

# Hearth to Hearth

Woman to Woman

Vol. 3, No. 4

“And ye are complete in him.” Colossians 2:10

July/Aug. 2000

## REAL, TRUE FRIENDS

H  
E  
A  
R  
T  
H  
S  
I  
D  
E

We were moving! Destination—Milwaukee, Wisconsin. It was 1940 and once again the “colporteur bug” (selling gospel literature) had bitten my husband. He loved people and they responded readily to him. In this door-to-door work, he found people who were hurting, in poverty, in sickness, out of work, young mothers with new babes, and just ordinary people—some desperately longing to talk with someone who cared.

He offered comfort to them through God’s Word. Sometimes he would come after me, and we’d go together to offer them practical help as well as comfort and hope.

I remember one particular day when he came home to get me (our two children went along). On the way he explained the situation this family was in. A new baby had been born (in the days when mothers were in bed ten to twelve days after birth), and there were several other small children in the home. Normal cleaning and food preparation, etc., needed to be done. He introduced me to the mother who was so relieved to see me. While I was caring for the mother and the baby and attending to the other housekeeping needs, my dear husband gathered all those little ones, including our own, together. Using a small slide projector, he entertained them with pictures and stories of Jesus.

Now I must get back to my story. My mother, who was a Bible instructor and loved young people, lived in Milwaukee, and she had urged us to come and share her apartment. Being thankful for her offer, we made our home with her until we could gather the means and find a place of our own.

Mother had started a Bible class for young people and a young couple, Blanche and George Johnson, with their three children, ages about 12, 7 and 4, joined the class. At church, she introduced us to each other, and they told us where they lived, in an apartment complex in North Milwaukee.

Wanting to get better acquainted, we started out to find them one very cold (zero degrees Fahrenheit) day. The ground was covered with snow, and we had no car. A trolley bus stopped and we climbed aboard. After checking each street sign as we traveled, we got off at the street nearest the complex. However, finding the correct street within the complex was a different matter. We walked and walked. My husband was carrying our two-year-old and I had the four-year-old in tow. The latter walking beside me managed quite well, but our concern was for the younger child who was not getting any exercise. In such weather exercise is very impor-

tant to keep the blood circulating—especially in one’s extremities.

It was bitterly cold, and finally Hubby knocked on a door. The door opened and we were immediately ushered

(Continued on page 4)



Our Mission Statement: Believing that we can find completeness in all areas of our lives only “in him, who is the head of all principality and power” (Colossians 2:10), it is the mission of *Hearth to Hearth* to provide a forum for Christian women to reach out to each other in friendship, with joy and hope; and to encourage each other to find our completeness in Christ as we sojourn here on our way to the kingdom.

## Friend to Friend— Let's Keep in Touch!

The development and maintenance of friendships are important aspects of women's lives. Haven't you found that to be true? That is why we decided to make "Friendship" the theme of this issue of *Hearth to Hearth*.

Some of us have the ability to attract friends like a magnet while the rest of us must work hard at making and keeping friends. Shakespeare said, "I am wealthy in my friends." If we equate wealth with numbers, some of us might feel poor indeed! But even one friend with whom we have developed extraordinary rapport can enrich our life immeasurably.

Nurturing a friendship takes work—a lot of it. "A man that hath friends must shew himself friendly." (Proverbs 18:24) In today's world most of us lead such busy lives it takes real commitment to "show ourselves friendly," to keep in touch with friends. Even if we are full-time homemakers the days and weeks go by in such a blur of busyness that it is sometimes difficult to make as much time for our friends as we would like. How much more difficult it must be for women who have jobs and careers outside the home. It is important, though, for women to develop an intimate connection with at least one other woman. We need another person with whom we can communicate on a deep level about mundane happenings as well as the major issues of our lives. It is especially fulfilling when there is at least one friend with whom we can grow spiritually as we share our faith with each other and as we encourage each other in our relationships with God.

It is difficult to maintain a warm, lively friendship with someone without frequent communication. We tend to grow apart unless we keep in touch and share our thoughts and the events of our lives. Letters, phone calls, visits are all important if a friendship is to grow and flourish. Without at least one of those elements, the friendship will diminish and essentially die.

When counting our friends, let us not forget to include members of our family! Sisters can certainly be best friends; I know—I am blessed with three of them—four, counting my sister-in-law! If we are married, our husbands should qualify as our best earthly friends. As friendship grows and deepens between husband and wife, the glow from the family hearth spreads to encircle all our family and our friends as well—and, of course, the relationship between husband and wife is symbolic of the relationship between Christ and His church.

I have learned that the Bible has a lot to say about friends. Come to think of it, it's no wonder, for the Bible itself is a letter to us from our very best Friend, Jesus. How wonderful that we can open His letter daily, read it and answer it on the spot through prayer! Thus the lines of communication between us and God are kept open and active, and our compatibility, our friendship, with God grows and deepens. In the process, the light and warmth from our spiritual "hearth" will lighten and warm all within the circle of its glow!

Grace



### MAIL CALL:

This issue [Mar./Apr. 2000] of *Hearth to Hearth* was wonderful! I am so thankful you have blessed so many lives by that means. TN

I have truly enjoyed the articles in *Hearth to Hearth*. You can just feel the love of Christ reaching out in each article. VA

My sister-in-law has shared her copies of *Hearth to Hearth* with me and I enjoy them very much. I would like to start receiving them also. The articles and poems are so good and up-lifting; also the Bible teachings are very enlightening. IN

I am writing to thank you for the magazine you sent to me, the Mar./Apr. edition. I enjoyed it so much. Could you send me the next one please. AL

Just a note to say that the article "Of Israel's Wanderings—and Mine" was extremely encouraging. So many of us struggle and want sin out of our lives. I believe this struggle is the process by which God is working to free us from sin. Praise the Lord you were honest enough to print this article. What a blessing! AR

Thank you for the past issues of *Hearth to Hearth*. However, I am requesting that my name be removed from the mailing list. I no longer wish to receive this publication. Thank you for your willingness to send the magazine. I do appreciate your kindness. TN

Received this issue [May/June 2000] of *Hearth to Hearth* yesterday and have read it cover to cover. I want to thank my friend for adding me to the mailing list. God bless you all and keep up the excellent work. And thanks for the hard work it takes to put this magazine together. AR

Just a note to let you know I enjoy *Hearth to Hearth*. It always has great stories that relate to my life. It is not easy being a Godly wife and mother in this date and time...Keep up the good work of bringing forth the message for Christian women. VA

Enclosed find a money order to help with costs of mailing *Hearth to Hearth*. It means so much me. I am looking forward to the next issue. I hope you and Esther can always be able to send it out. God

bless; I keep you always in my prayers. KY

On the days that I feel separated from God or just misunderstood or even lonely I can always pick up your paper and find something that seems to address just me. And it really helps. MS

## EDITOR'S NOTES:

» **Moving?** Please don't forget to notify *Hearth to Hearth* of your new address! (You have been doing so; only a very few copies of the last issue were returned to us by the post office. Thank you! Keep up the good work!)

» **If you know** of others who would like to receive *Hearth to Hearth*, please send us their names and addresses and we will add them to the mailing list.

» **A big Thank You** to all of you who have written to us. More than once your warm words of encouragement have inspired us anew when our spirits have been flagging. They are, to us, truly like "apples of gold in pictures of silver." (Proverbs 25:11)

## PRAYER CALL:

God's promises are so very real! I believe He wants to be involved in every detail of our lives, and loves for us to bring all things, small as well as great, to Him. I have feet that have always given me pain, and underwent surgeries on both a few years ago. Recently, the pain returned in one foot—at the worst possible time! I had so very much to do, things that would keep me on my feet for hours every day for the next several weeks. After only a few hours, my foot hurt so badly I could hardly bear to take another step.

