



THE TRUMPET

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Voice of the LORD
Ministries

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VOICE OF THE LORD
ministries

www.voiceofthelordministries.com

Life

I may never see tomorrow,
there is no written guarantee,
and the things that happened yesterday,
belong to history
I cannot predict the future,
I cannot change the past,
I have just the precious present moments,
I must treat it as my last.
I must use this moment wisely,
for it soon will pass away,
and be lost forever,
as a part of yesterday
I must exercise compassion,
help the fallen to their feet,
Be a friend unto the friendless,
look for needs that I can meet.
The unkind things I do today
may never be undone,
and the friendships that I fail to win
may nevermore be won,
I may not have another chance
on bended knees to pray,
and I thank God, with humble heart
for giving me this day.

(Author Unknown)

Mother's Apron

Mother wore an ample apron
to cover her clean dress.
She'd tell you that's what it was for
if you asked her, I would guess.

But that apron had more uses
than I could even count.
It brought in eggs and vegetables
and could hold a large amount.

I've seen her use that apron
to wipe her dripping brow
as she labored over the big range
that's just an antique now.

Her apron could bring giggles
in a game of peek-a-boo
with her newest, sweet grandbaby
as she hid her face from view.

When we kids were hurt or crying
we'd run to find her lap.
She'd wipe the falling tears away
with a bit of apron flap.

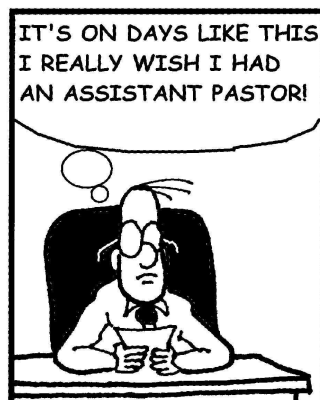
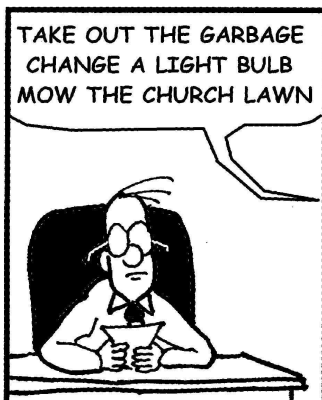
That apron dusted tables
and shooed away the flies.
It did just fine as oven mitts
to take out bubbling pies.

But the greatest of the treasures
that old apron could hold,
was the endless love from Mother
abiding in each fold.

Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may
be long upon the land which the LORD thy God
giveth thee. Exodus 20:12



CHURCH OF THE COVERED DISH



Cousin Leroy

Sometimes Leroy can be so positive and enthusiastic about whatever he's doing that it's disconcerting to Bubba. Once they were out fishing in a mountain lake. They hadn't caught a thing and Bubba was so aggravated he just wanted to quit and go home. Leroy had rowed the boat to five or six different spots, looking for the fish to bite. Finally, after about three hours, he got this big grin on his face and said, "Now we can really do some fishin. Now We know where the fish aint!"

Bubba's Job Interview

Interviewer: "You have no experience in this field - and yet you're asking for a rather high salary."

Bubba: "Yes sir, work is so much harder when you don't know what you're doing."

Grandpa Was In The Army

The young boy was spending a Sunday afternoon with his grandpa. Looking at pictures of his grandpa in his military uniform, the boy asked, "Grandpa, did you ever kill anyone in the war?" "No champ, I never did."

"That's a good thing." "You're telling me," began grandpa, "I was the cook!"

A Safe Place

As husband comes in from the garage. His wife asks, "How are you?" He replied, "I lost something. I thought I had put it somewhere safe in the garage." She asked, "How many safe places are there in the garage?" "Clearly one more than I can remember."

The New Vet

There was once an aspiring veterinarian who put himself through veterinary school working nights as a taxidermist. Upon graduation, he decided he could combine his two vocations to better serve the needs of his patients and their owners, while doubling his practice. He opened his own offices with a shingle on the door saying, "Dr. Jones, Veterinary Medicine and Taxidermy - Either way, you get your dog back!"





