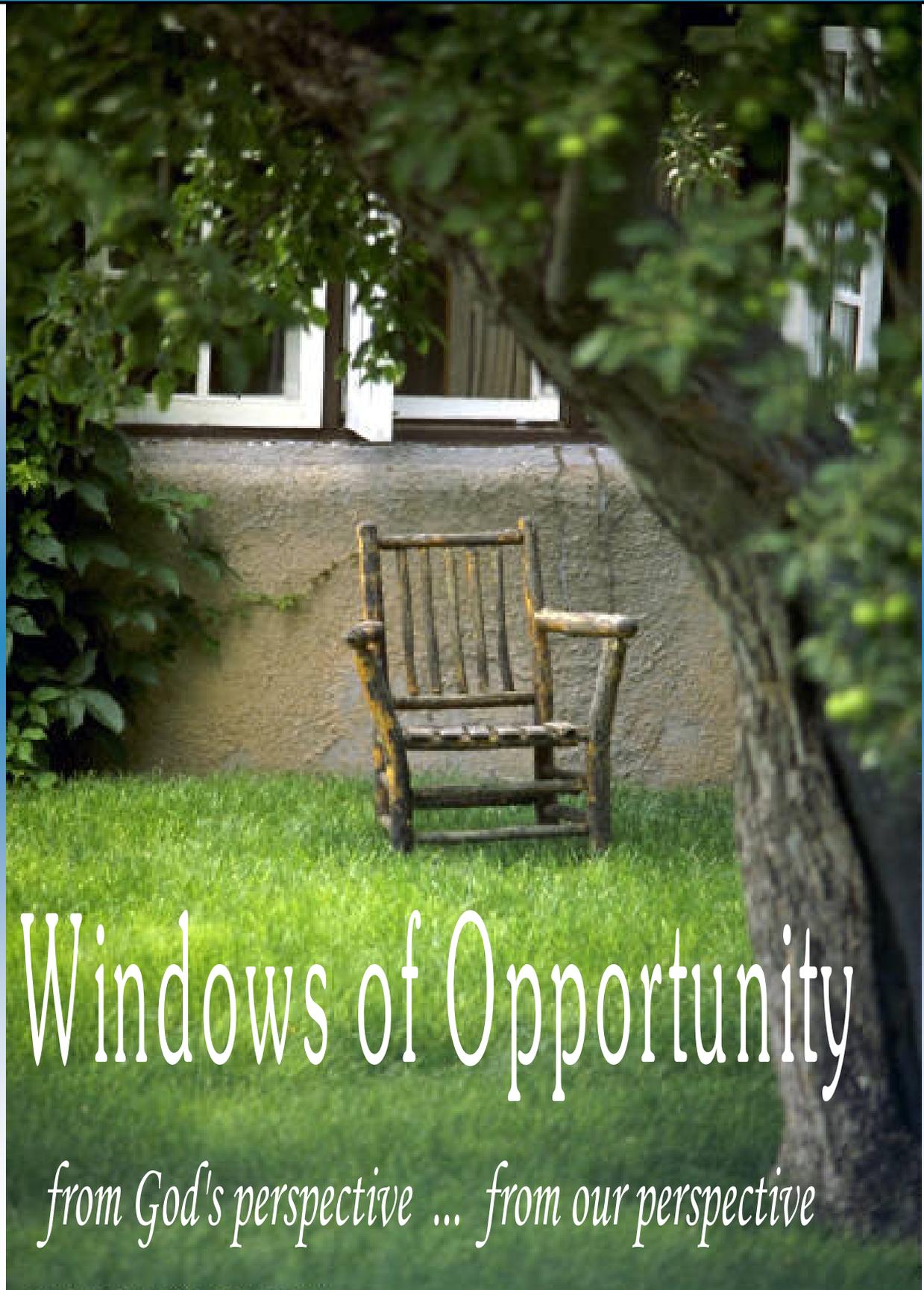


*The Heart of a Woman Inc.*

FEBRUARY 2005



# Windows of Opportunity

*from God's perspective ... from our perspective*

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## From the Editor's Desk:

### Windows of Opportunity

...from God's perspective. How He continues to reach out to us! Within this issue hopefully you will discover this truth and be able to see the choices that others have made down through the years.

...from our perspective. We hope you enjoy the pieces written about well-known Bible characters and their choices—good or bad: whilst still others are known for their faithfulness or rebellion. There are poems to help us relate to the choices they made and the ones we too need to make in our lives.

Once again there are testimonies and stories to bless your hearts. We always look forward to "Moments with Melissa" and now quizzes to do. We welcome two new writers. Mrs. Jane Cruickshank, Jane is an acknowledged and much loved teacher and speaker in Queensland, whilst Mrs. Margret Lepke, our new "Natural Health Editor" is highly trained and widely respected teacher and Naturopath from New South Wales.

May God continue to bless you as your read,  
*Wendy Davie (Editor-In-Chief)*

No one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal Him.

Matthew 11:27

*"Pick me! Pick me!*

*As the hands go up*

*Eager to share what they know.*

*If you'd only say the same*

*To the Lord,*

*Instead of "I dunno".*

*For our world is a classroom,*

*We're all at our desks,*

*And God's asking the question*

*Of us.*

*"Behold I stand at the door,*

*Won't you let me come in?*

*I've chosen you,*

*Come live in me."*

*The answer to Him*

*Should be eager and "Yes",*

*And hands should shoot up right and left,*

*But instead we're a class*

*With hands down, faces blank,*

*Who shake heads and answer,*

*"Dunno".*

**Chosen in Him before the foundation of the world.**  
**Ephesians 1:4**

By Jane Cruickshank



# ..... Windows

What, exactly, is a *window*? An Elementary question, you might think. But really, what is a *window*? Someone has said that the eyes are the *windows of the soul*, and certainly if we look in a persons eyes we can see what their feelings may be at that moment. Happy, sad, pensive, perplexed!

A window is something to look out of, and look into. There are times when our windows get dirty, and it spoils the view!

It is the same with our relationship with God. He looks into the *window of our souls*. He knows when they are dirty. He is intimately acquainted with us, whether we like it or not. Nothing escapes Him! Our extremity is a **window of opportunity** for Him to do a work of healing in our souls if only we will allow Him. If the window of our soul is closed, He could still come in, but He won't force entry. ***"Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to Him, and will sup with Him, and He with me."***<sup>1</sup>

He quietly waits for us to open that window (or door). Sometimes He has to wait many years for us to do just that. Sometimes they are never opened. How patient is our God. He wants the best for us, but we are satisfied with the false glitter of this passing world (or are we?) So He sends adversity at times, to turn our world upside down, to shake us out of our complacency. Are we listening?

***"In the day of prosperity be joyful, but in the day of adversity consider; Surely God has appointed one as well as the other so that man can find out nothing that will come after him."***<sup>2</sup>

Four times in that wonderful Psalm 107, verses 6, 13, 19 and 28 it says, *"Then they cried out to the Lord in their trouble, and He saved them out of their distresses."* So there is a ***window of opportunity*** to praise Him, to thank Him, to serve Him, to love Him, to lean upon Him, to seek His guidance, to follow Him, to obey Him – the list goes on.

There are ***windows of opportunity*** for both negative and positive reactions to the problems that cross our path every day. Abrasive people, who come in to upset our comfortable way of life - How often, when we are tired, or in a hurry, do things happen to hinder us? That dish that fell out of the fridge,

just as you are about to leave on a journey! You're stuck in a traffic jam for an hour, on the way to the airport to pick up relatives from overseas! There's a power failure, and that cake is only half done! The drought, the wilting plants, and the pump fails! God has allowed it all for the very reason that He wants us to grow – to be conformed to the image of His Son. ***"For we know that all things work together for good, to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose...to be conformed to the image of His Son..."***<sup>3</sup>

The dryness of soul that we all pass through from time to time; We call, but He doesn't seem to hear and then we read in His Word, that ***"God left him to try him, that He might know all that was in his heart."***<sup>4</sup> And then we see in (Deuteronomy 8:2 & 3 NKJV), the reason why he allowed the children of Israel to go through their trials in the wilderness. It was ***"to humble you, and test you, to know what was in your hear, whether you would keep His commandments or not."***

Then there are ***windows of opportunity*** to reach out to others, to tell them of our wonderful God, Saviour. ***"...Who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think..."***<sup>5</sup>

We are, each of us, in the place He wants us to be. What are the ***windows of opportunity*** in our lives? They are in the home, in the work place, in the supermarket, on the bus, in the schools, in the Sunday Schools, our neighbours, unsaved relatives and friends? We have found "The Pearl of Great Price," what are we doing with it? We need to ask His guidance and His help for opened eyes and sensitive hearts to the needs of those around us, and He will equip us and lead us.

Finally, ***"Bring all the tithes to the store-house, that there may be food in My house, and try me now, in this', says the Lord of Hosts, 'If I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you such a blessing that there will not be room to receive it'."***<sup>6</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Rev.3: 20 KJV ... <sup>2</sup> Ecclesiastes. 7:14 NKJV

<sup>3</sup> Rom. 8:28 & 29 KJV

<sup>4</sup> 2 Chronicles. 32:31b NKJV ... <sup>5</sup> Eph 3:20b KJV

<sup>6</sup> Malachi 3:10 NKJV



By  
Barbara Holmes

# Windows of Opportunity

Throughout our lives there will always be—  
One special “Window of Opportunity!”  
This window is always opened wide  
In spite of our failure to look outside!

Outside of our selfish and  
sin sick pride,  
Always pretending all's well  
deep down inside.  
Never aware of the battle  
surrounding us—  
That battle for souls - fought  
by the devil and Jesus.



To open this window takes courage and strength:

A heart drawn by God and at length—  
It shows two paths as clear as can be:  
One leads us on still bound in our chains,  
whilst the other opens wide to Eternity.

You'll find the decision is always yours.  
Please don't be side tracked to some other cause!  
Do those chains still bind you do death and hell?  
Be sure you'll recognize it all too well.

For the constant trouble of the fear of death – yes,  
And the soul's searching heart for something to  
bless.

The anger and wretchedness that dwells in our  
lives –

To discover that selfishness and pride are our  
faithful guides.

But then one day  
We discover the way!  
So we open the window – yes we open it wide  
And we ask the Lord Jesus to come inside!  
Now other windows we quickly will find,

There's faithfulness and obedience for they do not  
hide.

The Lord asks us to open these too,  
And at first we find it easy to do.

But then, as we grow, we find them stuck though  
ajar

A part of us wants them open:  
whilst another places bars.

To open causes pain and the  
shedding of tears

These choices are not easy as  
we grow through the years.

Still we are assured in the truth of God's Word;  
that God knows our suffering and will open a way.

