

# 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 2

Non-Denominational, Non-Church Affiliated

February 2018

## The Best Valentine's Gift

**Give your Time.** Zig Ziglar once told me, “Love is spelled, T – I – M – E.” He is right. I think “time” has become the

most valuable thing I have to offer and it is increasing in value the older I get. **If I could do my life over one thing I would change** would be to give my

family and friends more time. I recently realized that the opportunity for this kind of giving closes far too quickly. My beautiful grandchildren once clamored for time with Grandpa. Now the older ones have

their own bank account of time and it is I who must often ask to make withdrawals from that precious account.

### Give your Attention.

You ask, “Isn’t that the same as giving your time?” Early in the lives of my children I would bring them with me to many events and have them accom-

pany me on my adventures. **The key words in that sentence are ME and MY.** Only later in life did I see how different that was from me being with THEM, creating adventure for THEM, or more im-



portantly my being involved in the adventures they created for themselves.

**Give them your verbal expression of love.** “I love you” may be the most important expression in the universe. I believe these are words we were born to hear and yet it is far too easy to let large chunks of time pass without saying those words. Without those words life is meaningless.

Giving the gift of those words brings meaning, hope the one who hears them. When I recently received a video birthday message from friends and family proclaiming their love, *it stirred my soul. When I re-*

*member that the message of Christmas is about a creator expressing his love by giving HIMSELF, the assurance of that love informs and transforms my life every day.*

*God did so much more than give me commandments. He took time to come and live here. He experienced what I experience. He knows what I face.*

*He focused his attention in my direction. He is there for me every day.*

*He gifted me with the ultimate expression of love*

**Ken Davis**  
Franklin, Tennessee

What will you do this year to prove to the world that

# GOD'S NOT DEAD?

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# A cheerful heart is good medicine

Proverbs 17:22



A school teacher injured his back and had to wear a plaster cast around the upper part of his body. It fit under his shirt and was not noticeable at all.

On the first day of the term, still with the cast under his shirt, he found himself assigned to the toughest students in school. Walking confidently into the rowdy classroom, he opened the window as wide as possible and then busied himself with desk work.

When a strong breeze made his tie flap, he took the desk stapler and stapled the tie to his chest.

Discipline was not a problem from that day forth!



A man traveling down a country road was forced to stop before a giant puddle covering the entire road. Looking to the side of the road, the man noticed a farmer leaning on a fence. "Think it's safe to cross?" the man asked.

"I reckon so," replied the farmer. The car was immediately swallowed by the puddle as the man drove in. In fact, it was so deep that he had to roll his window down to swim out of his car back to the surface.

As his head broke the surface the man said to the farmer, "I thought you said I could safely drive through this puddle!"

"Well, golly!" said the farmer, scratching his head.

"It only come up chest-high on my ducks!"



Mrs. Lonefold's dishwasher quit working, so she called a repairman.

He couldn't accommodate her with an evening appointment, and, since she had to go to work the next day, she told him: "I'll leave the key under the mat. Fix the dishwasher, leave the bill on the counter, and I'll mail you the check. By the way, don't worry about my Rottweiler. He won't bother you. But, whatever you do, do not under *any* circumstances talk to my parrot!"

When the repairman arrived at Mrs. Lonefold's apartment the next day, he discovered the biggest and meanest looking Rottweiler he had ever seen.

But, just like she had said, the dog just lay there on the carpet, watching the repair-

man go about his business.

However, the whole time he was there, the parrot drove him nuts with incessant cursing, yelling, and name-calling. Finally the repairman couldn't contain himself any longer and yelled: "Shut up, you stupid ugly bird!!"

To which the parrot replied: "GET HIM, Brutus!!"



A bachelor kept a cat for companionship, and loved his cat more than life. He was planning a trip to England and entrusted the cat to his brother's care. As soon as he arrived in England he called his brother.

"How is my cat?" he asked. "Your cat is dead," came the reply.

"Oh my," he exclaimed. "Did you have to tell me that way?"

