

THE GOOD NEWS FREE

Just Keeps Coming



“...GO HOME TO YOUR FRIENDS, AND TELL THEM WHAT WONDERFUL THINGS THE LORD HAS DONE FOR YOU AND HOW MERCIFUL HE HAS BEEN.” MARK 5:19

Volume 13, Issue 4

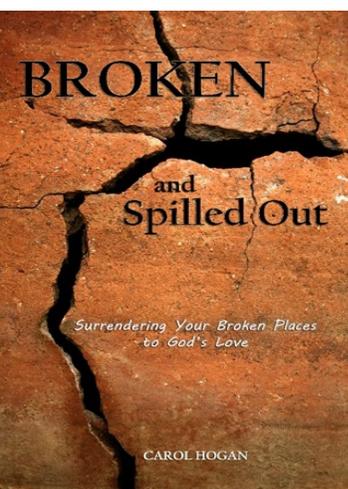
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April 2018

FREEDOM REIGNS

How often as children did we sing the song, “Jesus loves me this I know”? I so remember singing it, but not understanding it at all. So when a psychologist asked me years later when my life was in a gazillion pieces, “Carol, where did you think Jesus was?” I was stunned! Good question. Where was He? I now know He was with me the whole time, I just had not acknowledge him. I was doing life my way.

I knew at an early age as I grew up in Abilene, Texas, that I was different than my sister and three brothers. Looking back I know that God was protecting my spirit and had set me apart. He was protecting me at nighttime when boundaries were crossed by my two older brothers who never learned from my father how to respect and treat females. You see my father, who taught Sunday school at our little rural church, was deep into pornography and was an alcoholic. My mother drank with him on Friday



nights, “So she knew where he was at.” This is a very condensed version of my younger years. What was awesome when I started school and

was taught how to read. I loved learning and so started my life as an over achiever. I absorbed everything my teachers gave to me to learn. I didn’t know at that time, but overachieving, can be one of the indicators for anyone, male or female, who has been abused. I did know that I wanted to excel at whatever I attempted. That trait served me well as I journeyed through high school and spent free time with the youth at a local church. I was right where God wanted me to be.

When not at school or church I was working at the local \$1 an hour. With my earnings I bought my first pair of reading glasses, my yearbooks and class ring, and my clothes. I was learning how to be self-sufficient, although I still had not heard that I needed to become God-sufficient.

Graduation came and I packed my bags, moved away from home, got a job and rented a small one bedroom apartment. I thought I was a grown up with grown up responsibilities; boy was I mistaken! I need to stop for a moment and inject a very important point. Remember that I mentioned learning self-sufficiency? Well this was really me digging a customized pit to protect myself. I fell in love with a man that I worked with, got pregnant, he left, and I gave my son up for adoption. It was the hardest thing I have ever done and it has taken years for me to bring this secret out in the open. You see, I had buried it very deep. Deep things don’t go away. They must eventually come to the surface. In God’s timing they did, but it took me coming to the end of my own resources before I turned to the Source.

Before I came to the end of self, I found

myself having to have a lifesaving surgery that even the doctors said, “You must have angels watching over you. You could have bled to death. Of course when you have angels you still don’t think you need the help of God, so I went forward in my life, but I was soon to experience events that brought me to the end of my own resources and I mean this literally.

By this time in my life, I had become the Chief Operating Officer (COO) of a new HMO in San Antonio and was charged with bringing four clinics from the ground up in 120 days. I had wonderful help, but all the help in the world did not help me from going into a major clinical depression. Not long after, the new CEO decided he wanted his own COO, and I was let go. I now had no job and even found myself homeless. I was truly at the end of my resources. It was then that I cried out to God. He put in the home of my prayer partner and He began bringing me out of my pit of rejection! Jonah 2:6 says, “you brought me up from the pit, O Lord my God. Yes, He brought me out of my pit...with His love He brought me out.” Little did I know what coming out of my pit would entail.

