

March/April
2008



Thirty-first Issue

### Poems and Things

#### Pippa's Song

The year's at the spring, The day's at the morn; Morning's at seven; The hillside's dew pearled;

The lark's on the wing;
The snail's on the thorn;
God's in His heavenAll's right with the world.
~Robert Browning



"Come unto me, all *ye* that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you <u>rest</u>." (Matt. 11:28)

- **R** Renew your mind constantly with God's Word; look for God's attitude and character; study and dig deeply to know God intimately.
- **E**-Express total dependance on the Lord for the day, acknowledging and confessing sin, weaknesses and struggles.
- **5** Satisfy your heart in Christ alone! Pray Ps. 90.
- **7** Take all that comes into your life as from the Lord and trust Him! Your times are in His Hand.

~Brenda Whealy





#### 1 Met The Master

I had walked life's way with an easy tread, Had followed where comfort and pleasures led, Until one day in a quiet place I met the Master face to face.

With station and rank and wealth for my goal, Much thought for my body, but none for my soul, I had entered to win in life's mad race, When I met the Master face to face.

I met Him, and knew Him and blushed to see That His eyes full of sorrow, were fixed on me; And I faltered and fell at His feet that day, While my castles melted and vanished away.

Melted and vanished and in their place Naught else did I see but the Master's face. And I cried aloud, "Oh, make me meet To follow the steps of Thy wounded feet."

My thought is now for the souls of men, I have lost my life to find it again, E'er since the day in a quiet place I met the Master face to face.

~Unknown

Do you know someone who needs a visit or an encouraging word? Remember those that are sick or lonely and try to visit them. In this way we can show the love of the Lord to others.





Please pray for us as we minister in the Ellsinore-Poplar Bluff area through:

Straight Paths Bible Church

Visit our services and hear Bro. Mike preach on our web site:

www.straightpathsbiblechurch.com

#### The Love Of God

Frederick Martin Lehman was born August 7, 1868 in Mecklenburg, Germany. At the age of four, his family immigrated to America, settling down in Iowa. Converted to Christ at age eleven while walking through a crabapple orchard, he eventually entered the ministry and pastored churches in the Midwest. But his

greatest love was gospel music, and he compiled five songbooks and published hundreds of songs.

In 1917, while working in a packinghouse in Pasadena, California, Lehman was meditating on a sermon he had heard about the love of God the previous Sunday. A song began forming in his mind and as he sat on empty orange crates during a break, he wrote down his thoughts with a little stubby pencil. Arriving home that evening, he hurried to his old upright piano and began picking out a tune to fit his lyrics. His only problem, however, was that he



only had two lines and he felt there should be at least three. Then again, as if God was handing him this glorious song, he remembered the words to a poem he had heard at a camp meeting some time ago. Upon finding the words written on a slip of paper he had used as a book mark, he noticed that some fine print read, "These lines were found and translated from the walls of a patient's room in an insane asylum after the patient's death." Perhaps someone did find it there, but we now know the words originally came from the pen of an eleventh-century Jewish poet in Germany named Meir Ben Isaac Nehorai. That verse perfectly formed the third stanza of Frederick's song.

## Mom's Page

(Helps for "older" Christian Young Ladies)

Too many times children can get unnerving when we are older. This was a sweet reminder that we need to give them ourselves.

One, Two, Three –by H.C. Bunner It was an old, old, old, old lady, And a boy that was half-past three; And the way that they played together Was beautiful to see.

She couldn't go running and jumping, And the boy, no more could he; For he was a thin little fellow, With a thin little twisted knee.

They sat in the yellow sunlight, Out under the Maple tree; And the game that they played I'll tell you, Just as it was told to me.

It was Hide-and-Go-Seek they were playing, Though you'd never have known it to be, With the old, old, old, old lady, And a boy with a twisted knee.

The boy would bend his face down On his one little sound right knee, And he'd guess where she was hiding, In guesses One, Two, Three!

"You are in the china-closet!"
He would cry, and laugh with glee—
It wasn't the china closet,
But he still had Two and Three.

"You are up in papa's big bedroom, In the chest with the queer old key!" And she said: "You are warm and warmer; But you're not quite right," said she.

"It can't be the little cupboard Where momma's things used to be-So it must be the clothes-press, Gran'ma!" And he found her with his Three.

Then she covered her face with her fingers, That were wrinkled and white and wee, And she guessed where the boy was hiding, With a One and a Two and a Three.

And they never had stirred from their places, Right under the maple tree—
This old, old, old, old lady
And the boy with the lame little knee—
This dear, dear, dear old lady,
And the boy who was half-past three.

God does not comfort us to make us comfortable, but to make us comforters.



