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Monte Perlin Defies Death



Focus on the Family **Dr. James Dobson**







Chicken Soup for the Golden Soul

Lighter Side









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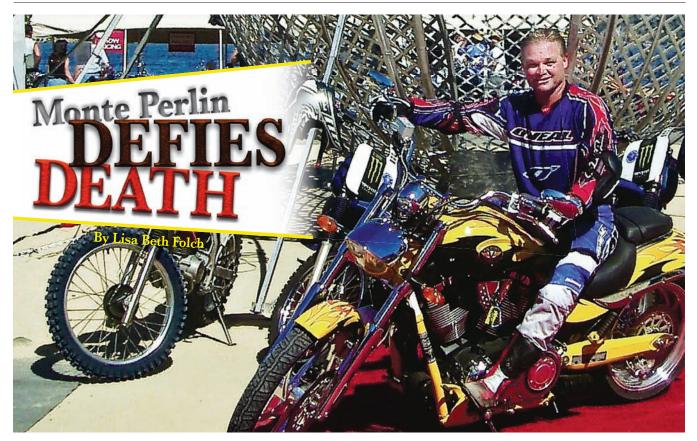
for fun

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"Fire, more fire," the director called as stuntman Monte Perlin prepared to carry a stunt girl through fiery flames and kick through a door on the other side. Gas pipes built up the fire until there was a full explosion. The distinct possibility of being burned alive as the flame enveloped the home seemed imminent.

It was just another day on the job for Perlin, who makes his livelihood doing death-defying stunts in live shows and on movie sets. A career stunt man, this tough athlete knows all about manipulating danger. More than that, he knows that only God can bring him through to the other side, intact. A seasoned Christian now, it wasn't always that way.

As a young teen, all Perlin knew was a hard core party lifestyle that came with racing motorcross. Radical is one way he described his life as a fifteen year old. Drinking and fighting were the norm for a decade. "No one told me any different, especially when I took that first drink. No one was around to tell



L-R Perlin family: daughter, Rachel, Monte and wife, Pamela

me about Jesus Christ or a different way of life," he explained. Then he met his wife Pamela, who showed him the path to Righteousness. "I decided to dive in full with the Lord. He took away the drinking and the partying in the blink of an eye," said Perlin.

At the time of his conversion, he wasn't sure what he wanted to do with his life. The stunts had a rough start, and he wasn't sure he wanted to pursue that career. So this new believer prayed with his wife. They challenged God to show him what he should do. That same weekend Perlin had a live stunt show out in the desert in California, far away from Hollywood. It so happened that a Hollywood heavyweight was there and he wanted Perlin to be his new stunt man in movies worldwide.

Perlin accepted the offer, and went on to survive the stunt going through the house on fire ... "exactly like Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego," he said. "I should have burned alive." Since that day in the desert, this veteran stunt man has been a double for Arnold Schwarzenegger in *Terminator 3*, Keanu Reeves in *Chain Reaction* and Adam Sandler in *Bedtime Stories*, among a plethora of other roles. Another miracle happened on the set of *Terminator 3* when a safety cable malfunctioned and he was left dangling from the cable like a fish on a hook, weaving in between telephone poles. One misstep and he would have been fish food on the side of the pole. Oh, the stories he can tell.

His reputation has been built on doing seemingly impossibly stunts ... sober and without compromise. Perlin hasn't had a drink in over twenty-five years, even around so many who thought "cool was cocaine and beer and being radical and drunk ..." The resident "Jesus Freak," many laughed at him. Yet as miracles began happening on set, like going through fire without being burned, he garnered the trust of his comrades.

One day a colleague sat down next to him at lunch. Instead of Monte Perlin. - see page 8



Well, it is hard to believe that 18 years ago the first issue of Cornerstone Connection went on the racks all over Central Florida. We are so thankful to God to be able to celebrate another year. We are especially thankful to survive this past year. What a ride; not only did we suffer one of the toughest economies I have ever experienced in my lifetime, but I personally suffered with pneumonia for five months. Yet, our God, as always, is faithful through all our circumstances and we are growing, as you will notice in the next few months. Many changes are taking place, as we birth a new look and a new season to be a light in our community. We hope to inspire all to join as a family to help support one another, as we regain our strength and momentum through our circumstances. It is through difficult times like these that we grow and learn to put our faith in God and not our own capabilities. He is the only sure foundation. And He provides for all our needs. As we celebrate this 18th year, we consider our Greatest Gift of all is our Lord Jesus Christ. His love abounds and supercedes anything or anyone this world can offer.

We are beginning to spotlight our clients with feature stories each month to help you get to know them a little better. Without them, you would not be reading this now. Please go out of your way to support our advertisers. When you support them, you support us.

By this time next month, we will have a virtual *Cornerstone Connection* magazine on our website for you to flip through and enjoy at your leisure, for the times you forget to pick it up at your local church, business, or restaurants.

A few weeks ago, a friend of mine brought to my attention a scripture in Malachi 3:9- *You are cursed with a curse for you have robbed Me, even this whole nation*¹. Most of us associate this with tithes and offerings, but the very moment she read this scripture, I felt God inspired me to consider not only the tithe,



but most of us rob Him of the use of our vessel, either by being too busy or not taking care of our bodies properly, making them short circuit. A few days later, another God moment occurred. During my devotion, the Lord inspired me to consider this vessel He created and its purpose. So many times we think and ask, "What do you want me to do Lord; what is your purpose for this vessel?" We think we need to be a minister or missionary or author, which are all great positions, but suddenly it seemed so clear all He wants to do is find pure, healthy, willing vessels He can love others through. How does God love us and help us through difficult times, but through one another. The word of God is the Greatest book on love and the basis of its foundation. Love your neighbor as yourself. If we are running so hard and heavy and abusing our bodies, that doesn't really show much love for ourselves, and it seems to be the main component from His Word to be able to love others.

In closing, I felt as though He illustrated this message without my making a conscious effort. But still feeling pensive of the depth of the message, I went to my local grocers, and when I went through the line, the cashier said, "How are you today?" And instead of talking on my iPhone and rushing through the line, I looked her in the eyes and said, "Great, and you look so pretty today. Those earrings match your top beautifully." She lit up like it had been awhile since she had heard a compliment or encouraging word.

Then, as I went through the double doors, this sweet old woman was sitting on a bench looking a little forlorn. I told her how beautiful she looked in that yellow blouse, and her face lit up.

I felt the Lord say, "This is what I want to do through your vessel." Something so simple as this to love one another. It occurred to me there are people in this world that walk this message out, like Mark and Linda Derringer of Bob Heinmiller Air Conditioning. They have been nothing but a constant support and encouragement since they started advertising with us eight years ago. They get how to be a vessel for God's love. Thank you for your undying support of this magazine. You have been a great example of how God loves us through others if we let him.

Let's consider all we have to be thankful for this year and start taking care of our vessels that we may go about our Father's business.

Love and Appreciation, LuAnne Anderson Publisher

¹Malachi 3:9 New King James version



BUILDING THE BODY OF CHRIST

Cornerstone Connection is a monthly magazine with the purpose of serving those in the body of Christ in the Central Florida area. It is also our desire that those who do not know Christ may be inspired by the content of the magazine.

advertising

Advertising rates and deadlines are available upon request. We invite you to send news of your upcoming church and ministry events to us via fax or e-mail by the 10th of each month for publication the following month. The owner of Cornerstone Connection also encourages your suggestions and comments on how we can better serve you.

Advertisers in Cornerstone Connection have confirmed that they are operating their businesses upon Biblical standards of integrity. However, the owner of Cornerstone Connection recommends that you exercise your judgement when purchasing goods or services. Owner reserves the right to refuse advertising that does not meet with the standards of this publication.

Thank you for letting advertisers know that Cornerstone Connection is the source of the referral.

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Cornerstone Connection



Monte Perlin - from page 5

being his usual jokester self, this fellow stunt man went from laughter to tears as he shared his life story with Perlin. After sharing the gospel, his friend surrendered to Jesus' love right there. His life changed, and Perlin was a testament to it. Just two weeks after witnessing to his buddy, this new believer was killed in a high fall accident.

