
How Do We Make It Through the Tough Times?



May
2008

Many have asked the question: how do we make it through the times that seem to overwhelm us? I have answered this question personally for many but here I would like to pass on an encourage to everyone. We all have faced or will face times that are almost more than we can bear.



After Marli's passing I discovered Psalm 86. This is a passage I read and prayed everyday for over a year following May 26, 02. It has become very important to me. I pray the Psalm will speak to you as well. It is a prayer of David's, so pray these words and insert personal thoughts. Let me show you an example. And by the way, this may help with those who have asked how to pray the Psalms.

If you have your Bible nearby, read Psalm 86. For the most part it is pretty straight forward so I will only look at verses 14 - 17.

14 The arrogant are attacking me, O God; a band of ruthless men seeks my life— men without regard for you.

15 But you, O Lord, are a compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness.

16 Turn to me and have mercy on me; grant your strength to your servant and save the son of your maid-servant.

17 Give me a sign of your goodness, that my enemies may see it and be put to shame, for you, O LORD, have helped me and comforted me.

There are many things within our lives that can seem to be out to destroy us, whether people or events. They can cause doubts, fears, panic, stress, hopelessness and anxieties that can potentially do us great harm.

These emotions can seem to paralyze. Remember, however, God does not want you to ever be afraid or to be overwhelmed by any earthly emotions. So using these verses of Psalm 86 insert the item or items that are causing the stress and pray. For example in verse 17 could sound like this: *Anger and panic are attacking me, O God; a band of ruthless emotions seek my life – feelings without regard for you.*

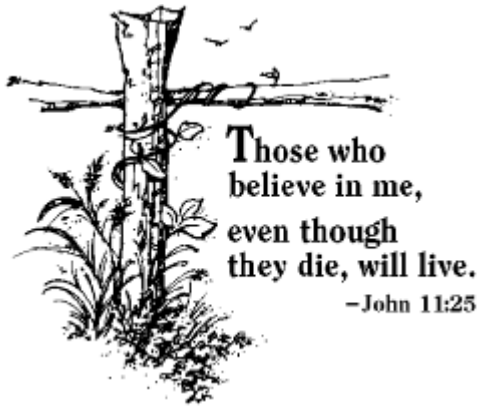
Then follow that with verses 15 & 16 - **But you, O Lord, are a compassionate and gracious God. Turn to me and have mercy on me; grant your strength to your servant.** I think our Lord will respond to this prayer.

How did I make it through those days after Marli's passing without turning and leaving? Is it because I am a strong overly faithful minister? No, no! Psalm 86 is the reason. I prayed verse 17 many times over and asked for God to give me the faith and assurance in him, even though I did not like what he did. I prayed for the courage to accept his actions as perfect and good. Then my life living in faith before a good and true God would become the sign of his goodness rather than a sign of my failing. And my enemies, those who thought for sure, even hoped I would leave the ministry, would see the goodness of God and be put to shame. My Lord answered that prayer.

Re-read verse 17 in that light and pray the same thing for yourself. Yes, you may have fear; you may be angry with someone but pray for God to give you a sign of his love, a sign of a strong and believing faith in the good and perfect acts of a loving God. Then after praying and giving it all to God, become that sign and your enemies (fear, panic, stress, broken relationships or someone) will be put to shame.

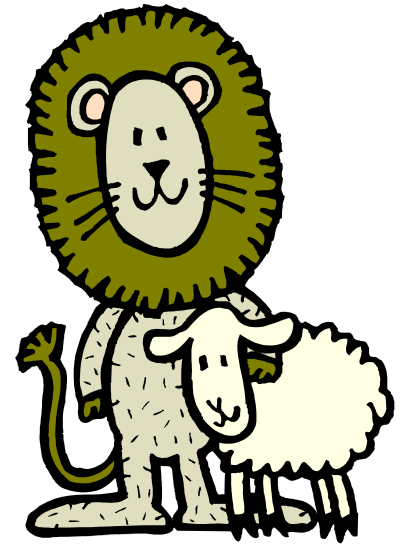
Throughout scripture we are told that as Christians we would face trials so it would be very unwise to pray that they never come. Rather pray that the Lord's grace and mercy would be revealed in the trial and it would be seen as a sign of his love and care for you.

