

SEPTEMBER 2025

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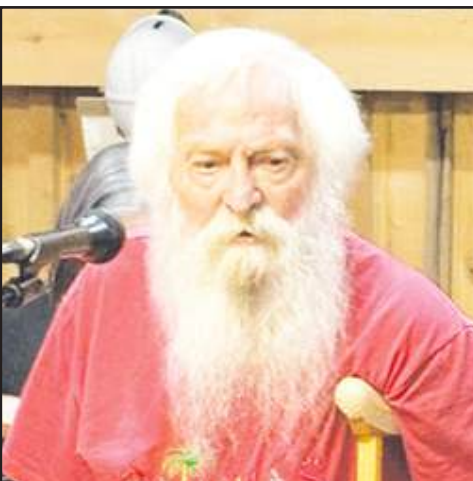
KY'S CHRISTIAN NEWS



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CONGRATS CHARLIE ADKINS



WINNER OF THE AUGUST LUCKY BUCK! Charlie discovered one of the three Lucky Bucks in mid August. The prize is valued at \$700. Thanks to Rick Smith of Smith's Tire Center in Berea for sponsoring the Lucky Buck cash prize. Congratulations Charlie!

ANDY BARR'S MEET AND GREET



CONGRESSMAN, SENATE CANDIDATE, ANDY BARR'S meet and greet was held Tuesday, August 5th, at Churchill's in Berea. Barr mingled with the large crowd of supporters, and discussed innovative plans and goals for improvements.

CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE



CONGRATULATIONS TO RICK SMITH AND THE TEAM AT SMITH'S TIRE CENTER, in Berea, celebrating 25 years of excellence! Owner, Rick Smith, has persevered through much adversity over the last two and a half decades. Smith's Tire has not only survived, but grown! He now provides dependable auto care at two convenient locations: 306 Richmond Road, and 311 Chestnut Street, both in Berea. Call 859-986-4889. We appreciate Rick Smith, not only for his long list of credentials in reliable car care, but also for years of supporting The Seeker's ministry and enabling us to add excitement with the Lucky Buck Treasure Hunt, with his sponsorship of the cash prize.



*Happy
55th
Anniversary*

JIM AND ROSITA SHIELDS celebrated their 55th wedding anniversary. The flowers were brought compliments of TJ Davis at Foley's florist and gifts.

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James C. Dobson Dies

April 21, 1936-
August 21, 2025

American author and psychologist James Clayton Dobson Jr. was an American evangelical Christian author, psychologist and founder of Focus on the Family, which he led from 1977 until 2010. In the 1980s, he was ranked as one of the most influential spokesmen for conservative social positions in American public life. Wikipedia



CROSS DISPLAYED AT BROADHEAD FARM MART



This Wonderful New Addition, constructed earlier this year, shows that Owner, Mark Hopkins and the Broadhead Farm Mart team are not ashamed of their values. US-150 Broadhead.



Kristi Miller & Elmer Burcett To Perform at the Spoonbread Festival Bluegrass/Gospel 9/21; 11am-12pm Jefferson St., Berea

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2025

SPOONBREAD FESTIVAL

SEPTEMBER 19-21





The festival promises a weekend filled with free concerts, family-friendly activities, and beloved Spoonbread traditions. This year's entertainment is one you don't want to miss! All concerts are free to the public. Spoonbread Festival features vendors, rides, games, food trucks, and special attractions for all ages.



WWW.BEREAKYCHAMBER.ORG

**GOD SEES YOUR STRUGGLE
KEEP TALKING TO HIM AND LISTEN FOR HIS DIRECTION.**

THE EYES OF THE LORD ARE UPON THE RIGHTEOUS, AND HIS EARS ARE OPEN UNTO THEIR CRY.

Psalm 34:15

Beloved, the sovereign Lord who created galaxies also sees you—right now, in this very moment. Your tears are not unnoticed. Your pain is not ignored. Your confusion is not forgotten. The all-knowing God sees the depths of your heart and

understands every battle you're facing. Hebrews 4:15 reminds us that we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who was tempted, weary, abandoned, and yet without sin—Jesus Christ Himself. So don't stop talking to Him.

