



THE TRUMPET

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Voice of the LORD
Ministries

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THE DOWELL BROTHERS

from Mt. Washington, KY

@ VOTL RESURRECTION WEEKEND

Saturday April 20th @ 6 PM

Fellowship & Food in the Outreach Center following service!

Voice of the LORD Tabernacle 216 Hill Street

It Was At The Cross

It was at the cross Jesus died for me
It was at the cross Jesus set me free
It was at the cross Oh what victory
At the cross At the cross of Calvary.
Now I stand today in God's grace
It was at the cross my sins were erased
Sin and death has no hold on me
Because of the cross
The cross of Calvary.
Written by Leon Wilson

**CHURCH OF THE COVERED DISH** by Thom Tapp**Cousin Leroy**

Leroy walked into a Doctor's office and the receptionist asked him what he had. Leroy said, "Shingles." So she wrote down his name, address, medical insurance number and told him to have a seat. Fifteen minutes later a nurse's aide came out and asked Leroy what he had. Leroy said, "Shingles." So she wrote down his height, weight, a complete medical history and told Leroy to wait in the examining room. A half hour later a nurse came in and asked Leroy what he had. Leroy said, "Shingles." So the nurse gave Leroy a blood test, a blood pressure test, an electrocardiogram, and told Leroy to take off all his clothes, put on one of those open-in-the-back hospital gowns, and wait for the doctor. An hour later the Doctor came in and found Leroy sitting patiently and asked Leroy what he had. Once again he said, "Shingles." The Doctor asked, "Where?" Leroy said, "Outside on the truck. Where do you want me to unload 'em?"

Seeing Spots

Patient: "Doctor, doctor! I keep seeing spots before my eyes!"

Doctor: "Have you seen an ophthalmologist?"

Patient: "No, just spots."

Life Through My Eyes

My face in the mirror
Isn't wrinkled or drawn.

My house isn't dirty.
The cobwebs are gone.
My garden looks lovely,
And so does my lawn.

I think I might never
Put my glasses back on.

Charity

Pastor O'Shea was giving a sermon about charity. He said, "The trouble with the world today is that some people have too much and others have too little. We must give of ourselves and our worldly goods to help the less fortunate." He said to Paddy, "If you had ten thousand pounds, wouldn't you give half of it to the poor?" He said, "I would that, Pastor." The Pastor said, "If you had two greyhounds, wouldn't you give one of them to your neighbour next door?" Paddy said, "No." The Pastor said, "And why not?" He said, "I have two greyhounds."

The Cowboys Bible

The devout cowboy lost his favorite Bible while he was mending fences out on the range. Three weeks later a cow walked up carrying the Bible in its mouth.

The cowboy couldn't believe his eyes. He took the book out of the cow's mouth, raised his eyes heavenward and exclaimed, "It's a miracle!" "Not really," said the cow. "Your name was written inside the cover."

The Neighbor

Bubba loaned his neighbor his old chain saw to trim some tree branches. Unfortunately, the engine burned out while the neighbor was using it. Not wanting to return a broken piece of equipment, he bought a new saw to replace it. When he offered it to Bubba, At first ole Bubba refused but the neighbor insisted and said "Keep it. I'll borrow it when I need it." As the neighbor was turning away Bubbas eyes lit up and he said. "Hey, want to borrow my car?"



VOTL
Voice of the LORD

From the Pastor's Desk

Pastor Billy R. Douglas

To Be Like Jesus

Pastor Billy R Douglas

"Our greatest Glory comes not in never falling...But in getting up each time we fall"

