



# THE TRUMPET

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Voice of the LORD  
Ministries

Vol. 25 No. 10

October 2021



## TONYA GOSSER

*from Russell Springs, KY*

**Saturday October 23rd @ 6 PM**

**Come join us for this special night of Music, Worship & Praise!!**

Free meal in the Outreach Center following the service!

Voice of the LORD Tabernacle 216 Hill St Livermore, KY

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### **We Need The Word of God**

Evangelist Chris Dowell

There is nothing in the entire world, more important than the WORD of Almighty GOD. The Bible. It doesn't matter what the Church building looks like, new or old. It doesn't matter how well talented the Singers and Musicians may be. To all my Pentecostal friends, it doesn't matter how much you shout and dance in a church service (as good and scripturally Holy that may be). I've had people come up to me and say "Bro. Chris, we had such a good service, everyone wept, cried and prayed so much, the Preacher couldn't even preach." As good as these things may be...Nothing is more important than the WORD OF GOD. We ALL, Saint and sinner alike, need to HEAR what the Word of God says. Romans 10:17 KJV So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." No one can be saved without Faith. And the Word of God brings faith. 2 Timothy 3:16-17 KJV "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, thoroughly furnished unto all good works." We need EVERYTHING the Bible says. Not just the parts that say "Love". We need correction. We need refuge. We need Grace. We need the Blood. We need the Word of God. God bless. Bro. Chris Dowell

548 Harding Drive Mount Washington, KY 40047

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

It can be lonely at the top.

**Cousin Leroy**

Leroys cousin Bertha had bought herself a new car. She could drive the car during the day, but at night the car wouldn't move at all. She tried driving the car at night for a week with no luck. Furious, she called the dealership, told them the problem and they sent a mechanic to the house. The mechanic gave the car a thorough inspection and could not find anything wrong. Eventually, he asked her, "Are you sure you're using the right gears?" "Of course I am. I'm not stupid. I use "D" during the day and "N" at night!"

**Playing With The Boys**

A little girl asked her mother, "Can I go outside and play with the boys?" Her mother replied, "No, you can't play with the boys, they're too rough." The little girl thought about it for a few moments and asked, "If I find a smooth one, can I play with him?"

What do you call a can opener that doesn't work?

A can't opener.

**REASONS BUBBA NEVER WORRIES ABOUT HIS TRUCK GETTING STOLEN**

- ~ It has a range of about 20 miles before it overheats, breaks down or runs out of gas.
- ~ Only Bubba knows how to operate the door to get in or out.
- ~ It is difficult to drive fast with all the fence tools, grease rags, ropes, chains, buckets, boots and loose papers in the cab.
- ~ The Border Collie on the toolbox looks mean.
- ~ The large round bale in the back makes it hard to see if you're being chased. You could use the mirrors if they weren't cracked and covered with duct tape.
- ~ Top speed is only about 45 mph.
- ~ Who wants a truck that needs a year's worth of maintenance, u-joints, \$3,000 in bodywork, taillights and a windshield.
- ~ It's hard to steal a truck and getaway unnoticed with everyone waving at you.

**Customer Service**

Customer: "Can you please cut some material for me?"

Clerk: "Certainly, what width?"

Customer (confused and slightly annoyed): "Um, scissors??"

**The Medical Bills**

A man suffered a heart attack while shopping in a store. The store manager called 911 when they saw him collapse to the floor. The paramedics rushed the man to the nearest hospital, where he had emergency open-heart bypass surgery. He awakened from the surgery to find himself in the care of nuns at the Catholic Hospital. A nun was seated next to his bed holding a clipboard, a pen, and a collection of forms. She asked him how he was going to pay for his treatment. She asked, "Do you have health insurance?" He replied in a weak raspy voice, "No health insurance." The nun asked, "Do you have money in the bank?" He replied, "No money in the bank." The irritated nun continued, "Do you have a relative who could help you with the payments?" He replied, "I have only a spinster sister and she is a nun." The nun became agitated and announced, "Nuns are not spinsters! Nuns are married to God!" The patient replied, "Perfect. Send the bill to my brother-in-law."



