

Hearth to Hearth

Woman to Woman

Vol. 4, No. 1

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

Jan./Feb. 2001

Come to Dinner!

Ashleigh Morris

The snow was gently falling, clothing the naked winter landscape in a soft garment of white. Our wonderful Creator was applying His final touches to the out-of-doors as I was bustling in the kitchen making final plans for our holiday meal a few days hence.

There was a precious family my husband Dave and I had invited to join us for this annual dinner. In recent years their marriage had been sorely tried and now it seemed to be falling apart. Dave and I had been attempting to encourage this family, and we thought perhaps another visit, another time to reflect on the many blessings God had abundantly bestowed upon them, another season of prayer... Plans were already in the making when the call came that the family wouldn't be coming. My heart was saddened and I felt overwhelmed with defeat. It seemed that the evil one had won another victory. We then invited another family, and at first they accepted but, again, plans fell through, and they too were unable to come.

Dave and I are not ones to give up that easily! So, on the day of the dinner, we extended an open invitation to several others, not knowing just who would end up sitting at our table for this special meal, and dashed home from church to warm the food. In just a little while, our spirits soared as we looked out the window and saw several friends making their way to our door! Soon the house was filled with the aroma of apple pie warming in

the oven and the happy sounds of children and young people visiting and laughing together. We had a delightful time sharing food and Christian fellowship. More important than the food, to Dave and me, was the feast of love and fellowship that these people had made possible that day by accepting our invitation..

Later that evening my thoughts turned to Matthew. 22:1-10 “And Jesus answered and spake unto them again by parables, and said, The kingdom of heaven is like unto a certain king, which made a marriage for his son, And sent forth his servants to call them that were bidden to the wedding: and they would not come. Again, he sent forth other servants, saying, Tell them which are bidden, Behold, I have prepared my dinner: my oxen and my fatlings are killed, and all things are

ready: come unto the marriage. But they made light of it, and went their ways, one to his farm, another to his merchandise: And the remnant took his servants, and
(Continued on page 12)



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.

Out With the Old . . .

A new year, a new beginning! A brand new calendar awaits us. Don't you love to open a new calendar, look at the pictures that are featured each month, and anticipate what the brand new year holds? Quickly I turn to the spring months, eager to view the scenes depicting the earth's awakening after the long winter is finally over.

As you read the content of this issue of *Hearth to Hearth* you will notice that the new year is ushering in some changes—editorial staff changes and probably some layout and design changes as well. It is my belief that these changes are in accordance with God's will and thus will be good for the newsletter.

First of all, I will no longer be serving as the “managing editor” of *Hearth to Hearth*. I did not make this decision lightly; it was made after much prayer, study and soul searching. I am satisfied that it is the right decision, not only for me but for *Hearth to Hearth* as well. A new editor will bring new ideas from a fresh perspective, and thus the newsletter will grow in its depth and breadth, and its light will shine brighter and brighter.

It was almost three years ago that the idea for *Hearth to Hearth* was first conceived. Esther called me one Sunday morning and said, “Let's publish a paper.” “Okay,” I responded slowly and carefully. “What kind of paper?” Planning and producing the newsletter was a challenging undertaking, but it was also exciting to see God working and opening the way for the project to begin. Once the project was launched and the first issue came out, there were still daunting hurdles to be overcome. It was a marvelous exercise in faith to take each problem to God and wait for His solution.

Esther is much more detail oriented than I, and she, more than I, appreciates the value of consistency in the way things are done from one issue to the next. I know it was frustrating for her to work with someone who was rather careless and lax in her approach to things! But rather than chiding me for my shortcomings, she described them as my “flair and abandon!” This quickly caught on between us and became an inside joke. Anytime I overlooked something or my inconsistency resulted in a snafu, we blamed it on either my “flair” or my “abandon.” It is a wonderful thing that we could work so closely together, and actually disagree quite often, yet remain good friends. While it might be said that I am “abandoning” my role with *Hearth to Hearth*, neither of us is abandoning our friendship, which remains intact.

No doubt I will miss working with *Hearth to Hearth*, but I am eagerly looking forward to having more time for home and family, more time for my personal in-depth study of the Bible, and more time for the local group of ladies that I meet with twice each week for prayer, Bible study and fellowship.

I have met many wonderful Christian women as a result of my work with the newsletter, most only by mail; even so, friendships have developed and lasting bonds have been forged between several of us. I consider this to have been one of the main blessings that I have received out of this experience. To meet each and every one of you in person, when we gather with Jesus beneath the spreading boughs of the tree of life, beside the river of water of life that flows out of the throne of God, is my prayerful, heart-felt desire.

Grace Cox

MAIL CALL:

I would like to see more info on home schooling added to the paper. I plan to home school my two girls in a couple of years and need all the information I can get. Also, I would appreciate anybody's articles on losing a parent. Grief is hard to deal with despite being a Christian. My mom died in September 2000. I appreciated Marion Landry's testimony/story [Sept./Oct. 2000], “In Memory of Ian.” OH

Michelle Kemp's “Mission Memories” story was very well done. I enjoyed all the memory stories in this issue [Sept./Oct. 2000]. “In Memory of Ian” was so touching; it must have cost that mother a lot to tell the story for publication, even all these years later. CA

Enclosed is my address to receive *Hearth to Hearth* newsletter. I am also interested in the Pen Pal Corner and how to place an ad, etc. Thank you and God bless. AZ

[To place an ad in the Pen Pal Corner, just write in to *Hearth to Hearth* at our new address (listed in the pink box on page 4), telling a bit about yourself and maybe stating what type of person you would like to receive letters from. Editor]

Thanks a bunch for sending all the back issues of the sanctuary studies. I am really enjoying the study. CA

I can't thank you enough for the Nov./Dec. issue of *Hearth to Hearth*. Excellent! Especially “Hearth Study.” TN

This last issue of *Hearth to Hearth* was a joy to read. It was almost as good as the Sept./Oct. issue. I loved all the articles on aging and “Our Golden Years” especially. They really hit home. WV

Hope all is going well with your publication. I noticed that the address is now Welch, WV. TN

Thanks to *Hearth to Hearth*, I have a pen pal! OH

I thought this story might be of use in *Hearth to Hearth*. It is my story and written by me. I do like your publication. NC

[Thank you for submitting your story. Stories from personal experience—especially stories that have a definite maxim worth sharing—are always welcome. Editor]

PRAYER CALL:

1) My prayer request regarding some surgery I needed was in the Nov./Dec. issue of *Hearth to Hearth*. I am so happy to report that the specialist who examined me prior to scheduling the surgery found that I did not need the surgery after all. I want to thank everyone for their prayers, and thank the Lord for answering them.