The above quote is not from a passage of scripture but never the less the wisdom of the quote no doubt comes from God. The Bible says "A just man falleth seven times, and riseth up again,... " Proverbs 24:16. Great men of the Bible were not known for never falling but for getting up after they had fell. There is no greater example then the one of King David when he sinned with Bathsheba.. After this great and terrible fall of this man that was "after Gods own heart" he repented and cried to the LORD these words "create in me a clean heart and renew a right spirit within me". He acknowledged that his greatest sin was not against his wife, or Bathsheba or even against her husband which he killed. But that his greatest sin was against the one he loved the most GOD. Through this tragedy we see what true repentance is and how that even though we reap what we sow God shows his great mercy toward us and forgives us. And not only does he forgive us but he said he will never remember the sin against us again! That is some pretty powerful stuff. Now up to this point every Christian might say "Oh we know that already"... But do we really? Sometimes our actions speak so loud no one can hear what we are saying. Through the years we have seen great men of God slip and fall. Was this disturbing and sad? Of course! But more disturbing than that has been the attitude and the reaction of most of the religious world. Preachers stand behind pulpits and make jokes while people who call themselves "Christians" laugh, judge and ridicule these great men of God who have fallen into a snare of the enemy. No doubt it is easier for the church to point their finger of judgment and scorn than it is to admit that we ALL sin and fall short and if it wasn't for the mercy of the LORD we could be in the very same position. But instead of lifting these brothers and sisters up before the LORD in prayer for the most part all you hear is ridicule and hypocrisy. We pray LORD let me be like you...LORD make me more like you! If we really want to be like Jesus we MUST learn to love, forgive, and encourage our brothers and sisters when they fall. We MUST choose to show love and compassion...the same love and compassion that we would want if the roles were reversed. So when you see someone fall help them up...for one day the time may come when you need someone to help you up.

Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted. Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ.
Galatians 6:1-2

I want to close with some of the words of an old song that my Pastor used to sing and that I now sing from time to time. Words that should be me more than a song...but a prayer from our heart and the longing of our soul.

To be like Jesus, To be like Jesus.

All that I ask is to be like Him.

All through lifes journey, From earth to Glory.

All that I ask is to be like Him.

Let me love like Jesus, Let me love like Jesus

It's my desire, Let me love like Him

All through lifes journey, From earth to Glory.

All that I ask is to love like Him

Let me walk like Jesus, Let me walk like Jesus

All that I ask is to walk like Him

All through lifes journey, From earth to Glory.

All that I ask is to walk like Him



According To Thy Word

Evangelist Mike Heltsley

And when the days of her purification according to the law of Moses were accomplished, they brought him to Jerusalem, to present him to the Lord; 23 (As it is written in the law of the Lord, Every male that openeth the womb shall be called holy to the Lord;) 24 And to offer a sacrifice according to that which is said in the law of the Lord, A pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons. 25 And, behold, there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon; and the same man was just and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel: and the Holy Ghost was upon him. 26 And it was revealed unto him by the Holy Ghost, that he should not see death, before he had seen the Lord's Christ. 27 And he came by the Spirit into the temple: and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him after the custom of the law, 28 Then took he him up in his arms, and blessed God, and said, 29 Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word: 30 For mine eyes have seen thy salvation, 31 Which thou hast prepared before the face of all people; 32 A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel.
Luke 2:22-32

