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From The Heart Of...

By Judy Johnson

As we met in the downstairs prayer room before service I was repeatedly impressed to share a thought that I'd shared with someone the evening before. I was struggling with speaking it because I thought it was for the people we were with the evening before. Suddenly one of the Shepherds began speaking about expectations; how we all have our own expectations of God but that God also has expectations of us. And I knew as soon as we gathered in the prayer circle I needed to share.

Something has been brewing here at Life Church. Our key scripture from our New Years Eve service was from Isaiah 43:19 (NIV) – “*See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the desert and streams in the wasteland.*” God is stirring things up, He is calling people to a closer relationship with Him, and He is calling us to make some choices. He wants to unleash His power. At our Wednesday night prayer meeting there was a call to anyone feeling defeated, discouraged, or overwhelmed to come forward and receive prayer. A spirit of Gideon was prayed over them; God was there, people were touched, lives were changed. As Pastor was praying one of the ladies said she looked up and there at the back of the sanctuary stood a bigger-than-life angel and just at that moment Pastor said, “there is an angelic presence here, right now.” She said at that moment the image grew brighter and then was gone. The book of Revelation says at least 7 times, “He who has an ear, let him hear **what the Spirit** says to the churches.” I believe God is trying desperately to get our attention, do we not perceive it? (reference to Isaiah 43)

During the day on Friday I sent an email to encourage Diane in Ghana, not knowing exactly what was going on there. That evening, Donna-Rae brought a message at our women’s monthly meeting on having a Lifestyle of Worship: What is worship? What does a lifestyle of worship mean? And how do we get there? It was a wonderful message and I know it opened up an entirely new pathway of understanding to many of us (a revelation of what worship should be). E-mail me if you want the notes: jjwrite@sbcglobal.net). Saturday I got an e-mail response from Ghana, powerful...
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Craft Corner

By Karen Cobleigh

Hello “Kum By YA” Crafters... We just had fellowship today and again it was special. Thanks to Anita Williams, Marie Swartzentruber, for the wonderful Scrap booking ideas and a special thanks to Joanne Firla, Donna-Rae DuBois, and Jana Henry for putting flower pens and baskets together. Thank you Paula Morse for dropping by and showing your needlework...We all had a wonderful time of fellowship. Myself, I enjoyed doing the flowers for the Church alter and watching Tyrese sleep like an angel...God is good. Yes, we have a new name for craft day members—“Kum By Ya” just fits for what we are about. The Holy Spirit meets us where we are at... We encourage each other and pray together and cry together and most of all LAUGH TOGETHER... Yes, we sing sometimes together too. HA!HA!
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**Prayer
for the
Pastor**

The Pastor's Persevering Life

“Stand ...pray at all times in the spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert with all perseverance...”
Ephesians 6:18

Honor: them with lasting fruit: Malachi 3:11 and John 15:16

Confess: steadfastness over them: I Corinthians 15:38; bold vision: Isaiah 41:10; rest: Hebrews 4 and Matthew 11:28

Give: thanks for their call and gifts: Colossians 1:3-5

Secure: them in courage: Joshua 1

A Mini Bible Study

By Judy Johnson

Both Mark and Luke tell about a little lady that I want to talk about today. Mark 12:41-44, “And Jesus sat over against the treasury, and beheld how the people cast money into the treasury: and many that were rich cast in much.” **This was a big deal – putting money in – people wanted to be noticed, it was almost a social event for some. Yet with all the rich and important people that were there Jesus zeroed in on one person.** Mark 12:42 says, “And there came a **certain poor widow**, and she threw in two mites, which make a farthing.” (which is ¼ of a penny) Doesn’t buy much, does it? “A **certain poor widow**”, poor – from the world’s standpoint – she had little if any possessions or money, a widow – she had no means of support – totally dependent on others. **He SAW her, in the midst of all the others, Jesus saw HER.** Mark 12 goes on to say, “And he called unto him his disciples, and saith unto them, Verily I say unto you, That this poor widow hath cast more in, than all they which have cast into the treasury: For all they did cast in of their abundance; but she of her want did cast in all that she had, even all her living.” (**her very existence – she gave**) **He knew who she was – she was poor and a widow – and He knew and He understood her incredible sacrifice.** Now why would Jesus care about such a small thing? It was just a ¼ of a penny – a VERY small amount, useless. Sometimes maybe we feel that our involvement, that our prayers that our acts of kindness, that our sacrifices are useless – too small to make a difference. But Jesus was seeing beyond the ¼ penny – Jesus saw a woman - a woman who was poor – yet she gave. Jesus saw this precious ladies heart – she was a widow – which means she had no means of support. No nurses and aids to help her with daily needs. There was nothing but the kindness of others. That’s all she had to depend on – all she had to count on. **BUT this sweet little widow woman knew something; she knew about Psalms 91.** She knew about God’s promises for those that Love Him. Psalms 91:1 “He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.” (**Staying close to God means we’re protected – when you’re in the shadow of something you’re usually very close**) Psalms 91:2 “I will say of the LORD, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust.” (**This little widow woman wasn’t putting her trust in anyone else, but giving herself to Jesus, completely without fear because she knew about His promises**)

