

The Union Baptist Church Newsletter



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A DEVOTIONAL FOR MEN ON THE GO

I LOVE TO TELL THE STORY

"God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline. So never be ashamed to tell others about our Lord."

2 Timothy 1:7-8 (NLT)

These verses describe my dear friend Donnie Shell perfectly. We were teammates during the two years I played for the Pittsburgh Steelers. Donnie was named to the Pro Bowl five times and won four Super Bowls during an NFL career that spanned fourteen seasons. But the first thing I noticed about him was not his athletic ability; it was his Christian lifestyle.

That's the thing Donnie is most proud of in his life: his relationship with Jesus Christ.

And he's quick to tell you about that relationship. He won't hammer you with it, but he is always ready to share the importance of it in his life. You can see his relationship with Christ in his manner, in his talk, in the way he treats and engages people, and in the decisions he makes in his family life as well as in business. Donnie lives out the idea of "power, love, and self-discipline," and "never being ashamed" of the gospel. Donnie always has Jesus on his heart and wants to talk about Him to anyone he meets.

How about us? When it comes to telling others about Jesus, you and I should follow Donnie's lead, always ready to share what Jesus Christ has done in our lives. There may have been times in the past when we tried but were hesitant. And that has intimidated us, so we haven't attempted it since. Maybe we're timid to share because we don't know how it will be received. Maybe we feel inadequate to share – after all, we haven't memorized the entire Bible yet.

*Here's the bottom line: God, through what Jesus Christ did for you, changed your life forever. You are not today who you were before God changed your life, and you are becoming more of the person He wants you to be each day. Share **your story** – don't worry about knowing all the Scripture verses or about teaching the Bible to someone. Just share *your story*. If you want just one verse to use, use John 3:16 – "For God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life." Amen.*

UNCOMMON KEY > *The world is waiting to hear about Jesus Christ – from you. Just share your story of how He changed, and is changing, your life. Amen.*

*Uncommon Life – Daily Challenge
~Tony Dungy and Nathan Whitaker*

A MEDITATION FOR EVERY MARRIED COUPLE

KINGDOM COUPLES OFFER GRACE

The meaning of life. The wasted years of life. The poor choices of life. God answers the mess of life with one word: grace.

~Max Lucado, *Grace*

There's a story told about Fiorello LaGuardia, the mayor of New York City during the Great Depression and World War II. While acting as judge one day, the colorful mayor faced an old woman charged with stealing bread for her grandchildren. Because the law was clear, LaGuardia fined the woman ten dollars, but as he did so, he pulled a ten-dollar bill out of his pocket and paid the fine. What's more, he collected a fine of fifty cents from every person in the room for living in a city where a grandmother had to steal bread to feed her starving grandchildren, and he gave almost fifty dollars to the bewildered woman.

Grace means favor -- literally, unmerited favor.

Communicating with your spouse should be a ministry of grace. It shouldn't matter if your spouse deserves for you to say nice things. It shouldn't matter if he or she has earned your approval. According to God's Word, you are to use your words and tone to convey grace in your marriage.

Aren't you glad that God doesn't wait until you deserve His grace in order to give it to you? Neither should you hold your spouse hostage to a certain standard in order for you to extend grace. Amen.

APPLICATION

1. Is it difficult to speak **kind words** when you feel your spouse doesn't deserve it?
2. What kindness or grace has someone extended to you when you least deserved it?
3. How can looking closely at God's grace encourage you to live out the same grace with your spouse?

PRAYER

Lord, thank You that You show us grace in so many areas of our lives. Help us to follow Your example and extend grace to each other in our actions and words. Amen.

To think of names, begin praying that God would lead you to some life-giving relationships. Amen.

*Kingdom Marriage Devotional
~ Dr. Tony Evans*



DEVOTIONAL FOR SINGLES

DESPERATE ENCOUNTERS

“You will seek the Lord your God, and you will find Him if you search for Him with all your heart and all your soul.” Deuteronomy 4:29 (NASB)

Word circulated that Jesus would be passing through Jericho one day, and a diminutive tax collector named Zacchaeus wanted to catch a glimpse of Him. Desperate, the man climbed a tree so he wouldn't miss what his heart was hoping to behold. Jesus saw him there, perched in the tree, and called to him as He passed by: “Zacchaeus, hurry and come down, for today I must stay at your house.” (Luke 19:5)

Bartimaeus, an outcast and blind man, was also passionate about “seeing” Jesus. Sitting at his usual begging post, he heard the commotion of people excitedly streaming into town hoping to get a look at the stranger who was said to be the Messiah. When Bartimaeus heard that it was Jesus passing by, he cried out, “**Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!**” (Luke 18:38) – loud enough that he embarrassed the other townspeople, who wanted to give Jesus a dignified welcome. But his persistence caught the ear of the traveling Savior, and a blind beggar received his sight.

In the Old Testament, when God tested the Israelite travelers, threatening to abandon them in the desert after their worship of a golden calf, **it was the desperation of Moses pleading with Him** – “If Your presence does not go with us, do not lead us up from here.” (Exodus 33:15) – that galvanized God's continued presence among the people. Moses didn't want the Promised Land without the Promise Giver. And in response to His servant's desperation, God said, “I will do this very thing you have asked, for you have found favor with me, and I know you by name” (v. 17 CSB). **He dazzled Moses with His glory in the cleft of the rock – with more of His visible presence than anyone had ever seen.**

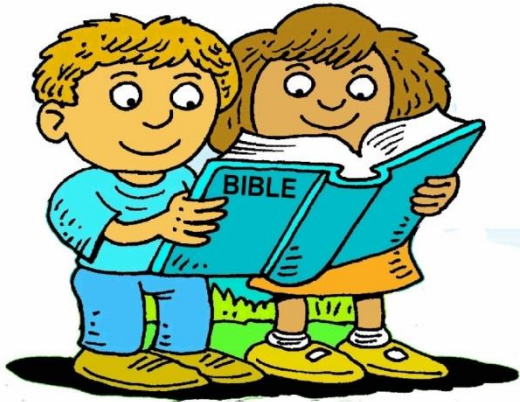
Perhaps what we lack more than anything else these days is what these three people had: **Holy desperation.**

Clearly, God responds to it. **He wants our relationship with Him to be our consuming passion** – what we think about, what we talk about, what we're constantly hungry for more of and willing to do anything for – because **He knows** once we've experienced His manifest presence; our appetites will be whetted for more. And more.

Those in the Scripture who didn't let obstacles become excuses for not seeking Him, or back down at others' disapproval of their unabashed appeals for mercy, or give in to the despair of delay but latched on to Him for dear life – they received what God was obviously willing to give them. **Wonder what He is ready to give you** if only you will seek Him **more desperately? More passionately? More fully?** Amen.

“Call to Me and I will answer you, and I will tell you great and mighty things, which you do not know.” Jeremiah 33:3

*Awaken
~Priscilla Shirer*



TEEN'S CORNER

LEAVE YOUR BIBLES OPEN

“Man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord.” Deuteronomy 8:3 (NLT)

Daily Bible reading is a habit worth developing. The Word feeds us spiritually and satisfies our thirst for peace. It convicts us of sin and reminds us of God’s grace. Still, the Bible will not jump into your hands or demand your attention. Chances are nobody will be checking up on whether you spent time in the Scriptures today. Yet few things could possibly be more important.

According to the American Bible Society, **more than half of the population would like to read the Bible more often, but only 15% of Americans do it daily.** Southerners and the elderly do it the best. (So, if you’re an elderly Southerner, you get a free pass to skip to the next devotion.)

Most of us would cite the same reason for not spending daily time in our Bibles: **“I’m just too busy.”** But ARE we? I don’t mean to get too nosy, but **how much time did you spend on Facebook or Pinterest today?** How often did you check your Instagram feed or scan the latest Groupon deals? How long did you park yourself in front of your TV or gaming console? We find plenty of time to scan today’s news headlines or devour our newest novel. Yet we ignore the very words – the only words – that have the power of life.

What you feed yourself is what you start to develop an appetite for. God’s Word will appeal to you more and more as you learn to turn away from competing interests. In other words, you may have to subtract something in order to add Bible reading to your day. But you’ll find the trade to be well worth it.

PURSUING TODAY

To help develop a new habit, plan to **read your Bible** (even for a few minutes) at the same time and in the same location every day. **Leave your Bible open or set an alarm to remind you.** Try it for the remainder of this twenty-five-day section. **If you have some extra time, read Psalm 119,** an entire psalm devoted to the power of God’s Word. Notice all the different names for God’s Word – laws, statutes, etc. Then **make note** of all the benefits of spending time in it. Amen.

*Not a Fan Devotional Book,
~By Kyle Idleman*

DEVOTIONAL FOR SENIORS

Thanksgiving!

"I will praise God's name in song and glorify him with thanksgiving." Psalm 69:30 (NIV)



There are many thanksgiving-themed devotions that focus on different parts of the word "thanksgiving." Some draw our attention to the root word, "thanks." Others highlight the word "give." My favorite part of the word, however, is "ING!"

This noticeable suffix provides a sense of movement and urgency. When we have a thankful heart toward God, we can't help but put that thankfulness into action: beginnING and worshipING God; beginnING with our neighbors; beginnING with the good news of Jesus; beginnING with our bounty; beginnING unconditionally; and beginnING with others to the beginnING hope we have in Jesus. God is glorified when our lives are continually overflowing with these expressions of thanks. So, go ahead and say "thank you" to God for all his goodness. But remember, your words are only the beginning!

Thank you, Jesus, for your outpouring of love and forgiveness. Help me live a life of thanksgiving to your glory. Amen.

