

# 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

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## The view from the sober side

I've been a Christian since I was a kid, I just didn't start to show Jesus any real respect or love until about 2011.

I'm an alcoholic. For years and years I drank way too much, way too often - as a Christian. No, I didn't get "all religious" to try to stop drinking. However, I was "religious" while drinking. I would testify with a beer in my hand and not think there was anything wrong with that. And really, there is nothing wrong with alcohol, there is something wrong with ME drinking it. I can't. I don't have an "off button."

I want to say, right off the bat, that there's not anything wrong with drinking. **IF** you don't have a problem with it. If you have to constantly ask yourself "Do I have a problem," more than likely you do.

My wife can have a glass or two of wine, or a margarita, and be done. She won't even think about it anymore. Me? It's like lighting a powder keg. I want to polish off that bottle of wine, and another. Margaritas? I'll have the pitcher, and shots, oh, and some beers too. Now, I can try to fight it, but I'd be fooling myself. I always want more!

When I controlled my drinking I couldn't enjoy it, and when I enjoyed it I couldn't control it. Once I start, I'm off to the races. I'm either going to drink a ridiculous amount, then binge eat and pass out, or, be grumpy and extremely agitated if I couldn't get access to more.

I liked to drink because it relaxed me;

nothing quite likes that first beer. But then, after relaxed, I'd become overly excited! Then, I'd become the smartest man alive with "great business ideas," or become "the most handsome man in the world and every lady wanted me".... \*pfft!\* what an idiot. I look back now at old Matt and I want to grab him and smack him. I was only fooling one person, and that was me, unaware that I was being a puppet for the devil, digging my own grave. I was blind to the control he had over me.

***"Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour." 1 Peter: 5:8***

We problem drinkers drink for one reason only, and if someone says otherwise they are lying. We want to feel different! If we are sad, we want to feel happy. If we are stressed, we want to feel relaxed. If we are uncomfortable, we want to feel comfortable. If we feel like a failure, we want to feel like a winner. If we are bored, we want to feel entertained. If we are already extremely excited and happy, we want to feel even more excited and happy. We are not trying to hurt people; we just want to feel different. We want to like ourselves by getting away from who we really are.

The great news is this: Jesus teaches you who you really are sober, and you are very special. Sober you can unlock your full potential. Sober you can reach your highest goals; love others and love yourself on the deepest level you've

ever known. Sober you can finally understand just how amazing and dearly loved you are by God, our creator. This only begins when we finally face the truth about our lives. Truth is good for us. As drinkers, we don't like the truth. We don't want to face it. We want to shove everything down deep, and cover it up with a buzz. However, Jesus says, "Give it to me." He can take what "makes" you want to drink, and use it to transform you into a great person of God and bring glory to Him.



***"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light." Matthew 11:28-30***

The devil wants the opposite to happen. He is a liar and wants you to think that you don't have a problem and everyone else does. "Oh just have a few, you've not drank in a couple days, you're fine. Relax, enjoy yourself. You deserve it. You don't want people to think you have a drinking problem do you? So drink!"

For me, even as a successful business owner, I was a closet drunk. I hid it well, or so I thought. I used the excuse of "I can do whatever I want! It's legal! Back off! I'm free to drink." Yeah, I was "free" to drink, but I wasn't free **not** to drink. I would try to "cut back," or only drink on a certain day (that never lasted, it's all I thought about), or, only drink on Friday (but then Saturday came, and I had left over beer, so I had to drink that). Sunday, I was usually too hung over to move, and then Monday

*(VIEW continued on page 3)*

**The Good News Just Keeps Coming** is a monthly, free, reader publication of positive and uplifting stories submitted by local citizens showing God's works and wonders. With the help of advertising sponsors, it is able to distribute **17,000+ copies** throughout 40+ towns and cities in several areas in Texas and beyond.

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# Innocent Eyes

*A merry heart doeth good like a medicine.*  
Proverbs 17:22

Two snails were standing on the side of the road, a turtle stopped and said, "Do you guys want a ride on my back?" One of the snails took him up on his offer and off he went.