We have a reason to rejoice! Praise Jesus! WE CAN REJOICE IN A GOD WHO KEEPS HIS WORD! We find someone that was characterized by expectation. His name was Simeon. And as we consider Simeon there are three aspects to the story that will give us reason to rejoice. The set up for the story goes like this...Luke 2:22 - And when the days of her purification according to the law of Moses were accomplished, they brought him to Jerusalem, to present him to the Lord; 23 (As it is written in the law of the Lord, Every male that openeth the womb shall be called holy to the Lord;) 24 And to offer a sacrifice according to that which is said in the law of the Lord, A pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons. There are two reasons that Joseph and Mary come to Jerusalem. 1. The first reason was for purification. A woman who became pregnant and gave birth to a son was ceremonially unclean. As a rule, a woman had to be purified from her bleeding. By offering a sacrifice, she was permitted once again to enter into the sanctuary. 2. The second reason was to redeem the firstborn which according to the law belonged to God. Joseph and Mary came to do this which would have been five shekels. In today's terms this would be about \$7.50. This brings us to...OUR MESSAGE: I. The first aspect is A REMARKABLE ANTICIPATION (25-26). 25 And, behold, there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon; and the same man was just and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel: and the Holy Ghost was upon him. 26 And it was revealed unto him by the Holy Ghost, that he should not see death, before he had seen the Lord's Christ. Simeon was a good man. He was devout. He was devoted to praying to God, reading God's Word and meditating on it. The text also emphasizes that this is a man of the Spirit. And the Spirit revealed to Him that he would see the Messiah. He was not going to die until the Messiah had come. We don't know when he found out, or how long he had been waiting. It could have been months, years or even decades...nevertheless, we are left with the impression that this is a patient man. He has been living in expectation. He has had a longing and a focus that has not given up. He has been anticipating the coming of the Messiah. What a glorious time this was...This now brings us to...II. The second aspect is A WONDERFUL ADORATION (27-28). 27 And he came by the Spirit into the temple: and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him after the custom of the law, 28 Then took he him up in his arms, and blessed God, and said, We don't know what Simeon was looking for in his own mind. Perhaps he was expecting a king to come out of the sky. Or perhaps he was expecting a warrior to release them from Rome. Though we don't know what he was expecting, we do know that when Joseph and Mary showed up with Jesus, he knew! All that he has longed for has finally come. The wait is over. Can you imagine what it must have been like for him? I can see him knowing and then moving quickly toward Mary and Joseph. I can see his eyes filled with tears. I see him with quivering hands and a trembling body. I see him taking the child from Mary and gazing at Him, blessing and worshipping God, and then giving this most magnificent acclamation. III. The third aspect is A MAGNIFICENT ACCLAMATION (29-32). 29 Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word: 30 For mine eyes have seen thy salvation, 31 Which thou hast prepared before the face of all people; 32 A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel. As he holds Jesus, he knows salvation has come. This is the One! How can one know the future of one so new and small? But Simeon knows. This baby is the One through whom God would save His people. And here Simeon stands holding Jesus, standing in the gap between the old covenant and the new. All the promises that have been made by God...every one of them...are now being held in his arms. He is holding THE PROMISE. He is the salvation for all mankind...men, women and children. No one has to live in darkness anymore. Everyone can know the truth and Simeon has THE TRUTH in his hands. Amen to God! Listen to some verses that declare that God is faithful to His promises. 1. Numbers 23:19 - God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do it? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good? 2. 1st Kings 8:56 - Blessed be the Lord, that hath given rest unto his people Israel, according to all that he promised: there hath not failed one word of all his good promise, which he promised by the hand of Moses his servant. 3. Joshua 21:45 - There failed not ought of any good thing which the Lord had spoken unto the house of Israel; all came to pass. 4. Joshua 23:14 - And, behold, this day I am going the way of all the earth: and ye know in all your hearts and in all your souls, that not one thing hath failed of all the good things which the Lord your God spake concerning you; all are come to pass unto you, and not one thing hath failed thereof. 5. 2nd Peter 3:9 - The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. 6. Hebrews 10:23 - Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;) I love the old saying, "You can't break God's promises by leaning on them!" Lean On! God wants us to lean on his promises. He wants us to stand on them. And count on them. We have reason to rejoice! WE HAVE A GOD WHO KEEPS HIS PROMISES. And as you come humbly to Him, He will keep them to you as well. Because, just like Simeon, God does not want any of us to die before we have seen the Savior of the world or receive the promise He's made us.



God Hears! Do You?

Pastor Steven Huston

Exodus 6:5 “And I have also heard the groaning of the children of Israel, whom the Egyptians keep in bondage; and I have remembered my covenant.”

