



THE TRUMPET

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Voice of the LORD
Ministries

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REVIVAL

Evangelist Ronnie Brooks

from Greenville, KY

Friday October 18th @ 7 PM

Saturday October 19th @ 6 PM

Fellowship & Food following Saturday night service!
Voice of the LORD Tabernacle 216 Hill St Livermore, KY

God's Word

Thou truest Friend man ever knew,
Thy constancy I have tried,
When all else was false I found Thee true,
My Counselor & Guide.
The minds of earth no treasure give,
That can this Volume buy.
In teaching me the way to live,
It taught me how to die."

Dr. Austin L. Sorenson (found written on his Bible)



Cousin Leroy

Leroy went to a nearby Airport to fly to Texas to visit his ailing granny. While he was sitting, waiting for his flight, he noticed a lady sitting nearby and she was weeping. Feeling sorry for her, he went over and started to talk with her, asking her if anything was wrong. She said, "My son, John, moved to Texas some time ago and I haven't heard anything from him since he left. He has never called or written or anything. I come here to sit from time to time because he left from this gate and this was the last place that I saw him. When I come here, I feel closer to him than anywhere else." Leroy tried to comfort her the best that he could. As they talked, the lady said, "By the way. Would you by any chance be going to Texas?" Leroy said, "Well, as a matter of fact I am." She said, "Oh. Would please find my son and ask him to call me?" Leroy scratched his head and said, "I don't know that I could find him." She said, "Oh, please do that for me. It would mean so much to me. I miss him so very much." After she pled with him, he finally agreed to do his best. She said, "Oh thank you. That means so much to me. His name is John Dunn." All the way to Texas, Leroy wondered, "How in the world am I going to find her son in a place as big as Texas?" When the plane landed, his cousin Billy Bob picked him up. As they were driving down the street, Leroy saw on the side of one of the buildings DUNN AND BRADLEY. He said to himself, "This is going to be easier than I thought." He told Billy Bob to stop and he runs into the building. There is a lady sitting at a desk when he walks in and he asks her, "Do you have a John here?" She said, "Yes. Go down this hall to the right and it is the third door on the left." He thanks her and goes looking for the door she pointed out. He finds it and goes in. Just as he walks into the room, there is a man there, drying his hands. Leroy looked at him and said, "Are you Dunn?" The man replied, "Yes." Ole Leroy said, "For goodness sakes man call your momma!!"

Church of the Covered Dish

by Thom Tapp



The Spelling B

A sixth grade class is doing some spelling drills. The teacher asks Tommy if he can spell 'before.' He stands up and says, "Before, B-E-P-H-O-R." The teacher says, "No, that's wrong. Can anyone else spell before?" Another little boy stands up and says, "Before, B-E-F-O-O-R." Again the teacher says, "No, that's wrong." The teacher asks, "Little Johnny, can you spell 'before'?" Little Johnny stands up and says, "Before, B-E-F-O-R-E." "Excellent Johnny, now can you use it in a sentence?" Little Johnny says, "That's easy. Two plus two be fore."

Sick Husband

Thelma Jean called the town psychiatrist and cried, "Doctor, OH DOCTOR you've got to come as soon as possible. My husband has lost it...he is in really bad shape!" The shrink rushes over. Thelma Jean said "I am so glad you are here, doctor. Just go down the hall. He's in the last room on the right." The shrink goes in the room and sees the woman's husband sitting on the edge of the bathtub, dangling a fishing line in the toilet. He goes back to the wife and says, "Yes, this is very serious. But why didn't you call me sooner?" "Who had time?" she said. "I've been cleaning fish all week."

*A merry heart doeth good like a medicine: but a broken spirit drieth the bones.
Proverbs 17:22*

