



### Good will toward men!

Christmas is such a blessed holiday. Mv favorite activity is to find new and different things to make for my children and grandchildren. I want what I give them to be special, things that they would enjoy and remember in years to come. This year, I would like to challenge you to do the same with your family and friends. It is a time of giving, of rejoicing in God's greatest gift to man. If you center your focus on giving instead of receiving, you will discover that the scripture is very true that says, "It is more blessed to give than to receive." A blessed Christmas to you all! ~Teresa Miller

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### **Our Bookstore**

Now available, "As The Days Go By", a collection of poems by Sis. Teresa



Miller. The book is a 68-page paperback edition of original poetry. The cost is \$6.95 plus sh/hdl charges. Also available, "While I Was Musing, The Fire

Burned", a book of devotions written by Bro. Mike Miller, which many have already found a great blessing. The cost is \$9.95 plus sh/hdl charges. You may order



both books for \$15 plus sh/hdl by writing with your request to the address found on the back cover, or you may send an email to:

> teresa3@vamex.com You may also call directly at: 573-223-3308

> > Giving is true having. C.H. Spurgeon

You can always give without loving, but you can never love without giving. Amy Carmichael

He who gives when he is asked has waited too long. Author Unknown

When it comes to giving until it hurts, most people have a very low threshold of pain. Author Unknown

Give Thanks

Every year I think, "I want to do something special this year that will be a great memory." This year, I have found the answer, and I thought that you may be interested in knowing my plans. I am going to buy a nice, small journal and add some Thanksgiving decorations to it. On the first page, I will put this year's date along with some drawings or pictures. Then, when my guests (which are usually my children and grandchildren) arrive, I will have each one write in it the things they are most thankful for. The mommies can help make a page for the littlest ones, perhaps tracing their hand or foot. The older children could even find a small leaf or flower to put on their page, anything that will make it especially theirs. Then they can sign their name, if they are able, and put their age, too. As the years go by, the books will be a special treasure to enjoy by everyone each time we get together.



#### HOW TO OBSERVE THANKSGIVING

Count your blessings instead of your crosses;

Count your gains instead of your losses. Count your joys instead of your woes; Count your friends instead of your foes. Count your smiles instead of your tears; Count your courage instead of your fears. Count your full years instead of your lean; Count your full deeds instead of your mean. Count your kind deeds instead of your wealth; Count on God instead of yourself. ~~Author Unknown.~~



#### A THANKSGIVING THOUGHT

The day I give thanks for having a nose Is Thanksgiving Day, for do you suppose That Thanksgiving dinner would taste as good If you couldn't smell it? I don't think it would. Could apple pie baking---turkey that's basting Not be for the smelling? Just be for tasting? It's a cranberry-cinnamon-onion bouquet! Be thankful for noses on Thanksgiving Day. ~ Bobbi Katz~

#### "Stoolie" Ball

An old outdoor game, using a lightweight three-legged stool, a soccer ball, and a light-weight bat (like one for Tball).

Place the stool in the middle of the yard. One player is "the stoolie" and must defend their stool with the bat. The other players stand behind a line about 10 to 15 feet away. Use sting to measure from the stool and mark the line with bright orange spray paint. Each player takes a turn at trying to knock over the stool by throwing the ball at it. The stoolie uses the bat to hit the ball away. The player who is successful at knocking over the stool is then deemed the new "stoolie.

# Darlene Deibler Rose

At the age of ten, Darlene attended a church meeting where the topic was the task of taking the gospel of Jesus Christ to the remotest parts of the earth. The speaker asked, "Who will go?" Darlene watched as several people stood and walked toward the front to dedicate their lives to mission work. As she looked on, she felt a gentle hand grasp her shoulder. She looked around and saw no one, yet she knew that her Lord Jesus was telling her that she, too, would be carrying His message to far away places. From that moment, she wanted to go where ever He led. She was a young girl growing up in Boone,



Iowa, a small town west of Ames. Darlene's idyllic country life stood in great contrast to what it would be a mear 12 years later in the jungles of Irian Java.