So I went to God and told Him about it, and just gave it to Him along with all the work that I felt constrained to accomplish. I asked Him for enough relief that I would be able to do the things that He would have me do, and claimed the promise in Philippians 4: 6, 7, "...In every thing, with prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace

of God, which passeth understanding shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus," and with it, Philippians 4:11: "...I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content."

With confidence, I proceeded to go about my work, ignoring my foot insofar as possible. Before long, it really did feel better! The problem is still there (I did not ask God to totally remove it; only for some relief and the courage to keep moving!) but God has provided sufficiently for my needs and I just thank Him and praise Him for His love and goodness. TN

Could you please add [a family with many problems] to your Prayer Call. They know *of* Jesus, but I don't think they really know *Him*. They really need God in their lives. MS

Marilynn Dick, who underwent surgical removal of a malignant muscle mass a few months ago, says "Thank you" for all the prayers and encouragement she has received. (Her prayer request was included in the May/June issue of *Hearth to Hearth*.) Please keep her on your prayer list, as there is a fifty percent chance that the tumor will recur—but, as she prefers to say, there's a fifty percent chance it won't! She is doing well, and is busy, as always, sharing the love of Christ with everyone she meets. (You will find another of her poems in "Hearth Flames.")

## MINISTRY OF ENCOURAGEMENT:

Some changes are in the works for the "Ministry of Encouragement." Due to space limitations, our ever-growing mailing list, the fact that the number of those willing to serve as Encouragers is also growing, as well as incomplete plans for the expansion of our staff and ministry, we have decided to remove the Encouragers box from the *Hearth Call* section of our newsletter.

The plan is to have this growing ministry handled by a well-qualified coordinator who has not yet been chosen, though we have some names under prayerful consideration. We are

hoping to be able to publish the completed plan in our next issue. In the meantime, please contact either Grace or Esther, at the *Hearth to Hearth* address located in the box on our back cover, regarding any need you may have for encouragement. We will make every effort to assist you or put you in touch with an Encourager whom we feel is well suited to help in your particular situation.

## FUTURE THEMES:

"**Memories**" is the theme planned for the Sept./Oct. issue. If you have a memory that you would like to share with other readers, please let us know right away.

"**Our Golden Years**" will be the theme for the Nov./Dec. issue. We hope to include several items submitted by YOU! Please don't be shy; write down your thoughts on aging, on problems facing us as we age, the benefits and wisdom of age, etc. Those who have not yet reached "the golden years" may send in their views as well, or experiences they have had with older friends or relatives.

## SPECIAL NEEDS:

A retired lady would like to hear from a lady or a couple interested in sharing her large farm home in south central Tennessee. There is a year-around fresh-water spring, and garden space is plentiful. There are fruit trees, berries, grapes and asparagus already growing and bearing. A trailer or a mobile home could be placed on a spot overlooking a small lake. (If personalities are compatible, it might be possible to simply share the 4-bedroom home rather than place a trailer on the property.) A missionary minded retired lady or couple who share this person's goals of being ready for the return of our Lord and helping others to be ready would be ideal. If interested, please write a letter about yourself and send it to "Country Home" in care of *Hearth to Hearth*. It will be forwarded, unopened, to the person who placed this special need with us.

(Continued from page 1)

inside without a word being said. What beautiful people they were. Our children's shoes were quickly removed, revealing frostbite in our baby's feet. (Thankfully, he suffered no serious long-term effects.) Snow was brought in and they worked over the children, applying it intermittently with massage, until they and we were all thawed out. (I understand they have found better methods of dealing with frostbite today, however.) Then they told us where to find our friends. We were almost there.

Our next occasion to meet our friends was the day they moved into a house about six blocks from us. By then we were living by ourselves. My husband went to help with the moving, and while they were gone for a load, I cleaned, scrubbed and started unpacking and arranging dishes, cooking utensils, etc., and helped all I could with the settling. Thus began a real, true friendship. We worked back and forth helping each other with both ordinary and difficult tasks. If one was sick, the other was there. We shopped together, cleaned together and baby-sat for each other, etc. I stayed with her for six weeks one time when she was ill. When my third baby, Esther, was born (a home birth) Blanche came and cared for baby and me for 10 or 12 days. She didn't sew, but she had an electric machine for mending. So did I. Blanche suggested we make a bargain. She would buy material and I would make the clothes for all of the children. That worked out well.

Our husbands, Ken and George, were good friends, too, and we did things together as families. We lived eight blocks from Lake Michigan; they lived two blocks from there, so we took our children to the lake together. Milwaukee has a nice big sandy beach. The children had such fun playing in the sand and wading in the water. It was warm in summer, and sometimes we went swimming with them. The beach and the park were not crowded then like they probably are today. Sometimes we went to Lakeside Park where the children, Janet and David (hers) and Verna and Herman (mine), loved to roll down the grassy hills. (Her daughter, Delores, was

away at the academy much of the time.) Milwaukee had such beautiful parks, which we visited often. We also went to the museum. It was a wonderful, big museum. Bird watching was a hobby all of us enjoyed.

These friends were both teachers so she and I started home schooling our children together. She taught subjects and I taught the artwork and crafts. We had a regular schedule with recess and all, but it was short lived. The city put a stop to it. No matter that she had been registered with the school system a few years before. It was against the law.

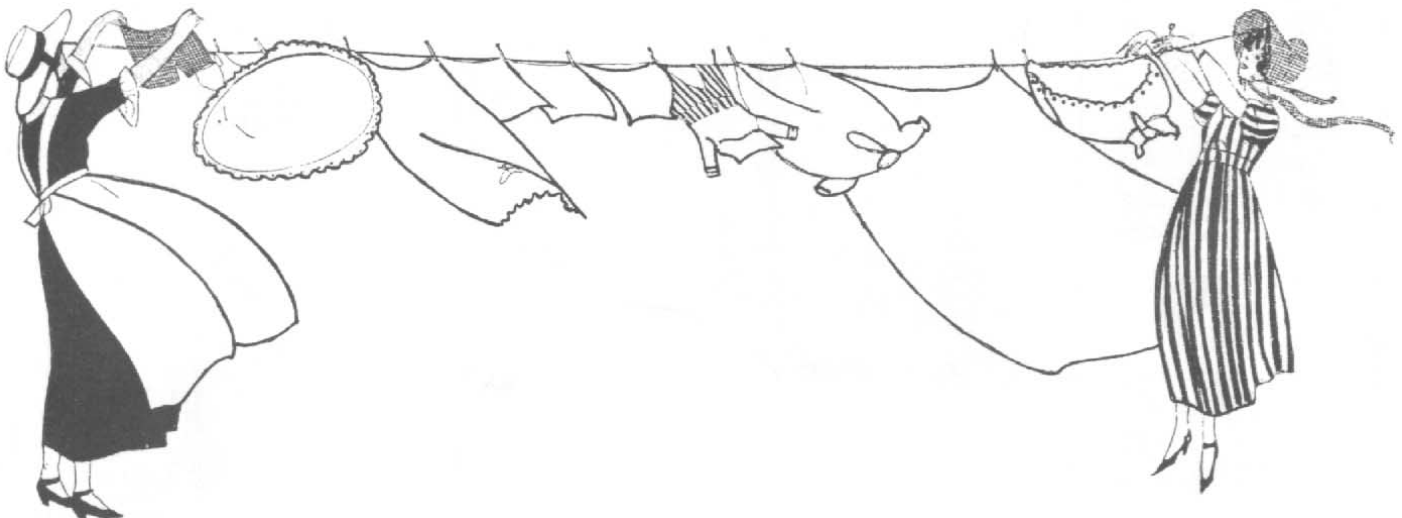
When World War II broke out, we pooled our resources—coupon books, tokens, etc., and started baking. We made bread, buns, rolls, pecan rolls, cookies and *sometimes* candy (it was very difficult to get sugar in wartime). Then we carried them in baskets and sold them door to door. We developed a regular route. People were anxious to buy since there was so little you could buy without coupons or tokens.

