



CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF GOD NEWSLETTER

Hello All You Liberated Christians,

I came across this Christian's Declaration of Independence this past year, but the author is unknown to me, so I cannot give credit where credit is due. I wish to share this with you as we in the United States of America celebrate our freedom from tyranny this 4th of July.

As Americans we highly value the fact that we were given the declaration of independence as a basis for being the home of the brave and the free. As believers in the Lord Jesus we are given a far more important declaration of independence and victory found in Gal. 5:1. Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ has made us free and do not be entangled again with the yoke of bondage.

It behooves us to stand firm in that liberty, through the power of the Holy Spirit, to not relinquish that freedom to enslave-

ment of any kind - worry, fear, anger, resentment, avarice, lust, greed, or any sin.

We are to lay aside every weight and the sin that so easily besets us and run with patience the race that is set before us fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith. For consider Him who endured such sufferings of sinners against Himself lest you become weary and faint in your minds. For you have not resisted to the point of shedding of blood in the striving against sin. (Heb. 12:1-4)

I am free from failure for I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. (Phil. 4:13)

I am free from want for my God shall supply all my need according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus. (Phil. 4:19)

I am free from fear for God hath not given us the spirit of fear, but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind. (2 Tim 1:7) // cont. pg. 6 >

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A WORD FROM THE PASTOR

Jesus: “My house was designated a house of prayer for the nations” (Mark 11:17, MSG). / “[Jesus] came to Nazareth where he had been reared. As he always did on the Sabbath, he went to the meeting place” (Luke 4:16, MSG).

We would love to have you join us each Saturday for study and worship at 801 Quail Creek Drive — 11 a.m. for classes, 11:45 for singing and preaching. You can come dressed to the ‘nines’ or more casual if you choose. What we really like to see is a spirit of friendliness, an attitude of sincerity, and a willingness to ‘search the Scriptures whether these things are so’ (Acts 17:11). We want your fellowship with us to be a pleasant experience.



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KGRO Radio 9:05 AM
Sunday.

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Our Home Page:

The Quester



19:35-36, LB). It’s all about character and reputation. As you declared: ‘A sterling reputation is better than striking it rich.’ (Proverbs 22:1a, Msg) ‘The integrity of the honest keeps them on track.’⁷ ‘Truth lasts,’ you affirmed; but ‘lies are here today, gone tomorrow’ (Proverbs 12:19, Msg). Even though lies are transitory, the effect lives on.

“Man can overcome this Satan-induced predisposition to lying and dishonesty. However, some ‘have lied so well and for so long that they’ve lost their capacity for truth’ (1 Timothy 4:2, Msg.). It still goes to the heart of the person, as I just stated.

“I challenge each person who is a God-follower: ‘Tell your neighbor the truth . . . When you lie to others, you end up lying to yourself’ (Eph 4:25, Msg.). So ‘don’t lie to one another. You’re done with the old life’ (Col. 3:9, Msg.).

“There is no character flaw in God: ‘We find God utterly reliable and straightforward’ (1 John 4:8, JBP). ‘So, my dear children, don’t let anyone divert you from the truth. It’s the person who *acts* right who *is* right’ (1 John 3:7a, Msg.). Being honest should be a way of life—honest with oneself, honest with God, honest with others!”

Solomon sat spellbound by the words of his Lord and God.

(Solomon wrote many proverbs about honesty in relation to business dealings; note: 3:27-28; 6:1-5, 30-31; 10:16; 11:1-6, 15, 18; 12:3, 5; 14:9; 15:27; 16:8, 11; 17:8, 18, 23; 19:1; 20:16-17, 21, 23; 21:3, 6; 22:7, 26-27.)

⁷ On that night God appeared to Solomon, and said to him, "Ask! What shall I give you?" ⁸ And Solomon said to God: "You have shown great mercy to David my father, and have made me king in his place. ⁹ Now, O LORD God, let Your promise to David my father be established, for You have made me king over a people like the dust of the earth in multitude. ¹⁰ Now give me wisdom and knowledge, that I may go out and come in before this people; for who can judge this great people of Yours?" ¹¹ And God said to Solomon: "Because this was in your heart, and you have not asked riches or wealth or honor or the life of your enemies, nor have you asked long life--but have asked wisdom and knowledge for yourself, that you may judge My people over whom I have made you king-- ¹² wisdom and knowledge are