As the turtle reached the intersection another turtle came along and crashed into him. The poor little snail was thrown and killed. A cop investigating the accident began questioning the dead snail's buddy. "What happened?" he asked.

The little snail replied, "I don't know it all happened so fast."



A porter loaded down with suitcases followed the couple to the airline check-in counter.

As they approached the line, the husband glanced at the pile of luggage and said to the wife, "Why didn't you bring the piano, too?"

"Are you trying to be funny?" she replied.

"No, I really wish you had," he sighed. "I left the tickets on it."



While sports fishing off Melbourne Beach, a tourist capsized his boat. He could swim, but his fear of alligators kept him clinging to the overturned craft.

Spotting an old beachcomber standing on the shore, the tourist shouted, "Are there any gators around here?!"

"Naw," the man hollered back, "They ain't been around for years!"

Feeling safe, the tourist started swimming leisurely toward the shore. About halfway there he asked the guy, "How'd you get rid of the gators?"

"We didn't do nothin'," the beach bum said.

"The sharks got 'em."



A man goes into an ice cream parlor and says, "I'd like two scoops of chocolate ice cream, please."

The girl behind the counter says, "I'm very sorry, sir, but our delivery truck broke down this morning. We're out of chocolate."

"In that case," the man says, "I'll have two scoops of chocolate ice cream."

"You don't understand, sir," the girl says. "We have no chocolate."

"Then just give me some chocolate," he says.

Getting angrier by the second, the girl says, "Sir, will you spell VAN, as in vanilla?"

The man says, "V-A-N."

"Now spell STRAW, as in strawberry."

"OK. S-T-R-A-W."

"Now," the girl says, "spell STINK, as in chocolate."

The man hesitates. Then he says, "There is no stink in chocolate."

"THAT'S WHAT I'VE BEEN TRYING TO TELL YOU!" she screams.



Mr. Norton was in the hospital recovering from an operation when the nurse on duty received a call from a man who asked how Mr. Norton was doing.

"Oh, quite well. We expect he'll be released in the morning."

"Very good, thank you."

"May I ask who is calling so that I can tell Mr. Norton?" inquired the nurse.

"This IS Mr. Norton. The doctors don't tell me anything!"



A young businessman had just started his own firm. He had just rented a beautiful office and had it furnished with antiques.

Sitting there, he saw a man come into the outer office. Wishing to appear the hot shot, the businessman picked up the phone and started to pretend he had a big deal working.

He threw huge figures around and made giant commitments. Finally he

hung up and asked the visitor, "Can I help you?"

"Yeah, I've come to activate your phone lines."



Part of my job as a 911 dispatcher is to interrogate callers who are in various states of panic so I can send the appropriate emergency equipment.

One day a woman called to say that a family member had fallen and needed to go to a hospital.

After finding out where she lived and assuring her that the paramedics would arrive shortly, I asked her, "Do you know what caused the fall?"

"No," the woman nervously replied. "What?"



A Texan farmer goes to Australia for a vacation. There he meets an Aussie farmer and gets talking.

The Aussie shows off his big wheat field and the Texan says, "Oh! We have wheat fields that are at least twice as large."

Then they walk around the ranch a little, and the Aussie shows off his herd of cattle. The Texan immediately says, "We have longhorns that are at least twice as large as your cows."

The conversation has, meanwhile, almost died when the Texan sees a group of kangaroos hopping through the field. He asks, "And what are those?"

The Aussie replies with an incredulous look, "Don't you have any grasshoppers in Texas?"



A lady lost her handbag at the mall. An honest young lad found it and returned it to her.

Looking in her purse, she said, "Hmm, that's funny. When I lost my bag, there was a \$20 bill in it. Now there are twenty \$1 bills."

The boy replied, "That IS funny. The last time I found a lady's purse, she didn't have any change for a reward."



A veterinarian was feeling ill and went to see her doctor.

The doctor asked her all the usual questions: what were the symptoms, how long had they been occurring, etc. Suddenly, she interrupted him: "Hey look, I'm a vet - I don't need to ask my patients these kind of questions: I can tell what's wrong just by looking." She

he smugly added, "Why can't you?" The doctor nodded, stood back, looked her up and down, quickly wrote out a prescription, handed it to her and said, "There you are. Of course, if that doesn't work, we'll have to have you put to sleep."