Both of us had many friends. Many of them were mutual friends, but we were not as close to any of them as we were to each other. We were aunt and uncle to each other's children and still are to this day. We were looking forward to that glorious day when all of us would be gathered together with Jesus when He comes to take His children home.

The time came (just after the war) when my husband and I wanted to leave the city and locate in a more rural locality. He found a place about fifteen miles from Milwaukee on the bank of the river. We were delighted. There were no running water or bathroom facilities, but it was beautiful! There was room for a large garden, and there was an apple orchard and many other beautiful trees. It was like a park beside the river. We loved it there. The house had a screened-in porch on two sides. In summer our meals were prepared and eaten there and I did our washings there.

Our friends by now had another baby girl, Marilyn, and as time went by, we missed seeing each other so much. They also wanted to get out of the city. Since we leased the

(Continued on bottom of next page.)



# GIFT GIVING ON A BUDGET

One of the ways we show our friends and relatives that we care is by giving them little presents, not only on special occasions but also “just because.” Sometimes our budgets don’t permit us to purchase the types of gifts that we would like to give; but it really is true that the best things in life are free. These gifts can be given constantly because they don’t cost a cent, and each one will brighten someone’s day and leave a lingering fragrance of love and friendship.

» **The Gift of Friendship:** No one wants to be lonely. Everyone needs friends. Fellowship with one another is sweet, because friendship doubles the pleasures and divides the sorrows in life.

» **The Gift of Time:** Give your time to God each morning, and you will be amazed at how He will use it! The most unselfish thing we can do is share our time, in constructive ways, with other people. Take five minutes and call a shut-in on the phone; take 30 minutes and let a child take you for a walk and show you the world through his eyes.

» **The Gift of Listening:** But you must really listen—no interrupting, no daydreaming, no planning your response. Just listen and try to see beyond the words to the speaker’s heart. Letting another person know that you value them and their ideas is a rare gift indeed.

» **The Gift of Prayer:** “...Pray for one another...The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.” (James 5:16) The daily giving of intercessory prayer may effect miracles in the lives of those on our prayer lists—truly a most precious gift.

» **The Gift of a Cheerful Disposition:** “A merry heart doeth good like a medicine.” (Proverbs 17:22) Keep a “...melody in your heart to the Lord” (Ephesians 5:19) and it will be easy to speak a kind word, with a smile, to everyone, both at home and away!



» **The Gift of a Smile:** A smile uses far fewer facial muscles than a frown, so conserve a bit of energy and pass along a smile to everyone you meet! Smile as you answer the phone, and the caller will “hear” it in your voice. Smile when you look in the mirror and you will reinforce your own positive attitude.

» **The Gift of Appreciation:** Words of thanks or praise, whether spoken verbally or in a simple, written note, may inspire renewed hope to a discouraged one, or impart strength to one whose spirit is flagging.

» **The Gift of Laughter:** Share cartoons, humorous articles and clean, funny stories. Sharing a happy laugh adds sparkle to an otherwise ordinary moment. Your gift will say, “I love to laugh with you.”

» **The Gift of Love:** Be generous with love and affection. Genuine love is transforming, both for the giver and the receiver, when spoken in words or demonstrated by deeds (in ways that are appropriate between the individuals).

» **The Gift of Kindness:** Every day, try to go out of your way to do something kind for another person, and two people will be blessed! The blessing you get will be as great or greater than that of the other person.

» **The Gift of Loyalty:** To know that someone will stand by you, in truth, no matter what happens inspires strength and confidence for facing tomorrow.

Give the gift of loyalty to family members and friends, even to strangers in their stand for the right.

» **The Gift of Faith:** To know and share Jesus Christ—through Whom flow all real love and truth and goodness—is truly the greatest gift of all. To know Him is to experience life at its fullest here and now, and in the future, life eternal. (John 17:3).

[Adapted from ideas gleaned from the Internet.]

(Continued from previous page.)

property, it was decided they should join us on the same property and share the rent. Working together, all of us, with permission, remodeled a building, already there, which they occupied. The children who were in school rode the interurban (similar to a streetcar, but which runs between cities or towns) into Milwaukee to church school.

We had such fun together (the children, too). I’ll never forget doing our washings together in the winter—on our porch. It gets pretty cold in that area. After the clothes were rinsed, they were brought inside and sorted; then taken out to the clothesline to freeze dry. Sometimes they froze before we could fasten them with the clothespins. What a delicious feeling—to come inside, all prickly from the cold, and have a bowl of hot soup together!

When the clothes were blowing freely we retrieved them and placed them on racks in the house to finish drying. Those were fun days filled with vigor.

Eventually, we moved to Michigan, but our friendship continued. If we decided, all of a sudden, to visit them, we went for a weekend without notice. They did the same and came to see us when the urge struck. Our homes were always open to each other and our families. Our friendship continued through the years and now, of the four of us, I am the only one left.

*By Mattie Laurell*

[Mattie Laurell is an octogenarian living in Chunky, Mississippi. She spends much time in Bible study and other reading, and also enjoys writing articles for *Hearth to Hearth* as well as the monthly family newsletter, *Grandma’s Giggles & Grins Gazette*, which her daughter, Esther McDaniel, puts together and distributes to their family members.]

# God's Health Prescription for Stress

For many, trying to keep up with life's proverbial "rat race" means ulcers and high blood pressure and a wide range of other health problems, all brought on or aggravated by stress. We live in stressful times, so how does one deal with the pressures and tensions of modern society and remain sane?

Prolonged stress can contribute to many illnesses, including heart disease and cancer. Some people become so stressed out they can no longer cope with life and commit suicide. So many, in fact, that the World Health Organization lists suicide as the third largest killer of people between the ages of 15 and 45 in highly industrialized nations. Others who have not found a way to deal with stress can't sleep at night and are irritable during the day. Medical authorities suspect stress to be a culprit in most diseases. It is often responsible for infection, intoxication, nervous exhaustion and premature aging. Stress is indeed a killer.

God built our bodies to withstand a certain amount of stress. He placed within our bodies glands to adjust the body to constant demands of stress. They pour out hormones to keep the body going. For a while, they succeed, but in the end, if a stress-alleviating solution is not found, the defense mechanism breaks down. Arteries harden, blood pressure rises, heart disease develops, arthritis strikes and emotional disturbances occur—all the end result of stress.

Could Luke, the physician, have had stress in mind when he wrote, quoting the words of Jesus, "And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares." (Luke 21:34)

God has a health prescription to establish a workable system of health maintenance to prevent breakdowns caused by stress. On the wall in our office there hangs this quote from a Christian writer of a century ago: "Christ never murmured, never uttered discontent, displeasure, or resentment. He was never disheartened, discouraged, ruffled, or fretted. He was patient, calm, and self-possessed under the most exciting and trying circumstances. All His works were performed with a quiet dignity and ease, whatever commotion was around Him. Applause did not elate him. He feared not the threats of His enemies. He moved amid the world of excitement, of violence and crime, as the sun moves above the clouds. Human passions and commotions and trials were beneath Him. He sailed like the sun above them all. Yet He was not indifferent to the woes of men.

His heart was ever touched with the sufferings and necessities of His brethren, as though He Himself were the one afflicted. He had a calm, inward joy, a peace which was serene. His will was ever swallowed up in the will of His Father." (Manuscript, Volume 3, pp. 427, 428)

What was Christ's secret? In a word—prayer. But prayer in the sense we are using it here is more than a word. It is a way of life. A relationship develops between man and God so close and constant that the thoughts turn heavenward as naturally as one breathes. Prayer is the breath of the soul.

Life on the physical plane, as on the spiritual, we receive as a gift. But having received it, we have the responsibility of helping to maintain it, strong and healthy. For one thing we must do our own breathing—about seventeen times a minute. This we do automatically, providing the system with enough oxygen to keep it alive (just barely, much of the time), but what about those deep breaths of fresh air for optimum health? How many, besides athletes and a few jogging enthusiasts, ever fill the lungs to capacity? Failing to do so, few experience maximum exhilaration of mind and body, and respiratory ailments frequently occur as a result.

