

IN THE NAME OF
THE FATHER, THE
SON, AND THE
HOLY GHOST

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Love And Compassion Ministries News Letter

Volume 3, Issue 3

March 1, 2008 In The Year of Our LORD

Celebrate Easter with someone you love.

The Easter season started on February sixth this year, on Ash Wednesday. Forty-six days from there the Lent season ends with Easter Sunday on March 23, 2008. The Lenten season itself comprises of forty days, as the six Sundays in Lent are not actually a part of Lent. Sundays are considered a commemoration of Easter Sunday and have always been excluded from the Lenten fast. The Lenten season is a period of penitence in preparation for the highest festival of the church year, Easter.

The last week of Lent, called Holy Week, begins with the observance of Palm Sunday. Palm Sunday takes its name from Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem where the crowds laid palms at his feet. Holy Thursday commemorates the Last Supper, which was held the evening before the Crucifixion. Good Friday in Holy Week is the anniversary of the Crucifixion, the day that Christ was crucified and died on the cross. Holy week and the Lenten season ends with Easter Sunday, the day of resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Because God loved you and me, He sent His Son "Christ" to die for our sins so that we may have eternal life. Death could not hold him, He was raised for the grave on the third day (Easter). Because He lives, we are promised that we will live again also. Our faith will be rewarded. Read for yourself how you may receive salvation. John 3:16 - John 17:3 - Romans 3:23 - Romans 6:23 - Romans 5:8 - I Corinthians 15:3-6 - John 14:6 - John 1:12 - Ephesians 2:8-9 and John 3:1-8.

Easter makes life worth living, because we have confidence and hope for the future. Put your faith in the living Christ, to be your personal Savior and your Leader from this day on, for Jesus still lives!

2/17/08

My Personal Rights?

Before I gave my heart to the Lord, I thought that I was in control of my decision making and how people were to treat me, I thought it was my right to go to work when I felt like it, I thought it was my right to take the monies that I worked for and spend them any way that I saw fit.

I thought that it was my right to come home whenever I decided to. It didn't matter that I had a wife and children that needed shelter, food, a husband, or even a dad, it was all about me.

I didn't understand that being a man had nothing to do with how old I was or how much money I could make, or how many personal rights I could claim and hold on too.

I have learned and I'm still learning, that when you allow Jesus to be Lord of your life and give all your personal rights to God, you are on your way to spiritual healing. Because then, your rights are no longer yours, they belong to God. But that's only if you have truly given them over to Him. You will no longer need to make decisions for yourself. After you have made that heart felt decision, God will put you in situations where you will be tested on who owns those rights, because you see, the rights are no longer yours, they now belong to God.

And then, and only then, when He can trust you, He will give them back to you, but then they will not be called rights, they will be called privileges. This also means that the enemy will test you on every turn.

Life will only get better when you have received in your heart, that God will do what He promised if we faint not in our times of trial. We must learn to trust Him for our every need and desire, and stand on His Word.

So now, the only rights that I have are none, and in the days to come I will be given some new rights, but they will be called privileges instead of rights, these will be my **GOD GIVEN RIGHTS!!**

Henry Brown

The Wall

Their wedding mocked them from the table these two whose minds no longer touched each other!

They lived with such a heavy barricade between them that neither battering ram of words, nor
artilleries, or touch could break it down!

Somewhere between the oldest child's first tooth and the youngest graduation they lost each other.

Throughout the years each slowly unraveled that tangled ball of string called self and as they tugged at
stubborn knots each hid his searching from the other.

Sometimes he cried at night and begged the whispering darkness to tell him who he was. He lay beside
her asking GOD to give him strength to get through another night.

Once after they had made love, he wanted to tell her how afraid he was of dying, but fearful to show
his weakness he spoke instead of her beauty.

She took a course on modern art trying to find herself in colors splashed upon a canvas complaining to
other women about men who are insensitive.

He climbed into a tomb called the office, wrapped his mind in a shroud of paper, figures, and buried
himself in customers.

Slowly the wall between them rose, cemented by the mortar of indifference.

One day reaching out to touch each other, they found a barrier they could not penetrate and recoiling
from the coldness of stone, each retreated from the stranger on the other side.

For when love dies it is not in a moment of angry, not when fiery bodies lose their heat.

It lies panting, exhausted, expiring at the bottom of a wall it could not scale.

Accept Yourself as God Made You

A person's attitude toward himself has a profound influence on
his attitudes toward God, his family, his friends, his future, and
many other significant areas of his life.

Form good attitudes about yourself!
Respond correctly to defficulties!

The Struggle of **Pride** and Complete Repentance

Pride assures us that we are not so bad.

