

The Union Baptist Church Newsletter



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A DEVOTIONAL **FOR MEN ON THE GO**

THE FELLOWSHIP OF BELIEVERS

"All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord's Supper), and to prayer." Acts 2:42 (NLT)

I wish I could say that since I made the decision to accept Christ as my Savior and follow Him and His teaching for my life, my growth in Him has been a picture of a consistently ascending climb toward Him. It hasn't. The more accurate depiction of my journey is described by my friend, a math major in college as a sine wave--**up and down in its flow**, but very irregular in the consistency of time spent between the points.

I know better: **we all do.** The early Christians devoted themselves to teaching, fellowship, sharing time, meals and prayer. They were friends who listened, encouraged and learned from each other. They realized they needed each other to create and maintain a meaningful and consistent pattern of growth in the Christian faith.

In the past few years, I have begun to do much better with that. The most important component for me has been the local church. We lived in five different cities during my NFL career and my family was always able to find a solid Bible-teaching church in which to worship. **Because of my job, however, I was not always able to get to church on Sundays so finding other ways to study the Bible and grow spiritually became important to me.**

I have a group of men--friends, fellow brothers and believers in Christ--whom I trust and with whom I share on a regular basis. Since we are scattered across the country and can't always get together face-to-face, we have committed to spend time each week via a phone conference, sharing, encouraging and praying for each other.

I also spend time with my dear friend James Brown when I am in New York for those weekly football broadcasts. JB has brought together a group of employees from the hotel where we stay to study, pray, and share together. It is extremely uplifting and encouraging for me.

And then I try to consistently spend quiet time on my own with the Lord each day--usually in the morning before the day begins to fold in around me.

What about you? Will you commit, along with me, to spend some time with Him each day, to grow more in your relationship with Him? Deal? AMEN.

UNCOMMON KEY > It is important to find a gospel-preaching church when you accept Christ as your Lord and Savior. In addition to worshipping with that church body, try to meet with a smaller group of people on a regular basis to study God's Word and pray together. The bonds that you make will strengthen you for Kingdom work. AMEN.

Uncommon Life-Daily Challenge
~~ Tony Dungy and Nathan Whitaker

A MEDITATION FOR EVERY **MARRIED COUPLE**

KINGDOM COUPLES USE WORDS TO BUILD UP

"Therefore encourage one another and build up one another, just as you also are doing." 1 Thessalonians 5: 11 (NASB)

On September 11, 2001, terrorists hijacked four airliners and turned them into explosive missiles in the worst attack on U.S. soil in history. If you were alive, you remember the images of the fireballs erupting from the North and South Towers of the World Trade Center and black smoke billowing over New York City. **Those planes loaded with jet fuel set off a pair of infernos that caused some of the world's tallest buildings to implode and collapse.** What had taken seven years to build was destroyed in less than two hours.

Too many couples are known for tearing each other down rather than building each other up. Perhaps it's a sly remark in public, or the withholding of a kind word when out with friends. Maybe the barbs come behind closed doors. Whatever the case, our words are powerful, and they can either wound or infuse life. **When unkind words crash into the person we love the most, they can destroy what has taken years to build.** A healthy marriage is one where both partners treat their words to one another with care. **What you say, how you say it, and even when you say it affects whether you are building someone up or tearing someone down. Your mouth reveals your heart and simultaneously affects your partner's heart.**

APPLICATION

1. Can you remember a time when your words were intended to tear down rather than build up?
2. Why does it take time to build up and only seconds to tear down?
3. What words can you say today to build up your spouse.

PRAYER

Lord, help us understand the power of our words. Give us patience and self-control so that our words encourage and build each other up. AMEN.

Kingdom Marriage Devotional
~~ Dr. Tony Evans



DEVOTIONAL FOR SINGLES

IN THE NOW

**“But You are the same, and Your years will not come to an end.”
HEBREWS 1:12 (NASB)**

God is eternally in the *now*.

Everything exists before Him in a perpetual present tense.

Therefore, unlike us, nothing catches Him off guard. He is never delayed or behind schedule. So, if you’re currently feeling rushed or hurried about a decision that needs your input, and your next step is not rooted in a deep confidence of inner peace, **this alone could be an indication that God has probably not spoken yet.** And though other people or circumstances may be exerting pressure on you to move quickly or declare your intentions, **bravely hang on to your belief that God has no need to guide you in a hasty manner, and that He will speak to you at the appropriate time. With clarity and conviction.**

The voice of the enemy will coerce and force, using the tactics of fear and intimidation. He will always accentuate the mistakes of the past and plant fear about the what-ifs of the future. **The voice of God, on the other hand, gently guides and woos, pointing to blessings and opportunities He is inviting you into today.**

Much of our frustration in hearing God centers on the issue of *timing*. We want to know more than He wants to reveal. And we want to know it *now*. Yet He speaks to us progressively, on a need-to-know basis, giving us enough light for the next step. **So we must trust Him until He sovereignly determines to unfold another layer of His will and direction to us. And when the time is right for us to know more, we’ll know it.** Until then, the things that are “freely given to us by God” (1 Cor. 2:12) are the only things we need for victory. **These are the things we need to know *now* and to which we will be held accountable *now*.**

Breathe deeply with the knowledge that His purposes have been specifically calculated with both you and His larger designs in mind. Then allow yourself the freedom to sit back and wait with a holy confidence, assured that this is the pace of His will for your life today.

Many Christians--even the most active, diligent ones--while well-intentioned in their pursuit to hear God, are living tense, fearful lives. They are worried that they’re missing “**God’s will for my life.**” They nervously look high and low for spiritual specifics, and then grow dismayed when they can’t find the answers in their own timing. **Even with a clear conscience to guide them, they’re sure they are somehow secretly, subtly failing God, or else He’d be more forthcoming, telling them everything they want to know right now.** But if you don’t need to know more yet, it’s likely because you don’t need to know yet. **Be committed to the last thing you heard Him say! This is His will.**

And if you aren’t clear on something, stay put. Don’t move. Give yourself permission to wait, remembering that waiting, is not the same as inactivity. Waiting is a commitment to continue on in obedience until God speaks. Only when God has spoken to you will you be cued to change direction. **Until then, as the old hymn goes... Trust and obey, For there’s no other way, To be happy in Jesus, But to trust and obey. AMEN.**

***“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.”
Psalm 119:105 AMEN.***

*Awaken
~~Priscilla Shirer*

TEEN'S CORNER

FREEDOM OF CHOICE

The people answered, "Far be it from us to forsake the Lord to serve other gods! . . . We too will serve the Lord because he is our God."

Joshua 24:16, 18 NIV



Christian philosopher Peter Kreeft says, "The opposite of theism is not atheism. It's idolatry." Everyone is going to worship a god of some sort (yes, even atheists), because we were created to be worshipers. It's written into our genetic code. It's an inescapable part of our job description as human beings. Worship comes as factory-installed, standard equipment in any member of the human race who has a body, a mind, and emotions.

The question, of course is whom or what you will *choose* to worship personally. There are lots of options and most of them are not "religious." In whom or what do you put your hope? What do you pursue? In short, to what do you give the bulk of your life's attention?

Here are some choices that reveal the god or gods you may be worshipping:

- How you spend your day off or your free time
- Whom you choose as Friends and which ones you call in a crisis
- What you do for a living
- How you manage your money
- What you watch on TV or what websites you visit
- What clothes you wear (or wish you could afford to wear)
- What food you eat
- What you think about
- How you spend your Sundays
- What type and level of education you are getting or have gotten
- Whether or not you have a time apart with God--every day of the week

Instead of worrying about the question, "What god am I serving?" look at your choices. You really are free to choose. But choosing well can be difficult. AMEN.

PURSUING TODAY

Ask yourself, what choices am I making? Have I been influenced by the choices of my friends and family? The culture around me? Consider your answers to the choices listed above. Stop for a moment and weigh your options. Then complete these sentences, using the same language the people of Israel used. "Far be it from us to forsake the Lord to serve (blank). We too will serve the Lord because (blank)." AMEN.

Not a Fan. Daily Devotional
~~Kyle Iddleman

DEVOTIONAL FOR SENIORS

Take Your Medicine!

"A joyful heart is good medicine." (Proverbs 17:22)



Once a week I join countless other senior citizens in a routine that keeps my body functioning smoothly. I carry half a dozen medicine bottles and a plastic pill sorter to the kitchen table and fill each of the seven segments of the sorter with the appropriate medications for that day. And I wonder, "Do I have all the medicine I need, or is there something else?"

Three thousand years ago, the writer of Proverbs prescribed the medication modern seniors may be missing. A dose of "joyful heart" helps us overcome aches and pains; it prevents future worries about the state of our health. With a good supply of "joyful heart" on hand, we can face the treatments and therapies that get us down.

Every medication has its side effects. A "joyful heart" may bring on an outbreak of smiles and laughter. Caution! These are contagious, and may affect everyone around you.

"Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit" (Psalm 51:12). Amen.

Hope-full Living Daily Devotions

~~Eileen Ritter

It's important to have a twinkle in your wrinkle. ~Author Unknown

Everyone is the age of their heart. ~Guatemalan Proverb

How old would you be if you didn't know how old you were? ~Satchel Paige

Anyone who stops learning is old, whether at twenty or eighty. ~Henry Ford

The Resume of Jesus Christ

Address: Ephesians 1:20

Phone: Romans 10:13

Website: The Bible. Keywords: Christ, Lord, Savior and Jesus



Hello,

My name is *Jesus Christ*. Many call me Lord! I've sent you my resume because I'm seeking the top management position in your heart. Please consider my accomplishments as set forth in my resume.