Four expectant fathers were in a Minnesota hospital waiting room while their wives were in labor.

The nurse comes in and tells the first man, "Congratulations, You're the father of twins."

"What a coincidence!" the man exclaims. "I work for the Minnesota Twins baseball team!"

The nurse returns a short while later and tells the second man, "You are the father of triplets."

"Wow, what a coincidence!" he replies. "I work for the 3M Corporation." When the nurse comes again, she tells the third man that his wife has given birth to quadruplets.

"Another coincidence!" he tells her. "I work for the Four Seasons Hotel!"

At this point, the fourth guy faints. When he comes to, the others ask him what was wrong.

He moans, "I work for Seven-Eleven!"



Three preachers sat discussing the best positions for prayer, while a telephone repairman worked nearby. "Kneeling is definitely best," claimed one.

"No," another contended. "I get the best results standing with my hands outstretched to Heaven."

"You're both wrong," the third insisted. "The most effective prayer position is lying prostrate, face down on the floor."

The repairman could contain himself no longer.

"Hey, fellas," he interrupted, "The best prayin' I ever did was hangin' upside down from a telephone pole."

# 92 Years of Wisdom

While watching a little TV on Sunday instead of going to church, I watched church in Atlanta honoring one of its senior pastors who had been retired many years. He was 92 at that time and I wondered why the church even bothered to ask the old gentleman to preach at that age. After a warm welcome, introduction of this speaker, and as the applause quieted down, he rose from his high back chair and walked slowly, with great effort and a sliding gait to the podium. Without a note or written paper of any kind he placed both hands on the pulpit to steady himself and then quietly and slowly he began to speak....

"When I was asked to come here today and talk to you, your pastor asked me to tell you what was the greatest lesson ever learned in my 50-odd years of preaching. I thought about it for a few days and boiled it down to just one thing that made the most difference in my life and sustained me through all my trials.. The one thing that I could always rely on when tears and heartbreak and pain and fear and sorrow paralyzed me...

The only thing that would comfort was this verse...

*"Jesus loves me this I know,  
For the Bible tells me so.  
Little ones to Him belong,  
We are weak but He is strong.*

*Yes, Jesus loves me,  
The Bible tells me so."*

The old pastor stated, "I always noticed that it was the adults who chose the children's hymn 'Jesus Loves Me' (for the children of course) during a hymn sing, and it was the adults who sang the loudest because I could see they knew it the best."  
"Here for you now is a Senior version of 'Jesus Loves Me'":

## JESUS LOVES ME

*Jesus loves me this I know,  
Though my hair is white as snow.  
Though my sight is growing dim,  
Still He bids me trust in Him.*

(CHORUS)

*YES, JESUS LOVES ME,  
YES, JESUS LOVES ME,  
YES, JESUS LOVES ME, FOR  
THE BIBLE TELLS  
ME SO.*

*Though my steps are  
oh, so slow,  
With my hand in His  
I'll go*

*On through life, let  
come what may,  
He'll be there to lead  
the way.*

(CHORUS)

*When the nights are  
dark and long,  
In my heart He puts a  
song.*

*Telling me in words so clear,  
"Have no fear, for I am near."  
(CHORUS)*

*When my work on earth is done,  
And life's victories have been won.  
He will take me home above,  
Then I'll understand His love.  
(CHORUS)*

*I love Jesus, does He know?  
Have I ever told Him so?  
Jesus loves to hear me say,  
That I love Him every day.  
(CHORUS)*

(VIEW continued from page 1)

rolled around, "I've already drank three days in a row; why not go have some drinks after work."

I was a slave. I tried "quitting" hundreds of times, and all of them were short-lived. Eventually I just stopped trying to quit, and said, "I drink. It's just who I am. Nothing I can do about it." What lies!

Then one day as I was begging God, "Please, just take this desire away from me." God is not a magic genie - He is sovereign God, who loves us. I felt something down deep, in my heart telling me I had to face myself. I did and it hurt a lot. It finally made sense. I knew that the only way I would not just quit, but begin, would be to face whatever feelings I kept drinking away; the very feelings that Jesus wanted me to face, with Him and through Him. But I had to feel them in order to grow towards Him and truly feel His love.