Make no mistake about it—God hears! He hears the cry of the righteous; He hears the cry of those who are being persecuted and afflicted who cry out to Him in their righteous suffering. He hears the small and weak; He hears the great and mighty! He hears those who turn to Him in repentance. The Beauty of Truth is that God hears our prayers. BUT...do you hear from God? As we see David cry out prayers to God, we see his response to God. In these Scriptures it's like the Spirit is calling us to respond to God's response. So...God hears; do you? First, God's hearing us should drive us to holiness and further holiness! Do you hear Him? In Psalm 6:8 David writes, “Depart from me, all ye workers of iniquity; for the LORD hath heard the voice of my weeping.” It's a comfort to know that God hears our heartfelt weeping; but for it to come from the seat of our heart rather than just our emotions, we realize that He who is holy cannot abide sin to be in His presence. We must echo David's cry: Depart from me all that is unholy and walks in unrighteousness because I am coming to THE HOLY ONE—I come kneeling in humility and humble adoration to worship. I come bearing my need and petition before the RIGHTEOUS KING and God of all! An old writer has called our tears—liquid prayers, and so they are. “DEPART!” How can we cling to the cause of our sorrows and to the Hope of our Relief at once? Repentance is a practical thing. It's not enough to say that we are sad about the desecration of the temple of our heart; we must—like Jesus—chase out the buyers and sellers, those who would make merchandise of our holiness and devotion to the Saviour. Jesus said that His Father's house is a house of prayer and then chased out all that made it den of thieves. It wasn't enough to recognize the problem; Jesus said, “DEPART!” and put feet to His statement...to His prayers. Do we plug God's ears from our prayers? David says that cherished sin acts like earplugs that we shove in God's ears; when we pray, He won't hear us (Ps 66:18-19). A pardoned sinner will hate the sins which cost Jesus, his Saviour, His blood. “Grace and sin are quarrelsome neighbors, and one or the other must go to the wall.” How long will you halt between two opinions? Secondly, God's hearing us should drive us to deeper love, praise, and testimony of His holy work within us, for us, and through us. Do you hear Him? David again tells of God hearing him in Psalm 116:1. “I love the LORD, because he hath heard my voice and my supplications.” Do you hear God calling you to deeper Love? I love the LORD!—This was both David's heart cry and his life cry as well. God states, “If you love me you will keep my commandments.” David cries out, “I love you Lord, I will keep your commands, help me to never forget Your Word. I love You Lord; I love Your creation, Your Word, Your statutes, Your commands, Your testimonies. I love everything about You Lord; I love your mercy, your pardon, your holiness; I even love your judgments—I tremble at them—but I love You and what you do and how you judge is right. David knows why he loves God. Is there any feeling grander—more wonderful—than to know that God has helped you? Those times should especially draw us to loving God more, speaking of His goodness to others, testifying to His amazing grace, drawing us to adoration and praise. It should encourage us to call upon Him in other times of trouble, in ordinary times, and to just meditate upon His holiness and character. Third, God's hearing us should drive us to deeper gratitude of His mercies. Do you hear Him? Psalms 66:19-20 clearly points to the mercy of God. “But verily God hath heard me; he hath attended to the voice of my prayer. Blessed be God, which hath not turned away my prayer, nor his mercy from me.” David “blessed” God—gave praise and gratitude—for His mercies. Oh how we are dependent upon His mercy! We are not deserving—not even when we obey—we are then only doing what is expected. It's God's mercy and grace that saves us from our troubles, our diseases, ourselves, and sin. The mercies of God are new every morning and it's only by His grace and mercy that we find salvation and sanctification in Jesus' atoning work upon the cross. It is only right that we remember His goodness and praise Him in gratitude for all He has done and will do for us. Have you heard God's voice of prompting as in David's response to God's answers? Let me leave you with a word of encouragement found in Hebrews 4:14-16. Jesus is no stranger to the human condition; He knows your pain, your needs, and the troubles that you face. Nothing takes Him by surprise; He's been there and has His ear open to you. No matter what you're going through, He will be there to help. He will draw you into deeper holiness, deeper love and testimony, and deeper gratitude. Jesus IS enough! He's always there listening for your cry for help. “Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession. For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.” Hebrews 4:14-16



German Chocolate Pie

1 (9-inch) frozen deep dish pie crust

FILLING:

4 ounces German sweet chocolate, chopped
 2 ounces unsweetened chocolate, chopped
 1 can (14 ounces) sweetened condensed milk
 4 large egg yolks
 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
 1 cup chopped pecans

TOPPING:

1/2 cup packed brown sugar
 1/2 cup heavy whipping cream
 1/4 cup butter, cubed
 2 large egg yolks
 1 cup sweetened shredded coconut
 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
 1/4 cup chopped pecans