2) We have some good news, so rejoice with us and give thanks to God for answered prayer. My daughter-in-law's spouse visa has been passed [in Russia] so now we are looking forward to them arriving home [Australia] on the 10th of January. They are in Moscow now, working in a [Salvation Army] Corps (church) while waiting and praying that there will be a cancellation so they can come earlier. Please continue to pray for them and for a transient visa so they pass through London to come home.

We are so thankful to God for this as we were a little concerned about it. God's Word tells us not to worry about anything, but in everything give thanks to God. and this we tried to do. Some days we failed miserably and He gently reminded us. What a wonderful Saviour is Jesus. I really wanted to say Thank you to all who made this a matter of prayer [see Prayer Call, Nov./Dec. 2000] and invite you to rejoice with us!

3) Please remember my brother in your prayers. His health is deteriorating and he is in pain most of the time.

EDITORS' NOTES:

» **We have moved:** Please note that the correct address for all correspondence is *Hearth to Hearth*, P.O. Box 247, Pineville, WV 24874. The return address shown on

... In With the New!

Well...we are trying! When the idea for *Hearth to Hearth* was born about three years ago and Grace was asked to serve as “managing editor,” I had no idea what a jewel she would be in that department. I knew that Grace had some writing skills just from the letters we had sent back and forth, and I also knew that she enjoyed poetry as I do. (I actually have discovered through this venture that there *are* people out there who *do not* appreciate the poet's way with words! Can you believe?) What I did not realize about Grace was the ability she has to take someone's attempt at writing and turn it into a work of art. She is decisive and ruthless with her cutting and pasting—rearranging the words of a sentence to bring about greater impact, changing a word here and there to give clearer meaning or make the expression more colorful and sometimes even rearranging whole paragraphs. Though unschooled in the art, Grace certainly *is* an “editor” in her own right. Now that she has “abandoned” us, we will certainly miss her “flair”!

I know this has been a difficult decision for Grace to make and that the ministry of *Hearth to Hearth* will not be far from her thoughts and heart. When, back in March of last year, she first started telling me she was going to have to quit, I was concerned. *Hearth to Hearth* was consuming all her time and there was no one to help. Grace truly carried the major share of the load. When you put out a free paper, and people are donating their time, it can be difficult to find those who are both qualified and willing. By July when we had our staff meeting at Grace's home, we had recruited some help, so we were able, on that occasion, to talk her into continuing. I realized, however, that it was just a matter of time before the subject would again surface. So I was not surprised when, as I was in the middle of a household move from Mississippi to West Virginia, I received word from Grace that she was resigning as of the first of the year. This time I did not try to talk her out of it. I knew, for one thing, that it would be futile. I also realized that Grace *did* need a break. Her timing was both “right” and difficult. However, she has been more than willing to help during this transition period and will no doubt lend a hand now and then on down the road as well.

I am happy to report that the plan is for *Hearth to Hearth* to continue. There are, even now, capable people working in the background to see that this issue gets out. I am hoping that these people will soon be organized into an efficiently operating staff, which can be listed as such in the paper. I am also pleased that Grace has made herself available to help us through this transition time.

As we begin a new year for *Hearth to Hearth*, one thing that isn't changing is our Mission Statement (see the box on the front page). We remain dedicated to the task of helping each of us achieve our goal of finding our completeness, not in our “inner self,” not in our home, our husband, our children or our grandchildren, and not in our career, but rather in Christ.

A new year, a new beginning. What exciting things does God have in store for *Hearth to Hearth* and for each of us? Come along, and together we will find out!

Esther McDaniel

the back page is strictly for postal purposes.

» **Moving?** Remember to notify us of your change of address as quickly as possible if you don't want to miss any issues.

» **Changes:** You will notice some changes in this issue. We are doing away with most of the "hearth" feature title bars (e.g., *Hearthstone*, *Hearth Circle*, etc.). Some of you found them confusing, and we must admit that we found them a bit confusing at times ourselves—as well as confining. We are also working to include more "white space" for easier reading and a more restful appearance.

» **Announcing a new series:** "Encounters with Jesus" begins in this issue (see pages 8 & 9). In these articles you will meet women of the Bible who personally met Jesus and experienced changed lives as a result. As you read these stories, please keep in mind our theme of "completeness in Christ." May our lives also be changed, be made more complete in Him as we encounter Jesus from the perspective of each of these women

» **A new feature:** Attention all Teens and Parents of Teens! Another new and exciting feature is being introduced on page 7. We have enlisted a father and daughter team, who have developed a rich bond with each other, to respond to questions posed by youth and parents of youth concerning parent/teen relationships. So teens (or near teens) and parents, please send your questions to *Hearth to Hearth* and watch for the answers. We will print as many as we can. Be warned: Father and Daughter may not always agree in their answers!

» **A devotional feature** is included in every issue of *Hearth to Hearth*. Until now, it has been designated as "Hearthstone." A hearthstone is, of course, the stone forming the hearth area of a

fireplace, the central feature in many homes around which the family gathers. It is synonymous with the concept of "home." In addition, a hearthstone can be a soft stone used for whitening floors, doorsteps, etc. Since Jesus should be the center of our lives and homes, and since He is able to cleanse us and make us pure and white, we felt the word was appropriate for the heading of the devotional feature. This rationale might have been lost, though, since we did not actually explain it. Be that as it may, the devotional feature is now styled, "Come, Sit at the Feet of Jesus." Look for it under this designation with a heading that changes from one issue to the next according to the subject matter of the article.

» **The Hearthside feature**, which was to be a personal experience, emphasizing a spiritual lesson or insight, is now identified as "A Page From My Experience." We would welcome a page from yours.