Qualifications

- I founded the earth and established the heavens, (See Proverbs 3:19).
- I formed man from the dust of the ground, (See Genesis 2:7).
- I breathed into man the breath of life, (See Genesis 2:7).
- I redeemed man from the curse of the law, (See Galatians 3:13).
- The blessings of the Abrahamic Covenant comes upon your life through me, (See Galatians 3:14).

Occupational Background

- I've only had one employer, (See Luke 2:49).
- I've never been tardy, absent, disobedient, slothful or disrespectful.
- My employer has nothing but rave reviews for me, (See Matthew 3:15-17).

Skills Work Experiences

- Some of my skills and work experiences include: empowering the poor to be poor no more, healing the brokenhearted, setting the captives free, healing the sick, restoring sight to the blind and setting at liberty them that are bruised, (See Luke 4:18).
- I am a Wonderful Counselor, (See Isaiah 9:6). People who listen to me shall dwell safely and shall not fear evil, (See Proverbs 1:33).
- Most importantly, I have the authority, ability and power to cleanse you of your sins, (See I John 1:7-9).

Educational Background

- I encompass the entire breadth and length of knowledge, wisdom and understanding, (See Proverbs 2:6).
- In me are hid all of the treasures of wisdom and knowledge, (See Colossians 2:3).
- My Word is so powerful; it has been described as being a lamp unto your feet and a lamp unto your path, (See Psalms 119:105).
- I can even tell you all of the secrets of your heart, (See Psalms 44:21).

Major Accomplishments

- I was an active participant in the greatest Summit Meeting of all times (See Genesis 1:26).
- I laid down my life so that you may live (See II Corinthians 5:15).
- I defeated the archenemy of God and mankind and made a show of them openly (See Colossians 2:15).
- I've miraculously fed the poor, healed the sick and raised the dead!
- There are many more major accomplishments, too many to mention here. You can read them on my website, which is located at: [www dot - the BIBLE](http://www.dot-theBIBLE.com). You don't need an Internet connection or computer to access my website.

References

- Believers and followers worldwide will testify to my divine healings, salvation, deliverance, miracles, restoration and supernatural guidance.

In Summation

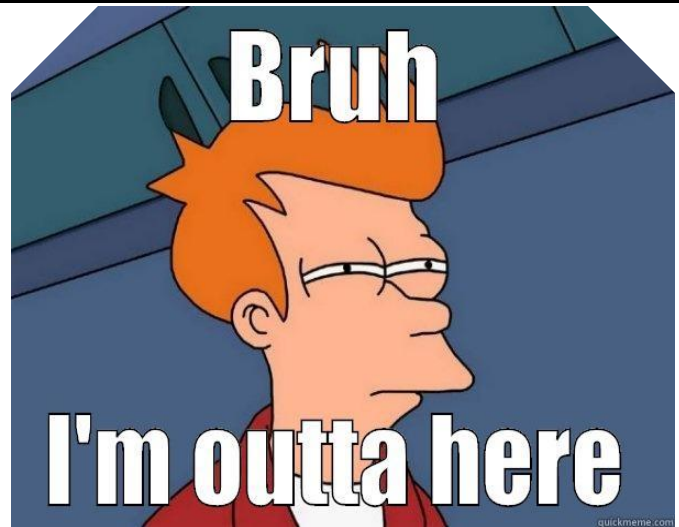
Now that you've read my resume, I'm confident that I'm the only candidate uniquely qualified to fill this vital position in your heart. In summation, I will properly direct your paths, (See Proverbs 3:5-6), and lead you into everlasting life, (See John 6:47). When can I start? **Time is of the essence**, (See Hebrews 3:15).

Author Unknown
Submitted by Sis. Emma Dawson

Humor . . .

Good-Bye, Mr. Blib

Mr. Blib is graduating from high school next week. Mr. Blib is my boy. The school thinks he's ready to go away to college. He and the other members of his class also think they're ready to leave home. But I'm here to say he's not the least bit ready.



I have taught my boy many things in eighteen years. He knows to put the knife on the right, blade in. He knows I will eventually find out what long-distance phone calls he's made because they get listed on the bill (or at least used to in the old days). He knows not to lie.

But as the weeks tick by before he leaves for college, it's the things I haven't yet taught him that plague me. I don't think, for example, that he fully understands about checking accounts. I think he believes there's a check heaven, and that no one will ever be the wiser if he overdraws his account.

I'm afraid he won't keep track of the oil in his car or make sure there's air in the spare. He doesn't know how to line up his pant seams properly on the rare occasions that he hangs them up.

He has no instinct for shopping. When he runs out of shaving cream at school, I'm not sure it will occur to him to go buy more. Instead, I think he'll call me and ask me to put it on the list.

He still puts metal in the microwave once in a while, and he's never in his life managed to unweave a pair of socks before putting them in the hamper.

I also haven't taught him about the motor vehicle department. How can he possibly go away to college when he doesn't even know enough to fill out the correct forms before standing in line? He's just not ready. No way.

On the other hand, I'm ready for him to leave. Jeez, I doubt I'll hardly miss him once he's gone. I'm sure not going to miss the fact that he uses up all the hot water in the house. I haven't had a hot shower since he was five and started taking charge of his own hygiene.

Humor . . . (continued)

I won't miss his counsel about the mistakes I make raising his younger brother. In fact, he still dwells on the mistake I made in *having* his younger brother, and I'm tired of hearing it.

I won't miss his stubbornness, either. Once, when he was four years old, we made a deal—he would stop sucking his thumb and I would stop smoking. He quit sucking his thumb on the spot and never put it in his mouth again. I still smoke.

What kind of person is that to have around the house? Who would miss such a stubborn, strong-willed boy? He's like this about everything. And noisy! I'm sure not going to miss how noisy he is. He's always laughing too loud. He's so ready to see the humor in something, he even laughs when I tell a story that makes him look the fool.

Like the Mr. Blib story. I call him Mr. Blib because he once told me he was blib. "You know Mom, I'm pretty blib," he told me. "Blib?" I said. "What's blib?" "You know—good with words," he said glibly. Now who could miss such a blib boy? A boy who laughs at himself when I tell this story? I'm sure not going to miss talking to him at the dinner table or having a late-night snack with him when he comes home from a date. And skiing with him—why would I miss that? He goes too fast, anyhow.

And I sure won't miss him relying on me for advice. What's the big deal? Who cares if he starts making all his own decisions and doesn't need me anymore? Look, I'm ready for this, no problem. It's just him. He's the one I'm worried about.

By Beth Mullally

Chicken Soup for the College Soul
~Jack Canfield, et al.



The Wooden Spoon

Be ever gentle with the children God has given you. Watch over them constantly; reprove them earnestly, but not in anger.

--Elihu Burritt



My son and daughter-in-law decided before their children were born that they would not spank. Both had been brought up with disciplinarian parents who believed in using "the rod rather than spoiling the child."

Humor . . . (continued)

My granddaughter, Jessica, went to Montessori school for a year, and of course they are against corporal punishment as well. Her punishment was mainly time-outs.

One day little Jessica had pushed her mom as far as she could. Carrie was so upset she went to the kitchen and pulled out a wooden spoon from the drawer. Lifting it in the air she said, "Do you see this? This is what my parents used for me."

Little four-year-old Jessica looked at her with big frightened eyes. "They cooked you?"

By Beverly Houseman

Chicken Soup for the Grandma's Soul
~Jack Canfield, et al



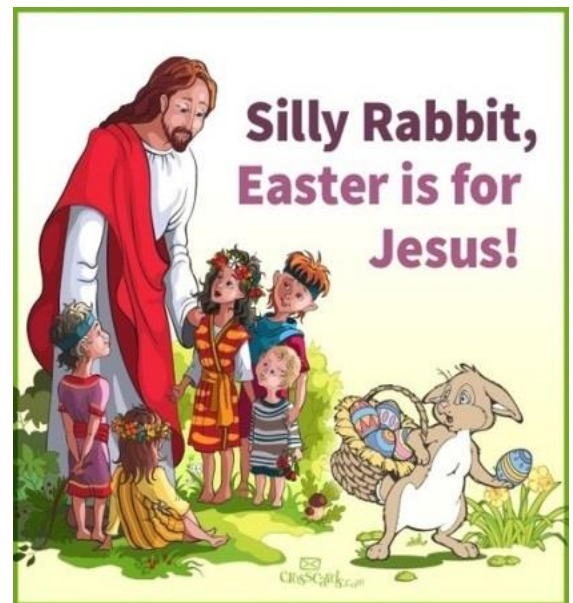
The Meaning of Easter

A Sunday school teacher was asking her six-year-olds about the meaning of Easter. "Children," she said, "Do you know why we celebrate Easter?" A little girl raised her hand. "Yes Jenny," said the teacher. Jenny said, "Is Easter when we put on costumes and go trick-or-treating?" "No, Jenny. That's Halloween. Does anyone else know?"

A little boy yelled, "It's when we set off fireworks!" "No Jimmy, that's Independence Day. Anybody else?"

A shy little girl in the back said, "Easter is when Jesus died." The teacher replied, "That's right, Shauna. And what happened to Jesus that makes Easter special?"

"Well, he died and got buried. And every Easter he comes out. And if he sees his shadow there's 6 more weeks of winter."