Prayer is not a ritual; it's a lifeline. It's where broken hearts find healing, anxious minds find peace, and weary souls find strength. Psalm 62:8 calls us to "pour out your heart before Him; God is a refuge for us." But don't just speak—listen.

His direction is not found in the chaos of the world, but in the quiet clarity of His Word. God's Spirit speaks through Scripture (2 Timothy 3:16–17), wise counsel, and the gentle nudges that conform to His truth. Even when He seems silent, He is still guiding. Isaiah 30:21 assures: "Your ears will hear a word behind you, 'This is the way, walk in it,' whenever you turn to the right or to the left." Keep pressing in. Keep trusting. He is refining you, not abandoning you. He is preparing you, not punishing you. He is near. © God's Army-Soldier of Fatih.

WILLIAMS MEMORIAL BAPTIST CHURCH VBS

PRAYERS FOR LIFE...

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Right to Life



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www.madisoncountyrtoil.org

FOR EXPECTANT MOTHERS

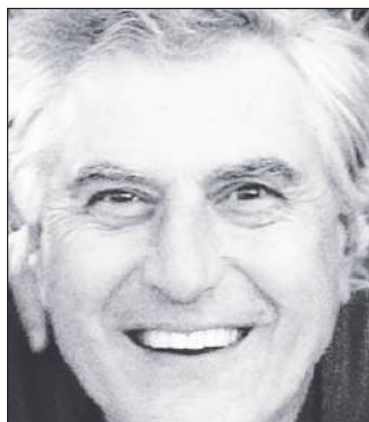
"Lord, Look with special love on all expectant mothers today. Help them to realize the special treasure they carry within them. Touch the minds and hearts of all who are tempted by abortion because of the problem pregnancies. As You consoled Your Mother at the Annunciation, console these mothers and give them special graces to trust in You. As You sent an angel to Your mother, send someone into their lives, who will help them make prudent and loving decisions that will conform to Your law. Amen."

Kentucky Right To Life, Respect Life.



Wanda Horn, Betty Hisle, Marsha Porter, Patricia Brinegar, and others contributed to each aspect of VBS: snacks, crafts and other activities. They brought beauty, excitement, and most importantly, love to each service. It's no wonder there was an excellent turnout each night.

WILLIAM MEMORIAL BAPTIST CHURCH held VBS in late July. There was a huge turnout of children who enjoyed innovative, crafts, activities, and creative foods all designed to pattern the theme, which was Magnified. If you do not have a home, Church, Pastor Chris Winkler cordially welcomes you to visit. Poplar St., Ravenna



RICHARD RAY BELLANDO

1938-2025

PASSED PEACEFULLY at his home with his family around him around 10pm on Friday July 4, 2025. Richard was 87 years old.

Born in Trenton, New Jersey, Richard attended Pennington Prep School before earning a degree from Warren Wilson College in Swannanoa, North Carolina. He then went on to attend Berea College where he graduated with a degree in English literature. He later attended Vanderbilt Seminary School.

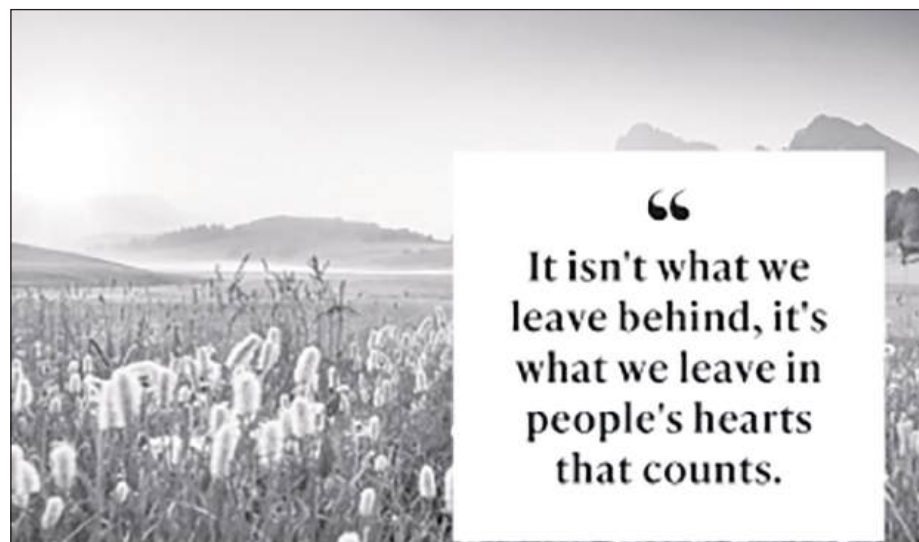


AMELIA CLAIRE SHEFFER

2006-2025

OF BEREA, KY went home to be with the Lord on August 3rd, 2025. Amelia worked at her family business, Morgan's Discount, where she held the title of CEO. She loved music that was way too loud. She was always willing to help others and was a friend to all living things, especially animals and children

