

January/February 2008

Chirtieth Dssue Chird Year Anniversary

Fight On!

More than half beaten, but fearless, Facing the storm and the night, Reeling and breathless, but fearless, Here in the lull of the fight.

I who bow not but before Thee, God of the fighting clan,

Ifting my fists I implore Thee,

Give me the heart of a man!

What though I stand with the winners, Or perish with those that fall? Only the cowards are sinners; Fighting the fight, that is all. Strong is my foe, who advances, Snapped is my blade, O I ord; See their proud banners and lances, But spare me the stub of a sword!



Thou Dost Know The Way

My Father, to my heart I take
Thy simple word of truth today;
I shall not lose me in the brake,
For Thou dost know the way.

Before my face a mountain frowns, Above me all the sky is gray; The mist if lying on the downs; But Thou dost know the way;

Around me various voices call, But Thou wilt never let me stray; For Thou, my Father, knowest all The windings of the way.

Oh, music that the soft winds blow, Sweet song of peace for troubled day— I am contented *not* to know, Since Thou dost know the way. Amy Carmichael

The Census Book

To Bethlehem they went to be enrolled; And there, in Caesar's census book of old, His name was written 'mong the sons of men As Caesar's subject: "Jesus"—followed then By "Son of Mary, born in David's Town, Of David's line"—the record thus set down, In a world's book of life, a place they gave To "Jesus" who was born a world to save. They numbered Him with sinful men and poor, Though He was Son of God, divine and pure.

A heavenly census book His name alone
Bears, on the title page; for 'tis His own,
That Book of Life; and there, writ clear and plain
Are names of those born in that King's domain;
All who alive forevermore shall be
Are there enrolled for all eternity.
Since He was numbered once with sinful men,
We may be numbered as God's own again.
Though Caesar's book has long since passed away,
The Lamb's blest Book of Life shall stand for aye.

~ by Kay McCullough



Boredom Buster Idea!

Sticker Fun

Need: flavored gelatin, water, and magazines. 1 teaspoon flavored gelatin 2 teaspoons boiling water With this solution, you can turn magazine pictures, wrapping paper, or comic book cutouts into customized stickers. Place gelatin and boiling water in a small bowl. Stir until the gelatin is dissolved. Let the mixture cool, about one minute. Brush a thin coat of warm sticker solution on the back of each picture cut out. Use a small brush. When dry you can lick the stickers and stick them on paper or glass. Works just like a real stamp!

Another Year Is Dawning

In many churches, the first Sunday of the year would not be complete without singing Frances Ridley Havergal's great "Another Year Is Dawning." Its words reflect the deep consecration that marked her poems. Frances considered every New Year's Day a never-to-be-missed opportunity of rededication to Christ, and several New Year's hymns came from her pen.

This particular poem was written as a prayer for the beginning of 1874. Frances composed it near the end of the old year and had it printed on a specially designed greeting card to be sent to friends. The caption said, "A Happy New Year! Ever Such May It Be!"

As it turned out. Frances herself needed that prayer, because just a few days later she suffered a stunning disappointment. She was hoping to be launched as an author in America, and her agent in New York had made reassuring promises. Then came a letter she thought would bear the first of many royalty checks. Instead it reported that her publisher had gone bankrupt in the Stock Market crash of 1873.



But as Frances had only recently turned all her affairs over to the Lord, she bore the crisis with peace, writing to a friend:

"I have just had such a blessing in the shape of what would have been only two months ago a really bitter blow to me...I was expecting a letter from America, enclosing thirty-five pounds now due me, and possibly news that [my book] was going on like steam. The letter has come, and, instead of all this, my publisher has failed in the universal crash. He holds my written promise to publish only with him as the condition of his launching me, so this is not simply a little loss, but an end of all my American prospects...

