

I am the door. If anyone enters  
by Me, he will be saved, and will  
go in and out and find pasture.  
John 10:9 (NKJV)



## Christian Church of God Newsletter



From the  
PASTOR'S  
DESK



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November/December 2007

Contact the Editor at  
jerrydalemc@sbcglobal.net  
or P. O. Box 33134,  
Amarillo, TX 79120

Greetings My Brethren,

This is the month we celebrate the giving of thanks, a Godly trait if there ever was one. And the beauty of a grateful heart is that it drives out worry and anxiety from the heart of a believer. Worry is the absence of peace in the life of a believer and most certainly cannot coexist with thankfulness.

I recently read a report on what an average person's anxiety is focused upon:

- 40% — things that will never happen
- 30% — things about the past that can't be changed

- 12% — things about criticism by others, mostly untrue
- 10% — about health, which gets worse with stress
- 8% — about real problems that will be faced

Worry makes us self-conscious, shy, guilty, discouraged, and defeated. This leads to a critical, murmuring, grumbling, and divisive spirit. This downward spiral then entices us to slip back into sin. We may become restless and that just drives us into being troublemakers or victims of despair and defeat. We feel unworthy and unable to walk victoriously with

(Continued on page 8)

In essentials Unity; in non-essentials,  
Liberty; in all things, Charity.



2

Praise the Lord.  
Praise God in his sanctu-  
ary; praise him in his

[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)



I rejoiced with those who said to me,  
"Let us go to the house of the LORD." — Psalm 122:1

**YOU ARE WELCOME TO MEET WITH US EACH SATURDAY**  
11 A.M. Christian Education / 11:45 A.M. Worship Service

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**CHECK THIS  
MEDIA**

**Our sermons  
broadcast on**

**HGRD Radio  
9:05 AM  
Sunday.**

# Don't Hesitate . . . Plan 2008

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As the time frame of this combined issue winds down a new year will begin. Our hopes for 2008 are more likely to come to fruition if we plan and choose wisely. The Scripture is replete with principles of planning. "There is surely a future hope for you, and your hope will not be cut off." Proverbs 23:18 (NIV)

A PREREQUISITE: 'Careful planning puts you ahead in the long run; hurry and scurry puts you further behind.' (Prov 21:5, MSG) Even then best laid plans may fail: 'My days have passed, my plans are shattered, and so are the desires of my heart.' (Job 17:11, NIV) But there are principles that can help prevent major disappointment:

**ASK FOR WISDOM & INSIGHT**

'Make Insight Your Priority  
1 Good friend, take to heart what I'm telling you; collect my counsels and guard them with your life. 2 Tune your ears to the world of Wisdom; set your heart on a life of Understanding. 3 That's right—if you make Insight your priority, and won't take no for an answer, 4 Searching for it like a prospector panning for gold, like an adventurer on a treasure hunt, 5 Believe me, before you know it Fear-of-God will be yours; you'll have come upon the Knowledge of God. 6 And here's why: God gives out Wisdom free, is plainspoken in Knowledge and Understanding. 7 He's a rich mine of Common Sense for those who live well, a personal bodyguard to the candid and sincere. 8 He keeps his eye on all who live honestly, and pays special attention to his loyally committed ones' (Prov 2:1-8, MSG).  
(Cf. Prov. 4:11; 12:5; James 1:5-7)

'Know also that wisdom is sweet to your soul; if you find it, there is a future hope for you, and your hope will not be cut off.' (Prov 24:14, NIV)

**GOD MUST BE YOUR HIGHEST PRIORITY**  
'Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and your plans will succeed.' (Prov 16:3, NIV) 'We plan the way we want to live, but only God makes us able to live it.' (Prov 16:9, MSG) (cf. Prov

21:30) (Note Matthew 6:33)

**ASK OTHERS FOR ADVICE**

'Plans fail for lack of counsel, but with many advisers they succeed.' (Prov 15:22, NIV) (cf. 20:18) 'Without good direction, people lose their way; the more wise counsel you follow, the better your chances.' (Prov 11:14, MSG)