This way is through Jesus and His death on the  
cross  
His burial and resurrection does not leave us at a  
loss.

For His power that raised Him from the grave that  
day:

is available to us in every way.

He gives us the strength to open what's stuck,  
He cleanses the windows and all of the muck.

He dries the tears of suffering too  
And reveals to us the blessings that shine through.

So if you are a Christian, but been shedding many  
tears,

Turn to the Lord Jesus, in spite of your fears.

Ask Him to remove any anger and pride

“And please Lord Jesus – open  
my window wide!”



By  
Wendy Davie

# Rahab



 Rahab was a prostitute, a harlot in the ancient and wicked city of Jericho: a city doomed to destruction by God as the children of Israel began their conquest of the Promised Land. Rahab lived in a house that formed part of the city wall. Her house had a window that opened out directly from that wall. Rahab's window in the wall, her window to the world became a wonderful "window of opportunity". It was through this window that Rahab helped the Israelite spies make their escape. It was in this same window that Rahab hung a scarlet cord. This cord was to enable the attacking Israelites to identify her house and therefore be the guarantee of the household's salvation when the city walls of Jericho fell.

When the Israelite spies first came to Rahab's attention that day in Jericho, she had a clear-cut decision to make: to accept and welcome them or reject and expose them. In spite of great personal danger to herself, Rahab's course of action was already determined – settled in her mind by what she already knew of God. *"I know that the Lord has given this land to you..."*<sup>1</sup> She makes the astonishing declaration, *"For the Lord your God is God in heaven above and on the earth below."*<sup>2</sup> Rahab had heard of the Israelites and knew of their mighty deeds and how it was the Lord who helped them. God's Spirit had prepared her heart for faith, and she believed; in holy fear and reverence she knew God to be true.

God, in His wisdom and grace, had given Rahab this opportunity to participate in His plan. The rest of the city was already doomed. Though they had heard the same stories, they instead panicked and became dispirited rather than turning to God. Rahab however, seized the opportunity, made the right choice and embraced life – the life of the spies for that of herself and her family. She knew this God of the Israelites and so believed and trusted in His mighty power. She recognized the spies as His chosen servants, entreating them to swear to her by this same LORD. Rahab received the men and their message. She had rightly and safely aligned herself with the great God Jehovah, the LORD, YHWH: thereby coming under His divine protection. She not only believed in His great power, but trusted in His great mercy to save her. Rahab further exercised her faith by obeying the instructions left to her by the spies and by waiting upon God's perfect timing in the whole situation.

Ultimately Rahab's choices opened the "window of opportunity" for her to become part of God's chosen people. Upon their safe deliverance from the ruined city of Jericho,

Joshua brought out Rahab's entire family, putting them in a place outside the camp of Israel.<sup>3</sup> Sometime later Rahab fully aligned herself with the Israelites by coming to live among them. She married Salmon and had a baby, Boaz. She became the great grandmother of King David. God in His boundless love and grace; grafted this once sinful woman into His "cegula": His treasured possession. Rahab believed God and it was credited to her as righteousness, as it had been for Abraham in generations past.<sup>4</sup> *"Was not even Rahab the prostitute considered righteous for what she did when she gave lodging to the spies and sent them off in different direction?"*<sup>5</sup> She is chronicled in the annals of faith heroes of Hebrews chapter 11: *"By faith the prostitute Rahab, because she welcomed the spies, was not killed with those who were disobedient."*<sup>6</sup> By faith and because of her actions, she was saved. As James puts it, *"As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead."*<sup>7</sup>

*She had to trust completely in God's protection and rescue.*

The scarlet cord that Rahab hung from her window, reminds us of the blood painted on the doorposts and lintels in ancient Egypt as protection for the children of Israel against the Angel of Death.<sup>8</sup> Both are acts of faith; just as when we by faith receive God's salvation, our sins are covered by the precious blood of

Christ. We too become grafted into God's family as Rahab was, through Jesus Christ *"who gave Himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for Himself a people that are His very own, eager to do what is good."*<sup>9</sup> Rahab was absolutely powerless to save herself and her family. She had to trust completely in God's protection and rescue. As for us, *"You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly."*<sup>10</sup>

The story of Rahab also teaches us that the choices we make today have both immediate and long-term repercussions for good or bad. Rahab's choice to follow God placed her in the direct lineage of Christ, one of only four women specifically named in the genealogy of Matthew chapter 1. Her choice to live, to love and follow God had echoes right down through time. She was saved and her direct descendent Joseph, became the husband of Mary of whom was born Jesus who is called Christ, the Savior of us all. The choices **we** make affect ourselves, our relationships and our families; so we had better think carefully, pray and act in wisdom and faith in both the big and small matters of life.

*(Continued on page 6)*

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Rahab exercised her faith in a way that we can all follow. We agree with James when he states, "Has not God chosen those who are poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith and to inherit the Kingdom He promised those who loved Him?"<sup>11</sup> The Wycliffe Bible Commentary notes that "Rahab's calling implied far less deviation from the accepted standard of morality in her environment than it does with us", and that she also had an honest occupation involving the dyeing and weaving of linen, (hence the stalks of flax on the roof under which the spies were hidden). Nevertheless "her harlotry is mentioned to bring into bold relief God's mercy in giving her faith and in sparing her."<sup>12</sup> Jesus too, truly came to open the

way for tax collectors and prostitutes to enter the Kingdom of God.<sup>13</sup> Let us all rejoice in the choice we have made to trust and obey Him, as faith-sisters with Rahab we can boldly say, "I have no regrets. I couldn't be more sure of my ground – the One I've trusted in can take care of what He's trusted me to do right to the end."<sup>14</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Joshua 2:9 NIV ... <sup>2</sup> Joshua 2:11 NIV ... <sup>3</sup> Joshua 6:23 NIV ... <sup>4</sup> Genesis 15:6 NIV ... <sup>5</sup> James 2:25 NIV  
<sup>6</sup> Hebrews 11:31 NIV ... <sup>7</sup> James 2:26 NIV  
<sup>8</sup> Exodus 12 NIV ... <sup>9</sup> Titus 2:14 NIV ... <sup>10</sup> Romans 5:6 NIV  
<sup>11</sup> James 2:5 NIV ... <sup>12</sup> "The Wycliffe Bible Commentary"  
©1962, by The Moody Bible Institute of Chicago  
<sup>13</sup> Matthew 21:31 NIV ... <sup>14</sup> 2 Timothy 1:12 The Message



You get the most out of school when you go with the desire to learn. Get the most out of life by "going to life" each day with the desire to learn. Valuable lessons are all around you ... you just have to open your eyes!

# A Valuable Lesson

Would you agree that all of us, the Lord's people, look for opportunities to serve Him in some way? And does He provide us with opportunities? He does – but according to HIS will, not ours. Let me tell you a little story. The name is fictitious, but the rest is true. Rita was placed in a particular ministry because others thought she would be able to do a good job. And she agreed. Being very able and always willing to serve, she began with much enthusiasm. Somehow she presumed that the Lord would comply with her prayers and work things out according to her plans - after all, she had been placed in this ministry, and she was good at what she was doing. So she prayed about things, always attaching the words 'according to Your will, Lord', and she worked hard. But no results! And then came the questions: why, Lord???

Rita finally realised that she had missed one important ingredient taught by 1 Corinthians 12:12-26: the body principle. She had fallen into the 'Going it Alone' trap. Of course she was familiar with the passage, and in general she regarded others as very important members of God's household. But in her own ministry she didn't see the need to work

closely with others - until the Lord showed her that individualism is NOT His way at all.

Today's philosophy of individualistic attitudes is all pervading, and it has not crept but jumped into the Church, as have a whole lot of other worldly ideas. We so need to guard against the 'I think' mentality! It isolates, it causes unnecessary division, and it brings about much sorrow and destruction. And of course there won't be any healthy fruit. God's people only produce fruit if they function according to HIS design, that is as a community. Because each person is only a part of the whole, we become deficient and vulnerable when we try to function alone. And because of the gifts God has given, each part is also essential for the wellbeing of the whole, just as each part is dependent on all others and the whole.

Rita's missing ingredient was the body principle, the team. Individual people, who work together as a whole, become so much more effective than the sum total of each person's single capability. A good team means a functioning organism, which provides not only the

necessary ingredients for success, but also the much needed growth and strength for individual parts as well as the body. Imagine the vulnerability of a single soldier. He may have his orders, but he has no one to shield him, to look out for him, and to warn him of danger. He has no one to help, encourage, or counsel. You may think right now, 'But that is the role of Holy Spirit!' And you are right, that is His role. But think for a moment about HOW He operates. How often has He worked through your brothers and sisters in order to teach, help and comfort you?

I have shared Rita's story because it has reminded me once again that God has created us to function in community, not in isolation or individualism. As He provides our 'windows of opportunity', let us consider them to be God working with and through US, instead of God working with and through ME! In His service TOGETHER...

By Margret Lepke



# GOD'S Love *in humility*

A Christian father shared the following account of how God worked in his life and in his son's life.

"Do I have to go along?" Sulked our 15-year old as he dragged his feet across the floor. "I want to stay home with my friends. Besides, the car will be full, and who wants to drive 600 miles folded up like a pretzel in a stupid old car?"

Brad's display of smouldering anger now pinpointed a growing problem, which had plagued our relationship recently. Deep down, my heart confessed to an increasing resentment toward Brad. I didn't like his friends or the way he wore his hair, and I felt especially sick about the music he was into. Communication between us had begun to be strained.

Brad unwillingly accompanied us, and somehow we scraped through the week. But when we got back home, we found ourselves, as parents, on our knees before God. "Lord," we prayed, "we know only too well that this could spell real disaster, and not just for Brad. Surely others will be hurt as well if he continues on in rebellion. We will not let him go on like this. God, you have got to give us the answer," we demanded. "Please show us."

I was hardly prepared for God's answer. He focused His searchlight on my heart attitudes, and that which had been shadowed for too long suddenly became painfully evident. "As long as you choose to reject, resent, and condemn Brad, My hands are tied," God said to me. "You are standing in the way of My touching your son. You are the real problem."

"Oh, God," I groaned in consternation. He continued searching me. "When I accepted you in my Son, Jesus, did I demand that you become holy and righteous before I accepted you? Were there not yet many things in your life, which displeased Me? Yet, I enfolded you in My love and acceptance for My Son's sake."

I fought hard with His next words. "Will you now go to your son and confess your wrong attitudes and resentment, criticism and rejection? Will you ask his forgiveness for your sin against him?"



**The consequences for Brad and for me would simply be too heavy to bear.**

"But Lord," I remonstrated. "He is rebellious and he is wrong!"