You see I had devoted my entire life to surviving and now I was stepping into freedom, a concept foreign to me. I was fighting for my life and spent hours journaling and listening for God’s voice. Yes, I heard His voice within my being because I *expected* to hear it. Psalm 4:1, 3 says, “Answer me when I call to you. O my righteous God. Give me relief from distress; be merciful to me and hear my prayer...the Lord will hear when I call to him.” In one of my journal entries I had written: “Right now, You Lord, are creating a path of escape from this desert of despair/ depression by filling me with your living waters of love and grace. You are eroding



Author Carol Hogan

away the lifeless, barren, unloving, angry parts of my wasteland. What is slowly emerging is a new me.”

Did you note the word “slowly”? It takes a long time to heal, and I often didn’t know where I was going and then I found one of my life verses. Isaiah 42:15 says, “I will lead the blind by ways they have not known, along unfamiliar paths I will guide them. I will turn the darkness into light before them and make the rough places smooth.” Well, I certainly was blind at times and I was definitely going along an unfamiliar path. He did turn my darkness into light and began making my rough places smooth. Along this journey Truth was revealed to me: I can’t and haven’t met any of my own basic needs. My fleshly ability

(FREEDOM continued on page 3)

Christians never see each other for the last time!

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A cheerful heart is good medicine

Proverbs 17:22



Benny wanted a job as a signalman on the railways.

At his interview, the inspector asked him this question:

"What would you do if you saw 2 trains heading for each other on the SAME track?"

Benny replied, "I would switch the points for one of the trains."

"Good. But what if the lever broke?", asked the inspector.

"Then I'd run down to the signal box", said Benny, "and use the manual lever there."

"What if lightning struck it?" asked the inspector.

"Then..." Benny continued, "I'd run back into signal box & phone the next signal box."

"What if the phone was engaged?"

"Well, in that case," persevered Benny, "I'd rush down out of the box & use the public emergency phone at the level of the crossing up there"

"What would you do if THAT was vandalized?"

"Oh, well then I'd run into the village & get my Uncle Toby."

This bizarre response puzzled the Inspector, so he asked, "And just why would you do that?"

"Because Uncle Toby--he's never seen a train wreck!!!"



A lady who was speeding had an officer pulled her to the side of the road. She didn't have her seat belt on so as soon as she stopped, she quickly slipped it on before the officer got to her window.

After talking to her about speeding, the officer said, "I see you are wearing your seat belt. Do you believe in wearing it at all times?"

"Yes, I do, officer," she replied.

"Well," asked the officer, "do you always do it up with it looped through your steering wheel?"



I have a friend who filled his car with gas at a self-service gas station. After he had paid and driven away, he realized that he had left the gas cap on top of his car. He stopped and looked and, sure enough, it was lost.

Well, he thought for a second and realized that other people must have done the same thing, and that it was worth going back to look by the side of the road since even if he couldn't find his own gas cap, he might be able to find one that fit. Sure enough, he hadn't been searching long when he found a gas cap. He tried it on, and it went into place with a satisfying click.

"Great," he thought, "I lost my gas cap, but I found another one that fits.

And this one's even better because it locks..."



The newly-married husband came home from the office to find his young wife in floods of tears. "Darling, whatever is the matter?" he asked.

"Sweetheart," she sobbed, "the most terrible thing has happened! I cooked my very first Beef Bourguignon for you, and I got it out of the oven to season it, and the phone rang. When I came back from answering the phone," she sobbed again. "I found that the cat had eaten it!"

"Don't worry, darling," said her husband.

"Don't cry. We can get a new cat tomorrow."



Several women, each trying to one-up the other, appeared in court, each accusing the others of causing the trouble they were having in the apartment building where they lived.

The judge, with Solomon-like wisdom decreed, "Okay, I'm ready to hear the evidence...I'll hear the oldest first."

The case was dismissed for lack of testimony.



When a guy's printer type began to grow faint, he called a local repair shop where a friendly man informed him that the printer probably needed only to be cleaned.

Because the store charged \$50 for such cleanings, he told him he might be better off reading the printer's manual and trying the job himself.

Pleasantly surprised by his candor, he asked, "Does your boss know that you discourage business?"

"Actually, it's my boss's idea," the employee replied sheepishly.

"We usually make more money on repairs if we let people try to fix things themselves first."



My sister landed a good job with an accounting firm, and after a while she got a generous raise.

The day she found out about it, her husband picked her up from work, and they stopped for ice cream.

As they continued home, my sister blurted out, "Isn't it hard to believe that I have a job that pays this much money?"