**ASK FOR GOD'S WILL, GUIDANCE**

(See Isaiah 30:1, 8; Psalm 25:5)

'Humans are satisfied with whatever looks good; God probes for what is good. Put God in charge of your work, then what you've planned will take place.' (Prov 16:2-3, MSG)

'We humans keep brainstorming options and plans, but God's purpose prevails.' (Prov 19:21, MSG) (Cf. Psalm 31:3; 43:3; 48:14; 73:24; John 16:13)

**GOALS ARE IMPORTANT**

James 4:13-15; Eccl 8:7. It is good to have goals, but goals will disappoint us if we leave God out of them. ". . . Plan ahead, but hold your plans loosely. Put God's desires at the center of your planning; he will never disappoint you. . . . Sometimes our plans — even the ones we think God has approved — have to be put on hold indefinitely. . . . We can choose to learn and grow in our present circumstances, whatever they may be."—Life Application Bible Notes

'1 May the Lord answer you when you are in distress; may the name of the God of Jacob protect you. 2 May he send you help from the sanctuary and grant you support from Zion. 3 May he remember all your sacrifices and accept your burnt offerings. Selah 4 May he give you the desire of your heart and make all your plans succeed' (Psalms 20:1-4, NIV). ■

# Let There Be Peace On Earth



## And Let It Begin With Me

*As we come to end of 2007, I share this hope, this prayer with you. Of course, the best peace of all is that which only God can give through His Son, our Savior. The angels announced Jesus' entry into this world with this message of Peace: "Peace on earth to men of good will." As we observe world events and news item after item, we question how much good will is in our world. Then we encounter some good news — an unselfish deed, an act of courage, a story of tenderness and mercy — and we know that there are still those people of good will. Let's make sure that each of us are people of peace. Blessings to you and yours. Your Editor, Jerry McClenagan*



### 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.

**Sheri Bartlett:** Serious health problems. Julie McKinney's daughter.

**Debbie Blodgett:** Diagnosed with breast cancer. Friend of Candace Sellers.

**Amber and Dylan Clark:** Cerebral Palsy. Betty Clark's grandchildren.

**Vickie Crevoi:** Chronic Progressive MS. Linda Booth's sister.

**DeAnne DeLuna:** Breast Cancer; completed treatment. Larry Lyles' stepdaughter.

**Velvet Green:** Schizophrenia. Gary's wife.

**Randy Gnessett:** Lung transplant; somewhat improved, stable condition. Friend of Candace Sellers.

**Je Keishalyn Henley:** Incarcerated; health problems. Pray for early release. Daughter of Velvet and Gary Green.

**Anna Law:** Lupus and kidney failure. In need of kidney transplant.

**C. D. McKinney:** Heart arrhythmia somewhat improved. Julie's husband.

**Dollie Meil:** Cerebral Palsy. Growing weak.

**Rose Munholland:** Cancer and complications from treatment. Betty Clark's sister's mother-in-law.

**C.L. Osterloh:** Arkansas. Undergoing dialysis.

**Michael Hamilton:** Home from hospital, recovering from assault. Tiffanie Pollock's brother.

**Ted Rankin:** Undergoing physical therapy following back surgery. Rudolph's son, Janet Voss' brother.

**Kathryn Scott:** MS, critical stage. Friend of the Baileys.

**Wilson Stewart:** Prostate cancer, numbness and difficulty swallowing.

**Jeanne Vincent:** Breast cancer; metastasized to the bone. C. B. and Darrell Sehorn's sister.

**Janet Voss:** Ovarian cancer. Half-way through six months of chemo.

**Ron Vorheis:** Macular degeneration, heart arrhythmia, bleeding ulcer. Now in nursing home.

**IF YOU HAVE UPDATES OR NEW REQUESTS PLEASE INFORM THE EDITOR. [jerrydalemc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jerrydalemc@sbcglobal.net)**



I hear by the  
Grapevine

Time is that quality of nature which keeps events from happening all at once. Lately it doesn't seem to be working. - Anonymous

Simple, everyday living is now life in the fast lane.