Since then, every opportunity to share Jesus is a joy for Perlin, witnessing to a whole host of movie stars, stunt buddies and anyone who will listen. One of his most powerful messages involves his "globe of death." During a live motorcycle stunt show the kids are invited inside. Then a stunt man will lock the door. "Come on out," he'll say while they look on perplexed, knowing they are trapped. "This is just like Satan," Perlin tells the kids. "He lures you into a trap that looks intriguing and fun. The next thing you know you look around and you can't get out. You're locked in. I want you to have this mind picture the rest of your life. Don't ever let the enemy trick you and lock you in so you can't get out. I know the keys that set you and set me free." Then all the kids scream "Jesus" and the gate opens.

There have been times of testing throughout Perlin's career. "People have betrayed me or I've lost jobs or situations or money, or been broke and not been been paid for jobs I've almost killed myself on," he admitted. One time during a financial drought, he was offered a stunt on a major movie, but there were inappropriate actions written into the script. So Perlin said 'no,' and lost a contract that he sorely needed. Then God provided something bigger and better. It's how he's lived his life. During the tough times he'll look back and remember God's faithfulness. "That encourages and builds me up and strengthens me to go on," he mused.

There was one crash on a movie set that left him wondering if his stunt days were over. The idea was to jump a Harley through a train. When he landed this one, the bike snapped in half and crushed his ankle. Four of the best doctors said "you'll do nothing but tiddlywinks." They almost amputated his leg, when these pro-Monte Perlin. - see page 10



Photos L-R Sir Patrick Stewart, Monte; Chuck Norris, Monte; Tom Wopat, Monte, John Schnieder, Catherine Bach; Jeff Bridges, Monte; Brent Spinner, Monte



Sex Trafficking



Over two hundred years ago, British Parliamentarian William Wilberforce tirelessly crusaded to protect innocent humans from forced bondage. His efforts, depicted recently in the Hollywood film *Amazing Grace*, led first to Britain's abolition of the slave trade in 1807 and finally to a prohibition on slavery in 1833.

JAMES DOBSON

The United States ended slavery with President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation and the end of the Civil War. Or so it would

seem. By the beginning of the 20th century, President Theodore Roosevelt warned against the "white slave trade," which involved the abduction and forced prostitution of young women and girls. Although Congress passed the Mann Act in 1910 forbidding the interstate transport of persons for immoral purposes, the forced prostitution of women and children continues in the United States – and globally – to this day.

What is Sex Trafficking?

Sex trafficking is a specific form of human trafficking in which a victim is induced by fraud, force or coercion to perform a sex act for payment. One common scheme to seduce women is to promise them jobs overseas as waitresses or domestic servants. Once out of the country and away from their family, traffickers take victims' passports and subject them to beatings or rape to force them into their new "job."

In the United States, victims of sex trafficking are often young girls who have run away from abusive situations at home and are quickly picked up by pimps who coerce them into prostitution by promising food, shelter or clothing. Pimps tighten their control over the girls by getting them dependent on drugs. Other recruiting methods include befriending vulnerable-looking girls at malls, movie theaters and even schools. The recruiter could be a young man posing as a doting boyfriend or another girl who appears to be friendly.

How Widespread is Sex Trafficking?

The demand for commercial sexual exploitation flourishes around the world, fueled by prostitution and pornography.

Global

• In January 2006, Interpol announced that human trafficking generates \$32 billion annually.

• The United Nations claims that the trafficking of human beings has surpassed the drug trade to become the second largest source of money for organized crime after the illegal arms trade.

• The U.S. State Department estimates at least 600,000 to 800,000 human beings are trafficked across international borders each year. Numbers within national borders are much higher.

• Among all trafficking victims, 80 percent are female and 50 percent are children.

• Seventy percent of trafficking victims are forced into sexual servitude.

• UNICEF reports that more than 1 million children around the world enter the sex trade every year.

• Approximately 30 million children have lost their childhood to sexual exploitation over the past 30 years.

United States

• An estimated 14,500 to 17,500 women and children are trafficked into the United States annually from other countries.

• Congress, in the Trafficking Protection Reauthorization Act of 2005, found that between 100,000 to 300,000 American teens are at risk for sex trafficking annually.

Despite an estimated 100,000 to 150,000 sex slaves in the U.S., fewer than 1,000 victims have been assisted through the efforts of federal, state and local law enforcement since 2001, when services for trafficking victims were first made available.

The entire *Complete Marriage and Family Home Reference Guide* is available at Focus on the Family's Online Resource Center. Dr. James Dobson is president and founder of Focus on the Family. This article was written by James Dobson, Inc. All rights reserved. Intervnational copyright secured.

John "Brooks" Peeples August 10, 1962 - March 6, 2010



My sweet Brooks you are loved and missed by so many. I miss you so much and you are always in my thoughts. Imiss your beautiful smile that would light up a room, your charming personality, your loving heart, but most of all I miss the unconditional love you gave me. No one has ever loved me the way you did. Our love will live forever in

Betsv

my heart. Even though my heart is broken I can have peace because of our faith in Jesus. This separation is only temporary. I will see you again. Save a place for me... Your True Love & Best friend,

Volume 16 Issue 8



Monte Perlin- from page 8 -

fessionals decided in unison to piece the ankle together, like a jigsaw puzzle. It was perfect. The doctors were befuddled at how well it worked, but Perlin knew. "That's the power of God," he said. This born risk-taker has worked through injuries and pain. "Christ gives you the strength, the courage, the boldness to move on, through the pain" he said. "It doesn't just apply to broken bones, it applies to broken lives, and to a broken heart."

Life and death hang in the balance as Perlin is willing to defy the odds and do stunts no one else is willing to do; but not until he is assured with the "Peace that passes all understanding." Before each stunt he stays in the presence of the Lord in his dressing room "until I know that I know that God is with me," he said. "That gives me the courage to go on." It was another day, another motorcycle trick flying through a moving train this time, as he doubled Adam Sandler in Bedtime Stories for a spectacular stunt. One mistake on the timing or in the depth would mean death for not only Perlin, but for the girl who rode with him on the bike. The responsibility of another life weighed heavy, along with the thought of leaving his wife and children behind. Sleepless for two nights and praying harder than this family man had ever prayed, he was scared about this one; up until the moment of reckoning came. "This feeling of supernatural peace came over me," he remembered. God gave him the faith of David and the courage of Daniel in the lion's den. And of course, the jump was perfect.

Look closely and you'll see Perlin doubling for Tom Beringer in the

new movie "Inception," starring Leo DiCaprio. In another risky stunt, he's buckled into a van that goes under water. The trick comes in maneuvering out of the seat belt, taking off the oxygen and waiting for someone else to break through a window for the rescue.

Monte Perlin lives and breathes danger and risk, but not without the covering of his Savior. "I'm just a normal person like anyone else," he



Monte wth his wife, Pamela, daughter, Rachel – who doubled for actress Mira Sorvino in the movie *Like Dandelion Dus*t.

said. "What makes the difference is to believe the scripture and have faith ... I'm excited to see what God is going to do next!"

Do you know, if you died today, that you would go to Heaven? If not, please pray this simple prayer: Father, please forgive me of my sins. Thank You for sending Your Son to die on the cross for me. I give You my life today. Please give me Your wisdom to understand Your Word and help me find a church that speaks life through Your Word and help me to desire to be with those who will help me grow in my passion for You. I ask this in the name of Your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.



JOIN PRINCE OF PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH for Rally Day on Sept. 12. "Free Will" breakfast from 7-9:15 a.m. in our Family Life Center, with ativities following. We offer 3 worship services at 8:15, 10:45, including a Hispanic service at 11 a.m.. We're located at 1515 S. Semoran Blvd., Orlando, (407) 277-3945.

COME AND SEE the great things God is doing through Christian Help. Please join us for one of our free monthly lunches. To find out more, call Jackie at (407) 619-9738, 450 Seminola Blvd., Casselberry.

ABORTION RECOVERY HEALING GROUP — Daytime or evening groups available in Lake Mary. Call Reveille Ministries for confidential location. (407) 333-0404 or e-mail: info@callforhope.org.