"How else can I tell you your cat's dead?" inquired the brother.

"You should have led me up to it gradually," said the bachelor. "For an example, when I called tonight you could have told me my cat was on the roof, but the Fire Department is getting it down. When I called tomorrow night, you could have told me that they dropped him and broke his back, but a fine surgeon is doing all he can for him. Then, when I called the third night, you could have told me the surgeon did all he could but my cat passed away. That way it wouldn't have been such a shock.

"By the way," he continued, "how's Mother?"

"Mother?" came the reply. "Oh, she's up on the roof, but the Fire Department is getting her down."



After tucking their three-year-old child Sammy in for bed one night, his parents heard sobbing coming from his room.

Rushing back in, they found him crying hysterically. He managed to tell them that he had swallowed a penny and he was sure he was going to die. No amount of talking was helping.

His father, in an attempt to calm him down, palmed a penny from his pocket and pretended to pull it from Sammy's ear. Sammy was delighted.

In a flash, he snatched it from his father's hand, swallowed, and then cheerfully demanded, "Do it again, Dad!"



An elderly lady, who lived on the third floor of a boardinghouse, broke her leg. As the doctor put a cast on it, he warned her not to climb any stairs. Several months later, the doctor took off the cast.

"Can I climb stairs now?" asked the little old lady.

"Yes," he replied.

"Thank goodness!" she said. "I'm sick and tired of shinnying up and down that drainpipe!"



Jake had proposed to young Gina and was being interviewed by his prospective father-in-law.

"Do you think you are earning enough to support a family?" the older man asked the suitor.

"Yes, sir," replied Jake, "I'm sure I am."

"Think carefully now," said Gina's father. "There are twelve of us..."



A guy bought his wife a beautiful diamond ring for Christmas.

A friend of his said, "I thought she wanted one of those pretty 4-Wheel drive vehicles."

"She did," he replied, "But where in the world was I going to find a fake jeep!!"



One night, Tim was walking home when, all of a sudden, a thief jumped on him.

Tim and the thief were began to wrestle. They rolled about on the ground and Tim put up a tremendous fight. However, the thief managed to get the better of him and pinned him to the ground.

The thief then went through Tim's pockets and searched him. All the thief could

find on Tim was 25 cents.

The thief was so surprised at this that he asked Tim why he had bothered to fight so hard for 25 cents.

"Was that all you wanted?" Tim replied, "I thought you were after the five hundred dollars I've got in my shoe!"



An American businessman goes to Japan on a business trip, but he hates Japanese food, so he asks the concierge at his hotel if there's any place around where he can get American food.

The concierge tells him he's in luck, there's a pizza place that just opened, and they deliver. The concierge gives the businessman the phone number, and he goes back to his room and orders a pizza.

Thirty minutes later, the delivery guy shows up to the door with the pizza.

The businessman takes the pizza, and starts sneezing uncontrollably. He asks the delivery man, "What on earth did you put on this pizza?"

The delivery man bows deeply and says, "We put on the pizza what you ordered, pepper only."



Two elderly couples were enjoying friendly conversation when one of the men asked the other, "Fred, how was the memory clinic you went to last month?"

"Outstanding," Fred replied. "They taught us all the latest psychological techniques: visualization, association, etc. It was great."

"That's great! And what was the name of the clinic?"

Fred went blank. He thought and thought, but couldn't remember. Then a smile broke across his face and he asked, "What do you call that flower with the long stem and thorns?"

"You mean a rose?"

"Yes, that's it!"

Fred turned to his wife.

"Rose, what was the name of that memory clinic?"



One Sunday after church Mom asked her very young daughter what the lesson was about.

Her daughter answered, "Don't be scared, you'll get your quilts." Needless to say, Mom was perplexed.

Later in the day, the Pastor stopped by for tea. Mom asked him what that morning's Sunday school lesson was about. He said, "Be not afraid, Thy comforter is coming."