– contributed by Larry W. Lyles

SHEDDING CROCODILE TEARS?

Once again I'm compelled to share the humorous insight of Curtis K. Shelburne, area minister and author. (from his Focus on Faith newsletter, 10-25-07). He draws on the Headline: **Ugandan Conservationists Saddened As 61-year-old Crocodile Passes: 'The Man Eater' Ate Over 80 Fishermen.** "Apparently," Curtis comments, "the one-ton reptile had himself been fishing in Uganda's Bugiri district for years, and then, in 1983, found that fishermen were more plentiful than fish and, pound for pound, easier to catch. In 2005 he was captured and relocated to a crocodile farm in the Mpigi district. This impressed one person to the point that they said it was 'amazing and inspirational that these people had enough respect for a wild animal to move it to a new habitat that was safe and not a threat to humans.'" Curtis: "Yeah, it's a good deal more inspirational if you're not a Ugandan fisherman!" The article went on to say that the authorities believe that "the cause of death is stress-related." One final note: the croc was "popular with tourists." Curtis: "Given a lower fence and a bit of time to get over his taste for fishermen, I imagine tourists might have been popular with the croc, too."

Celebrations

BIRTHDAYS

Jody Kirkpatrick 11-7  
Marvin Cryer 11-15  
Steve Cryer 11-18  
Darrel Sehorn 12-17  
Arthur Carlson 12-20  
Darrell Baker 12-29

ANNIVERSARIES

Julia & Vic McKinney 11-9  
Francis & Roy Carlson 11-11  
Reba & James Bailey 11-15  
Teresa & Steve Cryer 12-27

The Quester

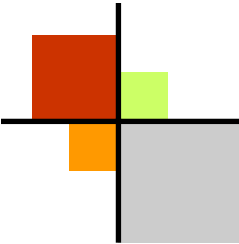
The Son of Man brought his hand to his chin, thoughtful. He knew that when the Spirit inspired his prophets they often wrote without fully understanding the meaning of Holy Writ.

"According to your writing, when Wisdom said, 'My words are plain and clear to any-one with half a mind—if it is only open! My instruction is far more valuable than silver or gold. . . . For whoever finds me finds life and wins approval from the Lord', she certainly echoed all that I am as the Alpha and Omega. For I am that Wisdom from Almighty God . I am the Word, Supreme Expression of God. One day, Solomon, you will fully understand this."

The clarity and power with which Jesus spoke had a hypnotic effect on Solomon. He knew he was in the presence of Divine Wisdom; it conveyed the same sense as the Unseen Muse did when he wrote his proverbs—a sense of inspiration beyond his own consciousness. Just as the mist had lifted from the valley beneath them, Solomon sensed a clarity that had eluded him before. He looked forward to continuing his conversation with the Lord of Creation. Even though he had written many proverbs about how to handle life, he still had many unanswered questions.

(Scripture references: 1 Kings 7:2; 11:2-9; 15:3; John 1:1-14; 8:25-41, 53-59; 2 Corinthians 12:1-4; Revelation 4:1-3; Psalm 8; Romans 1:25; Revelation 1:12-16, Msg; Proverbs 3:16-18; 14:12 & 16:25 with 14:14b; Psalm 92:12-15, Msg; Proverbs 21:21, LB & Msg.; 8:8-10, 35, LB and excerpts of entire chapter; Proverbs 25:2; 1 Peter 1:10-12; 1 Corinthians 13:12.)

{to be continued with Scene Two}





# Count Them One by One

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Perhaps we have not counted  
All our blessings one by one;  
Perhaps we have not bothered  
To remember whence they come;  
And maybe we have taken  
Just for granted all the things  
That the good Lord has created  
And the gifts that nature brings.

The autumn hills in glory robed,  
A golden field of grain,  
A sunset's dazzling splendor  
Or the Milky Way's great plain,  
The starry sky's sublimity,  
The ocean's might power,  
The wonder of creation  
In the petal of a flower.