VOTL
Voice of the LORD

From the Pastor's Desk

Pastor Billy R. Douglas

Remembering The Preacher

It's hard to believe that it has been 17 years since my wife came home from work crying telling us that she had just heard that our beloved Pastor had went home to be with the LORD. It was the last thing I was expecting to hear. Some people seem almost bigger than life...to the point where you just think they will always be around, that they will always be there, until one day they are not. I still miss getting to talk with him...gleaning from his wisdom. He will always be in our heart and we will forever be grateful that the LORD sent him our way. Even though he has been gone for so many years I can clearly see the legacy of faith that he left behind. The impact that he had or I should say that the LORD had through him on our lives. I can still hear him singing "To Be Like Jesus" and "Inside The Gate"...I can still hear his voice as he would preach a sermon and ask "Can I preach? I knew you'd let me!" I am humbled to say that I can even hear him in the sermons that I preach...many of the things that he said in his sermons I still say today. One of the greatest compliments I have ever been given is when someone walks up to me and says "Your preaching reminds me of Brother Hinton's". If the LORD tarries and I too one day leave this old earth by way of the grave I pray that I will leave behind a legacy of faith that will help someone else to pick up the torch and run this race the way that this great man of God did for me and countless others!

Until next time may the LORD Bless and keep you is our prayer. Pastor Billy R Douglas



Pastor Lindel E. Hinton

August 19, 1926 - January 15, 2001

The preacher sought to find out acceptable words: and that which was written was upright, even words of truth.
Ecclesiastes 12:10

Legacy of Faith

Dear LORD I cant change the things in my past
But help me now build on things that will last
LORD help me to be your servant today
To lead and to follow as you guide the way
LORD help me tomorrow be true as can be
And help me to lead some poor soul to thee
And once I no longer tread this earthly sod
And I am at home...at home with my God
Yes once I have finished and I've run my race
LORD help me to leave a Legacy of Faith

written by Billy R. Douglas

Make A Covenant With Our Eyes

Pastor Lindel Hinton

I made a covenant with mine eyes; why then should I think upon a maid? Job 31:1 Job made a covenant between his soul and God to control his eyes. We are told that 84% of our life is motivated by our eyes. King David's greatest sin was when he looked upon Bathsheba bathing on the rooftop. When sin had conceived, it brought forth death to many. We learn also in Joshua 7, how Achan said, "When I saw among the spoils a goodly Babylonish garment, and two hundred shekels of silver, and a wedge of gold of fifty shekels weight, then I coveted them, and took them;" How many times have we sinned when we see things and covet them? Let us make a covenant with our eyes so that we may be ready for the soon return of our LORD Jesus Christ.



"Watchman, What of The Night?" conclusion

By: Evangelist Mike Heltsley

Ezekiel 33:1-7 - Again the word of the Lord came unto me, saying, 2 Son of man, speak to the children of thy people, and say unto them, When I bring the sword upon a land, if the people of the land take a man of their coasts, and set him for their watchman: 3 If when he seeth the sword come upon the land, he blow the trumpet, and warn the people; 4 Then whosoever heareth the sound of the trumpet, and taketh not warning; if the sword come, and take him away, his blood shall be upon his own head. 5 He heard the sound of the trumpet, and took not warning; his blood shall be upon him. But he that taketh warning shall deliver his soul. 6 But if the watchman see the sword come, and blow not the trumpet, and the people be not warned; if the sword come, and take any person from among them, he is taken away in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at the watchman's hand. 7 So thou, O son of man, I have set thee a watchman unto the house of Israel; therefore thou shalt hear the word at my mouth, and warn them from me.