*Hope-Full Living Devotions for Seniors
~Sandi Geis*

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"Be thankful for what you have; you'll end up having more. If you concentrate on what you don't have, you will never, ever have enough." – **Oprah Winfrey**

"As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them." – **John F. Kennedy**

"Be present in all things and thankful for all things." – **Maya Angelou**

"Not what we say about our blessings, but how we use them, is the true measure of Thanksgiving."
– **Unknown**

"I think that is a better thing than thanksgiving: thanks-living. How is this to be done? By a general cheerfulness of manner, by an obedience to the command of Him by whose mercy we live, by a perpetual, constant delighting of ourselves in the Lord, and by a submission of our desires to His will."
– **Charles Spurgeon**

"We must find time to stop and thank the people who make a difference in our lives."
– **John F. Kennedy**

Humor

Turkey Hunters' Tale

Tommy and Billy were discussing their latest turkey shoot. Tommy says emphatically, 'I am never going to take my wife Laura shooting with me ever again, Billy!' 'That bad, eh?' enquires Billy smiling. 'Yeah, Laura did everything wrong, got nothing right. She chattered too much, constantly disturbed the undergrowth, loaded the wrong gauge shot in the gun, used the wrong luring whistles and worst of all,' bellows Tommy, 'she shot more turkeys than me!'



Those Ancestors!



The Taylor's were proud of their family tradition. Their ancestors had travelled to America with the Pilgrim Fathers on the Mayflower. They had included congressmen, successful entrepreneurs, famous sports people and television stars. They decided to research and write a family history, something for their children and grandchildren. They found a specialist genealogist and writer to help them. Only one problem arose - how to handle Great Uncle Jefferson Taylor who was executed in the electric chair. The writer said she could handle the story tactfully. When the book appeared the section about Jefferson read:

Great Uncle Jefferson Taylor occupied a chair of applied electronics at an important government institution, he was attached to his position by the strongest of ties, and his death came as a great shock.

A Piece of Pumpkin Pie?

Jolene was only 8 years old and lived with family in the country with her parents and brother. Consequently they did not often have visitors from the city. One day Jolene's mother said that father was bringing two guests home for Thanksgiving supper.

After they had enjoyed the turkey, Jolene went to the kitchen to help her mother, and proudly brought in the first piece of pumpkin pie and gave it to her father. He then passed the plate to a guest. When Jolene came in with the second piece and gave it to his father, he again gave it to a guest. His was too much for Little Jolene, who blurted out, 'It's no use, Daddy. The pieces are all the same size.'



HUMOR . . . CONTINUED

What's the best thing to put into a pumpkin pie? Your teeth.

A Curious Thanksgiving Story

The minister of the church was giving a Thanksgiving service. A ragged man in the audience asked, 'What is there to be thankful for?' Surprised, the minister replied, 'What is your name, sir?' 'Cause,' was the reply.

'Well Cause, you could be thankful for your healthy body...' 'I'm blind and I have lung cancer.' '..or your family...' 'I don't have a family.' '...or your home...' 'I don't have a home.' "Well, then," retorted the preacher, I guess you're a lost Cause!

Turkey Tight End?

A professional NFL team, the Philadelphia Eagles, had just finished their daily practice session when a large turkey came strutting onto the field. While the players gazed in amazement, the turkey walked up to the head coach and demanded to be given a chance to play at tight end.

Everyone stared in silence as the turkey caught pass after pass and ran right through the defensive line. When the turkey returned to the sidelines, the coach shouted, 'You're superb. Sign up for the season, and I'll see to it that you get a huge bonus.'

'Forget the bonus,' replied the turkey, 'What I want to know is, does your season go past Thanksgiving Day?'

<https://www.funny-jokes.com/humor/christmas/thanksgiving.htm>



Mirror Image - Christmas Fable

On Christmas Eve, Nathan thought it would be nice to buy his wife a little gift for the next day. Always short of money, he thought long and hard about what that present might be.

Unable to decide, Nathan entered Debenhams and in the cosmetics section he asked the girl, 'How about some perfume?' She showed him a bottle costing £75. [\$150USD] 'Too expensive,' muttered Nathan. The young lady returned with a smaller bottle for £50. 'Oh dear,' Nathan groused, 'still far too much.' Growing rather annoyed at Nathan's meanness, the sales girl brought out a tiny £10 bottle and offered it to him.

Nathan became really agitated, 'What I mean', he whined, 'is I'd like to see something really cheap.' So the sales girl handed him a mirror.

https://www.funny-jokes.com/humor/christmas/christmas_stories_funny.htm



Practical Information

Family Emergency Scams

Scammers may pose as relatives or friends, calling or sending messages to urge you to wire money immediately. They'll say they need cash to help with an emergency — like getting out of jail, paying a hospital bill, or needing to leave a foreign country. Their goal is to trick you into sending money before you realize it's a scam.



Verify an Emergency

If someone calls or sends a message claiming to be a family member or a friend desperate for money:

- ***Resist the urge to act immediately***, no matter how dramatic the story is.
- ***Verify the person's identity*** by asking questions that a stranger couldn't possibly answer.
- ***Call a phone number for your family member or friend*** that you know to be genuine.
- ***Check the story out with someone else*** in your family or circle of friends, even if you've been told to keep it a secret.
- ***Don't wire money*** — or send a check or money order by overnight delivery or courier.
- ***Report possible fraud*** at ftc.gov/complaint or by calling 1-877-382-4357.

Scammers Use Tricks

They impersonate your loved one convincingly.

It's surprisingly easy for a scam artist to impersonate someone. Social networking sites make it easier than ever to sleuth out personal and family information. Scammers also could hack into the e-mail account of someone you know. To make their story seem legitimate, they may involve another crook who claims to be an authority figure, like a lawyer or police officer.

They play on your emotions.

Scammers are banking on your love and concern to outweigh your skepticism. In one version of this scam, con artists impersonate grandchildren in distress to trick concerned grandparents into sending money. Sometimes, this is called a "Grandparent Scam."

They swear you to secrecy.

Con artists may insist that you keep their request for money confidential — to keep you from checking out their story and identifying them as imposters. Victims of this scam often don't realize they've been tricked

Practical Information on Scams . . . continued

until days later, when they speak to their actual family member or friend who knows nothing about the “emergency.” By then, the money they sent can't be recovered.

They insist that you wire money right away.

Scammers pressure people into wiring money because it's like sending cash – once it's gone, you can't trace it or get it back. Imposters encourage using money transfer services so they can get your money before you realize you've been scammed.

Report Scams

If you believe you've responded to a scam, file a complaint with:

- **The Federal Trade Commission (FTC)** 1-877-382-4357
- **Your State Attorney General** Toll-free: 800-282-0515 in Ohio,

<https://www.ohioattorneygeneral.gov/Contact>

<https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/articles/0204-family-emergency-scams>



Sweepstakes and Lottery Scams

Who wouldn't want to win thousands or even millions of dollars, or the chance to go on a luxury vacation? There are many legitimate sweepstakes and contests out there, and the idea of winning some fabulous prize can be mighty alluring. Con artists get that, and they exploit your eagerness to score that big check or dream trip. Sweepstakes and lottery scams have been around for a long time, and they're still going strong.

According to the FTC, the initial contact in a sweepstakes scam is often a call, a postcard, an email or a social media notification offering congratulations for winning some big contest. But there's a catch: You'll be asked to pay a fee, taxes or customs duties to claim your prize. The scammers may request bank account information, urge you to send money via a wire transfer, or suggest you purchase gift cards and give them the card numbers.

Regardless of the method, once scammers ensnare a victim they keep asking for more money and provide nothing in return but more promises. To protect yourself, follow these basic precautions.

Scams . . . continued

Warning Signs

- Calls or online solicitations that claim you were automatically entered in a sweepstakes you've never heard of before.
- A person calls you and says he has a winning state lottery ticket but needs help paying an upfront fee to collect on it. According to the North American Association of State and Provincial Lotteries, "Once a ticket is bought, no money is EVER required to claim a prize."

Do's

- Do look carefully at the envelopes of purported sweepstakes mailers. If your entry form or congratulations letter was sent bulk rate, it means a lot of other people got the same mailing.
- Do watch out for scammers who try to trick victims into thinking they've won a legitimate contest, such as the Publishers Clearing House (PCH) sweepstakes.
- Do read the fine print on the contest form, and make sure it isn't missing legally required information such as the start and end dates of the contest, the methods of entry, descriptions of prizes and various legal disclaimers. If that stuff isn't there, something is funny.
- Do carefully check for your odds of winning, and be especially leery of contests that don't disclose it.
- Do beware your own eagerness. An *FTC survey* found that those who reported a high willingness to take risks were three times more likely to become victims of fraudulent prize promotions than those with a low willingness.

Don'ts

- Don't ever pay a fee to claim a prize you've supposedly won or to improve your chances of winning.
- Don't wire money to or share gift card numbers with someone claiming to represent a contest or lottery. "Both payment methods are a sure sign of a scam," the FTC warns.
- Don't deposit supposed winnings that come in the form of a partial-payment check, accompanied by instructions to return a portion to the contest sponsors. The check will bounce, and you'll likely have to repay your bank for any withdrawals from that deposit, including what you sent the scammers.
- Don't believe people who contact you via social media about a cash prize, especially if they purport to be Mark Zuckerberg — the *New York Times* recently reported on con artists who promise big money in the online guise of the Facebook chief executive.
- Don't call a number with an 876, 809 or 284 area code to confirm that you've won a prize. Though they aren't identified on your phone as foreign, those codes belong to Caribbean countries that have become hotbeds for contest frauds. They might be masking "pay-per-call" services (the equivalent of 900 numbers in the United States) that enable the number's owner to charge a hefty per-minute fee — which you won't discover until you get your next phone bill.

AARP Fraud Watch Network

<https://www.aarp.org/money/scams-fraud/info-2019/sweepstakes.html>

A Story to Warm Your Heart

ALWAYS BELIEVE IN MIRACLES

“Where there is great love there are always miracles.”

~Willa Cather

The year was 1924, and it was a few days before Christmas. Outside, a blinding snowstorm raged around the typical city row house into which my family had moved from the country only two months earlier. We hadn't yet become acquainted with any of our new neighbors.

I didn't see the snowflakes making frosty designs on my window, nor was I aware of my mother's lonely vigil by my bedside. I was a little girl of five, deep in a feverish coma, and had the only case of the dreaded diphtheria in Philadelphia.