H AVEN OF HOPE MINISTRIES is available to equip churches and individuals that are infected or affected with HIV/AIDS. If you are HIV/AIDS infected, we offer services. Call Roxanne at (407) 298-2056. Support groups available.

MONDAY

JOY RECOVERY GROUP—Recovering from stress, addictions, trauma, abuse? Classes on Monday evenings at 6:30 p.m. at Panera Bread, Heathrow, off Lake Mary Blvd. Please contact Marlene Hoenig, Class instructor at (407) 272-7797. www.cinderellareleased.blogspot.com.

TUESDAY

WEST ORANGE CHRISTIAN SERVICE CENTER TEEN GROUP — Bring your friends and enjoy an evening of movies, activities and discussions at 300 W. Franklin Street, Ocoee, on Tuesdays from 6 p.m.-7:30 p.m. Call Melissa at (407) 921-0525.

WEDNESDAY

CARE FOR THE CAREGIVER GROUP — Wednesdays, 6 p.m.-7:30 p.m., at The West Orange Christian Service Center, 300 W. Franklin St., Ocoee — hosts support dinners for caregivers seeking a place to share, develop new interests, and renew their energy through humor. No charge to attend. Call Melissa at (407) 921-0525.

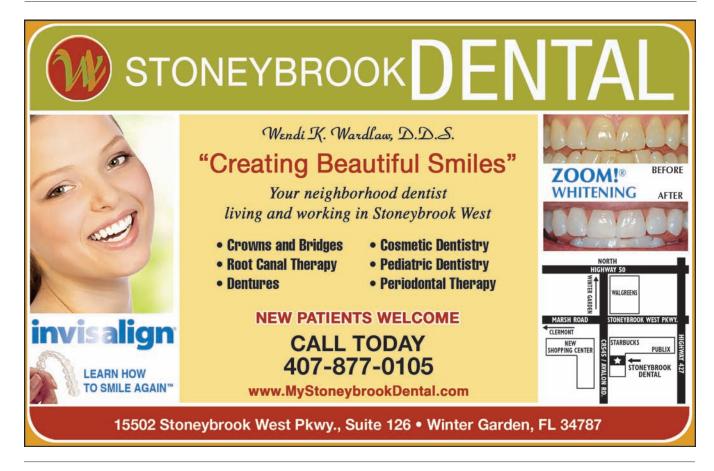
JOB FAIR — On September 8, 2010 from 12noon-4pm. Meet your next employer at The Governor's Job Fair located at Central Florida Fairgrounds, Orlando. Over 50 companies offering hundreds of jobs. Free admission and Parking. Visit CFEC.org or call 407-834-4022

NIGHT PRAYER — Come for an exiting evening of prayer. This event is held the first Wednesday of every month, from 7 p.m.-9 p.m., at Church in the Son, located on 4484 N. John Young Pkwy., Orlando. For information, call (407) 246-0001.

- Coming Events - see page 12



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Coming Events - from page II -

THURSDAY

FREE GRIEF SUPPORT — You don't have to go through the grieving process alone. Call for specific schedule. Meeting at Mt. Sinai Missionary Baptist Church, 5200 W. South St., Orlando, on Thursday evenings, (407) 860-7927 or (407) 299-8820. Interpreters for the Deaf provided.

CENTRAL FL DISPENSATIONAL BIBLE STUDY — Thursdays at 6:30pm in Cassleberry! Studying the Word of God in the King James Bible, line by line, and word for word. Call 321-202-0751 today!

FRIDAY

GO DEEPER — Join us every Friday night for an intimate time of prayer and worship from 7 p.m.-9 p.m. Meetings are at Resound Church on 7303 Monetary Dr., Orlando. For more info, see www.resound247.com or call (407) 340-0204.

MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT — Want to move your marriage from bland to grand? Join us for Marriage Enrichment sessions — first Friday of each month. Details: First Baptist Markham Woods, 5400 Markham Woods Road, Lake Mary; (407) 333-2085.

EXERCISE YOUR FAITH — WALK FOR JESUS!!! Come and join us on the 1st, 3rd and 5th (if it applies) Friday for a Night of Fun, Fellowship and Exercise around Cranes Roost in Altamonte Springs. Meet @ 7:30 p.m. Contact Valerie: (407) 920-2070 or e-mail at valeriejms@msn.com.

SATURDAY

G ATHERING FOR AUTHORS, WRITERS AND BOOK LOVERS — Meet and greet new authors. Book displays, free books and other printed materials. Learn computer skills and effective communication, publishing tips and more. Every 4th Saturday, 1 p.m.-4 p.m., Casselberry Library, 215 N. Oxford Road, (407) 551-0734.

ADVENTURES IN CHRISTIAN WRITING meets the 3rd Saturday of every month at 9:30 a.m. at First Presbyterian Church of Orlando. Contact Pat Elston, (407) 834-5396 or e-mail: poetpat@cfl.rr.com.

NEW DAY NOW—Addiction recovery, Tuesdays, 7 p.m., at Church In The Son, 4484 N. John Young Pkwy. Connecting people with substance abuse and addiction issues for support and accountability. For info, contact Ed Jordan at addictionrecovery4u@yahoo.com or (407) 470-2153; Gerri Jordan at (407) 718-0744.

WINTER PARK AGLOW — A group of women who reach out with God's love to all women in the area. Meets the 2nd Saturday of the month at 9:30 a.m. at Aloma U. Methodist Church. Call Pearl at (407) 538-7984.

If your Church or Ministry has an announcement of an upcoming event we will place it for 3 months FREE of charge. Fax info to (407) 872-1417 or e-mail: cornerstone-ads@cfl.rr.com. Please send it by the first of the month for the next months issue. Words are limited to 35 or less. Because of space limitations regular Sunday services, school start-ups, etc., cannot be placed.





August 3, 2010

Dear Ms. Anderson,

Congratulations on the celebration of 18 years of publishing the *Cornerstone Connection*.

I have enjoyed the opportunity to read the magazine over the years and have been very encouraged through reading seeing such positive articles. Your continued leadership at *Cornerstone Connection* will play a key role in maintaining this great publication that specializes in serving and inspiring the Orlando community.

Orlando is fortunate to have such a devoted

citizen as you, who is willing to give their time and talent to make our City a better place.

Congratulations again on this accomplishment and I look forward to hearing more wonderful news from you and *Cornerstone Connection* in the near future.

Thank you for your continued commitment. Sincerely,

Buddy is

Buddy Dyer Mayor



Home Improvement Featuring Bob Heinmiller Air Conditioning Inc.

Integrity is a foundational key at Bob Heinmiller Air Conditioning Inc. Owners Mark and Linda Derringer run the business that Linda's father began twenty years ago. "We're committed to integrity and honesty and providing the best quality work. When people want integrity, they think of us," said Linda. This company services air conditioning/ heating units, electrical needs and even solar water heaters. Their work is guaranteed, and they promise never to sell you anything that you don't need.

Mark has been an integral part of the company since its inception, and took over when Linda's father passed away a decade ago. "My father would be so pleased with what Mark has done because he has continued that legacy of integrity," noted Linda. Over the years, they have had many opportunities to help give services to those in need. "People are always hurting, and Mark has always done what we can to help people out."

As God has blessed them, so they have been a blessing to others by reaching out to the community in several ways. They've partnered with different ministries including Cornerstone Connection and Help Your Neighbor's Christmas outreach, The Gift Shop, and helping another ministry build a church in Africa. "It's been wonderful to make a difference," she added.

Their philosophy and the way they live their whole lives began when Mark and Linda were "radically saved" twenty years ago and Linda said they've been "on fire for Him ever since. Everything we do is based around our Christ-



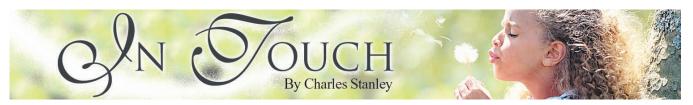
ian faith. It is what we make business decisions from, how we raise our family, what we do in our marriage. Everything is based on what Jesus would have us do," confirmed Linda.