In Ezekiel's day, the Watchman was to take notice of the motions of the Enemy, to make discoveries, and then to give warning. *Is that not our responsibility also? Matthew 28:19-20 - Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: 20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen. Isaiah 58:1 - Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet, and shew my people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins. ILLUS: A father who sees his son tottering toward the brink of a precipice, and as he sees him, cries out sharply, "Stop, Stop!"-does that father not love his son? That tender mother who sees her infant on the point of eating some poisonous berry, and cries out sharply, "Stop, Stop! Put it down!"-does not that mother love that child? It is indifference that lets people alone, and allows them to go on everyone to his own way. It is love, tender love, that warns and raises the cry of alarm! What has hap-pened to our compassion? The Cry of "Fire! Fire!" at midnight may sometimes startle a man out of his sleep, rudely, harshly, un-pleasantly. But who would complain if that cry was the means of saving his life? The words "Except ye Repent, ye shall perish," may seem at first sight stern and severe. But they are words of love, and may be the means of delivering precious souls from hell! *We must warn men with love for they that are lost are headed for destruction! Psalm 126:5 - They that sow in tears shall reap in joy. Jude 22-23 - And of some have compassion, making a difference: 23 And others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire; hating even the garment spotted by the flesh. (2) The Watchman's Answer Isaiah 21:11b-12a—"Watchman, what of the night? The watchman said, The morning cometh, and also the night..." *"What of the Night?" or "How goes the night?" *Notice the watchman was neither asleep nor uninformed; he was sober, watchful and ready to give an answer! *We, at all times, must be ready to answer every man that asks of the Hope we have! 1st Peter 3:15 - But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear: *The Watchman's Answer Indicated Two Things: a) The Morning Comes--Jesus Is Coming Soon! (Revelation 22:12 - And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.) *The Hymn-writer wrote: "By and by when the morning comes, All the saints of God are gathering home, We will tell the story how we've overcome, We will understand it better by and by." *Our main priority as God's people is to tell others, "Jesus is coming soon!" *For when He comes only those prepared will go with Him! (Matthew 25:6-13 - And at midnight there was a cry made, Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him. 7 Then all those virgins arose, and trimmed their lamps. 8 And the foolish said unto the wise, Give us of your oil; for our lamps are gone out. 9 But the wise answered, saying, Not so; lest there be not enough for us and you: but go ye rather to them that sell, and buy for yourselves. 10 And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came; and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut. 11 Afterward came also the other virgins, saying, Lord, Lord, open to us. 12 But he answered and said, Verily I say unto you, I know you not. 13 Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh.) *His appearing will occur without warning, as a thief in the night, are you ready? *God is giving you opportunity now before calamity strikes! b) The Night Comes Also--Judgment Is Coming Soon! (1st Thessalonians 3:3 - That no man should be moved by these afflictions: for yourselves know that we are appointed thereunto.) * "night"--Hebrew --"adversity" *WE must warn men that if they are unprepared when He comes, they will be left behind and face a night of Calamity! *Men will cry out for fear and say to the mountains, "Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the lamb: for the great day of his wrath is come, and who shall be able to stand?" (3) The Watchman's Advice Isaiah 21:12b—"If ye will enquire, enquire ye: return, come" * "Enquire"—Hebrew- "seek after with eagerness and strong de-sire" *The watchman's Advice was to seek after the LORD for salvat-ion and Him only! Isaiah 55:6-7 - Seek ye the Lord while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near: 7 Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. *That must be our advice today also to the lost and wayward! *Because the day of grace is almost past, and "Now is the day of salvation!" ILLUS: A young man sentenced to death said, two days before his execution, "I am afraid that nothing but the fear of death and hell makes me seek the Savior now, and that I cannot expect to find Him. The words, 'Seek the LORD while He may be found,' trouble my mind very much, as they show me that there is a time when He may not be found." *That young man's heart was so hardened that he could not seek after God! *Don't harden your heart today! Seek God while you still can! Lost friend, you may have heard the cry of the watchman today, "Prepare to meet thy God!" Will you prepare? God awaits your response to Him today! Christian brother or sister, Are we being the watchmen He has called us to be?" Philippians 2:15-16 - That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world; 16 Holding forth the word of life; that I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither laboured in vain. Let us be watching and war-ning this lost, dying world around US! Will you do that?