And so if we have failed to show  
By work or act or deed  
That we are thankful unto him  
Who fills our daily need,  
May this day show we're grateful  
When we add up all the sum  
Of blessings we remember,  
As we count them one by one.

~ Author Unknown

{Reprinted from Christian Church of God  
bulletin, November 23, 1991}

**Let us come before him with thanksgiving  
and extol him with music and song.** (Psalms  
95:2, NIV)

Let us come before his presence with  
thanksgiving. . . . Everywhere God is present,  
but there is a peculiar presence of grace and  
glory into which men should never come without  
the profoundest reverence. . . . and when we do  
draw near to him we should remember his great  
goodness to us and cheerfully confess it. Our  
worship should have reference to the past as  
well as to the future; if we do not bless the Lord  
for what we have already received, how can we  
reasonably look for more. We are permitted to  
bring our petitions, and therefore we are in hon-  
our bound to bring our thanksgivings. . . . It is  
not always easy to unite enthusiasm with rever-  
ence, and it is a frequent fault to destroy one of  
these qualities while straining after the other.  
The perfection of singing is that which unites joy  
with gravity, exultation with humility, fervency  
with sobriety. . . . The noise is to be joyful; . . .  
people are so impressed with the idea that they  
ought to be serious that they put on the aspect  
of misery, and quite forget that joy is as much a  
characteristic of true worship as solemnity it-  
self.

—Treasury of David, The / Charles Spurgeon



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## Outreach



On October 16 Pastor Jeff Booth wrote:

Dear Brethren, This Sabbath, 10/20 . . . Darrell Sehorn will be speaking at our services on the topic of "Keeping the Faith after Losing a Child." Darrell and Linda have lived through the worst possible nightmare any parent could have . . . The tragedy of losing a child. I urge you to attend and bring anyone with you who may need this faith-bolstering testimony of one who has walked through the 'valley of the shadow of death' and has survived with his faith intact. In Jesus' service.

Numerous people attended, including some who drove considerable distance. It was a time of mutual support and fellowship. Special appreciation goes to Darrell for promoting and providing this Outreach ministry. Requests may be made for copies of the tape or CD. Ask for the title / *Will Praise You in the Storm*.

Contact the Editor at  
jerrydalemc@sbcglobal.net  
or P. O. Box 33134,  
Amarillo, TX 79120



# The Quester

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By Jerry McClenagan  
Continued from October  
'07 newsletter



"God gave Solomon wisdom and very great insight, and a breadth of understanding as measureless as the sand on the seashore. Solomon's wisdom was greater than the wisdom of all the men of the East, and greater than all the wisdom of Egypt. Men of all nations came to listen to Solomon's wisdom, sent by all the kings of the world, who had heard of his wisdom." (1 Kings 4:29-31, 34, NIV) "The LORD highly exalted Solomon in the sight of all Israel and bestowed on him royal splendor such as no king over Israel ever had before." (1 Chronicles 29:25, NIV) / Jesus: "See how the lilies of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these" (Matthew 6:28b-29, NIV); **"Now one greater than Solomon is here"** (Matthew 12:42c, NIV).

The Scriptures affirm that Christ is "made unto us wisdom." As Wisdom personified, he declared himself to be 'the Way, the Truth and the Life.' During his earthly tenure, Jesus had a momentous meeting on a mountain called the Mount of Transfiguration where he conversed with Moses and Elijah. Come with me to another mountain of "Transfiguration"—at another time, in another place—an imaginary one where Solomon encounters Jesus. The "Teacher" will be taught anew by the "Truth." The "Quester" (as Eugene Peterson expresses it in *The Message*) will end his search at the feet of the "Answer"—the "Way."