In His Service,
Pastor Tim

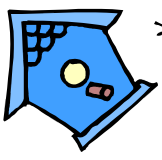


In Memory of
Avis Pope
April 4, 2008

Live in such a way that those who know you but don't know
God, will come to know God because
they know you....



**CONGRATULATIONS to
Todd and Nikki Winters who were married
On April 5, 2008**



Due to the date of the Women of Faith conference this year and the interference of our Fall Festival, the Women's Council has decided we will not attend this year. The council would like to recommend that we consider attending the following conference.

Going Beyond - *A spiritual reawakening for women* with the featured speaker being Priscilla Shirer. The location is Long Hollow Baptist Church in Hendersonville, TN on Friday, October 3, 2008 to Saturday, October 4, 2008.

The cost is \$35.00 per person. No reserved seating. Lunch is not provided.

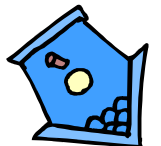
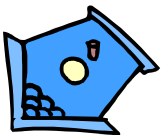
In order to make sure we are registered and make hotel reservations, our deadline for this event will be June 1, 2008. Please let Kim Brady know if you are interested by this deadline.

Featured Guests

Priscilla Shirer, as a communication major in college, had plans to be a television news anchor – but God had other ideas. While interning at a Christian radio station in Houston, she began to receive invitations to do Bible studies at small women's events in the area. At only 18 she shared the simple truths of Scripture that she was studying in her own personal time with the Lord...and she has been in full-time ministry ever since. Priscilla Shirer's ministry to women across the country and around the world is focused on the expository teaching of the Word of God. Her desire is to see women come to a full understanding of who they are in Christ by hearing the uncompromising truth of Scripture. She is the author of He Speaks To Me: Preparing to Hear from God and Discerning the Voice of God; How to Recognize When God Speaks.

Vicki Yohe leads worship and concert services and is a recording artist for PureSprings/EMI. Born to a minister's family, she wrote and sang her first song at the age of 5. At 17, she entered Jackson College of Ministries, and after two years of college, accepted a music director position near Baton Rouge, LA. Since her debut recording, Vicki Yohe's requests for concert services increased to the point that Vicki sense God was leading her down a new path of ministry. Her recording career has included Christian radio hits such as The Mercy Seat, Under The Blood, and Something About My Praise for GIANT records, two projects with Aluminum Records which includes her holiday release, Christmas Presence, and the Dove Award-nominated Because of Who You Are for PureSprings/EMI. Aside from the many US services that she ministers through every year, she annually spends several weeks ministering in various parts of Africa, Europe and Asia. In addition, Vicki Yohe Ministries is developing the New Destiny Centre of Children in Uganda, Africa.

Alex Williams is worship leader for the Bridge in downtown Silver Springs, MD. His songs can be heard on Bryon Cage's An Invitation to Worship, for which Alex wrote Invitation and Rain on Me.



News from Women's Ministries



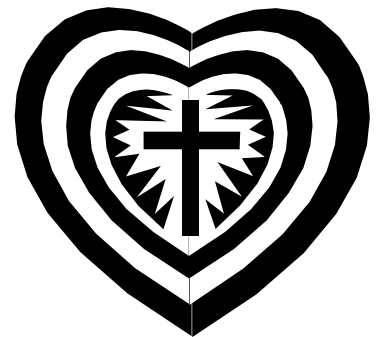
Our Women's Ministry has been very busy lately. Many women have given of their time and talents to New Sterling members and the ARP Missionary Jubilee Birthday recipients. We are so grateful to each and everyone of you who have graciously helped with our Bible studies, spiritual retreat, showers, knit wit prayers and work for the auction, the Dove House and prayer shawls, the Jubilee Birthday, the Sterling Silver Luncheon, the work on the Women's Council, and.... etc. I really can't name all the things that I praise God for and thank you for, but most of all I want to tell you what I see happening in our church because of what you are doing. Because of the obedience of each and everyone of you who give your time, money, opening your homes, cooking, cleaning, study to God's word, encouragement and prayer, everyone here at New Sterling and the whole body of Christ are being blessed with your efforts. On April 12 we had a quarterly Women's council meeting and Kim Brady brought us our devotion. As she gave the devotion, I could really see the truth of these scriptures and they are actually being proven true here in our church. I would like to share some of that devotion with you now in hopes that you too will see God very busy and active here and NOW with us.