Two weeks earlier, my illness had been diagnosed by the neighborhood's family doctor, whose office was a well-worn room in the basement of his home at the corner of the block. Immediately, my father and older sister had been given shots of antitoxin and shipped off to relatives until the danger passed. My mother, refusing to trust her child to a strange hospital in a strange city, stayed behind to nurse me at home.

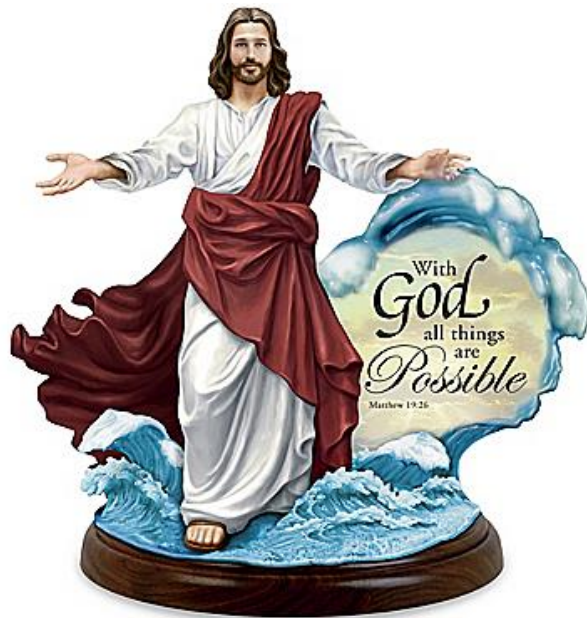
The city posted yellow warning signs on our front and back doors announcing a contagious disease. To make doubly sure no one other than the doctor approached, a policeman stood guard, twenty-four hours a day, outside each door. It was also their duty to see that my mother remained inside. Mail was laid on the doorstep, and the officer would tap on the door, then move back some distance to see that my mother opened the door only a crack and quickly took the mail inside.

In those days, Christmas shopping didn't begin in October, nor were toys given in the abundance popular today. A week or so before was time enough to prepare, and the tree was to be decorated by Santa Claus when he came on Christmas Eve. This year, in my family, it was different. With the sudden onset of diphtheria, no thought had been given to Christmas. My getting well was all that mattered.

Late in the afternoon of December twenty-third, the policeman tapped on the door. There was a letter on the stoop from my mother's sister. She was Catholic, and she'd enclosed a small bag of medals with her letter: "I can't be with you," she wrote, "but I want to help. My priest has blessed these medals. The bag is never to be opened, just pin it on your little girl's nightgown and believe."

My mother, willing to try anything, pinned the medals to my gown, but with little hope, as she looked down at my drawn cheeks and proceeded to apply cold compresses to my forehead. My eyes remained closed. During his visit, the doctor's face was grave, and he only shook his head sadly before taking his leave.

Late the next afternoon, my mother heard a faint call. Rushing into my room, she burst into tears of joy. The fever had broken and my eyes were open! Uncomprehending but overcome with gratitude, she fell to her knees and hugged me, but her relief was suddenly shattered when my first words were, "Mama, it's Christmas Eve. What is Santa going to bring me?"



A Story to Warm Your Heart . . . continued

"No, no!" she cried. "Honey, you've been sick a long time, but it isn't Christmas Eve yet." But try as she might, she could not persuade me to think otherwise, and I fell asleep that night with sugarplums dancing in my head.

Downstairs, my mother was frantic. She told me years later how she even considered putting on some of my father's clothing and trying to sneak out to the corner store to get me a few toys, but of course she didn't. Come morning, all she could do was hope to convince me that Christmas was yet to arrive.

Christmas morning came, and I awoke with the usual childish anticipation. My mother, exhausted with heartache, was still half-asleep when the policeman gave his familiar tap on the door. Warily, my mother opened it, and then gasped in surprise. On the doorstep was a large country basket filled with a Christmas dinner for two and an assortment of toys for a five-year-old girl. My mother's eyes silently questioned the policeman, but he only smiled and shrugged his shoulders. There was no answer there. Where had this spirit of Christmas come from? Would she ever know?

I recovered fully, unaware that two miracles had occurred that Christmas. My father and sister returned, and we settled into life in the city. As the years passed, my mother made a lasting friendship with one neighbor in particular, a friendly Irish woman and busy mother of six. Although they were close friends for years, it was only much later that my mother finally discovered the secret of the second Christmas miracle. Her friend with the thick, Irish brogue and smiling eyes—at the time a complete stranger—was the one who had understood, as a mother, the awful predicament my mother faced and cared enough to leave that wonderful Christmas basket on our doorstep. Thanks to her, I still believe in miracles. With God, all things are still possible!

~ Gerrie Edwards

~Jack Canfield, et. al.
Chicken Soup for the Soul: Moms Know Best

We wait a year to celebrate Christmas. Yet when we plan our celebration, we tend to forget those who serve us unfailingly. We gather around the Christmas tree with friends and family. But we forget to invite those who are alone in this world. This Christmas, bring joy to others with an act of kindness. **Use these inspirational Christmas quotes to teach the real meaning of giving.**

George Matthew Adams, "The Christmas Heart": "Let us remember that the Christmas heart is a giving heart, a wide open heart that thinks of others first. The birth of the baby Jesus stands as the most significant event in all history, because it has meant the pouring into a sick world the healing medicine of love which has transformed all manner of hearts for almost two thousand years... Underneath all the bulging bundles is this beating Christmas heart."

Ann Schultz: "Let us keep Christmas beautiful without a thought of greed, that it might live forevermore to fill our every need, that it shall not be just a day, but last a lifetime through, the miracle of Christmas time that brings God close to you."

Helen Keller: "The only real blind person at Christmas-time is he who has not Christmas in his heart."

Mother Teresa: "It is Christmas every time you let God love others through you... yes, it is Christmas every time you smile at your brother and offer him your hand."

W. C. Jones: "The joy of brightening other lives, bearing each other's burdens, easing other's loads and supplanting empty hearts and lives with generous gifts becomes for us the magic of Christmas."

<https://www.thoughtco.com/inspirational-christmas-quotes-2831925>

**YESTERDAY IS HISTORY
TOMORROW IS MYSTERY
TODAY IS A GIFT.**

~Eleanor Roosevelt

(Quote Submitted by Sister Louise Stallworth)

Inspirational Stories. . .

A THANKSGIVING REMEMBRANCE

"Give generously to him and do so without a grudging heart; then because of this the Lord your God will bless you in all your work and in everything you put your hand to."

Deuteronomy 15:10 (NIV)



My paternal grandmother lived with us. She would sit in the porch swing and I would stand behind her and brush her beautiful long gray hair. As I brushed her hair she would tell me her two favorite stories from the Bible. The only thing better was when she would have me snuggle up close to her in the swing as she read to me. As I child, I surmised that they were just good stories but now as a mother and grandmother I realize she had an ulterior motive - she was teaching me a most valuable lesson - a lesson about kindness and thankfulness.

She often added to the story of the Good Samaritan, **"You never pass someone in need even if their skin is not the color of yours."** And, **"You should never pick and choose who you will be kind to, you just be kind,"** she would enumerate over and over.

This same instruction came with Manners and Etiquette. "Know what to do and do it. If you do the same right thing often enough it will become second nature to you." "That way," she would instruct, **"You will always know what to do and feel confident doing it."** Sounded complicated as a child but as I grew older I realized what I did automatically, others my age struggled with.

This tutoring soon gave me the understanding that the Kindness lessons and the Manners lessons were synonymous. They both really were practicing the Golden Rule. Which is simply put, "Treat others, as you want to be treated and never forget any kindness extended to you."

I also learned as a child growing up that my mother always had a slip of paper fastened to the inside of a cabinet door in the kitchen. It was near the sink where mother was more apt to see it. At the top of the page were written the words, "Lest I forget." There was never a kindness extended to her or our family that was not found listed on her paper. In November of each year she would in some way once again let the person or persons involved know how grateful she was for their kindness. Mother often quoted the reminder to us, "Don't remember the kindness you do for another, but never forget kindness done for you."

I am reminded even more of the lessons learned as a child and even some days I find myself missing that spot on grandma's lap and the peace that came with her loving arms around me.

May we each give thanks and remember all kindness given to us.

~ Anonymous

<https://www.passiton.com/your-inspirational-stories/39-a-thanksgiving-remembrance>

A STORY OF HOPE

"I would maintain that thanks are the highest form of thought and that gratitude is happiness doubled by wonder."

~G. K. Chesterton



A Few years ago, right before Thanksgiving, I was dumped without warning by the man I thought I would marry. The next day, I was laid off from my administrative assistant job and the day after that I turned forty.

I'd lived in New York City for ten years trying to make it, as an actress. While I'd had some luck on stage, nothing had paid enough for me to make a living at it. I was single, broke and approaching middle age in a profession that worships youth and beauty.

The last thing I wanted was to go home to Florida for Thanksgiving and catch up with my younger, married and successful cousins. At least we would all meet at Brooks, my favorite restaurant back home and a family holiday tradition for twenty years.

The day before I flew to Florida, I got a terrible cold. I was lying in bed feeling very sorry for myself when the phone rang. It was my mother.

"Darling," she said. "I have wonderful news!" This made me cringe. Her last report of wonderful news was she had married a man she met online two weeks before. Now, recently divorced for the fourth time and living in a new apartment complex for "active elders," I feared the worst.

"What is it?" I sniffled. "Well..." she replied, pausing for dramatic effect, "you know how every year we have dinner at Brooks. This year, I've decided to make dinner for the family myself. Well, with your help, of course. Let's see, we should have... twenty-five people, not including us. Won't that be so much fun?"

Could I have pretended she had the wrong number? Yes, if I hadn't been so stoned on cold medicine and thinking clearly. Instead I mumbled "Yeah... great... can't wait" and hung up, pulling the covers over my head before passing out.

The next day, I arrived at the Ft. Lauderdale airport looking and feeling absolutely miserable. I picked up my luggage from baggage claim and walked outside to look for my mother. A platinum blonde pulled up to the curb beside me and honked the horn. "Do you like it?" my mother exclaimed. She leaned out of the car window to toss her formerly salt-and-pepper- curls, now flat-ironed and reaching her shoulders.