# How Can We Help?

Several years ago when the Southern California economy took a downturn, Pastor Bob Johnson saw not only difficulty but also opportunity. So he scheduled a meeting with the mayor of his city and asked, "What can our church do to help you?" The mayor was astonished. People usually came to him for help. Here was a minister offering him the services of an entire congregation.

Together the mayor and pastor came up with a plan to address several pressing needs. In their county alone, more than 20,000 seniors had gone the previous year without a single visitor. Hundreds of foster children needed families. And many other kids

needed tutoring to help them succeed in school. Some of those needs could be addressed without much financial investment, but they all required time and interest. And that's what the church had to give!

Jesus told His disciples, "Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me" Matthew 25:40

Giving isn't just for the wealthy; it's for all of us. God's kingdom work gets done when we give generously of the time, love and resources He has provided.

*Submitted by Elmer L. Crosby, Jr  
Houston, Texas*

# A lesson in trust

In one of Henri Nouwen's books, he tells about the lesson of trust he learned from a great trapeze artist. The acrobat said, "The flyer does nothing and the catcher does everything. I have simply to reach out my arms and hands and wait for him to catch me and pull me safely over the apron. The flyer must trust, with outstretched arms, that his catcher will be there for him."

In the great trapeze act of salva-

tion, God is the catcher, and we are the flyers. We trust. Period. We rely solely upon God's ability to catch us. As we do trust Him, a wonderful thing happens— we fly! Your Father has never dropped anyone. He will not drop you. His grip is sturdy and his hands are open. Place yourself entirely in his care. As you do, you will find it is possible--yes, possible--to be anxious for nothing.

# God Loves the Unlovely

Down in South Georgia, a little family of sharecroppers struggled to make ends meet. They never seemed to have enough to go around, but one year they planted at just the right time, the rains were plentiful, and the market conditions were right. After they gave the landowner his share, they paid their bills and had a little bit left over. They decided to buy one thing the entire family could enjoy, and after shopping through the dry goods catalog, they selected something they'd never owned before: a mirror.

When it arrived, the husband, wife and children gathered round, and unwrapped it together. The wife looked in it first, and then the husband. Each child took a turn, down to the youngest named Willie...a small, deformed child whose mouth was misshapen

and scarred. He stood before the mirror a long time before he turned to his mother. "Did you always know I looked like this...different from the others?" She said, "Yes, Willie." He said, "Momma, you mean I always looked like this, and you loved me anyway?" She said, "Yes, Willie. I love you because you are mine. You belong to me."

Isn't it a relief to know God has always known us, with our shortcomings, our flaws and sinful ways, and He loves us anyway? We were sinners when Christ died for us...not "cleaned up saints." He loves us because He gave His Son to die for us.

Romans 5:8

But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.



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# HUGS From Heaven

Just because we heard something said at a church doesn't mean it is true. I was told all my growing up years that our denomination was the only one that had real Christians, no other denomination would be in heaven and we were not to associate with members of other denominations. I always thought this was Biblical, why would my Sunday school teachers tell me anything that wasn't true. So that's what I grew up believing for years.

Several years ago, I was visiting with an old friend from a different denomination and told her what we had been taught. "That's funny you should say that," she said, "because we were told the same thing about our denomination. We were told not to be friends with anyone outside our denomination because we risk the chance of going to hell for it."

Only since I began publishing **The Good News Just Keeps Coming** nearly 13 years ago, did I really find out the truth from The Bible - **THERE ARE NO DENOMINATIONS IN HEAVEN!!**

Denominations are manmade, **NOT** God made. True Christians are those that have asked Jesus to forgive them or their sins (and the Bible says we all sin, even Billy Graham), (For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God. Romans 3:23.) and to ask Jesus to come into their lives and be their Lord and Savior. Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No ones comes to the Father except through me.: John 14:6. I receive letters from readers that that

want to teach about denominational doctrines, or preach a sermon or write a cute story. The paper began in an effort to tell people who may never go to church about the love of Jesus and what He has done for all of us. We are all God's children created by Him and He is calling everyone to follow Him. We try not to use "churchy" words so everyone can understand what we're talking about. We want our readers to know that God is real, and alive and working daily in the hearts and lives of everyone that will invite Him in their heart and lives. We invite people to write their story of how God is real in their lives and has helped them through a particular situation. Share with our readers what God has done for you.