Pride will agree to assistance but not to surrender.

Pride can be very respectable and moral

Pride will struggle to do better.

Pride does not understand why God calls us sinners.

Pride will not give God His rightful place.

Pride allows life to revolve around ourselves.

Pride keeps self on the throne.

Pride leads to a reprobate mind.

Pride enslaves us in the sin Christ came to free us from.

Repenting of Pride

Submit yourself to God.

Resist the devil.

Draw near to God.

Cleanse your hands of sin.

Purify your heart of double-mindedness.

One of the hardest deaths to die is the death to pride!

**Love And Compassion Ministries is a ministry of hope because
Jesus Christ is in everything we do!**

Please help us keep hope alive!

GIVE!

Your gift is tax deductible.

Love And Compassion Ministries

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Thank You!

DO YOU BELIEVE IN EASTER?

Edith Burns was a wonderful Christian who lived in San Antonio, Texas. She was the patient of a doctor by the name of Will Phillips. Dr. Phillips was a gentle doctor who saw patients as people. His favorite patient was Edith Burns. One morning he went to his office with a heavy heart and it was because of Edith Burns. When he walked into that waiting room, there sat Edith with her big black Bible in her lap earnestly talking to a young mother sitting beside her. Edith Burns had a habit of introducing herself in this way:

“Hello, my name is Edith Burns. Do you believe in Easter?” Then she would explain the meaning of Easter, and many times people would be saved.

Dr. Phillips walked into the office and there he saw the head nurse, Beverly. Beverly had first met Edith when she was taking her blood pressure. Edith began by saying, “My name is Edith Burns. Do you believe in Easter?” Beverly said, “Why yes I do.” Edith said, “Well, what do you believe about Easter?” Beverly said, “Well, it’s all about egg hunts, going to church, and dressing up.” Edith kept pressing her about the real meaning of Easter, and finally led her to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ.

After being called back in the doctor’s office, Edith sat down and when she took a look at the doctor she said, “Dr. Will, why are you so sad? Are you reading your Bible? Are you praying?” Dr. Phillips with a heavy heart said, “Your lab report came back and it says you have cancer, and Edith, you’re not going to live very long.”

Edith said, “Why Will Phillips, shame on you. Why are you so sad? Do you think God makes mistakes? You have just told me I’m going to see my precious Lord Jesus, my husband, and my friends. You have just told me that I am going to celebrate Easter forever, and here you are having difficulty giving me my ticket.”

Dr. Phillips thought to himself, “What a magnificent woman this Edith Burns is!”

Edith continued coming to Dr. Phillips. Christmas came and the office was closed through January 3rd. On the day the office opened, Edith did not show up. Later that afternoon, Edith called Dr. Phillips and said she would have to be moving her story to the hospital and said, “Will, I’m very near home, so would you make sure that they put women in here next to me, in my room, who need to know about Easter.” Well, they did just that and women began to come in and share that room with Edith. Many women were saved. Everybody on that floor from staff to patients were so excited about Edith, that they started calling her *Edith Easter*, that is everyone except Phyllis Cross, the head nurse.

Phyllis made it plain that she wanted nothing to do with Edith because she was a “religious nut.” She had been a nurse in an army hospital. She had seen it all and heard it all. She was the original G.I. Jane. She had been married three times, she was hard, cold, and did everything by the book. One morning the two nurses who were to attend to Edith were sick.

Edith had the flu and Phyllis Cross had to go in and give her a shot. When she walked in, Edith had a big smile on her face and said, “Phyllis, God loves you and I love you, and I have been praying for you.” Phyllis Cross said, “Well, you can quit praying for me, it won’t work. I’m not interested.”

Edith said, “Well, I will pray and I have asked God not to let me go home until you come into the family.” Phyllis Cross said, “Then you will never die because that will never happen,” and curtly walked out of the room.

(Continued from page 5)

Every day Phyllis Cross would walk into the room and Edith would say, "God loves you Phyllis and I love you, and I'm praying for you." One day Phyllis Cross said she was literally drawn to Edith's room like a magnet would draw iron. She sat down on the bed and Edith said, "I'm so glad you have come, because God told me that today is your special day." Phyllis Cross said, "Edith, you have asked everybody here the question, "Do you believe in Easter, but you have never asked me." Edith said, "Phyllis, I wanted too many times, but God told me to wait until you asked, and now that you have asked..." Edith Burns took her Bible and shared with Phyllis Cross the Easter Story of the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Edith said, "Phyllis, do you believe in Easter? Do you believe that Jesus Christ is alive and that He wants to live in your heart?" Phyllis Cross said, "Oh, I want to believe that with all of my heart, and. I do want Jesus in my life." Right there, Phyllis Cross prayed and invited Jesus Christ into her heart. For the first time Phyllis Cross did not walk out of a hospital room, she was carried out on the wings of angels. Two days later, Phyllis Cross came in and Edith said, "Do you know what day it is?" Phyllis Cross said, "Why Edith, its Good Friday." Edith said, "Oh, no, for you every day is Easter. Happy Easter Phyllis!"