"Who are you and why did you steal my mother's car?" I replied. She laughed like a girl of sixteen. "Silly! This is to celebrate my wonderful new life!" "Oh- Wonderful," I said. I should have been happy for her, but at that point my mom looked and sounded ten years younger than me. The next day was madness. I shopped and cooked more by noon than I had in years. At midnight, I was bent over the sink, elbow-deep in a still-frozen turkey, trying to pull out the gizzards with both hands.

Inspirational Stories. . . continued

Even though the activity helped take my mind off my troubles, I still felt sad about my life and worried about what I would do when I got back to New York.

Thanksgiving Day, we woke up at 6:00 a.m. to finish cooking. I never thought we would pull it off, but somehow, we managed to prepare everything, clean the house, fit four card tables next to the dining room table in a one-bedroom apartment, polish the silverware, find matching plates and even create four miniature pumpkin centerpieces.

We put out our casseroles and hot dishes on the buffet, checked the turkey, and just had time to change clothes before the first guests arrived. Soon the house was overrun with family. No one asked about my boyfriend or if I had gotten any acting work lately. They all just oohed and ahed over the table. They couldn't believe we did it all ourselves.

Before we ate, we said grace and went around the table to say what we were thankful for. I've always loved doing this each year but now, even though I was proud of helping my mom and glad to see everyone, I didn't really feel like contributing.

Mother's turn came before mine. She said, "I am thankful for my health, my family and my friends. I am especially thankful to my daughter Alyssa who taught me the meaning of gratitude on a Thanksgiving thirty-nine years ago."

I looked up from my plate. What did she mean by that? She continued. "Alyssa's father Ed had just gotten out of the Army. I was a new wife and mother of a one-year-old. We left Ft. Polk in Louisiana for Pittsburgh because that's where Ed found work. Well, the Army lost all our furniture in the move and we had no money to buy more. We also couldn't afford to go home for Thanksgiving.

I went out and bought one baby food jar of strained turkey and one of strained carrots for Alyssa and two turkey sandwiches for us. We sat on the floor in our empty apartment and cried over our misfortune. Then we heard Alyssa laughing."

My mother looked over at me with tears in her eyes. "You were so happy. You were singing and having such a good time playing with your food in that cold empty apartment. I pray that you will always find happiness in every living moment, my darling daughter."

I was stunned. I had asked myself how a woman of sixty-five who lived alone on a fixed income decided to become a hot blonde and make Thanksgiving dinner for almost thirty people.

Now I had my answer She was just following the example I had set so long ago and had forgotten. When I returned to New York, I had a new sense of purpose and thankfulness for life. I also went blond. 😊

~Alyssa Simon

~Jack Canfield, et. al.
Chicken Soup for the Soul: Think Positive

BE STRONG!

"Say to those with fearful hearts, "Be strong, do not fear; your God will come." Isaiah 35:4 (NIV)

We all experience discouragement at some point in our lives. If you feel that your dreams have been shattered and your efforts have come to nothing, do not allow self-pity to sow the seed of discouragement in your spirit. There are spiritual reserves from which you can draw that will give you hope and a sense of purpose. Do not rely on your own sources of inspiration, because when these fail you will lose your vision and become discouraged.

God is your constant source of inspiration. Remember you do not fight alone against negative feelings and emotions. God is on your side and He is waiting to pick you up so that you may proceed with joy and be ultimately triumphant.

I thank You heavenly Father, that through the power of your residing Spirit, I can triumph over discouragement. Amen.

~A Grace for Today Devotional~

**INFORMATION & ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2019 (Continued)**

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY WISHES TO
EVERYONE BORN IN THE MONTHS OF
NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER**



UBC COMMUNICATION CARDS: For those “making a decision for Christ” by using one of the UBC Communication Cards found in the pocket of the pews, **REVEREND ALVIN L. WYATT, Minister of Christian Life and Witness**, will contact you. Please clearly print your name and phone number on the card and the hours you may be reached. **You will receive further information from Rev. Wyatt. GOD BLESS YOU.**

PRAYER BAND MINISTRY: A Prayer Request receptacle is located in the vestibule leading into the sanctuary. Please feel free to place your prayer request(s) there at any time. Our prayer partners stand ready to pray with you and for you. **You are invited to join us for prayer and meditation on Tuesdays at 6:30 a.m. Set your alarms and start your day off the right way! The Prayer Line is (515) 604-9520 – Code 356781.** ~~Prayer Band Ministry

REPORTING ILLNESSES, SURGERIES AND BEREAVEMENT INFORMATION: Please contact the church office if you or a loved one is sick or entering the hospital, so that your Family Ward Deacon and Pastor may be notified. Please also contact the office if you or a loved one is being released from the hospital or if there is bereavement in your family. The phone number is (513) 381-3858. ~~ Church Office Staff

NEED A RIDE TO SUNDAY SCHOOL OR 10:00 A.M. WORSHIP SERVICE? If you are in need of a ride to Church, please call (513) 381-3858 and leave your name and your telephone number. GOD BLESS YOU.

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY AND FELLOWSHIP ON TUESDAYS AT 7:00 P.M. The current Men's Bible study is based on the series, *“No More Excuses – Be the Man God Made You to Be”* by Dr. Tony Evans. All men are invited to attend this powerful group study led by Pastor Yates in the church sanctuary.

WEDNESDAY NOON DAY BIBLE STUDY AT 12 P.M. The current Wednesday Noon Bible study is based on the series, *“Praying at the Crossroads”* by Ken Coley. You are invited to attend this dynamic group study which is led by Pastor Yates in the church sanctuary. Lunch is served after the noon day class.

WEDNESDAY EVENING CHURCH-WIDE PRAYER AND BIBLE STUDY AT 7:00 P.M. The current Wednesday evening Prayer and Bible Study is also based on the series, *“Praying at the Crossroads”* by Ken Coley. The class is led by Pastor Yates. All are invited to come and grow with us.

TELEPHONE BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITY FOR MEN, THURSDAYS, 7:30-8:30 P.M. Pastor Yates and Rev. Shawn Pate [Pastor-Elect of Mt. Ararat Baptist Church of Rutherford, New Jersey] are leading a telephone Bible Study for men on the *“No More Excuses”* series by Dr. Tony Evans. Men from other states are participating and being blessed by this fellowship. To participate, *please call the church office for the phone number and access code. The church office number is 513-381-3858.*

INFORMATION & ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2019 (Continued)

CONGRATULATIONS TO SENIOR CITIZEN HALL OF FAME NOMINEE, SIS. MARJORIE

SULLIVAN: Sis. Sullivan was inducted into the Senior Citizens Hall of Fame during the 52nd Annual Banquet and Awards Ceremony held on **Tuesday, October 29, 2019**, at the Duke Energy Convention Center Ballroom. The Hall of Fame recognizes the contributions and achievements of our senior citizens. Please see page 36 for more information.

PURPOSE DRIVEN YOUTH MINISTRY (PDYM) UPDATE:

The Youth and Children Ministry attended the Ark Experience located in Williamstown, KY, on Saturday, **November 2, 2019**. Information and pictures about their experience will be provided in the January-February 2020 Newsletter.



REHEARSALS HAVE STARTED FOR THE CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM: Please see the flyer on page 22 for additional updates.

~~Rev. Emanuel Marshall

DEACONS MINISTRY MEETINGS: The Deacons Ministry will have a meeting on **Monday, December 2, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.** in the sanctuary (lower balcony). **Please have your November and December Family Ward Reports.** ~~Pastor Yates

BUFFALO SOLDIERS QUEST FOR FREEDOM, NOVEMBER 9, 2019 - HONORING AFRICAN AMERICAN VETERANS; A MESSAGE FROM PAUL LARUE:

To Pastor Yates and Union Baptist family, I want to share an upcoming Veterans Day program in Wilberforce, see attached flyer on page 23. I will be talking about Drill Sergeant (and later Reverend) George Washington Williams. Admission is free for all Veterans. Thanks for all you do! ~~Paul Larue

HARVEST SUNDAY, NOVEMBER, 24, 2019: Please bring your food and monetary donations for the Thanksgiving baskets on Sunday, November 24, 2019. Distribution of the Thanksgiving baskets will occur on Tuesday, November 26, 2019, beginning at 12:00 noon in Hays Hall at Union Baptist Church. Additional information about needed donations is on page 25.

~~Sis. Monica Ray, Food Pantry Ministry Leader



PLEASE SAVE THE DATE: The Annual Observance of Family and Holy Communion/Drama Guild/Praise Dance/Music Ministry Production will occur on December 1, 2019 at 4:30 p.m. Additional information about Drama Ministry and Music Ministry rehearsals will be forthcoming.

INFORMATION & ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2019 (Continued)

IMPORTANT NOTICE: No one should be in the church building between the hours of 11 p.m. to 7 a.m. due to security reasons. *Any necessary exceptions should be coordinated and approved by the Chairman of Property and Space, Sis. Portia Fuller, at least one week in advance.* Also, this is a reminder: **Please do not park in the Pastor's parking space at any time.** God Bless you! ~Sis. Angelita Jones, Trustee Board Ministry Leader

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UNION BAPTIST'S EMAIL ADDRESS: The church has an email address for all ministry announcements. Please send all forms of communications (church announcements, flyers, upcoming events, etc.) to unioncincinnati@gmail.com. Thank you!

DEADLINE FOR NEWSLETTER ANNOUNCEMENTS: The deadline for church announcements for the **January - February 2020** newsletter is **December 20, 2019**. All requests for newsletter announcements should be e-mailed to Sis. Shirley Norman, Public Relations Ministry Leader, at unioncincinnati@gmail.com.