Romans 10:9-10 states (NIV) 9 If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved.

If you would like to know more about having a relationship with Jesus call 1-888-NEED HIM (1-888-633-3446) any time day or night. You will forever be glad you did.

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

Give Your Flowers

Give your flowers to the living...  
Don't wait for folks to die.  
Show your love and compassion  
Before their lives pass by.  
Give your compliments and praises  
While their breath and life is near.  
Bring your hugs and warm wishes,  
Help shower them with cheer.  
Don't take their lives for granted,  
It's not what loved ones do.  
Take advantage of a reprieve,  
It's a blessing given few.  
Flowers wilt and soon are tossed.  
Their memories will just fade.  
Time is precious while hearts still beat.  
Let virtuous words be said.  
Enjoy each day that's given.  
It's a flower fresh and sweet,  
Filled with goodness, grace, and mercy,  
Share God's life with all you meet.

By Elizabeth Moreno  
Wharton, Texas

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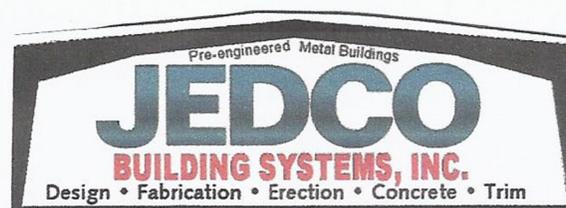
# God Has a Plan

In the famous lace shops of Brussels, Belgium, certain rooms are dedicated to the spinning of the finest lace with the most delicate of patterns. These rooms are completely dark except for a shaft of natural light from a solitary window. Only one spinner sits in the room and the light falls on the pattern while the worker remains in the dark.

Has God permitted a time of darkness in your world? You look but you cannot see him. You see only the fabric of circumstances woven

and interlaced. You might question the purpose behind this thread or that. But be assured, God has a pattern. He has a plan. The Bible says in Romans 8:28, "In all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose." He is not finished. But when he is, the lace will be beautiful!

*Max Lucado  
San Antonio, Texas*



**Proverbs  
3:5-6**

**40 years  
Experience**



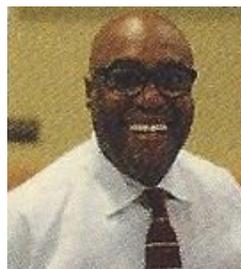
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Whatever you do, do it with all of your might, as working for the Lord, not for men.

Colossians 3:23



## Nana's Hallelujah Pound Cake

6 eggs	1 cup milk
3 cups sugar	3 cups flour
1 cup Crisco	1/2 tsp baking powder
1 stick margarine	2 tsp vanilla

Combine eggs, sugar, Crisco, and margarine in a large bowl and eat until fluffy. In another bowl, mix baking powder and flour together. Add dry ingredients, alternating with milk and mix well. Add vanilla and mix.

Grease and flour bundt pan. DO NOT preheat oven. Bake at 325 degrees for 1 1/2 to 2 hours or until center of cake is firm and outside is toasty brown.

Remove from pan immediately. It is great with fresh strawberries and whipped cream, or just eat it plain while still warm.

NOTE: The cake will fill the kitchen with such a wonderful smell the entire time it bakes. As kids, we were always asking, "Is it done yet?...Is it done yet?" We could not wait to have a slice of that delicious, warm cake. We noticed that each time Nana took the cake from the oven, we would hear her mutter, "Hallelujah! The pound cake is finally done."

Amy Malugen  
Oxford, North Carolina

## From Our Mailbox

Hi,

I am enclosing a check for my year's subscription of **The Good News Just Keeps Coming**. I enjoy the paper very much.