IN HEARTFELT HONOR OF BEAUTIFUL LIVES



“

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leave behind, it's
what we leave in
people's hearts
that counts.

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YVONNE RENEE HISEL- VENABLE

1966-2025

AGE 59 WIDOW OF James Harvey Venable born February 3, 1966. She was and forever will be a planter of beauty, a keeper of light, a hearth in winter, a garden in full, wild bloom. Her life was a living sanctuary, a place where love was planted daily, watered with kindness, and allowed to grow without condition.



CAROLE SUE LAMAR HALLAM

1938-2025

CHERISHED MOTHER, GRANDMOTHER, and great-grandmother, passed away peacefully on August 18, 2025, surrounded by love, after a courageous battle with cancer. Carole worked many years as a bookkeeper and secretary at Berea Community High School.

Events

THE SPOONBREAD FESTIVAL

September 19-21 in Berea. Great line up of events & free concerts. Alex Miller, Kristi Miller/Elmer Burchett, Nick Cassetta & more! Jefferson St., Berea.

THE TRINITY HEIRS

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-New Vision Missionary Baptist Homecoming, 193 Bridgestone Dr. Sun., Sept. 7, 11:00am-Berea
-Calhoun's Music Fest 2025 Shopville Gym, 80 Old Shopville Rd. Sat., Sept. 13, 11:00am-Somerset

BACK PORCH CAR CRUISE-IN

Back Porch Smokehouse Car Show, 9/18, from 5-8. Car Show Special \$9.99! Lake Linville Rd, Mt. Vernon

RICHMOND HOUSE OF PRAYER

Due to storm damage RHOP is meeting in the Richmond Mall. Pastor Owen Moody Invites you to attend.

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Join Berea United Methodist Church on September 14th at 11 am for a special outdoor service with uplifting music and an inspirational message. Afterwards we'll have inflatables and classic yard games for the whole family on the church lawn. We are looking forward to offering a special blessing for students, educators and firefighters. We are located at 101

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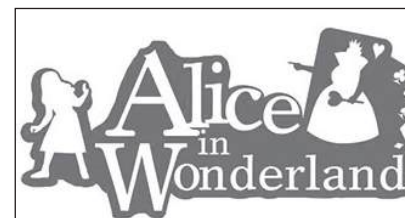
SEPTEMBER 5-13

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SEPTEMBER 19-28



Join Dorothy, Toto, and friends on their magical journey through the Land of Oz in a beloved musical adaptation of this timeless classic.



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FROM THE EDITOR

Hello Friends,

Happy Labor Day! You are cordially invited to join us at the 29th Annual Spoonbread Festival. Elmer Burchett and I will perform bluegrass Gospel, across from the folk center, under the tent. Sunday, September 21st, from 11 a.m. - 12 p.m.

I would like to introduce to you the new devotional at Seekernews.com, called Your Way Yahweh. There are inspirational messages with scriptures, songs, and more! Please remember our flip book is available online, as well as extra photos and videos of regional events. Please visit Seekernews.com. We recently added the PDF of each edition as well as the Flip Book! This allows readers to zoom and enlarge print as needed, to be as reader friendly as possible. These and other improvements were made with the help of Jim Kernicky of Kernix Web Design. If you need changes or a new design for your website, call Kernix. Details on page 6!

Let's enjoy life while we have the chance. One great way to do that is to take time out for an evening of great music and food at Charlie's Pickin' and Grinnin. More on Page 6.

We encourage you to join in worship at the church of your choice. Please visit our church directory on page 9.