Kim's devotion was adapted from TRANSFORMED LIVES, compiled by Chris Adams.

The Bible is the story of God's love gifts to His children. God gave His love gift – Jesus – to our lost and dying world. With the coming of Jesus came a new promise: after the resurrection, God would send the gift of the Holy Spirit to indwell and fill every believer. Since the Day of Pentecost, the Spirit has given gifts to each of the Father's children. These spiritual gifts are actually gifts of grace, custom designed to bring joy while being used to serve the body of Christ. The gifts can only be understood and appreciated within the context of a personal relationship with the Giver and in the family relationships of His body, the church.

The Father's gifts are:

- Based on a love relationship.
- Given through the Holy Spirit's work in us.
- Custom designed for each individual.
- Given to prepare us for our unique service to the Master.
- Given to bless and build the body of Christ.



Continued on page 5

God gives special gifts to each one of us, His children. The Holy Spirit works through us and allows us to serve Him and to serve His body, the church. When we use His gifts, we give the Father pleasure and joy. We also allow His body, the church, to work effectively and efficiently.

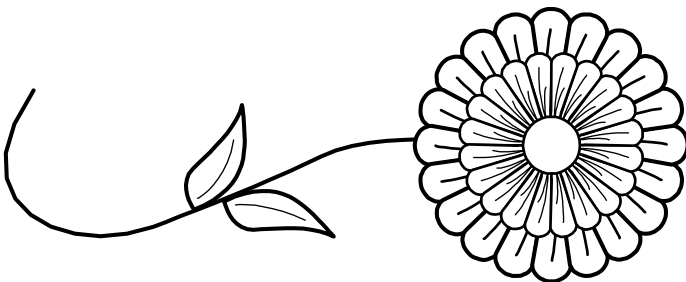
As I listened to Kim's devotion I realized how so many of you are doing just that, using your gifts and bringing God pleasure and joy. We at New Sterling and the others around us who are also benefiting from each one of you using your spiritual gifts are receiving the teaching and the rewards from your works of service. As I look around at the faces of the women involved I can see you growing and maturing. As you do I see a deeper joy and peace on your countenances and in your conversations. I see you praying for each other and I see God answering the prayers of your church family. God is blessing each and every one of you who are giving of your spiritual gifts. There is a vitality going on here that is contagious and I praise God and "I thank my God every time I remember you. In my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel...."Philippians 1:3,4