**God has a health prescription to establish a workable system of health maintenance to prevent breakdowns caused by stress.**

Likewise with spiritual life, the life of the soul, received at conversion; the born-again person receives it as a gift upon surrender of his will to God in faith. But having received it, he must cooperate with heavenly agencies in maintaining it strong and healthy. For one thing, he must do his own praying. Here many fail by just saying "grocery list" prayers now and then, or pressing the panic button when in danger; "fox-hole prayers."

A note in a church bulletin read, "Seven prayerless days make one weak." Considering the close parallel between praying and breathing and the effects of each on soul life and physical life respectively, it might better have read "Seven prayerless minutes..." ignoring for the moment the play on words. It takes a pause of only six minutes in breathing to starve the brain cells of essential oxygen and cause irreparable damage. How much longer do you suppose the breath of the soul can be safely cut off? A program of "all work and no pray"

(Continued on page 16)

## SEVEN FRIENDS

When I was first diagnosed with cancer, my friends' reactions were all different.

My first friend came and expressed shock by saying, "I can't believe that you have cancer; I always thought that you were active and healthy." He left and I felt alienated and somehow very different.

My second friend came and brought me information about treatments used for cancer and said, "Whatever you do don't take chemotherapy. It's a poison." He left and I felt scared and confused.

My third friend came and tried to answer my "whys" with the statement, "Perhaps God is disciplining you for some sin in your life." He left and I felt guilty.

My fourth friend came and told me, "If your faith is great enough God will heal you." He left and, I felt lacking.

My fifth friend came and told me to remember, "All things work together for good." He left and I felt angry.

My sixth friend never came at all. I felt sad and alone.

My seventh friend came and held my hand and said, "I care. I'm here. I want to help you through this." He left and I felt loved.

*Author Unknown [from the Internet]*

## QUOTES WORTH SHARING:

» The shortest distance between a problem and a solution is the distance between your knees and the floor. The one who kneels to the Lord can stand up to anything.

» Your worst days are never so bad that you are beyond the reach of God's grace. And your best days are never so good that you are beyond the need of God's grace.

» Go often to the house of thy friend, for weeds choke the unused path. — Ralph Waldo Emerson

» Friends are a very rare jewel, indeed. They make you smile and encourage you to succeed. They lend an ear, they share a word of praise, and they always want to open their hearts to us.

» He who loses money, loses much; He who loses a friend, loses more; He who loses faith, loses all.

» Many people will walk in and out of your life, but true friends will leave footprints in your heart.

» Friends are lost by calling often and calling seldom. — Scottish proverb

» To handle yourself, use your head. To handle others, use your heart.

» I desire so to conduct the affairs of this administration that if at the end, when I come to lay down the

reins of power, I have lost every other friend on earth, I shall at least have one friend left, and that friend shall be down inside of me. — Abraham Lincoln

» An open foe may prove a curse, but a pretended friend is worse.

» A true friend is forever a friend.

## A PERSONAL TESTIMONY FOR MY BEST FRIEND

He has always been my friend and has always loved me, always stood beside me, even when I wasn't standing beside Him. And He has even forgiven me with no questions asked. Now I follow Him. His forgiving me for the wrong things I have done in my life has taught me how to forgive others and love them just as He loves me. My life has become more joyful since He has been my friend; He has really opened and filled my heart with such joy it overflows. I hope everyone can meet my friend; He died just to meet you. You can call Him anytime, He is always at home and is anxious to have more friends. My best friend is our loving Savior Jesus Christ. Please call Him. He is waiting to hear from you.

*Teresa Manis*

[Teresa is Grace Cox's step-daughter. She works as a secretary in the office of a nursing home in Pulaski, VA, where she lives with her husband and daughters. She is active in a Cumberland Presbyterian Church in that area.]

## HOW TO PRESERVE A HUSBAND:

[And make him into a best friend!]

» Be careful in your selection.

» Do not choose to young.

» When once selected, give your entire thoughts to preparation for domestic use.

» Some insist on keeping them in a pickle, others are constantly getting them into hot water. This makes them sour, hard to get along with, and sometimes bitter.

» Even poor varieties may be made sweet, tender, and good by garnishing them with patience well sweetened with kisses.

» Wrap them in a mantle of charity.

» Keep warm in a steady fire of domestic devotion and serve with peaches and cream.

Thus prepared they will keep for years.

*From an old cookbook*

# Understanding God's Plan of Redemption

## With Our Redeemer in the Courtyard

### The orderly camp

The camp of Israel was laid out in a square with the sanctuary in the center. Nearest to the sanctuary, and on all four sides, were the tents of Moses, Aaron and Aaron's sons and the rest of the priests; the Levites. (Numbers 3:2, 23, 29, 35, 38; Deuteronomy 18:1-8) The Levites had been given the honor of assisting Aaron and his sons because of their stand "on the Lord's side" after the episode of the golden calf. (Exodus 32:26; Numbers 3:6-51) Beyond the encampment of these leaders, the twelve tribes pitched their tents; three tribes on each of the four sides of the square; each tribe displaying their tribal standard. (Numbers chapter 2)

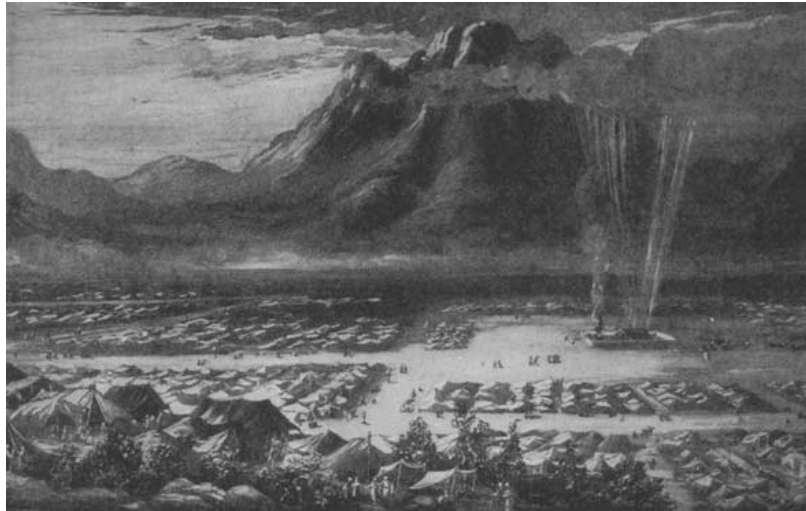
The sanctuary itself was the nucleus of the camp; both in placement and function—an apt symbol of the place God wants to hold in your life and mine. It consisted of a two-apartment sanctuary/tent surrounded by a courtyard that was enclosed by a white-curtained wall. Every part of this sanctuary and its services—yes, even the whole Hebrew system—was designed to represent Christ the Deliverer to come, His work for the salvation of man and the restoration of all things.

### Journey of reflection

Some authorities state that it was a journey of nearly a mile between the Israelite encampment and the curtained-off sanctuary. No doubt this distance gave ample time for a worshiper to reflect on the

reason for his or her trek to the sanctuary and the purpose of the offering they had in tow. In our mind's eye, let us visualize ourselves traversing from our tent across this "no man's land" toward the sanctuary, toting our sin offering with the eyes of all Israel upon us. Thank you for coming with me!

From a distance, all we can see is a blur of white, five cubits (approximately 7 ½ feet) high, until we make our way to the eastern end where the gate with its beautiful veil comes into view. [Note that a cubit was the length of a man's forearm, but a "sanctuary cubit" equaled the forearm's length plus a handbreadth—judged to be about



22 inches. (See Ezekiel 40:5; 43:13.)] Let's take a moment to gaze upon this gate. There is no way into the courtyard except through its veiled aperture. The gate is composed of four bronze pillars, each having a silver band and hook upon which to hang the beautiful tapestry veil. The veil itself is fashioned of "blue, and purple, and scarlet, and fine twined linen, wrought with needlework," (Exodus 27:14) and spans the 30-foot opening. How beautiful! How awe-inspiring! We are entering into the presence of the great Jehovah who says, "Be still

and know that I am God"! (Psalm 46:10) We note that the noise of the camp can barely be heard in the distance.