Psalms 91:4 “He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou **trust**: his **truth** shall be thy shield and buckler.” (**He was her Protection, Her provider and she knew it**) Psalms 91:5 “Thou shalt not be afraid for the terror by night;” **Why?** Psalms 91:9 “Because thou hast made the LORD, thy habitation;” (**She had made Jesus an important part of her life**) It goes on to say-Psalms 91:11 “For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways.” Psalms 91:12 “They shall bear thee up in their hands...” (**Now some of you may need to be lifted and carried by nurses and aids – so you know how much trust that requires – well this says that Gods angels shall bear thee up in their hands – THAT’S AWESOME PROTECTION – THAT’S THE VERY BEST OF CARE!**) Psalms 91 goes on to say, “Because he hath set his love upon me, therefore will I deliver him.” (**Jesus wants our hearts, He wants our Love – and when we give him our hearts and our love – He promises to protect us and watch over us**) Do you love Jesus? That’s what this verse is saying – the protection, the deliverance is ours when we give Him our hearts. Then it says ...”because he hath known my name.” (**It’s amazing how quickly we get help when we use someone’s name instead of just saying “Hey you”**) Psalms 91:15 “He shall call upon me, and I will answer him: I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him, and honour him. With long life will I satisfy him, and show him my salvation.” **This is what the CERTAIN Poor Widow knew - Such a beautiful psalm of promise – It assures that if we know Jesus – if we know Him as our precious Lord and Savior that NOTHING can separate us from Him, that ANYTIME we call upon Him we will KNOW that He hears us, We have that assurance.** Yes, she was poor as the world measured riches, and yes she was alone, she was a widow. BUT – this **CERTAIN** –poor widow was **SEEN** by Jesus – He knew exactly where she was and exactly what her situation was. So she wasn’t poor at all and she certainly wasn’t alone. She was **RICH** in faith and trust. She knew that she would have every need provided for because she put her trust in HIM and she knew about His promises. She was never alone, because He said in His word, in Matthew 28:20 “...lo, I am with you always.” So are you trusting in Jesus today? Are you abiding in the Shadow of the Almighty? He’s waiting to hear you call upon His name, and He will take you in as His very own, – protect you and care for you.

From The Heart Of... Continued from page 1

...confirmation, she did not have knowledge of what was spoken Friday night, but her word back to me was that God is looking for True worshippers.

Pastor Royal is beginning a Series on the Holy Spirit; Who He is, what He wants, what He needs us to do to allow His power to be unleashed... So, we're in the prayer circle Sunday morning and I know I must speak so I shared what God had impressed upon me to say; we each have a choice we must make. Immediately around the circle confirmations came; first from Karen, then from Suzanne, then Kathy, then D-Rae. Each of us had a piece of what God wanted us to understand; when all the pieces were fit together the understanding was there. God wants us to be in awe of Him, He wants us to follow after Him, and He wants to be both Lord AND Savior in our lives. It's not about us, our agenda, our plans, or convenience; it's about Him. He desires our hearts to become a place of habitation for Him not just a

place of visitation. It's about the choices we make everyday, it's about how we see God. In the preface to A.W. Tozers' book *The Knowledge of the Holy*, he says, "With our loss of the sense of majesty has come the further loss of religious awe and consciousness of the divine Presence. We have lost our spirit of worship. . ." I encourage you to read the Devotional, *Visitation vs. Habitation* contained in this newsletter and dig into the scripture references given.

As I mentioned earlier, there's a move afoot, don't miss it, don't wait. Like a surfer, you need to catch the wave, it takes knowledge, it takes perseverance, it takes time, it takes some solitude and it requires stepping out by faith.