HTH SURVEY REPORT:

We very much appreciate your taking the time to fill out the rather lengthy *Hearth to Hearth* Survey questionnaire and return it to us a few months ago. All of the responses we received have been reviewed and tabulated and, as promised, following is a brief report.

Hearth to Hearth is published bi-monthly and sent free upon request. Voluntary donations are appreciated. All letters should be sent to *Hearth to Hearth*, P.O. Box 247, Pineville, WV 24874. Phone: 901-855-4805 E-mail: hearth@iswt.com. Publisher/Layout and Design Editor: Esther M. McDaniel. Printed by Smyrna Gospel Ministries.

Only one person said they did not enjoy reading the newsletter. Five individuals asked to be removed from the mailing list (too busy; too old and ill to enjoy it; to reduce paper clutter). One person said that a particular article had been disturbing to them because of the "liberal perspective" evidenced by mention of TV, sports and crafts. Most respondents said that *Hearth to Hearth* does have a well-balanced variety of topics, that all or nearly all articles have a spiritual application, and that *Hearth to Hearth* has helped to bring them closer to Christ.

In response to the question, "Do you consider yourself part of the *Hearth to Hearth* "family circle?," one person said, "Yes, because you invite us to participate." Sadly, though, one individual said "No; I don't really feel I belong anywhere." We just want that person to know that God loves them, and that we at *Hearth to Hearth* stand ready to help them in every way we can to find their place within the circle of that love. Most said that they do feel part of the *Hearth to Hearth* "family circle," which warms our hearts, as that is what we very much desire.

Several responses were sent without names, and a few of those were from individuals who felt the need to unburden their hearts into our ears. Though your identity may be unknown to us, God knows, and He knows the heartaches and burdens that you bear. Jesus says, "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid." (John 14:27) Please know that we are praying for you. *Hearth to Hearth* is meant to be a "ministry of encouragement" to women in our search for completeness in Christ, and we would welcome further contact from you.

Many of you responded with ideas about the subject matter that you would like to see covered in

future issues. Here is a sampling: Tips for a happy marriage and keeping the spice in marriage; how to cope when the spouse is not a Christian; motherhood and child rearing; children's stories; how to meet our "human needs"—mental, social, physical, spiritual—and, at the same time, keep them from being a snare; overcoming appetite; health warnings; home schooling; witnessing; Christian lifestyle (dress, entertainment, separation from the world); dating and courtship; building positive relationships with grown chil-

Hearth to Hearth is on the Internet! You can read it or download it in PDF format at: <http://present-truth.net/>.

dren; light-hearted articles that make us laugh; in-depth study to help us prepare for Jesus' soon coming; getting older; coping with pain; something to bring us closer together—perhaps a problems and solutions column.

One person said that the content of *Hearth to Hearth* is too crowded, that there is not enough white space. We agree, and are trying to correct that. Another said that she would like for *Hearth to Hearth* to be available on the Internet for the benefit of friends overseas, and suggested that *Hearth to Hearth* could provide a daily devotional thought and distribute it by e-mail. The truth is that for close to a year now we have had our domain and a partially put together site. The problem is, as with so many things we would like to do, we do not currently have anyone both qualified and willing to be responsible for that aspect of our ministry. Once we get it up and running, we would like for it to be a site that you will want to return to again and again. In the meantime, *Hearth to Hearth* is on the Internet! You can read it or download it in PDF format at: <http://present-truth.net/>.

We are sorry it is not yet available in HTML format.

Of those who indicated the age group into which they fall, the majority were 51 to 70 years (perhaps that was the age group who felt they could take the time to fill in the questionnaire). Most were married (from seven years to 53 years); several were widowed, a few were divorced, one was separated and one was single. The vast majority indicated that they had children, most of which were grown, and also grandchildren; only a few respondents had young children.

(Again, those with young children might have less time to fill out questionnaires!) One respondent mentioned having cared for 103 foster children over the years! (We are sure she could write many heart-warming—and heart wrenching—stories of her experiences!)

Of those who answered the questions about employment, exactly half did work outside the home, and more than half of those would prefer not to. Only three answered Yes to homeschooling, but with the majority of respondents being in the 51 to 70 age group, that was to be expected. We are sure there are many more of you who do so. The vast majority of respondents lead an active lifestyle, though several indicated they were ill or disabled.

In response to the question, "What are your main interests in life?" we received a wide variety of responses, and most included living for Jesus, God, family, church, witnessing and/or soul winning in their lists of main interests. Some other interests mentioned were: playing with grandchildren, gardening, sewing, writing, staying healthy, studying, and helping others.

A wide variety of hobbies was reported, such as: Reading which was

number one, gardening, number 2; quilting, cooking and sewing tied for number three. Others mentioned included travel, interior decorating, music, hospitality, crafts and hiking.

The majority indicated that they enjoy in-depth Bible study; a few prefer to read the Bible mainly for comfort and peace, but almost all said they enjoy the Bible for both.

Thirteen of you said that Yes, you would like to submit an article or participate in *Hearth to Hearth* in some other way, and this was very encouraging to us! To those and to all others, please know that we welcome your participation; in fact, it is vital if *Hearth to Hearth* is to fulfill its mission. So if you have an idea for an article that you would like to write, an article that you would like to see reprinted in *Hearth to Hearth*, a poem that you would like to submit, or if you would like to participate in some other way, please contact us (see box on page 4) and request our editorial guidelines. We are looking forward to hearing from you and working with you in every way possible.

Thank you again for your participation in the survey. Your comments were thoughtful and insightful, and we appreciated each one. Some of them have already been shared in the "Mail

Your comments were thoughtful and insightful, and we appreciated each one...We feel that we know you a bit better now, and that will enable us to serve you better.

Call" section of "Hearth Call," so we will not repeat them here. We feel that we know you a bit better now, and this will enable us to serve you better.

In closing, one reader commented, "As long as I live...I hope to receive *Hearth to Hearth* for it means so much to me."

We hope so too!

Editors

The Breath of God

Author Unknown

“Life’s a little thing!” Robert Browning once wrote. But a little thing can mean a life. Even two lives. How well I remember. Two years ago in



downtown Denver my friend, Scott Reasoner, and I saw something tiny and insignificant change the world, but no one else even seemed to no-

tice. It was one of those beautiful Denver days. Crystal clear, no humidity, not a cloud in the sky.