Preheat oven to 400°. Bake 11-13 minutes or until bottom is lightly browned. Remove from oven. Cool on a wire rack. Reduce oven setting to 350°. In a microwave, melt chocolates in a large bowl; stir until smooth. Cool slightly. Whisk in milk, egg yolks and vanilla; stir in pecans. Pour into crust. Bake 16-19 minutes or until set. Cool 1 hour on a wire rack. Meanwhile, in a small heavy saucepan, combine brown sugar, cream and butter. Bring to a boil over medium heat, stirring to dissolve sugar. Remove from heat. In a small bowl, whisk a small amount of hot mixture into egg yolks; return all to pan, whisking constantly. Cook 2-3 minutes or until mixture thickens and a thermometer reads 160°, stirring constantly. Remove from heat. Stir in coconut and vanilla; cool 10 minutes. Pour over filling; sprinkle with pecans. Refrigerate 4 hours or until cold.

Strawberry Cake

1 box white cake mix
 1 package (3 ounces) strawberry gelatin
 3 tablespoons sugar
 3 tablespoons all-purpose flour
 1 cup water
 1/2 cup canola oil
 2 large eggs, room temperature
 1 cup finely chopped strawberries

FROSTING:

1/2 cup butter, softened
 1/2 cup crushed strawberries
 4-1/2 to 5 cups confectioners' sugar

Preheat oven to 350°. Line the bottoms of two greased 8-in. round baking pans with parchment; grease parchment. In a large bowl, combine cake mix, gelatin, sugar and flour. Add water, oil and eggs; beat on low speed 30 seconds. Beat on medium 2 minutes. Fold in chopped strawberries. Transfer to prepared pans. Bake until a toothpick inserted in center comes out clean, 25-30 minutes. Cool in pans 10 minutes before removing to wire racks; remove paper. Cool completely. For frosting, in a small bowl, beat butter until creamy. Beat in crushed strawberries. Gradually beat in enough confectioners' sugar to reach desired consistency. Spread frosting between layers and over top and sides of cake.

Cheesy Veggie Pie

2 cups chopped fresh broccoli
 1/3 cup chopped onion
 1/3 cup chopped green bell pepper
 1 cup shredded Cheddar cheese (4 ounces)
 1/2 cup Original Bisquick mix
 1 cup milk
 1/2 teaspoon salt
 1/4 teaspoon pepper
 2 eggs

Heat oven to 400°F. Grease 9-inch pie plate. Heat 1 inch salted water to boiling in medium saucepan. Add broccoli; cover and heat to boiling. Cook about 5 minutes or until almost tender; drain thoroughly. Stir together cooked broccoli, onion, bell pepper and cheese in pie plate. Stir remaining ingredients until blended. Pour into pie plate. Bake 35 to 45 minutes or until golden brown and knife inserted in center comes out clean. Cool 5 minutes.



The LORD Shall Guide Thee Continually

Pastor Mike Vaughn

And the LORD shall guide thee continually, and satisfy thy soul in drought, and make fat thy bones: and thou shalt be like a watered garden, and like a spring of water, whose waters fail not. Isaiah 58:11

Wouldn't you like to know now what is in store for you a year from now? God leads us a day at a time, a step at a time. We shouldn't be worried about distant events. The Welsh hymn writer William Williams compared the Christian life to the Israelite's journey through the desert. We may not know the exact route by which God is leading us, but we humbly count on His guidance. As a college student Williams prepared for a career in medicine. But one Sunday morning he heard a man preaching in a Welsh church yard. Williams responded in faith, and his life was radically changed. For forty three years he preached and sang throughout Wales. One writer stated "Williams sang Wales into piety." He was used of God mightily in the Welsh revival. Soon all of Wales was singing their way to the coal mines and soccer matches. Their favorite hymn was " Guide me, O Great Jehovah...Songs of praises I will ever give to Thee." That's what walking by faith is all about. You may not always see where He is guiding you but you can be confident that because you belong to Him He is guiding. Hold to God's unchanging hand.