It has been almost 18 months without a drop and I feel good. Actually, that's probably the biggest understatement of the year for me. One of my gifts is writing, but I can't even come up with an adjective to describe how really good I feel. You just have to feel it to understand it. I have so much energy, so much I don't even know what to do with it sometimes. It's amazing!

So if this is you in the bondage of an addiction, in chains, in slavery, my friend, I'm here to tell you today that there is hope! This "hope" that I speak of is found in drawing near to Jesus, by getting to know Him, studying Him and praising Him. This hope is found in taking on His characteristics, His words,

His power, and mostly His love. The Bible says in 1 John that "God Is Love," and Jesus personified God. When you get to know Jesus, you get to know your Creator. When you get to know Him you get to see real love in action. He has a better plan for you, and it does not include your addiction.

Give it all to Jesus. Say, "Here, take me, I'm yours." You must stop trying to quit. **You** cannot quit! Quitting requires **your** power, beginning requires God's power. You can do it through Christ. Freedom waits. Break free. Begin.

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# Robby

Robby. But Robby said that it had always been his Mother's dream to hear him play the piano, so I took him as a student. At the end of each weekly lesson he would always say 'My Mom's going to hear me play someday.' But to me, it seemed hopeless; he just did not have any inborn ability.

I only knew his mother from a distance as she dropped Robby off or waited in her aged car to pick him up. She always waved and smiled, but never dropped in. Then one day Robby stopped coming for his lessons. I thought about calling him, but assumed that because of his lack of ability he had decided to pursue something else. I was also glad that he had stopped coming. He was a bad advertisement for my teaching!

Several weeks later I mailed a flyer recital to the students' homes. To my surprise, Robby (who had received a flyer) asked if he could be in the recital. I told him that the recital was for current pupils and that because he had dropped out, he really did not qualify.

He told me that his Mother had been sick and unable to take him to his piano lessons, but that he had been practicing. "Please Miss Honor, I've just got to play," he insisted. I don't know what led me to allow him to play in the recital - perhaps it was his insistence or maybe something inside of me saying that it would be

all right.

The night of the recital came and the high school gymnasium was packed with parents, relatives and friends. I put Robby last in the program, just before I was to come up and thank all the students and play a finishing piece. I thought that any damage he might do would come at the end of the program and I could always salvage his poor performance through my curtain closer.

The Recital went off without a hitch, the students had been practicing and it showed. Then Robby came up on the stage. His clothes were wrinkled and his hair looked as though he had run an egg beater through it. 'Why wasn't he dressed up like the other students?' I thought. 'Why didn't his Mother at least make him comb his hair for this special night?'

Robby pulled out the piano bench, and I was surprised when he announced that he had chosen to play Mozart's Concerto No. 21 in C Major. I was not prepared for what I heard next. His fingers were light on the keys; they even danced nimbly on the ivories. He went from pianissimo to fortissimo, from allegro to virtuoso; his suspended chords that Mozart demands were magnificent! Never had I heard Mozart played so well by anyone his age. After six and a half minutes he ended in a grand crescendo, and everyone was on their feet in wild

applause!

Overcome and in tears, I ran up on stage and put my arms around Robby in joy. "I have never heard you play like that Robby, how did you do it?" Through the microphone Robby explained: 'Well, Miss Honor, remember I told you that my mom was sick? Well, she actually had cancer and passed away this morning. And well... she was born deaf, so tonight was the first time she had ever heard me play, and I wanted to make it special.'

There wasn't a dry eye in the house that evening. As people from Social Services led Robby from the stage to be placed in to Foster Care, I noticed that even their eyes were red and puffy.

I thought to myself then how much richer my life had been for taking Robby as my pupil. No, I have never had a prodigy, but that night I became a prodigy... of Robby. He was the teacher and I was the pupil, for he had taught me the meaning of perseverance and love and believing in yourself, and may be even taking a chance on someone and you didn't know why.

*"The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'*

*Matthew 25:40*

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# Do You Pray?