We decided to walk the ten blocks to an outdoor restaurant rather than take the shuttle bus that runs up and down the Sixteenth Street Mall. The restaurant, in the shape of a baseball diamond, was called The Blake Street Baseball Club. The tables were set appropriately on the grass infield. Many colorful pennants and flags hung limply overhead. As we sat outside, the sun continued to beat down on us, and it became increasingly hot. There wasn’t a hint of a breeze, and heat radiated up from the tabletop. Nothing moved, except the waiters, of course. And they didn’t move very fast, either.

After lunch Scott and I started to walk back up the mall. We both noticed a mother and her young daughter walking out of a card shop toward the street. She was holding her daughter by the hand while reading a greeting card. It was immediately apparent to us that she was so engrossed in the card that she did not notice a shuttle bus moving toward her at a good clip. She and her daughter were one step away from disaster when Scott started to yell. He hadn’t even gotten a word out when a breeze blew the card out of her hand and over her shoulder.

She spun around and grabbed at the card, nearly knocking her daughter over. By the time she picked up the card from the ground and turned back around to cross the street, the shuttle bus had whizzed by her. She never even knew what almost happened.

To this day two things continue to perplex me about this event. Where did that one spurt of wind come from to blow the card out of that young mother’s hand? There had not been a whisper of wind at lunch or during our long walk back up the mall.

Secondly, if Scott had been able to get his words out, the young mother might have looked up at us as they continued to walk into the bus. It was the wind that made her turn back to the card—in the one direction that saved her life and that of her daughter. The passing bus did not create the wind. On the contrary, the wind came from the opposite direction.

I have no doubt it was a breath from God protecting them both. But the awesomeness of this miracle is that she never knew. As we continued back to work, I wondered how God often acts in our lives without our being aware. The difference between life and death can very well be a little thing.



Comment: Miracles often blow unseen through our lives.



Teens and Parents Ask



Father and Daughter Answer

Dear Father and Daughter,

I'm just starting high school. My parents have always given me money for making good grades. They have told me that high school is going to be much harder. I feel that since school is going to be more difficult that they should increase the amount of money they give me for good grades. Please help.

Sincerely,

“Show Me the Money”

Dear “Show Me,”

I don't know if you will like my response, but I think that you may appreciate your efforts in school a little more. I believe that knowing you have done your best is enough of a reward. By offering their children money or some other type of reward for grades, parents have taught their children to focus on the “prize” rather than on the true reward, and that is the reward of knowledge. I think I know what your parents were trying to do with giving you money for good grades. They were probably hoping that by studying to get the money that somewhere along the way you would grasp the joy of learning. Instead, you have caught the vision of money and want to renegotiate your contract. Go give your parents a hug and thank them for the gifts that they have given you for your grades and tell them that “This one is on me.”

Father

Dear “Show Me,”

So your parents are giving you money to go to school! Can I be adopted? If they keep this up, you'll never have to worry about picking a major and deciding on a career; you can just become a professional student. But seriously, your parents don't owe you anything. They're already spending lots of money on your education; they shouldn't have to pay you to pay attention to your studies. If they offer to reward you for your hard work, I'm not telling you to turn down the cash, but don't insult them with your ingratitude by asking them to increase your incentive. People aren't going to pay you for everything you do in life. Somewhere along the way you're going to have to get some self-motivation. So, if your parents want to continue to give you currency, just be thankful for any extra dough you can get.

Daughter

[Do you have a question about parent/teen relationships? If so, send it to *Hearth to Hearth* (see box on page 4, and this father and daughter team, who prefer to remain anonymous, will share their views with you and other readers in a future issue. You do not need to identify yourself. Editor]

A Page from My Experience

Invisible Treasure

Linda Spillan

I would like to share with you my one of my most important memories. I was a 16-year old girl, living in an apartment with my mother and younger brother. I went to school, listened to music all day, sang a lot of songs and spent a lot of time alone after school. Most of the time I watched my younger brother and did homework and day-dreamed. Those were the days of an average girl of my age, I am sure, with one exception.

We lived in a brick, four-family apartment. I often would see religion portrayed on the television, and daily I heard church bells ringing from somewhere in the distance. I cannot explain completely how I felt when I heard the bells ring. I would stop what I was doing and listen, and thoughts would linger about the possibility of God and the meaning of my existence. My brother and I were not raised religious, or spiritual. The only thing I knew at the time about God was what I learned from television; from singing nuns who played guitars, etc.

While doing a little teenage snooping one night I searched through a hall closet, and there behind a sewing machine of my mother's was a Bible. Instinctively I reached for it. It looked very thick to me, and the pages were so thin. Curiosity overcame me and I simply had to read it. I started with the book of Genesis and, in three days' time, finished that book completely. I do not know how I became a believer, other than when I read that Book it was more than a book, it was “reality.” How can I explain what I mean, “reality”? I see with my eyes, and smell with my nose, but just because I cannot see flowers in a field does not mean they are not there. I know they are there. I cannot smell the fragrant aroma of fresh bread baking in a bakery across town but I know it is really there. The same is true of the Bible. I read it and touched it and knew that it was there, and inwardly, without a doubt, I knew that it was truth. Like a quickening in my heart, I knew that Book was special, and I knew it was not by chance that I came across it.

I read the pages and grew faith in my heart. It was wonderful. I can still remember the awesomeness of it all. At first I did not understand what the words meant, but that did not matter to me. I had to consume all that I could from this book called the Bible. And I did, with relish.

I am older now, and I stand amazed at where I am today, by His loving hands. My faith still grows, and over the years, I have learned more about God, and have sought Him out. I have dared to reach the invisible Treasure, called God, and although I still have not touched Him or seen His blessed face, I can say that He lives, and will call, is calling to us all, in His divine way, if we will just listen. He's always there... even before we are there, and He's waiting, just waiting for us to answer His call.



[Linda Spillan writes from Blacklick, Ohio.]

The Healing Touch of Faith

Onycha Holt

It was in Capernaum that she found herself watching the crowd as it pressed down the dusty, narrow streets. Even the houses seemed to squeeze down against the narrow walkways. Everything was astir, animals and man. Donkeys complained, dogs crept around looking for crumbs to devour, children wailed, and peddlers loudly besought attention to their wares.