Upon entering through the gate into the courtyard, the first thing that captures our attention is the large, bronze altar of burnt offerings standing in the very center of the court with its acrid odor, its smoke ascending, its blood-spattered base and -saturated ground and its ash pile beside it. The altar, nine feet square and five and a half feet high, with a horn at each of its four corners, has a ledge surrounding it part way up and a ramp leading up to the ledge to enable the priests to place the firewood and manipulate the various sacrifices.

As I gaze upon the altar with its sizzling oblation the flood of understanding that washes over me momentarily immobilizes me. Our frolicsome female kids, who moments earlier were playfully butting each other, have become subdued by the sights and sounds around us. But wait! We have been noticed and a priest is

hurrying over to assist us with our offerings. We are led to a spot to beyond the altar, about half way between it and the sanctuary itself, and toward the northern side of the court. As we follow, we notice the laver with its foot just opposite our destination with priests washing hands and feet under the stream of water flowing from its spouts, in preparation for their work in the sanctuary or at the altar.

### The individual sin offering

We are instructed to "lay your hand" (place our full weight) on the

little goats and confess our sin. This exercise is designed to help us understand that the Savior to come would bear the full weight of our sin. Once the animals have been hobbled and subdued we are instructed to slit their throats. My knees are knocking together and buckling under me. How can I do this to this innocent little creature that is looking up at me with such trust, now mingled with fear, in her eyes? A new understanding seeps into my dull brain. An innocent Being must die for **my** sin. Every time I sin I must sacrifice Him “afresh” and put Him to an “open shame.” (Hebrews 6:6) Then, truly understanding for the first time that without the shedding of blood there is no remission of sins (Matthew 26:28; Hebrews 9:22), I quickly slit the throat of the little animal—my sobs mingling with her final cry. As her blood drains into the basin which is held by the priest before me, I am keenly aware of the necessity of the spilled blood of the Savior to come.

We watch as the priest takes some of the blood from the basin, with his finger, and puts it on the horns of the altar and pours out the rest of the blood at the bottom of the altar. There is now a record of my confessed sin on that altar. My confessed sin has gone before me into judgment. Praise be to God! The priest gently takes the remains of the little goat and we watch as he carries her to the altar where he removes the fat from her tiny body (because “all the fat is the Lord’s – Leviticus 3:16) and burns it on the altar. We understand that her flesh will be cooked in a pot and a portion of it is to be eaten by each of the officiating priests. This is to illustrate the fact that my Savior is to bear my sins in His own body.

All that we can see of the sanctuary tent itself is its outer covering of sealskins and its beautiful veil. We know, however, that there is a work being done inside on our behalf. The sanctuary/tent, its

furnishings and function, will be the subject of our next installment. For now, let’s take a closer look at what is going on in the courtyard. In keeping with our purpose—to share enough to whet your appetite for further, in-depth study on your own but not so much as to “spoon-feed” you—our study, as usual, is only hitting some of the high points.

### A brief overview

To begin, I’d like to think for a minute about what happened when Adam and Eve sinned and were sent out of the Garden of Eden. When sin entered, the patriarchal form of priesthood was established as well as the sacrificial system. (See Genesis 3:16; 4:3-7) This plan was carried out and passed down from



father to firstborn son (called “the birthright”) until the Levitical (or Aaronic) priesthood was established at Sinai. Aaron, being the first-born son of Amram and Jochebed, both of the tribe of Levi, was chosen by God to be the high priest. His work involved the courtyard as well as both rooms of the sanctuary itself. The common priests—Aaron’s four sons—had duties in the court as well as in the “holy place” of the sanctuary, though never in the “most holy place.”

Though God had also set apart the rest of the Levites to assist the priests, they were never allowed to

enter the sanctuary except to pack it up and move it, and then only after all the sacred furnishings had been covered. (Numbers 1:50,51; 3:6-9; 4:15, 17-33) During the rest of the time, their services were limited to the courtyard. Each of these facts, as well as the garments worn by the priests and their ministrations, is highly significant to the understanding of Christ’s sacrificial, mediatorial and intercessory work in our behalf. The significance does not end there, however.

Just as Christ’s earthly ministry of healing, sacrifice and prayers on behalf of His followers, both then and now, were portrayed by the ministration of the priests and the services of the courtyard, so also is portrayed the lives of those who follow His example in all things (1 Peter 2:21) that He may become “Christ in [them] the hope of glory.” (Colossians 1:27) Just as the brazen altar—the instrument of sacrifice in the type—is an altar and not a cross as in the antitype, so each of the types is only a dim sketch of the reality it is designed to teach. The apostle Paul uses the term “shadow” to describe these types. (Hebrews 8:5; 10:1)

When light falls on an object it casts a shadow. The shadow is *not* the object. It is merely a dim outline. How foolish to be satisfied with the shadow! God’s purpose in giving us the Scriptures, and most especially in giving the great object lesson of the sanctuary and the Hebrew economy, was to enable us to understand, as much as is humanly possible, heavenly realities. By closely examining the “shadow” we can learn many things about the realities which are, for now, hidden outside our line of vision.

### The sacrifices as a type

The various sacrificial offerings each had something to say about Christ’s character and mission and also about the character and mission of every believer in Him. The variety of unblemished animals, fowl or

grain that might be chosen tells us that no one animal, nor any animal, could possibly give us a full picture alone. We must view a composite of them all before we can come close to having a clear and complete portrait. A careful study of these offerings, as recorded in the first seven chapters of the book of Leviticus (as well as many references elsewhere in Scripture) will be of great benefit to anyone who takes the time to do so, and seeks the enlightenment of God's Spirit for the task. [Also, please note the chart on the following page.]

At the time of the anointing of the sanctuary, the dedication of Aaron, his sons and the Levites to the office of the priesthood, and just following the seven days of Aaron and his son's confinement to the courtyard of the sanctuary for a period of consecration, Aaron offered the first sacrifices on the altar of burnt offerings. These sacrifices included a young calf for a sin offering and a ram for a burnt offering for Aaron, his sons and the elders of Israel. Then, a kid of the goats for a sin offering and a calf and a lamb, both of the first year, for a burnt offering; as well as a bullock and a ram for peace offerings plus a "meat" (grain) offering mingled with oil for the "children of Israel."

After these offerings had been properly presented to the Lord with their various parts sprinkled, waved or laid upon the altar, "Moses and Aaron went into the tabernacle of the congregation [sanctuary], and came out, and blessed the people: and the glory of the Lord appeared unto all the people. And there came a fire out from before the Lord, and consumed upon the altar the burnt offering and the fat: which when all the people saw, they shouted, and fell on their faces." (Leviticus 9:23, 24) This fire, which was kindled by God Himself, was never to go out! God decreed that no "strange fire" was ever to be used on the altar. (Exodus 30:9)

### The continual burnt offering

Morning and evening a male lamb of the first year was to be offered on the altar. These lambs were to be offered along with a "meat" offering of flour mingled with beaten oil, and wine for a drink offering. [Note that wine in Scripture frequently referred to the unfermented juice of the grape. Nothing leavened or fermented could ever represent Christ, the perfect, unblemished sacrifice.] These offerings were "burnt" offerings and were referred to as "daily" or "continual" offerings. (Numbers 28:34; 29:6) These burnt offerings were a symbol of the continual and everlasting effects of the sacrifice of Christ on Calvary—the atonement



continually available to every soul—as well as a sign of Israel's continual dedication to the service of God. The fire from God that continually burned on the altar showed His acceptance of their offerings.