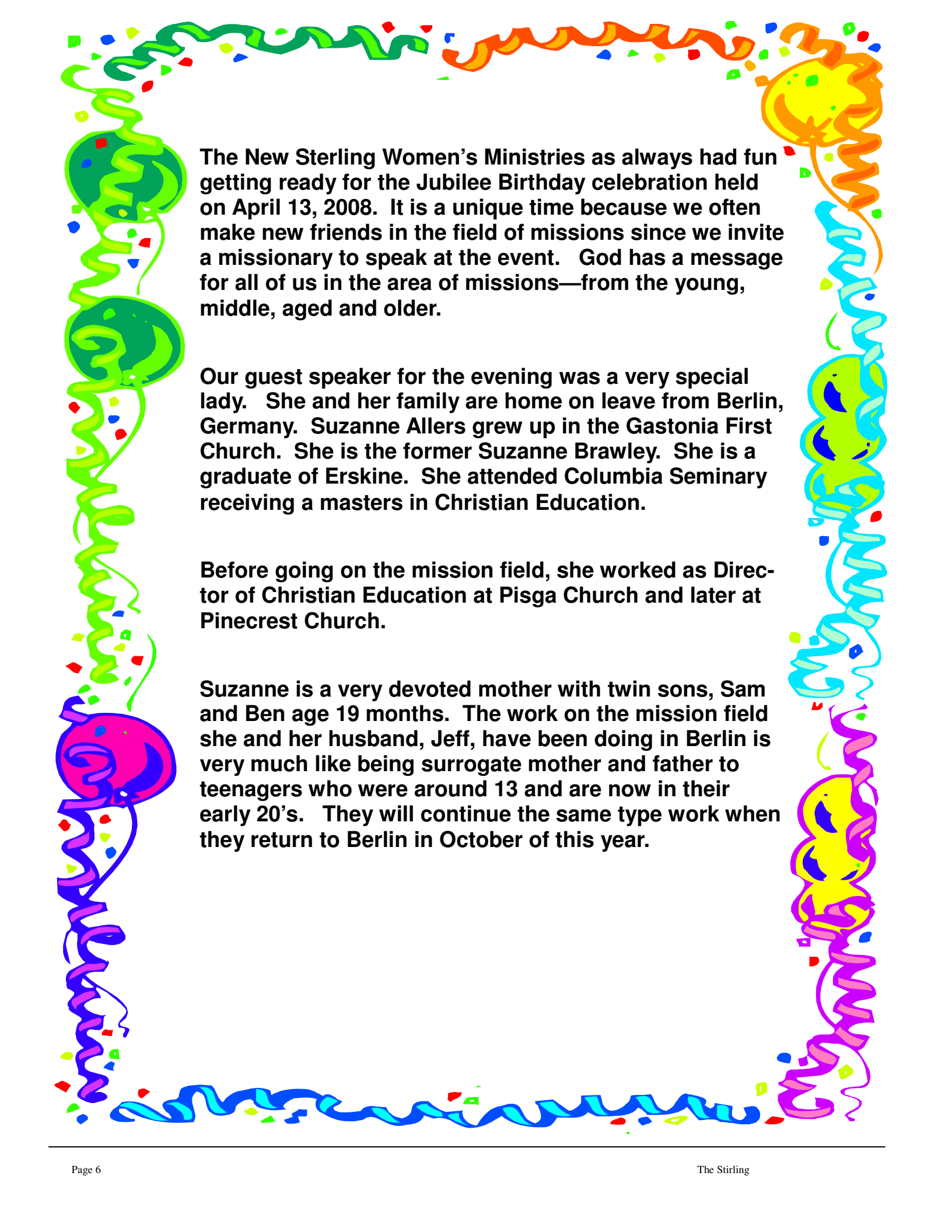
On behalf of the Women's Council I would like to commend you and thank you again. I see joy in the work, even on a weekend when it seemed that no matter how hard we have tried to fit all our events into the calendar so that we wouldn't over book, we overbooked anyway but there were still lots of laughter and fun. May you be blessed for your obedience.

I encourage any of our women who see the fun and excitement going on around them and are not involved to come and join us. Visit a circle or an event the Women Ministries sponsor and see if you too would like to be a part of this very vital ministry.

God bless you and bring you peace,

Judy Watson





The New Sterling Women's Ministries as always had fun getting ready for the Jubilee Birthday celebration held on April 13, 2008. It is a unique time because we often make new friends in the field of missions since we invite a missionary to speak at the event. God has a message for all of us in the area of missions—from the young, middle, aged and older.

Our guest speaker for the evening was a very special lady. She and her family are home on leave from Berlin, Germany. Suzanne Allers grew up in the Gastonia First Church. She is the former Suzanne Brawley. She is a graduate of Erskine. She attended Columbia Seminary receiving a masters in Christian Education.

Before going on the mission field, she worked as Director of Christian Education at Pisga Church and later at Pinecrest Church.

Suzanne is a very devoted mother with twin sons, Sam and Ben age 19 months. The work on the mission field she and her husband, Jeff, have been doing in Berlin is very much like being surrogate mother and father to teenagers who were around 13 and are now in their early 20's. They will continue the same type work when they return to Berlin in October of this year.