Do you pray in the good times, or only in the bad,  
Do you pray when you're happy, or just when you are sad.  
Do you pray in the sun shine, or only in the rain,  
Do you pray when you see a rainbow, or just when you're in pain.  
Do you bask in His glory, and never ending grace,  
Do you take the time to thank Him for bringing you to this place.  
Do you look up, knowing He's there and always will be,  
Do you humbly bow before Him and pray on bended knees.  
Do you pray when your future and everything looks bright,  
Do you pray when it's dark and your looking for the light.  
Do you pray when you need Him, and then put Him aside,  
Do you pray knowing He'll answer, and comfort you when you cry.  
Do you pray grateful for your blessings, that He always sends,  
Do you pray to your heavenly Father whose love will never end.

Written By Eva Dimel  
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*"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart as working for the Lord."*

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# FUN WITH GOD'S WORD

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

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

## Philly Cheese Ball

- 2 pkg. Philadelphia Cream Cheese
- 1 8oz can crushed pineapple, drained
- 1/2 cup chopped onion
- 1/2 cup chopped green pepper
- 1 TBSP season salt
- 1/2 cup finely chopped pecans

Mix all ingredients together except chopped pecans. Roll into a ball. Roll ball in chopped pecans. Keep refrigerated. Serve on your favorite cracker. Enjoy.

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And God said, "Let us make people in our image to be like ourselves. They will be masters over all life, the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky and all the livestock, wild animals and small animals. So God created people in His own image; God patterned them after Himself; male and female, He created them. God blessed them and told them, "Multiply and fill the earth and subdue it. Be master over the fish and birds and all the animals." And God said, "I have given you the seed bearing plants throughout the earth and all the fruit trees for your food." And so it was. Then God looked over all He had made and He saw it was excellent in every way. This all happened on the sixth day. Genesis 1:26-31

If you would like a personal relationship with **Jesus Christ**, call **1-888-NEED HIM** (1-888-633-3446)

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# Things to Remember

\* Prayer is not a "spare wheel" that you pull out when in trouble, but it is a "steering wheel" that directs the right path throughout the journey.

\* A blind person asked St. Anthony: "Can there be anything worse than losing eye sight?" He replied: "Yes, losing your vision!"

\* So why is a car's WINDSHIELD so large & the rear view mirror so small? Because our PAST is not as important as our FUTURE. So, look ahead and move on.

\* When you pray for others, God listens to you and blesses them, and sometimes, when you are safe and happy, remember that someone has prayed for you.

\* Often when we lose hope and think this is the end, GOD smiles from above and says, "Relax, sweetheart, it's just a bend, not the end!"

\*WORRYING does not take away tomorrow's TROUBLES, it takes away today's PEACE.

# Thank You God

"If you have food in the refrigerator, clothes on your back, a roof overhead and a place to sleep you are richer than 75% of this world.

"If you can attend a church without the fear of harassment, arrest, torture or death you are envied by, and more blessed than, three billion people in the world."

If you have money in the bank, in your wallet, and spare change in a dish, you are among the top 8% of the world's wealthy,

"If you can hold your head up and smile, you are not the norm, you're unique to all those in doubt and despair..."

"If you woke up this morning with more health than illness.. You are more blessed than the many who will not even survive this day."

"If you can read this message, you are more blessed than over two billion people in the world who cannot read at all."

"If you have never experienced the fear in battle, the loneliness of imprisonment, the agony of torture, or the pangs of starvation... You are ahead of 700 million people in the world."

Thank God for everything, especially His Son, Jesus and His sacrifice for us, all our soldiers, our family and friends; and the privilege of living in the U.S.A.

# Barking Dogs

My childhood home was in a small town, but sandwiched close to other houses. The next door neighbor had 26 dogs. At night they would howl like packs of banshees. During World War 2, my dad worked two shifts, and needed sleep. One night he could stand the howling no longer, and went out to our car and laid down on the horn. He told the neighbor he would stop the blare when the dogs ceased their bark-

ing. When God's people lift up the joyful noise of praise and worship, the powers of darkness are silenced. Praising God mutes the enemy. *You have taught children and nursing infants to give you praise. They silence your enemies who were seeking revenge.* - Psalm 8:2 NLT

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# HUGS From Heaven

December was filled with one big hug after another. The citizen's Christmas pageant at Brookwood always makes my Christmas complete. This year the story was written around the song, "Mary Did You Know" It's always been one of my favorites. I'd like to share the words with you.