"So we lie to ourselves first, don't we?" Solomon's insight seemed more acute today. "Then to others as we find it 'expedient.'" He had unrolled the scroll: "A good man's mind is filled with honest thoughts; an evil man's mind is crammed with lies.' But 'Truth stands the test of time; lies are soon exposed.'" (Prv. 12:5, 19, LB)

"It does begin in the mind, as you have written. And I inspired one of my prophets to write: 'The heart is desperately wicked, who can know it?' (Jeremiah 17:9) And after him I stated, 'It is the thought-life that pollutes. For from within, out of men's hearts, come evil thoughts of lust, theft, murder, adultery, wanting what belongs to others, wickedness, deceit, lewdness, envy, slander, pride, and all other folly. All these things come from within; they are what pollute you and make you unfit for God' (Mark 7:20-23, LB).

"You, too, Solomon, expressed the spirit of my law when you wrote: 'Don't talk out of both sides of your mouth. Avoid careless banter, white lies, gossip' (Proverbs 4:24a, Msg.); 'An honest life shows respect for God; a degenerate life is a slap in his face' (Proverbs 14:2, Msg.)."

Solomon smiled with self-approval. Then, abruptly, became sober. He was beginning to realize how proud he was of his writings, and how humble he should be feeling since he was merely the instrument of the Unseen Muse. Using a gift from the Giver.

"That agrees with another principle you gave me," he said: "'God-loyal people, living honest lives' (Proverbs 20:7a, Msg.)."

"Respect for God.' 'God-loyal.'" Jesus sighed, gazing across the meadow as if he were watching the unrolled scroll of history. "Sad to say, this has been society's deficiency through the ages. The character flaws of dishonesty and lying have been apparent in mankind down through history. My Father in Heaven is unhappy about this: 'God's angry displeasure erupts as acts of human mistrust and wrongdoing and lying accumulate, as people try to put a shroud over truth!' (Romans 1:18, Msg.) Truth-based living will always bring positive results."

Solomon had found three more applicable proverbs: "'God is more pleased when we are just and fair than when we give him gifts. Pride, lust, and evil actions are all sin (Prv. 21:3-5, LB).' 'Lies will get any man into trouble, but honesty is its own defense. Telling the truth gives a man great satisfaction, and hard work returns many blessings to him (Prv. 12:13-14, LB).' 'God cares about honesty in the workplace. Your business is his business (Prv. 16:11, Msg).' " He looked up from his reading.

"You gave a lot of thought to your writing, didn't you?"

"Well . . . yes, I did. But you know that I was but an instrument of your Spirit."

Jesus smiled. "But I also created your mind, and it is meant to be used in concert with my Spirit. You also spent time meditating on my Word to Israel about the principle of honesty and impartiality: 'You must be impartial in judgment. Use accurate measures—lengths, weights, and volumes—and give full measure, for I am Jehovah your God' (Leviticus

Prayer Requests



“ . . . The prayer of faith shall save the sick and the Lord shall raise him up; . . . Pray for one another that you may be healed.”
— James 5:15-16.



IF YOU HAVE UPDATES OR NEW REQUESTS PLEASE INFORM THE EDITOR. jerrydalemc@sbcglobal.net

Sheri Bartlett: Julia McKinney's daughter, having serious health problems.

Debbie Blodgett: Friend of Candace Sellers, has been diagnosed with breast cancer.

Amber & Dylan Clark: Grandchildren of Betty Clark, cerebral palsy.

Vickie Crevoi: Sister of Linda Booth, Chronic Progressive MS.

Bob Fink: Larry Lyles' daughter's father-in-law, prostate cancer which has metastasized to the bone.

Paul Flatt: James Bailey's brother-in-law, suffered a heart attack. He is evaluating methods of treatment.

Velvet Green: Gary's wife, schizophrenia. She has recently experienced heart problems and undergone tests.

Je Keishalyn Henley: Daughter of Velvet and Gary Green, is incarcerated and having health problems. Pray for an early release.

Dollie Meil: Suffering with cerebral palsy. She has been moved to the Plaza Nursing Center after being hospitalized with COPD and pneumonia.

Ted Rankin: Undergoing physical therapy, following back surgery.

Kathryn Scott: Friend of the Baileys; severe MS, losing use of arms and swallowing ability.

Brad Sellers: James' brother, involved in drugs; children removed by CPS.

Wilson Stewart: Diagnosed with prostate cancer, numbness and difficulty swallowing.