On August 18, 1938, Darlene's first wedding anniversary, she and her husband C. Russell Deibler set foot in Batavia, Java, and soon traveled on the island of Celebes, home of the headquarters of the Christian and Missionary Alliance in the Netherland East Indies. Russell, a veteran missionary who wed Darlene when he was home on furlough, brought his young wife back to these islands with the dream of taking the gospel to a newly discovered people in the Wissel Lakes area in western New Guinea. But when the Japanese took over the islands in World War II, the dream turned into a nightmare.



From March 5, 1942 until after the Japanese surrender on September 2, 1945, the Japanese held Darlene as a prisoner of war. Separated from her husband (he being interred in a men's camp) and tortured for being an alleged spy, Darlene suffered sickness, disease and hunger as she struggled to endure the days and nights of loneliness and fear in a world at war. Scripture that she had hidden away in her heart as a child and her sweet, simple faith kept her day by day. Ever at her call was the Still Small Voice of her Lord, encouraging and loving her through some of the darkest days of her life and giving her courage to

be a testimony to all around her, even her Japanese captors.

When she finally was heading home, her thoughts were that she would never return to New Guinea, especially since Russell had died during his imprisonment. But upon seeing all her "people" waving from the shore as she sailed away to catch the plane that was to take her back to her family in the states, she knew she could not stay away forever and that some day she would come back. A year later in 1946, a young man named Gerald W. Rose was given a film to use in deputation. It was a documentary of Rev. C. Russell Deibler's trek to the Wissel Lakes in the interior of Dutch New Guinea. Rev. Gerald Rose was already under appointment to this primitive mission field. Mutual friends arranged a meeting between Darlene and Jerry unbeknownst to either of them. As it was in God's plan, Jerry and Darlene married on April 4, 1948 and they began their ministry in New Guinea in early 1949 where they ministered until 1978. They also lived and worked with the people in the outback of Australia for several years.

On Tuesday, February 24, 2004, Darlene Rose laid her head back, smiled that special little smile and closed her eyes. Jerry, seeing this, moved swiftly to her side to help. He realized in a moment that her body was beyond human intervention. God had called, and His calling is irrevocable. And five months later, God called Jerry home...both now at rest but their work still to impact the world.

# What Are You Bearing?

"The words of a talebearer are as wounds, and they go down into the innermost parts of the belly." Proverbs 18:8 and 26:22

You have a problem or something that is bothering you that you need to talk to your friend about and you feel that you can trust her not to tell anyone about it. But before the week or even the day is over, someone that you hardly know comes up and asks you if what they heard was true or makes a statement letting you know that your problem is known by everyone. How does it make you feel? Angry? Hurt? Betrayed? Yes, gossip can make you have all of these feelings and more.

Gossip is terrible and can cause irreparable damage in families, friendships, churches and anywhere else that people have relationships. If you claim to know Jesus Christ as your Savior, you should be extremely careful not to allow yourself to develop the habit of talking about others. As you read the following devotion, you need to take a good, searching look at yourself. Be honest in your judgements. No one knows your feelings and your heart more than you do, except God. So as you read, please do not think about someone else and the problems they have with this sin. Think about YOU, what YOU say and the things YOU have done. It may be a surprising realization that you can be guilty without fully realizing that you have done something wrong.

God does not feel too kindly toward a person who will spread tales about people. In Proverbs 6:16-19 we read, "These six things doth the LORD hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him: a proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, an heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief, a false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren." If you look at each of these seven things that God hates, you could apply gossip to each and every one of them. Gossip gives a person a proud look ("I know something that you do not know!"), they use their lying tongue to shed the innocent blood of another's reputation, they use their wicked imaginations to make the gossip more interesting, their feet are swift to hurry and tell someone else what they know, then they speak all these lies and sow discord between you and everyone else, including them.

