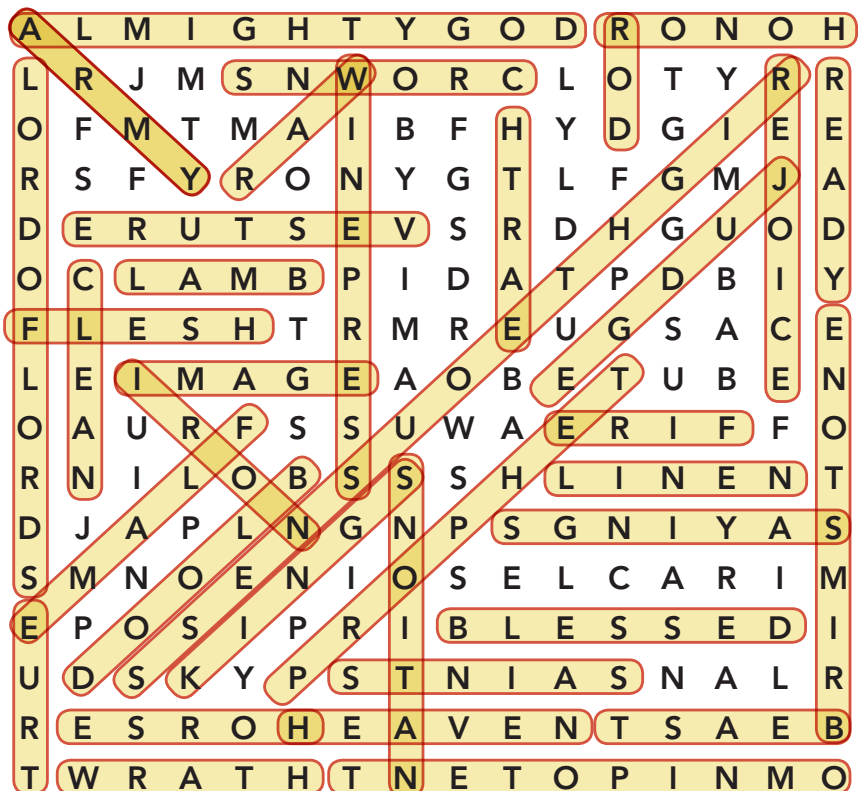
—*Annie Laurie Savage,
Shreveport, La.*

I read a lot of papers,
And it's well that I should.
Only trouble is the news
Is too true to be good.