<https://www.funny-jokes-quotes-sayings.com/funny-easter-quotes.html>

Practical Advice Section . . .

The Journey to YOUR DREAM



***F*or years, Daniel “Rudy” Ruettiger was told he would not amount to anything.**

It was ingrained in little Rudy that he was too short and too dumb, and that he lacked talent. But despite his torment, young Rudy had a dream that one day he would attend the famed University of Notre Dame. Even wilder, he imagined himself playing football for the Fighting Irish! Not only did people laugh at Rudy’s dream, they encouraged him to stop dreaming. After all, Notre Dame was reserved for the smart and well-to-do kids. And football, especially division-one college football, required tremendous athletic ability, something that Rudy didn’t have. In the minds of the Ruettiger family, dreaming was limited to graduating from high school and going to work at the local oil refinery in Joliet, Illinois.

After graduating from high school Rudy gave up on his dream, following his father’s footsteps to start a career at the local refinery. A few months into the job an unexpected tragedy occurred, one that would forever change Rudy’s perspective on life. His best friend, Pete, was killed in an accident at the plant. Pete was the only person who ever encouraged Rudy to pursue his dream. A few days earlier Pete had surprised Rudy with a special birthday gift—a Notre Dame jacket, just like the ones the players wore. He told Rudy, “You were born to wear this jacket.”

His dream rekindled, Rudy decided not to waste another day working at the oil refinery. The day after Pete’s funeral he was off to South Bend, Indiana—the home of the Fighting Irish. He enrolled at Holy Cross Junior College and spent two years studying day and night to get the grades he needed to be admitted to Notre Dame. With little money and no support, Rudy found himself with nowhere to live. As a result he ended up sleeping in the maintenance room!

Then came the big test—applying for entry into Notre Dame. After weeks of waiting, his reply letter finally arrived. Ripping open the envelope with feverish excitement Rudy read the words—*application rejected*. He was devastated. All this hard work for nothing. Determined not to quit, Rudy recommitted himself and applied again—and again the letter came back: *rejected!* When the response to his third application arrived, he didn’t even want to open the envelope. Rudy was terrified of the news it could bear and let it sit unopened for several days as he built up his courage to peer inside. Finally, the magic word he’d been praying for appeared—*accepted!*

Despite all of the obstacles Rudy had persevered. Nothing could stop him now—he was a student at Notre Dame, and it was only a matter of time before he would be dressing with the Fighting Irish football team. Again, through sheer persistence and a never-say-die attitude, Rudy finally made it as a walk-on player, which allowed him to practice with the team. He never missed a practice. And despite being physically pummeled every week due to his small size, Rudy never quit. He kept bouncing back for more, earning the respect of the Fighting Irish for four years, and on the last game day of his senior year he was asked to dress for the game. Proudly placing the famous gold helmet on his head, Rudy ran onto the field where a capacity crowd (including his family) roared him on. The story was now out. This short young kid with the heart of a lion was running on the field as one of the famous Fighting Irish.

All game Rudy sat on the bench waiting for his chance to get on the field. With the clock winding down and the Irish comfortably ahead, his teammates begged the coach to let him play. Chants of “Rudy, Rudy, Rudy” echoed through the stadium. Dan Devine, the head coach of the 1975 team, finally relented and gave the order and sent him on with 27 seconds left on the clock.

Practical Advice . . . (continued)

The crowd went wild. Rudy was living his dream, and in that one and only play he sacked the quarterback! To this day, Rudy is the only Fighting Irish player to ever be carried off the field.

So what's your excuse? There will certainly be resistance on the road to your dream, and you will need to step outside of your comfort zone on a regular basis. Remember, you are climbing a mountain, not strolling through the park. It is a challenging journey that will test your confidence, your determination, your faith and your deep-seated desire to reach your dream. You already possess most of what you need, with God on your side, to overcome the challenges you will face, and what you don't already possess you will learn along the way. There are no shortcuts, but the journey up the mountain toward your dream has specific stages that you must go through. You about to learn how to identify these stages so that you are not surprised by them, and so you can use them to make you stronger as you stride toward your goal!

Stop PEOPLE

These are the individuals who will attempt to stop you. They come in many shapes and sizes: family members, friends, rivals, landlords, teachers and bosses. The toughest ones will be those closest to you. Stop People have three major motivations:

1. They don't want you to fail.

People do this in an attempt to safeguard you by encouraging the less-risky approach. They do this because they care for you and don't want to see you fall flat on your face. Expect to hear things like, "It's too risky!" or, "It doesn't make good sense at your age."

2. You are disturbing their comfort zone.

When you stretch your comfort zone and make a change in your life, you bring change into the lives of those around you—sometimes positive, sometimes not. Any change is a disruption to the comfort zone of those closest to you. You might be threatening their assumptions about success, their routine, their level of wealth or control, or their personal insecurities about not following their own dream. Rudy's desire to go to Notre Dame stretched the comfort zone of his family. When you make the step, expect responses like, "It's impossible!" or, "You can't do that!"

3. They don't want you to succeed.

There may actually be someone out there who is jealous, nervous or threatened by what might happen if you climb the mountain and plant your flag of happiness and success on the top. They'll get in your face and say, "Over my dead body!" or, "You'll have to go through me first!"

Once there was a pond of tiny frogs that set out on a mission. The goal was to hop up the steps of a very high water tower and bathe in the purest water in the land. No frog has ever accomplished such a feat, although it was something they all dreamed of doing. The big day came and crowds of frogs from neighboring ponds gathered around the tower to watch and cheer on the dreamers. The journey up the tower began—stair by stair, hop by hop. No one in the crowd believed that the tiny frogs would make it to the top. "It's way too difficult!" they yelled. "They'll never make it!"

It was a sweltering day and the sun beat down on their backs as they climbed. One by one, the tiny frogs began collapsing. "It's too difficult!" the crowd yelled. "Turn back, you won't make it!" More and more tiny frogs got tired and gave up. **But one frog continued, climbing higher and higher and higher ...this one wouldn't give up!** Believing in himself he endured the heat, and after a big effort he finally reached the top. Now he was cooling off in the purest, cleanest, most refreshing water any frog could ever dream of. So what separated him from all the rest?

As it turned out, this frog was deaf! You have a choice: either allow Stop People to stop you from achieving your dream, or cover your ears and press on.

Surviving THE COLD

There will be times when things take longer or are harder than expected, and when it gets really, really, "cold." Your motivation and determination will start to freeze, and you will begin to question whether or not to go on. We call this phenomenon "The Cold." Many dreamers succumb to *The Cold* and retreat down the mountain—giving up their dream. But if you hang in there, you will survive by the grace of God. *The Cold* is tough, and it will tire you out physically and mentally.

But there is a reason for *The Cold*. It will help you develop the strength, skills and stamina needed to live your dream to the fullest. *The Cold* is a test. By surviving your encounter with *The Cold*, you pass the test and prove that you are capable and ready to achieve your dream. Rudy survived two years at a community college, two rejection letters and four years sitting on the bench. Will you survive *The Cold*?

Practical Advice . . . (continued)

Persisting Through AVALANCHES

Avalanches attempt to push you down the mountain and bury your dream—they are the major roadblocks and challenges you face along your journey. A few common avalanches include:

1. Lacking Resources

This could be the lack of money, time, qualifications, experience or contacts. Rudy didn't have the grades to get into Notre Dame, but he didn't let this avalanche bury his dream.

2. Physical and Emotional Illness

Poor health, injuries, loss of faith and greed can overcome you. Did Lance Armstrong let cancer prevent him from winning seven consecutive Tour de France titles? Did Rudy let his small size prevent him from playing for the Fighting Irish?

3. Closed Doors

Before being published, the original Chicken Soup for the Soul manuscript was rejected 144 times! However, the authors never allowed the avalanche of closed doors to get in their way and now it is one of the largest book series in the world! Your ability to seek solutions, have faith and maintain focus will allow you to persist through the avalanches that attempt to bury your dream. "When they say no, you say next!" Smart travelers have a trusted friend, family member or mentor and other resources close by who can help them through the tough times that avalanches bring. Think of who can help dig you out of an avalanche!

Ready, Aim . . . ACT!

As you begin the journey toward your dream (and work toward achieving individual goals along the way), there are a few things to keep in mind. **The most important lesson a traveler must know is that there is no replacement for action—experience, knowledge, passion, purpose and focus are of little value if not combined with ACTION.**

Let's look at some Actions to take with you on your journey.

Law #1—Act in contribution

A little law of the world states: Give and thou shalt receive. This law is so ancient and so important that it's a cornerstone of the Bible. **Acting in contribution means giving genuinely out of joy and gratitude for all that you have.** Contributions are gifts you give to the world. There are lots of ways to contribute—it doesn't need to be money. You can contribute your time by volunteering, contribute your talents to where they are appreciated and provide your expertise where it is needed. In return, the world will give gifts back to you: love, money, friends, knowledge, compassion and support. You will need these things on your journey toward your dream, so don't forget to give and do so with an open heart.

Law #2—Act as though there is a way

Despite the circumstances or the obstacles, there is always a way. People who find a way are the people who act as though there always was one.

Example: Randy spent a lot of time on the Mississippi River.

After finishing high school, it became his favorite hang-out spot. The pollution in the river had always bothered him, but he had never done anything about it. That all changed when one day he and his friend found a full-sized refrigerator lodged in the river bed. That was a defining moment for Randy—he could no longer tolerate the pollution in the river. Randy's mission began. He set out to raise enough money to clean out hundreds of miles of the polluted river.