HELLO!!!!
It's Here and
There at
New Sterling!!!

What kind of entertainment does **Anthony Brady** provide at **Jessica's** Signature Home Party?. Rumor has it that the entire party was out chasing chickens....**Felicia Sports** chaperoned a 6th grade field trip to the Outer

Banks.....Cindy and Madeline McNeely went to Charleston on a school field trip.....**Ruth Foy's** sister, **Kay Hawkins**, recently had surgery and will start a series of chemotherapy treatments.....**Dillard Walker** is now on permanent dialysis.....**Pastor Tim and Judy** took a vacation to Florida during spring break.....The Women's Ministries **Jubilee Birthday** speaker was **Suzanne Allers** at home on leave from Berlin Germany.....**Bob Shoemaker** recently had surgery.....The **Auction and B-B-Q** was a huge success and will net approximately \$9000 for future mission projects. Thanks to all who planned early to make items to donate, for all who donated items, to those who prepared for the auction and those who prepared for the B-B-Q. Thanks to all of the businesses and companies who donated also.....**Amanda Peralta** is the editor-in-chief of the Western Carolinian which is the Western Carolina University newspaper. She recently took a trip to New York for an article research. **Amanda** is the daughter of **Lori Sutton** and the granddaughter of **Betty Thorne**....**Tina Bull** from Harlan, KY recently came and spent the weekend with **David and Kim Brady** and came to church.....Those who attended the Bonclarken work week were: **Betty Godfrey, Lynn and Muriel Jenkins, Sandy Moose, Pat Sherill, Minnie Pope, David and Betty Sides, Earl and Harriett Linderman, Milderene Pope, Helen Cashion, Jim and Joanne Hartness and Carolyn Elliott**.....**BJ Brewer** will be moving back to Indiana before mother's day.....**Virginia Brady** visited her sister in Georgia recently.....**Taryn and Brian Setzer** took a cruise to Bermuda.....**Joyce Todd, Muriel Jenkins'** sister is visiting for a while from Wendell.....**Alton Pope** fell and broke his hip.....**Betty Godfrey** and **Delinda Mauney** recently took a midnight run to the emergency vet with **Sassy**.....**David, Kim, Jeremy, Jason, Anthony, Jessica Brady and Jessica Hallman** went to a reunion in South Carolina.....Those who attended the Senior High retreat were **Jessica, Scott, Addie and Paisley Graham, Taryn Setzer, Lauren Gryder, Dylan Deal, Daniel Pugh, Casey Clarke and Kurtis Hauck**....**Cody Hairyes** had a campout for his birthday....**Judy Watson** crochets while she rides their motorcycle with **Pastor Tim**. On the last ride she lost part of her yarn which she found out later had wrapped around the motorcycle axel. The give away was when they smelled something burning.....**Curtis Hauck** has been accepted at UNC Charlotte in the fall....The **New Sterling Junior High girls** and girls from another church won the volleyball tournament at Bonclarken during the Junior High Retreat.....\$477 was raised during the **Jubilee Birthday** celebration....If you need to have your cat checked for worms, talk to Vet **Juanita Massey**.....**Maggie Emery and Madison Winter's** JO Volleyball team recently came in 2nd place during a tournament in Durham....

SATAN'S MEETING

Satan called a worldwide convention.

In his opening address to his evil angels he said, "We can't keep Christians from going to church. We can't keep them from reading their Bibles and knowing the truth. We can't even keep them from forming an intimate relationship with Christ. Once they gain that connection with Jesus, our power over them is broken.

"So let them go to their churches; let them have their covered dish dinners, BUT steal their time, so they don't have time to develop a relationship with Jesus Christ. This is what I want you to do angels. Distract them from gaining hold of their Savior and maintaining that vital connection throughout their day!"

"How shall we do this?" his angels shouted.