I really had not expected that He would do for me so much above all I asked, as not merely to help me to acquiesce in this, but positively not to feel it at all, and only to rejoice in it as a clear test of the reality of victorious faith which I do find brightening almost daily. Two months ago this would have been a real trial to me for I had built a good deal on my American prospects; now "Thy will be done" is not a sigh but only a song."

Down along life's pathway there will be choices that you have to make. Some of those choices will be so important that if you make the wrong decision, it could cost you your very life. In deciding the course of how you will conduct yourself spiritually, if you will look in God's Word you will find the "Old Paths" are the best, although not the path taken the most frequently by others. Following the flow of this world will only lead to destruction and heartache. Do not fear to question the things that are contrary to God's Word. The devil would have you believe a lie and he will make it look as much like the truth as he possibly can. Ask for wisdom from the Lord in every decision you make and be sure you follow *that* path!

The Road Not Taken

Two roads diverged in a yellow wood, And sorry I could not travel both And be one traveler, long I stood And looked down one as far as I could To where it bent in the undergrowth;

Then took the other, as just as fair, And having perhaps the better claim, Because it was grassy and wanted wear; Though as for that the passing there Had worn them really about the same,

And both that morning equally lay
In leaves no step had trodden black.
Oh, I kept the first for another day!
Yet knowing how way leads on to way,
I doubted if I should ever come back.

I shall be telling this with a sigh Somewhere ages and ages hence:
Two roads diverged in a wood, and I-I took the one less traveled by,
And that has made all the difference.

Robert Frost

I Dare You!

Have you ever heard anyone say the words, "I dare you!" Usually when you hear those words the person who says them is challenging the other to do something wrong (i.e., "I dare you to walk that fence top!" or "I dare you to smoke a cigarette!") But this time I am going to say, "I dare you" in a way that should be a blessing.

We have started a new year: 2008. Many people make resolutions at this time of the year. Resolutions are decisions that a person makes to improve themselves in one way or another. Some people will resolve to stop smoking or lose weight, while others determine to be a better person. I would like to give you a greater challenge for this new year. I dare you to examine your heart and thoroughly know the state of your soul.

First of all, are you saved? Is there a time that you can say that you surrendered your heart and life to the Lord Jesus Christ and let Him be your Savior? If you have and you believe yourself a Christian, I would like for you to look deep in your heart and life and examine what you truly did that day and if your life really has changed.

The Bible says: "Examine yourselves, whether ve be in the faith; prove your own selves." (2 Corinthians 13:5) It does not hurt to question if your salvation is real or not. Frankly, in my opinion, a true Christian should not doubt their salvation. Think about it. If a person is truly saved, why would the Holy Spirit lead him to doubt his very relationship with God? (The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: - Rom 8:16) On the other hand, if a person thinks they are saved, but are really lost, it would not serve the devil's purpose at II to make them doubt, so why would he do that? Satan would be very pleased for them to live their life in deception and be lost. So the simple truth is that the Spirit of God gives assurance to the truth while the devil questions and raises doubts. (Remember how he dealt with Eve.) So if you doubt you are likely in trouble, but if you have no doubts you should be diligent to examine yourself with an honest heart. If you refuse to do so, that is a pretty good sign that you are not truly saved. Self-deception will send more people to hell than anything else. God does not want us to take our salvation lightly. It should not be taken as lightly as deciding what we are going to wear today. But most people have the wrong idea about what salvation is and what the Lord can do in your life, I know that I did. For many years I understood salvation as just a decision that I had made. I thought that was all I had to do and He would do the rest. But a decision is not the same as a totally yielded heart, and it is easy to make vows and promises to God without surrendering completely to God. Promises and vows do not constitute salvation and many times become a hindrance to truly receiving Jesus as Lord and Savior.