## **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 10 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

Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter! Isaiah 5:20



## **Does God Care About Me? Part 01**

Evangelist Mike Heltsley

O lord, thou hast searched me, and known me.<sup>2</sup> Thou knowest my downsitting and mine uprising, thou understandest my thought afar off. <sup>3</sup> Thou compasses my path and my lying down, and art acquainted with all my ways. <sup>4</sup> For there is not a word in my tongue, but, lo, O LORD, thou knowest it altogether. <sup>5</sup> Thou hast beset me behind and before, and laid thine hand upon me. <sup>6</sup> Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high, I cannot attain unto it.  
Psalm 139:1-6

I would like for you to ponder the question, "Does God Care About Me?" I. God Knows Us According to Psalm 139, God knows everything about us! 1. He knows when I sit down, when I get up, the path I take and when I lay down. 2. He knows my thoughts. 3. He knows my ways. 4. He knows what I have said, what I am saying and what I'm about to say. There's nothing that God doesn't know about you and me! Psalm 33:13-15 - The LORD looketh from heaven; he beholdeth all the sons of men. 14 From the place of his habitation he looketh upon all the inhabitants of the earth. 15 He fashioneth their hearts alike; he considereth all their works. Could anyone know us better than the one who "Fashions" (Forms) our hearts? Jeremiah 17:9-10 - The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it? 10 I the LORD search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings. Matthew 10:29-31 - Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing? and one of them shall not fall on the ground without your Father. 30 But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. 31 Fear ye not therefore, ye are of more value than many sparrows. II. God Knows Us And Wants A Relationship With Us The amazing thing about God is that He knows all there is to know about us, and He still desires a relationship with us... (WARTS AND ALL) - When you think about it, where can love and care always be found? - It is always found within the Context of Relationships! With: - Spouse - Parents - Children - Other Family Members - Friends - Church Family God Has Always Desired a Close Relationship With Man: In The Garden of Eden Genesis 3:8 - And they heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God amongst the trees of the garden. Why would The Creator be in the Garden? He desired fellowship with Adam and Eve, but their sin had separated them from God! The Holy of Holies in the Temple/Ark of the Covenant - God's Presence 2nd Chronicles 7:1-2 - Now when Solomon had made an end of praying, the fire came down from heaven, and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices; and the glory of the LORD filled the house. 2 And the priests could not enter into the house of the LORD, because the glory of the LORD had filled the LORD's house. (The temporary place was the Tabernacle in the Wilderness, but now the Temple) "God With Us" - Jesus Christ Isaiah 7:14 -Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. God came to dwell among us. As we read the Gospels, we understand that Jesus spent most of his time with the poor, the troubled, and the sick and with those who had needs. - He hasn't changed! - Hebrews 13:8 - Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever. Indwelling Of The Holy Spirit John 14:16-17 - And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; 17 Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. Man With God Throughout Eternity Revelation 21:3 - And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. In this vast universe that God has created, why would He desire a relationship with us? He created us in His very own image! He created us in order to fellowship with us! That was hindered by Adam's sin! Until next time, let your light shine for Jesus! Evangelist Mike Heltsley

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### **The Fullness Of His Love**

*by Frances Ridley Havergal*

The fullness of His blessing encompasseth our way; The fullness of His promises crowns every brightening day;  
The fullness of His glory is beaming from above, While more and more we realize the fullness of His love.