#### Ten Rules For Happy Living

- 1. Keep busy. Not always with work, so have a hobby.
  - 2. Avoid self-pity. Opportunities not your as a child can be made now.
  - 3. Keep a smile on your face. It will compliment your dress.
- 4. Cultivate a cheerful disposition and a good sense of humor.
- 5. Put yourself out to help someone each day. Live for others.
- 6. Fill your hours with worthwhile things. This brings no regrets.
- 7. Appreciate people. Nothing gives more joy than appreciation.
- 8. Children are the hope of the world.
  Strive to make them happy.
  - 9. Refuse to be discouraged. What should be done, can be.
  - 10. Read your Bible, and talk to God about your affairs.

It is comforting to know that not only the steps but also the stops of a good man are ordered by the Lord.

— George Mueller

#### Mirror, Mirror on the Wall

(If you can, go get a hand mirror as you read this devotion and look at yourself.)

Every time I go into a room where there is a mirror, I look at myself. Now, I do not mean that I stand gazing fondly at my reflection, only that perhaps the movement catches my eye or maybe it is natural for a person to want to know if they look presentable or not. Whatever the case, when you pass a mirror you look in it. I have seen people before that could not pass a mirror without stopping to make sure every hair was in place or that their makeup was perfect or just to admire their reflection. Do you know anyone like that? Most times we think that people like that are vain and conceited and we think badly of them. But what do you suppose they really see in that mirror? I doubt that it is the "fairest of them all".

I found a poem the other day titled, "Myself", by Edgar A. Guest, and I would like to take that poem and bring an important truth to your attention. There are four stanzas to the poem, therefore we will take one stanza at a time. The first is:

I have to live with myself, and so
I want to be fit for myself to know,
I want to be able, as days go by,
Always to look myself straight in the eye;
I don't want to stand, with the setting sun,
And hate myself for the things I have done.

Mr. Guest had a good sober thought in his mind that would do us all good to have. If you have any thought about yourself and how you want to conduct yourself, some things you might consider are your friends and acquaintances. You would not want to join yourself with foolish friends that would get you into trouble. (He that walketh with wise men shall be wise: but a companion of fools shall be destroyed. Prov. 15:20) If you are wise you would seek friends that want to live right and who love the Lord so that you could help each other along the way. But what of yourself? What closer companion do you have than yourself? You know your thoughts and motives, your ambitions and how you mean to achieve them. You know your temptations and how far you let those temptations carry you. Put yourself on trial while you are looking deep into your eyes (which someone penned as being the "windows of the soul") and honestly judge yourself, whether you be right or wrong. A good way to do that is to imagine all the things that you have even thought of doing today being known by everyone else. Can you look yourself "straight in the eye" and truthfully say that you are right with God and your fellow man? What would others say of you if they knew the real you?

I don't want to keep on a closet shelf
A lot of secrets about myself,
And fool myself, as I come and go,
Into thinking that nobody else will know
The kind of a man I really am;
I don't want to dress up myself in sham.

The biggest lie that a sinner will tell himself is this; "no one else knows what I am doing". You may convince yourself of that but you are wrong. You may get by in secret for a while but eventually the things that you have done and your true self will come shining through. No matter how hard you try to make everyone believe that you are spiritual and giving, those that are closest to you generally know the way that you are. Someone once compared this "other self" to a room in your heart where you let no one else go but yourself. It is a secret place that you shut the door on and no one else knows what is inside. If there are things about yourself that are so bad that you have to hide them from everyone else, then you have a very serious problem that you need to deal with. In hiding sins and bad feelings or thoughts in your heart, you are closing a door to God and everyone else. Denial of sin in your heart and life will cause you not to see your need for help from others or your need of a Savior. This is the very reason that there is an account in the Bible of some that will say in that day, "Lord, Lord!" (Matt. 7:22), for they thought (or made themselves believe) they were doing good and living right. You may be able to fool some people and you might even convince yourself that you are not so very bad, but you will never hide anything from God.

I want to go out with my head erect,
I want to deserve all men's respect;
But here in the struggle for fame and pelf\*
I want to be able to like myself.
I don't want to look at myself and know
That I'm bluster and bluff and empty show.

\*Pelf: money; riches; but it often conveys the idea of something ill gotten or worthless.

Have you ever had someone say to you, "You are such a fine young lady!" when you knew in your heart that you were not? It gives you a very sick feeling to know that others think highly of you when you know in your heart that you deserve their ridicule. It can make you look in the mirror and hate the person that you see. The grave danger is when you can make yourself believe that you are doing right when you really are not. You can do that. There is a passage in the Bible about an adulterous woman who did not think she was doing anything wrong. "Such is the way of an adulterous woman; she eateth, and wipeth her mouth, and saith, I have done no wickedness." (Prov. 30:20) How can she do that? By deceiving her own self. You begin to really believe that you have a good reason for being the way that you are and that everyone should just accept you that way. Oh, you know in your heart that the things you are doing are wrong but you can sear your conscience so severely that you believe you are justified in your sin. To reveal your true self and repent of what you are and what you have done is just too hard. And so you live your life in a lie and die, only to spend eternity in hell. But the real truth is that if you will repent and confess your sin, then and only then will you find mercy and true peace.