What is the fruit of a Christian? I have heard it said many times that the fruit of a Christian is other Christians, but that is not strictly true. We would not say that the fruit of an apple tree is another apple tree, would we? Of

course not! We would say the fruit of an apple tree is apples. True, the apples each carry seeds that each hold the potential to produce more apple trees. The fruit in the life of a Christian is produced by the Spirit of God - not by the efforts of the Christian himself: "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law." (Galatians 5:22-23) These are not just suggestions on how you should live if you are a Christian, they are evidence that the Spirit of God dwells in you. If your life does not manifest the fruit of the Spirit, you need to examine your heart and see if your salvation is real. I know what some of you are thinking. "But does that mean that I will always get along with everyone and never be upset or angry?" The answer is, "you do not have to." The Bible makes provision for us "IF ANY MAN SIN..." There is the possibility, but sin isn't something that we cannot avoid. We are told there is always a way to escape it, if we want to. (1 Cor. 10:13) The fruit of the Spirit describes the lifestyle and habits of a saved person who has the Spirit of God dwelling in them. The same portion of Scripture describes the works of the flesh, which is the habit and lifestyle of those without the indwelling Spirit of God. Check it out and examine yourself with an honest heart. Which category best describes you and your habitual lifestyle, as others know you, and as you know yourself in your heart?

The most harmful of sins is hypocrisy. Webster says that a hypocrite is "an insincere person; one who pretends to be what he is not." Many people do not even mean to be hypocrites while they really are. These people can cause a lot of confusion for those who are trying to find God. These people think they are saved but they have never surrendered their life to God and therefore their lives do not show the fruit of the Spirit of God. Their testimony is always one of continual temptation and defeat and is no encouragement at all to anyone – lost or saved. "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me." (Galatians 2:20)

I want you to understand, girls, that I am not just talking about older people, I am talking about you, too. I know personally a young girl that thinks she is saved and her life is all right, but she does not think it is wrong to curse once in a while or listen to rap music or other things she wants to do. She knows that she should marry someone who goes to church so that she can raise her children in church, but she does not live a Christ-centered life. All her life she has been taught that if she made a profession of faith and lived a "good" life that she would be all right. Do you know girls (and boys, too) that are like that? Are you like that? I dare you, think about it! Do not let your youth go by with a false idea of what a Christ-centered life should be. As you get older you will be more confused, and you will have bitter regret for the many wasted years.

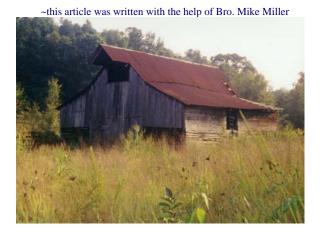
Living a Christ-centered life you know that every day belongs to the Lord. You have no need to fear the things that come to pass for the Lord is in complete control of everything. That does not mean that you will live free from trouble, but it does mean that you will have a refuge of peace and

assurance that whatever happens, your future is in the Lord. Whether things end up good or bad, He knows about it and it is all right. If you do not like the idea of Jesus having control of your life, there is no way that you have surrendered your life to Him and there is no salvation without surrender. By the way, to "believe" is to surrender. If I told my husband that I loved him but never did the things that pleased him and was always spending my time with others, would he believe me? True love demands that I surrender something, doesn't it? I surrender my right and desire to be with anyone else and even surrender my right to my own comfort and pleasure to please the one I love, right? Is that the way that you feel about the Lord?

Do you wonder why I am pressing so hard to get you to think about these things? There is nothing more important than the soul. If you live your whole life and are not ready for the next, what do you gain? "For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? (Mark 8:36)" Do not let the devil tell you that you will have plenty of time to think about it later. Even if you live to a good old age, what are you going to think of your life and how you have used it when you get there? When you live your life for the Lord you have NO REGRETS!

The devil has blinded the eyes of so many and they do not realize that some of the things that are being presented as truth are simply doctrines of men and not doctrines of God. So what should you do? Ask the Lord for guidance in finding the true path. Purpose in your heart that you really want to know and you will find Him. "And ye shall seek me, and find *me*, when ye shall search for me with all your heart." (Jer. 29:13) He can be found, but if you do not really care to search for Him: "I will go *and* return to my place, till they acknowledge their offence, and seek my face: in their affliction they will seek me early." (Hosea 5:15) Search for Him! I DARE YOU! "Seek ye the LORD while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near:" (Is. 55:6)

For, oh, He loves you far too well, To leave you in your self-made hell, A Savior is thy Lord!