## **Truth and Consequences**

Pastor Steven Huston

Having grown up in a Christian family and in a solid church and in the United States of America, I always wondered how Jesus could ask the following question, "Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?" My questioning ends when I see The Christian Post cite George Barna's research stating that "The data found, among other things, that while 51% of American adults said they have a biblical worldview, only 6% of American adults actually hold this worldview." Dear Reader, do you find it disturbing that of those 51% of self-identifying Christians 49% believes that reincarnation is a real possibility after they die while only 33% of them believe that "human beings are born with a sinful nature and can only be saved from the consequences of sin by Jesus Christ." Does it arouse righteous indignation within you or bring you to weeping to learn from another Christian Post article and different survey that "More than 60% of born again Christians in America between the ages of 18 and 39 believe that Buddha, Muhammad and Jesus are all valid paths to salvation and over 30% say they either believe that Jesus sinned just like other people when He lived on Earth or aren't sure, according to a new study." (Kerby Anderson's Probe Ministries Religious Views & Practices Survey) What about John 14:6? "Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." Jesus is not merely "A way;" He is THE way and NO man comes to God the Father except through Him. The word "way" indicates a path to travel, not only a set of beliefs to hold in one's head, not only a prayer to have been prayed, but a life to be lived with utter abandon to the magnifying of Christ and the glory of God. The Bible teaches the way to holy and joy-filled living. It is distinctly contrary to the way in which this world would love to mold our mind and life. If we truly believe on Jesus and are walking in His way, our mind, life, and destination has been transformed—His way affects every area of our life. (I strongly encourage you to read Psalm 19:7-14) A Biblical worldview is imperative for the Christian; the consequences of walking outside of truth are devastating. If you don't believe me look around you. Look around our country, around the world, and around the church of America—a church which has stopped being the church militant, and therefore, the church triumphant I might add. While there are many good churches in America and many faithful Christians who are left wondering what happened to their church, there are many more churches (organized) and self-proclaimed Christians who are either ignorant of the Word of God or have chosen to ignore the Bible's truths and warnings, forfeiting a Biblical worldview for an adulterated and idolatrous one that makes them feel better but paves the way to hell with "good intentions." Quoting Family Research Council (FRC) President Tony Perkins, "Every Christian can and should obtain a biblical worldview — which is only achieved when a person believes that the Bible is true, authoritative, and then taught how it is applicable to every area of life, which enables them to live out those beliefs." We have a real problem. What can we do? For our own sake: Let us do some honest, painstaking self-examination, using J.C. Ryle's penned warning on Luke 16:13-18 as the standard. "It is useless to attempt to serve God with a divided heart.... Thousands on every side are continually trying to do the thing which Christ pronounces impossible. They are endeavoring to be friends of the world and friends of God at the same time. Their consciences are so far enlightened that they feel they must have some religion. But their affections are so chained down to earthly things that they never come up to the mark of being true Christians.... They have too much religion to be happy in the world and too much of the world in their hearts to be happy in religion. In short they waste their time in laboring to do that which cannot be done. They are striving to serve God and mammon. "...The more thoroughly we give ourselves to Christ, the more sensibly we shall feel within the peace of God that passes all understanding (Phil. 4:7). The more entirely we live, not to ourselves, but to Him who died for us, the more powerfully shall we realize what it is to have joy and peace in believing. If it is worthwhile to serve Christ at all, let us serve Him with all our heart, soul, mind and strength. Life, eternal life, after all, is the matter at stake, no less than happiness. If we cannot make up our minds to give up everything for Christ's sake, we must not expect Christ to own us at the last day. He will have all our hearts or none. Friendship with the world is enmity with God (James 4:4) The end of undecided and half-hearted Christians is to be cast out for ever." For the sake of others: Put Paul's words in II Timothy 4:2-5 in to practice. What to do: "Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine." Why? : "For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables." That day is here; so: "But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry." Pray that our eyes will be open to better watch, that the Spirit will strengthen us in these days in preparation to endure affliction, and that we will be faithful in speaking the truth and presenting the gospel of Jesus Christ to a deceived church and a fallen world.