DISTRIBUTION OF THE NEWSLETTER: If you were unable to obtain a copy of the bimonthly newsletter, please contact the church office. **UBC's Newsletter is also posted on the website in color. Share with others.**

UNION BAPTIST CHURCH OF CINCINNATI WEBSITE: Please visit our website (www.union-baptist.net) which is both informative and interactive for those who are seeking the Will of God in their lives. **On our website, you will see upcoming events; evangelistic mission information for men, women and children;** discipleship opportunities for building God's kingdom; exploratory devotional links for personal spiritual growth; and, community connections that demonstrate, the POWER OF GOD throughout the Greater Cincinnati area and beyond.

UNION BAPTIST CHURCH RADIO BROADCASTS: You can listen to the Union Baptist broadcast on WCVG 1320 every Saturday from 8:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. through live stream radio by connecting to the Union Baptist Church website at www.union-baptist.net.

UNION BAPTIST CHURCH IS ON FACEBOOK: The official Union Baptist Facebook is also linked to the Union Baptist Church of Cincinnati website at www.union-baptist.net.

UNION BAPTIST WI-FI SETTINGS: Please contact the Executive Church Administrator, Bro. Dale McAllister, to obtain the settings for the wireless router (Wi-Fi). Thank you.

CHURCH VOLUNTEERS ALWAYS NEEDED: Opportunities for anyone interested in volunteering in the church office or other areas of the church are still available. Please contact Bro. Dale McAllister, Executive Church Administrator. Thank you.

UBC MEMBERSHIP DATA FORM: All members who have not completed their updated UBC Membership Form, are urged to complete and provide your updated information, including, any name change; your current home address; your home, cell and work telephone numbers; a number where you may be reached in case of an emergency; and, an emergency contact person, etc. Membership Data Forms are available in the wall receptacle near the church office. You may also use the UBC Communication Card (found in the pocket of the pew) to provide updated information. When you have completed your form, please place it in the Pastor's drop box on his study door. Thank You.

INFORMATION & ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2019 (Continued)

UBC WEBSITE - GIVING: *There are two new methods of giving on the website: Tithely and Givelify. Please visit the website and click on the "Give" tab for more information and check out the video. Thank you.*



THE CITY GOSPEL MISSION OUTREACH MINISTRY: The schedule of the longstanding participation of Union Baptist Church Ministers that began with Reverend Shawn D. Pate, is as follows:

November 23, 2019	Reverend Emanuel Marshall	Preaching at 7:30 p.m.
December 28, 2019	Reverend Alvin Wyatt	Preaching at 7:30 p.m.
January 25, 2020	Reverend Barry Hixon, Jr.	Preaching at 7:30 p.m.

Union is asked to pray for and support, in every way possible, **our Associate Ministers** as they serve at City Gospel Mission. The City Gospel Mission is located at 1805 Dalton St., 45215.
Thank You. ~~Pastor Yates

TRUTHSEEKERS SMALL CARE GROUP

The members of the Small Care Group TruthSeekers" **meet every Monday from 6:00 – 7:15 p.m. at the Avondale Branch Public Library** to study God's word and grow through the five purposes of the church, worship, fellowship, discipleship, ministry and evangelism. Please feel free to join us as we learn about God's Word and how to become more Christ like.



For more information, please contact Rev. Shawn Pate, Small Care Group Ministry Leader at Email: unioncincinnati@gmail.com.

HOLIDAY TRADITION: Orders will be taken for Poinsettias, now through **December 1, 2019**.

6" Value Poinsettia	\$8.00
6.5" Poinsettia 4-6 blooms, Red, Pink or White	\$14.99
7" Poinsettia 7-9 blooms, Red, Pink or White	\$22.49



Please see **Sis. Doris Walker** for best selection and your monies.

Thank you in advance. ~~Horticulture Ministry

**INFORMATION & ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2019 (Continued)**

THANK YOU AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Dear Union Church Family,

On behalf of the Norman, Harris and Dawson families, I want to express our thankfulness to the entire congregation for your condolences, cards, flowers and all other acts of kindness you shared with our family.

Thank you, Pastor Yates, for being there for our family during this very difficult time. We love you and your family, and will never forget the love you showed my mother, Deaconess Bessie Norman over the years.

Please continue to pray for us as we heal and move forward.

Sis. Phyllis Norman

Greetings Union,

I would like to thank everyone again for a fantastic Women's Day this year. We were blessed in every way possible! From our luncheon to the actual worship service God was glorified in everything that was done!

To my Co-chair Melanie Montgomery, I thank you from the bottom of my heart!! We were a good team and I love you for allowing yourself to be used by God.

Ladies, for those who have not done so, please give your \$100 budget assessment by the end of 2019.

Again, thanks for making our 2019 Women's Day a success!!!

Be blessed,

Sis. Felicia Mazon-Bryant

To Pastor Yates and my Union Baptist Church Family,

Words are inadequate to thank you for your support in the Home going services for our husband and father, Benjamin Dean, Jr. To see so many of you in attendance in the audience made my heart rejoice.

A special thank you to Renee Payne, Faye Shirley, Ruth Phillips, Deacon Ernest Norman and Deacon Marvin Grizzard for your participation. Last but not least, we thank my pastor, the Rev. Dr. Orlando B. Yates for the timely, uplifting eulogy. We left the services rejoicing. "To God Be the Glory."

Sincerely,

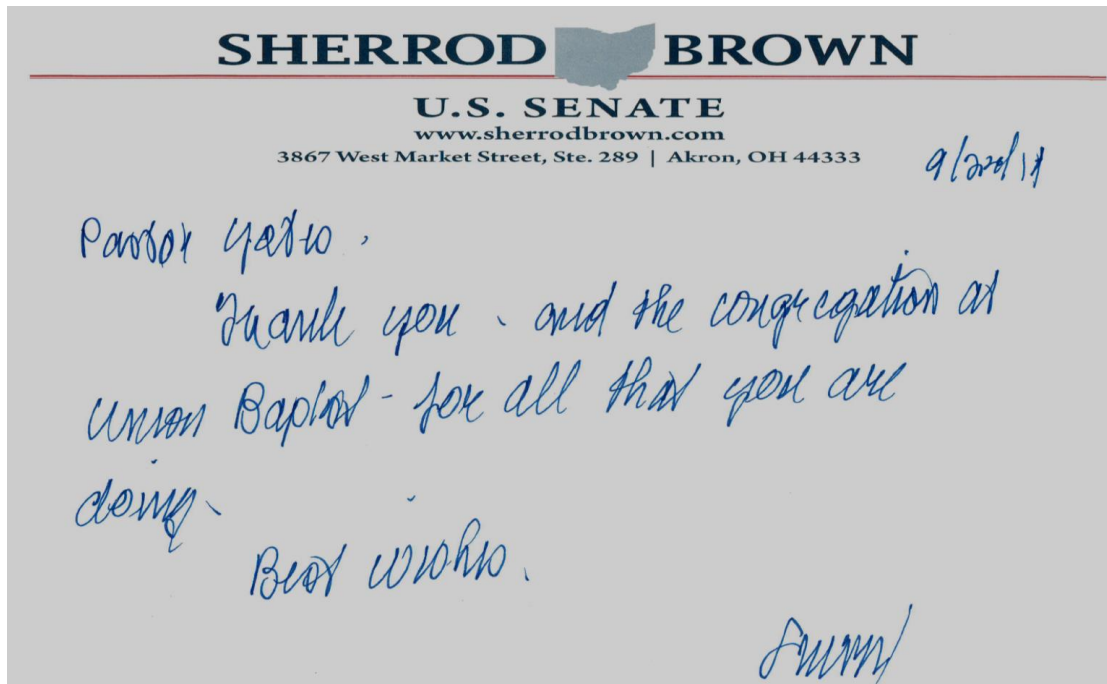
Sis. Lillian and Sis. Leslie Dean

**AN IRISH BLESSING: May God grant you always a sunbeam to warm you,
A moonbeam to charm you,
A sheltering Angel so nothing can harm you,
Laughter to cheer you,
Faithful friends near you,
And whenever you pray,
Heaven to hear you.**

(Submitted by Sister Louise Stallworth)

**INFORMATION & ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2019 (Continued)**

THANK YOU AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS (Continued)



To Union Baptist Church Scholarship Ministry:

I am so grateful for your love, encouragement and for you showing me the gift of God's Word. Thank you for your gifts. Now I can keep myself warm during the school year, studying, wrapped in my blanket, drinking from my water bottle, knowing that I have the love and support from Union Baptist.

Love, Ke'Andra Warren

To Proverbs 31 Vessels of Praise:

Thank you for adding to the joyous spirit with your love, generous gifts and presence in my life. I pray that you know how much of a gift the dance ministry was to me due to your encouragement and love. I was able to come out of my shell and show the love of God.

Love, Ke'Andra Warren

To UBC Women's Ministry:

Thank you for acknowledging my gifts, talents and dedication towards Union Baptist Church. During my years at Union Baptist you all have uplifted me and encouraged me to sing with confidence. You all have played a major role in my life, I am so grateful.

Love, Ke'Andra Warren

**INFORMATION & ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2019 (Continued)**

**NOVEMBER IS THANKSGIVING AND COMMUNITY
AWARENESS MONTH**

IMPORTANT DATES FOR THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER

November 11, 2019: Veteran's Day (Holiday; Office Closed)

November 18, 2019: Trustee Board Ministry Meeting at 6:00 p.m.

November 24, 2019: Annual Harvest Sunday

November 25, 2019: Union Foundation Meeting at 6:30 p.m. (Cancelled)

November 26, 2019: Distribution Day for Harvest Baskets at 12 noon.

November 28-29, 2019: Thanksgiving Day Observance with Family (Church Office Closed)



DECEMBER IS ADVENT SEASON

IMPORTANT DATES FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER

December 1, 2019: 8:00 a.m. Worship Services are cancelled in December

December 1, 2019: Annual Observance of Family and Holy Communion/Drama
Guild/Praise Dance/Music Ministry Production at 4:30 p.m.

December 2, 2019: Deacons Ministry Meeting at 7:00 p.m.

December 8, 2019: Worship Celebration and Wedding Vow Renewal Observance at 10:00 a.m.

December 15, 2019: Special Christmas Worship Services and Gift Giving at 10:00 a.m.
Sunday School Christmas Program at 9:00 a.m.
Children Ministry Re-Dedication at 10:00 a.m.