You are loved with an everlasting love

Good News Fellowship Tickfaw, LA - www.mvmgoodnews.com

A Place of Perfect Rest

Pastor David Wilkerson

There exists a place in Christ where there is no anxiety about the future, no fear of calamity, affliction or unemployment. And there is no fear of falling or losing one's soul. This place of total confidence in God's faithfulness is called a place of perfect rest by the writer of Hebrews. Such perfect rest was offered to Israel, but the people's doubt and unbelief kept them out of God's rest: "Those to whom it was first preached did not enter because of disobedience" (Hebrews 4:6). The Israelites lived in constant fear and dread, always waiting for the next crisis to happen. As a result, they were desolated in their trials. If Israel had entered into God's rest, his work in his people would have been complete. But because they didn't, the Lord continues to search in every generation for a people who will enter: "There remains therefore a rest for the people of God" (4:9). God is telling us, "This offer of rest is for you today! There still exists a place in me where all doubt and fear no longer exist, a place where you'll be prepared for whatever may come." Thus, his Word urges, "Therefore, since a promise remains of entering His rest, let us fear lest any of you seem to have come short of it" (Hebrews 4:1). Today, multitudes of God's people know nothing of this rest in Christ. As they hear the awful reports of tragedies, calamities, and deaths, they are filled with fear and dread. Their constant prayer is, "Oh, God, please don't take one of my loved ones. I could never handle the grief." Yet, if you are at rest in the Lord, you won't succumb to such fear. You will not panic or fall apart when you're hit with some unexpected crisis. And you won't lose hope, accusing God of bringing on your troubles. Yes, you will endure pain that is common to every human being but you will be at rest in your soul, because you know God is in control of everything concerning you.

Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light. Matthew 11:28-30

**GO FORWARD!**

George Whitten

The LORD shall fight for you, and ye shall hold your peace. And the LORD said unto Moses, Wherefore criest thou unto me? speak unto the children of Israel, that they go forward: Exodus 14:14-15

The Lord spoke to Moses, who led the children of Israel out of Egypt to be desperately cornered with the Red sea before them and Pharaoh's chariots advancing upon them from behind. Overwhelmed with terror they cry out to Moses, "It would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the desert!" Having just miraculously escaped from the miserable life of slavery, and only beginning their new life of freedom, the children of Israel were faced with the most dire threat to their existence. This test of their faith, to trust God for their very survival, followed only a few days after the young nation's astounding deliverance. Could it really be that LORD had brought them out just to have them recaptured and returned to the slave camps or be slaughtered by Pharaoh's army and be food for vultures? We, who have been delivered from a life of slavery from sin, may also quickly be faced with massive and overwhelming trials, and we may cry out desperately to God, "Is this what you delivered me for !!??" How is it that the enemy, having lost his hold on us, will often make furious attempts to reclaim or even destroy us? Yet he is relentless, especially when he has just suffered a crushing defeat. Now the Lord said to Moses, "Why do you cry to me? Tell the people of Israel to go forward." No, you were not delivered to be ensnared, recaptured or slaughtered by the evil one. His final threat will only prove to be his undoing. Go forward, press on! Your trial, your obstacle, the threat against you, is proof of your deliverance, and may just turn into devastating defeat for the one who is set against you. What Israel faced at the Red Sea, what appeared to be their death sentence, suddenly and irrevocably became God's instrument to crush their enemies. "Tell the people of Israel to go forward! Just do it. The Lord will provide your victory!"

**Pastor Joey Bratcher & family**

from Cromwell, KY

Saturday May 18th @ 6 PM**@ Voice of the LORD Tabernacle****Come join us for this POWERFUL service!****Fellowship & food following the service!**

216 Hill Street Livermore, KY



A Word for TODAY!



By Sister Michelle Deuling

Verse for Today: John 15:12-14 This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you. Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you. **Additional passage for Today:** John 14:15; John 13:34-35

Thought for Today: Love is a choice; showing it requires action.