Practical Advice . . . (continued)

There were many roadblocks and set-backs along the way, but finally through much perseverance and networking, his dream became a reality. In just six months, after a few big “pretty pleases” and many doors slammed in his face, Randy had raised more than \$1.5 million. His determination led to the cleanup of more than 300 miles of the Mississippi River! It all happened because Randy took action and believed there was a way.

Law #3—Act as though you have a choice

Even in the gravest situations, no one can take the power of choice away from us.

Example: Walter was always in a good mood.

However, one day he was involved in a serious accident, falling some 60 feet from a communications tower. Doctors worked tirelessly during 18 hours of surgery to keep Walter alive—performing various operations to keep blood from clotting in his brain. Miraculously, they released Walter from the hospital three months later. Although a paraplegic, he was as full of life as ever. Six months after the accident, when asked about his condition, Walter replied, “If I was any better, I’d be twins!” Walter explained the experience. “As I lay on the ground, I remembered that I had two choices: I could choose to live or I could choose to die. When they wheeled me into the ER and I saw the expressions on the faces of the doctors and nurses, I got really scared. In their eyes I read, “He’s a dead man!” I know I needed to take action. There was a big burly nurse shouting questions at me. She asked if I was allergic to anything. ‘Yes,’ I replied. The doctors and nurses froze as they waited for me to continue. I took a deep breath and said, ‘GRAVITY!’ Over their laughter, I told them, ‘I am choosing to live. Operate on me as if I am alive, not dead.’”

Walter survived, thanks to the skill of his doctors and Almighty God, but also because of his amazing attitude—he chose to live! You have a choice. Every day you decide to either pursue the dream that God has put in your spirit, or to drift aimlessly through life. **You choose if you will discover your dream and if you are willing to stretch your comfort zone to reach it. You choose whether your future is worth focusing on. These are choices only you can make—so what’s it going to be?**

~Les Hewitt, Andrew Hewitt, Luc ‘d Abadir,
The Power of Focus

It Couldn't Be Done

Somebody said that it couldn't be done,
But he with a chuckle replied
That “maybe it couldn't,” but he would be one
Who wouldn't say so till he'd tried.
So he buckled right in with the trace of a grin
On his face. If he worried he hid it.
He started to sing as he tackled the thing
That couldn't be done, and he did it.
Somebody scoffed: “Oh, you'll never do that;
At least no one ever has done it;”
But he took off his coat and he took off his hat,
And the first thing we knew he'd begun it.

With a lift of his chin and a bit of a grin,
Without any doubting or quiddit,
He started to sing as he tackled the thing
That couldn't be done, and he did it.
There are thousands to tell you it cannot be done,
There are thousands to prophesy failure;
There are thousands to point out to you one by one,
The dangers that wait to assail you.
But just buckle in with a bit of a grin,
Just take off your coat and go to it;
Just start in to sing as you tackle the thing
That “cannot be done,” and you'll do it.

~Edgar A. Guest, 1881 - 1959 (Submitted by Sis. Louise Stallworth)

A Story to Warm Your Heart and Delight Your Soul...

He Took Care of Me

*For it is written: "He shall give His angels charge over you, to keep you."
Luke 4:10*



A heart transplant! I was sure that the doctors must be wrong: For all my fifty-eight years, I had never even spent one night in the hospital. Now, they were telling me that my heart was so damaged that it had to be removed! How could this be?

And, how could I work full-time, shovel snow, rake leaves and have recently planted over seventy tulip and hyacinth bulbs with a heart that, as the doctors now explained to me, was "falling apart?"

My weight, blood pressure and cholesterol were all normal, but the EKG results during a routine annual physical showed that my heart was not only severely damaged, but that sometime in the recent past I had actually suffered a massive heart attack. This was so hard to comprehend since the only time I'd ever remembered being sick was when I had the flu several months before. And shouldn't I have felt some pain if I had suffered a heart attack? The doctor explained that what I thought was the "flu" was probably a massive heart attack. To make my condition even more serious, a cardiac catheterization showed an orange-size tumor silently growing on my heart. The doctors told me I was dying.

To save my life, their first choice was a heart transplant. A second option was a life-threatening, near impossible surgery to remove the growing tumor and try to repair my damaged heart. I was in a state of shock. I couldn't make this decision alone. I turned to God to help me. Now, I was never one to formally pray, but my connection with the Lord was always through simple conversations. So I talked to God and asked Him to show me the way. I began to think about my husband Luke, who had died of cancer eleven years before. I told God that this was the first time I had to face a crisis without my husband, and I was afraid. It had always been just the two of us, and when Luke was alive, he took care of everything. I knew if he were with me, he would have put his arms around me, made me feel safe and guided me in the right direction. I told God that I missed Luke now more than I ever did.

Though the doctors recommended the transplant, there was something unexplainable drawing me to learn about my other choice. I was told it was a complex operation and that there was only one heart surgeon in the area who would even try to attempt it. A feeling came over me, and I had to know who he was and where I could find him. When I further questioned the doctors, I was told

A Story to Warm Your Heart ... (continued)

his name was V. Paul Addonizio, M.D. He was Chief of Cardiac Surgery at Abington Memorial Hospital in Abington, Pennsylvania, a suburb of Philadelphia.

The name sounded familiar, and then it all came back to me. A year before Luke was diagnosed with cancer; he had needed emergency heart surgery. Was this Dr. Addonizio the surgeon who had saved my Luke's life? I remembered how very much Luke had respected him and called him a straight shooter. Luke used to tell people that he was blessed to have had him as the surgeon to operate on his heart. After all these years, could this be the same doctor? The towns weren't the same, the hospitals weren't the same, but the names were.

Even though over eleven years had gone by, when Dr. Addonizio walked into my examining room, I recognized him immediately. How could I have forgotten the face that saved my husband? And now I was hoping that he could, by the power of God, save me.

As he carefully explained the complicated surgery and how he would have to remove most of my heart to eliminate the aneurysm, then patch and remodel my heart to rebuild it to its normal shape, I couldn't stop thinking that God and Luke had sent Dr. Addonizio to save me.

I left Dr. Addonizio's office with renewed hope. I thanked God, because for the first time during this horrible nightmare, I felt at peace and no longer alone.

My procedure was to be the world's first of its kind, using human skin from the skin bank, because of its strength and resistance to infection. I was petrified on the morning of the surgery. As I lay on the hospital stretcher in the holding area waiting to be wheeled into the operating room, I told God that my life was in His hands—and Dr. Addonizio's.

Once in the operating room, Dr. Addonizio gently took my hand and said, "I truly believe there is a guardian angel looking over you." And as I went to sleep, I felt Luke, my guardian angel, by my side.

As I recovered, I learned the operating room was silent when Dr. Addonizio touched my fragile heart to make his first incision. It instantly ruptured and fell apart in his hands. But the Lord was there to catch the pieces. The walls of my heart were as thin as tissue paper and, had I not had this surgery, it would have exploded in my chest and I could not have survived.

Today, I feel better than ever. I'm back to work and gardening, feeling blessed that God sent Luke to take care of me just like he always had.

By Linda Carol Cherken

Chicken Soup for the Christian Soul 2

~Jack Canfield, et al.

Comfort

Thank You, Jesus, that Your Spirit brings *much comfort* to my heart. When I am sad or frightened, remind me that all I need to do is open myself to You—and Your love will wrap around me like a warm, comforting blanket. Amen.

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore will not we fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea; Though the waters thereof roar and be troubled, though the mountains shake with the swelling thereof. --Psalm 46:1-3

Light for My Path
Barbour Publishing



**INFORMATION & ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR
SUNDAY, MARCH 3, 2019**

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY WISHES TO
EVERYONE BORN IN THE MONTHS OF
MARCH AND APRIL**



UBC COMMUNICATION CARDS: Anyone worshiping with us today and “making a decision for Christ” by using one of our UBC Communication Cards found in the pocket of the pews, is encouraged to follow-up your decision TODAY, by contacting **REVEREND ALVIN L. WYATT, Minister of Christian Life and Witness at (513) 381-3858**. When calling, please leave your name, the spelling of your name, the date and time of your call, and, most importantly, a telephone number where you may be reached. **Reverend Wyatt will be in touch with you**, as quickly as possible, after receiving your telephone call, as to the next steps in your decision(s) for Christ. GOD BLESS YOU.

PRAYER BAND MINISTRY: A Prayer Request Box 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. In the future, look for prayer request cards in the sanctuary pew pockets. **You are invited to join us for prayer and meditation on Tuesdays at 6:30 a.m. 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 let the office know if you or a loved one is being released from the hospital. If there is bereavement in your family, please notify the church office at (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) 981-0423 and leave your name and your telephone number. GOD BLESS YOU.

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY AND FELLOWSHIP ON TUESDAYS AT 7:00 P.M.: Our current Men's Bible study is based on the series, “**Searching for Heaven on Earth**” by David Jeremiah. All men are invited to attend this powerful group study led by Pastor Yates in the church sanctuary. What a blessing that awaits all who participate. ~~ Pastor Yates

WEDNESDAY NOON DAY BIBLE STUDY AT 12:00 P.M.: Our current Wednesday Noon Bible study is based on the Bible series, **Pathways – From Providence to Purpose** by Dr. Tony Evans. You are invited to attend this dynamic group study led by Pastor Yates in the church sanctuary. **Lunch is served after each class.** Remember all are welcome and we will be blessed by your presence. ~~Pastor Yates

WEDNESDAY EVENING PRAYER SERVICE AND BIBLE STUDY AT 7:00 P.M.: The Wednesday Evening Bible study is also based on the Bible series, **Pathways – From Providence to Purpose** by Dr. Tony Evans. Pastor Yates will lead this class and all are invited to come and grow with us. ~~ Pastor Yates

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

DAILY BREADS FOR MARCH-MAY: The quarterly Daily Breads are now available for the months of March, April and May 2019. Please see an usher to pick up a Daily Bread for yourself, family members and friends.