Just then, she went to toss the last of her ice cream cone out the window.

However, the window was closed, and it smacked against the glass.

Her husband replied calmly, "Yes."



It was a terrible night, blowing cold and rain in a most frightful manner. The streets were deserted and the local baker was just about to close up shop when a little man slipped through the door. He carried an umbrella, blown inside out, and was bundled in two sweaters and a thick coat. But even so he still looked wet and bedraggled.

As he unwound his scarf he said to the baker, "May I have two bagels to go, please?"

The baker said in astonishment, "Two bagels? Nothing more?"

"That's right," answered the little

man. "One for me and one for Bernice."

"Bernice is your wife?" Asked the baker.

"What do you think," snapped the little man, "my mother would send me out on a night like this?"



I asked Grandpa why he still calls Grandma names like Honey, Beautiful, Sweetheart after 65 years. Grandpa said he forgot her name 5 years ago and He's afraid to ask her.



It was the first camping experience for Jed.

As soon as he had pitched his tent, he went for a hike in the woods. In about fifteen minutes he rushed back into camp, bleeding and disheveled.

"What happened?" asked a fellow camper.

"I was chased by a black snake!" cried the frightened Jed.

The camper laughed and retorted, "A black snake isn't deadly."

"Listen," groaned Jed, "If he can make you jump off a fifty-foot cliff, he is!"



A shy little 4-year-old came in to the dentist for his first cleaning and check-up. The hygienist tried to strike up a conversation but no response.

After the cleaning, the dentist was called in to do the final check.

The dentist tried to strike up a conversation as well.

"How old are you?" No response.

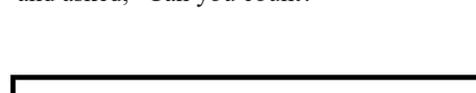
The dentist then asked, "Don't you know how old you are?"

Immediately four tiny fingers went up.

"Oh," replied the dentist, "and do you know how old that is?"

Four little fingers went up once again. Continuing the effort to get a response, the dentist asked, "Can you talk?"

The solemn little patient looked at him and asked, "Can you count?"



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We Are Conquerors

A World War 2 cartoon portrayed a rifle-bearing soldier approached by a tank. In one panel, the GI seemed a tiny, out-gunned insect compared to the metallic monster. But in an adjoining panel, the artist showed the soldier now armed with a bazooka. The tank still approaches, but now the GI is a giant and the tank is toy-sized. When the

resurrection power of Jesus Christ operates in our lives we are more than adequate for whatever approaches us. We overwhelmingly conquer through Him Who empowers us, equips us and enables us.

But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us. - Romans 8:37

God Knows Our Secrets

It feels good when we do good deeds. And if we're honest with ourselves, it feels even better when others praise us for doing it. After all, who doesn't want to be acknowledged? But what if no one ever saw what you do? Would you still be motivated to act justly? The truth is, God sees it all! In fact, God's infinite knowledge of everything we do, say, think, etc... can sometimes make us uncomfortable. But instead of feeling uncomfortable, we should be comforted. He is watching us because he loves us and we are important to Him. So, those good deeds

we do in private are not really that private. God sees it; He is pleased and you will be rewarded. Ask God to reveal to you the source of your motivation. Ask Him to help you change your motivation, if necessary, and to feel His pleasure when you act justly. Do something nice for someone else today, but do it anonymously. As tempting as it may be, don't let anyone know you did it. God knows. Pleasing Him is all that matters.

"Give your gifts in private, and your Father, who sees everything, will reward you." - >Matthew 6:4

No More Tears

A tear consists of basic elements of life--salt, albumin and water. Salt flavors and preserves, albumin carries protein's strength, and water is life's crucible. When you shed a tear, you're pouring out the whole of life, in miniature. In the span of existence, some people weep themselves dry. You may have experienced heartbreak so intense, you feel there's nothing left in-

side you. But He wipes the tears, and stops the drain of your being. He replenishes the empty vessel from which your tears welled up, and restores life to its fullness.

He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be any death; there will no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away." - Revelation 21:4

(FREEDOM continued from page 1)

to even try has been for naught. God did it all for me! I think more highly of myself than I ought. Ouch! These truths hurt, but they were the Truth. My challenge now was to not just know them, but to take them deep within and begin seeing my life as He wanted me to see it. He told me, "You will find in Me what you are looking for, Child. Keep seeking. I am what you seek."