*From the Pastor's Desk***Candy Coated Witchcraft**

Pastor Billy R Douglas

And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them.
Ephesians 5:11

I want to talk with you this month about the works of darkness, the occult, witchcraft and of course halloween. John Wesley once said..."What one generation tolerates the next generation will embrace." The truth of the matter is that the works of darkness and witchcraft are so widely accepted in America because our nation has been fed a steady diet of "candy coated" witchcraft. That which the Word of God condemns over and over has become acceptable not only by the world but by the much of the CHURCH! How did we reach this point? How did the church get so "dumbed down" that it cannot see the evil that is right before their eyes? The answer is not all that hard to find. It started out looking innocent enough. Through television as children we were taught that there was a good side of evil. With programs like "Bewitched" and "I Dream Of Jeannie" we were taught these lies of the devil. And the tradition continues today with shows like "The Good Witch", "Angel" and more. Cartoons and animated movies made it even easier to reach the minds of our children through things such as Scooby Doo, Casper The Friendly Ghost, The Smurfs, Cinderella, Sleeping Beauty, Barney and his bag of magic and the list goes on. Little by little the seeds of the occult and Satanism have been planted in the minds of a nation that now thinks that you can play with fire and not get burnt. Today we can plainly see how all of this has escalated to things as wicked as Harry Potter, witches, horror movies, zombies, and the devil himself being accepted whole heartedly by most of society! And trust me when I tell you that the devil leaves no stone unturned he uses advertisements, toys, books...and the biggest weapon of all today VIDEO GAMES! Games that include zombies, wizards, witches, devils, demons, violence, and murder! The callusing of hearts and minds to the works of darkness through the few things that I have made mention of in this article and trust me there are many more have conditioned our society to the place where they cannot recognize Satan even when he shows himself for the wicked deceiver that he is!! And the church...THE CHURCH! Where is the church in all of this exaltation of darkness?? It is one thing to see the world deceived by this and taking part in this darkness BUT sadly the church follows right along with them. Allowing their children to feed upon the same things that the lost feed upon. The same movies, the same games, the same books and of course taking part in halloween. We see more and more churches having halloween parties, putting on stage shows of a "christianized" version of Michael Jackson's musical "Thriller"!! Having haunted houses, dressing up like devils and demons themselves and all the while too spiritually ignorant to see the wrong in what they are doing. The Church that is suppose to be a city on a hill...THE LIGHT of the world...a beacon in the night has like Esau of old sold their birthright for no more than a bowl of pottage to feed the lust and the hunger of their flesh! Instead of being a House of Prayer they have truly become a HAUNTED HOUSE because through their actions they have invited the powers of darkness and they have become that which they have fed upon!! You might read this and think "Preacher that's hard!" And my response to you would be this... We have enough money hungry, compromising, snake oil salesman that have infested our pulpits around this nation AND we need some preachers that are willing to say what needs to be said even if it sounds hard! This is far more than just an article about the celebration of halloween. This is an indictment on a modern day church age that has forsaken the Gospel...forsaken the cross...forsaken the TRUE LIVING GOD and have become so much like the world that you can no longer tell that they are the Church!! A Church that has become so used to the dark that they blend in so well that you can no longer tell the difference between the children of light and the children of darkness!! This is a clarion call, a VOICE crying out for the CHURCH to return to the CROSS! Return to the WORD of God! And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather **reprove them!!** I challenge you to take this matter before the LORD in prayer...open up your Bible and see what the LORD has to say about these things. In doing so you will find that from Genesis to Revelation God has NEVER changed His mind about this. It is now and always has been an abomination in the sight of God. If you do not already have our information on "The Occult in America" take a look at page 11 of this newsletter to find out how to get your copy.

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



Under Construction

By: Sister Laurie Heltsley

And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.
For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: but whosoever will lose his life for my sake, the same shall save it.