### The Little Red Book

IT WAS nothing new for Mariam's uncle to make a gun in his little shop in the mountain village of Hassa Beyli in Turkey, but this one was different, and Mariam often came to see how soon it would be finished. This gun was to belong to a brigand whose home was in the hills, and Mariam had heard dreadful things about what the brigands did with guns. At last her uncle went away with it, and she waited anxiously for his return that she might ask questions. Was the brigand very big? Did he live in a cave? Did he look very fierce? Patiently he answered all her questions, when he was home again, and then he said: "When I gave him the gun, he said he had nothing with which to pay for it. He should have told me that before I made it for him. I need the money for the gun. When I said he must pay something, he brought out this little red book and said I could have it. There was nothing else to do, so I took the book in payment for my gun. Now you may have it," said the uncle, handing it to her. Mariam was pleased to own a book of her own. The print was not large; there were no pictures in it; but it was a book, and so she carried it to her house to put it away. When she began to read, she would take the book out and try to make out the words. Soon she could make out sentences. Sometimes she would find an interesting story, but it was a long time before she knew that her little red book was called a Bible. When Mariam went away to school at Aintab Seminary, the book went with her, and it began to have an influence in her life. In time she became a Christian. Then she married Mr. Koondakjian, a young native pastor, and they used the book in their splendid work in the village. One day a missionary named Mrs. Coffing came their town and asked to hold a service for the women, the town. When all was ready, Mrs. Coffing found that she did not have her Bible handy, so she asked if one of the women had a Bible. Immediately Mariam Koondakjian passed the little red Bible up to where Mrs. Coffing stood. The missionary looked at the book with a start. Why was it so familiar? Where had she seen it before? She turned to the fly-leaf, and there, in his own handwriting was her own husband's name. For a moment Mrs. Coffing could hardly speak. Then, holding the treasured book her hand, she told the women the story of a trip which her husband had taken many years before. "He went to tell the Good News to the people in the valleys," she said, "but he never came home again. He was attacked by brigands not far from your own village here. They took what he had, and then killed him. This was his book, and here is his name in the front, just as he wrote it. No one ever knew what happened to his things after the brigands took them, but now his little Bible has come back to me and I am so glad. How it came into the hands of Mrs. Koondakjian, I do not know, I only know it once belonged to my dead husband." After she had read a passage, she gave the Bible back to the Armenian woman. Soon all the women were crowding around the little red book, and Mrs. Koondakjian was telling them how her uncle had taken it in payment for a gun when as a very little girl. Then, much as she loved her Bible, she placed it again in the hand of the one who really owned it, and Mrs. Coffing took it away with her. Was the brigand who killed Mr. Coffing the one who bought the gun? Why did he keep the book? One can only guess. Some one killed the teacher, but God sent the red book into the life of a new teacher who is still carrying the Message, even though she is seventy years of age. When Mr. Koondakjian and her two sons were killed in the massacre by the Turks some years ago, it was to the verses that she had learned from the little red book as a girl that Mrs. Koondakjian turned for comfort: "I will not leave you comfortless. I will come unto you...: Let not your heart be troubled; neither let it be afraid.... Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world." And so, you see, the little red book is still helping.

### O Word Of God Incarnate

O Word of God incarnate, O Wisdom from on high,  
 O Truth unchanged, unchanging, O Light of our dark sky,  
 We praise thee for the radiance that from the hallowed page,  
 A lantern to our footsteps, shines on from age to age.  
 The church from her dear Master received the gift divine,  
 And still that light she lifteth o'er all the earth to shine.  
 It is the golden casket, where gems of truth are stored;  
 it is the heav'n drawn picture Of Christ, the living Word.

*Written by William How (1823)*





### **God's Plan Of Salvation**

Sister Frances Swaggart

Some people think it cruel that a loving God would allow unrepentant sinners to go to hell and suffer torment forever. First, God is a loving God: "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16). It was not the justice of God that required the Son to pay the penalty of sin. God, in perfect righteousness, could have required sinful man to pay his own penalty for his wrongdoing. The broken law would have been satisfied, for the wages of sin is death; however, to have done so would have destroyed man in every way, with the race ceasing to exist. It was the love of God for a race of lost sinners that was the necessity in the nature of the case, which required that a substitute be found to pay for man's sin. That substitute is the Lord Jesus Christ. Second, God does not "send" anyone to hell. People, using their own free will, decide to either accept God's plan of salvation—Jesus Christ and Him crucified—or reject Him. It is a person's personal rejection, refusal, and denial of the Lord Jesus Christ that separates him, eternally, from God—separated forever from His love, His mercy, His grace, His compassion, and His forgiveness.

### **Whosoever Shall Call Upon The Name of the Lord Shall Be Saved**

That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed. For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him. For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. Romans 10:9-13

And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved. Acts 2:21



### **Upcoming Events @ VOTL**

**Saturday October 23rd @ 6 PM**

**Tonya Gosser**

**Fellowship & Free Meal In The Outreach Center  
Following The Saturday Night Services**



# Reesie's Recipes



## Sweet Macaroni Salad

- 1 pkg elbow macaroni
- 4 medium carrots, shredded
- 1 large green pepper, chopped
- 1 medium red onion, chopped
- 2 cups mayonnaise
- 1 (14oz) can sweetened condensed milk
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 cup cider vinegar
- 1 tsp salt
- 1/2 tsp pepper
- 1 (4oz) jar pimentos, drained

Cook macaroni according to package. Drain and rinse in cold water. In a large serving bowl combine macaroni, carrots, green pepper, pimentos and onion. In a small bowl whisk remaining ingredients. Pour over macaroni mixture and toss to coat. Cover and refrigerate over night.