December 15, 2019: Annual Loretta C. Mangrum Chorale Community Concert at 5:00 p.m.

December 22, 2019: Pre-Christmas Day Worship Celebration at 10:00 a.m.

December 23-January 2, 2020: Church Office Closed

December 25, 2019: Merry Christmas (Church Office Closed)

December 31, 2019: Watch Night Observance and Celebration at 10:00 p.m.



**INFORMATION & ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2019 (Continued)**

**Sunday School/Children's
Ministry/PDYM**

Christmas Program

The Sunday School, Children's Ministry and PDYM are once again coming together to present our annual Christmas Program. Schedule for Sunday December 15, 2019 @ 9:00am.

We are currently in rehearsal during Children's Ministry Worship every Sunday. We are asking that all parents and guardians that wish to have their child/teen to participate to have their child/teen available for Children's Ministry and PDYM every Sunday.

During this time, **WE WILL STILL HAVE WORSHIP SERVICES.** Unfortunately, how often your child or teen attends rehearsal will determine what role they will play in the Christmas program. We have new songs, new speeches, and hopefully a new dance routine to learn and little time.

As with last year, to help with getting your child and teen to church on time for the Christmas Program, we will have breakfast sandwiches and juice for those participating in the Christmas Program.

Children's Worship/Nursery Drop Off and Pick-up

Starting **November 10, 2019**, we will begin to **STRICKLY ENFORCE** the Drop off /Pick up rules for Children's Worship and Nursery. The **Only** individuals who will be able to drop off and pick-up a child are those who are registered. For child safety and in following safety guidelines by Church Mutual Insurance

Inc., after November 10, 2019 there will be: **NO EXCEPTIONS!**

**2020 National Baptist Congress of
Christian Education**

Kansas City, Kansas

June 20-27, 2020



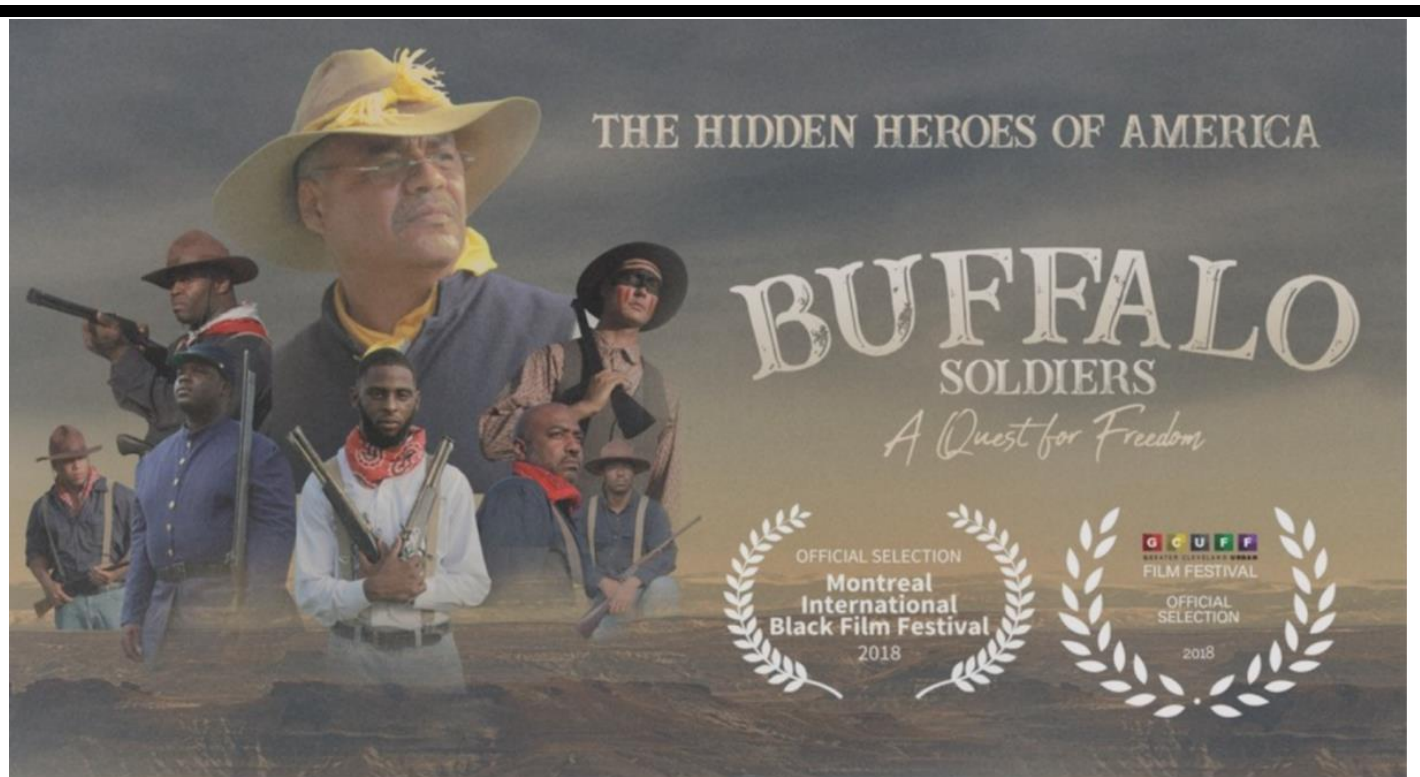
We are currently in the planning stages for the National Baptist Convention, Inc. Congress of Christian Education. Once again, we will be partnering with Saint Mark Missionary Baptist Church.

We will be having a meeting (TBA) in the month of November to discuss who wish to attend, approximate cost involved, and deadlines.

Union Baptist Nursery

On behalf of Sis. Montgomery and the Children's Ministry. We wish to thank Sis. Danielle Pierre and Sis. Donnetta Johnson for volunteering to assist. However, we still need volunteers to fill in on Sunday's. This is done so that volunteers will be able to participant in morning worship services in the main sanctuary also.

As mentioned, when we re-opened the nursery, it was noted that if you have children in the nursery that you volunteer at least on Sunday per month. To help reduce the need to close the nursery due to a lack of coverage.



Historically Speaking Lecture Series

National Afro-American Museum & Cultural Center, Wilberforce
Sat. Nov. 9 Special Veterans Day program 12:30 pm

Film: *Buffalo Soldiers: A Quest for Freedom*- A century and a half ago, Black soldiers, known as "Buffalo Soldiers" changed the face of the military forever. Despite astonishing achievements in the face of heartbreaking adversity, the heroism of these brave men has remained obscure. *Buffalo Soldiers: A Quest for Freedom* work chronicles the extraordinary story of these notable African American men and women and the invaluable military service they rendered serving our beloved country.

After the film, panel discussion on the influence of the Buffalo Soldiers on future African American military service. Invited panel members include retired Ohio history teacher Paul LaRue, military expert Bennie McRae, and Dr. Anthony Milburn, Chair of the Central State University History Department.

Program included with paid museum admission: \$6/adult, \$5/senior, \$3/ages 6–17, Free/Ohio History Connection & NAAMCC members. For more information, call 800.752.2603 ext. 2113.



ohiohistory.org/naamcc

1350 Brush Row Rd., Wilberforce 45384
Museum Hours: Wed.–Sat. • 9 a.m.–4 p.m.

INFORMATION & ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2019 (Continued)

MESSAGE FROM THE SUNDAY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT



Greetings Union:

As the year is quickly coming to an end, I would like to remind everyone we are looking for adults, and children to be in attendance for Sunday School. We are coordinating with the Children's Church Ministry and PDYM for the Christmas program as well. I'm asking parents to please bring your children to Sunday School. They will get their regular lesson, and also prepare for the Christmas program.

If you have any questions please see me, or the Assistant Superintendent, Deacon Donald Darby.

May God's blessings be upon you and your families.

~~ Deacon Ernest Norman, Superintendent

THE SHOP AT UNION

VISA, MASTERCARD, AND AMERICAN EXPRESS!!

Yes, that's right! Your church store now accepts Visa, Mastercard and American Express. We also accept your bank cards with a pin. So, no excuses!



Stop By And Shop With Us Today!!

Bro. Christopher Price, Store Manager

Bro. Alonzo Montgomery, Assistant Store Manager

Sis. Angelita Moreno-Jones, Ministry Leader

FOOD PANTRY

The Food Pantry Ministry served **33 families** in August; **44 families** in September and was closed in October.

~~ Sis. Monica Ray, Ministry Leader





HARVEST SEASON 2019

Greetings,

We pray that all is well with you and your family as you receive this request for assistance this Harvest Season.

Our goal is to serve 100 families and the items listed below are needed to accomplish this goal. **Please bring items in a brown bag by Sunday, November 24, 2019** so that we may quickly organize what has been received. We will distribute the bags to the community on Tuesday, November 26, 2016.

God Bless you for your faithfulness! Happy Thanksgiving!!

- **Corn**
- **Green Beans**
- **Candied Yams**
- **Cranberry Sauce**
- **Macaroni and Cheese**
- **Corn Bread Mix**
- **Cake Mix and Icing**
- **A Donation of \$6.00 for Chicken**

Thanks again for your assistance.

UBC Food Pantry Ministry

INFORMATION & ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2019 (Continued)



*Union Baptist
Church
of Cincinnati*



LAUNCHING THE VISION FUND CAMPAIGN

"Without revelation the people run wild, but one who listens to instruction will be happy...."

Proverbs 29:18 HCSV

"...Write down this vision; clearly inscribe it on tablets so one may easily read it. For the vision is yet for the appointed time; it testifies about the end and will not lie.

Though it delays, wait for it, since it will certainly come and not be late.."

Habakkuk 2:2-3 HCSV

What is God's Vision for Union Baptist Church?

God's Vision for Union Baptist Church in this millennium is to enlarge our Christian commitment to Jesus Christ, His Word and people through Christ-centered worship experiences, ministries and services relevant to nurturing the total well-being of the holistic person (spirit, soul, mind and body.)