I can never hide myself from me; I see what others may never see; I know what others may never know, I never can fool myself, and so, Whatever happens, I want to be Self-respecting and conscience free.

So, how can you tell if you are right in your heart and life? You look into the mirror of God's Word! There are many people that read a Proverb a day every month, which is a good practice. Solomon gives many truths in each chapter and no matter how many times you read it, there will always be something more there for you to learn. The New Testament is full of the teachings of Jesus and the apostles, practical guidelines for holiness and daily living. Read your Bible daily! Above all, seek to really know God and His great love for you. Ask Him to help you to see yourself the way that you really are, not just the way other people see you. Invite Him to search your heart and be ready and willing to deal with what He will reveal to you. Confess your sins to Him and, if need be, go to those that you have wronged and confess your faults to them, seeking their forgiveness, also. This may sound like too much, but I promise you that you will find a richer, sweeter life than you ever thought possible.

"Mirror, mirror, on the wall, who is the fairest of us all?" You may be beautiful on the outside but what do you see when you look in <u>your</u> mirror?

#### Be strong!

We are not here to play, to dream, to drift: We have hard work to do, and loads to lift; Shun not the struggle-face it; 'tis God's gift.

#### Be strong!

Say not, "The days are evil. Who's to blame?" And fold the hands and acquiesce-oh shame! Stand up, speak out, and bravely, in God's name.

#### Be strong!

It matters not how deep intrenched the wrong,
How hard the battle goes, the day how long;
Faint not-fight on! Tomorrow comes the song.
~Maltbie Davenport Babcock



#### The Five Finger Prayer

#### 1. The thumb is nearest to you.

So begin your prayers by praying for those closest to you. They are the easiest to remember. To pray for our loved ones is, as C.S. Lewis said, a "sweet duty."

# 2. The next finger is the pointing finger.

Pray for those who heal, teach, and instruct. This includes doctors, teachers, and ministers. They need wisdom in pointing others in the right direction.

3. The next finger is the tallest finger. It reminds us of our leaders. Pray for the president and leaders in business and industry. These people shape our nation. They need God's guidance.

4. The fourth finger is the ring finger. This is our weakest finger. It reminds us to pray for the weak, those in trouble or in pain. You cannot pray enough for them. It have also heard this finger called the heart finger for various reasons, one being that the ring you wear may be from your spouse. So if you are married, you should pray for your marriage and your spouse.)

5. And last comes our little finger, the

## 5. And last comes our little finger, the smallest finger of all.

This is where we should place ourselves in relation to God and others. The Bible says, "He who is least among you all, the same shall be great." (Luke 9:48). After you've prayed for the other four groups, your own needs will be put into

perspective.
~from "Lists to Live By"



## What Prayer Provides

#### **Protection**

Preserve me, O God: for in thee do I put my trust.

Ps. 16:1

#### **Purpose**

Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer;

Rom. 12:12

#### **Power**

And what *is* the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power,

Eph. 1:19

#### **Provision**

Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.

Phil. 4:6

#### Peace

But thou, O LORD, *art* a shield for me; my glory, and the lifter up of my head. I cried unto the LORD with my voice, and he heard me out of his holy hill. *Selah* 

Ps. 3:3-4

#### **Perspective**

Rejoice evermore. Pray without ceasing. In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning

you.

1 Thes. 5:16-18

#### **Passion**

But the end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer.

1 Peter 4:7

#### **Purity**

Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.

Ps. 51:10

# God-Honored Women of the Bible



Did you know that there is a woman in the lineage of Christ who was a harlot? It is a pretty bad title to have, for sure, but Rahab overcame her past. She demonstrated great faith in a God that she had not been raised to know or worship.

Israel was coming into the land that God had promised to them for years. The older ones that had come out of Egypt were gone now. They had shown insufficient faith to enter the Promised Land, God needing for them to trust Him to bring them in. But this generation was ready and excited about what God was going to do. (Read Joshua 1-6)

The people of Jericho had also heard of the Israelites and what God was doing for them and they were very afraid. They had heard for years how that God had divided the Red Sea for them, provided for them in the wilderness, how their enemies had fallen before them. Now here they were camped just over on the other side of Jordan.