## Broccoli Soup

- 1 onion
- 1 stick butter
- 1 (16oz) cheese whiz
- 2 (10oz) pkg chopped broccoli
- 3 cans cream of mushroom soup
- 3 small cans evaporated milk

Chop and sauté the onion in the butter. Thaw and drain the broccoli and cook in microwave for about 2 minutes. Combine all ingredients in crock pot and cook on high for 2 hours.

## Fried Mashed Potato Balls

- 2 cups cold mashed potatoes
- 1 egg, lightly beaten
- 3/4 cup shredded cheddar cheese
- 1/2 cup chopped green onions
- 1/4 cup real bacon bits
- 1/2 cup dry bread crumbs or batter mix
- Oil for frying

Place mashed potatoes in a large bowl, let stand at room temperature for 30 minutes. Stir in the egg, cheese, onions and bacon bits. Shape into 1" balls. Roll in bread crumbs or batter mix. Let stand for 15 minutes. In an electric skillet, heat 1" of oil to 375. Fry potato balls a few at a time for 2 1/2 to 3 minutes or until golden brown. Remove with a slotted spoon and place on paper towels to drain.

## Tater Tot Bacon Breakfast Bake

- 1 bag tater tots
- Salt and pepper to taste
- 1 small onion, diced
- 1/2 red bell pepper, diced
- 1/2 green bell pepper diced
- 1 lb bacon fried crisp, drained & crumbled
- Reserve 1 Tbsp of bacon grease
- 8 eggs
- 2 cups milk
- 3 cups Colby jack cheese, shredded

Preheat oven to 400 degrees. In a 9x13 casserole dish add the tater tots, salt and pepper. Bake until tater tots are golden brown. Remove from oven and set aside. Lower oven temperature to 350. In a mixing bowl add eggs, milk and shredded cheese. Mix well and set aside. In the bacon pan sauté onions and peppers in 1 Tbsp of reserved bacon grease until tender. Layer onions and peppers on top of the cooked tater tots. Layer bacon crumbles on top of the onions and peppers. Pour the egg and cheese mixture over the bacon layer. Cover with foil and bake on 350 for 45 minutes. Uncover and bake for an additional 30 minutes.





# A Word for TODAY!



By Sister Michelle Deuling

**Verse for Today:** Philippians 2:14 Do all things without murmurings and disputings:

**Additional passages for Today:** 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; 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.

**Thought for Today:** When you murmur and dispute, who are you really fighting with? If you wish to be an obedient servant of the Most High King, complaining and arguing must not be a part of your character.

**Story for Today:** Bridgett ran excitedly into the room where her friends were gathered. She was grateful they were watching a movie today. Mrs. Chapman was already talking to some of the others about which movie they would be watching. Hearing Sandy suggest a clubhouse detective movie, Bridgett couldn't help but groan out loud. "Please don't make us watch that one!" she exclaimed as she went on talking about the movie as if it would be torture to have to watch something so childish. Mattie walked in with a plate of cookies. Bridgett accepted the chocolate chip cookie with thanks. However, after taking a bite she couldn't help but sputter about the crumbs that were falling to the floor. With a voice loud enough for everyone to hear, she remarked about how stale the cookie was and that more was on the floor than in her mouth. It wasn't long after the movie finished before there was a lengthy line waiting for the restroom. Heidi and Bridgett were talking about their favorite scene in the movie while they were waiting until Bridgett just couldn't stand it any longer and began letting those in front of her know that they had better hurry up. She had better things to do than stand in line waiting. Mrs. Chapman had taken in all that had transpired and really felt the need to speak privately to Bridgett. She knew that left unchecked, Bridgett would only become more bitter as she found fault with more things. Pulling Bridgett aside, Mrs. Chapman shared Philippians 2:14-16 with her. She explained that murmuring and disputing were things that discontent people did. Christians that followed the guidance of the Holy Spirit are to be content and ready to receive the blessings that the Heavenly Father has prepared for them. Bridgett was eager to learn and thought about how the little things she had complained about were really no big deal. She really didn't even realize that she had been complaining. Mrs. Chapman encouraged her to write down Philippians 2:14-16 explaining that 15 & 16 explain why we mustn't complain and be a disputer. She shared how when we complain about things, we are really complaining about how God is taking care of us. How when we dispute and murmur we cause disunity and often times hard feelings instead of being an encourager. As Bridgett left Mrs. Chapman, she had a plan. She would write out those verses. She would memorize them. Praying that her eyes and ears would be opened so that she would catch herself when she started murmuring and disputing, was the first part of her plan. Physically covering her mouth and stopping the flow of words when the Holy Spirit showed her that her words were a murmur would be the next step and replacing the negativity with a praise or thanks would be the final step. As she headed down the sidewalk deep in thought she stepped in a puddle and had her first opportunity to put her new plan into practice. Just as she began to grumble about getting her sock and shoe wet, she remembered the words of Mrs. Chapman and instantly covered her mouth. Smiling, she thanked God the rain had stopped and began to skip down the sidewalk.