More specifically, God's Vision for Union is to enlarge the Christian commitment by providing the following:

- † Bible centered, theologically sound preaching and teaching of God's Word; using relevant Christian approaches to introduce salvation to the unsaved, a church home to the "unchurched," continued encouragement and restoration to the membership and leading all to a spiritual, personal relationship with Jesus Christ.
- † Pastoral leadership, guidance and direction.
- † Christ-like witnessing, evangelistic and outreach programs.
- † Ministries, services and activities that support the spiritual, physical, emotional, social, educational, psychological and economical needs of various family structures and the community.
- † The building of a Christian Academy incorporating Grades K through 12, Daycare and After School programs, a Family Life Center, a Counseling Center, The Union Foundation, a new Worship Center and Chapel, Senior Citizens' Housing and a new Campus Location.
- † Jesus is calling our church to prepare His people for **EPIC WORK**, greater than anything we have ever seen.
- † However, it requires **HEARTS THAT ARE TURNED TO THE LORD**. We are the John the Baptists crying in the wilderness...that's our assignment...**TURNING THE HEARTS OF THE NEXT GENERATION TO THE LORD AND MAKING THEM READY.**

How to Contribute to the Vision Fund Campaign?

The church and Pioneer Housing have reached a point in the planning of God's Vision where funding is needed in order to move forward with critical steps towards its realization. **Effective Sunday, September 1, 2019, the official "Vision Fund Campaign" begins.** Members and friends will have an opportunity to sow into God's Vision.

Checks for the "Vision Fund Campaign" should be made payable to the Union Foundation. You can also give to the campaign on the UBC website at www.union-baptist.net and designate your gift as "Vision Fund."

More information is forthcoming from Pastor Yates.

**INFORMATION & ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2019 (Continued)**



The Union Foundation was founded and constituted in 2004 when God's vision was cast forth by Rev. Dr. Orlando B. Yates, Senior Pastor of the Union Baptist Church. The Union Foundation received its status as a non-profit organization under Section 501(c)3 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 on March 30, 2007, prior to which time, the Board of Trustees was appointed. The Foundation is committed to the generation of resources and services to positively impact the lives of all people in our community and to support the expansion of God's work. The Union Foundation supports all the ministries of the Union Baptist Church, Inc., in this millennium to enlarge its commitment to Jesus Christ, to His Word, and services relevant to nurturing the holistic person (spirit, soul, mind, and body) so as to fulfill the Great Commission of Matthew 28:18-20, through evangelistic ministry programs, and human services that minister to the holistic needs of the varied family structures of the community at large.

The Union Foundation seeks to build upon endowments and donations for present and future ministries at the general and community level of the Union Baptist Church, Inc., through development and planned giving. The Union Foundation encourages individuals to be good stewards of their resources (i.e. time, talents, and monetary gifts). The Union Foundation will strive for excellence and continuous improvement in its operation. The Union Foundation operates with the highest moral and ethical standards. The Union Foundation will initiate efforts to build collaborations and partnerships with other Churches, philanthropic, non-profits, the public sector and business organizations.

In addition, the Foundation will receive and disburse contributions made by individuals and organizations that have designated gifts to specific ministries. Contributions can be made by direct donations and gifts, wills and planned giving, or by memorial gifts. The Union Foundation believes in and is committed to positively impacting the lives of all members of our community. Readers are invited to join as partners in this endeavor only as they feel led by God to do so. We believe that God will meet all our needs through those who respond in this way. The Union Foundation shall endeavor to advance the Kingdom of God in all its fullness to expand the circle of God's Love as we seek to obey and fulfill Christ's commandment to: *"Love one another as I have loved you."* John.15:12.

For more information, please see our website: www.theunionfoundation.org.

**INFORMATION & ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2019 (Continued)**



Greetings from The Union Foundation!

AMAZON SMILES: We are coming upon the “Season of Giving.” Where every retail store wants everyone to come out and buy Christmas gifts. A lot of people have gone online, and let their “fingers do the shopping.” If you shop at Amazon.com, here is a way for you to donate to The Union Foundation, and all you have to do is shop!

YOU SHOP – AMAZON GIVES

When you shop at smile.amazon.com, Amazon will contribute 0.5% of your purchase amount to The Union Foundation. On your first visit to AmazonSmile (smile.amazon.com), you need to select a charitable organization (Union Foundation) to receive donations based on your eligible purchases before you begin shopping. We will remember your selection, and then every eligible purchase you make at smile.amazon.com will result in a donation.

If you have any questions or problems, please see Sis. Jaci Powell.

THANK YOU IN ADVANCE FOR YOUR DONATIONS!

KROGER COMMUNITY REWARDS: Kroger provides another donation option – and all you have to do is shop! In order to participate in Kroger Community Rewards, you will need a Kroger digital account. If you do not have one, go to kroger.com/account/create to create your personal digital account. Fill in the requested information on the left side of the screen, and press “CREATE ACCOUNT”. The right side of the screen shows all the benefits of having a Kroger Digital Account.

After you have created your account and sign in, click on **Community Rewards** on the left side of your screen. You will then be able to select The Union Foundation as your designated organization. Then you will be eligible for special discounts, digital coupons, gasoline points, and you will also enable Kroger to make a contribution based on your purchase amounts. Make sure you keep your red Kroger Rewards card with you when you shop.

If you need any help setting up your Kroger Digital Account, please see Sis. Jaci Powell.

THANK YOU IN ADVANCE FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS!

INFORMATION & ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2019

Women's Ministry Mission

St. Jude Research Hospital Donation



ON OUR FIRST LADY'S HEART

"See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that their angels in heaven always see the face of my Father in heaven." Matthew 18:10 (NIV)

More than a half-century ago, entertainer Danny Thomas envisioned **a hospital that would treat children regardless of race, color, creed or their family's ability to pay.** A facility where research would shine light into the darkness.

Thomas' vision became a reality when St. Jude Children's Research Hospital opened February 4, 1962. Since then, St. Jude has become one of the world's premier pediatric research institutions.

The fundraising organization for St. Jude, presented a \$10,000 Plough Inc. grant to Lemuel Diggs, MD, for his work on sickle cell disease. **Dr. Diggs**, who conducts his work at the University of Tennessee at Memphis, subsequently **published the first comprehensive study of sickle cell disease and its impact on the African-American population.**

Please join Sis. Margie Yates in giving a donation to this worthy cause. (We take coins too.)
Give your donations to Sis. Rogena Stargel, Women Ministry Leader by Sunday, Nov 3rd.

INFORMATION & ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2019 (Continued)

MATTHEW 25 MINISTRIES

The Women's Ministry was blessed to serve at Matthew 25 Ministries on September 21, 2019.



Pictured from left to right: Sis. Louise Stallworth and Sis. Louise Stevenson.



Pictured from left to right: Sis. Margie Yates, Sis. Louise Stallworth, Sis. Portia Fuller, Sis. Louise Stevenson and Sis. Ruth Phillips.

The Union Baptist Church Women's Ministry will minister again at Matthew 25 Ministries on **Saturday, November 9, 2019 from 11: 00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.**

PRAISE DANCE MINISTRY

The Women's Ministry congratulates Tristan Cargile and the Vessels of Praise ministry for ministering to the church on the occasion of Women's Day 2019 and on the occasion of the 2019 Women's Day Brunch. The next ministry effort will be a community outreach outing during the month of December 2019 at area nursing homes.

The ministry continues to welcome new members, ages youth to seniors.



INFORMATION & ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2019 (Continued)

WOMEN'S DAY 2019 LUNCHEON

The Women's Day Luncheon held on September 14, 2019 featured guest speaker, **Sis. Shawana Simms**. Sis. Simms is the renowned author of "Know Your Worth Before Someone Else Puts a Price On It". All were moved by Sis. Simms's inspiring message. She is also a former member of Union.

Uplifting testimonials were also provided by Breast Cancer Survivors, **Sis. Deborah Hammond**, **Sis. Toni Marshall** and **Sis. Vickie Frey**.



Sis. Shawana Simms, Guest Speaker



Sis. Deborah Hammond and Sis. Toni Marshall



Sis. Vickie Frey



**INFORMATION & ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2019 (Continued)**

Women's Ministry Upcoming Opportunities

November: Thanksgiving and Community Awareness Month

Union Foundation Workshop: "Kitchen Table Talk Event"

Saturday, November 9, 2019, 9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

"Whoever has ears, let them hear" (Matthew 11:15). But there is a difference between having ears and having "ears to hear." When Jesus is calling for people to pay careful heed, it's another way of saying, Listen Up! Pay close attention in 2019.

Presenters: Sis. Toni Marshall, IRS; Sis. Rogena Stargel, Magistrate, Hamilton County Probate Court; Sis. Angelita Jones, Eastern Personnel CEO

Topics: IRS "Do & Don'ts", Legal Ease and Employment Opportunities

Nursing Homes Sock Drive: Sunday, November 17, 2019 – Sunday, December 8, 2019

Our nursing home families are in need of socks. So, if your heart leads you to support this effort during this season of giving, please see our coordinators, Sis. Ramona Swan or Sis. Louise Stevenson. Sock Drop off areas at Union to be announced at a later date. We are in need of men's and women's socks (all sizes). The socks will be distributed to the nursing homes on Monday, December 9th. May God bless you in advance for what you do for others. **Contact: Sis. Louise Stevenson**

December: Advent Season

Nursing Home Christmas Program: Lincoln Crawford and Oak Pavilion

Saturday, December 14, 2019, 9:30 a.m. - noon

During the Christmas Season the Women's Ministry organized this annual event to remind us all that "Jesus is the reason for ALL seasons!" We fellowship with local nursing homes. We sing carols, praise dance, give testimonies, read scriptures about the birth of Jesus and give encouraging words. Don't miss your Christmas Blessings; all UBC members are invited to join us for the community outreach event.

Homemade Christmas Cookie/Candy Exchange

Anyone interested in chairing a Christmas Cookie Exchange? If this is your passion, please contact **Sis. Louise Stevenson** for the details.