—*Herm Albright,
Indianapolis, Ind.*

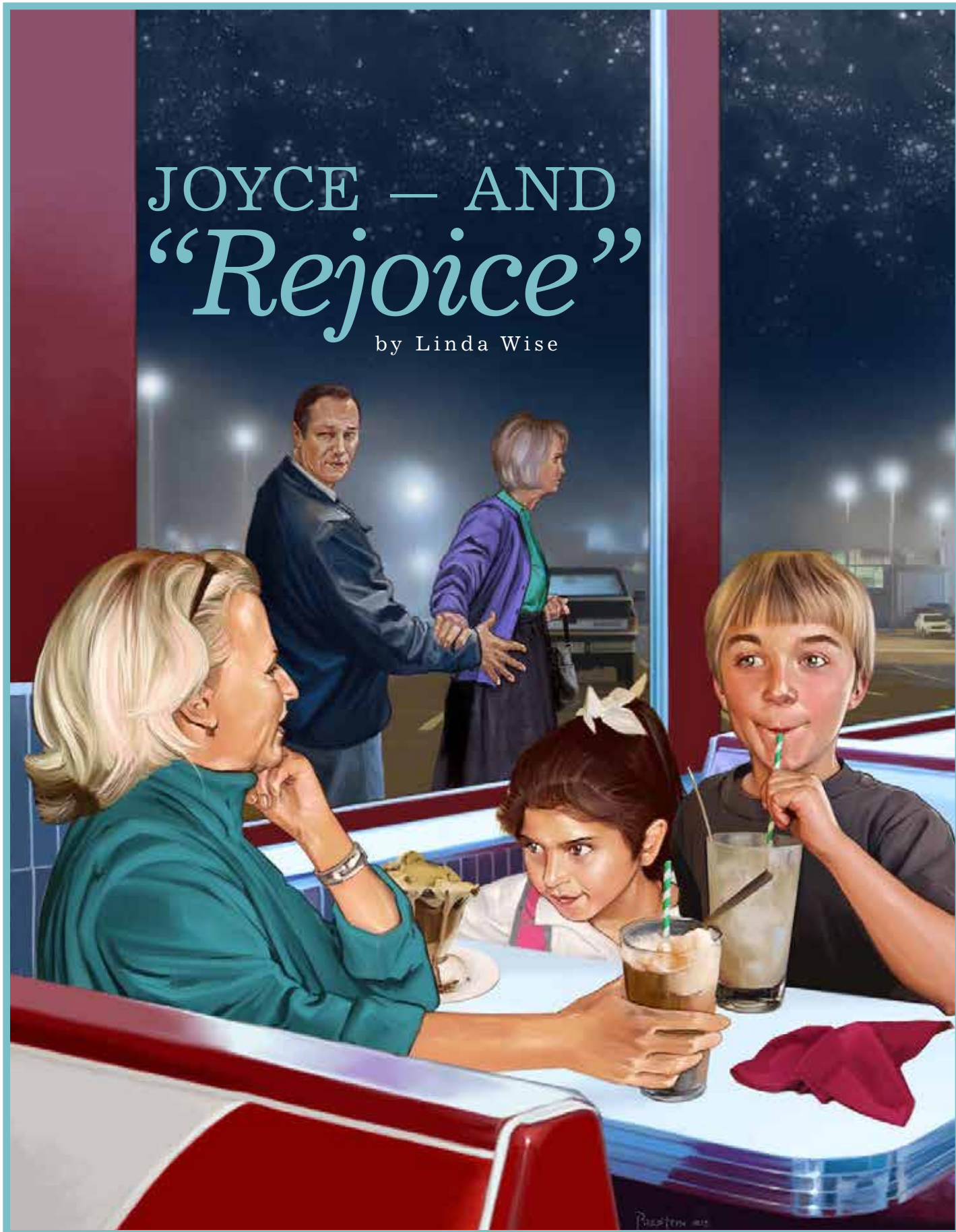


"My grandpa says it's a miracle drug because
it's fully covered by his prescription plan."



JOYCE — AND “*Rejoice*”

by Linda Wise



ILLUSTRATIONS: JEFF PRESTON

Gayle kept her eyes down as she scooped up the last of the foam in her glass. Somehow the fun of an impulsive outing with Fred had fizzled, just like the ginger ale in her float.

“I’m ready to go,” she murmured, reaching for her husband’s hand. Fred looked puzzled, but he nodded and pushed back his chair. “Are you all right?”

She didn’t answer until they were outside.

“Joyce came in. Did you see her?”

“Joyce who?” Fred glanced back through the window, but Gayle pulled him toward the car.

“You know, Joyce from church, the lady with all the grandchildren.”

“Oh, the lady with the two cute kids?”

Gayle wrinkled her nose. “And I’ve never seen these two before! I tell you, that woman has more grandkids than Carter’s had pills!”

Fred helped her into the car. “You have some very cute grandkids too, my darlin’.” He closed her door, leaving her to stew while he strolled around to his side.

“Of course I do,” she threw at him as soon as he could hear her, “but they might as well be on the moon!”

Fred sighed and started the car. “Gayle, you know it was a great career move for Robert when they moved to Guam. They won’t be there forever. If you stay angry with him for taking Sue and the kids away, you’ll put the freeze on relationships with all of them. We’ve been through this already.”

“It’s not something I can just turn off,” she fumed. “I miss them too much.”

Silence reigned all the way home. Fred pulled into the garage and lowered the door

behind them before he spoke.

“How was your float?” he asked.

“It was good. Everything was good — until she came in. She just ruins everything. I don’t know how she knew we’d be there tonight, but it’s obvious she tries to show off with those grandkids every chance she gets. She knows she’s rubbing salt in my wound. I’m sure of it!”

Fred turned and looked hard at his wife before climbing out of the car. “Honey, why would she do a thing like that?”

Gayle swiped at a tear winding down her cheek. “I don’t know. I just know how it makes me feel.”

Fred came around the car and helped her out. “OK, Gayle. Get this straight: Don’t complain if I don’t take you out very often. I’ve tried, but how am I to know if somebody’s going to show up with her grandchildren?”

Even Fred doesn’t understand, Gayle thought. Doesn’t he care that little Ann and Jeff are growing up and changing? They won’t even know their grandparents when they see us again. Gayle felt alone as she followed Fred into the house.

* * * * *

Fred was off on another hunting trip. She was used to him going off with his buddies once or twice during the season, but this year he seemed to be away every other weekend.

Gayle felt if she didn't get out of the house, she'd go batty, so she grabbed her purse, and headed — anywhere!
She ended up back at the

time we come here.”

Joyce laughed and pointed to her glass. “Root beer with vanilla this time, but I’ve tried most everything. It’s the ice cream I love.”