DEACONS MINISTRY: The Deacons Ministry will have a meeting on **Monday, March 4, 2019** and **April 15, 2019** at 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary (lower balcony). **Please have your monthly Family Ward Reports.** ~~Pastor Yates


REHEARSALS ARE UNDERWAY FOR ALL CHILDREN FOR THE SUNDAY SCHOOL

RESURRECTION PROGRAM: The annual Easter Sunday School / Resurrection Program will occur on **April 21, 2019 at 9:00 a.m.** All children at Union are encouraged to participate by attending Sunday School at 9:00 a.m. or Children's Church at 10:00 a.m. to learn the songs and their lines for the skits. For more information, please see **Rev. Emanuel Marshall.**




MESSAGE FROM HORTICULTURE MINISTRY: It's that time of year again. What time? **Easter Lily time.** Anyone wishing to make a purchase can do so now with delivery to the church on April 6, 2019. The prices for Easter lilies are: 6" Easter lily, one stem clay pot - \$9.00; 8" Easter lily, three stems per pot - \$26.00. All monies are due at time of order. Please see **Sis. Doris Walker** for your order before **deadline, March 7, 2019.**

CLASSICAL ROOTS CONCERT ON MARCH 8, 2019: Please come out and support Union Baptist Church members that will be participating in the annual Classical Roots Community Mass Choir. Please see the flyer below regarding details and the fundraising opportunity for Union Baptist when you purchase a ticket for the concert and use **code 11075** to get funds for Union from the tickets sales.

UBC WORSHIPS WITH SAVING GRACE COMMUNITY CHURCH FOR THE DEDICATION OF THEIR NEW FACILITY ON SUNDAY, March 24, 2019 AT 3:30 P.M.: The deacons, choir, ushers and Health & Wellness Ministry are to serve. Pastor Yates will preach and all members are invited to attend. Saving Grace is located at **401 W. Wyoming Ave., Lockland, Ohio 45215.** God Bless You. ~~ Pastor Yates

 **CLASSICAL ROOTS**
INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

FRI MAR 8, 2019 | MUSIC HALL | 7:30 pm



Single tickets on sale NOW

Use code **11075** to raise funds for your church!
11075

Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra
John Morris Russell conductor
Lisa Fischer vocalist
Classical Roots
Community Mass Choir

513.381.3300 | cincinnati-symphony.org/classicalroots



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

**MARCH IS "STEWARDSHIP EMPHASIS" MONTH
IMPORTANT DATES FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH**

March 4, 2019: Deacons Ministry Meeting at 7:00 p.m.

March 18, 2019: Trustee Board Ministry Meeting at 7:00 p.m.

March 24, 2019: Saving Grace Community Church Building Dedication
Service at 3:30 p.m.

March 25, 2019: Union Foundation meeting at 7:00 p.m.



**APRIL IS "DISCIPLESHIP EMPHASIS" MONTH
IMPORTANT DATES FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL**

April 6, 2019: Spring Cemetery Clean-up Day (9:00 a.m. - 1 p.m.)

April 8, 2019: Second Quarter Church Leadership Council Meeting at 7:00 p.m.

April 14, 2019: Palm Sunday observed at 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. Worship Celebrations

April 15-20, 2019: Holy Week

April 15, 2019: Trustee Board Ministry Meeting at 6:00 p.m.
Deacons Ministry Meeting at 7:00 p.m.

April 19, 2019: Seven Last Words from the Cross Worship Celebration at
12:00 p.m.

April 21, 2019: Easter Early Morning Worship Celebration at 7:30 a.m.
Easter Sunday School Program at 9:00 a.m.
Mid-Morning Easter Worship Celebration at 10:00 a.m.

April 22, 2019: Second Quarter Official Board Meeting at 6:00 p.m.

April 26, 2019: Second Quarter Church Conference at 7:00 p.m.

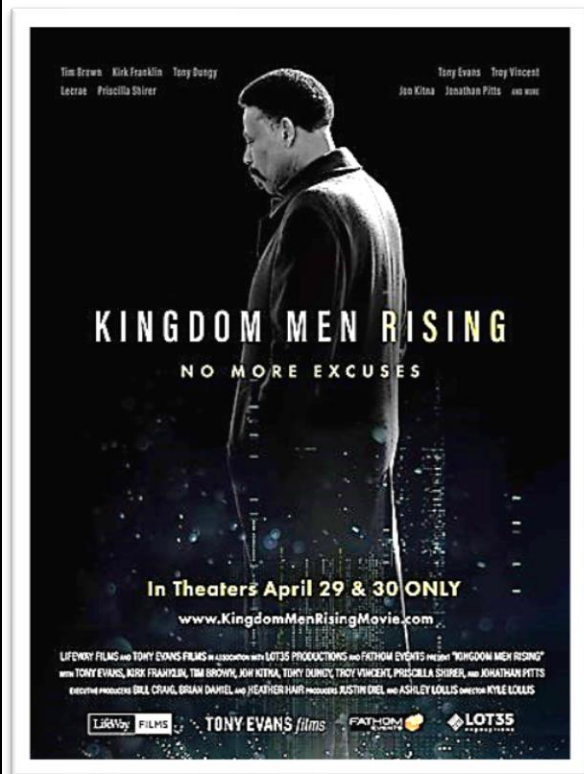
April 27, 2019: Alternate Spring Cemetery Clean-up Day (9:00 a.m. - 1 p.m.)

April 30, 2019: Union Foundation meeting at 7:00 p.m.



ATTENTION All Men. . .

'Kingdom Men Rising' Film Promotes Biblical Manhood



Society may be confused about the true definition of manhood, but pastor and author Tony Evans said God's Word is clear. The Bible, he says, reveals what God expects from men, even if the cultural tide is swimming in the opposite direction.

"The biblical definition of man is under attack," said Evans, the pastor of Oak Cliff Bible Fellowship in Dallas, Texas. "[But] God is looking for biblical men. He's looking for biblical men in order to save the culture."

Evans hopes an upcoming theatrical movie, "Kingdom Men Rising," helps transform everyday men into the "biblical men" God wants them to be. The documentary film is an extension of two of his books, "Kingdom Man" and "No More Excuses," and will address the current state of manhood before examining what God requires of men.

Kingdom Men Rising will feature former NFL coach and current television commentator Tony Dungy, former NFL quarterback Jon Kitna, former Heisman Trophy winner Tim Brown, musical artist Kirk Franklin, NFL executive

Troy Vincent, Evans' two sons (Jonathan and Anthony Evans) and two daughters (Priscilla Shirer and Chrystal Evans Hurst), and Evans' nephew, Jonathan Pitts, whose wife Wynter died last year. Evans is the host.

Michael Foust, Baptist Press

<http://www.bpnews.net/52479/kingdom-men-rising-film-promotes-biblical-manhood>

This upcoming film will be shown at Showcase Cinema - Springdale, April 29th and 30th only. All men should take advantage and attend, if possible. Call the theatre for additional information at (513) 671-0140.

A teaser trailer is available at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6yzCggr1Vr0>.

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

THE USHER MINISTRY IS IN NEED OF USHERS: I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of the wicked." (Psalm 84:10). The Usher Ministry of Union Baptist Church is currently seeking church members to serve as doorkeepers in the house of God. ALL AGES ARE WELCOME: Adult men and women; youth and children (ages 7-18). Church ushering is a sacred duty and a great privilege because it is a service to Christ and His church. Usher training is available. **Sis. Doris Walker, Chief Usher.**

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED FOR SPRING CEMETERY CLEAN-UP AT UNION BAPTIST CEMETERY ON APRIL 6, 2019 FROM 9:30 AM TO 1:30 PM: The backup date in case of inclement weather is April 27, 2019. Please see the flyer on page 28. ~~~ Cemetery Committee

GOOD FRIDAY SERVICES, APRIL 19, 2019 AT 12:00 P.M.: All are invited to attend the **Seven Last Words from the Cross Worship Celebration** as we observe Holy Week (April 15th - 20th). Parking will be available on West Seventh Street.

PLEASE SAVE THE DATE FOR VBS: Vacation Bible School for all ages will be held June 3-7, 2019. More information will be forthcoming. **Dea. Donald Darby, VBS Principal**

Thank You and Acknowledgements

Pastor Orlando Yates - Union Baptist Church,

Thank you for the Resolution in memory of my husband, Retired Pastor Eugene Sebastian. Your kind expression of sympathy is a blessing from God of comfort, support and encouragement during this difficult time. Your love and heartfelt condolences will always be remembered.

In Christian Love,

Sis. Jane Sebastian and Family

Sis. Elsie Pierre and Family want to thank Pastor Yates and the Church family for your prayers and thoughts during the homegoing of her son, Max. Every now and then we experience kindness.

Oh, give thanks to the Lord for He is good!

Sis. Elsie Pierre

To Pastor Yates and the entire Union Baptist Church Family,

We the Harris family extends our appreciation to each of you for all of the love shown towards us during the loss of our dearly beloved Charles Harris. Whether it was a prayer, a kind word, a call, a visit, a text, a card, a kiss, a hug or just a thought. We say thank you!