Do You Read Your Bible?

Pastor Steve Huston

“All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.” 2 Timothy 3:16-17

Do you read the Bible? I don't mean do you read a few verses or chapters to say you've done it. I mean, DO YOU REALLY READ the Bible? Do you read the Word of God, allowing it to read you, examine you, change you, and direct you? In 2 Timothy Paul tells how God wants His Word to be used in our lives. Scripture has been inspired by and given by God so that it can mold our doctrine—teach us the correct way to think and live. God says that the Bible is to be used for convincing (reproof), for correcting (sometimes rebuke), and to teach us how to live holy and do righteous works. God provides us with His Word in all these areas so that we can be made mature and walk in the good works that He has laid out for us; it's for our perfecting and our perfection. How awesome and kind is our holy God. He doesn't make us stumble around hoping we hit upon some arbitrary and changing standards; He doesn't change and He tells us what He expects from us. He desires to bless us in our obedience and helps us to gain such blessing. So, I ask again; do you read the Bible? Do you read with the intention of being a doer of the Word and not a hearer only? (James 1:22-25) Do you look into the spiritual Mirror so that you might fix that which doesn't match up with Scripture, whether it be by action, attitude, thought, or habit? Do you read the Word of God with the purpose of examination—examining the Word and in like manner examining yourself? Or do you merely trample through the fields of God's goodness caring not where you step, being apathetic to where you graze, sometimes ignoring complete portions of His blessed field (Bible) because it would take some work to eat from there? David's lengthiest Psalm (119) calls us to experiential (a common Puritan term) reading (where the Word “reads” us and shines a searchlight upon our soul so that we might learn of our sin and shortcomings, make the necessary changes in our life, and grow closer and more like our Creator.) This Psalm is much more than an in-depth treatise on the Word of God; it's a call to a serious and devout holy life. It's a training manual, by example, of how to read the Word of God and how to let it “read” you. I only have a short amount of room here to whet your appetite and I pray that the Lord will move you to study and meditate upon this beautiful and noted psalm. It begins with a promise of blessing to those who will read experientially—to those who will walk with a pure and undivided heart after God and His Word. Psalms 119:1-2 “Blessed are the undefiled in the way, who walk in the law of the LORD. Blessed are they that keep his testimonies, and that seek him with the whole heart.” It goes on to tell us that God's very expectation is for us to keep His precepts diligently (v 3). If we are to keep God's precepts we must first know what they are, secondly purpose in our heart to walk in obedience to them, and finally allow the Word to change us so that we will walk in this holy way that God has set before us. So, let's look at just a few of the Experiential Reading lessons that King David, the man after God's own heart, has graciously blessed us with.

1. Experiential Reading Explained: In verses 129-131 David explains what experiential reading is. (v 130) “The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple.” Experiential reading is about God's Word giving us light, shining it into our lives so even the simple can well understand what God wants, what God expects, and how we can live lives above sin.
2. Experiential Reading Educates: In verses 23-24 we read, “Princes also did sit and speak against me: but thy servant did meditate in thy statutes. Thy testimonies also are my delight and my counsellors.” Experiential reading gives us counsel. We should always ask, “What does the Bible say about that?” Regardless of what the princes of this world may advise or say, God's Word is ALWAYS right. Our education must begin with the fear of the Lord and continue on in His fear and understanding. Wisdom belongs to God, not man. We should be reading the Bible with our minds set on hearing what God has to say about any given topic.
3. Experiential Reading Exemplified: In verses 119:59-60 David examples what experiential reading looks like in our lives. “I thought on my ways, and turned my feet unto thy testimonies. I made haste, and delayed not to keep thy commandments.” We are called to consider the path we are walking, the ways we are thinking, and compare them to God's Word. If we are off even a fraction of a sixteenth of an inch, let us quickly turn our feet back into God's way NOW!
4. Experiential Reading Everytime (All the time): Not only are we to meditate on the law of the Lord day and night, but also notice that experiential reading fuels our prayers. In Psalms 119:147-149 David says, “I prevented the dawning of the morning, and cried: I hoped in thy word. Mine eyes prevent the night watches, that I might meditate in thy word. Hear my voice according unto thy lovingkindness: O LORD, quicken me according to thy judgment.” The word “prevented” means to go ahead or come before. David is saying that he prayed early in the morning, even before the dawn; and he did so throughout the day and into the night watches. Such meditation of God's Word blesses us with wisdom and it also fuels our prayers. We need not be ashamed and we can depend on God blessing us with His nearness and His care. Spurgeon, the prince of preachers, said, “He who has been with God in the closet will find God with him in the furnace. If we have cried we shall be answered. Delayed answers may drive us to importunity; but we need not fear the ultimate result, since God's promises are not uncertain, but are ‘founded forever.’” Friends, do you read your Bible? Do you really read it? Oh how I urge you to experientially read the Word of God and allow it to read you!