I kept seeking and learning as my shame and guilt were removed. The new me was truly coming forth, but I still had lots to work on. I was tired of being angry, but I continued stepping forward. In another journal entry I wrote, "Like Joshua, You're taking me where I've never been before. I'm moving forward with You, Lord, but I'm not a beautiful sight right now. Inside and sometimes on the outside, I'm a screaming mess! You are touching and healing the rawest parts of my being right now and it hurts. You're telling me to work out this time with fear and trembling. Lord, I am fearful and I am trembling. I'm trusting that Your arms of love are around me, trusting that You and You alone will hold me tight, regardless of how I act and feel. You love me unconditionally. Like the priests who, in faith, but trembling in fear, put their toes into the raging Jordan, I step into my river of fear. Lord I trust You will not let me drown. You are my air...the breath of life. You are life."

I didn't drown, even when He told me to go in without my floaties of self-reliance and self-control. I had to learn to trust which was difficult. Some of you can identify with words

like trust, surviving, abuse, rejection, depression, and being homeless.

I have learned to trust Him. I have learned to love Him. I have learned that "Where the Spirit of the Lord is there is freedom" 2 Corinthians 3:17. I have learned to let Him go into the secret places to heal me. I have learned that I am deeply loved, totally accepted, and totally complete. I have learned that it takes one step at a time to walk into all that He has for me.

I truly don't know where I'm going, but I'm stepping forward in faith and obedience. He told me to write a book about my journey, and I obediently did that. He had me call it *Broken and Spilled Out*. Now I am waiting for His next instructions. I do know that He has healed many of my wounds, but I also know there are more to heal as we journey forward together. What I have learned above all is that "Freedom Reigns" in my life. I so pray it will in yours also.

I pray that my story has encouraged you and that it has brought hope to those who have felt hopeless. I also pray that with hope you will begin your journey towards healing. After all He is The Healer! He even told me that raising what is dead is His specialty. With that truth ringing in my ears, I let Him bring to life those dead place in my heart and spirit. Will you let Him do the same in your life?

If you want to read more of my journey and conversation with God, you can visit me at my website www.carolhogan.com/author.

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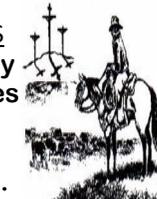
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HUGS From Heaven

I wonder sometimes if teachers ever realize the impact they have on some students. I graduated from Sealy High School nearly 51 years ago. When I was in the seventh grade, we got a new teacher named Mrs. Sammy Bynum. She was my study hall teacher and if she taught me nothing else I learned the hard way you never, ever, ever talk during her study hall. It took several months, but my best friend, Janis and I learned to obey her rule. I didn't really care for her, then, but over time, she became my best friend and mentor.

Another thing she taught me was that everyone has the right to their own opinion, even if they are wrong; they have the right to be wrong. She was right, too, but I had never had anyone

explain it quite the way she did and I've never forgotten that.

Other things she taught me: you never eat a baked potato with just butter--you must have sour cream, bacon and cheese to eat it correctly, the only acceptable evening meal after you turn 80 is cream of wheat, and she taught me, along with my parents, what unconditional love really is.

She lived with our family during her later years after she broke her hip and it's a time I deeply treasure. She never let anyone know what her real age was until she turned 80 and then she threw herself a huge birthday party and invited everyone she knew.

She had one son, Gordon, whom she was so proud of. Every few years since she has gone, I call Gordon to see how

he and his family are and to relieve memories of his mother. Last summer I tried calling him for our visit and I couldn't find him. His phone numbers were no longer working and he was no longer with the law firm he started so many years ago. I kept searching and finally found him at the Silverado Care Center near Herman Park in Houston. My daughter, Holly, was here for a visit and she

(HUGS continued on page 8)



Diana Boring and Gordon Bynum, son of her favorite teacher and friend.



Looking for something from a past issue but can't find your copy?

All 2017 issues of the Good News can be accessed in PDF format at:

www.thegoodnewsjustkeepscoming.net

The Work of Forgiveness

Forgiveness is one of the most important aspects of life. Yet, it is also one of the most difficult things we can ever take part in.