"I am aware of that, my child, and I have a remedy, but you are the greater problem. What about it? I can wait as long as you make Me wait, but if you refuse to break, I can't promise that you won't lose your son."

As I struggled with God's proposition, the issue became excruciatingly clear, and while I had no promise as to what would happen in my son, I understood what I, his father, had to do. God wasn't asking me to accept my son's rebellion. He was asking me to love and accept him genuinely and unconditionally, as he was and not as I wanted him to be. While the humbling was very painful to me, suddenly I became too afraid to not let my will be broken. The consequences for Brad and for me would simply be too heavy to bear. I knew then that God was waiting for me, not my son.

*(Continued on page 8)*

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As we found ourselves in each other's arms, tears washing away my built-up resentments against Brad, an amazing thing happened. Brad, too, began to weep and with a broken heart acknowledged his rebellion and asked forgiveness. Then turning to his Mum, and embracing her, he wept out his wrong attitude toward her and asked her forgiveness.

Two years have passed since that day. So deep was God's work at that time that, even though I have failed in many ways since then, yet Brad has moved steadily onward with the Lord.

God says He will not despise a broken and contrite heart. And who can tell what will happen in lives when His powerful, redemptive love finds in us a channel? The power of that love is dynamite!

**Will Longenecker wrote this testimony for the Postal Sunday School Movement, Course 4 Book 7 and pages 13-15. I was unable to obtain permission to copy this, but after prayer felt the Lord would have me share it with you. I give God the glory for revealing Himself to Will and his family and for touching my life as I read it. Editor**

# "Windows"

After the rain, I complained,  
"There'll be hordes of mosquitoes."

But you said,  
"No, there are too many dragonflies.  
Dragonflies eat mosquito larvae."

And I marvelled  
That I had not noticed one dragonfly.  
Though I'd gazed with joy on rain-washed scene,

I'd been looking beyond,  
To the wide green  
And the dancing gum-leafed branches,  
Letting bigger backdrops  
Blind me to small important details –  
God's answers to swarms of mosquito

troubles...

Today, you opened my eyes' windows  
To see the dragonflies.  
I looked on the same scene and saw  
Squadrons of sedate helicopters  
Darting here and there.  
Lord, give me eyes to see the small,  
So details of your care  
Are not lost  
In larger  
Less important things.

By Jane Cruickshank



## TANGLED THREADS

When sewing with double cotton, try knotting each end separately and it will not tangle.

## COLOUR-CODED COTTONS

Sort your sewing cottons into colour groups and place into 'Glad' Snap-Lock bags so that you can pick up the one bag to find the exact shading you require.

## BUTTONS

Before adding odd buttons to your button box thread together the ones that are alike. This saves time and patience.

# A Chance Encounter



Do you like happy endings? We all do, don't we? Many years ago my children and I were waiting at the railway station for a city-bound train. It was a glorious summer morning, the children were playing a game, and I was enjoying the scent of a flowering bush right next to me. We had the station to ourselves except for a middle-aged woman who kept glancing in our direction. I was wondering if she felt lonely, when suddenly I noticed her moving towards me. "Your children aren't in school today?" she said, and it sounded as if she was concerned for them. "Oh yes, they are," I laughed. "We are on our way to the museum in Sydney. We home school, you see, and we like to do lots of practical things. By the way, I am Margret, and you are...?" "My name is Rosalie," she said, and after a slight hesitation went on to ask; "What do you mean by home schooling?" Just as I started explaining the train arrived, and Rosalie moved away towards another entrance.

I felt really disappointed that our conversation had come to such an abrupt end, but to my surprise she walked back down the aisle to where we were settling down. And guess what – she picked the seat right next to me! Like so many people she was curious about our strange schooling habits and started asking questions. She also commented on how polite and well behaved the children were (phew...was I glad they were being a good witness – as you know, all children have their moments!) So I started telling her how we found out about home schooling a few years after becoming Christians, and that our faith was the main reason for doing it. I used the opportunity to ask Rosalie about her own philosophy of life, and she gladly volunteered. (I always try to get people to talk about themselves, so that they will allow me to share with them in return.) And so it happened this time. After listening with interest to what she had to say, I asked if I could now share with her how I came to my faith, and she agreed. Fortunately I had been involved with a women's group just a few weeks earlier where we had learned how to give a short testimony that naturally incorporates some Bible verses. And here was my chance to practice. So I began my story:

"One day two ladies from New Tribes Mission came to see me as clients and, being curious, I asked them about their faith. I had turned to New Age concepts and joined the Rosicrucian Order, but I was always

interested in the beliefs of others. One of the ladies produced a little black Bible and read how <sup>1</sup>God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life. I didn't object to a God of love, but did not really understand what that verse meant. And then she continued with a verse about sin. She said that no one is <sup>2</sup>righteous because <sup>3</sup>all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. 'Stop right there,' I responded, chafing against this accusation. 'I'm not a sinner! I'm not a liar or a thief or a murderer – to the contrary, I try to help people and be nice to them!' But this woman was wise and did not argue. Instead, she read from <sup>4</sup>Isaiah chapter 53 that 'all of us like sheep have gone astray; we have turned, every one, to his own way; and the LORD has laid on Him (meaning Christ) the iniquity of us all.'



I noticed that Rosalie kept nodding when I talked about not being a sinner, so I continued:

"But the Holy Spirit used this portion of Scripture to convict me of sin. I felt so uncomfortable that I couldn't get rid of these women quickly enough. I tried to forget about the whole thing, but it didn't work. The thoughts about sin kept returning, and I soon realised that sin was essentially SELF-WILL and therefore rebellion against God. The more I thought about it, the more I realised that I had a dilemma on my hands: if this God of the Bible were real, He would send me to Hell. So I wondered how I could know whether He really existed.

Finally I asked Him to show me, not knowing what to expect. I neither heard a voice nor did I have an ecstatic experience, but by the end of that evening I could no longer carry my burden. I fell on my knees and cried out to God, shedding tears of shame and tears of sorrow for causing Him so much pain. But there were also tears of joy because I realised that I had been forgiven, my debt was paid, and I was set free to live a new life for God."

*(Continued on page 10)*

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Just then the train slowed and Rosalie realised that this was her stop. She hurriedly gathered her bags, and I just managed to hand her a tract and to wish her well. As she walked down the platform, I thanked the Lord for this unusual encounter. Would there be a happy ending? Would I meet this woman in Heaven? I didn't know, but I prayed for her and felt thankful for the opportunity to sow some seeds. Looking back, I realise that this was no chance encounter, no co-incidence. It happens too often, so I prefer to call these occasions God-incidences – and we all have them. So let's never be backward in being

forward! Let us use these opportunities boldly and hope for many happy endings to be revealed in glory.

<sup>1</sup>John 3:16...<sup>2</sup>Romans 3:10...

<sup>3</sup>Romans 3: 23...<sup>4</sup>Isaiah 53:6

By Margret Lepke

### Hebrews 6:10

***“For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love,  
which you have shown toward His name,  
in that you have ministered to the saints, and do minister.”***



#### **FRUIT STAINS**

To remove fruit stains, sponge with a weak solution of acetic acid or vinegar and water.

#### **STAINS ON LAMINEX**

Remove stains from laminate benches by gently rubbing a small amount of toothpaste over the discoloured area. Rinse it off and the mark is gone.

#### **A USE FOR OLD TOOTHBRUSHES**

For difficult-to-clean areas behind and around taps, sprinkle as usual with cleaner, then use an old toothbrush to remove grime.

So often folks have wondered why  
God has placed on earth  
The storms, the tears, the raging seas -  
Destroyers of all worth.  
But if it weren't for angry skies,  
The torrents, and dismay,  
How could we realize the worth  
Of a sunny, cloudless day?

Things beyond our seeing.  
Things beyond our hearing.  
Things beyond our imagining.  
All prepared by God.  
For those who love Him.

# Family

## And a Naturopathic Practice

### A PERSONAL TESTIMONY



As a young Christian I found Ps.37:4: 'Delight yourself in the LORD, and He shall give you the desires of your heart.' Since then

God has fulfilled this promise to me over and over. It has long been my desire to write for His glory, and today I am delighted to be able to introduce myself as your Natural Health Editor. My name is Margret Lepke, I am 53 years of age, and I have a wonderful husband and two grown children. It is a privilege to be part of this work, and I am looking forward to meeting you all in glory! Meanwhile you will hear from me for as long as the Lord wills. Let us thank Him for the many blessings He bestows on us all!

In 1983 things were different. I had a young family and my own natural health clinic, and life was good (or so I thought). New Age philosophies were part of my life, and I was delving with gusto into parapsychology. But then one April morning everything changed. A client shared the gospel; I was convicted of sin, and that very evening I came to the point of conversion. What followed was a huge transformation. Whilst my professional training had encompassed naturopathy, herbalism, homoeopathy and massage, I had added many New Age dimensions. But now that I was a Christian, I had to re-think my approach to every part of my work.

I started searching the Bible and found that God is the one who heals (Ps.103:3). But I also found that He employs men (Luke was a physician) and the use of foods and herbs as 'prescriptions', such as a cake of figs for Hezekiah's boil (Is.38:21), wine and oil for the Samaritan's wounds (Lk.10:34), and a little wine for Timothy's stomach and frequent illnesses (1 Tim.5:23). A number of other herbs are also mentioned for their medicinal value, and the sanitary 'code' given in Lev.15 is quite extraordinary, because such hygiene practices were not known in the ancient world. Nonetheless, biblical descriptions of health, disease, healing and death are limited by the purpose of Scripture, which of course is theological rather than medical.

During my quest for truth I realised that the core practices of naturopathy (working with life style factors, dietary regimes, foods, vitamins & minerals), herbalism (using herbs in various forms) and homoeopathy (using natural substances in minute quantities so that the body reacts to their energy rather than their biochemistry) are not contrary to Biblical injunctions, but that New Age practices such as pendulum work, 'spiritual' meditation and energy channelling definitely are. To my amazement I also found a connection between

emotions and health in the book of Proverbs! Here are some verses you can check out: ch.12:25; 13:12; 15:4; 15:30; 16:24; 17:22; 18:14. There is so much wisdom in this book! You may even like to read all of Proverbs and colour code the different topic areas. I was amazed by what I found when I did just that. Anyway, these insights caused me to learn more about counselling, because I realised that people needed more than physical help; they needed emotional and spiritual help as well. And so my practice became my next window of opportunity – my mission field.