Jeanne Vincent: C.B. & Darrell Sehorn's sister, breast cancer which has metastasized to the bone.

Ron Vorheis: Admitted to a nursing home in Claude. Suffering from macular degeneration, heart arrhythmia and a bleeding ulcer

Celebrations

BIRTHDAYS

Teresa Cryer	7-10
Jo Beth Vines	7-10
Shannon Stephens	7-16
Larrt Ktkes	7-22
Julie Ford	7-23
Gary Green	7-27

ANNIVERSARIES

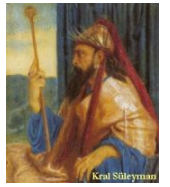
Mr. & Mrs. Larry Lyles	7-6
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Happy Independence Day!



The Quester

By Jerry McClenagan
Continued from March '08 newsletter



This serialization of a forthcoming book, THE QUESTER, is creative nonfiction based upon my research into the writings of Solomon and the words and life of Jesus. I use not only the traditional KJV, NKJV and NIV, but have relied heavily on *The Message* to give a contemporary flavor to the ancient proverbs of Solomon as well as the NT quotes by and about Christ.

SCENE SEVEN

Say just a simple 'Yes, I will' or 'No, I won't.' Your word is enough. To strengthen your promise with a vow shows that something is wrong. —Jesus Matt. 5:37, LB
A sterling reputation is better than striking it rich; a gracious spirit is better than money in the bank. —Solomon Prv. 22:1a, Msg

Crimson. Orange. Burnished brass. Hues of dark purple and blue. Fading to smoky blue . . . turning to brilliant light.

The breaking of day brought the creatures of nature alive in the meadow where Solomon slept. He was woken by a voice as pleasant as the song of the Meadow Lark:

"Good morning, Solomon. I brought you fruit and nuts and grain."

"Good morning, Lord. Thank you. Where did you find this wonderful meal?"

Jesus pointed toward the west. "Beyond the meadow, through those dense trees, there is an orchard, and a field of grain ready to harvest."

"What's the agenda, today, Lord?" Solomon spoke while cracking the shells of the pecans in his clenched hands.

"We've spent quite a few hours speaking of the proper perspective regarding riches. That brings to mind your proverb that states that 'a sterling reputation is better than striking it rich.' I think that should be our topic today: character, with an emphasis on honesty and truthfulness."

The crunch of the fresh apple echoed Solomon's nod of agreement. His mind raced as he uncovered his parchment. He began to recall many of the things he had written about this topic.

"Where shall we begin, Great One?"

"At the beginning . . . of this world. When the father of liars showed up on the scene. When the Evil One, Satan, performed the first dishonest act involving humanity. Once he had drawn Adam and Eve into the same lying and dishonesty, the pattern was set for all of humanity. Once they had caved in to the initial temptation, the next impulse was to deny responsibility for their actions. Guilt produced embarrassment, and embarrassment evoked excuses and dishonesty. When I asked Adam if he had eaten of the forbidden fruit, he admitted it, 'but,' he said, 'it was the woman you gave me who brought me some, and I ate it.' When I asked the woman how she could do such a thing, she excused herself by saying, 'The serpent tricked me.'"



Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life. Prov 4:23 (NIV)

One year, as of July 11th, since my heart bypass surgery. And I thank each of you who prayed for me. I'm feeling good. Maybe not quite as good as Malachi's picture: "leaping with joy like calves let out to pasture" (Mal 4:2, NLT), but plenty good after seven decades of living.

A year ago someone "encouraged" me with the words that if I didn't make it through the surgery I at least had lived my allotted "three score years and ten."

What was this musing of the psalmist? The entire verse is: "Seventy years are given to us! Some even live to eighty. But even the best years are filled with pain and trouble; soon they disappear, and we fly away" (Psalms 90:10, NLT). He isn't setting a divine parameter for

each human being; he is pointing out how fast life goes by: "they pass quickly" (v. 10, HCSB). He is showing, somewhat like Solomon in Ecclesiastes, how life is filled with problems: "Even the best of them are struggle and sorrow" (HCSB).

But you know what? I like the old adage from that song of the forties: "look on the sunny side of life." Somehow, this past year has been filled with sunshine—in spite of some heartaches. In fact, to return to the first part of the verse in Malachi, I think we can now taste a little of the future he predicted: "But unto you who revere and worshipfully fear My name shall the Sun of Righteousness arise with healing in His wings and His beams" (Mal 4:2, AMP). As another song goes, "There's sunshine in my soul today!"