“Rejoice always! Pray constantly. Give thanks in everything” (1 Thess. 5:16-18).

diner she and Fred liked, nibbling a burger and sipping another float. She still felt lonesome, but it was good to get out. If only she could have left her sorrows behind. Lost in her thoughts, she was startled when a voice spoke her name.

“Gayle? May I join you?”

It was Joyce. Struggling to find her voice, Gayle gestured toward the empty seat. “Fred’s off hunting,” she finally managed. “Are you by yourself?”

Joyce nodded and smiled. “I am. And that can get old. I hope you don’t mind.” She slid into the booth next to Gayle. “I see you’re a float fan like me. What flavor?”

Gayle had to smile. “Chocolate ice cream with ginger ale. I have it every

“Me, too. No grandchildren tonight?” Gayle wasn’t one to dodge the issue.

“Grandchildren? Oh, don’t I wish!” Joyce laughed again. “I lack a couple of things which are necessary for grandchildren, but God has blessed me more than I ever thought possible!”

Gayle caught herself before her jaw dropped visibly. “No grandchildren?”

“Well, to have grandchildren, you need a husband, something God never gave me. I fought that for awhile until I realized God Himself promised to be my husband, and I can be content.”

Gayle was glad she hadn’t finished her burger — she could fill her mouth and chew while she digested Joyce’s statement.

Joyce filled in the silence as she opened her catsup. “I decided I wasn’t going to sit around and mope over the things I didn’t have. You know what Paul said. ‘Rejoice always! Pray constantly. Give thanks in everything.’” Her eyes crinkled in a grin. “And I forgot to give thanks for my supper. Excuse me.”

Joyce closed her eyes and bowed in silent prayer. Gayle gasped as a young server came up behind Joyce, grabbed one of her fries, and popped it into her own mouth. When Joyce opened her eyes, the girl covered them with her hands. “Guess who, Miss Joyce.”

Joyce grabbed the hands and held them tightly. “Amy! I’d forgotten you work here, dear.”

“I never was good at letting you ‘pray without seizing.’” Amy giggled and planted a kiss on the woman’s head as she disengaged her fingers. “Got to get back to work. Let’s get together again sometime. I miss you,” she said as she trotted back to the counter.

“Gayle, I’m sorry I didn’t get to introduce you,” Joyce said. “Amy is one of my Sunday School kids from way back. God has given



me such a love for each one. For years, I've been blessed to watch them grow up and grow in the Lord."

Gayle swallowed hard and took a sip of her float before she responded. "Don't apologize. I'm so glad I got to see you and Amy together. I ... I'm so thankful for the opportunity to ... get to know you. You see, I've been so jealous of you and all your ... your 'grandchildren.'"

Joyce listened as Gayle poured out her feelings

about Sue and Robert being so far away and how she ached when she saw others enjoying their grandkids.

"I see now that I've had it all backward." Gayle continued, "I've been focused on what I was missing, and I've been missing all the blessings that surround me."

Joyce patted her hand. "You know, I've been praying for another helper in the children's department — are you game?"

Gayle smiled through tears. "If you'll have me. When do I start?"

Gayle's heart was light and her brain full of ideas as she headed home. She could hardly wait to tell Fred.

Fred! He was one of those blessings she'd been ignoring. And the first thing she would tell him was how thankful she was to have him. **ML**

Linda Wise and her retired husband, Richard, are praying about what they can do to serve God together.



ALL

Excuses Ceasing

by Susan Childress

This year, Queen Elizabeth II celebrated the 60th anniversary of her coronation.

In 1953, she sent special invitations to the coronation. The invitations were inscribed, “all excuses ceasing.” In other words, there is no RSVP — you’re expected to be there, no excuses.

Today, you are invited and expected to accept an invitation from the King of kings. What excuses are you using for not ministering to others?

“I should take them a meal, but I’m so busy. Someone else will help.” But they do need your help. You’re passing on an opportunity to be a blessing to someone and to be blessed yourself. *“A generous person will be enriched, and the one who gives a drink of water will receive water” (Prov. 11:25).*

“I should welcome the new family to my neighborhood, but they have little kids. Little kids can get on my nerves.” Your nerves will survive. Take a few minutes and go over there with some cookies for those kids. You are a light that needs to shine in your neighborhood. *“Let your light shine before men, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven” (Matt. 5:16).*

“Why do I always get asked to serve in the nursery? I’ve done my time; it’s someone else’s turn.” There is a need that’s not being met, and you have been asked. Get over it and get in there! *“Everyone should look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others” (Phil. 2:4).*