Many times, we look at forgiveness as something we do for the other person. We believe that if we forgive someone for the wrong they've done to us, then we are doing them a great service. But in reality, forgiveness is more for the offended than the offender; it's more for the victim than the vandal.

If you are holding onto something someone has done to you, work this week to let it go. Work toward forgiving them. And experience the freedom that comes with the forgiveness God has called you to extend!

Forgiving someone who has done you wrong is never easy. Ask God for His strength and His ability to help you forgive whoever has wronged you.

Extending forgiveness is not possible without first experiencing it. And the greatest act of forgiveness is that which God has extended to us. If you have not first experienced that forgiveness, **you can right now**. If you have experienced God's forgiveness, write down one specific way in which you can extend forgiveness to someone else this week.

***"Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven."* -Luke 6:37**

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Today, I choose Joy

Robert and Bobbie Wolgemuth have been personal friends for years so when we learned that Bobbie had received the serious diagnosis of stage IV ovarian cancer, our hearts went out to our friends and our prayers began in earnest.

Over the last two years the cancer has gone from discovery to treatment and from remission to recurrence. Bobbie is now undergoing more chemotherapy and an experimental clinical trial.

Bobbie's spirit and faith have not wavered. Her life is changing my life and the lives of almost every person she meets. She is one of the most positive people I have ever met. What makes the difference?

Bobbie is surrounded by an amazing loving family. With each update, Robert sends pictures of a family that has learned to love each other from generations of example.

In difficult times a loving family is one of the most comforting, healing, motivating pillars of support a person can have. It is not something to be assembled quickly in the face of trouble. This kind of support springs from the nurture and love demonstrated over many good and bad years

Bobbie leans on an amazing, loving God. This family's faith in God and personal trust in Jesus has not only sustained them, it has radiated like a tsunami of love to encompass all who meet them. From the hospital personnel who administer treatments, to neighbors who benefit from watching that genuine faith demonstrated in Bobbie's life, they all know what allows her to radiate love during her fight against this disease. This faith in Christ is not a bandage hastily dug from a box to

(JOY continued on page 7)



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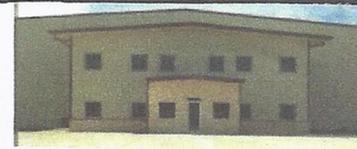
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Whatever you do, do it with all of your might, as working for the Lord, not for men.

Colossians 3:23



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Neiman-Marcus Cake

- 1 box German chocolate cake mix
- 2 eggs, beaten for the bottom layer
- 2 eggs for the top layer
- 1 stick butter, softened
- ½ cup chopped nuts
- 8 oz. pkg. cream cheese
- lb. confectioner's sugar
- 1 tsp. vanilla

Spray a glass pan with baking spray. Preheat oven to 350 degrees.

Beat the cake mix, 2 eggs, butter and nuts together and pour in pan for a bottom layer. Mixture will become very thick. Pour batter into pan and spread mixture to cover the pan, corner to corner.

Sometimes I butter my fingers and spread it manually. Then I lick the remainder of the batter from the bowl. YUM!

Beat the 2 eggs, cream cheese, confectioner's sugar and vanilla together and pour on top of bottom layer. Do not mix with bottom layer.

Bake at 350 degrees for 35 minutes. Let cool and cut like brownies. ENJOY!

This dessert is so impressive and rich, even a 4-star General will be impressed.

Lind Kay Shipp - Wife of Rev. Ranger Bradley Shipp
Columbus, Fort Benning, Georgia

FUN WITH GOD'S WORD

Use the scriptures below to find and circle the **BOLDFACED** words. **UNDERLINED WORDS** will be found together.