Luke 9:23-24

When a building is going to be remodeled, it must first be torn down. The broken parts have to be replaced. The floors need to be pulled up and replaced. The walls need to be knocked down. Sometimes, even knocked down to make more room. Think about what happened at Jericho back in Joshua chapter 6:1-20 when the walls came down. If the walls didn't come down then Joshua and the children of Israel could proceed on to the Promised Land. I know it was very messy and debris everywhere after they fell but without that they couldn't proceed. The same is with us, we are a work in progress and under construction. Hebrews 3:4 - For every house is builded by some man; but he that built all things is God. Thank you Lord for still having your hands on me. All true construction processes begins at the Cross of Christ. We are under construction the moment we are born again. Jesus stated in Luke 9:23-And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me. 3 keys found here in this verse that are a must for true believers during the construction process...and they are: 1. Denying ourselves (the carnal or sin nature) 2. Take up his Cross daily. 3. Follow Jesus. A constant daily dying of ourselves. Living the crucified life. If anyone knew about the construction process it was the Apostle Paul. 2 of my husband's favorite books in the Word of God are ROMANS & GALATIANS. Romans Chapters 6, 7 & 8 as well as Galatians Chapter 5 really deals with the battles we have between the flesh and spirit. As a mom, we try to make everything perfect for our kids. The perfect clothes, shoes, hairstyles, birthday parties. We search all over Pinterest to find ideas. We stress ourselves out trying to make everything perfect that we don't get to enjoy the moments. And we certainly don't take time to take care of ourselves, because, there just isn't enough time. When our son was turning 3 yrs old, I was determined to give him a Mickey Mouse birthday party. I worked on his party for days. Referencing Pinterest for every little thing at the party. I made Minnie and Mickey Mouse ears for everyone to wear. The night before the party, I was rushing to finish up all I had planned. My husband came in the living room and told me to get up off the floor and go to bed. I fell asleep on the floor covered in arts and crafts supplies because Hunter had to have the perfect birthday party. Now, with 3 kids, I have learned that it is impossible to make everything perfect. Preparing to leave the house to go anywhere with the kids is close to a mental breakdown. Someone is going to lose it because someone has an extra toy to take on the car ride. Going to the grocery store for "just a few things" is a great idea in my head. I will tell the kids, "Ok, we are going to run in the store quickly to get a few things and then we will go home and play." By the time we are leaving the store, I'm not sure if I have remembered what I went in for in the first place and at some point while chasing the kids, I have turned into the Dragon Lady and the entire store knows that we were there. Trying to have an adult conversation without asking random questions like, "Why are you naked?" and, "Why is your sister wearing underwear on her head?" That is usually what a conversation with me on the phone is like. We have to be open to the Lord "knocking down our walls" in order for Him to make room for the things He needs for us to grow. We are fearfully and wonderfully made in His image. Psalm 139:14 - I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvellous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well. So no amount of tweaking on our part is going to make us anymore perfect. Something I had to learn is nothing is perfect and if it's supposed to be, it will be. There are no short cuts to maturity. We want our stuff and we want it now. We don't want to go through nothing. There is nothing like overnight successes. The development of Christ character cannot be rushed. He is trying to get you deeply rooted in prayer and his word so we won't break. Conforming into the likeness of Christ is conforming. Don't be in such a hurry to get there. Construction processes is messy and dirty. It don't look like what it shall be. It takes contractors who can take the blueprint and understand everything that goes into the process. You will see a fence around the construction to keep the bad elements out. Jesus be a fence all around me. Only those that have access to the worksite should be on-site. Don't be in a hurry to get there. We miss the blessing of the moment because we focus on what we don't have. Focusing on what you think you should have and where you should be it makes your days hard because you focus wrong. Where I am is where I'm supposed to be. Because of where you are makes you pray and study the way you do. There is a lesson and blessing in appreciating where you are now. Even in your problems God is working something out for you. Romans 8:28 - And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose. Don't panic God has it in control. Be patience on yourself. Remember God is never in a hurry. He shows up on time. Take a before and after picture to see where you are and what is going to do within you. Paul said to the church in 1st Corinthians 1:4 - I thank my God always on your behalf, for the grace of God which is given you by Jesus Christ; We are a disciple in the making because of the finished work of the Cross. I love the words of this old song...So If you should see me and I'm not walking right, and if you should hear me and I'm not talking right; ? Please remember what God has done for me, when He gets through with me, I'll be what He wants me to be. Please be patient with me, God is not through with me yet. Please be patient with me, God is not through with me yet. When God gets through with me, when God gets through with me, I shall come forth, I shall come forth like pure gold. Until next time, let your light shine for Jesus! Sister Laurie Heltsley



Successful Battle

(2 Samuel 1:22 KJV) "...the bow of Jonathan turned not back, and the sword of Saul returned not empty."

May the same be said of our spiritual weapons and our resolve. Might "He teach my hands to war, so that a bow of steel is broken by mine arms" (Psalms 18:34). May the Lord strengthen our hands for war, that our bow not be turned back--for we ARE in a battle of eternal proportions. May we have the desire and the accompanying diligence to wield the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God--speaking to the whole counsel of God and that being our authority-- so that our sword will not return empty. How can we, by the grace of God, so skillfully deploy the weapons He has given us?

1. "Awake to righteousness, and sin not;" (1 Cor. 15:34). In other words, be holy, living a life that is in itself standing against the carnal mind which is at enmity against God. A holy life strengthens one's arms for battle and hones the mind for using the weapons found in God's army.

2. "Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong." (1 Cor. 16:13) Stay awake! Our Master commanded that we watch lest we fall into temptation--so watch! We must stand in the faith, not stand in the way of sinners. Be strong in our Lord's strength that our bow might not be turned back.