Be blessed,
Judy

"Be still, and know that I am God: I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth."
Psalms 46:10



Devotional

By Judy Johnson

Visitation vs. Habitation

The Word that came to Life Church in late February 2009 was that God wants us to make a choice between inviting Him for a visit OR inviting Him for habitation. It's your choice; but the choice you make will have far reaching consequences. What's the difference between these two invitations? Both are fairly easy to define, but both also have some deeper meaning to them. Visitation - The act of visiting; to go or come to see. The implication is that it's temporary. Habitation - The act of inhabiting; state of dwelling; a place of living; a settled dwelling; permanent. The temporary nature of the visit

implies that it has limits; convenience and availability are both considerations, while the other involves long-term commitment, expectations and a sense of belonging. For the visitor there are limitations of freedom and liberty; a visitor wouldn't arrive and begin painting and redecorating the room you provide for them. Most visitors "make do" with what the host provides. While a person setting up a permanent residence would probably desire to make some changes; maybe paint the room, change the drapes, and move their own "stuff" in. I liken it to our guest room. We have a comfortable bed with blankets and pillows, a small table and chair,...

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Crafters Continued from page 1

Pastor Al saw us in action. "Kum By Ya" is for all... Men have come and are welcome and women can bring children also and work on projects together... All Ages... The whole family. So mark your calendar for a fun time with the "Kum By Ya" Crafters. I look forward to seeing you all there. Any craft will do. If you have any questions, please contact Fran Berman (860) 688-9564 or Karen Cobleigh (860) 408-1288 Until Next Time! Bless you all in Jesus name. Amen. SIGN UP NOW FOR A CLASS IN JEWELRY MAKING IN AUGUST. If interested contact Karen Cobleigh.

Devotional Continued from page 3

a dresser with a mirror and a coat tree. The room has a closet and a chest of drawers but those are not for visitors because visitors are “temporary” by nature and don’t generally unpack their suitcases. We accept them, invite them, make arrangements for them with the understanding that our lifestyle may need to be modified for the duration of their visit, but it’s only temporary, we can get “back to normal” when the visit is over. No need to move our “stuff” out of the room; no need to empty the drawers or the closet, or clean out the boxes from under the bed. They’re only here for a visit. Very different than if someone is “moving in”, planning to take up residence, live (dwell) with you. So the question is, what invitation have you extended to God? Have you invited Him for a visit or for habitation? There’s a wonderful little book entitled, *My Heart Christ’s Home*, by R.B. Munger. It’s an allegory that uses the rooms of a house to represent the things in our lives that limit God’s ability to completely inhabit us. Remember, God never forces us to follow after Him, to surrender our lives to Him, to open our hearts to Him. He has given us free will to choose. It’s our choice, the bible tells us we are saved by grace through faith, it’s a gift; we simply need to receive it. (Ephesians 2:8-10). And what about the expectations? Both parties have them when there is a long-term commitment. We have our expectations of God but did you know that God has some expectations too? 1 Corinthians 3:16 says, “Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?” Jeremiah 24:7 says, “And I will give them a heart to know me, that I am the LORD: and they shall be my people, and I will be their God: for they shall return unto me with their whole heart.” 2 Corinthians 4:6 says, “For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.” 1 John 3:7, 24 says, “Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous. And he that keepeth his commandments dwelleth in him, and he in him. And hereby we know that he abideth in us, by the Spirit which he hath given us.” Sounds to me like God is looking for habitation, not visitation. Have you ever thought of the implications of the choices we make, when we choose visitation instead of habitation? Here are a few examples to ponder. Ruth vs. Orpah; they had both witnessed the



same thing, they both came from the same religious background, they were both young widows, they were both given the same choice. Ruth chose to go on with God, Orpah couldn’t leave the familiar behind. Orpah is never heard of again, Ruth was used mightily by God. Her journey wasn’t easy but she was steadfast, obedient, had a teachable spirit and was willing to be lead. She left everything behind and allowed God to give her everything new, according to His plan for her life.

Moses was raised in the house of Pharaoh, he had access to everything money could buy, education, possessions, prestige; but God had a purpose and a plan for Moses. He couldn’t stay in Pharaoh’s house with all that it entailed, he needed to leave it all behind and go into a desert place. Much like Ruth; it wasn’t easy but God used Moses in a mighty way. God provided everything Moses needed and all Moses was required to do was be obedient, faithful, and follow God’s leading. Daniel was taken

from everything familiar. He was taken to a place of pagan worship and was encouraged to enter into their lifestyle. But Daniel had already made a place of habitation for His God and there wasn’t room for another God to move in. Daniel stood fast, kept that place consecrated, kept himself sanctified and God protected him and used him. Esther’s situation was much like Daniel at first. She was taken from everything familiar to an ungodly place with many temptations presented to her. But Esther also had established a place of habitation for her God. She kept that place pure and holy for Him. She recognized that the God she served was THE GOD and no matter what was dangled in her path she stayed true to God. There was no room in her heart to entertain a visit from another god; her heart was already fully occupied. These are just a few examples; there are many more, many people who made a choice between visitation and habitation. God’s Word is very clear as to His desire. Has He just come for a visit or are you allowing Him total liberty to take up permanent and complete residence? The choice is yours.