Mark and Linda have four daughters, age 20, 16, 14 and 12.

Contact: (407) 422-7657 • www.BobHeinmiller.com







Reaping What You Sow



Who we are today is the result of our past. By that, I mean our previous thoughts and actions determine, to a large extent, what kind of people we become. Those who act wisely now will have insight in the future to make judicious decisions. Those who save prudently are prepared for the needs of tomorrow.

C. STANLEY

It is a shortsighted person who thinks only of

the here-and-now, and does as little as possible. Eventually, he will have no way to avoid the poor quality and small quantity of his rewards.

Scripture puts it this way: "Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap" (Gal. 6:7). The verse describes an unalterable law that affects everyone in all areas of lifefamily, work, and pleasure. It is both a warning and an encouragement.

We reap what we sow, more than we sow, and later than we sow (Life Principle #6). Every farmer appreciates the meaning of this principle. Let's examine it to make sure we understand the implications.

First, this truth applies to everyone, including both Christians and non-Christians.

The principle of Galatians 6:7 is irrevocable; there is no escape, either for the believer or for the unbeliever. It is a law of life.

Did you notice how the verse begins? It says, "Do not be deceived, God is not mocked." Herein lies the root cause of the careless and indulgent lifestyle of many people. They are deceived. They either do not believe the truth, or they think they will somehow be the exceptions to God's laws.

To mock God is to turn up one's nose at Him or attempt to outwit Him. But this is foolish. Second Corinthians 5:10 says, "We must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad." If you were required to appear before the Lord's judgment seat in the next five minutes, what kind of fruit would you be able to show?

Second, we reap what we sow.

This fact is welcome news for those with good habits. But it is a frightening thought for anyone currently involved in ungodly activities such as promiscuity, drug, or alcohol abuse, neglect of family, or mistreatment of others in order to climb the ladder of success. We would not plant crabgrass and expect to harvest pineapples. Likewise, we cannot sow disobedience to God and expect to reap His blessing.

Third, we reap more than we sow.

Why do farmers plant seeds? Because they expect to harvest a great deal more than they sow. A single kernel can yield dozens, scores, even hundreds of seeds. It is the same way with both sin and righteousness-a small decision to do either good or bad reaps a much bigger crop, for either joy or sorrow.

Jesus used agrarian images to show that when we allow God's Word to produce positive qualities in us, the results multiply: "The one on whom seed was sown on the good soil, is the man who hears the word and understands it; who indeed bears fruit and brings forth, some a hundredfold, some sixty, and some thirty" (Matt. 13:23).

On the other side of the ledger, the prophet Hosea describes the consequences awaiting those who choose wickedness: "They sow the wind and they reap the whirlwind" (Hos. 8:7).

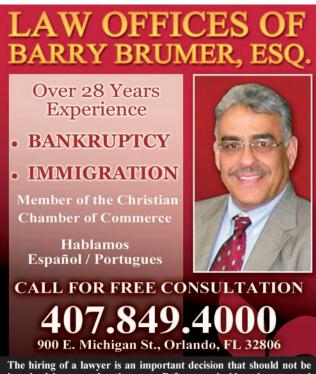
Fourth, we reap later than we sow.

Some are deceived because their present seed has yet to produce a crop. So they continue down their course, mistakenly believing that there will never be a harvest.

But unlike the crops of the field, which are gathered at approximately the same time each year, there is no regular timetable for the harvest of life. Some results come quickly; others take a long time. But do not be deceived-their season will come. And by going the second mile now and doing more than is required, we will collect rich dividends later.

"For whatever a man sows, this he will also reap." What a comforting and assuring thought to those who faithfully labor under difficult circumstances! Righteousness in such situations will produce a rich harvest in the future, for our heavenly Father always keeps His promise.

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based solely upon advertisements. Before you decide, ask us to send you free written information about our qualifications and experience.

www.barrybrumer.com



One Man and a Baby by: Paul Breon

"I have to go potty!" Four-year-old Andrea announces this to everyone in line with us at the bookstore, "Can you hold it? Please?" I ask.

"No, Daddy," She says, clutching herself. So we head to the bathroom - the mall bathroom. The one that says Women.

Andrea looks up at me expectantly. "C'mon, Daddy."

"I can't go in there. It's for girls. Can you be a big girl and go in by yourself?" I asked her.

She squints at me for a moment. "Okay!" She says, and marches over to the door, which is too heavy for her to open.

I push the door open for her. "You'll be okay," I say. If anything happens, just scream. I'll be right here." Two minutes pass. Three minutes. Four minutes . . .

Andrea's mother and I meet and fell in love at band camp when I was 14 and she was 13. We were together all through high school.

When I was a senior and Michelle was a junior, she became pregnant with our daughter, Andrea. We got married the day after my graduation from high school, when Andrea was two



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months old. For the next two years, we lived in a governmentsubsidized housing complex. I worked nearly every night delivering pizzas, and Michelle staved home with Andrea.

I don't remember when the arguing started. I don't know when our house drained of color and even Andrea's face turned sour. Michelle was sick of me, the apartment, her life. I told her I wanted Andrea to live with me. The next day, Michelle was gone.

When Andrea realized that her mom wasn't coming back, she started crying. I tried to console her, but she pushed me away. For hours, she huddled near her dresser, whimpering like a frightened animal.

Within a few weeks, we'd started adjusting to life without Michelle. We fell into a routine. While Andrea stayed home with a baby-sitter, I delivered pizzas until after midnight, came home and passed out. As soon as the sun hit her window, Andrea faithfully waddled in and woke me up. Then we'd stumble downstairs, and I'd dump out some dry cereal and fall back asleep on the couch with the TV blaring. At four o' clock, the baby-sitter would arrive again and I'd leave. I'd tell people I was a single father and made myself sound like a martyr. But really, it surprised me how easy it all was. Just put on Sesame Street, heat up some canned pasta, and away you go.

Andrea was almost four when the truth hit me. We were brushing our teeth together - toothpaste foam was dribbling off my toothbrush, onto my hand and down my arm. I saw Andrea in the mirror, gawking at me. "You're messy!" she said, and her words shook my heart.

"You're right," I said, reaching for a towel. "Daddy needs to clean himself up." I realized then that she would be learning everything from me - how to brush her teeth, how to dress, how to treat other people.

The next day, after a night of self-examination, I woke Andrea up, and we helped each other make the beds. Then I took a shower, got dressed, and washed all the dishes. I flung the drapes apart and sunlight poured in.

That morning was a year ago. Andrea and I have moved into a house, and I've got a nine-to-five sales job. At last, I feel as if I'm on the right track - as a father and a person.

Andrea's been in the bathroom five minutes when the door wobbles, pulls open an inch, and then falls shut. I step over and swing it open. Smiling proudly, she marches out. I gather her into my arms. "Daddy," she says. "We did it!"

"Yeah,"I say, patting her back. "We did."

Taken from Chicken Soup for the Single's Soul, which is available in bookstores everywhere or call (800) 441-5569. You can also order online at www.hci-online.com



MONDAY

THE HEART OF FLORIDA CIVITAN CLUB — Meets on the 1st and 3rd Mondays of the month, 6 p.m., at the Marks Street Senior Recreation Complex, 99 E. Marks St. For information, contact Ruthe Kurtz at (407) 896-7201.

TUESDAY

SINGLES ACTIVITY DINNERS — will meet on Tuesday, July 13th and Tuesday, August 10th at 6:30 p.m. at Froggers Bar and Grill, 1601 N. Rock Springs Road. For information about the Singles Event, call Dan (407) 383-8601.

E.S.T.H.E.R. Single Mother's Outreach-Dedicated to the spiritual, emotional, and physical needs of single mothers and their children. Bible study group meets every Tuesday from 7-9pm at Church In The Son; child care provided. Contact Marci Wild at (407)331-6436 www.esthersmo.com

FRIDAY

EXPERIENCE GOD, CONNECT WITH OTHER SINGLES and find a new way of living in an Orlando Christ-

ian Singles home group near you! For more details, go to our website at OrlandoChristianSingles.org or call Matt at (407) 782-2159.