You may say, "But, I am not a gossip. I never tell anything that is not true." It does not take a lie to make you a gossip. Even speaking the truth can be gossip. "A *talebearer revealeth secrets: but he that is of a faithful spirit concealeth the matter." Proverbs 11:13* Even though something is known to be true, that does not give us the liberty to tell everyone about it. There are some things that should not be told and "I did not know I was not suppose to say anything" is not a legitimate excuse. Have you ever heard the old saying, "It is better to be thought a fool than to open your mouth and remove all doubt"? Gossip will make a fool of you. It is so much better to just keep quiet.

Most of the information that is spread by gossip is false, so that you are not only being a talebearer, you are also being a false witness. The Bible has some serious things to say about that, too. "A false witness shall not be unpunished, and he that speaketh lies shall not escape." Proverbs 19:5 "A false witness shall not be unpunished, and he that speaketh lies shall perish." Proverbs 19:9 If in the Bible something is repeated it is because God wants us to pay it special attention. These verses are very similar, with only the last few words changed. They both agree on one thing; a false witness shall not be unpunished. You can make all the excuses you want but you will be held accountable for every word that you say. If you will look at the title verses, you will notice that they, too, were repeated in God's Word. (Notice the two references to the one verse.) Gossip causes damage that is often impossible to fix. Hearts are wounded, trust is betrayed, and reputations are damaged, and these are things that cannot be mended easily. The one who gossips is marked as one that cannot be trusted, one who lies, and one who stirs up trouble. There is no wonder that God hates the characteristics of a gossip.

Try thinking of it this way; if you love someone, you do not want to see them hurt or shamed. Love wants the best for the beloved and will fight to keep hurtful things away from them. Do you feel this way about your friends? Do you love the people with whom you go to church? God refers to them as our brothers and we are commanded to love them. If you are truly a follower of Christ, it is a defining mark if you love the brethren. "If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen? And this <u>commandment</u> have we from him, That he who loveth God love his brother also." 1John 4:20-21

For a clearer definition of love and what it means, let us look at some verses in the love chapter, 1 Corinthians 13. In verse 5, it reads; "*Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil.*" How do you suppose that someone could behave unseemly? Webster says that to be seemly is to be in order and decent. So unseemly would be out of order and indecent. It is very out of order to talk ill about someone that you care for. "*Seeketh not her own.*" A gossip will spread rumors to make themselves look more important and knowledgeable to others. "*Is not easily provoked.*" Have you ever been talking to someone that did not seem to be listening until you mentioned a certain person's name, and then they had *plenty* to talk about. Which brings us to "*thinketh no evil.*" Do you see how it all goes together? And we have only talked about one verse! Try reading the entire chapter slowly, thinking carefully about each phrase. It is a good study and very enlightening.

If you still do not see the harm in gossip, try looking at it in a more personal light. What if it was you that the tales were about? What if you had a friend that you could not trust with anything you told them, even though they promised they would say nothing? Sin never looks quite as bad to the one that is doing it, and gossip is clearly sinful. If you do not think so, have someone steal from you, or kill your loved one, or tell lies on you. You know the hurt and anger and awful shame of sin, especially if any of these things have happened to you. When you finally get the right perspective of sin, you will begin to feel about it like God does. Any time that you sin, you are offending a loving God that gave His only Son to die for you to save you from sin and its punishment. According to God's law, you should be put to death in most cases that I have mentioned, and at least have to suffer for the unmerciful judgement you have judged. "And the judges shall make diligent inquisition: and, behold, if the witness be a false witness, and hath testified falsely against his brother; then shall ye do unto him, as he had thought to have done unto his brother: so shalt thou put the evil away from among you." Deuteronomy 19:18-19

It is not an easy thing to refrain from talking about someone who has done something wrong to you, especially when you know that they are telling things to other people that are just not true and you know it. The first thing you want to do is to tell everyone what *they* did so that you will be justified. But if you are innocent, you do not have to say a thing because, "*He is near that justifieth me; who will contend with me?*" *Isaiah 50:8* The truth will be known, even though you may have to wait a while, and when it is known you will be justified and the one who has lied about you will be revealed. "*He that justifieth the wicked, and he that condemneth the just, even they both are abomination to the LORD.*" *Prov. 17:*15 God sees, knows, and hears all that happens to those who love Him. Do not let these kind of circumstances cause you to become the gossip.