We are grateful to have such a loving church family.

Please continue to keep us lifted up in your prayers and we will do the same for you.

To God be the Glory, for great things He hath done!

Your Sister in Christ,

Sis. Denise Harris

God isn't far away; He surrounds you with His love...

He's in every good thing that touches you...

In every step you make and every breath you take.

He's not far away, for He is with you always. - Nancye Sims



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

A Gift to You - A Memorial Tribute to Brother Max Pierre

(Listen to our theme song "Forever in Love" - Kenny G while reading this article)

Proverbs 17:17 says, "A friend loveth at all times". Max Pierre was my friend.

I met Max at Union Baptist Church when he was an usher. He often stood by the door where the Pastor enters the sanctuary. As Max stood by that door, it seemed as if the Lord allowed every light in heaven to shine directly on him, especially when he smiled. We became fast friends. We were *Road Buddies*. Max played the saxophone and shared his dynamic talent with many. He would play at private events in Hyde Park, Amberley Village and Indian Hill. I would drive him to those events. Once we stopped at my favorite park, overlooking the city. Max began to serenade me. The more he played, the more it seemed as if I was ascending into heaven. I could see how the lion and adder could coexist side by side when the Lord returns. I started reflecting on the Lord, His goodness and His promises to me. Max was always kind, always courteous and always compassionate. He was quick to show that chivalry was not dead. He was my *Knight in Shining Armor*. The theme of a recent bulletin board display with all of the youth and children of Union was inspired by the song *A Gift to You*. The lyrics of this song expresses Max's journey and message: All of us need to use our gifts and talents to the glory of God!

A Gift to You Lyrics:

Everything I am
Everything I'll be
I give it to You, Lord
And do it thankfully.

Everything I have
All You've given me.
I give it to You, Lord
And do it thankfully

Chorus:

Every song I sing
Every praise I bring
Everything I do, is a gift to you.



Usher Extraordinaire - A Memorial Tribute to Brother Charles Ray Harris

I'd rather be a Doorkeeper In the house of the Lord
Where all of God's saints are on one accord.
Charles Ray Harris, Usher Extraordinaire,
With standards so high many fail to compare.
He often attended to the needs of everyone.
From the elderly, to the baby. His job was never done.
On the way to church He picked up mothers.
While in the Sanctuary He took care of brothers.
He took off one Sunday to cook a fine dinner.
His sweet mother in Kentucky was the gratified winner.
He was in the process of organizing a fishing event.
That let me know right away Charles Harris was Heaven-Sent.
His service at Union was much, much too short.
But the Lord knows best when it's time to depart.
Thank You Jesus for giving him time to serve.
He showed us good treatment. More than we deserve!
Keep sending Your angels So that we can see
How truly good Heaven is going to be.



Both Tributes Submitted by Sis. Kathy Spratley

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

The Union Foundation

"generating resources & services to impact our community"



At this time of year, many of us look back on Easter Sunday morning, March 31, 2013, and remember that this was the time we lost when our son and brother, and sound technician at Union Baptist Church. We thank God for lending us Freddie Powell, Jr. for a while. The family was given a memorial tapestry by J.C. Battle & Sons Funeral Home, so we all could remember Freddie and his generous and selfless service to the people of Union and the church community.

The Powell Family will always have Freddie, Jr. and his love in our hearts. As Union Baptist Church moves forward, the family, (Bro. Freddie Powell, Sr.) wanted to share this gift with the members of Union, Freddie, Jr.'s other family. The Memorial Tapestry is now hanging in the Page Archives, and will become a part of Union Baptist Church history.

In Freddie's honor, the Freddie Powell, Jr. Memorial Scholarship was established by the Powell Family and under the management of the Union Foundation, on October 28, 2013. The purpose of the Scholarship is to assist and encourage individuals to advance themselves in post-secondary studies of communications and/or Creative and Performing Arts at an accredited post-secondary institution.

"YOU CAN PREACH A BETTER SERMON WITH YOUR LIFE THAN WITH YOUR LIPS...." OLIVER GOLDSMITH

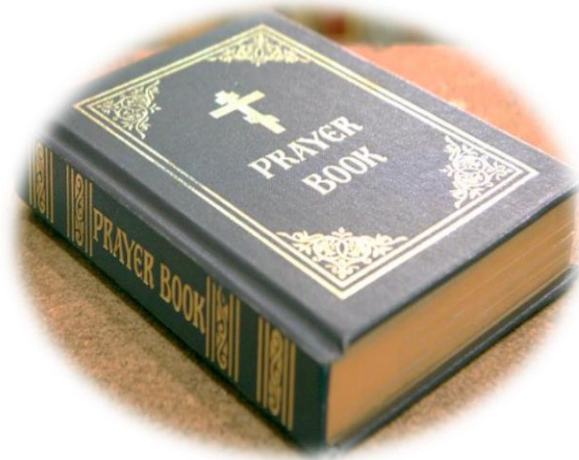


Union's Prayer Book

If you haven't yet submitted your prayer for Union's Prayer Book, please do so as soon as the Lord leads you to. We pray to organize all prayers by the end of the month.

Thank you,

Sis. Renita Foster
Sis. Denise Harris
Sis. Angelita Jones
Dea. Ernest Norman
Sis. Melanie Montgomery
Dea. Ed Phillips
Sis. Ruth Phillips
Sis. Elsie Pierre
Sis. Kathy Spratley
Sis. Louise Stallworth



We Need Artists!



The team for Union's Prayer Book is seeking artists to provide illustrations for both the inside and outside of the Book of Prayers. You don't have to be a great artist – you may only be able to provide some type of sketch. It doesn't matter. We'd like to consider anything you may have to offer. We'd much rather have one of your drawings than to pull something from the internet. So, please give it some thought and let's see what you can do! Please provide your sketches or drawings to **Sis. Angelita M. Jones.**

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

Travel with Louise (Second Installment)

Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam Tour (21,267 miles traveled)

This year's travel included a visit to Singapore (an island nation) and the countries of Thailand (cities of Ko Samui, Laem Chabang and Bangkok) and the city Phu My and Ho Chi Min city (formerly known as Saigon) in Vietnam.

Singapore is a beautiful and clean island nation. It's about ½ the size of Los Angeles. Singapore is a nation with a multicultural blend of all people and religions. Most of the country's people are Buddhists. We visited some beautiful temples and other religious shrines in all 3 countries. In 1966, Singapore passed the religious holiday act granting two national religious holidays for all major religions in their country. The Muslims, Chinese, Buddhist, Hindu and Christians. For Christians, the days are Christmas and Good Friday.

Singapore is one of the world's most progressive nations with a booming economy. National Security is the first national priority. Upon completion of high school every male is automatically drafted into the military for 2 years. Some of Singapore's elite military forces train in the Southwest United States. They were proud that they volunteered to support our efforts during Hurricane Katrina. Everyone is under surveillance. They use high tech security cameras everywhere. This helps account for the countries less than 1% crime rate. Your behavior in public even effects your credit score.

Education is the second national priority. Singapore has the best education in the world but is also known as a pressure cooker for children. English is the primary language. However most people, including children, speak 3 languages. Singapore is # 1 in top performing countries in math and science. The United States is # 28.

Singapore has some unique laws that carries fines and jail time. No chewing gum anywhere, no littering, no eating or drinking on public transportation including our tour buses. And some cultural expectations, when entering a temple, you must take off your shoes and your arms must be covered and no shorts. I never heard a horn beep in traffic; everyone seemed extremely courteous. Remember Singapore is the country that gave the 19-year-old American from Dayton, Ohio, 4 months in jail and six strokes of the cane for putting spray paint on a car. The country's philosophy, "*Spare the rod and spoil the child*" is clear. **Proverbs 13:24 "Whoever spares the rod hates their children, but the one who loves their children is careful to discipline them."**

The most affordable forms of transportation are public rail and motor scooters which represents about 65% of the population. There seemed like hundreds of scooters were everywhere. They were riding on the streets, sidewalks and alleys just moving along. On the scooters, people carried groceries, supplies and children to. Young, old, even women dress up wearing high heels. Some scooters had at least 3 people on them. At least 95 % of the people on scooters wore helmets too.

The people, the food, shopping and the cruise were all terrific in Southeast Asia. I saw rice patties, sacred temples and palaces, sky scrapers, monkeys harvesting coconuts, grazing water buffalo, historical building from the Vietnam war, South China Sea, Pacific Ocean, and so much more. Lots of walking. No! An enormous amount of walking every day!

Best of all, I got to spend quality time with the Lord. To see what He has created with my own eyes is a blessing. To be safe from all harm and danger while traveling is a blessing especially during the Trump Shutdown.

I shopped till I dropped in downtown Singapore. While waiting on the Hop on Hop off Bus, I sat down on a slab of concrete in front of the Louis Vuitton store (just people watching). I was so tired of walking, hot, (88 miles from the equator) and my mouth was dry. I wanted a bottle water or a piece of gum to chew but I restrained myself not knowing if I would be fined or arrested.