Story for Today: Jessica lifted the cup out of the river and transferred the water to the bottle she had waiting. Only a few more scoops and she would have enough, and none too soon. She could hear the splashes coming closer and knew she needed to leave quickly. Mack was on his horse Thunder and it was only a matter of seconds before the two of them would spot her if she didn't move quickly. Jessica had found a way to escape last week but never seemed to be able to get far enough away. She had been on the move with no more than 2 or 3 hours sleep at night and was beyond exhausted. Survival instinct took over and she quickly secured the lid on the bottle and hurried to make her escape. Maybe this would be the day that she arrived at Peggy's farm. She knew she was close and that and the fear of capture urged her to pick up the pace as she struggled to finish this last leg of her journey. Peggy and John would know what to do. They were a very godly couple and had often visited Jessica when she was a little girl. When her parents died shortly after her 15th birthday, she had thought to go to stay with Peggy, but Mack had quickly stopped that as he promised to take care of her. She didn't realize how Mack had planned to keep her. She only knew that his friendship and a place to stay gave her the time she needed to grieve the loss of her parents and to figure things out. It wasn't until she decided that it was time to go, that Mack had become irate. At first he only yelled at her and said hurtful things, but before the evening was over, he had not only beat her, but had locked her in a room. Jessica was so grateful to have escaped, but, he hadn't stopped hunting her. Now she was even more aware of the differences in the home of Mack and that of Peggy's, Jessica knew she had to make it if she wanted to survive. At the Johnson home, Peggy and John had just heard of the loss of their dear friends and were feeling the move of the Holy Spirit to pray for their friends young daughter. As John led out in prayer, they could feel the presence of the Lord settle around them. Moments later their front door burst open and there stood a panting Jessica. Tears streaked her face and she bent over to catch her breath. The couple rushed to the girl and enveloped her in a hug as Mack came into view. Quickly and quietly, John pushed both ladies behind him and he faced the man that had just entered his home. Mack began to curse as he made threats to the Johnson's and Jessica. John quickly called on the name of the Lord Jesus as he searched for a way to protect those in his home. He knew that God had instructed him to protect this little one. She was an orphan now and he would do all he could to keep her safe. His prayer that he had uttered out loud seemed to stop the man in his tracks. Obeying the word of God to "love your enemies... and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; John continued to pray that God would soften the heart of this man that looked to do them harm. He offered a chair to the man as he started to ask some questions. After a few minutes, Mack sat and took the offered coffee. Peggy took Jessica into another room and began to see to her comforts. It wasn't long before Jessica began to thank God for the safety she could feel in this home. She knew that all would be well. God would use John and Peggy to keep her safe. They would lay down their own life if need be to protect her. They lived after the example of their Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Questions for Today: Do you love as Christ loved? Have you ever felt the need to pray for someone? If someone was in trouble, would they know from the life that you lead, that you would be a safe place to run to? Would you lay down your life to protect the helpless?

Prayer for Today: Heavenly Father, Thank you for the redeeming work accomplished through your Son. Thank you for the example He gave to us. Please help us to obey your commands and live everyday for you. Help us lead a life that points other to you and gives them hope. In Jesus' Name, Amen



Be Of Good Cheer For I Believe God

by Pastor Billy R. Douglas

Sermon CD Available for a love gift of Any Size!



Ministry Resources



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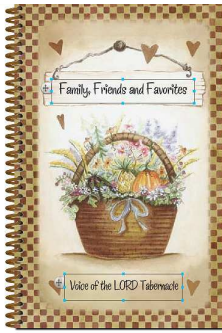
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MINISTRY PARTNERS NEEDED

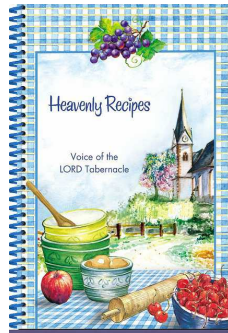
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The Gospel in Word & Song 24/7

WWW.VOTLRADIO.COM



VOTL Tabernacle

216 Hill St. Livermore, KY

Services

Sunday Morning Service 11 AM

Everyone Welcome

Voice of the LORD Ministries
P.O. Box 541 - Livermore, KY 42352

Phone: 270-313-8753

Web Site: www.voiceofthelordministries.com

Email: voiceofthelordministries@juno.com