Pastor Steven Huston 103 N. Division Ave. Fremont, Michigan 49412



Reesie's Recipes

Sausage Stuffed Mushrooms

- 1 1/2 lbs medium mushrooms
- 1/2 lb Italian sausage
- 1/2 cup shredded mozzarella
- 1/4 cup seasoned bread crumbs

Remove mushroom stems and chop. Set aside. In a skillet over medium heat cook sausage until well browned. Drain. Reserve 2 Tbsp of dripping from in skillet. In hot drippings over medium heat cook stems about 10 minutes. Stirring frequently. Remove skillet from heat. Stir in sausage, cheese and crumbs. Fill caps with mixture. Place in a 15 1/2" x 10 1/2" pan. Bake 15 minutes at 450.

7 Up Fruit Salad

- 2 pkgs lemon jello, dissolved in 2 cups hot water
- 2 cups 7 up
- 1 (20oz) can pineapple
- 1 cup mini marshmallows
- 2 large bananas

When jello is partially set, add rest of ingredients and pour into a 9x13" pan.

- Topping
- 1/2 cup sugar
 - 2 Tbsp flour
 - 1 cup pineapple juice
 - 1 egg, beaten
 - 2 Tbsp butter
 - 1 pkg dream whip

Combine sugar and flour, stir in juice and egg. Cook, stirring constantly. Add butter and cool. Fold in whipped cream and spread over jello.

Oatmeal Cake

Cake

- 1/2 cup margarine
- 1 cup quick oats
- 1 1/2 cups boiling water
- 2 eggs
- 1 cup brown sugar
- 1 cup white sugar
- 1 1/2 cups flour
- 1 tsp baking soda
- 1 tsp cinnamon
- 1/2 tsp ginger
- 1/2 tsp cloves
- 1/2 tsp salt

Put butter and oatmeal in mixing bowl and pour boiling water over this and let stand for 20 minutes. Add remaining ingredients and mix by hand. Pour into a greased 9x13" pan. Bake 30 to 35 minutes at 350.

Topping

- 1/2 cup butter
- 1 cup brown sugar
- 1 egg
- 1 cup coconut
- 1 cup chopped nuts
- 1 Tbsp cream or milk

Melt butter. Add remaining ingredients and pour over hot cake. Broil until golden brown.



"Family, Friends & Favorites" cookbook

To help raise funds for our Ministry Outreach Center we are putting together an ALL NEW Cookbook!! We need you to help us out by sending us some of your favorite recipes!! We need your recipes by February 15th! You can email your recipes to votradio@juno.com or by mail to PO Box 541 Livermore, KY 42352. We need lots of great recipes so be sure and ask your family and friends to help out as well!!