“I can’t visit the nursing home. It’s so sad and it smells.” Yes, it can be a sad place, and sometimes it does smell, but one of those residents needs your visit and your kind smile. *“Do not lack diligence; be fervent in spirit; serve the Lord” (Rom. 12:11).*

“I won’t serve on the committee if he is on it. We had a disagreement not long ago, and it would be uncomfortable to be around him.” Pack up your pride, be the bigger man, and talk to him about it. *“When pride comes, disgrace follows, but with humility comes wisdom” (Prov. 11:2).*

It’s time to put away excuses and serve others. Ben Franklin wrote, “He that is good for making excuses is seldom good for anything else.” **ML**

Susan Childress lives in Atlanta, Ga., with her husband, daughter, and two dachshunds. Most recently, Susan worked at the North American Mission on the communications team. She is guilty of making excuses.

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Selfless in SEATTLE

by Beverly Cooper



"He said, 'Those who are well don't need a doctor, but the sick do. Go and learn what this means: I desire mercy and not sacrifice. For I didn't come to call the righteous, but sinners'" (Matt. 9:12-13).

Walt Fletcher, retired Navy man, Internet radio show host, and contractor for Microsoft, approached his pastor about beginning a motorcycle ministry at Olympic Baptist Church in Edmonds, Wash. Pastor Dave Foster promised to bring the matter before the church elders. He returned later with the elders' response: "The elders don't want you to start a motorcycle ministry — they want you to start a church for motorcyclists."

And thus, in April 2011 in nearby Everett, EagleWing Fellowship was born — an unconventional church for unconventional people.

Reaching the Forgotten

The goal of EagleWing is to claim King and Snohomish counties for Christ. Just north of Seattle, this scenic area has a diverse and transient population. Thousands of bikers and others fall through the cracks of traditional outreach; many feel uncomfortable or even unfit to attend a traditional worship service. The relaxed café-style setting, the music, and the biker-pastor all come together to make those "fringe" people feel relaxed and ready to receive the truth they seek.

Walt says, "I want people to know the church will take

anybody who walks through the door, who wants to listen to the message of Jesus."

And they come — bikers, musicians, and people right off the street. They come to learn uncompromising truth about a Savior who will turn their lives around and fill a void they have been trying to fill through harmful relationships, worldly activities, or their own power.

Walt recalls one Sunday evening when a large group of musicians came in to lead in worship. With them was a young man Walt thought was part of the musicians. Walt's wife, told him later that the young man was in the other room, crying and asking for a Bible.

The young man was looking for encouragement. He told a sad story: His girlfriend was leaving him; he had recently been released from prison for beating his abusive father; he was jobless and suffering from post-traumatic stress syndrome. Walt introduced him to Jesus.

"I told him, 'Jesus can turn this around.' We talked for a bit, and he gave his life to Christ right there. He still struggles, but he now knows Jesus and where to go when things start coming apart."

The apostle Paul wrote, "I have become all things to all people, so that I may by



Opposite page (top): A breathtaking view of Seattle, featuring the Space Needle. (below): Biker-pastor, "Rev. Walt"

Above: Pat and Walt Fletcher started EagleWing Fellowship in nearby Everett, Wash.

every possible means save some" (1 Cor. 9:22). In the same way, Walt is not afraid to go where the people are to show them that Jesus loves and cares for them. Affectionately called Rev. Walt, he has the respect and even protection of what appears to be a rough community of people. Walt says bikers are unique in that they will unflinchingly hold to their ethics. "If a biker comes to Jesus, he will be true to it."

Walt isn't alone in his commitment. He has a faithful partner in Pat, who, in addition to helping at EagleWing, serves regularly at the Everett Gospel Mission, a shelter



There is so much to see at the Pike Place Market, you should consider a guided tour. Watch out for flying fish as you pass the fish market!



where Christian love and support are offered to needy and desperate women and children as they transition to a new life.

Serving the "Emerald City"

Moving south to Seattle, we encounter a totally different culture. According

to the U.S. Census Bureau, Seattle has the highest percentage of college and university graduates of any major U.S. city. The state of Washington is home to many major businesses such as Microsoft, Boeing, Costco, Starbucks, and Amazon. You might think these people of

affluence and self-reliance would not be open to hearing the gospel — but they are.

Ron Shepard, Seattle city coordinator for the North American Mission Board says, "Two-thirds of the Seattle metropolitan area describe themselves as spiritually nothing." However, Ron contends that nearly 90 percent of the people living in the central part of Seattle respond positively to their gospel witness. Their typical response is, "If this is what Christianity is about, or if this is what the church is supposed to be, I want to know more and would consider attending a Bible study." Ron and his wife, Patty, have shared the gospel with about 600 people.