More than that, God said, "This shall be a continual burnt offering throughout your generations at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation before the Lord; where I will meet you, to speak there unto thee. And there I will meet with the children of Israel, and the tabernacle shall be sanctified by my glory. And I will sanctify the tabernacle of the congregation, and the altar: I will sanctify also both Aaron and his sons, to minister to me in the priest's office. And I will dwell among the children of Israel, and will be their God. And they shall

know that I am the Lord their God, that brought them forth out of the land of Egypt, that I may dwell among them: I am the Lord their God." (Exodus 29:42-46)

### The whole burnt offering

These continual offerings were offered by the priests. However, God designed a plan whereby the individual Israelite could enter into this dedication and dedicate his life to God on a personal level and receive atonement. This was done through the "whole" burnt offering. (Psalm 51:19)

The specifications for this offering are recorded in Leviticus chapter one. This was a "voluntary" offering and the worshipper was allowed to choose from various beasts or fowl, depending on their resources; making this offering within the means of all. If the offering was a calf, sheep or goat, it was to be a male without blemish. After putting his hand on the head, (signifying a giving of himself to his substitute) he was to kill the animal before the Lord. Aaron's sons were to take the blood and sprinkle it "round about upon the altar." [Notice that there is no blood put on the horns of the altar as a record of sins confessed.] Next he is to skin his offering and cut it into pieces. Aaron's sons then take the pieces, "the head, and the fat," and put them "in order upon the wood that is on the fire which is upon the altar." (Verse 8) After he washes the inwards and the legs in water, the priests add them to the pieces which are placed "in order" on the altar. Then "every offering is seasoned with salt," (Leviticus 2:13; Ezekiel 43:24; Mark 9:49) and the skin is given to the priest as his portion. (Leviticus 7:8)

### Our continual whole burnt offering

When we come to God with our "whole burnt offering" morning and evening, we are entering into this dedicatory covenant—a type of the "new covenant" (Jeremiah

31:31-33) where God promises to write His laws in our hearts. Our sinful flesh, our “righteousness” (which is as filthy rags; Isaiah 64:6), we give to Christ, our heavenly Priest, as His portion. He has laid the wood in readiness for our offering and the fire is already kindled. We wash our “inwards” (the thoughts, intents and secrets of our hearts), and our “legs” (our comings and goings), in the water of the Word. The salt (the keeping power

of Christ) is added, by faith, to preserve us in our Christian walk. Our lives may be a jumble, but we can count on our Heavenly Priest to arrange each piece “in order,” upon the “altar of sacrifice.” We know that the fire that consumes our offering is kindled by God Himself and is designed to refine and purify us, (Zechariah 13:9) and the smoke that ascends to God is a “sweet savour unto the Lord.” (Leviticus 1:9)

If, however, we fail to bring this offering “continually,” “daily,” the fire of God will die out on our side of the altar, and the salt will “lose its savour.” In the words of a favorite hymn, “Is your **all** on the altar?” Our heavenly Priest has laid the wood and kindled the fire. *His* sacrifice is continually burning. All that is needed is the continual sacrifice of *our* lives for His service. May God help us to keep this fire tended.

*Esther McDaniel*

Offering	By Whom	Animal	Designation	Procedure
Continual Burnt Offering	Priests	One unblemished male lamb, of the first year, in the morning and one in the evening	Atonement/ Dedication	Fire had to be burning on the altar continually. It was never to go out. With each lamb was to be offered one-tenth of an ephah of flour mixed with one-fourth of a hin of pressed oil and one-fourth of a hin of wine. Accompanied by a meat offering.
Burnt Offering	Individual	Male of herd or flock	Atonement/ Dedication	Voluntary; blood sprinkled around the altar—entire animal cut up and burned on the altar. Accompanied by a meat offering.
Meat (Grain) Offering	Individual	Fine flour, oil, & frankincense or unleavened bread baked in oven or pan without frankincense	For a “sweet savour” unto the Lord; for Aaron and his sons	A handful of the flour or bread was taken by a priest with the oil and frankincense and burned on the altar (as a memorial). The rest was for Aaron and his sons. Every grain offering was to be seasoned with salt. No leaven or honey was to be used.
Peace Offering	Individual	Male or female without blemish from the herd	Thanksgiving or a vow	Blood sprinkled all around on the altar. The fat and kidneys removed and burned on the altar—on top of the continual burnt offering. The rest was eaten by the priests. Accompanied by a meat offering.
Sin Offering	High Priest causing the congregation to sin	Young bull without blemish killed by the High Priest	Atonement/ Forgiveness	High Priest took the blood into the holy place and sprinkled it with his finger seven times in front of the veil of the most holy place and put blood on the horns of the altar of incense. The rest of the blood was poured at the base of the altar of burnt offerings. The kidneys and fat were burned on the altar. The rest of the animal was carried out of the camp and burned in a special place.
Sin Offering	Whole congregation	Young bull killed by the elders	Atonement/ Forgiveness	High Priest took blood into the holy place, sprinkled it with his finger seven times before the veil, put some on the horns of the altar of incense, poured the rest of the blood at the base of the altar of burnt offerings. The fat was burned on the altar, the rest of the bull was carried out of the camp and burned in a special place.
Sin Offering	A Ruler	Male kid of the goats killed by the ruler	Atonement/ Forgiveness	Priest put blood on the horns of the altar of burnt offerings and poured the rest of the blood at the base of the altar. The fat was burned on the altar. The flesh was eaten by the priests.
Sin Offering	Common Person	Female kid, lamb, two turtle doves, or two young pigeons, or one-tenth of an ephah of fine flour without oil or frankincense	Atonement/ Forgiveness	Animal killed by the person who brought it. Priest put blood on the horns of the altar of burnt offerings. The rest of the blood was poured out at the base of the altar. The fat was burned on the altar. The flesh was eaten by the priests. If the flour, the priest burned a handful and the rest was for the priests to eat.
Trespass Offering	Individual	A ram without blemish. Also was to restore that which he stole or obtained deceitfully and add one-fifth of the value to it.	Atonement/ Forgiveness	The ram was given to the priest who made atonement for the individual. The same procedure as for the sin offering. [The trespass offering made provision for sins <i>not</i> done in ignorance. See Leviticus 6:1-7.]

# Friends Now and Forever

Man was created with a social nature. People need people and to most of us friendships are very important. We thrive on the genuine caring, concern and interest that our friends show toward us; friendships add an important dimension and great blessings to our lives.

The Bible has a lot to say concerning friends; I counted 54 references in my low-priced concordance which may or may not be complete. The first reference I found was in Exodus 33:11a: "And the LORD spake unto Moses face to face, as a man speaketh unto his friend." Imagine being face to face with God, speaking together as friends! Abraham also was a friend of God (2 Chronicles 20:7, Isaiah 41:8 and James 2:23). Enoch must have been a friend of God because "And Enoch walked with God: and he was not; for God took him." (Genesis 5:24) Someone once said that Enoch and God must have gone for such a long walk that eventually God said, "We are closer to my house than yours, so come on home with me!"

Imagine  
being  
face to face  
with God,  
speaking  
together  
as friends!

In several places, the Scriptures describe the actions of friends as being less than ideal, even treacherous. "Yea, mine own familiar friend, in whom I trusted, which did eat of my bread, hath lifted up his heel against me." (Psalm 41:9) "And one shall say unto him, What are these wounds in thine hands? Then he shall answer, Those with which I was wounded in the house of my friends." (Zechariah 13:6) In Job I found six references for "friend"; among them: "My friends scorn me..." (Job 6:20) and "...my familiar friends have forgotten me (Job 19:14). Do you suppose Job ever thought, "With friends like these, I don't need any enemies"?"

"...Know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God." (James 4:4) An enemy of God? The thought causes me to shudder. It causes me to determine to "turn my eyes upon Jesus, look full in His wonderful face," and let "the things of earth...grow strangely dim in the light of His glory and grace."