This was the hometown of Simon Peter and Andrew. It was here that Matthew was called to follow Jesus. In fact, Capernaum was known as Jesus' headquarters. He performed many miracles here and

often preached in the synagogue, but the people were hard to impress. Even after they heard, on one of the Galilean hillsides, His Sermon on the Mount, they were so persistent in their rebellion that Jesus finally predicted the complete destruction of this, "His" city.

I like to think she heard His words that day on the mount, when He described His kingdom and the character expected of its citizens, along with their privileges and responsibilities. I like to think the character of love for one's fellow man, described by Jesus, harmonized with the love she already

found growing in her heart. And I am sure some of the physicians she had seen had something of this love for her. They cared about her illness and did all they knew to do. Stopping uterine bleeding was not something they were expert in, though. Today we know about the effect of hormones, but they didn't. Ointments; salves; pessaries of wool dipped in myrtle, or bacchar, or marjoram; fumigations of ground-up goat or deer horn, or of seal oil—this was what they knew.

So here she was, watching the crowd and focusing on its center with its teeming activity. Here

Jesus moved slowly along, stopping once in a while to speak to someone calling out to Him, or to wait for the path to clear. He was her last hope for help. She had spent all of her resources seeking this help, and a sense of urgency propelled her forward before He passed from her sight.

We don't know why she only wanted to touch the hem of Jesus' garment. Maybe it was because of her sense of uncleanness, although by Jewish standards, just this touch would make Jesus unclean. Maybe it was because of the possible odor surrounding her, maybe because she had nothing to offer in exchange for her hope of healing, or maybe it was because she was a woman. Do you know of many women who directly approached Jesus? The Bible mentions a few. For whatever reason, the thought was born that if she could just touch the hem of His garment, all would be well with her; and she managed to do so. Instantly, she knew she was healed. Her heart overflowed with joy. What had not been accomplished by man was done in a split second by Jesus! Gratefully she started to slip away, but Jesus had a greater lesson for all of us to learn.

Is there any healing to be found in touching an object? Matthew, Mark, and Luke all speak of this incident. Later in Matthew and in Mark, we have verses that speak of many people touching garments and being made whole. We also have the verses in Acts referring to the handkerchiefs of Paul and to the shadow of Peter. Are there people touching, either objects or other people, today in hopes of being made whole? It is not the object



touched that brings healing, but faith in God. That is why Jesus said to this woman, "Your faith has made you whole." This is why He stopped her in her tracks and forced the issue to be made public. Only God heals and only when faith is completely in Him and not in man. It happens no other way. Simply a touch, a fleeting whisper, a sinking grasp, or a longing glance is enough when faith is complete in Him. When we respond to the drawing of Christ and join ourselves to Him, we manifest saving faith.

There is another lesson God wants us to learn from this woman's experience. There were many people in the wondering crowd close to Jesus that day, even touching Him, but only this woman's touch resulted in healing, as far as we know. We can be in the same kind of crowd today, closely following Jesus, wanting to be near Him, but without faith we realize no blessing and no healing.

How do we lay hold of this faith? By spending time with God in prayer and Bible study, by introspection of our own motives, by studying the beauty of Christ and His life on this earth, and by realizing how truly wonderful and limitless is Christ's righteousness. The wonder of it all is that He is willing to draw us close to Him and cover us with this perfect righteousness.

Jesus is the Author and Finisher of our faith. "We can do nothing to originate faith, for faith is the gift of God. Neither can we perfect it, for Christ is the Finisher of our faith. It is all of Christ." (Ellen White, *Signs of the Times Articles*, Vol. 4, Page 489.) This faith is all-sufficient and without measure. It never lets you down. It always accomplishes what it sets out to do. We can rely on it to meet our every need. Even when our prayers are not answered as we

wish, our faith remains because it is Christ's faith that we are depending on, not our own.

Have you encountered physical healing with Jesus on your dusty way to heaven, as did this faithful

Simply a touch, a fleeting whisper, a sinking grasp, or a longing glance is enough when faith is complete in Him.

woman of old? Or perhaps your pain and debilitation have remained but He has graced you with His strength and with His presence, enabling you to remain faithful to Him, come what may. Either way, we invite you to share your experience with the readers and editors of *Hearth to Hearth*, so that each one's faith might be strengthened.



[Onycha Holt writes from her home in Camden-on-Gauley, West Virginia.]

His Garment's Hem

O Blessed Lord, I stoop to Thy flowing garment,
I reach a timid hand to touch its hem
Here among the throng that is surging, pressing
Close about Thee, and I the humblest of them.
Then lo, He speaks, and His voice is kind and gentle:
"Who in this throng has touched me?" questions He;

And I, who have been needing it so, move forward
To receive the wondrous gift He is giving me:
The gift of healing for body, mind and spirit,
The gift of virtue from His own life to mine,
And He speaks the blessed words of commendation:
"Thy faith hath made thee whole," O words that shine
Like silver light to pierce the clouding darkness,
Humbly, indeed, I bow before that praise.

Grant me, O blessed One, the strength to follow
The closer—with greater faith throughout my days.

Grace Noll Crowell

Come, Sit at the Feet of Jesus!

I Will Heal Their Land

Kathy McKnight

I have recently learned a very valuable lesson through the Word of God. The first time I heard anything about land being “healed” was in church. For the Scripture text of his sermon, my pastor used 2 Chronicles 7:14: “If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.”

I usually spend my driving time with God, because if we can get to the place where we can be still and meditate on Him, we will be able to hear Him speak to us. It was during one of these times that He began to deal with me concerning this scripture. He said to me gently, “I’ll heal your land.” I thought to myself, “What? What does that mean?” He repeated in the same manner, “I’ll heal your land.” I said to God, “But, I don’t have any land. I don’t understand.” I knew that God was speaking to me, but it was a challenge to figure out what He was trying to tell me. The same thing happened two or three times before I remembered the scripture text.

When I remembered the scripture, I looked it up. I studied it, and meditated on it several times daily. I knew that God was trying to tell me something, and I wanted desperately to understand what He meant. After a while I felt that I understood all of it except the “heal their land” portion of the scripture. I spoke with my pastor’s wife about my confusion on this matter.