F	L	T	U	E	T	A	D	Y	A	D	N	U	S	U	R	O	C
E	C	R	U	C	I	F	I	E	D	W	G	L	U	A	D	C	I
P	R	K	P	H	A	T	X	E	L	E	I	C	S	E	D	S	U
D	T	C	W	S	A	B	B	A	T	H	V	E	S	T	B	O	L
J	E	O	S	K	U	T	U	E	I	A	O	I	J	X	U	M	M
L	E	G	N	A	T	R	L	N	N	C	A	L	R	W	R	A	A
P	O	S	D	D	K	I	P	T	E	R	E	O	R	R	I	G	R
A	P	N	U	R	A	E	L	R	H	R	B	S	V	Z	A	O	Y
T	U	S	A	S	F	B	V	A	I	D	R	S	L	A	L	U	M
D	Z	G	F	M	R	O	I	N	P	S	E	I	T	L	S	L	A
E	X	N	I	E	F	R	L	C	E	U	E	R	E	A	P	B	G
A	L	K	U	M	U	E	A	E	B	G	R	D	A	I	I	N	D
D	E	P	D	E	L	T	R	A	T	S	A	A	R	H	C	E	A
I	D	S	G	E	D	I	S	C	U	S	S	I	N	G	E	D	L
L	R	A	O	R	U	H	B	P	I	J	S	O	R	S	S	P	E
A	H	R	L	W	P	W	I	D	C	E	D	T	O	Q	B	C	N
N	A	Z	A	R	E	N	E	S	I	R	N	U	S	M	L	V	E

The next evening, when the Sabbath ended, Mary Magdalene and Salome and Mary, the mother of James went out and purchased burial spices to put on Jesus body. Very early on Sunday morning, just at sunrise, they came to the tomb. On the way there they were discussing who would roll the stone away from the entrance to the tomb. But when they arrived, they looked up and saw the stone, a very large one, had already been rolled aside. So they entered the tomb, and there on the right sat a young man clothed in a white robe. The women were startled, but the angel said, "Do not be so surprised. You are looking for Jesus, the Nazarene; who was crucified. He isn't here. He has been raised from the dead! Look this is where they laid his body."
Mark 16:1-6

M-F 9-5P / SAT 9-12

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Lifestyle Evangelism

Evangelism is not a program or the application of a method; it is a lifestyle. Some are naturally gifted at sharing their faith and others are not, but every Christian is called to testify to the good news that Jesus Christ came to seek and to save the lost.

A Canadian brigadier general was appointed Governor of the African Gold Coast following World War I. He was known as a wise, stalwart ruler and an inspiration to his subjects. A friend of the Governor once noticed a saying on his mirror that puzzled him. It said, "For God, For King, For Country." His friend said, "Sir, you see this every morning when you stand before your mirror. What does it mean to you?"

The Governor answered, "For God doesn't mean that much to me, but For King means a bit more. And For Country--well, that means everything to me." His friend answered, "I can see that king and

country are important in your life, but Governor, you've never sought to know God." Touched by his friend's forthrightness, the Governor said, "How does one get to know God?" The man replied, "You get to know God by learning about His Son, Jesus Christ." Then he told him how to invite the Lord into his life.

There is no reason for us to be intimidated by worldly power. We are empowered by the Holy Spirit when we speak of Christ, and we must seize the moment when opportunities arise.

MEMORY VERSE, 1 PETER 3:18
Sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to anyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you

Dr. Ed Young
Houston, TX

(JOY continued from page 5)

cover a recent wound. It is a healing balm that like the tight Wolgemuth family relationship has been nourished for generations.

Bobbie is an amazing artist. I opened my e-mail recently to see that painting of that single flower with a bird sitting on top. (She loves painting birds) The inscription on the painting simply said, "Today, I choose joy."

The day I received that e-mail was cold and overcast. I was just finishing a long tour of shows and I was feeling sorry for myself and exceedingly grumpy. The words "Today, I choose joy" jumped out with more power than "Stage IV ovarian cancer" ever could.

Bobbie was on her way to another difficult treatment and she was bringing stacks of Valentine's Day cards for her caretakers and other women in treatment at one of the Arnold Palmer Orlando Heath Hospitals. "I choose joy" was one of the cards. Bobbie chooses joy not just for herself but she chooses to

bring it to everyone she meets. As she walks the neighborhood recovering from the affects of treatment she prays for neighbors.

Someday I will face a challenge greater than any cold overcast day can offer. Thanks to the life of Bobbie, Robert, the beloved Wolgemuth children and grandchildren, I will be more prepared. They have taught me how the best face the worst. For that I will be eternally grateful.

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law." Galatians 5:22-23

Embrace Family.
Lean on Jesus.
Choose Joy.