Two days later, on Easter Sunday, Phyllis Cross came into work, did some of her duties and then went down to the flower shop and got some Easter lilies because she wanted to go up to see Edith and give her some Easter lilies and wish her a Happy Easter. When she walked into Edith's room, Edith was in bed. That big black Bible was on her lap. Her hands were in that Bible. There was a sweet smile on her face. When Phyllis Cross went to pick up Edith's hand, she realized Edith was dead.

Her left hand was on John 14: "In my Fathers house are many mansions. I go to prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, there you may be also." Her right hand was on Revelation 21:4, "And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes, there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying; and there shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away."

Phyllis Cross took one look at that dead body, and then lifted her face toward heaven, and with tears streaming down her cheeks, said, "Happy Easter, Edith -Happy Easter!" Phyllis Cross left Edith's body, walked out of the room, and over to a table where two student nurses were sitting.

She said, "My name is Phyllis Cross. **Do you believe in Easter?**"

March 23, 2008



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Love And Compassion Ministries

Dear Friends of Love and Compassion Ministries,

It is my pleasure to be writing this column this month. My first few months with the ministry have been jam-packed with work and meeting many of you. I've gotten to know the board, and have seen many of our clients. We have seen some great successes already, and even found new sources of donated funds (By the way, have you made a donation lately?).

Among our successes are two people placed in jobs, and three in drug and alcohol programs. One couple who is communicating again after several years of enmity, and much giving of basic supplies, including work boots, a computer, and things such as basic toiletries, and household goods. These keep us in touch with the clients, and help us to gain their trust. This in turn helps us to eventually reach them with the Good news of Jesus Christ, and His Gospel.

I have been busily pursuing a certificate from AACC, the American Association of Christian Counselors, in basic counseling procedures, and will begin, back in seminary, in April going after a Master of Arts degree in Christian Counseling. This 18 month program will compliment the gifts God has given me in counseling.

As my ministry develops, I am struck with the number of times, while counseling that the scripture of Galatians 5:16-26 comes to mind. In this passage we hear about the acts of the sinful nature, and the fruit of the Spirit. So many of our clients come in with characteristics listed in acts of the sinful nature, such as;

- discord in families,
- drunkenness,
- rage,
- jealousy, and
- all manor of selfish ambitions

It is such a joy to watch their old ways turn to fruit of the spirit as their hearts soften, and Jesus starts to work in them. When that happens, we see the whole list begin to grow. If you need a refresher, I've listed the following:

- | | | |
|---------|------------|--------------------|
| • love | • patience | • faithfulness |
| • joy | • kindness | • gentleness |
| • Peace | • goodness | • and self control |

This might be a good time for a check up. Which characteristics do you exhibit? And how many of the fruit of the Spirit do you experience daily? Remember, they are gifts given freely by our heavenly Father, we cannot discipline ourselves to them, nor can we create them in ourselves.

Your homework is to read these verses and examine yourselves in light of the two lists. Then if you wish, call us. We'll pray with you right over the phone. Or, if you like, schedule an appointment to come in to talk. We'll keep the light on, and the coffee warm.

May all of God's blessings be yours,

Pastor Steve Smith

Pastor Steve Smith

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We're on the Web!
www.LoveCompassion.com

If you would like to be a part of our exciting prayer team, please send us your e-mail address and we will send you updates of people who need our prayers. *The LORD is near to all who call upon HIM, to all who call upon HIM in truth.* Psalm 145:18 NKJ

It is a great privilege that we have, as sons and daughters of the KING, to be able to come into HIS presence with our needs, our hurts, and our cares. We know that we can leave them at HIS feet because HE cares for us and will always answer us in our time of need.

Prayer requests are very important to us! We always need people who are caring and willing to personally pray for others needs. As we pray for their physical, moral, and spiritual needs, we must understand that because of JESUS CHRIST'S love for all of us, we are able to do this. CHRIST is the answer to every human's needs.

As members of the Body of CHRIST, we have the privilege and responsibility to pray for our Churches, our missionaries, public officials, other ministries, and each other.

It is so exciting to see prayers being answered. May we always give CHRIST the Glory!