**Questions for Today:** Do you think about your words and actions? Are you encouraging others or murmuring about things that don't meet your expectations? Are you praising God or are you disgruntled with Him?

**Prayer for Today:** Heavenly Father, Thank You for bringing every good gift into our lives. Thank You for being with us through the hard times. Please forgive us when we murmur or dispute. Help us to remember to be thankful in all things and to praise You for Your goodness and mercy. Help us to remember when we complain about the weather or anything else we are really complaining about the One who made the weather and allowed the circumstances that we are going through. In Jesus' Name we pray, Amen.



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### **Tutti-Fruity**

George Whitten

Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them. Matthew 7:16-20

Most people reading this passage tend to focus in on the fruit that is produced. Okay...But a closer look will reveal that the Lord is really focusing on the tree. The fruit merely demonstrates the quality of the tree. We have all encountered this: there are trees whose fruit is healthy and delicious, and there are trees whose fruit is scarcely edible, or even useless. The fruit doesn't make the tree -- the tree makes the fruit. A tree that produces good fruit is firmly rooted in soil which provides adequate water and nourishment. Likewise, those of us whose lives are rooted in and dedicated to Jesus produce good fruit. Others who try to produce good works for "religious" reasons, or to prove or approve of themselves, may produce fruit, but it will be much inferior. When our focus is on Jesus, and our lives are centered in Him, the fruit we produce will not be from self-effort, and its quality will be excellent...because it is simply the produce of a good tree. So, stop trying to produce good works in your own strength. Just tap into the Source of your life, Yeshua, allowing the sap of His Spirit to flow through you – and then watch what GREAT FRUIT He is continually able to produce!

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### **THIS Is Just a Resting Place**

Sister Nancy Willis *(written February 2013)*

Sometimes the road of life seems long as we travel through the years,  
And, with a heart that's broken and eyes brimful of tears,  
We falter in our weariness and sink beside the way,  
But GOD leans down and whispers, Child, there'll be another day,  
And the road will grow much smoother and much easier to face,  
So do not be disheartened this is just a RESTING PLACE

If you are out there and don't know what to do, just stand still and rest a while because Jesus is standing beside you. He sees the battle you're in, and he wants to give you rest, because he has not forgotten you. BECAUSE WEeping MAY ENDURE FOR THE NIGHT BUT JOY COMETH IN THE MORNING.

For his anger endureth but a moment; in his favour is life; weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning. Psalms 30:5

But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. 1 Corinthians 2:9

Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. John 14:1-2



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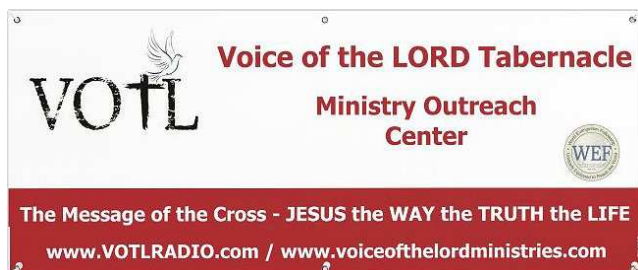
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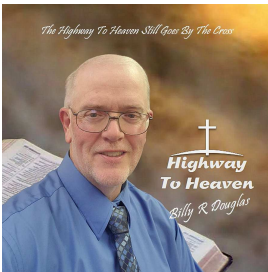
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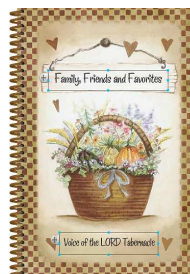
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