Lifepoints

- Every spring set out a couple of tomato plants
- When traveling, stop occasionally at local cafes and diners
- Do something every day that helps maintain good health
- Don't stop the parade to pick up a dime
- Complete customer comment cards
- Visit one of your state parks this year
- Hold a child's hand when crossing the street
- Be innovative
- Be passionate
- Be committed
- Know your children's friends
- Never keep a free ride waiting
- Learn the history of your hometown

lovers and left-behinds.
Flying past sights and sighs.
Speed along the Autobahn-life
passing reason—slowing,
curves ahead swing into darkness,
age dictates concern, the future—
closer every mile.

I long to go back
to sighs and friends and roads
I missed then. I miss them now.
The trip speeding down the Autobahn-life
with no regard for speed or time
was sweet yet short.
I go back to visit youth as I can,
the road back feels so long,
it is a long trip back.
I meet my youth along the Autobahn-life
I wave as it speeds past.
It is a long road back.

LONG TRIP BACK

Speed along the Autobahn-life
youth speeds to age and reason
flying past sights and friends,
friends and lovers,

by Karl Smith

GraceRhythms GraceRhythms

5 "Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to me. Get away with me and you'll recover your life. I'll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with me and work with me— watch how I do it. Learn the **unforced rhythms of grace**. I won't lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with me and you'll learn to live freely and lightly." ~ Jesus. Matt 11:28-30 (MSG)

A WORD FROM CEC, MY FRIEND AND WRITING MENTOR ~ The Editor

"Since you came, Mr. Murphey, our church has lost some of its dignity," Dorothy said as she served me tea from an ornate silver pot resting on a silver tray. And with the next breath she asked, "Milk or sugar, Mr. Murphey?"

"One lump, please," and I reached for the cup.

"We had such—such quiet dignity before you came. I don't want to hurt your feelings in telling you all of this.

But..."

I had been the pastor of the church less than four months before she and her two sisters invited me to tea. For the next forty minutes the three of them tried to help me see the error of my ways. They didn't seem interested that we had added new members or that attendance by members had increased. Their concern was the loss of decorum.

Dorothy smiled as she offered me a cookie from a silver plate. "And another thing..." She looked at a pad of paper on which she and her sisters had written a number of items.

As I walked out of the house, depression weighted me down. Their criticism hurt. I sat in my car for several minutes and prayed in deep anguish. By the end of the day, however, I had grasped one significant fact about those three sisters. They were God's grace builders in my life.

Since that I've realized that every church, company, and neighborhood has at least one grace builder. They serve a divine purpose: They teach us invaluable lessons about patience and longsuffering. They force us to grow spiritually. Grace builders drive us to pray more fervently and to scrutinize our motives. Maybe they do more for us than all the sweet, kind, and encouraging people we encounter.

Grace builders: I've known many of them. Like Johnny. He pats me on the back and sounds friendly. He makes everything into a joke so that means I can't get angry—not even when he insults me. Even when he ridicules me. I'm not paranoid; I don't feel persecuted. But I have enough sense to know when a person insults me even though hiding behind jokes and light-hearted humor.

For the past 25 years I've been a full-time writer and I haven't escaped those grace builders. They email to remind me that they discovered a misspelled word on page 197 of my latest book (as if I yearned to know that or could do anything about it once the book is in print). Or one woman said, "You're a decent writer, not as good as _____."

We all have our grace builders. Our occupation doesn't matter. And, as much as I hate to admit it, they make life miserable enough for us that we pray and realize how much we have to depend on God's help. They serve a practical, spiritual function.

I don't like the grace builders in my life. I try to avoid some of them as much as possible. With others, I grit my teeth and face them. When I think of the grace builders at work in my life I have several words to describe them: They're obnoxious, self-centered, opinionated, and demanding. Without them I could accomplish more, and feel better about life and—*or could I?*

Probably not: They serve a practical purpose: They are God's gifts to make us grow. And we all have them. Which makes me wonder: Whose grace builder am I?