### *My first window of opportunity had been my immediate family.*

My first window of opportunity had been my immediate family. Do you consider your family to be your mission field? One of the first things God showed me after my conversion was to learn to take up the role He had appointed for me. He took me to a study group where I learnt about God's principles for family life, and I decided to put His word to the test by exchanging my feminist ideas for the role of godly wife and mother. This meant that I had to learn to be (much more!) submissive, to give my husband his rightful place as head of the family, and to treat my children as gifts from God to be nurtured and treasured. I can assure you that it was HARD, and the path was fraught with many tears, but God was faithful and gracious: a year later my husband experienced the new birth, we were both baptised in a Baptist church, and the children were excited about this powerful, loving God they were hearing so much about. Then they themselves became conscious of sin and trusted the Lord at the ages of eight and nine. Praise God for His faithfulness!

Let me leave you with a poem that had a great effect on me. It is called *Those We Love* by Ella Wheeler Wilcox: They say the world is round, and yet I often think it's square; so many little hurts we get from corners here and there. There's one truth in life I've found while journeying east and west, the only folk we really wound are those we love the best. The choicest garb, the sweetest grace, are oft to strangers shown; the careless word, the frowning face, are given to our own. We flatter those we scarcely know, we please the fleeting guest, and deal full many a thoughtless blow to those we love the best. – True? Let's use every possible opportunity to show God's love, and especially to those who are close to us!

By Margret Lepke



# The Windows They Chose

Remember the chains that bind us all and the choice we have to make?

Me thinks it would be wise to look at decisions that others did take!

We find them throughout the Bible – which is God’s Holy Book:

It may shock us to find some foolish and some wise as we stop to take a look.

There was a man called Jeremiah, a prophet in Israel they say:

He preached both righteousness and coming judgement each and every day.

As a very young child God called out to him to open His window of grace

He did, but alas beyond this window were others of sadness of face!

Some called him the weeping prophet; others talked of his depression and gloom

Still others called him a silly old man for preaching such judgement and doom!

But faithfully for 40 years, he struggled through trial after trial

Holding on tightly to God’s righteousness and holy ways all this while.

Hoping Israel would change their ways he wept, he struggled and he prayed,

But when no change brought God’s judgement, he again made his choice and stayed.

God’s strength and presence were always there

This alone helped him, his burdens to bear.

## Jeremiah

Belshazza, like all of us –

these paths were shown to him,

Alas, a King, - yet so foolish -

he chose the chains so grim.

Not only that, but he caused others to follow in his sin!

They scoffed at God’s grace and mercy, their own souls they thought they could win–

So a party they held and whilst they drank in worship of the gods of gold

God’s hand wrote on the wall – well then they weren’t quite so bold! Now Daniel read the words to him Whilst he shook and trembled with fear so grim!

The chains – he felt their weight – so heavily he was bound:

“You’ve been weighed in the balances –

and now you have been found – Found wanting – fallen short – unable to save

Yourself from God’s wrath – how dreadful –

how grave!”

## Daniel 5

Daniel himself, a man of faith, an excellent spirit dwelt in him.

He strove to be faithful to God up above,

no matter who was against ‘em. So wise was he, to choose the opposite path

In spite of the fact that others did laugh!

Then King Darius, guided by wicked men,

wrote his decree

“All mankind should openly worship me!”

But Daniel bravely opened his window to pray,

To the God up above, who had always been his stay!

“We’ve got him!” they cried with faces full of glee

So they ran to the King – who cried,

“How can this be?”

With tears in his eyes and a prayer on his lips,

King Darius was forced to throw Daniel to the lions that lived in the cliffs.

When the morning came and the King called him out from the den

Wonder of wonders, or no wounds were found on him!

## Daniel 6

Paul was another, whom God forced to look through His window of Judgement and Grace,

He’d been so angry and so very irate! For his Pharisaic traditions had been so strong,

He thought it nothing to murder any Christians

who happened along!

Then one day on the road to Damascus, in spite of the fact that he was surrounded by many,

God’s piercing light revealed he had no right – no not any.

For what he deemed as righteous and just,

Was really only filthy rags – yes that was a must!

As God in His righteous ways tried to direct -

Paul in rebellion refused to correct!

At last

He fell on his knees and confessed all his past.

He asked the Lord to cleanse and correct,

All the wrong thinking and then to direct,

The whole of his life – that he might see

What God had meant him really to be!

## Acts 9

And so in our lives this too, we should do

First open the window of grace sent to you.

Then in humility ask God to cleanse us and make -

Us more like His Son whom He sent to take -

The sins that constrain us and the chains that we bear,

In order that we can live with Him there.

By Wendy Davie

# Natural Medicine



## Frequently Asked Questions



By Margret Lepke  
B. Soc. Sc. [Hons.],  
Dip. Prof. Couns [AIPC],  
Dip. Th. [ACT],  
DN, MATMS, MNHAA

Welcome to the first article in our new series!

Today we are going to ask two questions:

**'What is natural medicine?'** and

**'How does it fit with the Christian faith?'**

Let us start with a definition of *naturopath*. Have you wondered what that word means? Take it apart and see what you get: 'nature' and 'path'. You might like to think of it as a person who follows the path of nature in relation to health practices. Or as a practitioner who utilises principles of healing that have been built into nature from the very beginning. Have you ever bathed a sprained ankle in cool water? Have you had peppermint tea to settle a disturbed stomach, or chamomile tea to calm your nerves? Do you practice hygiene by washing your hands before you eat? If you have done any of these or similar things, you yourself have practiced naturopathy or, in other words, natural medicine!

Training standards are very high these days for both naturopaths and herbalists, and a number of universities are now offering degrees in Health Science (Naturopathy). In order to obtain professional indemnity insurance, practitioners also need to have professional memberships with the Australian Traditional Medical Society (ATMS), the National Herbalists Association of Australia (NHAA), or the Australian Natural Therapies Association

(ANTA). In most cases, therefore, you will encounter practitioners with high ethical standards and continuing professional education. But don't be afraid to ask a person about their professional qualifications and/or spiritual practices! If they are genuine, they will be happy to tell you what you want to know. If you are looking for someone in your area, you can either check your Yellow Pages, or you can contact the Associations directly by phone or via their websites: [www.atms.com.au](http://www.atms.com.au) [www.anta.com.au](http://www.anta.com.au) [www.nhaa.org.au](http://www.nhaa.org.au)

Here in Australia this profession has been closely linked to 'New Age' practices, such as psychic or spiritualist healing, Reiki (a combination of hypnosis and energy channelling), chakra work (based on Indian religious beliefs), crystal healing, astrology, tarot cards, and the like. These forms of mystic or 'spiritual' healing have their roots in Eastern religions and Eastern 'spirituality', which have been attractively repackaged for Western consumption. And of course as a Christian I no longer approve of these 'healing' methods as legitimate! Unfortunately, however, many Christians reject natural therapies altogether because of these ungodly associations, throwing out the good with the bad.

The fundamental principles of naturopathy, homoeopathy and herbalism have nothing whatsoever to do with the occult or other religions, and this is reflected in European countries, where many orthodox medical practitioners will use and prescribe herbal and homoeopathic remedies, nutritional programs, and other forms of natural healing such as massage and

hydro(water)therapy. These practices are based on natural laws and can be verified by scientific research. Think for a moment, when your car needs petrol, would you supply it with sugar syrup? Of course not! You would use only petrol, which is specifically designed to make your car engine run. But in this hectic world filled with hurry and stress, pollution, chemicals, sprays, fast foods and additives, many people are not as diligent with their bodies as they are with their cars. They have forgotten that good nutrition is the basis for health and an efficient immune system, and that God has given us foods and herbs to aid health and reverse disease (you might find it interesting to do a concordance study on the word herb/herbs and look at Rev.22:2).

Now here is another word we can take apart: disease. It points to the origin of most illnesses: a dis-ease, an imbalance within the system. And most practitioners of natural medicine (the politically correct term these days is *complimentary* medicine) seek to restore that balance. First of all they will need to do some detective work and ask you lots of questions regarding your lifestyle, nutrition, exercise, body habits and emotional situation. They may even check your tongue, your eyes, your lungs and/or your pulse, and occasionally they may send you for further clinical tests. When the causes for your symptoms are finally established, the necessary building blocks are then supplied to aid your body in its great potential to heal itself according to God's design. These building blocks may be environmental, nutritional, herbal or whatever else in

*(Continued on page 14)*

(Continued from page 13)

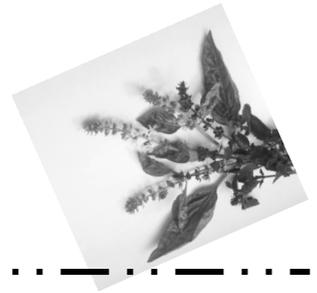
nature, because a naturopath will look at your health from a wholistic point of view, taking the whole of your life circumstances into consideration rather than labelling you with a disease based on symptoms. God has given us bodies with an amazing power to recover from imbalances and injuries, and the intricate workings of body and mind never cease to amaze me.

But please don't misunderstand me! I am NOT saying you should not go and see your doctor! God has allowed the medical profession to make great discoveries, and we are grateful for its many advances. I regularly send clients for medical tests, for example. But on the other hand I am saying that those ways which naturally help our bodies to rebuild themselves are preferable

whenever possible. There are some illnesses that natural therapies cannot cure (although they may still aid the person's comfort levels), and I am grateful for hospitals and surgeons in the case of accidents or when disease has progressed too far for a natural reversal. And sometimes drugs are necessary. But an ever-increasing number of people are searching for more natural ways of looking after their health. And due to the abundance of information available these days, they are able to make more informed choices. I sincerely hope that some of the things I have said will help you to do the same! I pray that the Lord will lead you in the way that YOU should go and look forward to your company again in the next issue. Till then I wish you good health!