As always, thank you for helping this ministry grow. It is an honor and privilege to serve. Many thanks to those who submit inspirational articles. We also thank those who allow us to distribute The Seeker in your store or business. We thank everyone who helps with selling and designing ads, and also delivering Seekers each month. This ministry would not be possible without each of YOU!

Please let us know if you appreciate The Seeker. Please post a testimonial on our website, seekernews.com.

Kristi

You may have noticed some changes in the look of the Seeker. I'm excited to say, that I have teamed up with a new graphic designer. We are working on updating a fresh new look for the Seeker News. I would love your feedback, email me at kristimiller1005@gmail.com

**Please Send Any Articles,
Recipes, Jokes, Ads, or
Announcements To:
kristimiller1005@gmail.com**

**CONTACT US AT
The Seeker Christian News
P.O. Box 302
Berea, KY 40403
Kristi Miller,
Owner/Publisher
859-302-3103
kristimiller1005@gmail.com**

PLEASE NOTE!

The deadline to get material in or out of The Seeker is the 20th of each Month.

All advertisements cancelled after our deadline, which is the 20th of each month, will incur a charge.

When advertisements are cancelled on short notice, we do not have ample time to resell the spot(s) and cover our expenses. As always, thank you for your support and consideration.

-The Seeker Christian News

FAMILY FELLOWSHIP CHURCH



CONGRATULATIONS TO PASTOR BRANDON AND WIFE LORIE HARTMAN, of Family Fellowship Church in Berea. They celebrated their opening service. On Sunday morning, August 3rd. The Brand New church is in the building formerly known as Blue Lick Baptist Church at 601 Blue Lick Road, in Berea.



**Hey!
Don't
Be A Hitter,
Slow Down
For A Critter!**



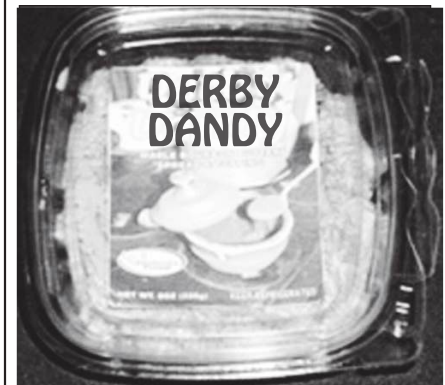
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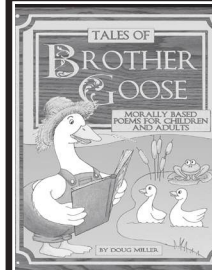
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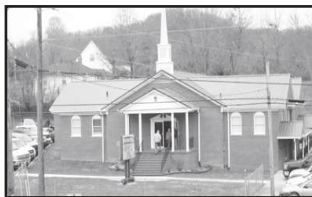
NOT FORSAKING THE ASSEMBLING OF OURSELVES TOGETHER, AS THE MANNER OF SOME IS; BUT EXHORTING ONE ANOTHER... HEBREWS 10:25 **The Seeker 9**

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Pastor: Randy McPheron

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Worship 6 pm



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*And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make
all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these
words are true and faithful.*

Revelation 21:5 (KJV)

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My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. 2 Cor. 12:19

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"And let us not grow weary of
doing good, for in due season
we will reap, if we do not give
up." Galatians 6:9



Be the things
you loved
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the people
who are
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EMBRACING TRANSFORMATION: A JOURNEY TO SPIRITUAL GROWTH

By Desiree Morrow-Carter

Have you ever felt like you're stuck in the same place, yearning for something deeper but unsure how to get there? Life has a way of nudging us toward growth, often through challenges, restlessness, or an inner calling that refuses to be ignored. Spiritual growth is not a destination—it is a lifelong journey of transformation, renewal, and deeper connection with God. It is in this journey that we truly embrace who we are called to be.

Each of us experiences moments when we sense a need for change. Perhaps it's a feeling of unfulfillment, a longing for greater peace, or a struggle that shakes the foundation of our faith. These moments are invitations to grow. The Bible reminds us in Romans 12:2 (NIV), "Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will."

Transformation begins with a willingness to step beyond what is comfortable and familiar. It requires us to surrender control, trusting that God is guiding us toward something greater. Just as a caterpillar must endure the process of metamorphosis to become a butterfly, we, too, must go through seasons of change to become who God has called us to be.