SINGLES GAME NIGHT — 2nd and 4th Friday's at The First Baptist Church of Forest City (721 W. Lake Brantley Road). Come join us for a night of Fun, Fellowship and GAMES. Starts at 8:15 p.m. Contact Ginny: (407) 767-6500.

SUNDAY

NORTHLAND'S SAM — Single Adult Ministry meets the 4th Sunday of each month, 4 p.m. to 6 p.m., Room 4206. Join for worship, prayer, classes and fellowship. Sundays, gather at Nature's Table Café before the 6 p.m. worship service. Call (407) 949-7172 or visit christian social.meetup.com/189/.

If your Church or Ministry has an announcement about an upcoming Single Event, it can be placed FREE Just e-mail it to cornerstoneads@cfl.rr.com or fax it to (407) 872-1417. Please send it the by the first of the month for the next month's issue. Words are limited to 35 words or less.





A Plan For You by: Ruth Stafford Peale

"For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord. Plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and future."

-Jeremiah 29:11

The telephone rang. The familiar voice on the other end belonged to a close friend from California. Her voice caught with a little sob, and then I heard, "My wonderful husband has just died..."

My mind went back many years to when my husband Norman was a pastor of the Marble Collegiate Church on Fifth Avenue in New York City. A striking gentleman started coming to the Sunday morning service accompanied by his mother. They sat about eight or ten rows from the back. He visited several churches on Fifth Avenue but left each one after a few Sundays. He keept attending our worship service, and later he was selected to become an elder. He was considered one of the most brilliant attorneys in New York City. And he was single.

Now..."The rest of the story!"

Norman and I were taking a tour group of about twelve



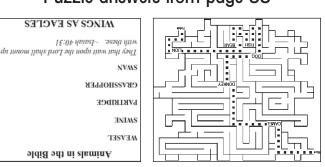
State of Florida AHCA License # 231012 Insured and bonded hundred people to Hawaii. We persuaded the attorney to go with us. The trip was a wonderful experience. One evening in the seaside hotel in Hawaii, I was planning the seating arrangements for the dinner table Norman and I would host. I had invited a good friend from San Francisco to be seated at our table. I asked myself,"What gentleman could I select to put next to this beautiful woman?" The thought of our attorney came to mind, for I felt he would be a good choice.

You can probably guess what happened. They fell for each other! That evening in Hawaii was a divine appointment. They were married, he moved to California and for fifteen years they enjoyed a wonderful life together. She was the one calling to inform me of his death.

I remember telling my dear, distraught friend what I tell other friends when they lose a spouse, "God had a plan for you when you two met and He has a plan for you now." A happy time of her life had come to a close, and she needed to believe that her future was still full of promise. "Throughout the changes in our lives," I said to her, "we all need to be reminded that God has a plan for us. I believe this because I have seen it to be true in the lives of many people."

At the time, I spoke to my Friend rom secondhand experience. But now I can speak from firsthand experience because Norman died after more than six decades of our being married. I treasure the past, but enjoy the present, too. I have begun to venture into new areas of speaking and writing that I never took time for when Norman was alive. But now is as good as time as ever for stretching my capabilities. When one of my friends or acquaintances loses a spouse and asks me for advice, I say, "I make it a point to enjoy new, unfolding plans for my life. If this formula works for me, it can work for you."

Taken from *Chicken Soup for the Golden Soul*, which is available in bookstores everywhere or call (800) 441-5569. You can also order online at www.hci-online.com



Puzzle answers from page 38



SUNDAY

ORLANDO BAPTIST CHURCH — Senior Bible study, Sundays at 9 a.m., followed by a Senior Adult worship service at 10:30 a.m. For more information, call (407) 277-8671.

SENIOR ADULT FELLOWSHIP — Meets every Sunday in the Fellowship Hall at 5 p.m. Includes music, message, meal and fellowship. Call (407) 277-8671 for additional information.

TUESDAY

OFMI SENIORS FELLOWSHIP MINISTRY — Trailblazers for tomorrow's generation welcomes you to come fellowship with us. Our meetings are held every 4th Tuesday night at 7 p.m. 2791 N. Pine Hills Road, Orlando 32808. Call (407) 291-2030.

THURSDAY

LOCKHART SENSATIONAL SENIORS — Meets every Thursday, 10 a.m.-12 p.m.: a time of music,

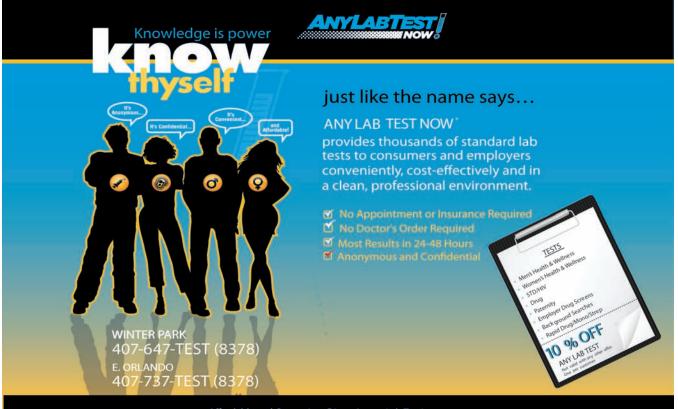
fellowship, and great food! You'll have barrels of fun! Lockhart Baptist Church, 7601 Edgewater Drive, Orlando. For more information, call (407) 295-1135.

YOUNG @ HEART — Meets every fourth Thursday through October at 10:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall for ages 50+. Meets the third Thursday at the same time in Nov. and Dec. There is always great entertainment, good food, fun and fellowship for all. Call (407) 277-8671.

SATURDAY

BABY BOOMERS — Men and Women in their (50's and 60's) with no family who would like to become a family of friends. We are starting a Saturday Night Dinner Club. If you are interested, please call Holly at (407) 275-7277.

If your Church or Ministry has an upcoming senior event fax it to (407) 872-1417 or e-mail it to cornerstone-ads@cfl.rr.com. Please submit by the first of the month for the next months issue. Limited to 35 words or less. Thank You!





The Key To Effective, Powerful Prayer

God's first line of defense – and offense – for every situation is prayer.

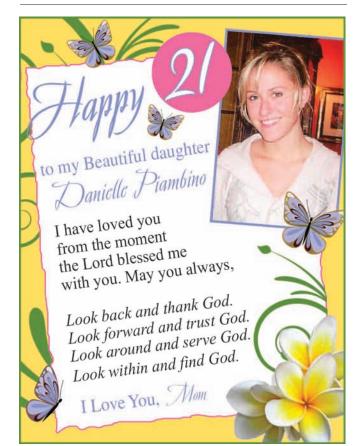
I remember a time when God spoke to my heart and asked me, "Joyce, do you really believe in the power of prayer?" I immediately responded with, "Yes, I believe in the power of prayer." But He asked me again – twice.

I figured out at this point that He wanted to help me get something I was missing, so I got quiet and waited to hear what He had to say. Then the Lord showed me that if I really knew how powerful prayer is, I would pray more.

James 5:16 says, "...The earnest (heartfelt, continued) prayer of a righteous man makes tremendous power available [dynamic in its working]" (The Amplified Bible). The New King James Version says it this way, "The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much."

Prayer opens the door for God to work!

We need to remember this more often. It's not critical, judgmental opinions that cause God to move on someone's behalf. It's the effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man or woman.



Instead of judging people, we need to pray. Instead of wasting time and energy talking about our critical opinions, we should use that same energy praying about whatever is bothering us. For example, when Dave and I see adult stores that sell things like pornography, we always pray that God will shut the place down.

And you don't have to pray long, loud, eloquent prayers in a certain place or with a certain posture for it to be effective. Fervent prayer is sincere, heartfelt and focused prayer. When God prompts you to pray a simple one-sentence prayer, like "God, please help that person..." you probably don't realize just how powerful it is.

Know who you are in Christ so you can pray with power.

The thing that's really important is praying fervently with a heart that's right with God, knowing who you are in Christ. We have to be confident that we're righteous before God - not condemned and guilty - so we will come boldly before God's throne of grace and get whatever we need (see Hebrews 4:16).