Getting Involved

Thousands of opportunities to represent Jesus await those who visit Seattle and the surrounding areas. Church planters like Walt Fletcher and Ron Shepard are selflessly serving both the homeless and the well-to-do; the native and the immigrant; the student and the professional; the person who is ready to give up on life and the person who feels he has the world on a string. Without a relationship with Jesus Christ, every one of them is truly lost.



Mount Rainier, a still-active volcano, rises majestically 54 miles southeast of Seattle.

As the matriarchs and patriarchs of the church, senior adults have a unique opportunity to serve with abandon and offer spiritual wisdom. Walt recalls those times when a spirit-filled senior would stand up to speak. The congregation would enter an expectant hush, waiting to hear words of wisdom gained from years of knowing and serving Christ. Walt says churches need more seniors who are

willing to lead the church in obedience to fulfill the Great Commission.

Consider leading your church to the casually cosmopolitan and scenic city of clear lakes, mountain vistas, and skyscrapers. Join the ranks of the growing number of missionaries and church planters who are working selflessly in Seattle.

Beverly Cooper is a freelance writer and editor living in Oklahoma City.

WANT TO KNOW MORE?

To learn how you can help, visit seattlechurchplanting.com/ or namb.net/seattle/ and click the Mobilize Me button.

Are you a Harley fan? Listen to Walt's Internet radio show by visiting <http://hogradio.net/>.

Visit <http://guides.milespartnership.com/seattle/> to find resources to equip you for an unforgettable stay in the Seattle area.

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Your Living Will

by Ron Kelley

God expects us to be good stewards of the time, possessions, and life He has given us.

Having a last will and testament, leaving a legacy, and sharing your final wishes are all important life decisions. Not all of these decisions are easy, but you would never want to place your family in a difficult situation where your wishes are not clear, especially in the event of a terminal illness or accident.

From 1990 to 2005, the tragic case of Terri Schiavo played out in the U.S. press and court system. After Mrs. Schiavo suffered a massive brain injury due to a lack of oxygen, doctors deemed her to be in a vegetative state. She was kept alive with the latest medical technology, but the doctors were sure she had no chance of recovery.

PHOTO: © GETTY IMAGES / ROB LEWINE

"THE ONE WHO LIVES UNDER THE PROTECTION OF THE MOST HIGH DWELLS IN THE SHADOW OF THE ALMIGHTY" (Ps. 91:1).

Mrs. Schiavo's husband wanted all medical technology removed, insisting this would have been his wife's wish. Her parents, who were strong in their faith in God, argued there was still hope for recovery.

This certainly is an extreme case, filled with many ethical and religious arguments. The point is that if Terri Schiavo had prepared a living will, this case would have avoided the 14 appeals and numerous motions, petitions, and hearings that eventually reached and were denied by the Supreme Court of the United States.

A living will is an important legal document you should consider including with your final will and testament. Also known as a directive to physicians or an advance directive, it allows you to share your wishes in the event you are diagnosed with a terminal or irreversible medical

condition and are unable to make your wishes known.

The basic question in this document is, "Do you request all treatments, other than those needed to keep you comfortable, be discontinued to allow you to pass away as gently as possible?" The other option requests that you be kept alive in this condition, using all acceptable life-sustaining treatments available to your physicians.

It is important to note that any restrictions do not pertain to hospice care, nourishment, or the management of pain. It is also important to acknowledge God as the one true Creator and Sustainer of life. A living will has nothing to do with ending a life prematurely (euthanasia). It is simply a platform to state your wishes if you are ever diagnosed with a terminal illness or condition in regard to life-prolonging procedures.

A living will can be easily drawn up by a qualified attorney, or you can discuss your wishes with your physician. Most hospitals will offer this document to patients at no cost. Although you may not like to think about the possibility of death during a medical procedure, it is prudent as a faithful steward to prepare for this time to assure your deepest convictions are recognized and honored.

As a follower of Jesus Christ, never lose sight of the fact that you have a great hope and promise of abundant life following your time here on earth. You can be assured of your destiny.

Ron Kelley is the director of the Prestonwood Foundation in Dallas, Texas, providing biblical guidance and training in the area of stewardship, personal finances, and Kingdom Significance estate planning. He and his wife, Gwen, have two children.



BUILDING for Jesus

by Gary Griffin

As my 60th birthday drew near, I began to look into the future to see what it held. What would I do next?

One friend, upon retirement, had sat down in front of the TV. He is still there. This was not how I envisioned retirement. I preferred to work.