She told me that everyone has “land.” I learned from her that my “land” is any and every thing that is really important to me. Some examples are: my closeness to God, my marriage, my child, my parents, my finances, and my lost loved ones. My interpersonal relationships are the most important things in my life, with my relationship with Jesus being first.

After I learned what “land” God was referring to, I was much more successful at pulling apart the scripture

and attempting to apply it to my life. 2 Chronicles 7:14 contains promises, but they are conditional promises. The first portion outlines the conditions, and the second the promises.

The Conditions:

“If my people, called by my name,”—I believe this refers to all of us who are following the plan of salvation, and are making Jesus Christ Lord of our lives.

“shall humble themselves,”—God gives honor to the meek. Jesus said that He was “meek and lowly.” (Matthew 11:29) We are to be like Him. Wasn’t it in our humility in repentance before God where we found life anew?

“Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.” (1 Cor. 10:12) “But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he sayeth, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.” (James 4:6)

“And pray,”—I pray, but am I praying enough? Maybe I need to pray more often, more earnestly and for longer periods of time. “Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.” (Matthew. 26:41) It is clear that we must pray to avoid succumbing to temptation. “Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.” (James 1:12)

“And seek my face,”—Do I spend enough time with my Lord? What would define “enough” time with God? Is there such a thing? I think not. How often am I in the Word? How often do I fast? How often do I pray? “But if from thence thou shalt seek the Lord thy God, thou shalt find him, if thou seek him with all thy heart and with all thy soul.” (Deuteronomy 4:29)

“And turn from their wicked ways,”—Jesus told the woman caught in adultery to “go, and sin no more.” (John 8:11) I had to search myself to be sure that I didn’t

**“If my people,
which are called
by my name,
shall humble themselves,
and pray,
and seek my face,
and turn
from their wicked ways,
then will I hear from
heaven,
and will forgive their sin,
and will heal
their land.”
2 Chronicles 10:14**

have repetitive sin in my life. God is merciful and gracious beyond what words can express, but there would be no excuse for my attempting to take advantage of His goodness by irresponsibly repeating the same sin. I am not suggesting that God would not forgive and help us if we were really having a problem overcoming a sin in our life. I am, however, saying that God doesn't allow us to be tempted beyond that which we can bear, and He always provides a means of escape. "There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it." (1 Corinthians. 10:13) It is our responsibility to turn from our wicked ways, to "go, and sin no more."

The Promises:

"Then will I hear from heaven"—This means that God will hear us when we pray. We all have certain things that we would like to see God do in our lives, and we repeatedly make these requests of God when we pray. If we fulfill the requirements, God will hear our prayers from heaven above. "Delight thyself also in the Lord; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart." (Psalm 37:4)

"And will forgive their sin"—This means that if we are to be forgiven for our sin, we must first humble ourselves, and pray, and seek God's face, and turn from our wicked ways. My favorite story about forgiven sins is found in Luke 7:37, 38, 48, 50. "And behold, a woman in the city, which was a sinner, when she knew that Jesus sat at meat in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster box of ointment, And stood at his feet behind him weeping, and began to wash his feet with tears, and did wipe them with the hairs of her head, and kissed his feet, and anointed them with the ointment...And he said unto her, Thy sins are forgiven...Thy faith hath saved thee, go in peace." How else can we find peace except to humbly cry out to God for His

mercy and grace? After all, He "giveth grace unto the humble." (James 4:6)

"And will heal their land."—What is most important in my life. What do I ask God to do in my life every time I pray? For whose salvation am I believing in God? In what relationships do I need healing? These things are my "land." In order for me to experience healing in my land, I must do what the Word of God says to do. Humble myself, pray, seek His face and turn from any wickedness that may be in my life.

Sometimes, I feel in my spirit that something is just not right within me. That is when I must pray as David the Psalmist did: "Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting." (Psalm 139:23-24) If I ask God to reveal our sin to me, so that I may repent and be holy before Him, He will do so. That is within His will. His Word says, "ye shall therefore be holy, for I am holy." (Leviticus 11:45)

I learned a lot from 2 Chronicles 7:14. All of my land is not yet healed, but I can see God working in some very important areas of my life. I see this scripture as going hand in hand with the first commandment. "Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind." (Matthew 22:37)

The poem on this page came to me through my study of 2 Chronicles 7:14. Applying this passage of Scripture to my life has been deeply rewarding. Ever so often, God reminds me of it, and I receive eye-opening insights into my own life and behavior. He then proceeds to prune away some things, which allows me to grow a little more. What could be more precious than our Master's hands shaping and molding us into what He wants us to be!



[Kathy McKnight writes from her home in Trenton, Tennessee.]

Trust in Me

**Didn't I pull you from your
darkness
And place you in My light?
Didn't I give you peace within
And take from you your strife?
Didn't I set you free
From chains that had you bound?
Didn't I lift you up,
Place you on higher ground?
I have the keys of death and hell,
All power is in My hands,
Everything is in My control;
Surely I can heal your land.
I know what is best for you
And all that is to be,
But, if I am to do my work,
You must put your trust in Me.**

Kathy McKnight

Understanding God's Plan of Redemption

Our Redeemer's Priestly Ministry

A hush has fallen upon the waiting assembly! It is the great Day of Atonement, known today as Yom Kippur, and Aaron, the high priest, is about to lift the veil and enter into the presence of God! All eyes are riveted upon the sanctuary and every ear is attuned to the tinkling of the bells on the hem of his tunic. Already he has cast lots between the two goats to determine which is for the Lord and which for the "scapegoat." The one is to bear, and be slain for, the sins of the people. The other, laden with the final record of those confessed and forgiven sins, once they have been removed from the sanctuary, is to be sent alive into the barren wilderness at the close of this Day. (See Leviticus 16; compare Revelation 20:1-3) The bullock—a sin offering for Aaron and his house, has been slain and its blood caught in a basin.