Answers to Questions in Last Issue

Here are the questions from our past issue and the answers. We pray you received a blessing in your study of the Bride of Christ.

1. What was Eve's first mistake?

First of all, she should have been close to Adam. If she had been near her husband, it would have been impossible for the devil to deceive her. Adam was not deceived, ("And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived was in the transgression." 1Tim.2:14) he knew what should be done and not done. But the woman, being the weaker vessel, was decidable and the devil knew it. Some think that Adam was standing there with her when she took the fruit. Do you really think that if Adam knew what God had said that he would just stand there and let Eve take what was directly forbidden by God? Our husband (if unmarried, our Dad) is our head and is directly responsible for what we do. (Eph. 5:23)

2. Do you think it was wrong for God to put the trees in the garden if they were not suppose to touch them?

If you answered yes, you are not alone. There are many people who just do not understand why God would do such a thing. God is a just God and He does not force anyone to do anything. If you do not love Him, He will not make you love Him by force. If the trees had not been there, there would have been no choice for Adam and Eve. God wants us to know that to love is a choice, but to sin is also a choice. You are not born with it, you choose it.

"I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live:" (Deut. 30:19)

3. Where does the Bride of Christ come from?

The Bible tells about the Bride in Revelation 19:2-8 and 21:9-27. If you are truly a Christian and have given your life to Jesus Christ, you will be there.

4. How should we learn to love our husbands?

The Bible says that the older women are to teach the younger women to love their husbands. (Titus 2:4) If you do not have an older woman that you know could teach those things to you, go to the Bible and see how you are to love Jesus. If we love our husbands like we love the Lord, we will do right.

5. What kind of bride do you want to be?

I'll let you answer that one!







God-Honoved Women of the Bible





Queen Esther

As we speak of being challenged in this issue, my thoughts turned to some of the women that God used through His Word to exemplify this quality. If ever there was a woman who had a challenge to face, Esther must have been one. It was hard enough being among the "choices" for the new queen, but she was the chosen one and was a Jewess in the home of a heathen husband. Esther must have known the principle that Paul wrote about in Philippians 4:11; "for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, *therewith* to be content." It must have been pretty frightening when Haman made the decree to have all the Jews killed and know that if you did not do something that you along with your whole nation would be put to death. And if you remember, she could not even come into his presence without being called for fear of being put to death. Her thought was that if she died, she died, but she must do what she could. Mordecai, her cousin, also encouraged her by saying, "who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for *such* a time as this?" (Esther 4:14b)

There will be times in your life that you will not know what to do and will wonder how in the world you ever got into the situation that you are in. Taking a stand for what is right will not always keep you in the most popular position with everyone. Be assured, however, that God is watching and He will never leave you. Dare to take a stand and trust God no matter what. For all who serve the Lord, He says: "verily I say unto you, he shall not lose his reward". He will never let you down!

CRAFTS

Winter is a great time for crafts. Here are a few ideas to fill those long evenings.

Pocket-Scarf

How-To

You'll need a long scarf to start with, either made or purchased. Decide whether you want two pockets or three, and if you want them to be equal widths or not. Fold one end of the scarf up to the desired depth. Pin the sides, and then pin the middle to correspond to the desired widths; you can use a ruler to make sure the pins are in a straight row, or follow the rib of the scarf itself.

Make a running stitch with a darning needle and yarn through both layers, using the pins as a guide. Reinforce top of seam with a cross stitch or a double stitch and tie off, hiding the ends inside.