**Please Note:**

**You are invited to contribute to further articles by asking questions. Please mark them Natural Health FAQs and send them to us here at the magazine, or email them directly to Margret via her website [www.drlepke.com](http://www.drlepke.com) where you can also find further information and useful links. Whilst Margret is unable to answer you personally, she will endeavour to respond in the following issues of our magazine.**



# Quiz . . .

## RAHAB

**1] What were the names of the two spies that went to spy out the land and the city of Jericho?**

- [a] Josua and Caleb
- [b] Shammua and Shaphat
- [c] Gaddiel and Ammiel
- [d] We are not told

**2] What was Rahab's profession?**

- [a] Seamstress
- [b] Harlot
- [c] Tentmaker
- [d] Shepherdess

**3] How did Rahab hide the spies?**

- [a] She took them out of the city to a cave in the hills
- [b] She put them down a well and put a lid on it
- [c] She hid them under the stalks of flax on the roof
- [d] She put them under a pile of camel's saddles

**4] Where in Jericho was Rahab's house?**

- [a] In the centre of te city
- [b] In the borders of the palace of the king of Jericho
- [c] Outside the City near the barley fields.
- [d] Upon the town wall, and she dwelt upon the wall

**5] For how long did Rahab advise the spies to hid in the mountains?**

- [a] One day
- [b] Two days
- [c] Three days
- [d] One week

**6] For what reason did Joshua spare the lives of Rahab and her family?**

- [a] Because she hid the messengers
- [b] Because her father and mother pleaded with him
- [c] Because he liked her
- [d] Because one of the spies had fallen in love with her

**7] With what did Rahab mark her house to be spared by the Israelites?**

- [a] Blood
- [b] Whitewash
- [c] Branches
- [d] Scarlet thread

**8] What virtue did the apostle Paul use in the story of Rahab, in the New Testament book of Hebrews?**

- [a] Faith
- [b] Hope
- [c] Charity
- [d] Honesty

**9] In the book of James, the story of Rahab is used to illustrate the relationship between ...**

- [a] Faith and love
- [b] Faith and works
- [c] Prayer and hope
- [d] Prayer and works

**ANSWERS:** 1.[d] 2.[b] 3.[c] 4.[d] 5.[c] 6.[a] 7.[d] 8.[a] 9.[b]

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## Moments With Melissa



The year 2004 was a big year for me. I grew so much closer to God and due to this I heard His voice guiding and directing me constantly. Many things were revealed to me about the purpose of my life and what God wants me to do with my life. This all came about because I set out reading God's Word everyday. My goal was to read the entire Bible in one year, but once I got into God's word, I couldn't put it down! I ended up reading the whole Bible in chronological order - in five months! Romans 10:17 says,

"Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ". This is what has happened for me simply because I set about reading God's word and drawing closer to Him. Now my faith is becoming stronger and God continues to bless me as I strive to obey Him. Day by day He reveals more of His purpose and destiny for my husband and me.

### How to read your Bible Chronologically –

The books of the Bible are not arranged in the order in which they were written or in which the events they describe occurred. The following rearrangement (based on the work of Dr. Stanley M. Horton) will allow you to read different parts in the approximate historical sequence of events.

Taken from My Bible Reading Log prepared by the Emmaus Correspondence School

#### Old Testament

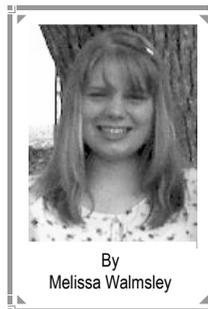
Genesis 1 - 22  
Job  
Genesis 23 - 50  
Exodus  
Psalm 90  
Leviticus  
Numbers  
Deuteronomy  
Psalm 91  
Joshua  
Judges  
Ruth  
1 Samuel 1 – 16:13  
Psalm 23  
1 Samuel 16:14 – 19:11  
Psalm 59  
1 Samuel 19:12 - 21:15  
Psalms 34, 56  
1 Samuel 22:1,2  
Psalms 57, 142  
1 Samuel 22:3-23  
Psalm 52  
1 Samuel 23  
Psalms 54, 63  
1 Samuel 24 – 31  
2 Samuel 1-7  
Psalm 30  
2 Samuel 8:1-14  
Psalm 60  
2 Samuel 8: 15- 12:14  
Psalms 51, 32  
2 Samuel 12:15 – 15:37  
Psalms 3, 69  
2 Samuel 16 – 20  
Psalms 64, 70  
2 Samuel 21, 22  
Psalm 18  
2 Samuel 23, 24  
Psalms 4 – 9, 11 – 17, 19 – 22, 24 – 29, 31, 35 – 41, 53, 55, 58, 61, 62, 65, 68, 72, 86, 101, 103, 108 – 110, 138 – 141, 143 – 145.  
1 Kings 1 – 4

Proverbs  
Song of Solomon  
1 Kings 5 – 11  
Ecclesiastes  
1 Kings 12 – 22  
2 Kings 1 – 14:25  
Jonah  
2 Kings 14: 26 – 29  
Amos  
**2 Kings 15 – 25**  
**Psalms 1, 2, 10, 33, 43, 66, 67, 71, 89, 92 – 100, 102, 104 – 106, 111 – 125, 127 – 136, 146 – 150.**  
1 Chronicles 1-16  
Psalms 42, 44 – 50, 73 –85, 87, 88.  
1 Chronicles 17 – 29  
2 Chronicles 1 – 21  
Obadiah  
2 Chronicles 22  
Joel  
2 Chronicles 23 – 26:8  
Isaiah 1 – 5  
2 Chronicles 26:9-23  
Isaiah 6  
2 Chronicles 27 – 32  
Isaiah 7 – 66  
Hosea  
Micah  
Nahum  
2 Chronicles 33, 34  
Zephaniah  
2 Chronicles 35  
Habakkuk  
Jeremiah 1 – 6, 11, 12, 26, 7 – 10, 14 – 20, 35, 36, 45, 25, 46 – 49, 13, 22 – 24, 27 – 29, 50, 51, 30 – 33, 21, 34, 37 – 39, 52, 40 – 44.  
Lamentations  
2 Chronicles 36:1-8  
Daniel  
2 Chronicles 36:9 – 21  
Psalm 137  
Ezekiel  
2 Chronicles 36:22,23

Ezra 1 – 5:1  
Haggai  
Zechariah  
Psalms 107, 126  
Ezra 5:2 – 66:22  
Esther  
Ezra 7 – 10  
Nehemiah  
Malachi

#### New Testament

Matthew  
Mark  
Luke  
John  
Acts 1 – 14  
James  
Acts 15  
Galatians  
Acts 16  
Philippians  
Acts 17:1 – 10  
1 Thessalonians  
2 Thessalonians  
Acts 17:11 – 18:11  
1 Corinthians  
2 Corinthians  
Acts 18:12 – 20:1  
Ephesians  
Romans  
Acts 20:2 – 28:30  
Colossians  
Hebrews  
Titus  
Philemon  
1 Timothy  
2 Timothy  
1 Peter  
2 Peter  
1 John  
2 John  
3 John  
Jude  
Revelations.



By  
Melissa Walmsley

# *A Personal Testimony Of God's Healing Grace*



We have had several visiting preachers through our Church who have told stories of God's miraculous provision in their lives, as a result of them being brought to a place where they had to believe God or die. I have sat in my pew thinking "Wow! I wish I had faith like that!" On Friday 15<sup>th</sup> June 2001, I was on my way to our Church ladies camp with a friend and we stopped to pick up a third lady for our car. I needed the toilet, so the woman's husband took me into the house to show me where the toilet was. He mentioned that the sliding toilet door was "stuffed". I used the toilet and when I went to open the door to come out, it got stuck. I put my head through the opening to look up to see what was making it stick, and CRASH down it came on top of my head. This was not an aluminium fitting, it was a sliding door runner as solid as a piece of railway tracking! Pain level? Unbelievable!!!

My first thought was "Not only is the door stuffed, Sweetheart, but so are you! This thing has mashed your brain!" But immediately I thought "NO!!! I will not believe that!!! God, Your word says, 'Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord delivers him from ALL of them.' ALL of them God, and I certainly need deliverance right now!" I was keenly aware that I was now in a place where I had to believe God or perish.

The pain went numb. What was I to do? Call an ambulance and go to hospital or go to the ladies camp as planned? I went to the camp. This wasn't a magic healing, mind you. The impact of the thing put every bone in my body

out of joint, so when I got home from the camp I went to the chiropractor to have my bones put back into place. He was totally dumbfounded that that much bone displacement had happened without my neck being broken. Later that day I thought I would just make sure I was quoting that Scripture correctly, so I looked it up. It's in Psalm 34:19 "Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the LORD rescues them from them all." Verse 20 says "He keeps all their bones; not one of them will be broken." This verse really leapt off the page and socked me in the eye... "He keeps all their bones. Not one of them shall be broken."!!! So then I knew why my neck wasn't broken with the impact.

What has this done for me? God has shown Himself to be really there for me in a very dramatic way, and I believe that He wants everyone to know that He is there for them personally in the same moment-by-moment way. There is absolutely nothing extraordinary, spectacular, or unusually gifted about me – I am an overweight, grey and wrinkly, middle-aged housewife. Jesus actually did die so that we could live life TO THE MAX, and is able to see that we do!



By M. Smith



## **ROSE PETALS**

When the petals of cut roses begin to lose their crispness, cut the stems to one centimetre and put the flower heads in a float bowl. They freshen in minutes and last twice as long.

## **CAT DETERANT**

Sprinkle dried orange and lemon peel around bedding plants to deter cats.

## **ICE-CUBE WATERING**

Use ice cubes to water hanging baskets and window boxes. They melt slowly and area absorbed, so there are no drips on the floor.

# DANIEL

dare to be different



Who of us doesn't know the Bible story of Daniel in the lions' den? It was Daniel's faith in God (praying in front of his open window three times a day) which "landed" him in the lions' den, yet it was God's faithfulness to Daniel which protected him from those predatory animals! (Daniel 6:24 tells us that when King Darius cast those men who had accused Daniel into the same lions' den, the lions "broke all their bones into pieces before they ever came to the bottom of the den".)

We read of Daniel as a fine upstanding young man who, because of his obedience to God, held high positions of authority in a foreign country. Daniel faced different circumstances in which he had the opportunity to show (or not show) his obedience and commitment to God's principles. In fact, Daniel had such opportunities during the reign of four (4) different kings. For Daniel (and for us), a personal and ongoing faith spoke to those around him.

In Daniel Chapter 2 we read that King Nebuchadnezzar *started having dreams that disturbed him deeply ... he couldn't sleep* (v1). So he called his Babylonian magicians, enchanters, sorcerers and fortune-tellers to interpret his dreams saying, *"I had a dream that I can't get out of my mind. I can't sleep until I know what it means."*

Their reply to the king was that they would help him and, *"Tell us the dream and we will interpret it"* (v4).

Well, King Nebuchadnezzar was not at all impressed by that and told them several times that he wanted *them* to tell *him* the dream! Their response didn't change and they asked him to tell them the dream, saying that no-one could tell the dream to the king *except for the gods* (v11).

In the end the king *was angry and very furious, and gave a command to destroy all the wise men of Babylon .... and they began killing the wise men; and they sought Daniel and his companions, to kill them* (vv12,13). Daniel and his three friends were considered to be wise men in Babylon and they were also marked for execution.

It seemed that Daniel and his friends had no idea why they were to be executed. So Daniel saw a "window of opportunity" and *with counsel and wisdom* (v14) Daniel went to Arioch to find out the reason for the planned executions. Daniel knew there was a great deal at stake (many people's

lives), therefore, he acted wisely. This wisdom came from his personal knowledge of and faith in God: *"For the Lord gives wisdom, and from his mouth come knowledge and understanding."*<sup>1</sup>

As soon as Arioch explained to him what had happened, Daniel went into the king and asked for time (v16). Next he went to his three companions. He told them of the situation and asked them to pray *to the God of heaven for mercy in solving this mystery so that the four of them wouldn't be killed along with the whole company of Babylonian wise men* (v17).