Entering the most holy place

Watch now as Aaron fills a golden censer with coals from the altar of burnt offerings, gathers two handfuls of incense and proceeds to the entrance of the holy place. Those assembled hardly breathe as he enters the magnificent room with its flickering lamps reflecting off its golden walls and furniture. In the stillness, one can hear his bare feet padding along on the dirt floor. As he makes his way toward the curtain at the rear of the room, all are very much aware that he is all alone. There are no curious eyes to see as he nervously elbows his way behind the glorious curtain and proceeds with great caution to a spot before the mercy seat where he sets down the censer and empties the incense from his hands onto the glowing coals. Suddenly the whole house is filled with smoke and the fragrance of the burning incense permeates the whole encampment. The people draw in their collective breath and smiles brighten their faces. They know that their high priest is now standing before God and his intercession on their behalf has been accepted.

"It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God." (Hebrews 10:31) Because "our God is a

consuming fire," (Hebrews 12:29) sin and sinners cannot exist in His presence. It is only after much soul searching, with the confession of every sin, that Aaron has been accepted as a mediator for the people.

Coming back to the courtyard, Aaron takes the basin containing the blood of the bullock and returns to the most holy place where he dips his finger in the bowl and then sprinkles the blood upon the mercy seat and seven times upon the ground before the mercy seat. In this exercise, he is making an atonement for himself and his house. This atonement being made, and the offering accepted by God, his position as mediator for the people has been established. He is now ready to proceed with the business of the Day—the cleansing of the sanctuary and sealing of the people.

A sacrifice once for all

Every sacrifice ever offered in the earthly sanctuary represented the one sacrifice of Christ on the cross of Calvary at the time of the Passover festival in the spring of the year. At that time, when Christ ascended to His Father in heaven, He did not carry with Him a basin of blood to sprinkle on the throne and before the throne or to smear on the horns of the altar of incense! This sprinkling and smearing of blood in the earthly sanctuary was a demonstration of the fact that it is only because of His sacrifice that the prayers of sinful man can be heard on high. It is only by virtue of that sacrifice that any human being will *ever* be enabled to enter the throne room of the almighty God. He bore, in His own body, the evidence of that spilled blood into heaven itself. His agony on Calvary "sprinkled" every future act of His life. It touched not only the Father's throne, but the entire universe as well.

Christ as High Priest

Some authorities claim that fifty days after His crucifixion, on the Day of Pentecost, Christ received His anointing as our High Priest. We do know that on this occasion His disciples, waiting in the upper room as He had bidden them, did receive an

anointing. (Acts 2:1-4) We know also that at the time of Aaron's anointing, his sons were also anointed. Note also that in the type, the priests were to wash at the laver before every approach to the altar or entrance into the sanctuary. This was to portray the purity and faultlessness of the Priest their work foreshadowed. In his book, *With Jesus in His Sanctuary*, Leslie Hardinge states that "during the Day of Atonement the high priest bathed himself and changed his garments five times, besides washing his hands and feet no fewer than ten times."

Space does not permit us to go into a lot of detail regarding the priesthood itself, or the symbolism depicted in the various garments the priests wore, or even the garb of the high priest on the Day of Atonement. You might want to take some time to study this out for yourself. It is enough for the purposes of this study for us to know that "we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin." (Hebrews 4:15)

A holy place work in heaven

When Christ entered heaven to begin His work as our High Priest, He did not immediately enter into the *work* of the most holy place, but that of the holy place. The holy place *work* represented a work of Christ's that was to begin while He was on this earth and would be completed after His return to heaven. This is made plain by the grandeur of the room, as well as by the fact that the work therein was carried out by the common priests and/or the high priest.

This work involved offering incense before the Father's throne, (the prayers of God's people), cleaning, trimming and providing oil for the lamps, (you and I are to be the lamps!), and providing the daily bread on the table of shewbread (guiding those who study His Word and His will into *all* truth.) This experience also included His patient waiting for His chosen bride to mature enough to accept His proffered gifts, including His proposal of marriage; waiting for the time when

she would be ready for the sealing of the engagement covenant.

While the courtyard work was a work carried out almost wholly upon this earth (note no gold and no angels of cunning work were in the typical courtyard), most of the work depicted in the sanctuary/tent itself was to be carried out in heaven. Yet those golden walls *did* reach down to an earthen floor, and those golden furnishings covered wooden frames. Only the mercy seat, with its golden cherubim, were made of solid gold! The angels embroidered over the veils and ceiling give evidence as well that this is a heavenly place. It is a place that earthlings *must* enter! Yet this can only be accomplished by faith; in spirit and in truth. (See John 4:23) The work involving the most holy place, however, is a work almost wholly accomplished in heaven. We will discuss this a bit more at a later time.

It was the holy place work, which Christ had begun on earth, that He continued as our High Priest when, upon His ascension, He began His ministry in the true tabernacle. Before He could begin this work, however, He proceeded to the very throne of His Father, bearing “incense” and “blood,” (as in the Day of Atonement type) to receive His Father’s embrace and the assurance that His sacrifice had been acceptable. Jesus entered the most holy place on

that occasion for the same reason as did Aaron; to intercede for the people and to present the evidence of His sacrifice for the sins of “His house.” That is to say, His family; you and I. (Hebrews 3:6) Since Christ knew no sin, (2 Corinthians 5:21), there was no sacrifice needed “for himself” (Leviticus 16:6) as was the case for Aaron.

Aaron’s one-day-a-year entries into that apartment were sufficient to depict both Christ’s entrance into the most holy place upon His ascension *and* a work that He was to do during the closing events of this world’s history. This work, the “Day of Atonement” judgment work, was to take place in the “fall of the year”; the time of harvest. This was also called the sealing time, when the “tares” are gathered into bundles to be burned and the “wheat” is gathered into God’s “barn.” (Matthew 13:30) The most holy place in the earthly sanctuary represented the judgment hall of God.

A way through the veils

At the time of His death when the veil leading into the most holy place of the temple in Jerusalem was torn from top to bottom by an unseen hand (Matthew 27:51), heaven thereby affirmed Christ’s words, “Behold, your house is left unto you desolate.” (Matthew 23:38) By this means, God signified that there was no longer any need for the earthly sanctuary and its types. Type had met antitype, or reality, in Jesus. The shadow cast by the various animal sacrifices had reached its “body” in the death of Christ. No longer were God’s people to focus on anything transpiring on this earth. Their focus must be lifted into the heavens, to “the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, and not man.” (Hebrews 8:2) They were to direct their worship into the holy place of the *heavenly* sanctuary where their Forerunner had entered—even into heaven itself. (Hebrews 6:20; 9:24)

Jesus has made a way through the veils! The walls and veils of the earthly sanctuary are the results of sin. Sin separates. These compartments, separated by veils, are merely shadows.