As Joshua was commanded to be strong and courageous so that they might walk in obedience to God and His Word, so the call goes out to every man, woman, and child in the Lord's army to be courageously obedient. For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind (2 Tim. 1:7). Therefore, press on in the faith. Watch for the enemy's tempting schemes. And by the strength of our Lord let not your bow be turned back nor your sword return empty. In humility be obedient; that is where blessing and strength abound.

Speak and Act with Authority

Too often Christians speak almost apologetically; we are called to be bold, speaking with authority. That doesn't mean we are to be jerks; but we are to know that we can say, "Thus saith the Lord," and that there is an urgent message to deliver. Here are some short examples of boldness and the authority which goes with it.

1 Samuel 17:45-47 "Then said David to the Philistine, Thou comest to me with a sword, and with a spear, and with a shield: but I come to thee in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom thou hast defied. This day will the LORD deliver thee into mine hand; and I will smite thee, and take thine head from thee; and I will give the carcases of the host of the Philistines this day unto the fowls of the air, and to the wild beasts of the earth; that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel. And all this assembly shall know that the LORD saveth not with sword and spear: for the battle is the LORD'S, and he will give you into our hands."

1 Kings 17:1 "And Elijah the Tishbite, who was of the inhabitants of Gilead, said unto Ahab, As the LORD God of Israel liveth, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, but according to my word."

Titus 2:11-15 "For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works. These things speak, and exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no man despise thee."

Matthew 28:18-20 "And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen."

May you be encouraged by our Lord's authority/power and His command to "Go ye therefore!"

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



Southern Peach Cobbler

- 6-8 fresh peaches, peeled and sliced
- 1 stick unsalted butter, melted
- 1 cup flour
- 1 cup of sugar
- 1 cup brown sugar
- 1 tablespoon baking powder
- 1/8 teaspoon salt
- 1 cup milk
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- Juice from 1/2 lemon:

Preheat oven to 375°F. Pour melted butter into the center of a 9x13-inch baking dish, do not spread the butter around the pan. In a separate bowl, combine flour, 1 cup sugar, salt, and baking powder. Slowly pour in milk and vanilla extract, and stir to combine.

Pour batter over butter, but do not stir. Add brown sugar, peach slices, and lemon juice to a saucepan on high heat. Stir frequently until sugar is completely melted and peaches have released their juices. Pour peaches over top of batter. Do not stir. Bake for 40-45 minutes or until the top of cobbler is golden in color.

Mexicana Casserole

- 2 cups bisquick
- 1 cup water
- 32 oz refried beans
- 2 lbs hamburger
- 16 oz salsa
- 3 cups shredded cheddar cheese
- 16 oz sour cream
- Tomatoes & Lettuce, chopped

Mix first 3 ingredients, spread in greased 9x13 pan. Sprinkle fried and seasoned hamburger on top. Next spread salsa and cheese on top. Bake at 350 for 30 to 40 min. Top with sour cream, lettuce and tomatoes just before serving.

Crockpot Broccoli Cheese Soup

- 1 cup grated carrots
- 4 cups chopped broccoli florets
- 1 medium yellow onion, finely chopped
- 1 1/2 tsp minced garlic
- 1/2 cup reduced fat cream cheese
- 1 teaspoon Italian seasoning
- 2 1/2 cups vegetable broth
- 1 12 oz can 2% evaporated milk
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon black pepper

8 oz block sharp cheddar cheese, grated

Place the broccoli, carrots, onion, and garlic in the slow cooker. Top with the cream cheese, Italian seasoning and chicken broth. Stir to evenly distribute the ingredients. Cover and set the temperature on high & cook for 2 hours or low for 4-6 hours. Uncover and stir in the evaporated milk. Blend soup with an immersion blender or food processor, use caution as the soup will be very hot. Puree about 2/3 of soup, leaving a few chunks of broccoli. Stir the salt, pepper, and grated cheese. Recover and cook on high until the cheese is fully melted and the soup is hot, about 5-10 additional minutes. Serve warm and top with additional cheddar cheese if desired.

Million Dollar Roll Ups

- 8 oz cream cheese, whipped
- 1 cup of mayonnaise
- 2 cups cheddar cheese, shredded
- 3 oz package real bacon bits or 1/2 cup cooked bacon, crumbled
- 1/2 cup slivered almonds
- 5 green onions chopped
- 4 (6 inch) large flour tortillas

In large bowl, combine all ingredients except tortillas until well mixed. Lay a tortilla out on a plate and spread an even layer of the almond, bacon and cheese mixture all the way to the edges (about 2 to 3 tbsp). Roll up tortilla tightly and place on a plate and then repeat until all the ingredients have been used. Pop into the fridge to chill for 2 hour. Slice each rolled tortillas off the ends and set aside. Garnish with remaining sliced green onions.