God answered those earnest prayers by revealing the secret to Daniel in a vision. Daniel responded by praising God for the revelation (vv20-23).

Daniel immediately spoke with Arioch, telling him not to execute the "wise men" but to take him to the king so that he could tell the king of the dream. Arioch took Daniel into the presence of King Nebuchadnezzar, who immediately asked Daniel whether he could tell him the dream and its interpretation (v26).

Daniel firstly told King Nebuchadnezzar that *there is a God in heaven who reveals secrets* (v28) and went on to reveal the dream and its meaning to the king. It is important to note that Daniel gives all the credit and praise to God.

How does the king respond to this? *King Nebuchadnezzar fell on his face, prostrate before Daniel .... and said, "Truly your God is the God of gods, the Lord of kings, and a revealer of secrets, since you could reveal this secret."* (vv46-47).

As a result Daniel and his friends were appointed to high positions by King Nebuchadnezzar. We read that Daniel remained faithful and loyal to his God throughout his life.

Daniel's life is an example of how God can use the lives of people who are not prepared to compromise with the world.

*"Don't become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God. You'll be changed from the inside out."*<sup>2</sup>

**Daniel's life is an example of how God can use the lives of people who are not prepared to compromise with the world.**

<sup>1</sup> Proverbs 2:6 ... <sup>2</sup> Romans 12:2 The Message



By  
Annette Lawson

# RECIPES ... TO TEMPT YOUR TASTE BUDS ...

## LUMBERJACK CAKE

2 medium apples            125g dates  
60g dried apricots        3/4 cup boiling water  
1 teasp. bi-carb soda      125g butter  
1 cup sugar                1 egg  
1 teasp. vanilla            1 1/2 cups flour

Line a large cake tin/springform tin with greased paper. Peel & dice apples, apricots and dates and place in a bowl. Pour over the fruit, boiling water & bi-carb soda. Stir & leave until lukewarm. In a separate bowl melt the butter, add sugar, egg, vanilla & beat well. Add flour & beat. Mix into apple mixture. Spoon into prepared tin. Cook 1 hour at 180 C. If the top starts to colour too much, cover with foil.

### Topping

1/2 cup brown sugar  
60g butter  
1/3 cup milk  
3/4 cup shredded coconut

Prepare 5 minutes before the cake is cooked. Warm brown sugar, butter, milk & shredded coconut until melted. Spread over hot cake evenly. Return cake to oven & cook a further 20 minutes.

Serve with cream & enjoy.

*Thanks Judy Paice courtesy of Beverley Finch*

## STICKY DATE PUDDING

1 cup chopped dates        1 cup boiling water  
1 teaspoon bi-carb soda    1 cup brown sugar  
2 tablesp. butter            2 eggs  
1 1/2 cups SR Flour

Mix dates and bi-carb soda in bowl with boiling water.

Leave to stand while you make the batter.

Cream butter and sugar.

Add eggs and flour.

Stir in date mixture.

Pour into lightly buttered 18cm square cake tin (can use individual pudding tins—one cup size)

Bake for 20-25 minutes in moderate oven.

### Sauce

1 cup brown sugar  
1/2 teasp. Vanilla  
1 small bottle cream  
2 tablesp. Butter

Combine sugar, cream, vanilla & butter in a saucepan.

Bring to boil, stirring all the time.

Simmer for five minutes.

Pour about half sauce over pudding and cook for another five minutes.

Pour remainder of sauce over pudding when serving.

*Thanks Carmel McCracken*

Have you got a favourite recipe to share?  
Please post or email to us at the address on the back page.





# Unexpected An Visitor

To be perfectly honest, Erin was a little surprised when Jesus advised her he would be dropping in for

dinner on the evening of her 21<sup>st</sup> birthday. Not that she didn't believe Jesus could do such a thing – for, didn't he, when on Earth, enjoy sharing a meal with friends? And hadn't Abraham dined with mysterious heavenly visitors? It was simply that...well, she wasn't exactly an "Abraham". Nor was she, she thought ruefully, even in the same league as his wife Sarah. In fact, Erin was quite sure that she would be capable of counting on her left hand people at her church who would be less likely than her to receive in their homes such a prestigious visitor. And yet, Jesus himself had told her to be ready for his visit.

So, the preparations were begun. Despite the meagre allowances of her student wages, Erin could certainly justify the extravagant purchases she usually tried to shy away from. The meal was to be a picnic lunch, at a popular park nearby her home – crisp salad and savoury chicken were on the menu and a comfortable woollen picnic rug was acquired at great expense. So as to be sure of a perfect meal, Erin even chose in advance a choice picnic spot for their dining pleasure: a soft grassy knoll at the edge of the duck pond in the park. She even managed, on the day of her birthday, to arrive several hours early to be sure that other would-be picnickers did not claim her choice position.

As lunch-time drew nearer (Erin expected that Jesus, of all people, would be punctual), Erin's excitement mounted. This very day, she grinned to herself, she would be sharing a meal with her Lord! What an amazing occasion – she would certainly not let anything occur to dampen the incident in any way. Her prime-location was

secured (despite the surprising numbers of other people who had arrived to enjoy the duck pond), picnic rug tastefully arranged and gourmet victuals chilling in a cooler-box. But then..."Oh Alan! Someone is in our usual picnic spot – and on our anniversary too!"

Erin turned to survey an aged couple behind her, inspecting the distinct lack of free picnic spots around the pond with mournful faces. The man, who Erin supposed to be the aforementioned Alan, rubbed his wife's shoulder supportively, and mentioned something about another park; but his wife was not to be comforted. "We *always* have our lunch by the pond on our anniversary! What are we to do?" Erin began to feel the unmistakable pricking of her conscience. *Let them have your spot, Erin. You can sit somewhere else.*

Erin resisted – *I have as much right to sit here as anyone else. Someone else can move. I'm having a picnic with Jesus!* Still, her conscience throbbed mercilessly in the back of her head – and she gave in.

*Erin expected  
that Jesus, of all  
people, would  
be punctual*

"You can have this spot," she told the couple. "I can sit somewhere else." They thanked her heartily, sincerely surprised at her generosity, but still she couldn't help feeling a little dejected as she moved

away from the pond to an inferior spot where the grass grew sparsely in the dust, and the dominating view was of the nearby highway. She comforted herself knowing that she still had her picnic rug and delectable food. Until...

A surprised shriek and an ominous splash sounded from down near the pond, and Erin craned her neck to see a little girl being pulled out of the water by her Father. A look of shock on the little one's face matched similar

*(Continued on page 20)*

(Continued from page 19)

expressions on the faces of her family, before her stoic resolve crumbled and she began to wail. She was hurried in Erin's direction, sopping wet in her mother's arms, toward the family car. And Erin's conscience burned – *she might become ill if she stays wet and cold like that*. The excitement of the situation perhaps caused Erin to hesitate less this time – she swept up the woollen rug from beneath her, handed it hurriedly to the Mother and child as they rushed past, whispered “keep it” to the Father, and smiled slightly as he offered her a word of thanks and briskly walked away.

Now Erin could feel the prickle of dry grass beneath her as she sat waiting for Jesus. She couldn't help noticing that it was quite a bit past the usual hour for lunchtime – surely Jesus wasn't late?

Still, the food would be lovely, and that was the main thing, wasn't it?

It was quite a long time before Erin noticed the old woman sitting on the park bench, watching the proceedings in the park with a slightly pained look on her face. Her clothes were thin with age, and she kept her arm wrapped tightly across her stomach as if it hurt her. Erin recalled that she used to sit in a similar way when she was at school, waiting ravenously for the lunch-bell so that she could satisfy her hunger. And this woman looked like she hadn't eaten for days!

When her conscience tapped her shoulder this time, Erin could nearly have cried. *The woman is hungry, and you have food – give it to her*. All of her plans for lunch with Jesus would be dashed; you can't have a picnic without food. But still, Erin

obeyed. She carried the little esky across to the woman, and laid it carefully on her lap, turning away before the woman could thank her. And then Erin began the walk home, her eyes full of hot tears so she could hardly see the afternoon sun setting with brilliant streaks across the slowly darkening sky.

Erin sobbed that evening as though her heart was breaking. She lay prostrate on the floor, crying mournfully into the crook of her arm, wondering why the Lord, who never breaks his promises, would break a promise with her. Such plans she had had! The work she had put into that day, the preparations and expense. And for all her sacrifices, Jesus had not even made an appearance. Erin reached for her bible, still crying, but praying fiercely that God would give her some answer, explain himself to her. And as she prayed her eyes fell upon a passage written in red, its contents perused often, but never meaning anything real or tangible to her before.

*“Then these righteous ones will reply, ‘Lord, when did we ever see you hungry and feed you? Or thirsty and give you something to drink? Or a stranger and show you hospitality? Or naked and give you clothing? When did we ever see you sick or in prison and visit you? And the King will tell them “I tell you, when you did it to one of the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were doing it for me.”<sup>1</sup>*

With a start, Erin realised that Jesus *had* been to her birthday lunch. In fact, through the people she had served, she had been entertaining the Lord all day.

Still on her knees, she resolved to do so more often.

<sup>1</sup> Matthew 25:37-40

Name withheld upon request



### **GOLDEN SYRUP**

Golden Syrup can be used more easily in recipes if the spoon is heated in boiling water first.

### **BURNT ALMONDS**

Dip almonds in milk before putting on top of a cake. They will bake brown but not burn.

### **LEFTOVER TOMATO PASTE**

Freeze leftover tomato paste in ice cube trays. Each cube makes about one tablespoon, and there is no wastage.

# Isaac & Rebecca

## Watched by those around them



How often are our lives observed by those around us? We find that children especially are always watching what grown-ups do, probably because they are like sponges as they learn to imitate adults.

But what of actions where we give the wrong impression? We see this situation in Isaac's life in Genesis 26:6-8

*"So Isaac stayed in Gerar. When the men of that place asked him about his wife, he said, "She is my sister," because he was afraid to say, "She is my wife." He thought, "The men of this place might kill me on account of Rebekah, because she is beautiful." When Isaac had been there a long time, Abimelech king of the Philistines **looked down from a window** and saw Isaac caressing his wife Rebekah."*

Isaac stayed in Gerar because God had told him to live there and that He would bless him (v2, 3). God was telling Isaac to trust Him and that He would provide. Doesn't God also tell us that?

What does Isaac do? He tells the men where he lived that Rebekah was his sister because she was beautiful and he was afraid that the men would kill him to have Rebekah.