{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 ONE

The morning mist enshrouded the top of the mountain, displaying a rainbow as the sun emerged. From the arid side of the mountain a weary and thoughtful king approached. From the verdant, flower-strewn side another Person approached beneath the rainbow's arch, materializing in resplendent glory: "The Son of Man in a robe and gold breastplate, hair a blizzard of white, eyes pouring fire-blaze, both feet furnace-fired bronze, His voice a cataract, . . . His face a perigee sun."<sup>1</sup>

Solomon's glory paled into insignificance before this "Son of Man." Though this king of Israel was purportedly the wisest man who ever lived, he was now face to face with him who was Wisdom Personified. Jesus introduced himself:

"I AM! I am the self-existent eternal One, Son of man, Son of God—one far greater than you, Solomon!"

Solomon fell backward. He knew he was in the presence of Deity, and prostrated himself before the Lord. He had waited a long time for this encounter. What he did not know was whether he was in body or spirit, whether in a dream or reality. He held a rolled parchment in his hands—an incomplete manuscript he called simply "The Preacher." So many questions about life burned within him. Would he who was called Wisdom Personified be able to answer them?

True time-warp engulfed them; no measurement of time marked their conversation. Today was Yesterday, and Yesterday was Tomorrow in the Eternity-Realm.

With the gentleness of a shepherd, Jesus reached down and pulled | cont. pg. 7

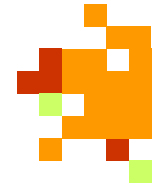
# LifePoints

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1. Give people more than they expect and do it cheerfully.
2. Marry a man/woman you love to talk to. As you get older, their conversational skills will be as important as any other.
3. Don't believe all you hear, spend all you have or sleep all you want.
4. When you say, 'I love you,' mean it.
5. When you say, 'I'm sorry,' look the person in the eye.'
6. Be engaged at least six months before you get married.
7. Believe in love at first sight.
8. Never laugh at anyone's dreams. People who don't have dreams don't have much.
9. Love deeply and passionately. You might get hurt but it's the only way to live life completely.
10. In disagreements, fight fairly. No name calling.
11. Don't judge people by their relatives.
12. Talk slowly but think quickly.
13. When someone asks you a question you don't want to answer, smile and ask, 'Why do you want to know?'
14. Remember that great love and great achievements involve great risk.
15. When you lose, don't lose the lesson.
16. Remember the three R's: Respect for self; Respect for others; and Responsibility for all your actions.
17. Don't let a little dispute injure a great friendship.
18. When you realize you've made a mistake, take immediate steps to correct it.
19. Smile when picking up the phone. The caller will hear it in your voice.
20. Spend some time alone.

~ contributed by Jeff Booth



CROWDING A LIFE DOES  
NOT ALWAYS ENRICH IT.

~ contributed by Martha McClenagan



announcement of the phenomenon of King Solomon and the King of Glory walking through the woods. As they step into a clearing, Jesus points to the valley spread before them and speaks.

"Solomon, you have stood on the rim of life, looking across its valley as if from our vantage point here today. And with my gift of wisdom you have penned many words of wisdom about how to handle life, about living a sane, healthy, balanced life. You have emphasized that 'Wisdom is a tree of life', the fruits of the tree of Wisdom being a long, good life with riches and, pleasure and peace. And you said 'happy is the man who keeps on eating it.'

"That is the key: 'keeps on eating it.' Did you do that? Or, did you let that precious fruit drop to the ground at your feet and leave it their to rot?"

Solomon looked away, seeming to focus on a distant eagle floating on the air currents above a canyon. His thoughts rose and fell with the great bird. Then he turned back to face the Master's intense look. "I can see it was easier to give advice than to follow it. Even though I wrote that 'before every man there lies a wide and pleasant road that seems right but ends in death.' You know that I agreed, at least in principle, that 'a godly man's life is exciting.' That it pays to be good."

Jesus nodded with a smile of affirmation. This meeting wasn't for the purpose of condemning Solomon; he only intended to impart more wisdom and insight to him.

"Do you recall how you wrote about Wisdom as a lady?" the Son of Man asked. "How she has her place in the scheme of things?"

Solomon opened the scroll in his hands, pointing to the words.