The LORD Shall Guide You 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. I am Praying for you, Mike

Good News Fellowship Tickfaw, LA 70466 - www.mvmgoodnews.com

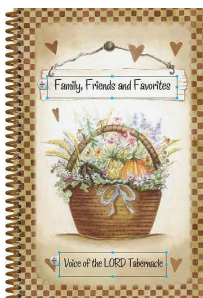
Re-Count Your Blessings!

George Whitten

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. Joshua 23:14

As Joshua led the children of Israel into the promised land it seemed that God had given them an impossible assignment -- to conquer a foreign and hostile land with fortified cities and armies greater than their own. They had to go forth only on the basis of God's promise. They had to walk by faith and not by sight! How did Joshua lead them to walk by faith? He reminded them that God has never failed them. And he encouraged them to them focus on the promises of God! You too can rely on God's faithfulness today! Are you in the midst of a crisis? Are high mountains facing you today? If so, we want to remind you of all the miraculous ways God has worked in your life in the past! Though we often forget our promises to Him, He will never forget His promises to us! Let's spend the day recounting God's victories and determine to exercise faith for the trials we face today!

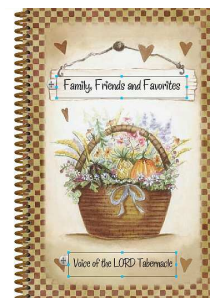
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The Snake and the Little Girl

(Author Unknown)

A young girl was trudging along a mountain path, trying to reach her grandmother's house. It was bitter cold, and the wind cut through her like a knife. When she was within sight of her destination, she heard a rustle at her feet. Looking down, she saw a snake. Before she could move, the snake spoke to her. He said, "I am about to die. It is too cold for me up here, and I am freezing. There is no food in these mountains, and I am starving. Please put me under your coat, and take me with you." "No," replied the girl. "I know your kind. You are a rattlesnake. If I pick you up, you will bite me, and your bite is poisonous." "No, no," said the snake. "If you help me, you will be my best friend. I will treat you differently than I have others." The little girl sat down on a rock for a moment to rest and think things over. She looked at the beautiful markings on the snake and had to admit that it was the most beautiful snake she had ever seen. Suddenly, she said, "I believe you. I will save you. All living things deserve to be treated with kindness." The little girl reached over, put the snake gently under her coat and proceeded toward her grandmother's house. Within a moment, she felt a sharp pain in her side. The snake had bitten her. "How could you do this to me?" she cried. "You promised that you would not bite me, and I trusted you!" "You knew what I was when you picked me up," hissed the snake as he slithered away.

The snake in this story is just like satan. He will lie and connive and use any way he can to deceive and destroy. And if we fall for his tricks we WILL get bit every time? We MUST be on guard and take heed to the Word of God!

Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: 1Peter 5:8

Not So, Lord!

Stephen Olford, in his book "The Way of Holiness," once told about an incident in the life of his friend and mentor, Graham Scroggie: Dr. Scroggie was speaking at the Keswick convention in England on one occasion when he was approached by a young woman who had been greatly stirred by his message on the Lordship of Christ. Walking up to him at the close of the service, she said, "I want Jesus to be Lord of my life, but I am afraid God will send me overseas as a missionary, and I don't want to go." Opening the Bible to Acts 10:14, Dr. Scroggie explained the utter absurdity of Peter's answer. You will remember that God had given Peter a vision of a sheet in which were all manner of four-footed animals, wild beasts, creeping things, and birds of the air. And a voice came to him, "Rise, Peter, kill and eat." But Peter answered, "Not so, Lord." (See Acts 10:12-14). The doctor went on to explain, "A slave never dictates to a master. Therefore, to say, 'Not so, Lord' was impertinent! Now," advised Dr. Scroggie, "I want you to cross out the two words 'not so,' and leave the word 'Lord'; or else cross out the word 'Lord' and leave 'not so.'" Handing her his pencil, he quietly walked away. For some time she struggled. Then he returned. Looking over her shoulder, he saw a tear-stained page. The words 'not so' were crossed out. With a glad light in her eyes, she repeated affirmatively, "Lord!" "Lord!" "Lord!" No longer would she dictate. She was now His disciple, and He was her Lord and Master.