The “body” is the work being accomplished by Christ in its various stages. Even though the way has been prepared for us to one day physically stand in the presence of God, at this point in time, we still can only enter through those veils by faith. Because sin has not yet been eradicated, we still need a High Priest to act as Mediator between God and us. (1 Timothy 2:5; Hebrews 2:17; 12:24) “Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.” (John 14:6)

A Synopsis

You will recall, as brought out in the fifth segment of this series, that the work of the courtyard was a work of purification resulting in freedom from the *penalty* of sin while the work of the holy place involved spiritual growth resulting in freedom from the *power* of sin. These works are sometimes referred to as “justification” and “sanctification.” The work of the most holy place was a work of judgment resulting in a “sealing.” Those whose sins had gone before them into judgment (1 Timothy 5:24) received God’s seal of approval while those who had not afflicted their souls in confession and forsaking of their sins were “cut off” from among God’s people. (Leviticus 23:27-29) In other words, their doom was “sealed.” This was an enactment of the truth that in the antitype (the “body:” that the “shadow” pointed to), as a result of this sealing, God’s universe would forever be free from the very *presence* of sin and His people would be “glorified.” Unfortunately, the camp of Israel did not remain so beyond that Day, which is why this symbolic exercise needed to be repeated every year. When the antitype has completely fulfilled the type; when the shadow has been followed all the way to the body (the reality), sin will not rise up a second time! (Nahum 1:9) Before we conclude our study of the sanctuary, we will take a closer look at how this work is accomplished.

In our next segment we will return to the Israelite encampment and view the remainder of the events to take place on this special Day. Here we will discover some clues!

Esther McDaniel



Children: Priceless and Precious Gems

William John Henry Boetcker

In the Bible, children are viewed as gifts from God and are of inestimable value. Many in our current culture, mesmerized by comfort, pleasure and leisure, consider children a curse and an obstacle rather than a blessing. Even some Christians are looking to acquire “stuff,” or “wood, hay, and stubble” rather than “gold, silver and precious stones”! Are we enjoying our affluence instead of raising children? Are



we bent on “wood, hay and stubble” instead of “gold, silver and precious stones”? Children surely are an “heritage of the Lord” and can be very accurately described as gold, silver and precious stones from the Father of Light!

But there is another error equally grave. Too many parents today err by making their children the total focus of their lives, idolizing them and catering to their every whim. Why do we see so many divorces after 20 years of

marriage? Many find that after all those years it was only the children who kept them together! If children become the center of the marriage, when they are gone, that center collapses and the marriage crumbles.

Children are of inestimable value but other relationships like husband and wife are clearly greater still. Children are a blessing from the Lord! But the primary societal and familial relationship remains that of husband and wife. The two become one and are complete—even without children. Children do not make the married couple complete! They are an overflow, gifts of grace, not necessity.

Each child is a precious gem to the Lord and parents. Some require special care and more attention than others. Some are adopted. Each is equally precious to their parents. But—more precious is the love of the parents for each other!

Children must learn to cherish what their parents cherish! They must learn to love by seeing demonstrated before them each day of their lives, the love of dad for mom and mom for dad. They loved each other before the children were born.

In this loving relationship, i.e., dad for mom and mom for dad, is to remind them of the love of the Father for the Son, and the Son for His bride, the church. His Divine love for us as individuals became the basis of our love for our spouse. Children will learn that our love for Him must be the focus, less our love fail for each other and our children.

So the highest prized commodity is the individual believer’s relationship to Jesus the Bridegroom. Still priceless, but of much less value is the marriage of one man to one woman;



and finally, though also priceless, less so, is the relationship of parents to children.

REMEMBER: “Too many parents err by making the children the focus of their lives!!”



[William John Henry Boetcker wrote this piece in 1916]



The Way to a Happy New Year

To leave the old with a burst of song;
 To recall the right and forgive the wrong;
 To forget the things that bind you fast
 To the vain regrets of the year that's past;
 To have the strength to let go our hold
 Of the not worthwhile of the days grown old;
 To dare go forth with a purpose true,
 To the unknown task of the year that's new;
 To help your brother along the road
 To do his work and lift his load;
 To add your gift to the world's good cheer,
 Is to have and to give a Happy New Year.

Author Unknown

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 her 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

(Continued from page 1)
entreated them spitefully, and slew them. But when the king heard thereof, he was wroth: and he sent forth his armies, and destroyed those murderers, and burned up their city. Then saith he to his servants, The wedding is ready, but they which were bidden were not worthy. Go ye there-

Can't you just hear our heavenly Father's invitation, from His heart to ours? "Come to dinner!"

fore into the highways, and as many as ye shall find, bid to the marriage So those servants went out into the highways, and gathered together all as many as they found, both bad and good: and the wedding was furnished with guests."

Knowing the keenness of the disappointment that Dave and I felt when our first invited guests turned down our invitation, I read those verses with a bit deeper understanding. But our Heavenly Father's love and concern for His children are much greater than the love and concern that we are able to feel for family and friends. How His great heart of love must ache when we reject His invitation! Meditating on the parable, I couldn't help but feel a still lingering concern over the first family that had been invited and then canceled out.

A few weeks later a young lady who attended the dinner expressed her sentiments of that day. She confided that ever since her folks had passed away that she would become depressed at that particular time of the year. This year, however, her joy in the fellowship of Christian friends had left no room for depression. I silently sent up a prayer of thankfulness to our Heavenly Father for filling her heartfelt need through Dave and me that day. God knew all along the needs of those who would come to dinner!

As a new year gets under way, I want to remember Isaiah 55:8, 9: "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts." Also Romans 8:28: "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose." And lastly, Revelation 19:9: "...Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb." Can't you just hear our heavenly Father's invitation, from His heart to ours? "Come to dinner!"



[Ashleigh Morris is the pen name of the writer who prefers to remain anonymous.]

Hearth to Hearth

HC 64, Box 128B
Welch, WV 24801
U.S.A.

Address Service Requested

**Bulk Rate
U.S. Postage
PAID
Welch WV
Permit No. 35**