"Yes," he said. "It is part of the introduction to my many proverbs." He watched a curious fox peek at them from behind a shrub. "Like that beautiful creature there, I was always interested in searching out the details of your Creation, Lord. It was a special moment when the Unseen Muse gave me those words. Wisdom herself spoke"—and he pointed once more to the parchment—"saying, 'God sovereignly made me—the first, the basic—before he did anything else. I was brought into being a long time ago, well before Earth got its start. I arrived on the scene before Ocean, yes, even before Springs and Rivers and Lakes. Before Mountains were sculpted and Hills took shape, I was already there, newborn; long before God stretched out Earth's Horizons, and tended to the minute details of Soil and Weather, and set Sky firmly in place, I was there. When he mapped and gave borders to wild Ocean, built the vast vault of Heaven, and installed the fountains that fed Ocean. When he drew a boundary for Sea, posted a sign that said, NO TRESPASSING, and then staked Earth's foundations, I was right there with him, making sure everything fit. Day after day I was there, with my joyful applause, always enjoying his company, Delighted with the world of things and creatures, happily celebrating the human family.'"

As Solomon rolled the parchment back together, Jesus spoke.

"Did you know that, in a sense, what you saw was me? Wisdom Personified, speaking to the entire human race for all time?"

"I only knew that I sensed in my spirit this personification of wisdom was not as other wisdom literature extant today. I knew I wasn't presenting wisdom as one of the gods of other nations. But as you are saying, I thought of this Wisdom as a self-conscious, divine being distinct from the Almighty God."

| cont. pg. 13 >

Solomon to his feet.

"Walk with me," he said. His authority resonated with his tenderness.

The sounds of nature's chorus announced their walk down the path arched with moss-laden trees. The 'I AM,' the one known by many names, including Jesus, smiled as he laid his hand upon the trunk of a giant redwood, looking up to the top of its heaven-reaching branches.

"Did you plant the seed for this wonder of creation, Lord?" Solomon asked.

"I planted many seeds, Solomon. This one is the perpetuation of that forest begun eons ago. Trees like this are especially symbolic, representing faith and eternity."

Solomon smiled as he nodded in agreement. "My father thought they were. One of my favorite songs he wrote says, 'Good people will prosper like palm trees, grow tall like Lebanon cedars; transplanted to God's courtyard, they'll grow tall in the presence of God, lithe and green, virile still in old age.'"

Chipmunks skittered ahead of them as they walked. The Creation Word observed his handiwork, pleased with every detail. He stopped at a petrified tree, fallen long ago, and they sat upon it.

"You sought out many such trees for your earthly kingdom," Jesus said. "Not the least of which were the cedars of Lebanon which you used to build the Palace of the Forest of Lebanon."

Solomon sighed, a flicker of satisfaction in his eyes as he reminisced. "Those were glorious times, impressing even the Queen of Sheba."

It was time to confront Solomon: "It would have been better if you had impressed her with strong character."

Solomon winced as the Lord continued: "You have been able to do so many things, fulfill so many dreams. But your quest was material, not spiritual." Tears formed in Solomon's eyes. "While you drew from my creation, transporting some of its wealth and glory into your kingdom, you forgot about me. You diverted your attention to these things more than to me. Don't you see? You admired the creation more than the Creator."

Solomon turned defensive: "But my excitement with your creation was akin to that of my father, David. As you know, he wrote many songs about the works of your hands, how they give mute testimony to your glory and majesty."

"The difference, my dear Solomon, is attitude; his heart was perfect toward me. When he wrote that he would lift up his eyes unto the hills from whence came his help, he didn't say his source of strength was the hills. He said—"

"I know," Solomon interrupted. "He said his help came from you."

Thus, their conversation began. As they continued to walk and talk, Jesus reminded Solomon of man's beginnings, reflecting on the Paradise of Eden. How they had succumbed to Satan's influence, subtly introduced from the rich beauty of that same Creation. He explained to him the nuances of the resultant Curse with its repercussions that continued through all history. And of man's penchant for sin and evil resulting in chaos and sorrow.