Bread Crumbs

"My Spiritual Birthday"

Pastor Loren Larson

Thirty-two years ago I accepted Jesus Christ as my Saviour. Sitting alone in my house in Hermitage, Tennessee I opened a Bible. I was bored, wired on the cocaine that I had been ingesting for three days. A can of Bush Beer was on the stand by my living room chair. The joints were pre-rolled and ready to smoke. At 2:00 o'clock that morning, with nothing better to do, I opened to the book of Proverbs. When I read Proverbs 1:7, the convicting power of the Holy Spirit swept into the room. By the time I finished reading Proverbs Chapter Six, God's Spirit had convinced me that my addictions were a result of my lifted fist towards God's purpose and design for my life. That night I gave myself to the Lord, His will, His Word, His Way. I'll never know exactly why God did what He did or why He has done all that He has done for me. But through it all, I've never, no not for a moment, regretted the decision I made that night to give my heart to Jesus. Isn't it time for you to surrender too?

Proverbs 1:7 - The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction.



OUTREACH CENTER BENEFIT

MARCH 17TH @ 12 PM - 6 PM

(AUCTION WILL STOP AT 4:30)

GOSPEL SINGING - PLATE LUNCHESES - BAKED GOODS - SILENT AUCTION



216 Hill Street Livermore, KY 42352 (next to the post office)



"THE MESSAGE"

Pastor Don Ragsdale

While I'm overjoyed by the Message of the Cross and those who helped in bringing it to me, something I learned early on in my Christian experience was this, it's not the Messenger I'm to look to, nor depend upon but the One to Whom the Message is all about. Because if we're not careful we'll begin to look to man instead of the Man Jesus Christ. While no doubt we should give honor where honor is due, Paul the Apostle even said in Gal 1:8 But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. 9 As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed. Paul explained to us explicitly that it was the message that was to be heeded, examined and followed and not just the messenger. Even though Paul instructed us to be Followers of himself 1Cor.11:1, however the condition was based upon his following Christ, which can only be done by a daily denial of self, embracing the Work of the Cross by Faith in what Christ had done; Lk.9:23 and not men. Again in this exhortation Paul told us not only to follow him but mark those who preached something else, Phi.3:17. While many have allowed their faith to be nurtured, strengthened and established by those whom God is using in equipping the Body of Christ, others have shifted their faith to knowing more about these men, than Jesus Christ. Paul didn't say. Oh that you might know him, but he said in Phi 3:10 That I may know Him, (speaking of Jesus) and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being made conformable unto His death; Every minister no doubt desires a following, however in their desire for those whom they minister to should be for them to Know Jesus greater than themselves. Whenever the message of the Cross becomes more about those whom God is using to Proclaim it, then the devil subtly uses that to misguide people's faith whereby they Place their faith and trust in men. The way we know this is by what they boast in, either Christ Crucified or something else, Gal.6:14. This is just another reason Paul would say in, 1 Cor. 2:2 For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and Him crucified, because he knew this was God's only way of getting to Know Him. 1 John 5:21 Little children, keep yourselves from idols. Amen.

Word of the Cross Ministries

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Stop Looking Back

George Whitten

And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back,
is fit for the kingdom of God. Luke 9:62

Some time ago, I wrote a devotional about not worrying for tomorrow because tomorrow holds its own worries. But it occurred to me recently, that just about as often as we worry for tomorrow, we fret about yesterday. How many times do we find ourselves saying, "I wish things could be the way they were, I wish I was younger, I wish I could fit into those jeans again, I wish I didn't make that terrible mistake ... you fill in the blank"? The Lord doesn't want us constantly looking back at what once was. Our enemy does -- he wants us to feel discouraged and helpless and ruminate over and over on what we can never change. Sure, if we need to repent or make something right, we ought to go ahead and do it. But God doesn't want us drowning in self-pity or regret about past mistakes, or hopelessly longing for what can never be again. He wants us to look ahead. He wants us to say, "Forget what was -- the future is where my destiny lies and I will meet the Lord there in His purposes for me." That's faith. And it's well based in everything Jesus has done for us, promised us, and called us to. So, let's stop looking back in fear or bondage to the past -- it's long gone already. Let's move ahead and press toward the new things that the Lord has for us in our lives.