*Mary, did you know  
That your baby boy will one day  
walk on water?  
Mary Did you know  
That your baby boy will save our  
sons and daughters?  
Did you know  
That your baby boy has come to  
make you new?  
This child that you've delivered  
Will soon deliver you  
Mary, did you know  
That your baby boy will give sight  
to a blind man?  
Mary Did you know  
That your baby boy will calm a  
storm with His hand?  
Did you know  
That your baby boy has walked  
where angels trod?  
And when you kiss your little boy*

*You've kissed the face of God  
Mary, did you know?  
The blind will see  
The deaf will hear  
And the dead will live again  
The lame will leap  
The dumb will speak  
The praises of the Lamb  
Mary, did you know  
That your baby boy is Lord of all  
creation?  
Mary Did you know  
That your baby boy will one day  
rule the nations?  
Did you know  
That your baby boy is heaven's per-  
fect Lamb?  
This sleeping child you're holding  
Is the Great I Am*

The message of this song is enough to bring joy to all who hear it, but seeing the child like excitement of the citizens of Brookwood singing the song was one of the biggest hugs of the year for me. After the pageant my daughter, Holly, took me to the Cynthia Woods Pavilion in the Woodlands to see Michael W. Smith and Amy Grant singing a beautiful selection

of Christmas carols. They were accompanied by a full orchestra and choir. The music was chill bumpy. It was my first time to the pavilion, and it is an outdoor facility, so I bundled up with layers of clothes and enjoyed every minute of it.

I knew Holly had always loved the music of Michael W. Smith, but I didn't know until that night that at one of her lowest points when she was 14, it was Michael's song "Friends," that led her back to God and averted the destructive thoughts she was having. When we arrived at the venue, Holly became so overcome with joy and praise that she cried through the entire concert all the time smiling from ear to ear. It was tears of joy and gratitude, Jeanette Cliff George used to call tears liquid love. The spirit of the Lord was so evident there and it was one of the closest experiences to surely what heaven must be like, that I could experience here on earth.

The concert was sponsored by Cracker Barrel and KSBJ radio of Houston. KSBJ had prayer partners everywhere for anyone that wanted someone to pray with them. Periodically through the concert, Michael would describe the delicious food at Cracker Barrel and suggested we go there after the concert.

Michael's merchandising tactics paid off because when we left the concert my stomach was aching for food from Cracker Barrel, so even though we only had 15 minutes before they closed, we headed to the closest Cracker Barrel for their wonderful breakfast foods. When we arrived, the restaurant was full of people. Listening to the other customers, we soon realized all of them had been at Michael's concert, too. We really enjoyed getting to make new friends and share praises for what God has done for us.

I got to see so many old friends at the Rosenberg Fire Department Christmas party. It had been at least 30 years since I'd seen many of them and it was such a joy. Throughout the holidays I got to see all of my grandchildren and my new great

granddaughter. My grandchildren are scattered all of the country. Jacob has been serving our nation in the Middle East, but is now back at home in Colorado. He and his wife, Tyler, were able to visit before Christmas for a week and Aaron and his wife Kaitlin were here from South Carolina after Christmas. All in all, there were way too many hugs to share them all with you, but for me, December was a harvest of Hugs from God.

Have a very blessed and happy new year.

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

## Integrity

The military officer sat in a prison camp. "You have one hour to live," his captors told him, "and one letter to write."

The POW penned one sentence to his son. "Dear Bill, the word is integrity." The young man wouldn't have his father during critical formative years, but he had his dad's character going before him. The son was blessed. Integrity is a handsome garment, woven of who you are when no one is watching, what you stand for, and the name you carry. Integrity is among the greatest riches we can pass to our children.

***A righteous man who walks in his integrity — How blessed are his sons after him.***

***Proverbs 20:7***



*Holly and Diana bundled up for the Michael W. Smith concert at the Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion.*