Paper Pulp Plant Pokes

You will need:

toilet paper hot water candy molds or other suitable molds popsicle sticks or craft sticks tiny bit of paint sealer

Add toilet paper strips to a bowl of hot water. Stir it with a popsicle stick until it is the consistency of mud. Lift the pulp and let the excess water drain off. Press the pulp into the molds (these will be glued back to back when dry to mirror each other), letting extra water drain off. Keep adding pulp and pressing it into the mold until it reaches the top. Set the molds in a dry sunny place and let dry for one whole day. After they are dry, pop one out and glue it to the end of the popsicle stick, then glue the other shape on the other side to make a front and back. Paint your creation with acrylic paint and let dry. Finally, finish with a gloss sealer to protect it from moisture damage.

Clay Bead Necklace and Bracelet

Make your own beads using Fimo or Sculpey polymer clay. The clay comes in many colors, and has to be baked to harden. You can free-form your own heart shapes, or use cookie cutters or candy molds. Be sure to poke a hole through the bead with a toothpick or a darning needle before you bake it. Gently wiggle the

toothpick around and make sure the hole is big enough for the cord or elastic you'll be using to make the necklace. Place the hole closer to the top of the bead, so that it will hang right-side up, or through the center if it is round. Be creative, use multiple colors to make a bead special. You can also use other purchased beads when putting them together, such as seed beads between your larger ones.



8040804080408

The Cooking Counter

Winter is a great time for baking, so here are a few recipes that will be fun for you to try.

Lambert's Throwed Rolls

2 teaspoons granulated sugar

2 tablespoons dry active yeast

1/2 cup tepid water (105 to 110 degrees F)

2 cups warm milk

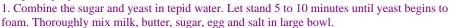
1/2 cup melted butter

1/2 cup granulated sugar

2 eggs beaten (at room temperature)

1 tablespoon salt

8 cups all-purpose flour, divided



- 2. Stir in the yeast mixture and 7 cups of the flour, adding a bit more if necessary to make a soft pliable dough. Turn dough out on floured board and let rest while you clean and butter bowl. Knead dough gently, 4 to 5 minutes, adding flour if necessary, until dough is smooth and silky.
- 3. Return to bowl, cover with plastic wrap and let rise in warm place until doubled in size.
- 4. Butter-spray a muffin tin. Punch down dough. Pinch off pieces about 1 1/2 inches in diameter (enough to fill 1/2 of muffin cup), and roll into smooth spheres. Place two such pieces in each prepared muffin cup. (It should be a tight fit). Cover dough loosely with plastic wrap for 45 minutes.
- 5. Preheat oven to 350 degrees F. Bake rolls 20 to 25 minutes or until light brown. Serve as soon as they are cool enough to throw. Makes 24 rolls.

Rice Pudding

2 1/2 cups (600 ml) whole milk

1/3 cup (66 grams) long or short grain white rice

1/8 teaspoon salt

1/4 cup (50 gram) granulated white sugar

1 teaspoon pure vanilla extract

1/4 teaspoon ground cinnamon

1/4 cup (30 grams) brown or golden raisins, optional Lightly sweetened whipped cream



In a medium heavy-bottomed saucepan combine the milk, rice, and salt. Place saucepan over high heat and bring to a boil. Reduce the heat to medium to medium-low and simmer until the rice is tender (about 25 minutes). Stir the milk mixture frequently using a heatproof rubber spatula or wooden spoon to prevent the rice from sticking to the bottom of the pan. When the rice is tender (al dente) remove from heat and add the sugar, vanilla extract and ground cinnamon. Return to heat and cook until the rice pudding thickens, about 5 to 10 minutes. Remove from heat and add the raisins. Spoon the pudding into your serving bowls and cover with plastic wrap. If you want a film or skin on the puddings, allow them to cool before covering with plastic wrap. Refrigerate until serving time, about 1 to 2 hours. If desired, garnish with lightly sweetened whipped cream.

Makes 2 to 3 servings.

Note: Can double the recipe for 4 to 6 servings.





The Miller Girls RR 1 Box 1436 Still Opring, SUO 63952