"Keep them busy in the non-essentials of life and invent innumerable schemes to occupy their minds," he answered. "Tempt them to spend, spend, spend, and borrow, borrow, borrow. Persuade the wives to go to work for long hours and the husbands to work 6-7 days each week, 10-12 hours a day, so they can afford their empty lifestyles. Keep them from spending time with their children. As their families fragment, soon, their homes will offer no escape from the pressures of work! Over-stimulate their minds so that they cannot hear that still, small voice. Entice them to play the radio or cassette player whenever they drive. To keep the TV, VCR, CDs and their PCs going constantly in their home and see to it that every store and restaurant in the world plays non-biblical music constantly This will jam their minds and break that union with Christ."

"Fill the coffee tables with magazines and newspapers. Pound their minds with the news 24 hours a day. Invade their driving moments with billboards. Flood their mailboxes with junk mail, mail order catalogs, sweepstakes, and every kind of newsletter and promotional offering free products, services and false hopes.. Keep skinny, beautiful models on the magazines and TV so their husbands will believe that outward beauty is what's important, and they'll become dissatisfied with their wives. Keep the wives too tired to love their husbands at night. Give them headaches too! If they don't give their husbands the love they need, they will begin to look elsewhere. That will fragment their families quickly!"

"Give them Santa Claus to distract them from teaching their children the real meaning of Christmas. Give them an Easter bunny so they won't talk about his resurrection and power over sin and death."

"Even in their recreation, let them be excessive. Have them return from their recreation exhausted. Keep them too busy to go out in nature and reflect on God's creation. Send them to amusement parks, sporting events, plays, concerts, and movies instead. Keep them busy, busy, busy! And when they meet for spiritual fellowship, involve them in gossip and small talk so that they leave with troubled consciences. Go ahead, let them be involved in soul winning; but crowd their lives with so many good causes they have no time to seek power from Jesus."

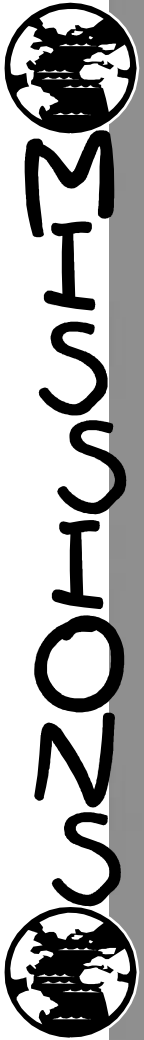
"Soon they will be working in their own strength, sacrificing their health and family for the good of the cause. It will work! It will work!"

It was quite a plan! The evil angels went eagerly to their assignments causing Christians everywhere to get busier and more rushed, going here and there.

Having little time for their God or their families. Having no time to tell others about the power of Jesus to change lives - I guess the question is, has the devil been successful in his schemes? You be the judge!!!!

Does 'BUSY' mean: B-eing U-nder S-atan's Y-oke?

This is an email received by Peggy Gray received from the Women's Jubilee Birthday speaker last year, Judy Buis. She currently is living in Scotland. Peggy wanted to share this with us.



Dear Prayer Partners,

Greetings from Bonnie Scotland! I arrived in Glasgow, Scotland on Friday, March 14, 2008. The flight went smoothly without any delays and I was able to get some much needed sleep on the plane. I was thankful to be able to wear a regular shoe on my seven week post-op foot which allowed me to walk through the airport terminals without any problems.

God truly rolled out the "Green Carpet" for my arrival. When I opened my eyes as the plane began to descend over Scotland, I was expecting to see overcast skies, but to my surprise the sun was shining brightly and the rolling hills beneath were emerald green. As I gazed at the landscape of farmland, small towns and the urban sprawl of Glasgow, my heart swelled with love and compassion for the masses of people who do not know Jesus. I felt God's Spirit speaking to my heart, "This is the mission field I have called you to." After swallowing the lump in my throat, I leaned back into my seat and sighted with confidence in the faithfulness of our God, who was already giving me such a warm welcome to this spiritually cold country.