Choosing to Obey

One day, while at my job, I was reminded how greatly the Lord had blessed my life. The memories of His goodness and grace became simply overwhelming, and I knew right then I had to quit what I was doing and give back to Him what time I had left on this old earth.

Days of wrestling with the what if's followed until

I recognized that God had provided every need up to that point, so it was foolish to think He would not continue to do so. I picked up my phone and called my boss. "John," I said, "it's been a great ride for 30 years. I love you and what we are doing, but I quit."

I have never looked back.

A New Calling

I was only a few weeks into retirement when the senior adult pastor from my church invited me to accompany a group of retired men to Oklahoma to rebuild a church that had fallen into great disrepair.

That was the beginning of what has become a lifestyle of leisure. Not! My wife and I agree there has never been more on our plates than in these golden years of retirement. And what a joy it has been!

Building a Ministry

Several days after that call, a small group of men gathered their RVs and campers on the church parking lot. Armed with tools they owned or borrowed, we asked God to bless the work. Then we headed out to serve.

The church in Oklahoma was soon remodeled, but what was really built that summer was a bond between

MARCHING ORDERS

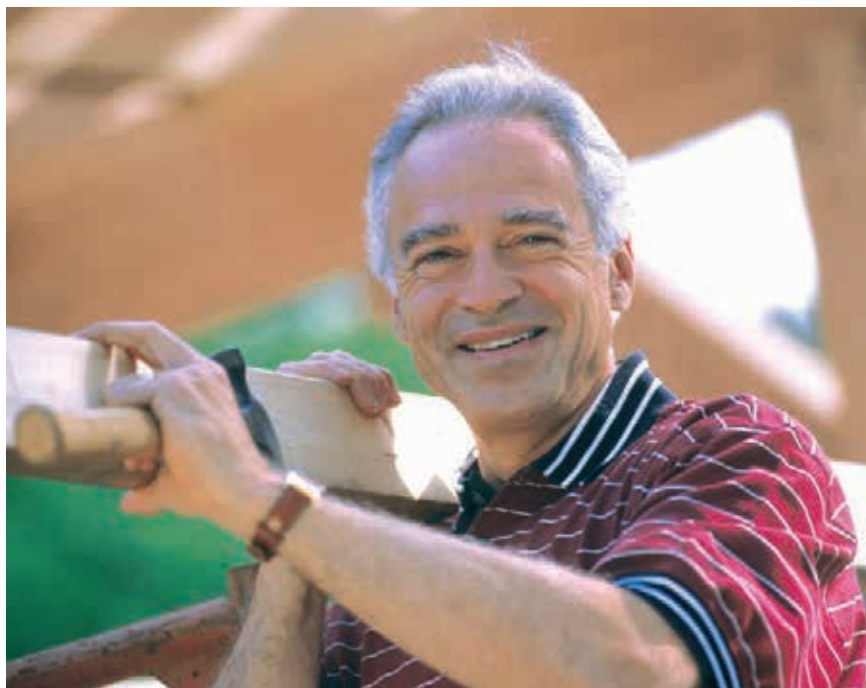
[Jesus] told them:

"The harvest is abundant,
but the workers are few.
Therefore, pray to the Lord
of the harvest to send out
workers into His harvest"
(Luke 10:2).

God's men and a ministry that would carry the work further than any of us could have imagined. Over the years, we have traveled to six states and helped over 50 small churches build and remodel. And the blessings have been magnified beyond our wildest expectations.

Early in the life of that little local ministry, a small covered trailer was donated for carrying the tools. Later a larger trailer was provided, and someone offered to letter "On Mission for Jesus — Builders" on the side. We received donations of funds and tools; opportunities opened up; and the mission, which had begun so simply, was recognized as a vital asset for small churches.

Those of us who joined this ministry have been given a new life and a new purpose. Whatever our skills, or lack of skills, there is always



IS THIS FOR YOU?

Locate the Baptist state or associational website for your area to locate opportunities for joining a building ministry.

something on each project for each person to do. Our wives often find themselves involved in the local churches that we serve.

Full Circle

Gods' faithfulness has come full circle since that day I left the working world. The Lord has since called me into the pulpit of a small Baptist church. He soon filled that old building with new faces, and we quickly outgrew our space. Because of these dedicated retired builders, we were able to put up a



3200-square-foot Sunday School annex for a fraction of the cost we could have otherwise expected.

Do you suppose that was in God's plan all along? What a mighty God we serve!