“Because thou hast made the LORD, which is my refuge, even the most High, thy habitation; there shall no evil befall thee, neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling.”

Psalms 91:9-10

The Blood

Anonymous

One night in a church service a young woman felt the tug of God at her heart. She responded to God's call and accepted Jesus as her Lord and Savior. The young woman had a very rough past, involving alcohol, drugs, and prostitution. But, the change in her was evident. As time went on she became a faithful member of the church. She eventually became involved in the ministry, teaching young children. It was not very long until this faithful young woman had caught the eye and heart of the pastor's son.

The relationship grew and they began to make wedding plans. This is when the problems began. You see, about one half of the church did not think that a woman with a past such as hers was suitable for a pastor's son. The church began to argue and fight about the matter. So they decided to have a meeting.

As the people made their arguments and tensions increased, the meeting was getting completely out of hand. The young woman became very upset about all the things being brought up about her past. As she began to cry the pastor's son stood to speak. He could not bear the pain it was causing his wife to be.

He began to speak and his statement was this: 'My fiancé's past is not what is on trial here. What you are questioning is the ability of the blood of Jesus to wash away sin. Today you have put the blood of Jesus on trial. So, does it wash away sin or not?' The whole church began to weep as they realized that they had been slandering the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Too often, even as Christians, we bring up the past and use it as a weapon against our brothers and sisters. Forgiveness is a very foundational part of the Gospel of our Lord

Jesus Christ. If the blood of Jesus does not cleanse the other person completely then it can't cleanse us completely. If that is the case, then we are all in a lot of trouble.

What can wash away my sins? Nothing but the blood of Jesus!

'Cast thy burden upon the Lord, and he shall sustain thee he shall

never suffer the righteous to be moved.'

Psalm 55:23

Recipe Corner

By Jean Redekas

Fruit Salad

1 Large Can Crushed Pineapple (juice drained into a bowl)

1 Can Mandarin Oranges (juice drained into a bowl)

Cook juice from bowl, 3/4 C sugar, 2 Tablespoons flour, pinch salt and 2 beaten eggs until thickened. Set aside. Cook 3/4 C Tubetini pasta (very small size pasta-looks similar to tube beads) in 1 1/2 C water, rinse, add to thickened juice. Chill overnight. Next day, add fruit and 4 oz. Cool Whip. Enjoy!

Salvation Message

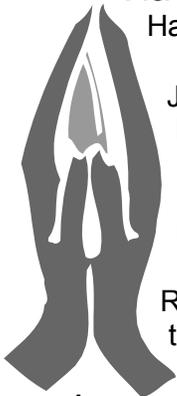
Have you come to the end of your rope and don't have anything left to hang on to?

Hang on to Jesus. He will never let you down.

John 3:16—18 "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God."

Romans 10:9 "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved."

Accept Jesus into your heart right now. You will never regret it. It is very simple to do. Just say this prayer: "Father, in the name of Jesus, I repent of all my sins (be specific) and I ask you to forgive me of all my sins. I ask you, Jesus, into my heart right now. You said that if I believe in my heart and confess you as my Lord I would not perish but have eternal life. I believe that and I thank you Jesus for setting me free. I give my life to you Jesus, and I say that not only are you my Savior but now you are my Lord. Thank you for loving me. Amen"



Book Review

By Donna Rae Dubois



Hope Rising

By Kim Meeder

Kim Meeder is the founder and operator of the nonprofit Crystal Peaks Youth Ranch that rescues abused horses and pairs them with disadvantage children who are given a chance to care for them.

She has seen horses go where no one else could tread, stepping through the minefield of a broken child's soul in a dance of trust that only God can understand. Kim's ranch is a place where miracles happen over and over again. It is a place where the impossible flourishes, where dreams survive the inferno of reality - a place where hope rises.

You may need an entire box of tissues handy for this collection of real-life stories of incidents at the ranch: two tough-as-nails boys minister lovingly to a horse that has, like them, suffered terrible neglect; in an answer to prayer, strangers donate hundreds of dollars so an impoverished girl can have a pony for Christmas. The stories are emotional and intense, though some are comical; they aren't all about happy endings. Kim laces the stories with her testimony of God's faithfulness and provision. You may recoil from the descriptions of the devastating neglect of horses and children, and cheer when it seems their interactions provide healing for both, but regardless of how it turns out, you will be encouraged to follow after God.

After reading this book I was geared up to pack up and volunteer at the ranch for a summer! Or at least inspired to take action right where I am!