A speckled white owl hooted and blue jays added their loud | cont. pg. 10 >



## From the PASTOR'S DESK

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God.

A spirit of thankfulness and gratitude for what God has done drives out worry, leading to peace and joy. So, to experience the peace of God we must be thankful believers. Anxiety does not empty tomorrow of its sorrow, but it does empty today of its strength. It does not make you escape the evil; it makes you unfit to cope with it when it comes. God gives us the power to bear the sorrow and offers us strength to bear the burdens of life.

Thankfulness begets rejoicing as Paul testified even in the face of imprisonment, beatings and persecution beyond anything we might imagine:

4 Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice! 6 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; 7 and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. —Phil 4:4, 6-7 (NKJV)

We can wallow in self-pity and fear what tomorrow may bring or we can fix our attention upon the blessings of God . . . the choice is ours.

"31 Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' 32 For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. 33 But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. 34 Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble."

—Matt 6:31-34 (NKJV)

This month and year-round, let us give God the thanks for all He has done, for His blessings are without number!

"Blessed be the Lord, Who daily loads us with benefits, The God of our salvation!" —Psalms 68:19 (NKJV)

I give thanks for you,  
*Jeff Booth*



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

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A TRIBUTE TO BARBARA JOHNSON, CHRISTIAN HUMORIST / by Joan Sikes, Amarillo author, member of Inspirational Writers Alive! & Panhandle Professional Writers.

The Christian reading world and inspiration to all writers lost a great friend and colleague when Barbara Johnson passed away on July 3. Barbara proved beyond any doubt that humor in the midst of almost unbearable circumstances is necessary. Hurting parents everywhere clambered for writings. Nearly every book she wrote hit the paperback bestseller list, and five million copies of her books are available worldwide.

I became acquainted with Barbara Johnson when the teacher in a Ladies Bible Class I attended lifted high a book titled *Stick a Geranium in Your Hat and Be Happy*. As she waved the book back and forth and extolled its virtues, the thought occurred to me that no one could pass up a book with a title like that. Before two days had passed, I had laughed and cried completely through the book. Since that time, I have read several of her many books. Not a one failed to encourage me.

After all, how can one resist titles like *Splashes of Joy in the Cesspools of Life*; *Mama Get the Hammer... there's a Fly on Papa's Head*; *Living Somewhere between Estrogen and Death*, *He's Gonna Toot and I'm Gonna Scoot*?

[Here are a few excerpts:] "Pain is inevitable but misery is optional"; "the iron crown of suffering precedes the golden crown of glory"; "I didn't cause it; I cannot control it; nor can I cure it." . . .

What a tremendous example from a person who's suffered such tragedy. One of her sons dies in Vietnam, another was killed by a drunk driver, and a third became involved in the homosexual lifestyle. Her husband (Gopher Bill as she nicknamed him) was stricken with a crippling disease. . . .

I could write much more about Barbara Johnson, but I'll let her have the last word.

*Smile! It kills time between disasters.*

*We must understand that it is not always necessary to understand.*

*Wherever I go, there I am.*

*S.D.D.D.D. Same doo-doo, different day.*

*How can I be over the hill when I never even got to the top?*

For more about Barbara Johnson: [www.BarbaraSpatulaJohnson.com](http://www.BarbaraSpatulaJohnson.com)

FROM THE B.C. McCLENAGAN FAMILY NEWSLETTER / Don writes about an experience at the 2007 Festival of Tabernacles in Florida: After our Dolphin Excursion trip, we went to a little restaurant on the water for supper. The fish being served was "mahi". I wondered if it was a clean, i.e. kosher, fish. I recognized the people in front of me as also having been on the boat. "Ah, church people," I thought. "Excuse me," I asked, "Is that fish clean?" Neither the man or the woman said anything for quite a few seconds. Then: "Well, I suppose it's pretty clean," the man said. The woman added helpfully, "I don't suppose they're as clean as they used to be." The man's turn to order came. "I think I'll have the shrimp gumbo," he said.

Afternote: Wikipedia: "mahi-mahi are kosher . . ."