So, what about sharing prayer requests and asking for prayer for yourself or another? We are called to "bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ." Galatians 6:2 There is nothing wrong in asking for prayer for someone and, if need be, giving a brief explanation for the request. But discretion should be taken in what is said and a lengthy conversation on the matter is highly improper. Even the way the request is made can be taken the wrong way. "You had better pray for Jane!" you may tell someone in hushed whispers behind your hand. "I can not tell you about it but...she really needs our prayers right now." Be careful that people are not tempted to read between lines that you have drawn.

Have you come to the conclusion that you have a problem with tale-bearing? Honestly, we all could say that we have this problem to one extent or another. It is never too late to begin again. When you realize that you have a problem, you have made a wonderful step in the right direction. Most people will not even admit that they have a problem, much less try to do something about it. But God's Word says, "*He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso <u>confesseth and forsaketh</u> them shall have mercy." Proverbs 28:13* 

"Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love." 1John 4:7-8 God is love. Jesus came into this world to show us the Father, that we may understand that He is love, not a threatening deity sitting in the Heavens waiting for us to do something wrong that He might strike us or those whom we love with sickness or death. "God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us," Ephesians 2:4 His greatest desire is that we would love Him, love each other and live peaceably with each other. "If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men." Romans 12:18 To know Jesus is to know peace, for He is the Prince of Peace. Let us strive to know Jesus more in the coming year. "And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart." Jeremiah 29:13



Norman Rockwell had a charming way of painting pictures of people in the way they lived. This picture, called appropriately, "Gossip", shows the trail that a tale can make right back to the one that started it all. The poem came naturally, and if you will follow the line of faces from left to right as you read it, the truth, though so shameful, can be a bit amusing.

# Gossip!

"Oh, Frannie! I just heard a tale!" Cried Sue, who knows things well. "But Fran, I know I can trust you. These things I've said, don't tell!"

But Fran shares all with sister Kate, And Kate will tell her man, Oh, Charlie loves to cause a stir, So tells to Emma Fann.

Now Emma's daughter, Clara Mae, Is Mama's confidant. And Clara Mae discusses all With June, her maiden Aunt.

Aunt June just loves to talk to Anne, Her young friend down the street. Anne's sister, Bess, would call today; She told her husband, Pete. Pete laughed and told his mother, Nel, Who told her huband, Jesse, And he can't wait to share with Ray This gossip that's so juicy!

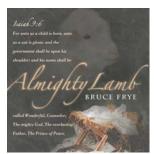
So Ray goes down the street a bit And meets his friend named Jake. He laughs and tells all he has heard; The joke is hard to take!

But Jake is friends with Joe, and Joe Called Sue in on the double! It seems that sharing tales with friends Got Suzie into trouble!

So gossip's sinful circle runs! The saying's old and true: "Beware of what you say, my friend, It may come back on you!"

~T. Miller

# Recommended Music and Books



#### **Almighty Lamb – Bruce Frye**

A beautiful collection of Christmas songs and hymns, played and sang by Bruce Frye. Selections include: O, Holy Night; Almighty Lamb/Hallelujah, Praise the Lamb; Silent Night; Joy to the World: O, Little Town of Bethlehem; Mary, Did You Know; Away in a Manger; John 3:16; and We Wish You a Merry Christmas.