VOTL THANKSGIVING SERVICE

"HIS FAVOR"

from Beaver Dam, KY

Saturday November 16th @ 6 PM

Fellowship & free meal following service!

**Voice of the LORD Tabernacle
216 Hill St Livermore, KY**



A Word for TODAY!



By Sister Michelle Deuling

Verse for Today: Ephesians 5:14-16 Wherefore he saith, Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light. See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, Redeeming the time, because the days are evil.

Additional passages for Today: Isaiah 26:19-21; Romans 13:11-12

Thought for Today: It's easier to sleep in the dark. To be awake, you must walk in the light!

Story for Today: Pansy flung her costume into the back seat of her jeep as she jumped in, closing her door. It was a beautiful fall day and she was grateful to be out of school for the day. As she turned the corner, leaving the parking lot, she caught a glimpse of the make-up on her face. Natalie, her new friend, had done her face up wicked. Pansy, was more than a little uncomfortable as she saw the reflection. She knew her Dad would be disappointed if he saw her now, but, her desire to please her friends was a greater draw and she headed out of town in the opposite direction of home. She had gotten permission to attend the ball game tonight and then spend the night at Natalie's. Her parents would never find out. After the game a bunch of her classmates were planning an awesome party and she had been invited. This would be her first ever Halloween bash. She had never even dressed up before. Always being the odd ball-religious kid, most of the kids at school never even asked her to participate in the secular activities that were always happening among the other kids. Pansy never seemed to mind before, quiet nights reading a good book and playing board games with her family had always been enough, but this year was different. The first day of 11th grade had seemed normal enough as she had delivered her 3 younger siblings to their schools before making her way to the high school. As she entered the doors to the school, however, things happened like never before. Natalie, now a senior, had held the door and asked if she minded if she talked while they walked. That was the start of the new direction in her life. Natalie wasn't a trouble maker, normally. She liked to have fun and was always looking for ways to make the days interesting. Since her best friend, Erin had graduated, Natalie had decided to make Pansy her "new best friend". And they pretty much did everything together these days. Today, Pansy was to drive to the next town over and load up on toilet paper and firecrackers, "just a couple of things they would need to make tonight memorable", Jake had said to the girls with a chuckle. Natalie's eyes had danced with mischief and Pansy was ready to do whatever to make the night fun. After the game ended, all the kids gathered at the old abandoned barn to start their celebration. They had all decided to dress up for this Halloween, even though they were all too old to go out trick or treating. Pansy didn't understand the thrill the others seemed to have over dressing up. She had never done this before and continued to feel uncomfortable. It wasn't long before the food and drinks were out. Then one of the kids mentioned tee-peeing the gym teachers house and several of the guys took off with the load of toilet paper Pansy had collected. Some of the kids decided to set off the firecrackers in front of one of the less desirable kid's house. They also took some spray paint that one of the others had thought to provide. This made Pansy even more uncomfortable. The chanting at the fire caught her attention and she realized that some of the kids were holding hands and had some form of an animal or something by the fire. Pansy made her way over to Natalie. She really wanted to leave. This was giving her the creeps. Natalie just laughed at her. She said they always did this. It was a tradition. They would chant some words and then call for some person to come to speak to them. They had been doing it for years. She said no one ever got hurt and it would be okay. Pansy felt sick to her stomach. She knew that she was participating in something that was evil. She knew that if she wanted to walk in the light and live for Jesus that she needed to wake up and not partake in this darkness. She made a dash for her jeep and took off. She knew she would have consequences when she showed up at home dressed like this. But, it was worth it. She knew that the things that were happening here were not of God. They were not "neutral" fun. They were things that would separate her from the love of God.

Questions for Today: What do you have in your life that prevents you from walking in the light? Give it to God!



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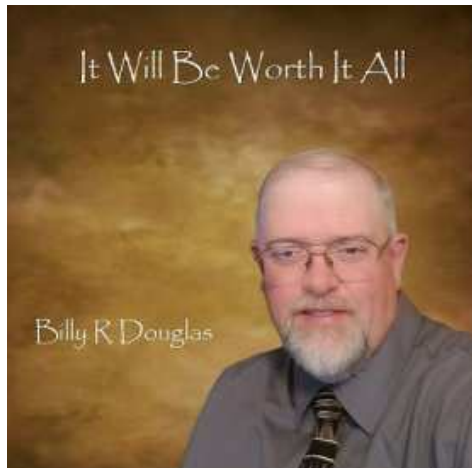
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