I am soon going to be 89 years old. Being old is an adventure of putting up with an old lady. It's always a thrill to see if I can understand myself each day and what foods still agree with my digestive system today.

May you have a good day and be sure to pray for our country, the world and the people God put here, although it's not really **OUR** country, it is only loaned to us while we are here.

Much Love,

Beverly Fuller  
Ninilchik, Alaska



## FUN WITH GOD'S WORD

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

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

Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud or rude. Love does not demand its own way. Love is not irritable and it keeps no record of when it has been wronged. It is never glad about injustice but it rejoices whenever the truth wins out. Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful and endures through every circumstance. Love will last forever, for prophecy and speaking in unknown language and special knowledge will all disappear. Now we know only a little and even the gift of prophecy reveals little. But when the end comes, these will all disappear...

There are three things that will endure: faith; hope and love, and the greatest of these is love.

1 Corinthians 13:4-10, 13

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# The Healing Power of Fellowship

The church of Jesus Christ should be a house of healing. Our fellowship should be nurturing and life-giving--not fearful and vengeful. Some have said that the church is the only institution that shoots its wounded--and sadly, many times she does. But that should not be the case.

We could take a lesson from nature in observing the mighty Sequoia tree. Sequoias are among the oldest trees in the forest, and they are strong. They grow straight because their root system is self-



correcting, and their bark contains an acid that repels insect attacks. They withstand wind and violent rain because they grow in clumps, allowing their root systems to intertwine. To blow over

one tree would mean blowing over an entire hillside of them!

Oh, if the church were as strong from within! In the fellowship of believers, there should be a spirit of openness to those who are hurting, confused, embarrassed, disenfranchised, lost.

The down-and-out should be "in" in God's family, and the suffering should find comfort. Why? Because the Holy Spirit who lives in us empowers our hearts to love as Jesus loved. We have the resources to be strong, and to nurture the weak until they are

strengthened, too.

I Corinthians 12:14  
For the body is not one member, but many.



## Eva's Inspirations

### Loving Jesus

Loving Jesus more and more everyday,  
Forever grateful that He shows me the way.  
To the Master God's Heavenly home,  
Where I know I will never again be alone.  
Loving Jesus for all that He has done,  
Sacrificing His life so that we could have one.  
Taking on each and everyone's sins,  
Loving us so much He would do it all again.  
Loving Jesus who teaches us how to live,  
Walking in His love He shows us how to give.  
Knowing we can be happy and so filled with love,  
Forever grateful to God up above.  
Loving Jesus He is my everything,  
Showing me all the good to my life that He brings.  
Making my life complete in everyway,  
Yes loving Jesus who is with me everyday.

*Written by Eva Dimel  
Inspired by God ©*



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# Moving an Iceberg

Ice-cold folks are among the toughest we encounter. Nothing moves them. Nothing seems to break through their frosty exterior. And if we're honest, their coolness repels us.

They're hard to love. But are we excused? You know the answer. We are not. Not only are we called to love those who love us, we are called to love those who do not.

The Titanic was an engineering marvel: the largest, fastest cruise ship ever built. Her designers boasted that she was unsinkable. But history records that the great ship encountered an iceberg on her maiden voyage and sunk to the bottom of the sea, claiming over 2,000 lives. The iceberg was sighted before the collision, but the ship met it "full speed ahead" with disastrous results.

Sometimes we meet the "iceberg" folks in our lives in much the same way: we go full speed ahead, hoping to overpower them. We meet their barb with one of our own. We try to disarm them before they can disarm us. We match their chilly ways with our own brand of cool. But there is another way to deal with an iceberg. In time, the ice

that wrecked Titanic broke away from its moorings and floated out to sea. Surrounded by the warmer waters of the ocean, it eventually melted away. When we love the

unlovable with the warm and steady love of Christ, amazing things can happen.

*For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax gatherers do the same?*  
Matthew 5:46



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