INFORMATION & ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2019 (Continued)

We also thank those who supported
a UBC Haw Steppers walker during
the Making Strides Walk on
10/26/19



Union Baptist Church, Think Pink Sunday, 10/13/19



**INFORMATION & ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2019 (Continued)**

*The Women's Ministry
and
Health and Wellness Ministry
of
Union Baptist Church
Present*

"Feeding the Temple: Learning to Eat Healthy"

¹⁹ Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; ²⁰ you were bought at a price. Therefore, honor God with your bodies. I Corinthians 6: 19-20 (NIV)

From Sunday, July 28, 2019



Volume 1 Cook Book

**To be ready for purchase by
Sunday, November 24, 2019**

All Proceeds to go towards the Faith Initiative Funds

Questions please contact Sister Annette I. Bell at 513-885-6187 or
by email at aibellwellness@yahoo.com

**INFORMATION & ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2019 (Continued)**

Save the Date!!

Congress of Christian Education
115th Annual Session
June 22-26, 2020
Kansas City, Missouri

**Send a Child/Teen to Congress
Fundraising Campaign**

- We will be introducing several projects and opportunities to sponsor or contribute to sending our children/teens to Congress next year.
- We are considering the following activities: bake sale, walk-a-thon, monthly donation table, patron lists.
- The first fundraiser will be selling discount coupon booklets, starting in November. Please consider purchasing a booklet if approached by our children/teens.
- Members can also begin to donate and designate funds through your weekly church envelopes (designate funds to Congress in other section)

Let's send as many of our children and teens to Congress as possible. It is as wonderful spiritual experience!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! GOD BLESS

Rev. Emanuel Marshall, Minister of Children's Church
Rev. Alvin Wyatt, Minister of PDYM
Rev. Orlando B. Yates, Pastor



Additional Information Forthcoming

Senior Citizens

Hall ♦ of ♦ Fame

"I thank my God upon every remembrance of you."
Philippians 1:3 (KJV)

On Tuesday, October 29, 2019, Sister Marjorie Sullivan was inducted into the 52nd Annual Senior Citizens Hall of Fame. She was escorted by her grandson, Rev. Alvin L. Wyatt. Present to celebrate this occasion were Pastor and Sister O. B. Yates, Rev. and Sister Alvin Wyatt, Sister Gwendolyn Hall (daughter), Sister Doris Walker, Sister Ruth Phillips, Sister Angelita Jones, Sister Renee Payne, Sister Elsie Pierre, Sister Annette Bell, Deacon Ernest Norman and Brother Sterling Trice.

Sister Sullivan is the matriarch of five generations and a true example to us all. She is faithful 83-year-old woman of God the mother of 7 children, with 18 grandchildren, 10 great-grandchildren, and 2 great-great-grandchildren. Sister Sullivan is a spirit-filled, loving, kind soul who has a very giving disposition. She loves the Lord and serves him with all of her heart, mind and strength. She is a retiree of Frisch's Big Boy Restaurant with 45 years of service, and still works there on occasion. Sister Sullivan is a dedicated member of Union Baptist Church. We thank God for her faithfulness and the witness of her testimony.

Congratulations Sister Sullivan!



Bible Study Series . . .



Dr. David Jeremiah
Turning Point

WATERING DOWN THE BIBLE

Have you ever tasted something that has obviously been watered down? Even the finest coffee or tea loses some of its flavor when it is diluted with too much water. A watered down message can lose its potency as well. In the world today, there is an attempt by some to water down the Word of God in an attempt to make it more palatable to the changing morals and attitudes of our culture. But the Bible doesn't conform its message to public opinion polls. It doesn't change its doctrines in response to societal consensus. It should never be watered down.

God's Word is eternal—ever old, ever new, and ever sure. The Bible is as venerable as, "Thus says the Lord," and as contemporary as, "The Last Days." It spans the ages, being ageless. We can count on it in every condition: in sickness, in health, in poverty's vale, or abounding in wealth. In a world of lies, His Word is truth. In a world of opinions, His Word is accurate down to the last jot and tittle.

Because God is eternal, His Word is established in the heavens. Because He cannot fail, His Word cannot be broken. Because He is unchanging, His Word is certain. Heaven and earth may pass away, but the Scripture will endure forever.

The Inspiration of Scripture

The word "inspiration" is taken from 2 Timothy 3:16, where the apostle Paul said, "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God. . ." Peter gave additional insight when he wrote, "No prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation [or origination], for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit" (2 Peter 1:20-21).

Inspiration can be defined as the power of the Holy Spirit upon the human writers of the Scripture so that as they spoke and wrote the books of the Bible, they were recording the very words God intended to give the human race. I've never understood pastors who stood in the pulpit without a firm belief in inspiration. **Why would anyone devote his life to preaching a Book he didn't believe?** Arthur W. Pink said, "Upon the foundation of the Divine inspiration of the Bible stands or falls the entire edifice of Christian truth."

The Inerrancy and Infallibility of Scripture

The doctrine of inspiration leads logically to the tenets of inerrancy and infallibility. If holy men of old spoke and wrote as they were borne along by the Holy Spirit, those words must be trustworthy in all respects. The word "inerrancy" means that the Bible is without error in its original manuscripts. The word "infallibility" means that it is accurate, unfailing, and authoritative. It's possible to accumulate a lot of information and store up a lot of data. But only the Bible provides an infallible foundation for true knowledge.

Bible Study Series continued

The Indestructibility of Scripture

The Bible is also indestructible. Reuben Archer Torrey, who was a champion of the Bible in an age of encroaching liberalism, thundered: “It is so self-evident as to be practically axiomatic that what man has produced man can destroy. If then men produced the Bible why have eighteen (now twenty) centuries of assault upon the Bible been unable to destroy it?”

Torrey went on to say that the Bible has been attacked by many people of great ability and power, using all the intellectual, scientific, philosophical, political, and physical forces they could command. Emperors tried to burn it. Scholars tried to discredit it. Critics tried to bury it. The world has tried to ignore it. But it’s still the best-selling book of all time. While human governments have fallen, while human philosophies have faltered, the Bible still stands.

The Influence of Scripture

If the Bible is the inspired, infallible, inerrant, and indestructible Word of Almighty God, it should have a lasting influence on our lives. When our Creator and Redeemer tells us something, that word is determinative. If it’s a command, we must obey it. If it’s a truth, we must accept it. If it’s a promise, we must believe it. Otherwise we are double-minded people, unstable in all our ways (James 1:8). **A watered down message leads to a waterlogged life.**

Let’s cherish our Bible. Read to be wise. Obey it to be safe. Believe it to be happy. Proclaim it to be joyful.

<https://www.oneplace.com/ministries/turning-point/read/articles/watering-down-the-bible-16750.html>

How We Got our Bible

1. **God used about forty men in writing the Bible.** Some of these writers are unknown, such as the writers of the last chapter of Deuteronomy, the book of Job, and some of the psalms. In round numbers, the time in which the forty worked included **about 1500 years**, from 1400 B.C to A.D. 100.



2. **The perfect harmony of these writings is convincing evidence that all of them were guided by a single mind—the mind of God.** Some of the writers simply wrote down what God had told them, as when Moses wrote the law (Deuteronomy 31:24). Some of them no doubt recorded what they had learned from others, as when Luke wrote about the birth of Jesus, probably repeating what Mary had told him. Some of them may have used earlier writings, as when the writer of 2 Samuel 1:18 referred to the book of Jasher, a book that had been lost. But all the writers were specially guided by the Spirit of God so that they wrote just what God wanted them to write.

3. **Any passage of Scripture is to be studied with the following questions in mind:**

Who is speaking?

To whom is he speaking?

Is the passage intended to others in addition to those to whom it was first given?

Is the passage intended to apply to a limited time or under specific circumstances, or is it of universal applications?

When answered correctly, we are less likely to misunderstand the message of God’s Word.

~Orrin Root

A Survey of the Bible: Training for Service

Closing Thoughts . . .

It is Not for Sale

"For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect." 1 Peter 1:18-19 (NIV)



Has anyone noticed that before one holiday ends retailers are already positioned for the next one? Halloween barely ends before you see advertisements of turkeys and pilgrims arriving at the grocery stores. And before Thanksgiving arrives, retailers will be talking about "Black Friday," gift ideas, and the "deals you don't want to miss." And if that isn't enough, Christmas hasn't arrived and now it's the New Year and time for resolutions to be made. The hope is that the suggestive selling points will cause consumers to lose self-control, spend too much, eat whatever delicacy will cross their lips, and throw caution to the wind, thus leading to ads for weight loss and other cessation programs. With all of the excitement-generating hoopla, no one is thinking about the long-term effect of any.

Not to be a kill joy or "dream killer," but if you who understand and know what's important, then it is up to those who are Christ's disciples to make sure the truth is represented. Experiencing a sense of emptiness after the holiday is because the true meaning has been watered down.

As the holidays approach, instead of turning your eye to what would make the perfect gift, remember that "it is not for sale." It was freely given and offered to all because of the love and compassion God has for men, women, and children all over the world. Social class, ethnicity, culture, etc., will not prevent you from receiving this most precious gift. Instead of preparing for the next big holiday event, why not open your heart and celebrate the best gift of all, salvation through Jesus Christ our Lord? It's Not for Sale.

The Gift God gave was given freely. He paid the price.

~Mamie Johnson
Every Day the Master Speaks

Words of Wisdom: The Tone of Voice

It's not so much what you say, as the manner in which you say it; It's not so much the language you use, as the tone in which you convey it; *"Come here!" I sharply said, and the child cowered and wept. "Come here," I said – He looked and smiled and straight to my lap he crept.* Words may be mild and fair and the tone may pierce like a dart; Words may be soft as the summer air, but the tone may break my heart; For the words come from the mind, grow by study and art, but the tone leaps from the inner self revealing the state of the heart.

Whether you know it or not, whether you mean or care, gentleness, kindness, love and hate, envy, anger, are there. Then, would you quarrels avoid and peace and love rejoice? **Keep anger not only out of words; keep it out of your voice.** Amen.

~Author Unknown

(Words of Wisdom Submitted by Sister Louise Stallworth)