Do you wonder from where Isaac's idea came? In Genesis Chapter 12, we read that Abram (Isaac's father) told his wife (Sarai) to tell the Egyptians that she was Abram's sister. He also was afraid that he would be killed by the Egyptians because Sarai was such a beautiful woman. Sarai did what Abram asked and, being a beautiful woman, she was taken to live in Pharaoh's palace. As a result God sent plagues on Pharaoh and his family. Once Pharaoh found out the truth, Pharaoh called Abram into his presence and told him to take Sarai and go on his way.

This event happened many years before Isaac was born. Perhaps Isaac's father told him the story. Perhaps he also told Isaac about the importance of trusting God rather than living a

lie.

By his words, Isaac placed Rebekah in a difficult and possibly dangerous situation. It seems that he was thinking only of himself ... he didn't want to be killed. Because the men of Gerar were not aware that she was married, one of them may have taken her into his bed – a situation she could do little to prevent.



It is important to remember that Isaac caressing Rebekah was not wrong. She was his wife, after all. However, Abimelech did not know this.

Why was Isaac not honest? When Abimelech confronts Isaac with the observation that Rebekah was *quite obviously your wife*, Isaac responds by saying that he hadn't wanted to die because of her.

Abimelech appears quite shocked by this and reminds Isaac of the possible consequences – the guilt that may have fallen on his people had one of his men had sex with Rebekah. Further, Abimelech directed his people that *"he who touches this man or his wife shall surely be put to death."*(v11)

It seems that Isaac thought he knew better than God how to handle the whole situation. He was obviously afraid of losing his life, despite God's instruction for him to live in Gerar and God's promise that He would bless him. He was trying to "close any loopholes": in doing so, he limited God's power to overrule in the situation.

How often do you and I do that? Do we give a wrong impression to others, despite knowing that God has placed us in a situation and will bless us in that situation? How often does our fear prevent us from trusting God fully?

We all know the famous quote that "no (wo)man is an island" by John Donne. My interpretation of this saying is that I cannot take any action in my life without other people being affected in some way by that action. There may appear to be

no obvious effect on other people, however, they (whether known or unknown to me) are watching my actions. If they as non-Christians, know me to be a Christian and feel that my actions are not those becoming of a Christian, then I have not advanced the cause of Christ in their lives.

1 Thessalonians 5:22 tells us to “avoid all **appearance of evil.**” From this verse, I believe that there are actions we take which are not sin. **But** because of those around us who are watching our lives, it may be better that we not do those things because of the false impression which non-Christians may have.

Even amongst our brothers and sisters in Christ, we need to ensure we are not a stumbling block to them. In writing to the church in Rome, Paul addressed the issue of eating food, which had been offered to idols. For some Christians it was

not a problem, however, for others it was a stumbling block to them. Paul’s advice is:

*“If your brother is distressed because of what you eat, you are no longer acting in love. Do not by your eating destroy your brother for whom Christ died.”<sup>1</sup>*

Let us continuously strive to ensure that none of our words or deeds causes any person to stumble in their spiritual walk or, indeed, their coming to the Kingdom.

<sup>1</sup>Romans 14:15 (NIV)

By Annette Lawson

## WRITERS Needed

We’re looking for **CHRISTIAN WOMEN** to be on our panel of writers.

- \* Personal Testimonies
- \* Poems
- \* Stories
- \* Subject Articles
- \* Bible Teaching

*As women there are so many challenges we face in our day-to-day lives.*

*How about putting pen to paper and using your experiences to encourage others?*

*As each edition is centred around a particular theme we ask that you contact us prior to forwarding material so that you can apply your writing to our upcoming themes.*

The Heart of a Woman Inc.

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## From the mouth of babes ...

Teacher Debbie Moon’s first graders were discussing a picture of a family. One little boy in the picture had different coloured hair than the other family members. One child suggested that he was adopted. A little girl said, “I know all about adoptions because I was adopted.”

“What does it mean to be adopted?” asked another child.

“It means,” said the girl, “that you grew in your mummy’s heart instead of her tummy.”

A four year old was at the paediatrician for a check up. As the doctor looked down her ears with an otoscope, he asked, “Do you think I’ll find Big Bird in here?”

The little girl stayed silent.

Next, the doctor took a tongue depressor and looked down her throat. He asked, “Do you think I’ll find the Cookie Monster down there?”

Again, the little girl was silent.

Then the doctor put a stethoscope to her chest. As he listened to her heart beat, he asked, “Do you think I’ll hear Barney in there?”

“Oh, no!” the little girl replies. “Jesus is in my heart. Barney’s on my underpants.”

# The Day of Charlotte's Trial

 Gertie stood in front of the courthouse, her long skirts flowing with the wind and the dust billowing in a circular upwards spiral around her, even getting into her eyes hair and teeth. The flies, well they were another thing; there was no escaping the dirty cloud; you just had to bear them - out here in the outback.

She stood praying about the coming day, a day they had troubled and waited over for quite some weeks now. Their friend was coming up to the last day of her trial and she knew it didn't look good. Only a few Christians lived in the little town, most were "agin 'em and it" as they would say. To most out here it was too important to be able to have a drink with their friends and do just what they wanted to do in the name of fun. They had never been able to see that others did not condemn them for their lifestyles and all fun did not go out the door when one became a Christian. They had tried to be loving witnesses, but with just the small few who named the name of Christ and then often they were scattered by 30 miles or so, it made it hard to reach out to their neighbours.

Now one of their number was being accused, and possibly sent to jail for making a very careless mistake. When it first happened she too was struggling with grief and pain over it. She cried for nights and days, but as she and Bert prayed about it, peace lay upon their hearts and they knew that God was still in control and He would see the whole thing through. She also knew that when their friend had fallen so badly, God Himself, was grieving; but she also felt deeply within her heart that now was a time for forgiving and waiting upon God. Before long she felt someone's hand in hers, she looked up and Bert stood beside her, he too began praying.

During the waiting, some of their fellowship stood afar off looking on. Sometimes they called out viciously telling both Gertie and Bert "that the place to pray was in their closet and not out here in the open. Besides" they added, "if Charlotte has done this thing then she should pay for it completely, she is a wicked woman and we are told in the Scriptures to separate ourselves from all appearance of evil!" At this both Gertie and Bert felt tears begin to flow. "Oh Lord! Our Lord! How excellent is thy name in all the earth, who hast set thy glory above the heavens!" – (Ps. 8: 1 KJV) and just as Moses had stood between the wicked and the good in prayer they too continued in the same vein. "Forgive these folks, they are bound in sin and do not know what they are saying and doing. Oh Lord, please pour out your love upon them and help them to see the difference between clean and unclean – holy and unholy. Reveal Your Holy Son to them in all His glory. Help them to see Him crucified for the sin that we have all been bound by and buried that we too may be dead to sin. Then Lord, help them to see Him risen that we might be risen with Him. Touch their lives

with His Holy Spirit we pray and convict them also of their need for Your grace and mercy."

After some time they noticed that quietness had begun to descend upon the gathered crowd and then another hand was felt at Gertie's left, she opened her eyes and smiled at the women weeping beside her. Old Jenny, a woman she never expected to stand for Christ with them, happily smiled back at her. "Lord" she prayed tearfully looking into the peaceful face of Gertie, "please forgive me for not seeing the time you wanted me to stand for you, well I'm here now and Lord I need your strength. I am sorry that I have hurt both you and Gertie so, please join my prayers with her and her dear husband's that you might be glorified in this wicked situation."



It was now that they noticed a thin, bent over woman approaching the court. She looked like she wanted to see no one and be seen by no one. She purposefully steered clear of any of the crowd. Tears ran down her face, but in truth she looked like death was not far from her with each step she took. To steer clear of the crowd, she needed to come near the

three praying friends. It was then that she lifted her head and looked at each one. Even over the noise, they heard the deep breath of shock that Bert could not help but draw in. He had not seen Charlotte for some weeks as his wife had, and he had felt it wiser for just Gertie to visit. It was then he realized that this woman had not eaten, her clothes were loosely hanging off her and her face was gaunt. "Charlotte have you not been eating?" he questioned her. "No Bert, I do not deserve it, besides I can't get the plain food down and my mother never did get around to teaching me how to cook foods that I could swallow." She answered. "Oh I am sorry", he said... "No." – said Charlotte, "Your wife offered to help me, but I would not let her and refused to let her tell you about my plight." They stood looking at each other for a minute or two and then Gertie could not contain her next words. "Charlotte, we do not know what this day will bring, but one thing we do know is that we have a Holy and Righteous God who deserves all the glory in all that we do. For many years now we have often talked of our ministries, and I am beginning to realize that the most precious ministry of all is to love God with all our heart, to worship Him and Him only and to serve Him in prayer. If today goes badly, accept it with God's grace and thank Him for the open window you will have to the many lost souls in jail. Today we three have an open window to worship Him and intercede for you – may you always know that you are loved by Him and us and that His presence will never leave you..." "Thank you dear sister and thank you all for your love and prayers!" Charlotte quietly answered.

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Bert stepped forward, "Are we ready then Charlotte?" he said, "I will go in with you and stand by your side." Charlotte was clearly going to tell him not to, but then, realizing that the physical presence of a godly man beside her would help to steady her nerves and fears, she decided against that and nodded her head. "Charlotte," cried Gertie, "before you go" – at this she leant forward and put her arms around this thin and sad woman and gave her a hug. A glow flooded her face and she quietly whispered, "I am ready now, I have prayed and read God's Word throughout the weeks, I know I am forgiven and seated with Him in Heavenly places, but maybe there

are more consequences I need to go through. Yes Gertie – even these weeks have been a blessed open window, I love the Lord more than I thought possible and what's more I know He loves me. God bless m' dear." At this both she and Bert walked into the courthouse, the jeers rose and fell as they passed clumps of onlookers, but they did not trouble themselves with the noise and boldly walked through the door for they knew that another walked with them and would remain with them always.

By Wendy Davie

*Highly Recommended*

### "The Five Love Languages"

By Dr. Gary Chapman

Are you and your spouse speaking the same language?

**People express and receive love in different ways.  
Dr. Gary Chapman identifies these as the five languages of love.**

**QUALITY TIME \* WORDS OF AFFIRMATION \*  
RECEIVING GIFTS**

**ACTS OF SERVICE \* PHYSICAL TOUCH**

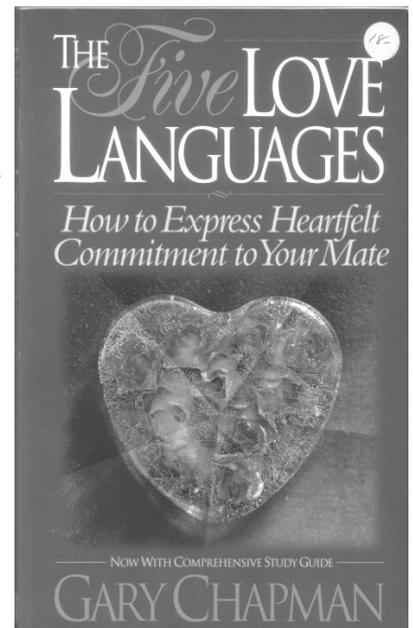
In order for us to affectively use the Windows of Opportunity God gives us, it is important to understand each other's languages of love.