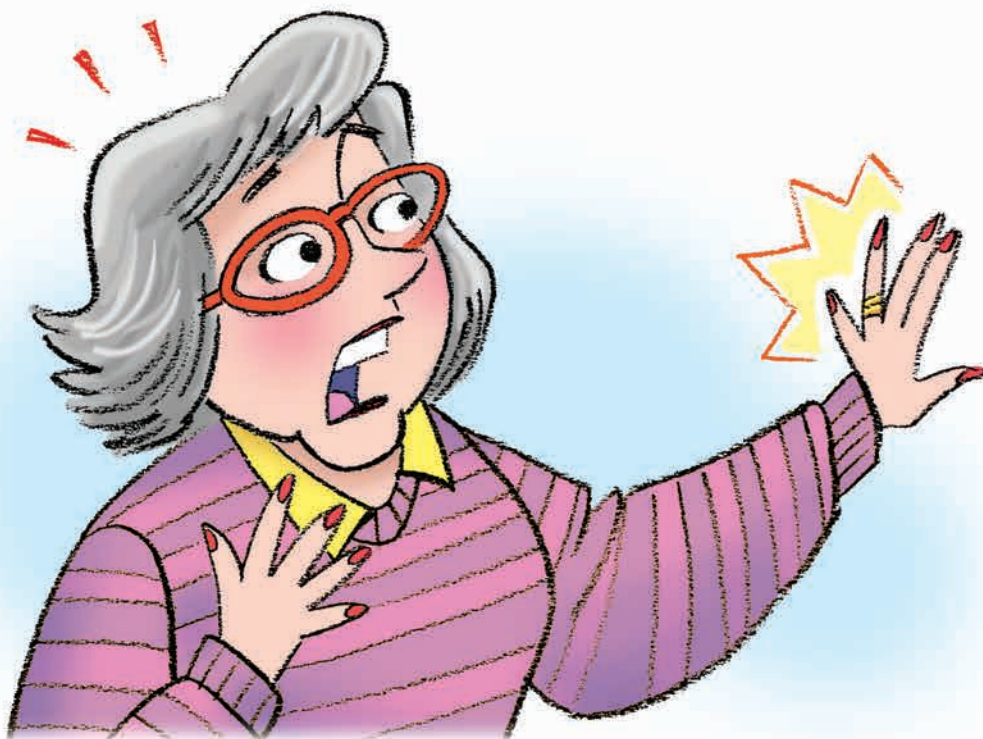
Gary Griffin lives with his wife, Mary, in Campbell, Texas. He serves as pastor of his home church in Greenville, Texas.



MY DIAMOND'S *Journey*

by Frances Rollins King

The diamond was less than one-third karat, but I could not have been prouder of my engagement ring. On April 9, 1968, as we stood before the altar, Jerome slipped the matching, yellow-gold Florentine wedding band onto my ring finger.



The diamond remained on my hand as we served God in churches in Texas, Tennessee, and Alabama and as we reared three children and sent them off to college. Then, on a Sunday morning in December, my diamond disappeared.

Lost ...

Startled by the beep of a car's horn in our carport, I jolted out of my chair and sped to

the kitchen door. I raced outside and then back in to relay a message to Jerome. That's when I discovered my diamond was missing.

I upturned every cushion, scoured under every piece of furniture, scanned the carport repeatedly, and refused to vacuum for weeks. No diamond.

The loss of a precious possession evokes a feeling of emptiness. My diamond was my "pearl of great price," a symbol of Jerome's

promise and of our mutual commitment. Added to my sense of loss was Jerome's failure to offer to buy a new one. After several months, I settled for a replacement cubic zirconium.

... Then Found

The following July, we pulled into the carport after attending a family gathering. My attention was drawn to a glistening object in a crevice between a concrete slab and a paneled wall. Heavy rains had washed my lost diamond to the surface. At once, I recalled bumping my left hand against the doorjamb seven months earlier.

Grateful to God, I guarded my diamond carefully. The next day, the jeweler secured the real diamond in a new, four-pronged setting. End of story? Not quite.

Lost Again

Just two weeks later, while preparing for a bath, I removed my rings and placed them on the side of the bathtub, something I had never done before. With just one clink, both rings were washed down the drain.

With Jerome away, I had time to think before crying myself to sleep. At church, I asked for prayer. After pouring out my heart to a friend, I was stunned by her

response: "When Jerome gets home, he's going to kill you!"

He didn't kill me. Instead, with no trace of emotion, he said, "If you ever find your rings, we'll just place them through your nose."

I indulged in guilt and self-denigration: *It's my fault my rings are gone. How could I have removed them so carelessly? How can Jerome forgive me? How can I forgive myself? How can God forgive such carelessness?*

Gradually, I worked through the guilt, God healed my heart, and Jerome forgave me. I continued to miss my rings, and again, I wondered why Jerome hadn't offered to replace them.