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

Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam Tour. . . (continued)

Coming up the street was a young mother pushing a stroller. As she drew near, she gave me the look “Are you American?” I returned the look “WHY YES, are you American?” As we got closer to each other, we spoke and hugged. We shared in some small pleasantries. She said, “My name is Morgan Wilson, born and raised in Paducah Kentucky.” I said, “I’m Louise from Cincinnati, Ohio.” We laughed and continued to talk about Singapore. I asked Morgan if she was a Christian and where and how does her family worship in Singapore? She said, a few Americans would meet for Bible Study but didn’t attend a church regularly. We talked about Bible Study and I suggested that she try Bible Study Fellowship International (BSF). I told her that I’ve attended classes for the past 4 years and have grown so much in knowledge and wisdom of the Lord. I knew (BSF) had classes in Singapore online and I wanted to share that information with her.

Morgan said, she would communicate with other Americans in her network, in Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam and Japan about the site. I couldn’t wait to get back to the hotel to email her the information about BSF. I’m still praying that my sharing of God’s Word and Bible Study opportunities will increase her love and understanding of our Lord and His desires for His children. A word from home and a good Word from the Lord is always refreshing. We prayed together and talked more about my walk with God at Union Baptist Church.

I received this email back from **Morgan**: “Thank you!! I will certainly look into this. I think the host family for our Bible Study is moving back to the states in the summer and we’d like to continue studying so this is a good opportunity and avenue for us to explore/try. Thank you for sharing.” **Morgan**.

God had something for me to say and do on the other side of the world **and guess what—I was no longer thirsty!** This was the most amazing highlight of my trip. To God Be the Glory!

Submitted by: Sis. Louise Stevenson, Women’s Ministry Leader



Matthew 25

Matthew 25 ministry service will be held on March 9, 2019, May 11, 2019, July 13, 2019, September 14, 2019, and November 16, 2019. The time for all dates is from 11:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. Please plan to arrive at Matthew 25 by 10:45 a.m. If you have any questions, please see **Sis. Doris Walker**.

Movie Update - Lead Actor



Terra Strong Lyons is a long-time and long-distance member of Union Baptist Church. She was active in Children's Church, PDYM, Dalettes Choir, Youth Choir, Glory Girls, and was a youth usher.

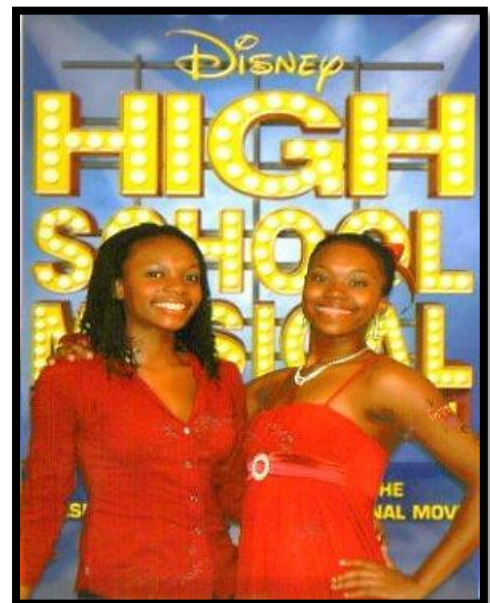
Terra has loved the art of performance since she was a shy, timid child. Before she was comfortable speaking to people at audible levels, Terra was singing and dancing at church and in school plays. After starting at the School for Creative and Performing Arts in Cincinnati, Ohio, Terra began singing in a duo group called Young Love at the age of 12. She starred in her first community theatre production at 13 as the dynamic 'Diana Ross' in the original production, A Tribute to Motown with the Cincinnati Black Theatre Company. There, under the guidance of Don Sherman, Terra realized her true passion for acting.

She continued to play in several theatre productions for the company playing 'Timoune' in Once on This Island and 'Lutiebelles' in Ossie Davis' Purlie. Terra graduated from SCPA in 2008 and moved to Nashville where she performed with the heavily popular Jimmy Church Band headlining as 'Cinnamon.' During Terra's time with the band she traveled all over the USA and even in the UK. Terra started her adult professional film acting career in 2010 and has not looked back. She feels blessed to be completely sure of her dreams and have the means and focus to pursue them head and heart first!
<https://www.imdb.com>

Terra is now in California pursuing her dream of being an actor. She just completed a movie called **"Zombies II" in a lead role - the movie premieres in March 2019.** In addition, the Immersive Theatre Company featuring robotics by the well-known **CGI Company, the Jim Henson Company has designated her as the sole actor in their next production.** She is an actor in a murder mystery theatre company and has had roles in several short films and productions.

Terra is also a realtor and entrepreneur in what little spare time she has. She and her husband Dominic live in Van Nuys, California, a suburb of Los Angeles.

Submitted by Dr. Carolyn Turner, Proud Mom



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

MESSAGE FROM THE SUNDAY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT

Greetings Union:

As February comes to a close, I am still asking that you make Sunday School a part of your worship experience for 2019.



The Sunday School, along with the Children's Church Ministry, is currently preparing for our annual Easter/Resurrection Sunday program. I am asking all parents and guardians to please have your children attend Sunday school, or Children's Church. Rev. Marshall is coordinating the program along with the assistance of the Sunday school staff.

As we still have a few weeks of winter left, please do not let the weather keep you and your family from attending. I look forward to seeing more of the children and adults as well. May God's blessings be with us all, as we continue to study God's word this year.

Deacon Ernest Norman/Superintendent

UNION BAPTIST CHURCH SCHOLARSHIP MINISTRY

It is time to celebrate the Graduation Class of 2019!



High School Graduates

Derric Brazile	Dater
Tania Hall	Aiken
Dominique Shirley	Princeton
KeAndra Warren	Lakota East

Congratulations to our 2019 Graduates. This year we will honor our graduates on **Recognition Sunday, June 23, 2019 as a part of our morning worship service at 10:00 a.m.**

If you know of any additional members who will be graduating from high school or college, please contact Sis. Louise Stevenson.

This year we are asking each member for a donation of \$10.00 for the Union Baptist Scholarship fund. Additionally, if you are interested in giving a scholarship it would count as added joy for our scholars. We again salute our previous donors and hope they will find it in their hearts to continue giving.

Scholarship Ministry: Sis Carol Cargile; Sis. Gwen Hall; Sis. Rogena Stragel; Sis. Donnetta Johnson; Dr. Raven Spratley; Rev. Wyatt; and Sis. Louise Stevenson

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



VISIONS

Through Submitting Our Spiritual Minds

With God you have courage and confidence. The Word of God is sharper than any two-edge sword.

John 1:1, 14, 4:5 - 11 - 14 (AMP)

In the beginning [before all time] was the Word (Christ) and the Word was with God, and the Word was God Himself. And the Word (Christ) became flesh, and lived among us; and we [actually] saw His glory, glory as belongs to the [one and] only begotten Son who is truly the Son of the Father [the Son who is truly unique, the only One of His kind, who is full of grace and truth (absolutely free of deception)]. So He arrived at a Samaritan town called Sychar, near the tract of land that Jacob gave to his son Joseph; and Jacobs well was there. So Jesus was tired from His journey and sat down by the well. It was then about the sixth hour (noon), when a woman from Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." She said to Him, "Sir you have nothing to draw with, [no bucket and rope] and the well is deep, where then do you get that living water?" Jesus answered her, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again. But whoever drinks the water I give him will never be thirsty again. But the water I give him will become in him a spring of water [satisfying his thirst for God] welling up [continually flowing, bubbling within him] to eternal life."

Ephesians 3:20-21 (AMP)

Now to Him who can [carry out His purpose and] do superabundantly more than all we dare ask or think infinitely beyond our greatest prayers, hopes, or dreams], according to His power that is at work within us; to Him be the glory in the church and in Jesus throughout all generations forever and ever. Amen.

Romans 5:1-5, 8:1 - 2, 12:1-7 (AMP)

Therefore, since we have been justified [that is acquitted of sin, declared blameless before God] by faith [let us grasp the fact that] we have peace with God [and the joy of reconciliation with Him] through our Lord Jesus Christ [the Messiah, the Anointed]. Such hope [in God's promises] never disappoints us, because God's love has been abundantly poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us. Therefore, there is now no condemnation [no guilty verdict, no punishment] for those who are in Christ Jesus [who believes in Him as personal Lord and Savior]. Therefore, I urge, you brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present you bodies [dedicating all of yourselves, set apart] as a living sacrifice, holy and well pleasing to God which is your rational (logical, intelligent) act of worship. We are not done yet; you are wonderfully made and when we fall it's because we did not seek the Lord.

Isaiah 40:31 (KJV)

But they that wait on the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles, they will run and not be weary, and walk and not faint.

Deacon James E. Darby, Sr.
UBC Men's Ministry Leader

* * * * *

FOOD PANTRY: The Food Pantry Ministry was closed in January because of the weather. The Food Pantry served **31 families** in February.

~~ **Sis. Monica Ray, Ministry Leader**



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

THE UNION BAPTIST CHURCH
CEMETERY COMMITTEE

ANNOUNCES ITS

SPRING CEMETERY CLEAN-UP AT
UNION BAPTIST CEMETERY

4933 Cleves Warsaw Pike
Cincinnati, OH 45238

WE ARE SEEKING VOLUNTEERS TO HELP IN OUR
SPRING CEMETERY CLEAN-UP

REFRESHMENTS WILL BE PROVIDED! **CALL 513-981-0421**
AND LEAVE A MESSAGE WITH YOUR NAME AND PHONE NUMBER

IF YOU HAVE ANY YARD TOOLS AVAILABLE FOR USE, PLEASE LET US KNOW
AND BRING THEM WITH YOU!

SATURDAY, APRIL 6, 2019, AND SATURDAY, APRIL 27, 2019
9:30 A.M. THROUGH 1:30 P.M.