Now, I'm not talking about being self-righteous. It doesn't matter how much we do things right – we can never measure up to God's standard of holiness on our own. True righteousness comes through Jesus. We're cleansed by the blood of Christ and He gives us right standing with God. It's a gift. And we receive it through faith!

There are people who constantly live under a cloud of guilt and condemnation. It's like being on a treadmill of guilt. And the devil, who is called the "accuser of the brethren" (see Revelation 12:10), will say things like, "Who do you think you are? God's not going to hear you. You didn't do this...you didn't do that..."

Have you ever had these thoughts when you're praying?

But we don't have to live with this. God has given us everything we need through Christ to live a powerful life. We don't have to live depressed, discouraged, downtrodden and barely making it through each day.

We can get God's help in every situation – through prayer.

God wants to help you. He loves you. He accepts you and He approves of you because of what Jesus has done for you. And He will never ask or expect you to be or do something without giving you what you need to do it.

So even though we can't earn and we don't deserve righteousness, God offers His love and righteousness. And if we will really receive it, we can be like Jesus. We can pray effective, fervent and tremendously powerful prayers!

Author/teacher Joyce Meyer has been helping people overcome life's problems through biblical keys to practical Christian living since 1976. Her radio and television programs are broadcast throughout the United States and much of the world. For additional information, you may contact Joyce Meyer Ministries at P.O. Box 655, Fenton, MO, 63026 or at www.joycemeyer.org.



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Affording Your Healthcare

Rev. Howard S. Russell, Christian Healthcare Ministries

Several U.S. presidents have expressed their concern with the availability of healthcare to Americans. It's becoming too expensive for many people.

One of the main reasons healthcare is so expensive is that most Americans count on a third party to pay their medical bills. When that happens in healthcare or any other service—whether it is through government or insurance—it sends prices through the ceiling.

God gave us the blueprint some 2,000 years ago on the right way to approach this problem, including how Christians can support other Christians in meeting healthcare costs.

This plan is documented in the book of Acts, chapters 2 and 4. Christians joined together to make sure that everyone's needs were met.

Christian Healthcare Ministries (CHM) is the modern-day answer for Christians. CHM is a faith-based, Bible-based, affordable alternative to health insurance that allows you to take control of your healthcare decisions.

There are several ways our ministry helps. First, it has a biblical model that has Christians sharing financially to meet each other's needs and pray for each other. We bring the needs of fellow Christians to the throne of grace. God does intervene for His children. Secondly, the program emphasizes personal responsibility in making healthcare decisions.

Christian Healthcare Ministries is effectively making it possible for people to afford their healthcare costs. In the last 15 years alone, CHM members have voluntarily shared more than \$450 million in medical costs.

Unlike insurance companies, no one's monthly financial gifts are increased if they become ill or injured. Just as importantly, no one is ever removed from participation because they have an expensive illness.

You can be a part of this ministry. Just call 800-791-6225, or visit us online at www.chministries.org. Thousands of Christians are waiting to make your healthcare costs affordable. They want to help carry your burdens (Galatians 6:2).

We will help make sure that you don't pay too much for medical services, that you get good treatment and that you have help carrying your financial burdens.

Call today at 800-791-6225 or visit www.chministries.org. Find the love of God expressed through this wonderful ministry during good times and the most difficult times of your life.

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A Nation In Jeopardy

For the first time in my life, I am seriously worried about the future of the United States of America, and not just about the wars we're fighting, the economic and ecological disasters we're currently going through, the shrinking dollar or swelling entitlement rolls.

While the combination of the aforementioned are definitely sources of deep worry for me, they are only symptoms of an even deeper and darker reason for my anxiety, and that is the bottomless precipice the U.S.A. keeps inching closer to.

This country has been blessed above any other in the recorded history of mankind. Our geographical location, our fertile farmland and plentiful water supplies, the exceptionalism of our people, the bounty of our oceans and the sheer beauty of this land combine to express the blessings a benevolent God has showered on this land for over two centuries.

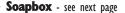
Though some people refuse to admit it, it doesn't change the absolute fact that this great nation was founded by God-fearing men on Judeo-Christian principles and it was their intention for it to remain that way. It has become fashionable in the elitist class to only honor Almighty God with a wink and a nod and to interpret the Constitution and the other federal papers as strictly secular documents, without any reference to the God our Founding Fathers believed in and made sure to include in their writings.

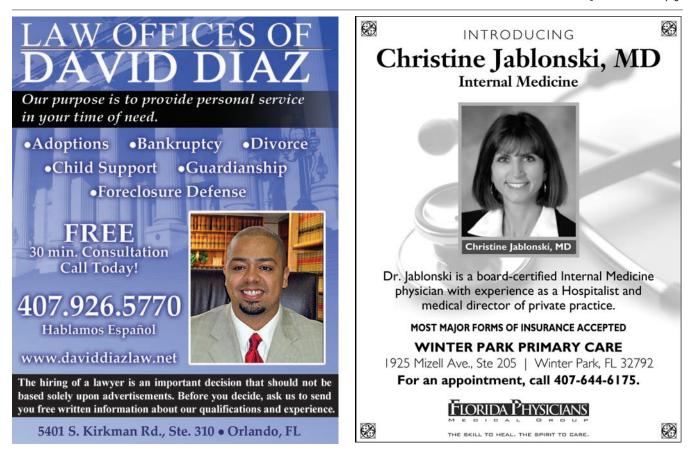
In this nation that once included prayer in the everyday curriculum of its schools, the very Word of God and Jesus Christ are shunned, actually outlawed. We take His name in vain without even a thought.

The Ten Commandments are banned from public places and anything that can be remotely construed as a Christian symbol is attacked by the A.C.L.U. and an ever-increasingly-liberal Supreme Court.

We elect politicians who don't even acknowledge the exceptionalism of America, but go abroad and inform the world at large just how bad we are.

We send the people to office, not because they will preserve the greatness and security of America, but those who we think









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Soapbox - from previous page

will give us the most money or the biggest advantages from an already-bankrupt federal treasury.

In the name of "choice", we murder millions of unborn babies every year, claiming that they're just blobs of flesh anyway, not really babies, even though their heartbeat is audible after just 18 days in the womb.

We fall for grandiose hoaxes, like global warming, and stand idly by while the wealth of our nation is pillaged and raped by presidents and congressmen whose only interest is the next election and their continuing hold on power.

Teenag pregnancy is common as children have babies they're ill-equipped to care for, and society is rife with absentee fathers who are too shiftless to help support the children they're responsible for bringing into the world, leaving the innocent children to be cared for by the welfare system, many times going on to repeat the mistakes of their fathers and mothers, bringing more children into the system to live off the state.

We legitimize same sex-marriages and condone public schools giving condoms to kids who are too young to even understand what they're for.We refuse to defend our borders and foolishly damn any state that takes the problem into their own hands.

We have a government that sends young men and women into battle that don't even have the decency to call the wars they fight and the enemy they're fighting by their proper names.

Political correctness has taken the place of common sense

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Gang violence and child predators roam our streets and justice has come down to just how much money you have to hire the right lawyer. Men call good, evil, and evil, good and sell their American birthright for the empty promises of politicians.

If you condemn somebody of a minority race for wrongdoing or stand up for the immigration laws to be enforced, you're called a racist. Our homeland stands in danger of destruction while a weak president, a corrupt congress, and an out-of-control bureaucracy sit on their hands and issue platitudes and excuses for not urgently pursuing terrorists in our midst.

We are drifting away from Almighty God as a nation and we are beginning to reap the whirlwind.

Hold on, folks, it's going to be a bumpy ride.

If My people, which are called by My name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land. - 2 Chronicles 7:14

That's our only hope.

Pray for our troops, and for our country.

God Bless America. **Charlie Daniels**

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Somebody Stop Me

Okay, it's 2:28 a.m., and I'm in the guest bedroom of our parent's friend's condo in Naples, Florida. The situation's a red alert. I repeat, red alert. We're nine-and-a-half weeks away from "Wedding Day" and counting.