My weekend was both productive and relaxing. I am temporarily staying at the CEF headquarters in a nice guest room that has been provided. I will be looking for a place "to let" (British term for rent) and have scheduled two appointments for Monday to look at four different flats. Please ask God to give me wisdom as I look for a place to live.

God has provided me a wonderful new friend, Anne, who is also a single lady and works at the CEF office. She was a missionary in Brazil for 20 years and has returned to Scotland to work so that she can care for her mother who is 85. On Saturday she took me grocery shopping, which gave me "sticker shock" since everything is twice as expensive as in the US. That evening I enjoyed a traditional British "fish n chips" dinner with her and her mom. On Sunday I attended a lovely worship service at Anne's church then we went to lunch in the Clyde valley at one of the garden centers. I had a true Scottish eating experience this time and ate "Haggis" which to my surprise was very tasty.

When I bought groceries on Saturday, I discovered that it would be best for me to have a bank card with a "Pen N Chip" so that I'm not charged fees to access my funds. The accountant at the office took me to the bank on Monday afternoon to explore what I need to do to set up banking with the Royal Bank of Scotland. I learned that I will have to set up residency first, which helped me to set my priorities in order.

In just a little less than four days I have already had a lot of new cultural experiences and am beginning to pick up on some of the Scottish language. I've learned that to be called a "hen" is a term of endearment equivalent to our "dear" and to be "done by the police," is to be caught for speeding. I'm finding that between the difference in terminology and the thick Scottish accent I will be learning a new language after all.

I am grateful for your continued prayers and support to sustain the work that God has called me to here in Scotland. Please pray for me to quickly adapt to my new surroundings and the culture. Pray for God to provide a place to live, an economical car, and approval to open a banking account. Pray for the children here in Scotland and that God will begin to open doors of ministry to me.




Life affords no greater responsibility, no greater privilege, than the raising of the next generation.

Teach them (God's commandments) to your children, talking about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.

So that your days and the days of your children may be many....

Deuteronomy 11: 19,21 NIV

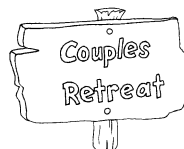
COMING EVENTS

May 3	9:00	Knit Wits with Aarene Reese West Iredell Prom
May 4	10:00	Prom Breakfast
	5:00	CE Committee Meeting
	5:00	C3
	5:15	Children's Choir
	6:00	Sunday Family Night
	7:30	Deacons Meeting
May 5	9:30	Golden Christian—Juanita Massey, Devotions and Marilyn Teague, Bible Study
May 6	7:00	Men's Bible Study with David Bready
May 10		Youth Shepherds Biking Trip to the Virginia Creeper Trail
May 11		
May 13	10:00	Sterling Silvers
	7:00	Treasure Keepers - Emily Nash, hostess, Betty Godfrey, and Lori Compton. Meal and Delinda Mauney, Facilitator
May 15	6:00	History/Scrapbooking committee with Delinda Mauney
	7:00	Men's Life Issues Bible Study with Jeff McNeely
May 18	5:00	C3
	5:15	Children's Choir
	6:00	Last Sunday Family Night—Children's Choir Program
May 19	7:00	Knit Wits with Pat Price
May 20	7:00	Mary/Martha Sunset—Jane Mayhew, hostess and Julie Winters, facilitator
May 21	9:30	Mary/Martha Sunrise—Peggy Gray, hostess and Virginia Brady, facilitator
May 25	9:45	Veteran's Memorial Service by the flag
May 26		MEMORIAL DAY
	7:00	Men's Roundtable with Pastor Tim
May 30	7:30	Seeker Bible Study with Lynn and Muriel Jenkins



UPCOMING FUTURE EVENTS

- October 3-4 Going Beyond Conference with Priscilla Shirer, Hendersonville, TN for all ladies interested
- November 21-22 Marriage Retreat