Hope Rekindled

Two weeks later, I spoke with a water department employee who commented, "You'd be surprised to see what the workers find in manholes. If you like, we can search the nearest manhole."

"What harm can it do?" I said. Two city workers opened the manhole cover



but found nothing. One of the men was sympathetic and offered to check the manhole down the street. "Go ahead," I said, certain the search would be futile.

Minutes later, the workman was at my door, holding up a small muddy object. "Is this yours?" he asked.

I recognized my engagement ring, the diamond intact. My wedding band was gone forever, but once again, God had preserved my diamond. I thanked the man profusely, carefully washed the ring, and placed it on my finger. Like the woman in Jesus' parable of the lost coin (Luke 15:8-10), I proclaimed my joy to friends.

In April, just as our anniversary came around, Jerome and I attended a going-out-of-business sale.

"Lay not up for yourselves
TREASURES UPON EARTH,
 where moth and rust doth corrupt. ...
 But lay up for yourselves
TREASURES IN HEAVEN. ...
FOR WHERE YOUR TREASURE IS,
 there will your heart be also"
 (Matt. 6:19-21, KJV).

Scanning the jewelry case for a bargain, I spotted a yellow-gold Florentine wedding band, identical to my missing ring. Jerome purchased the

band, and he didn't have it placed through my nose!

As I think of the things I treasure most, I'm reminded that diamond rings and

wedding bands are only symbols of the love Jerome and I shared for nearly 41 years. Jerome understood this truth long before I did. Perhaps that's why he didn't rush to buy me a new diamond after the losses.

After Jerome's death, my rings took on new meaning as symbols of a precious stage of life. They are reminders of our enduring bond. Today, my most precious treasures are in heaven with Jesus. **ML**

Frances Rollins King worked with her husband in ministry for 40 years. She recently moved to Birmingham, Ala., to be near some of her family.

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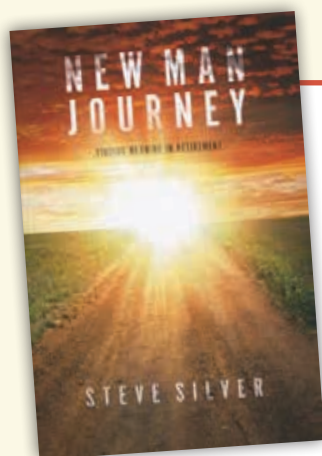
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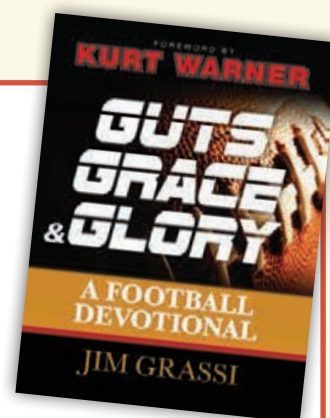
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JOY *on the* Journey

with Val Harvey

God Surprises

We had parked our trailer at a campground near Prescott, Ariz. We regularly planned brief camping trips to escape the heat of a Phoenix summer.

One morning, I put on my white summer robe and decided to have my quiet time on a hill overlooking the lake. The view led me to spontaneous worship; singing “This Is My Father’s World” just seemed the natural thing to do. God’s presence was so evident to me that praising Him was a must.

When I ended my song, I heard clapping. I walked over the hill and looked into a ravine, and I saw a family of four waving at me. Seeing me in a white robe, a 4-year-old girl exclaimed, “Look, Mommy, an angel!”

The family climbed up to meet me, and we had a wonderful visit, talking about how God painted the world with beautiful colors.

When the children became restless, their parents decided to continue their hike. The little girl walked up to me and said, “You are my angel.”

Moments like this unplanned meeting have truly brought joy on my journey. I’ve learned that people who are led by the Lord often experience surprises, and these personal encounters have often happened to me. In fact, I am disappointed when God doesn’t surprise me with a new experience.

Joy on the journey requires watchfulness and participation on our part. If we are focused on ourselves, we can miss many blessings. We senior adults cannot climb up on a shelf and sit there, waiting for something to happen. If we isolate ourselves and choose to be miserable, we will not experience the joy God has for us.

Bill Gaither’s “The Longer I Serve Him” speaks of God’s guarantee for joy on the journey. Let’s jump off the shelf and rejoin life!

Val Harvey lives in Franklin, Tenn., with her husband Jim. A LifeWay curriculum writer, conference leader, and author, she is especially proud to be a mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother.

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