Notice to all members of Life Church: We are collecting large sized vases for handing out flowers after service. If you have any hanging around that you don't want or if you see some at a Tag Sale that you would like to donate, please contact Karen Cobleigh.

Upcoming Events

- **Women of Faith Bible Study** at Life Church* -1st & 3rd Fridays, 9:30 a.m.
 - **Women's Monthly Meeting** at Life Church* -4th Friday, 7:00 p.m.
 - **Easter Egg Coloring**—Friday, April 10th, 7:00pm (meet in Fellowship Hall)
 - **Easter Egg Hunt**—April 11th, 2:00 pm
 - **Easter Sunday**—April 12th, 10:00 am
 - **Arts & Craft Fellowship** —4th Saturday of the month, 10:00 -4:00 pm Bring your own craft & a bag lunch. All are welcome.
 - **Spring Clean-up**—May 2nd, 10:00 am
 - **Friends & Family Day**—Sunday, May 3rd, after church service
 - **Mother's Day**—Sunday, May 10th
- * = call or e-mail Judy for details 860-482-8651 or jjwrite@sbcglobal.net

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Cablevision of Litchfield – Channel 5

Serving: Bantam, Cornwall, Goshen, Litchfield, Morris, Northfield, Oakville, Thomaston, Torrington, Warren & Watertown

He's Been Faithful Song Submitted by Dorletha Clyde**He's Been Faithful**Author Carol Cymbala

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Chorus 1

He's been faithful, faithful to me
 Looking back His love and mercy I see
 Though in my heart I have questioned
 Even failed to believe
 Yet He's been faithful, faithful to me

Verse 1

In my moments of fear
 Through ev'ry pain ev'ry tear
 There's a God who's been faithful to me
 When my strength was all gone
 When my heart had no song
 Still in love He's proved faithful to me
 Ev'ry word He's promised is true
 What I thought was impossible
 I see my God do

Verse 2

When my heart looked away
 The many times I could not pray
 Still my God He was faithful to me
 The days I spent so selfishly
 Reaching out for what pleased me
 Even then God was faithful to me
 Ev'ry time I come back to Him
 He is waiting with open arms
 And I see once again

Psalm 46:1 ... "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble."

Hebrews 4:16 "Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain

Asking For Help!! Poem Written by Chinah Ludwig

Dear God, do you hear me when I ask for your help? When I'm crying, when I'm sighing, even when I'm sleeping? When I hear the song *Word of God Speak's* I think of you and people crying out asking for your help! So I'm asking Lord, will you help me, take me in your holiness... I'm admitting to myself I need your help. When I lay in my bed at night I want to ask for your forgiveness but God to be honest I was mad at you for a while. I mean my dad is gone, my mother is an alcoholic and my brother's and sister are far away from me. But then I realized it's not your fault. Then I met this woman, she came into my life she brought me closer to you and she taught me it's not your fault Lord. So this is why I'm asking Lord, help me find you, help me realize who you really are. Asking for help doesn't kill, or does it? No, I realized that it doesn't. It actually helps you, makes you stronger or even happier, or hey, maybe even a lover... You know that song *All I Need is You...?* Well, I really think of the words, all I need is you Lord... All I need is you Lord... These lyric's in the music is really what I'm trying to strive for... This is why I'm asking for your help Lord; all I need is you... When I have a fear in my life I just want you to have me drop to my knees and cry out to you Lord asking for your help and forgiveness. I can't do this alone Lord. Help me. I'm asking for your help Lord... All I need is You... is you Lord... I just want to turn to you when I have no one else. I need you Lord... No one else, just you, I want help. I'm asking Lord, give me one more chance Lord!! You're the only one I don't have to prove any thing to. Your the only one Lord... I'm trying, I really am... Asking for your help is a beautiful thing, its amazingly wonderful... I want to be that kind of person where if I'm having a bad day I can just turn to you and say Lord, All I need is you; no one or nothing can take this from me Lord. Please show me your light, your beautiful path, your wonderful way's, everything of you. I just want to seek you Lord Jesus... Everything happens for a reason and seeking you is everything to me Lord... I'm not letting fear come in me any more Lord, I'm asking for your help, your forgiveness and when I have that it's going to be All about you Lord.. Like the lyric's say *All I need is you...* That's what I'm saying; All I need is you Lord. You're all I need. Well Lord, I'm just asking for your forgiveness and help...





If you have any comments, questions, or additions to this newsletter, contact the Editor.

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Photographer's Corner



Photograph by Jean Redekas

“Whatsoever the LORD pleased, that did He in heaven, and in earth, in the seas, and all deep places.” Psalm 135:6

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