Ron and I booked a show in Naples together. It's a singles' conference. We're both doing our stand-up and comedy acts separately but on the same roster. I'm still legally allowed to do my bitter single act, and so is he. The audience will have no idea we even know each other outside of comedy. My act hasn't changed yet and the "single" thing is so much fun. Ranting and raving, I'm not too anxious to stop it. If it ain't broke, don't fix it, I always say.

Okay, back to the issue at hand. Ron and I have both committed to going on pre-wedding diets for many reasons - health, our mothers' nagging about my size-zero dress, and mainly because those wedding pictures last forever and they ain't cheap. Oh yeah - it can't hurt to be fit for our Hawaiian honeymoon either.

We've been doing pretty well on our diets in California. I found a trainer, and Ron joined a gym. We've made dietary changes as well and have been very disciplined about it. My biggest challenge was getting off the crack, I mean sugar. It's my big vice. As you may remember from my last book, I have a severe problem with sugar. It's a disease I tell you. I read in a medical journal that sugar is as addictive as any drug. I'm living proof of that, one-hundred percent, especially if I am within a 100-yard radius of doughnuts or candy. The only plan for me is cold turkey; out of sight, out of mind; see no evil, eat no evil.

Going home is when Ron and I fall off the wagon because my parents' house makes Willy Wonka's Chocolate Factory look like a Slim-Fast warehouse. Seriously, my parents have candy in every dish in every corner and three kinds of ice cream in all three, yes, three, freezers. Remember my mom's theory on most everything: more is more! The cruel joke here is Barb weighs a whopping 109 pounds and calls me complaining that she just can't put on any weight. My dad is a steady 170-180 lbs, and the chocolate addiction gene comes from him. He's also addicted to those "nectar" drinks he gets at the dollar store that he thinks count as a serving of fruit. In reality, it's all fructose syrup; five thousand calories and 32,178 grams of sugar per sip.





So anyway, yesterday we arrived at Tom and Becky's condo. They are good friends of my parents and all around great folks. In true hospitable fashion, Becky shows me the kitchen and starts putting out snacks for me: Cheetos, chips, popcorn, Snickers, ice cream and then the dreaded Oreos. Not just any Oreos; double-stuff mint Oreos. I do my best to hold strong, but 12 minutes later, I wander back in her kitchen and help myself to one; Ah, the taste of heaven. I quickly remember why these snacks of satan are not allowed in my house.

All over the house, Becky also has the mini candy bars and York peppermint patty mints. I rationalize that just one couldn't hurt me. It had been a long day of flying. I did 50 sit - ups, 20 jumping jacks and 100 leg lefts before I went to bed last night and called it even.

I awoke early this morning to remember the M&M's in my travel bag. They were a wedding shower gift from our friend Christina. I got lingerie and M&M's. She always has had a sick sense of humor.

This morning I did more leg lifts after eating a grapefruit and M&M's breakfast. Then Ron and I took a leisurely stroll through the park. The fun part about our walk was when we snuck into this condo clubhouse to use the restrooms, and Ron decided to shave his beard because the bathrooms had free razors and lotions. He cut himself and came out with all this tissue all over his face. I said, "Why'd you do it?" He said, "It was there. I needed a shave, and it was free!" Ah, I love that guy.

Later we decided to drive to downtown Naples and have a nice dinner. Well, all the restaurants were pretty expensive, and

we just couldn't rationalize paying over \$19.99 for some seafood entree. So we kept going to every single, solitary eating establishment in search of a cheaper menu. Even if the meals were \$16.99 we would have been satisfied. It quickly became a Seinfeld episode; we'd drive a bit, park the car, go into the restaurant, look at a menu, and shake our heads in dismay and leave. We did this at about 15 places until we found this little Chinese joint with the lights on and settled in for the night. To think we'd end up eating Chinese food in Florida after all of that, but then again, it was affordable. Tomorrow, we're hitting the early - bird buffet at 4 p.m. for \$9.99. I need to find some senior citizen to get me in but in Florida this should not be hard.

Ron and I came home and sat down and had a nice chat with our hostess Becky. Upon arrival, I snuck some M&M's because I wanted something sweet. Then I discovered she had Hawaiian Punch juice boxes from her grandkids' last visit. I tore into one of those fructose delights. Wow, Oreos and juice boxes in one house - this was heavenly. I love Florida! I love Grandparents.

As we sat talking, I decided to partake of one of Becky's Snickers that was calling my name from the dish on the table. Ten minutes later, I got up and went to her cupboards only to discover she too had M&M's. I realized that eating some of her stash wouldn't diminish mine, so I did just that. I was on a roll and back on the sugar train with no sign of a pit stop.

How did this happen? I didn't see it coming - a little bit here and there didn't seem to hurt. By now I was definitely out of



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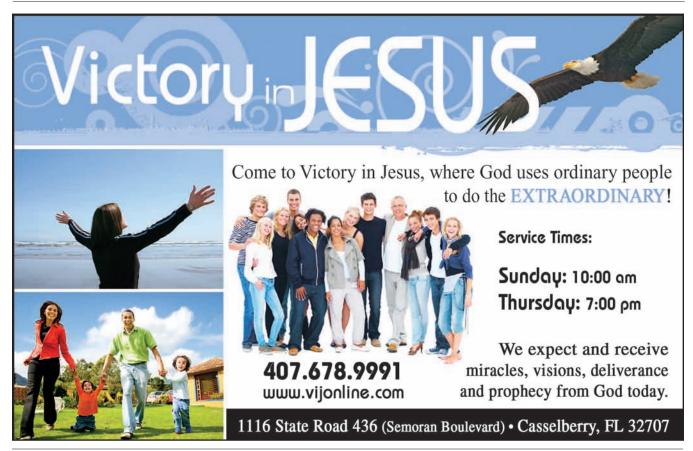
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Inspiration: The Word is a Person by David Hunt

The Gospel according to John begins, "In the beginning was the Word.... and the Word was God". From this scripture we understand that since God is a person, the "Word" here is the person God, Himself. In the 14th verse we read, "...the Word became flesh and dwelt among us". In total context, this Bible passage informs us that Jesus Christ is the "Word", and therefore that "Word" is the person Christ, Himself.

We are taught to obey the Word, right? The question is; are we obeying the "written word", the Bible as we understand it, or the "Living Word", Christ who is speaking to us? There is a difference. The Bible contains information about Christ and His words, but Christ Himself, is the "Living Word", a person; God Himself. God wants to speak to each of us and lead us into His Kingdom; to live and enjoy Him. God has great plans for us, and he wants us to listen to Him and experience those plans in our everyday lives. That's why He sent His Holy Spirit to live in us; so we could listen and hear from Him.

In John 10 Jesus calls Himself the Good Shepherd, and He calls those who listen to Him his sheep. He says that His sheep hear His voice. (Vs. 3) It is up to each one of us to read the Bible for ourselves and listen for His voice speaking to us by His Spirit in us. As we listen and obey Him, we prove to ourselves and to Him that we are indeed His disciples, and that He indeed is our Teacher and our Lord.

Over the years I've experienced His teaching by His Spirit, and yet I feel that I have only begun learning all that He wants me to know about Him. How about you? Have you learned all that you want to learn from Him, or are you still listening to learn more about Him and His plans for this planet and for your own life? If you are as I am, hungry to learn more and to know Him better, consider coming to The Christian Thrift Store and Warehouse at 6007 Anno Ave in Pinecastle, and have fellowship, devotions, Bible study and prayer with us.

We meet each day at 8 am in fellowship with the Lord and with one another. We start with the "Global Prayer Digest" a daily prayer guide for unreached people groups, and "My Utmost for His Highest" the marvelous devotional book by Oswald Chambers, and we end before 9 am, to start our workday, serving the public by selling items that have been donated to our ministry. This way we support ourselves and raise funds for Christian Missions and Ministries worldwide. See our ad on page 17 of this magazine.

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Marriage - from page 27

control. Every time I'd go into the kitchen, I'd find some sugar snack to nibble on.