Cecil ("Cec") Murphey, Author/Speaker / The Man Behind the Words/ www.cecilmurphey.com



**A WORD
cont.**

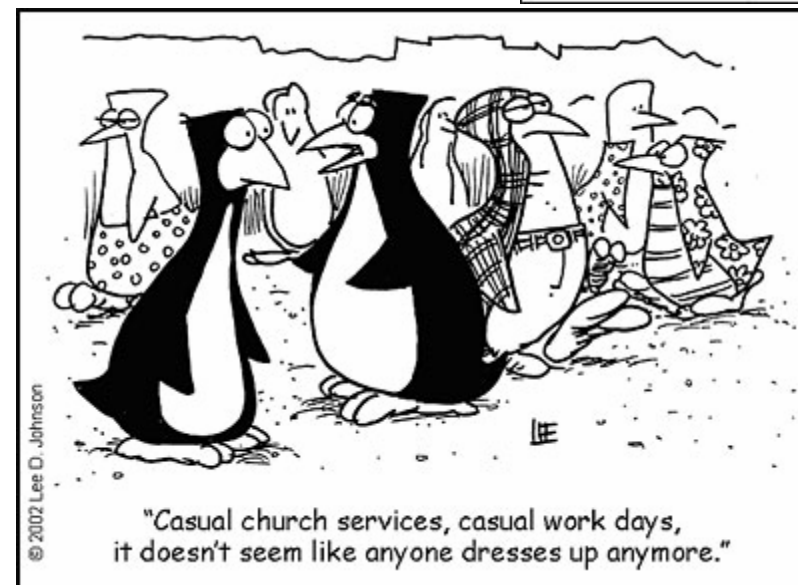
I am free from doubt for God hath given to every man the measure of faith. (Rom. 12:3)
 I am free from weakness, for the Lord is the strength of my life. (Ps.27:1)
 I am free from the power of Satan for greater is He that is in me than he that is in the world. (1 Jn.4:4)
 I am free from defeat for God always caused me to triumph in Christ Jesus. (2 Cor.2:14)
 I am free from ignorance, for Christ Jesus is made unto me wisdom from God. (1 Cor.1:30)
 I am free from sin for the blood of Jesus Christ cleanses me from all sin. (Jn.1:7)
 I am free from worry for I am to cast all my cares upon Him. (1 Pet.5:7)
 I am free from bondage for where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. (2 Cor.3:17)
 I am free from condemnation, for there is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. (Rom. 8:1)
 I am free from discouragement because there is encouragement in Christ, consolation of love, fellowship in the Spirit, affection and compassion. Therefore, I can make my joy complete by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose, having in you that same mind which was also in Christ Jesus.
 I am free from aimlessness as the goal of my instruction is love from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith. (2 Tim 1:5)
 I am free from the tyranny of want as the Lord is my Shepherd therefore I will have everything I need. (Psa 23)
 I am free from tyranny of sin. (Rom 6)
 I am free from control of lust of the flesh, eyes & pride because my love for the Father supersedes all. (1 Jn 2:15, 16)
 I am free from fruitlessness as I know that whatever a man sows that will he also reap. So let us not be weary in doing good for in due season we will reap if we faint not. As we therefore have opportunity let us do good to all men, especially to those who are of the household of faith. (Gal. 6:6-9)
 I am free from all needs as His divine power has granted to me everything pertaining to life and godliness through the true knowledge of Him who calls us by His own glory and excellence and His precious and magnificent promises. (2 Pet 1:3, 4)
 I am free from inadequacy as He makes me adequate as servant of a new covenant not of the letter but of the Spirit. (2 Cor 3:5, 6)
 I am free from a shortage of blessings as I am blessed with every spiritual blessing in Christ. (Eph. 1:3)

Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. (2 Cor 3:17)
 In Christ Jesus our Liberator,

Jeff Booth

chuckles

A cheerful disposition is good for your health; gloom and doom leave you bone-tired.
 —Proverbs 17:22, *The Message*



Eloquence isn't necessarily flowery language so much as heartfelt expression. Consider this prayer of a country preacher in Red Rock, Mississippi: "O Lord, give Thy servant this mornin' the eyes of the eagle and the wisdom of the owl; connect his soul with the gospel telephone in the central skies; 'luminiate his brow with the Sun of Heaven; possess his mind with love for the people; turpentine his imagination; grease his lips with 'possum oil; loosen his tongue with the sledge hammer of Thy power; 'lectrify his brain with the lightnin' of the word; put 'petual motion on his arms, fill him plum full of the dynamite of Thy glory; 'noint him all over with the kerosene oil of Thy salvation and set him on the fire. Amen!"