#### A Cappella Christmas – by Ed Russ and the Old-Fashioned Quartet

If you like to listen to a good men's quartet, these gentlemen do a wonderful job. This project includes all the old favorites such as: Good Christian Men, Rejoice/God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen; I heard the Bells On Christmas Day; Mary's Little Boy Child; Little Drummer Boy; Away in a Manger/Silent Night; Beautiful Star of Bethlehem; Once in Royal David's City; O, Little Town of Bethlehem/O, Come All ye Faithful; Thou Dids't Leave Thy Throne; While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks/Go Tell It On The Mountain.



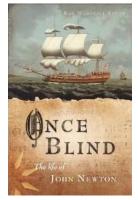
You will find these and many more at www.faithmusicmissions.org. Simply click on "Christmas".

#### **Evidence Not Seen – Darlene Deibler Rose**

Newlywed American missionary Darlene Deibler Rose survived four years in a notoious Japanese prison camp set deep in the jungles of New Guinea. Thinking she was never to see her husband again, Darlene was forced to sign a false confession and face the executioner's sword, only to be miraculously spared. "If anyone questions the unmistakable hand of God, all they would have to do is read the story of Darlene Rose. It is a testimony of deep faith and confirmation of the faithfulness of God-that He causes all things to work together for good." – Dr. Charles Stanley



"A very inspiring book. A must read for every Christian!" – T. Miller Visit www.darlenerose.org.



**Once Blind – The life of John Newton by Kay Marshall Strom** "God saved me so that people would look at me and say, 'If God could save John Newton, he can save anyone!'" – John Newton. From a troubled childhood, to enforced service in the Royal Navy where he was such a blasphemous troublemaker that he was traded to a slave ship, God pursued John Newton with relentless love and amazing grace. Newton, the worst of the worst who became a ringing voice for God, testified of his transformation in his stirring hymn "Amazing Grace." His cry for abolition, along with the work of his friend William Wilberforce, helped turn the heart of a nation against the African slave trade to bring it to an end.

Both books available through: www.amazon.com

*Crafts* 

#### Spicy Dried Apple Wreath

You will need:

Juice of 9 lemons and 2 tsp salt

8 to 10 large firm apples (Rome Reds or Ida Reds are preferred) 6 tsp cinnamon, 2 tsp allspice, 1 tsp cloves, 2 tsp orrisroot powder (Note: Spices will not only add a pleasant aroma but also will act as a preservative)

8"-10" heart shaped wire frame that can be open or closed by unhooking two ends (or 8"-10" length of heavy gauge wire)

1 1/4 yd of 1" wide blue and white checked ribbon

Floral wire, pliers and scissors

paper towels and a sharp knife

\* Peel and slice apples horizontally into 1/8" to 1/4" thick circles. Core apple slices as needed. Soak slices in the lemon juice and salt mixture for 6 minutes, turning once. Make sure slices are covered completely. Remove slices from bowl and place on paper towels and pat dry.

\* Combine spices and dust apple slices lightly on both sides. Place apple slices in a single layer on a broiler pan or wire screen. Dry in conventional oven at 150 - 200 degrees F for six hours or until evenly dried. Let slices cool. If not dried thoroughly, return slices to oven. Apple slices will be pliable.

\* Straighten both ends of the heart-shaped wire frame with a pair of pliers. Fold apple slices into halves, then into quarters and "thread" them onto wire frame. When frame is completely covered with slices, use pliers to bend both ends back into "hooks" so they can be reconnected.

\* Using checked ribbon, make a large bow with a loop for hanging. Attach a bow to wreath with thin floral wire.



#### Plastic Bag Toppers

Personalized gifts are fun to make as well as receive. With hand-crafted toppers, you can "gift" your creations in style, whether it be baked goods, toys, handmade or purchased ornaments...the ideas are endless! And do not worry about the size because you can make them as big or small as your gift bag. The toppers can be made of anything: cardstock, cardboard, and even fabric. Just measure the top of your bag and add <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> inch. Made a rectangle shape using the measurement of the

top of your bag by 4 inches (or more, if you need more room for decorations.) Cut and fold so that it will cover the top of your bag (zip bags work best for smaller items.) Use stamps,

stickers, lace, rick-rack, feathers, whatever you like to make it pretty. Make a bunch to give as party favors to guests, arranging them in a punch bowl with lights and greenery. You can use them as gift bags by lightly wrapping tissue paper around the gift inside. Consider making some with cookies in them to pass out during caroling, or with Bible cards and a book mark to give to nursing home residences during the holidays.