Rahab had heard about the Israelites, also. Since the children of Israel had been a long time in the desert she must have heard about them most all of her life. Now to see them coming and know that God was with them just made her want to serve Him all the more. So when the spies came into town, she hid them from her own people, begging for mercy for herself and her family in the overthrow that she knew was coming. She magnified the God of Israel as the true God, "for the LORD your God, he is God in heaven above, and in earth beneath." Because of her faith, she was given the promise of safety for herself and for all who would be in her house when the overthrow came, "only Rahab the harlot shall live, she and all that are with her in the house, because she hid the messengers that we sent." (Joshua 6:17) She, like Ruth, left her own people and culture to embrace the true and living God. God blessed her for her faithful actions. She was accepted into Israel, and married Salmon, who was of the house of Judah, and had a son. This son, Boaz, became the husband of Ruth who is the grandmother of King David.

A lesson that we can learn from Rahab is to have faith in God in all that happens in our lives. I am sure that Rahab had no idea when she was living on that wall in Jericho that she would someday be the great-grandmother of the King of Israel. God has a plan for our lives that will be much better than we ever dreamed. Have faith in God, that He will guide your life in a perfect way, no matter what.

# Crafts

#### **Stationery Greeting Cards**

A handmade greeting card shows you care.
Start with colored card stock, cut in half to form two 8-1/2x5-1/2 pieces. Use prints or illustrations cut from magazines. Add ribbons, buttons, and other trinkets to create your own unique style. Add a piece of plain light paper to the inside to make writing easier. Use as note cards or for any special occasion. Invitation envelopes work well with these and can be purchased at Wal-Mart.



# SAY

## **Magazine Organizer**

Make an organizer for your "Jewels" papers. This will keep them neat and will look nice in your room. Start with a small sized empty cereal box. The short end should measure 4", angled up to the top within 1" of corner. Cut box as shown in the picture. Now comes the fun part! Cover your organizer with construction paper or even gift wrap and decorate it however you want. Label the long end with the dates that are stored in that particular

#### **Switch Plate Cover**

Art foam can really come in handy for many things. Here is one good idea; a light switch cover to match your room. Just cut out a rectangle of your base color, then cut another rectangle in the center for the switch to go through. Add other foam shapes, glitter glue, jewels or whatever you like. Attach the cover with poster tack so that you can remove it easily. Do one for each month or for special occasions.



#### **Placemat Purse**



You will need:
Purchased rectangular placemat
Purchased handle
Trim of choice

Fold placemat in half with the right sides together; sew sides. Stitch across the bottom corner as shown in photo to make the square bottom. Turn right side out and attach handles. You can stitch pockets on the inside and on the outside if you like. Trim the top with a row of beads or a pretty boa.

## The Cooking Counter

#### Celebrate His Resurrection

What better way to celebrate than with a cake! A cross cake can become a beautiful tradition in your family. Here are a couple of ideas to help make it special:

- If you are using a regular 9"x13" pan, try this.
   Layers of chocolate, red, and white can be used to make a gospel presentation of our sin, Jesus' blood, and the purity we have after He takes our sins away.
   Bake each layer individually. After layering them, cut out the cross shape before frosting.
- Using a Wilton pan makes shaping easier, and if you like the idea of the flowers, silk ones work well. Make sure to wash them and allow to dry completely before using.





## Peanut Butter Pie

1 Oreo cookie crust 1 pkg. Cream cheese, softened 1 cup powdered sugar 12 oz. Cool Whip ½ cup peanut putter

Mix cream cheese and powdered sugar until smooth. Add peanut butter and mix. Finally, mix in the Cool Whip. Top with drizzled chocolate syrup and/or finely chopped peanuts.

## Creamy Fruit Salad

1 can peaches with juice 1 sweet apple, cubed 2-3 bananas, sliced

1 can mandarin orange slices, drained ½ cup of any of the following: strawberries, blueberries, cherries.

1 cup apple juice 1 box dry instant vanilla pudding

Mix all the fruit into a large bowl along with the juice. Gradually sprinkle the pudding into fruit, stirring as you add it. Chill for about 1 hour before serving. This goes great with cake, whipped cream, or just by itself.





#### Cheesy Mostaccioli

1-1|b. Pkg. Mostaccioli pasta 1-1/2 |b. ground beef 2 (11oz.) cans cheddar cheese soup 1 (30oz.) jar spaghetti sauce 1 tsp. Ground black pepper 1 tsp. Italian seasoning 3 cups shredded Mozzarella cheese

Cook Mostaccioli pasta (don't overcook) and brown ground beef; drain fat off of meat. Preheat oven to 400\*. Combine pasta, meat, soup, and spaghetti sauce. Add pepper, seasoning, and 2 cups cheese. Mix to combine. Place in extra large baking dish. Sprinkle rest of cheese on top. Bake for 25 minutes.



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