"A friend loveth at all times," according to Proverbs 17:17, and the wise man tells us that "A man that hath friends must shew himself friendly: and there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother." (Proverbs 18:24) A friend that sticks closer than a brother (or a sister)—now that's the kind of friend to have and also the kind of friend to be! Jesus is, in fact, that friend, and He is our example in all things.

During the years of His ministry on earth, Jesus enjoyed the companionship of several friends. In addition to the disciples, the Scriptures make special mention of Mary Magdalene, (Luke 8:2) and also of Mary and Martha and Lazarus in whose home in Bethany Jesus visited. (Luke 10:38; John 12:1-3) When the news of Lazarus' death reached Jesus, He referred to him as "our friend." (John 11:11)

Friends share themselves with each other; they confide in each other. Jesus said that He made known to His friends all things that His heavenly Father had made known to Him. "Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you." (John 15:13-15)

"Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends." (John 15:13) "Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God." (Hebrews 12:2) Imagine Christ's joy when His friends from His days on earth are reunited with Him, in person, when they are resurrected at His second coming! Not only they but all those who, before and since, have accepted His offer of friendship and eternal life "shall rise" and "be caught up...in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord." (1 Thessalonians 4:16, 17) "He will see the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied." (Isaiah 53:11)

The prospect of sharing eternity with the ransomed—His friends—of all ages, in a universe utterly cleansed of sin, no doubt brings great joy to the heart of Jesus. It also brings joy to the heart of the believer to contemplate spending eternity with his friends, and especially with his *best* friend, Jesus, the One who gave His life for him!

"Face to face with Christ my Savior,  
Face to face, what will it be,  
When with rapture I behold Him,  
Jesus Christ, who died for me?"

Those lines from a favorite hymn of mine are no doubt based on words of Paul: "For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known." (1 Corinthians 13:12)

Imagine  
Christ's joy  
when His  
friends from  
His days on  
earth are  
reunited  
with Him...

Grace Cox

## Musings of the Morning...

### Friendship at its Best!

I went for a walk this morning, as I have begun anew to do each day. This time, though, I didn't dwell on the heat, the humidity or my aching muscles; especially coming back up that hill... Neither did I think about the myriad tasks planned for the day ahead or my patient husband walking beside me, matching his stride to that of his out-of-shape wife. Instead, I used the time to contemplate with awe the innumerable gifts from the hand of my loving heavenly Father.

"My Father made these towering trees," I told myself. "So many varieties and no two of them alike. And He made the bushes—not really trees, yet something more than 'plants'—and decked them with ornamental as well as useful leaves, fruits and flowers."

Thinking of flowers gave rise to pondering about the many species He has made: some in large clusters, others tiny and delicate, all in a variety of designs and hues. And the fruits and vegetables I enjoy from my husband's garden! George loves to plant unusual varieties, yet all were designed by my omniscient heavenly Father, some to feed my body and many others simply to feed my soul.

My musings broadened to include the animal world—from the playful otters and swinging monkeys to the elephants with their swaying gait and rhythmically oscillating trunks, to the scrambling rodents in their dens under the ground. "My heavenly Father made them all," I

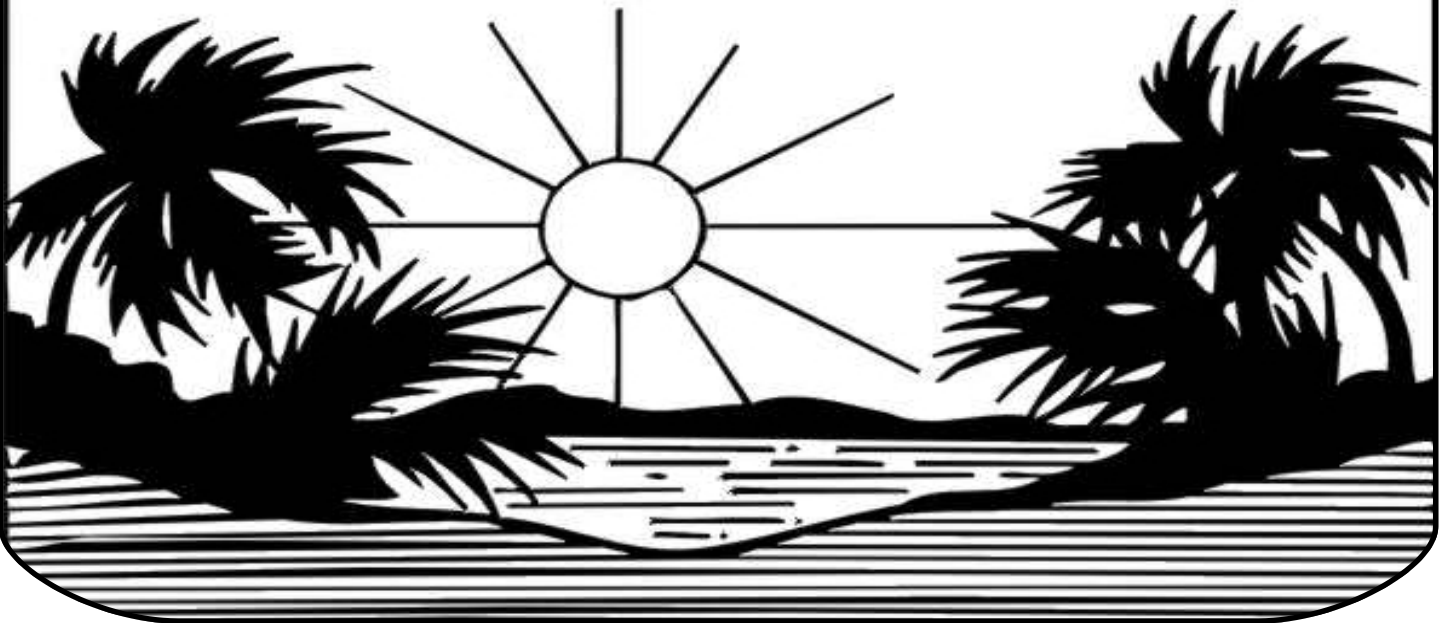
reminded myself. "Most certainly He has a sense of humor!"

Unexpectedly my thoughts were interrupted by an animated, familiar voice. George, still walking beside me, was singing a little tune of his own devising—meant to encourage me to keep putting one foot ahead of the other. "Happy are we when we walk along. The fresh air's makin' us healthy and strong." I had to smile at this. For twenty-five years he's been by my side, listening to my woes, lending a hand when the going gets tough, gently prodding when I seem immovable. He loves to encourage me to do the right thing (especially in regard to what I put into my mouth) with his oft-repeated injunction, "This is your conscience speaking."

It's been twenty-five good years with my very best earthly friend; the one who hears all my secrets, knows all my weaknesses, understands my heart longings and loves me devotedly. In so many ways he has mirrored the character of my very best Friend, my heavenly Father. In so many ways he has shown me what a true and loving Friend I have in His Son, Jesus.

Reflecting on his sprightly little ditty, I know that all is right with our world and I'm thankful that we are reaping the rewards of friendship at its very best—our friendship with each other, as well as the friendship that we share together with our heavenly Friends.

*Esther McDaniel*



## A Friend Who Just Stands By

When trouble comes your soul to try  
 You love the friend who just stands by.  
 Perhaps there's nothing she can do  
 The thing is strictly up to you—  
 For there are troubles all your own  
 And Paths the soul must tread alone.  
 Times when love can't smooth the road  
 Nor friendship lift the heavy load.

But just to feel you have a friend  
 Who will stand by until the end.  
 Whose sympathy through all endures  
 Whose warm friendship is always yours.  
 It helps somehow to pull you through  
 Although there's nothing she can do.  
 And so with fervent heart we cry:  
 "God bless the friend who just stands by."