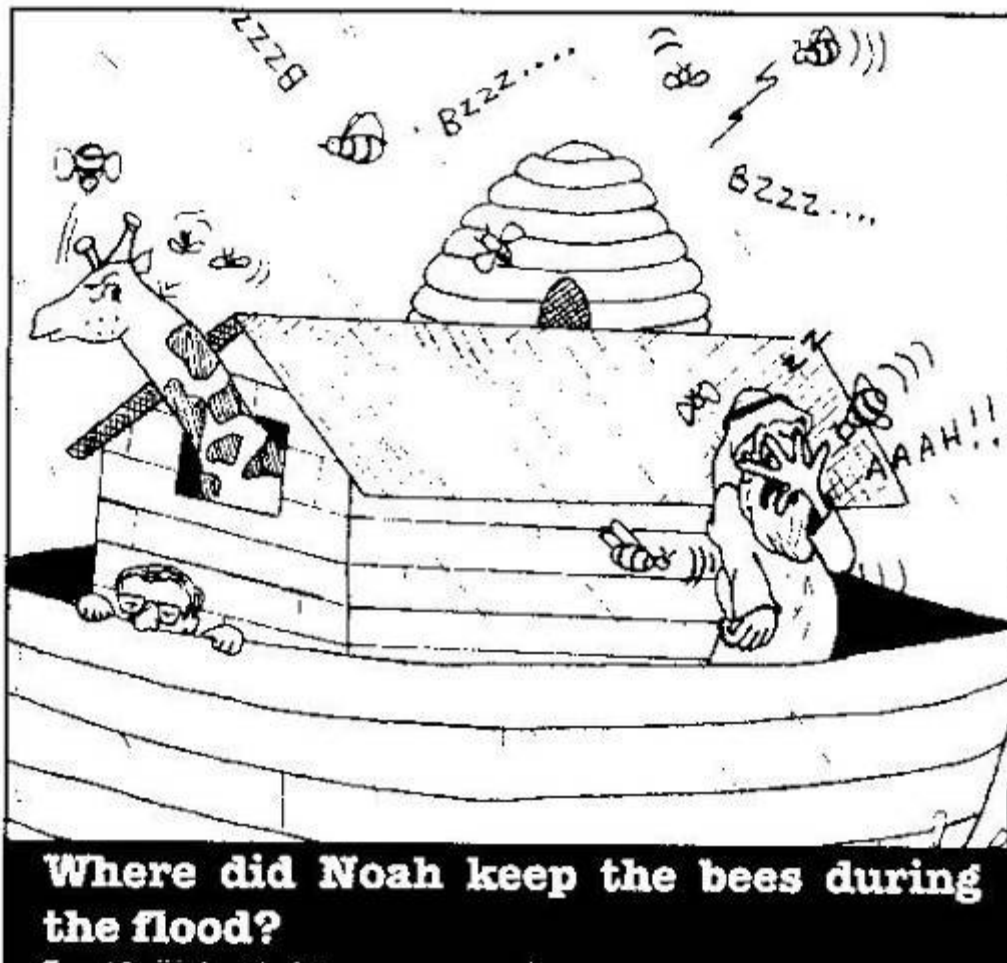


Comedy Corner



BIBLE RIDDLES

By Aryeh Gorenstein, M.D. and illustrated by Marci Gorenstein



Answer Below

In the Ark-hives

YOUTH SUMMER ACTIVITIES



- May 4** Prom Breakfast
- May 10** Virginia Creeper Trail bike
ride
- June 1** Graduate Breakfast
- June 13** Laser Tag and ice cream at Sonic (Jr. and Sr. High)
- June 16-20** HORIZON
- June 23-27** QUEST
- June 29-July 4** Harlan Mission trip
- July 9** Dan Nichols park (4yr old– 5th grade)
- July 19** Pool Party at Kim and David's
- July 26** Sliding Rock (Jr. and Sr. High)
- July 28-31** Vacation Bible School
- August 1** Fun Family Night
- August 13** Water day at the church (4yr old –5th grade)
- August 15-16** Campout/ White water rafting trip

This schedule is tentative, dates may change. Contact your child's youth leader for more info.

Depend on it. God's work done in God's way will never lack God's supplies.

If you are willing and obedient, you will eat the best from the land. Isaiah 1:19 NIV