#### **Recycled Light Bulb Ornaments**

There are many ways that you can recycle old light bulbs but the most fascinating is making Christmas



ornaments with them. Any size can be used. In the picture on the left, these small fixture bulbs have been painted and glitter glue accents added. Simply glue a cord or ribbon to the top, or carefully

twist a piece of floral wire into a hanger. You may

also paint them to look like faces, like this snowman (right), by using a small amount of paint and a fine-tipped marker. Make the hat by gluing a small piece of fabric to the top of the bulb and tie a ribbon to hang it with. Glitter or sequins covering the whole bulb works





well, also. Glue the sequins on carefully, making sure to fill all the spaces. When dry, add a small piece (about 6 inches) of silver or gold <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>" ribbon at the top for a hanger. To finish, glue a wider piece around the metal to secure the ribbon hanger. Have fun!





## Recipes

(Featuring cookie recipes for your holiday cookie exchanges.)

#### Brazil Nut Cookies

Ingredients 1 cup butter, softened 1 cup sugar 1-1/2 teaspoons vanilla extract 2-1/4 cups all-purpose flour 1/2 teaspoon baking soda 1/4 teaspoon salt 2 cups chopped Brazil nuts 1/2 cup flaked coconut

#### Directions

2 eggs

- 1. In a large bowl, cream butter and sugar until light and fluffy. Add eggs, one at a time, beating well after each addition. Beat in vanilla. Combine the flour, baking soda and salt; gradually add to creamed mixture and mix well. Stir in nuts and coconut.
- 2. Drop by tablespoonfuls 3 in. apart onto ungreased baking sheets. Bake at 350° for 10-12 minutes or until bottom of cookies are lightly browned. Remove to wire racks. Yield: about 4-1/2 dozen.

#### Chocolate-Dipped Orange Cookies

#### Ingredients

- 1 cup butter, softened
- 1 package (8 ounces) cream cheese, softened
- 1 cup sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 2 tablespoons grated orange peel
- 2-1/2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1 cup finely chopped blanched almonds

#### Glaze:

- 5 ounces semisweet chocolate, chopped
- 3 tablespoons butter
- 1/4 cup finely chopped blanched almonds

#### Directions

In a large bowl, cream the butter, cream cheese and sugar until light and fluffy. Beat in vanilla and orange peel. Combine the flour and salt; gradually add to creamed mixture and mix well. Stir in almonds. Roll into 1-in. balls. Place 2 in. apart on ungreased baking sheets. Flatten with a glass dipped in sugar. Bake at 325° for 20-25 minutes or until firm. Remove to wire racks to cool.

For glaze, in a microwave, melt chocolate and butter; stir until smooth. Dip each cookie halfway into chocolate; allow excess to drip off. Immediately sprinkle with almonds. Place on waxed paper until set. Yield: 6 dozen.



#### Green Mint Bark

1 pkg. (10 to 12 oz) white baking chips 12 oz. green candy coating disks 1 tsp. Peppermint extract 2 to 3 candy canes, crushed

Line a baking sheet with foil; set aside. In a microwave, melt chips; stir until smooth. Spread into a 13-in. x 9-in. rectangle on prepared baking sheet. In a microwave, melt candy coating; stir until smooth. Stir in extract. Spread over white layer; sprinkle with candy. Chill for 10 minutes or until firm. Break into pieces. Store in an airtight container. Yield: 1-1/2 lbs.





Merry Christmas to Ewe!

Cation with: Spring, Paths Bible Church, Ellsinore, MO 1 Box 1 lechurch.com for His Crown 1436 MO 63952