At about 11:30, we started talking about our parents' love for chocolate, and I brought up the fact that my dad had converted me from being a Godiva girl to an Esther - Price chocolate disciple. Esther Price is a rare, but decadent, maker of fine chocolates made in Ohio. No I'm not kidding! But seriously they are the best! Becky's eyes lit up, and she smiled and said, "Would you like an Ester Price chocolate tonight? I've been saving some for a special occasion."

Of course, we jumped up and followed her back into the kitchen (Sin City), and she pulled out this lovely gold box of chocolates. I picked the biggest one, and Ron selected a small piece as well. He's disciplined but not stupid. As usual, I had to try a bite of Ron's piece because whatever he's eating automatically seems more appetizing. He should have been around when I was a kid and wouldn't eat my veggies. If they were on his plate, I guarantee I would have eaten them. So I ended up eating my piece of candy and half of Ron's. Then I went for just one more for good measure. I was getting a stomach ache but it was well worth it! I'm like that little kid that eats himself sick and then doesn't know why they feel horrible the next morning and can't go to school.

That night, I resigned myself to going to bed without doing sit - ups first, but ritualistically grabbed for the bag of M&M's and started gobbling them down. Ron came in my room and saw the guilty look on my face and said knowingly, "What are you eating right now?" "Nothing," I said, swallowing hard. "You're lying," he laughed.

"No, I'm not," I said, "because technically I wasn't chewing the M&M's by the time you asked."

We said our goodnights, and it was past 12:30 a.m. and I drifted off into my chocolate coma. At about 2:20, I found myself sleep - walking into the kitchen and going for the box of Esther Price Chocolates that were still sitting on the counter. I didn't even have to turn the light on. I found my way by touch. It's in my genes I tell you. I'm just that good.

I took out a piece, and it melted in my mouth. But even that wasn't enough! I went back to my room and dove into the bag of M&M's as if I hadn't eaten in 10 years! It was like an out - of body experience, and of course by then I was thirsty, so I went back to finish my Hawaiian Punch juice box.

Now I'm sitting there and it's 2:28 in the morning. My stomach is aching and not to mention, huge! I have not just fallen off the wagon. The whole wagon train has pulled over and camped on the side of the road. There's no end in sight.

What have I done? What about the dress I^Tm getting fitted for in three weeks? This is ridiculous - it's a disease. I tell you, I have a disease. Someone save me before they have to roll me down the aisle!

This article is printed by permission. All rights reserved. Husband and wife comedians Kerri Pomarolli and Ron McGehee have made a number of television appearances. They also star in a new reality - based comedy, I Love Kerri, that airs on the Sky Angel network. See episodes @ www.ilovekerri.tv. For more information on Kerri and Ron please visit www.kerripom.com and www.funnyron.com.

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I have always liked the phrase "Dare to Dream", powerful thoughts that allow us to envision a desired future. In business, a dream combined with an effective plan can inspire and ignite energy from within. It is also important to note the difference between chasing a dream and seeking God's vision as only He can reveal His will for our lives. "Those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires". (Romans 8:5)

This month I joined a group of Christian Businessmen (C12) to help my company pursue a vision of excellence while staying on track with God's plan. The first meeting ended asking all to read a book "SHINE" by Kris Den Besten whose message encourages me daily to kick it up a notch.

September 1st, a campaign called "I am Second" rolls out in Orlando with a simple yet powerful message, God is First... I was blessed in getting to know the founders of this group a few years back and thus the seed was planted for my Dream to share my company with God. We have made great strides through difficult times and this month plans to initiate the legal structure of a Non Profit division of our dealership are in the works. *"Then the godly will shine like the sun in their Father's Kingdom. Anyone with ears to hear should listen and understand* (Mathew 13:43)" Our mission with Ultimate Autosports is to promote an atmosphere of sharing and meeting others needs by using the services available to us every day. As a Family/Christian owned organization, our experienced personal are able to help with all of your automotive needs, Sales, Service and Finance. We also buy or accept donated vehicles, running or not. With the ability recondition these units and in turn help someone in the community with transportation.

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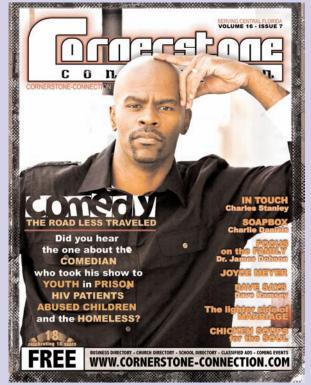
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The Rule Is No New Debt

Dear Dave,

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Dear Scott,

If you can find room in your budget to pay for it, and all it does is slow down the getting-out-of-debt process a little bit, then I think it's a great idea. The main thing is that I don't want you taking on any more debt to make it happen. You guys can see light at the end of the tunnel right now, so I don't want you taking a big leap backward by piling on a bunch of student loans!

Education with a purpose is a fabulous thing. I'm all about school and learning, but the idea of going to college just to collect degrees is a little silly. Knowledge—not degrees—is the currency of the new millennium. The more you know, the more tools you have in your belt. That's why I still read like a maniac. It helps me stay up to speed with things I need to know to do my job better! —Dave

Dear Dave,

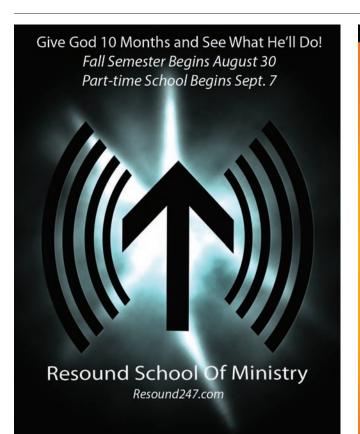
You recommend investing 15 percent of your income into Roth IRAs and other pre-tax retirement plans. Should you count your employer's company match as part of that percentage? —Ben

Dear Ben,

You can, but I'd prefer that you didn't. Employers and employment situations can change at the drop of a hat. I'd rather see you put in 15 percent. That way, you don't have to rely on someone else to complete your retirement savings plan.

It's not your employer's responsibility—or any one else's—to make sure you have money to live on in your old age. Stick 15 percent in there yourself, Ben. Then, if your employer does match workplace contributions, it'll be that much sweeter! —Dave

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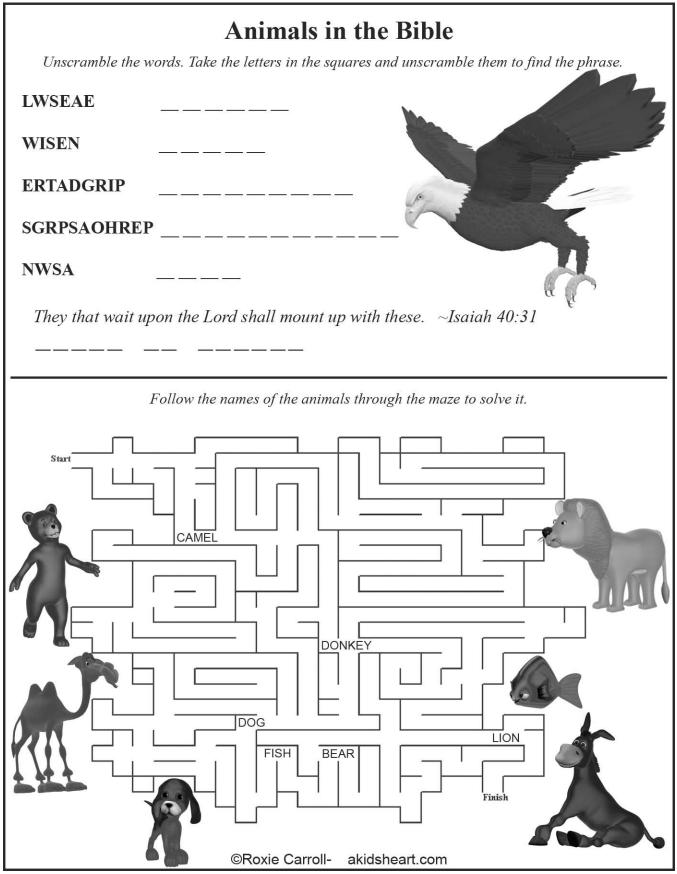
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