*Author Unknown*

### Friendship

Friendship is a priceless gift  
 That cannot be bought or sold  
 But its value is far greater  
 Than a mountain made of gold.  
 For gold is cold and lifeless,  
 It can neither see nor hear,  
 And in the time of trouble  
 It is powerless to cheer.  
 It has no ears to listen  
 Nor heart to understand,  
 It cannot bring you comfort  
 Or reach out a helping hand.  
 So when you ask God for a gift  
 Be thankful if He sends  
 Not diamonds, pearls or riches  
 But the love of real true friends.

*Author Unknown*

### My Friend Forever

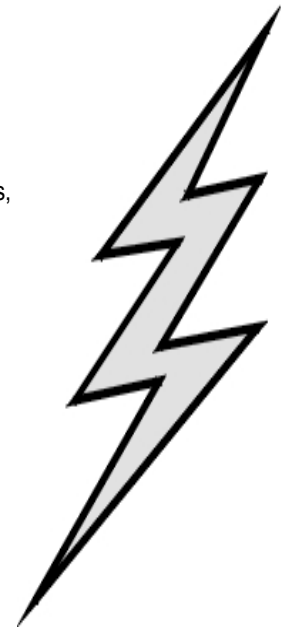
When "shades of night" softly gather,  
 as the daylight hours end-  
 I feel an overwhelming love  
 for God, my dearest friend.

He walks along beside me  
 in sunshine and in rain.  
 He laughs with me through happy times,  
 and takes away the pain-  
 when illness or some worry  
 tends to tear my world apart.  
 The love and comfort He puts forth  
 would melt a hardened heart!

He guides my awkward footsteps  
 along life's rough terrain,  
 and not one prayer I've said to Him  
 has ever been in vain!

Oh yes, I count my blessings  
 at every long day's end,  
 for I know God will always be  
 my very dearest Friend!

*Doris A. Orth*



### Friendship's Symbol

Your heart spoke to my heart  
 Last night at seven;  
 Silent words, rose-petaled,  
 Language of heaven.  
 Rosebuds are a symbol  
 Of a friendship fine;  
 So I read the message  
 From your heart to mine.

*Mildred Wood Harris*

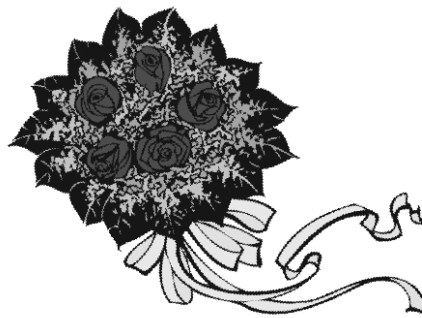


### Grant Me These Gifts

Grant me the gift of laughter, Lord,  
 And the countenance of a smile.  
 Let my heart be big and warm enough  
 To walk an extra mile  
 With a lonely friend who is worn and tired,  
 And perhaps has lost his way,  
 And I shall count these gifts worthwhile  
 At the closing of the day.

Grant me the understanding, Lord,  
 To keep my soul serene,  
 That I may share the strength of it  
 When shadows intervene  
 In the life of a friend whose courage lags,  
 As he walks the daily road,  
 For I would count it an honor, Lord,  
 To share another's load.

*Author Unknown*





## Rendezvous

Each morning as I go to work  
I have a standing date  
To meet a little woolly pup  
Beside a wicket gate.

Come heat or cold, come snow or rain,  
Any kind of weather,  
That pup and I are sure to have  
Rendezvous together.

He presses close against the fence  
And gently licks my hands  
The while I whisper tenderly  
Small words he understands.

Then as I leave him standing there  
I wonder can it be  
I make his day as glad for him  
As he makes mine for me!

*Mildred Wood Harris*

## Too Late

If I had known what trouble you were bearing,  
What griefs were in the silence of your face,  
I would have been more gentle and more caring  
And tried to give you gladness for a space.  
I would have brought more warmth into the place  
If I had known.

If I had known what thoughts despairing drew you  
—Why do we never understand?  
I would have lent a little friendship to you  
And slipped my hand within your lonely hand  
And made your stay more pleasant in the land  
If I had known.

*--Selected*

## My Philosophic Friend

Each morning at my window a sudden bit of flame  
Looks in for just a moment and calls to me by name.

But I am very stupid  
In ways of bright-winged birds,  
And cannot understand him,  
His meaning nor his words.

He knows my limitations,  
And shakes his head, bird-wise,  
In sympathy for humans  
Who have no wings, no skies!

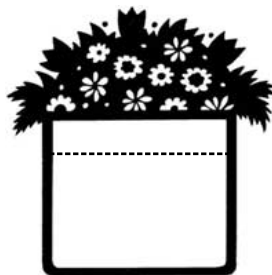


*Mildred Wood Harris*

## Pocket Full of Hope

Writer's Preface: "A pocket full of hope and a heart full of sunshine" is a phrase I just heard. What a wonderful thing to have!  
No matter what comes our way, we know that everything is in His care.

We have His hope which is the best;  
God has already put it through His test.  
The hope of eternal life is a sure thing.  
The joy of it will make us sing!  
He placed that Light in each of us  
When we learned of His great love,  
Because sunshine comes from a happy heart  
That knows about the Truth above.



It overflows to others  
Along life's busy road,  
So we can sense their burdens  
And help carry their loads.  
Christ takes away those burdens;  
He sweetens our thoughts, He clears the air,  
And life becomes a dream come true  
As we come to the cross in prayer.

*Marilynn Dick*

[Marilynn is a wife, mother and grandmother who has traveled and lived in different parts of the world, but now makes her home in Trenton, TN. Sharing her poetry with others is one of her many ways of sharing her abiding faith in God. She wrote this poem a few years ago, and no doubt she has reached into her "pocket" for a handful of hope several times lately, as she recently underwent surgery for a malignant tumor. See "Prayer Call" in this issue. Editor]

(Continued from page 6)

not only makes Christians dull and lifeless but quickly sends them into a spiritual coma. No wonder the apostle

God's health  
prescription  
for stress:  
"Come unto  
me,...and  
I will give  
you rest...  
Learn  
of me;...  
and ye  
shall find rest  
unto your  
souls."

Paul admonishes us to "Pray without ceasing." (1 Thesalonians 5:17)

What happens when we ignore God's health prescription for stress? Oxygen starvation on the spiritual level, with symptoms such as bad behavior and attitudes, and increased vulnerability to annoyances and irritations. God's health prescription includes this promise: "Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee." (Isaiah 26:3) What reassurance to the Christian who has learned to pray with life's punches!

The Christian who has learned to keep his mind on Christ is like the legendary

Maori warrior caught at sea in a small boat during a

violent storm. The legend says that he prayed not for the abating of the storm, but for a glimpse of the stars by which he might steer his course. Thus does the Christian who knows his God. Serenely he passes on his way, enduring the stress which forms an unavoidable part of every normal day. He prays not for escape from tension, but for strength to adjust to every emergency. He has found a stabilizing force which holds him on course independent of disturbances which may buffet him.

God's health prescription for stress: "Come unto me,...and I will give you rest...Learn of me;...and ye shall find rest unto your souls." (Matthew 11:28, 29)

[Reprinted from *The "Present Truth,"* February 2000, published by His Marvelous Light Ministries, R.R. #1, Box 19A2, Stevensville, PA 18845. Used by permission.]

*Hearth to Hearth* is published bi-monthly and sent free upon request. Voluntary donations are appreciated. Managing Editor: Grace Cox, 68 Skiff Barton Rd., Trenton, TN 38382, (901) 855-4805, [hearth@iswt.com](mailto:hearth@iswt.com); Layout & Design Editor: Esther McDaniel; Contributing Editor: Pat Kroeger. Printed by Smyrna Gospel Ministries.

*Hearth to Hearth*

68 Skiff Barton Road  
Trenton, Tennessee 38382  
U.S.A.

Address Service Requested

**Bulk Rate  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Trenton TN  
Permit No. 47**