Ken Davis
Franklin, Tennessee



Eva's Inspirations

I Still Believe

I still believe in miracles everyday,
And I still believe that God answers when we pray.
I still believe God loves me so,
And I still believe He watches over me, where ever I go.
I still believe that God can do anything,
And I still believe in all the blessings that He brings.
I still believe in all the good things in life,
And I still believe with God, everything will be alright
I still believe we should always love one another,
And I still believe I need my sisters, and my brothers.
I still believe that God has a plan,
And I still believe it includes everyone for He can.
I still believe in all the beauty that I see,
And I still believe it was created by God for you and me.
I still believe in the old rugged cross,
And I still believe God's Son Jesus paid the cost.
I still believe all Gods promises He made,
And I still believe the bible is still true today.
I still believe that life is worth living,
And I still believe through Jesus our sins are forgiven.
I still believe we will see heaven one day,
And I still believe God will show us the way.
I still believe in God up above,
And yes I still believe we were created out of His love.

Written by Eva Dimel
Inspired by God ©



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Area 456 Club: 4th - 6th grade
Elevate: Youth; Adult Bible Study

Friday - 10 a.m. - Intercessory Prayer

Where Love Abounds

The Street Fiddler

His name was David, but most just called him "the street fiddler." David was a disheveled, older man who was a regular fixture in popular places in our city, serenading passers-by with unusual skill at his violin. In exchange for his music, listeners would sometimes place a dollar in the open instrument case before them on the sidewalk. David would smile and nod his head in thanks as he continued to play.

When David died recently and his obituary appeared in a local paper, it was revealed that he spoke several languages, was the graduate of a prestigious university, and had even run for the state senate years ago. Some expressed surprise at the extent of his accomplishments, having assessed him on the basis of appearance alone.

Scripture tells us that "God created mankind in his own image" (Genesis 1:27). This reveals an inherent worth within each of us, regardless of how we look, what we have achieved, or what others may think of us. Even when we chose to turn from God in our sinfulness, God valued us so much that He sent His only Son to show us the way to salvation and eternity with Him.

We are loved by God, and all around us are those who are precious to Him. May we express our love for Him in return by sharing His love with others.

Heavenly Father, thank You for Your wonderful love for me. I pray that others may see Your love in my words and actions today.



Ready or Not!

Several years ago, the teacher of the five year old class at the church we attended presented the Easter Pageant to our congregation. The story was told as simply as possible so even a child could understand what Jesus did for us.

They chose my son to play the role of Jesus. I was one proud daddy and I invited all my friends and neighbors to watch my little "star." He wore one of my white t-shirts. It came all the way down to his ankles.

When it was time for him to be crucified, he walked over and stood in front of the cardboard cross. He had a dot of lipstick on the top of each hand and the top of his feet.

"I'm thirsty," he said. A few seconds later he said, "It is finished." Then he bowed his head and closed his eyes.

The soldiers led him to the styrofoam tomb and rolled the styrofoam stoned in front of the door.

Three little girls, dressed in bathrobes with towels on their head,

came to the tomb and cried and cried and cried. They were very convincing.

Then the stone was rolled away and out came my son, with both hands raised to God and said, "Don't cry. I'm not dead. I am alive!"

The little girl's tears quickly turned to smiles as they ran off the stage shouting, "He's Alive!!! He's Alive!!!"

I was so proud. What a beautiful portrayal of Easter. Not knowing what to do next, my son turned and ran back into the tomb.

My pride turned to embarrassment. That's not what happened next.

After the chuckles in the audience had quieted down, you could hear my son shout from the tomb, "Ready or not, here I come!"

Then I realized I was wrong. That is what will happen next, whether we're ready or not.

*As told by the late
Anthony Burger
Gaither Vocal Group*



(HUGS continued from page 4)
drove me to see him.

It was so wonderful. I had found a lost family member and we had the greatest visit. Reliving memories of his Mom was almost like being able to visit with her again. She was one teacher that was more than a teacher to me. She helped to shape my life and was one of my best friends. What a blessing it was to renew old friendships again.

King Solomon wrote in Proverbs 13:20 "Whoever walks with the wise becomes wise, but the companion of fools will suffer harm." Mrs. Bynum was definitely very wise and she truly blessed my life.

*In His Love,
Diana Boring
San Felipe, Texas*



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