How can this happen?

**Dr. Chapman clearly explains, using case histories of how these languages work and how easily we can misunderstand each other.**

He begins with the question - "What Happens To Love After The Wedding?" He explains how each of us has a love tank needing to be filled daily. When this happens we cannot help but pass this love on to others, especially to our spouses and children. At the end of the book we find Dr. Chapman helping us to clearly read our children's love languages, thus enabling us to help them mature in a wholesome way as they grow.

**"The Five Love Languages" now with a comprehensive study guide is available at all good Christian Bookshops.**



# Noah finds Grace -

## And opens the window

 Throughout our lives we are given many “Windows of Opportunities”. Some may be simply good openings for work or exciting outings. The meaning of an opportunity is simply – a good chance, favourable time or convenient occasion. With the word window attached it reveals to us that it must be an opening of some kind. Now the tendency is for us always to think that they should be good, but these thoughts come from our wishful thinking. A thinking that never wants us to suffer hardship or unhappiness. Whereas in truth our “Windows of Opportunities” come in all shapes and sizes.

The earliest and most recalled Patriarch after Adam in the Bible was Noah. Through the years he has been believed on, joked about, spurned completely and yet...scientists still look for his ark in order to prove or disprove the truth of the Scriptures.

We are told that Noah lived during an era of absolute wickedness. Wickedness so bad that God was grieved terribly and decided that judgement was inevitable. But one man - Noah, was given a window of opportunity. We are told *“he found grace in the eyes of the Lord”*<sup>1</sup> God saw that he was a just man who sought to obey God in all his ways. He taught his sons to also love and obey God and they showed their Dad great respect by accepting his teachings.

In order for God to keep or protect Noah and his family, He needed an ark. He told Noah exactly how to build this and over approximately 120 years Noah, and his sons, Shem, Ham and Japheth, worked hard in order to have it completed in time. The “window of opportunity” at this time in his life was filled with times of faith, yet confusion. After all God had spoken of both rain and flood, yet up until this point, they had experienced neither. It was filled with quiet happy family times: times of teaching, times of learning and times of growing. But this “window of opportunity” also brought great sorrow and fear.

God had spoken to him of the judgement to come. To Noah and his family it must have been heart breaking. For everywhere they looked they still saw God’s beauty in the creation He had made – was all this beauty to be

destroyed? By faith in God their hearts were completely joined to God’s heart and the wickedness that surrounded them must have grieved them even as it did God. Possible this was part of the cause of fear in his heart. I wonder if he didn’t fear for his children as we do. Then we are told in 2 Peter 2:5 that Noah was a preacher of righteousness, he longed that others too might find grace in God’s sight and preached to that end. But he also preached the good news of God’s salvation to all who would turn to Him in faith, by simply holding his head up high and keeping going with the job at hand no matter what ridicule or anger he faced. His



“window of opportunity” also brought great sadness, after all many of his relatives were doomed to the judgement to come. They weren’t all just acquaintances. So the day that Noah, his family and the animals entered the completed ark, we can be sure that his “window of opportunity” brought a mixture of joy, peace due to the acceptance of God’s Holy will and authority and yet sadness that the wickedness surrounding them had come to all this. When the God closed the only door in the ark and the rain began, Noah and his family were all too aware that

there was no turning back and neither did he want to, for they knew the safety and security provided for them in the ark.

Many Bible scholars tell us that the ark is symbolic of Christ. For those of us who have taken the “Window of Opportunity” given to them through salvation in Him, we too have the same safety and security that Noah knew. Whilst in this world we are fully aware that we have many “windows of opportunity” opening for us. Yes they come in all shapes and sizes: Some will bring good chances, favourable times or convenient occasions, whilst others are filled with a mixture of faith and confusion. Some will be filled with quiet happy family times, times of teaching, times of learning and times of growing, but we must never make the mistake of thinking that all will be good. “Windows of Opportunity” are not necessarily just for our benefit, no they are for God’s

*(Continued on page 26)*



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glory and at times those around us need us to sorrow and grieve in order that they might see the glory of God.

In Noah's ark there was one window. Whether it ran around the ark as a continuous window or whether it was only square we are not really sure. But we are told that its measurement was 18" or 46cm in depth. In Gen.8: 6 we read that after 40 days, Noah opened this window up and looked out from the protection he and his family had shared during the sound of rain heavily pelting the roof of the ark. During those 40 days and 40 nights, the lightening and thunder were so severe; he must have pondered the awful extremities of the judgement of God and so now he watched the swirling of the water and for months at a time this was all they could see, nothing but water! But at the end of ten months when the water had begun to decrease, what was it that he saw?

Well he would have seen -the judgement of God. Having been through severe floods I know only too well the damage they cause – great holes in the ground, trees big enough to plough houses over ripped from their foundational roots and scattered everywhere. Mountains dry, sunbaked and cracked where there had never been mountains before. The stench is something one never forgets, dead animals scattered everywhere and not a soul other than themselves to be found.

But something else was visible also -the mercy and grace of God. For his heart sounded out the truth that compared to God's righteousness, his just and righteous ways were not enough and never could be, to have saved either him or his family from the judgement in front of his eyes. His thoughts quickly wandered over the orders that the Almighty God had given him and as his hands gently moved over the gopher wood and pitch, he could not help but praise God for that great mercy and grace. Here they were faced with yet another "Window of Opportunity" – a new beginning and the olive leaf the dove returned to Noah reminded him of the new life they had entered, when they entered the ark.

Joshua 24:15 (KJV) says, "Choose you this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the river, or the gods of the Amorites (of the world, and those around you) in whose land ye dwell; but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord. (Section in brackets added for further understanding). When he spoke these words to the Israelites it was many years after the time of Noah, but as they had to make a decision then, so did Noah and his family and so do we. It might have been a new beginning for them, but they were still open to sin and wickedness and so the choice was theirs. Which way would they go?

Which way will we go? Will we choose the judgement of God or will we choose His great mercy and grace. To not make a choice is to automatically choose the judgement. If Noah had remained on the ramp and kept thinking will I enter or not – he too would have been lost. To choose God's mercy and grace simply means that you must enter the ark. You must decide as Noah did, that you are unable to save yourself from the judgement to come, and so you must fall into the loving arms of the Lord Jesus Christ. Confess to Him that He is God come in the flesh to die in your place. Confess to Him that you are a sinner, full of wickedness, and unable to change. Ask Him to forgive and cleanse you and ask Him to enter your heart and change it to one that desires to obey His guidance in your life.

This is simple fuss-less faith – this is salvation – this is joy and peace – this is safety and security and none of these can be obtained anywhere else.

What a wonderful "Window of Opportunity" we have in Him.

<sup>1</sup> Genesis 6:8 KJV

By Wendy Davie

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You  
Help?

We are seeking the assistance of a **MEDICAL EDITOR.**

*As women there are so many day to day issues in our lives that have an impact, either directly or indirectly, on our health.*

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# WANTED ... You

As you would have read in the last magazine, The Heart of a Woman Inc. is now incorporated as a "not-for-profit" organisation. Being a legal entity The Heart of a Woman Inc. has various ongoing legal obligations which it is required to meet. Some of these obligations (eg financial) are taken care of by the office-bearers.

As you know, the magazine is made available to you our readers free of charge and we know you appreciate that there are costs to produce and post the magazine. We are blessed by donations received from readers, which help to cover costs.

We have received some wonderfully positive comments from you about the change in the magazine's format and presentation. (Thank you!) In reaching this we have been greatly blessed by the provision of materials and labour by Gary and Carol May in Bundaberg. Gary and Carol print, collate and staple the magazine ready for distribution. This is a loving gift to the Lord which is greatly appreciated by us, however, with increasing orders for the magazine The Heart of a Woman Inc. is neither prepared nor willing to continue to accept Gary and Carol's largesse on an ongoing basis without contributing towards their costs.

A legal requirement is that The Heart of a Woman Inc. has

*members.* This would involve paying an annual membership fee, and being sent an invitation to attend the Annual General Meeting. Becoming a member is a tangible way to indicate support of The Heart of a Woman Inc.

The Management Committee has set the membership fee at \$25.00 for the 2005 calendar year. We estimate that if 200 people paid annual membership of \$25.00, the amount

raised would cover current postage costs.

We know that more than one person reads each copy of the magazine. It may be your husband, your daughter, your son, another family member or a friend. *Would you as a reader, prayerfully consider showing your support of The Heart of a Woman Inc. by becoming a member?*

Should you feel before the Lord that you do not wish to become a member, we will understand and respect your decision.

If you feel that God would have you indicate your support by becoming a member, please complete the Membership form and return with a cheque or money order to:

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Alternatively, you may wish to make a direct (online) deposit to the bank account of The Heart of a Woman Inc. Account details are:

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## Membership Form – 2005

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# About Us:

This magazine is published quarterly and provided FREE of charge to our readers.

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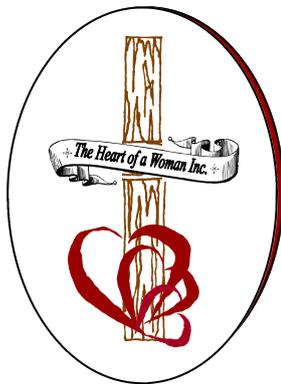
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Please contact us if you have any articles of interest for inclusion in this magazine or you wish to be involved in it's production and/or distribution.



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## *Our Vision:*

*To share God's truth and encourage each other in our Christian faith.*

## *What we believe:*

- The Bible is the inspired Word of God. We seek to follow its doctrine.
- In the trinity of the Godhead.
- Christ, Himself as our sinless Lord.
- Filled with all the fullness of the Godhead bodily, indeed, being God come in the flesh.
- The personality and Deity of the Holy Spirit.
- The creation and fall of man.
- Christ's death, burial and resurrection.
- The need for all to be born again in Him.
- That we were created in Christ unto good works.
- The resurrection of the body.
- The judgement of both the living and the dead
- The eternal blessedness of the righteous, and the eternal punishment of the wicked.
- That Satan is real and so is hell.
- That Jesus Christ will return as He has promised.

***This magazine has been given to you by:***

*If you feel the need for personal contact with any queries concerning your spiritual life, or burdens you bear, please feel free to either contact the church above or write to us at 'The Heart of a Woman Inc.'*