Our God is always making things new, and redeeming what was before.

www.worthydevotions.com

Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. Philippians 3:13-14



A Word for TODAY!



By Sister Michelle Deuling

Verse for Today: Ephesians 4:29-32 Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers. And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption. Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.

Additional passages for Today: Galatians 6:7; Matthew 12:36-37

Thought for Today: You can't take back unkind words. What you say, says more about you than it does others.

Story for Today: Rika was a fast talker who had a flair for words. "Think before you speak!" was a phrase her grandma often said to her even as a little girl. If only Rika had taken her advice. Growing up she often found herself using her words to protect herself. She could be funny. She was a quick-witted girl that didn't know what it meant to lose a debate. People admired her skill with words. They also knew they didn't want to be on the receiving end of her sharp tongue when she was putting someone in their place. Rika often joked that she didn't have a filter. Whatever she was thinking just popped right out of her mouth before she had time to even think about what she was saying let alone the consequences for such words. The kids at school thought it hilarious when she would get into it with her teacher or coach and they would hoot and holler as she brought those in authority much frustration, sometimes even to tears. In the lunchroom, on the bus and at home, Rika could be heard over everyone else. Her choice of crass or hurtful words would be mimicked by the little kids causing them to get into trouble. The one thing that others didn't always see was the way that her choices affected Rika. They didn't realize that she was very lonely. They didn't hear her silent sobs at night after another empty evening of entertaining herself because nobody seemed to really want her around. Rika alone endured the pain of the friendless life she had acquired due to her bitter, angry tongue and the unforgiving heart that caused her to malign and defame so many potential friends. And that is just what Rika was doing this night as she sat alone, knowing a lot of the kids from school were at a spring fling where there would be lots of games and laughter. Rika knew she could go. But, why? No one really wanted her around. She wasn't ignorant to that fact. She knew kids tolerated her. Before her grandmother died, she would read the Bible to her and tell her that words were very important, for Jesus was the very Word of God. She would also tell her that she needed to use kind words. That, "You catch more flies with honey than with vinegar!" Then she would go on to say that how you treat others will affect how they treat you. But Rika had never listened with her heart. She never attempted to be the kind-hearted granddaughter she knew her grandmother desired. She just bullied her way through life using and abusing words. And now just months after the death of her grandmother, she was all alone without a friend in the world. No one came to offer comfort. No one to talk to. No one to help her finish her last year of high school. No one to throw her a party. No one to congratulate her. No one wanted to endure the outburst that was sure to happen whenever Rika opened her mouth. "And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption."

Questions for Today: Do you think on Ephesians 4:29-32? Are your words good for building others up? Do you know someone a little like Rika that demands attention and misuses words? How can you be a friend to them? Do you take time to really see others? Sometimes the ones that laugh the most and loudest are the ones hiding and hurting the most. Be an example of Christ in your speech and reach out to those that are the outcast, even when they bring it on themselves!

Heavenly Father, Please be with that one that is so lonely and hurting. Please bring someone into their life that will help them find you! In Jesus' Name, AMEN



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Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.

James 5:16



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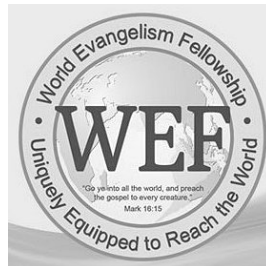
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God's Simple Plan of Salvation

My Friend: we are about to ask you the most important question of your life. Your joy or your sorrow for all eternity depends upon your answer. The question is: Are you saved? Do you know Jesus Christ as your personal LORD and Saviour? It is not a question of how good you are, nor if you are a church member, but have you put your faith in Jesus? Are you sure you will go to Heaven when you die? The Bible makes the plan of salvation plain and simple. *Romans 10:13 says For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. Call on Jesus today. Put your faith and trust in him and ask him to forgive you of your sins and to be your LORD and savior and you will be born again...SAVED!!* Do this today, tomorrow may be to late! Please write or call us if you have made the decision to accept Jesus. We would love to send you some material to help you with your new life with the LORD.



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