Established in 1864, the Union Baptist Cemetery is one of the oldest African-American cemeteries in Hamilton County at its original location purchased, maintained, and still used by a black congregation. Prominent African Americans, including Reverend David Leroy Nickens, the first Pastor of the Union Baptist Church of Cincinnati; Honorable George W. Hays, Jr.; and Jennie D. Porter, founder and principal of the Harriet Beecher Stowe School, are buried in the cemetery. Many former slaves, anti-slavery advocates, and active members of the Underground Railroad are interred here.



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

ATTENTION UNION: DID YOU KNOW THAT YOU MAY CONTRIBUTE YOUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS VIA PAYPAL? You may submit your payments via PayPal, even if you do not have a PayPal account. If interested, you may access PayPal on the UBC website. **Just go to www.union-baptist.net and select the PayPal link.** Thank you.

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

March 23, 2019	Reverend Alvin Wyatt	Preaching at 7:30 p.m.
April 27, 2019	Reverend Barry Hixon, Jr.	Preaching at 7:30 p.m.
May 25, 2019	Reverend Emanuel Marshall	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.

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

IMPORTANT NOTICE: All members are asked to be mindful that 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, Bro. Don Johnson, 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!

~~Dr. Carolyn Turner, Trustee Board Ministry Leader

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 **May-June 2019** newsletter is **April 22, 2019**. Requests for announcements should be **e-mailed in care of Sis. Shirley Norman, Public Relations Ministry Leader**, at Union's email address: unioncincinnati@gmail.com. Please note **"Sis. Norman – Announcement"** on the subject line. **Please note: any announcements received after the deadline date will be included in the July-August 2019 Newsletter.**

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 missions inclusive for men, women and children; discipleship opportunities for building God's kingdom; exploratory devotional links for personal spiritual growth; and, community connections that have demonstrated, in the past, and continue to demonstrate, the POWER OF GOD throughout the Greater Cincinnati area, and beyond. UBC's Newsletter is also posted on the website in color. Share with others.**

UNION BAPTIST CHURCH RADIO BROADCASTS: You can now also 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 see 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 give to **Sis. Gwendolyn Hall**, Church Office Receptionist. Thank You.

Bible Series . . .

Five Important Facts About Jesus' Resurrection

Here are a few amazing things you may or may not know about Jesus' resurrection.



By Lesli White

The resurrection is the central tenet of Christian theology. Not only does the resurrection witness to the immense power of Jesus Christ, the resurrection also proves to us that Jesus was who He claimed to be, the Son of God and Messiah. Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die" (John 11:25). In that statement, Jesus also claimed to be the source of both. Apart from Christ, there is no resurrection and apart from Christ, there is no eternal life. The amazing thing about the power of Jesus is that He does more than give life, He is life, and that's why death has no dominion over Him. In resurrecting from the grave, God reminds us of His absolute sovereignty over life and death. Here are seven facts about Jesus' resurrection and why they are so important.

There were many witnesses.

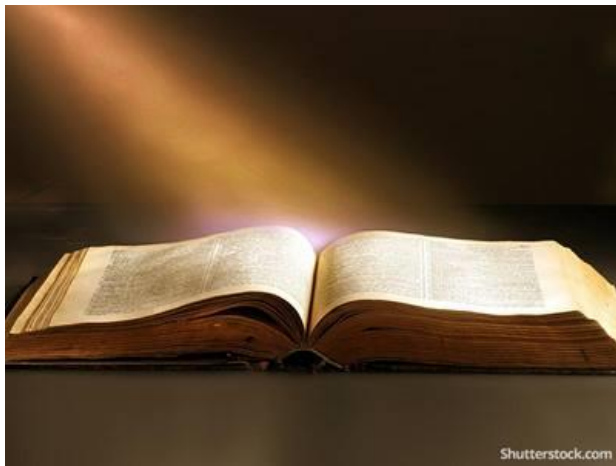
There were more than 500 witnesses who testified to the resurrection. In 1 Corinthians 15:3-6, Paul writes, "For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that He appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. After that He appeared to more than five hundred brethren at one time, most of whom remain until now, but some have fallen asleep." The primary duty of the apostles was to bear witness to Christ's work and claims. In order to do that effectively, they had to be witnesses of His resurrection. Of the many people who witnessed Jesus in His resurrected body, only a handful of specific people were named. Each appearance was purposeful, even though some incidents were recorded without details. For the events that are recorded, the Scriptures reveal specifics that are intriguing

and inspiring. The resurrection was particularly important because it gave credibility to Jesus' life – it verified He was who He said He was.

BIBLE SERIES . . . (continued)

The rolled away stone was significant.

Jesus or the angels rolled away the stone of Jesus' tomb not so He could get out, but so others could get in and see that the tomb was empty, testifying to the resurrection. The stone was around 2 tons and would have taken many strong men to move it. The tomb was also sealed off and watched by Roman guards so the idea that the disciples secretly came at night is hard to buy. If the tomb had not been empty, claims of the resurrection could not have been maintained even for a short period of time, knowing that people in Jerusalem could have gone to the tomb to look for themselves.



The resurrection was prophesied.

According to 1 Corinthians 15, Jesus rose from the dead as the Scriptures had previously prophesied. Isaiah said that Jesus would be cut off from the living and then brought back to prolonged life (Isaiah 53:8-10). Many Old Testament prophecies can only be understood now based on what we know today looking back historically. When Jesus began to speak of His death, those around Him were caught off guard as they were looking for a Messiah who would immediately take over leadership of their nation.

It was a bodily resurrection.

Many people think that the resurrection of Jesus was only a spiritual resurrection but it wasn't just spiritual. It was also a bodily resurrection. It was understood by the Corinthian believers that physical death meant spiritual separation but it also meant the physical presence of the Lord (2 Corinthians 5:8). This was not unusual for them to consider. However, Paul emphasized in 1 Corinthians 15 that the resurrection of Christ was a bodily resurrection. The bodily resurrection is the most important event in history, providing indisputable evidence that Jesus is who He claimed to be – the Son of God.



The resurrection is just the beginning.

Jesus rose from the dead first, but His resurrection was an indication of what was to come in our resurrection. The Bible tells us, "But Christ had indeed been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all would be made alive" (1 Corinthians 15: 20-22). The power that was used by God to raise up Jesus is the same power that will be used in our resurrection. But not all of us will be raised through the resurrection. Some of us will be alive at the time of Jesus' return.

The resurrection ended the separation between us and God that sin had created. As Christians, we believe that Jesus will come again and those who have died in the faith are now with the Lord and those of us who

are alive will join our Heavenly King and be a part of the kingdom that has no end.

<https://www.beliefnet.com/faiths/christianity/galleries/5-important-facts-about-jesus-resurrection.aspx?>

He is My God Jesus! -- A Poem by Shaila Touchton



He is the First and Last, the Beginning and the End!

He is the keeper of Creation and the Creator of all!
He is the creative agent and the image of God!
He is our Passover, our great High priest and the Head of the church!
He is the Architect of the universe and
The Manager of all times.
He is the same yesterday, today, and forever.
He was bruised and brought healing! He was pierced and eased pain!
He was persecuted and brought freedom! He was dead and brought life!
He is risen and brings power! He reigns and brings Peace!
He became poor - so that we might be rich.

The world can't understand him. The armies can't defeat Him,

The schools can't explain Him. The leaders can't ignore Him.
Herod couldn't kill Him, The Pharisees couldn't confuse Him,
The people couldn't hold Him and Satan couldn't defeat him.
He has been misrepresented by those who don't know him.
Nero couldn't crush Him' Hitler couldn't silence Him and
The New Age can't replace Him;
He is love, truth, holy, just, the unchanging God.
He has all power, all knowledge; He rules all things and sustains all things.
He is the Lord of Lords, Author of Life and salvation.

He is the advocate and the Judge of the living and the dead.

He rules my life because I am *his* child and He is *my* Father.

I serve Him because he knows everything about me, He knew me even before I was conceived.
I love him because He loves me with an everlasting love.
He is my provider, and He meets all my needs.
When I am broken hearted, He is very close to me for He is my greatest encourager.
His burden is light, and His goal for me is abundant life.
I follow Him because He is the wisdom of the wise, the power of the powerful;
When I am sad he wipes away every tear from my eyes for he takes away all the pain I have suffered on this earth.

He will Never leave me, Never forsake me, Never mislead me, Never forget me, Never overlook me, and Never cancel my appointment in His appointment book! When I am in sorrow, He comforts me!

When I am in danger, He is my refuge and my fortress!
When I am hungry, He feeds me!
When I am sick, he heals me!
When people are unkind to me, He is kind towards me!
When people reject me, He accepts me!
When I face death, He carries me home!
He is everything for everybody, everywhere, every time, and in every way.
He is my God; My Father who is greater than the father of this world.
He wants me to be his child, a member of Christ's body and to be a citizen of heaven.

So, if you're wondering why I feel so secured, understand this...

I delight in Him and He will fulfill the desires of my heart!

I am free from any condemnation brought against me and I cannot be separated from the love of God!
I have not been given a spirit of fear but of power, love and a sound mind!
I have been established, anointed and sealed by God.
I am assured that God works for my good in all circumstances.
I am significant because I am a branch of Jesus Christ, the true vine, and a channel of His life.
I am God's temple and I have been chosen and appointed to bear fruit.

Every day is a blessing for me for Jesus Christ is in my Life and I can do all things through Christ, who strengthens me!