Spiritual growth requires intentionality. Here are three essential steps in the process of renewal: Reflection and Awareness. Growth begins with honest self-reflection. Ask yourself, "Where am I spiritually, and where do I want to be?" The Psalmist prays in Psalm 139:23-24 (NIV), "Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting."

Releasing Old Patterns
Transformation involves shedding old habits, limiting beliefs, and fears that no longer serve us. Ephesians 4:22-24 (NIV) urges us to, "put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the atti-

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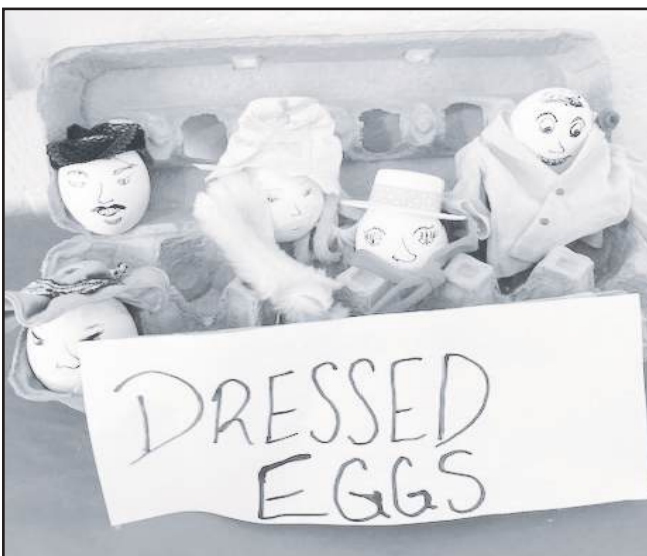


YOUTH CARWASH FUNDRAISER was held on Friday and Saturday, July 10 and 11. Funds were raised to send kids to camp. BEC is located at 180 Plaza Drive, Berea. Pictured left to right: Caden Coleman, Mikalya Horn, Channa Osborne, Hunter Horn, Jenny Osborne, and Savanna Blanton. *Dylan Harding, not pictured, *

tude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness." What are the mindsets or behaviors you need to release to step into spiritual renewal?

Embracing New Practices
Developing a deeper relationship with God requires cultivating spiritual disciplines. Prayer,

meditation, studying scripture, journaling, and acts of service are all ways to nurture your faith. James 4:8 (NIV) reminds us, "Come near to God and he will come near to you." The more we invest in our spiritual growth, the stronger and more resilient our faith becomes.



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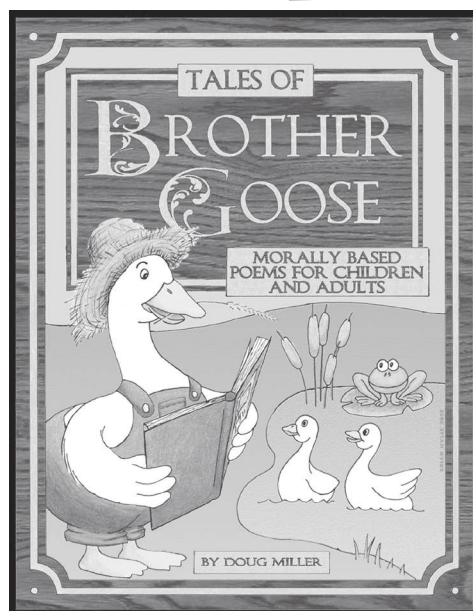
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Sportsman Pete,
Was such a cheat,
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Calling others fools,
He broke the rules
Every single time.

He asked the Savior
About his behavior
Which had become a crime.
He thought again
About how he'd been
And the others
That he had mistreated
Then Pete said,
"I was out of my head
I'm the one being cheated!"

By Doug Miller

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BIBLE VERSE

Did you know, The Golden Rule is based in the bible? Luke 6:31 reads, "And as ye would that men should do to you, do ye also to them likewise." That is telling us to treat others as we would like to be treated. With kindness, friendship, and thinking of other peoples feelings in our actions. Remember to always use the Golden Rule with our family, friends, teachers and people we meet.



LITTLE LAUGHS

How do trees get on the Internet?
They log on. :)

Why shouldn't you tell a secret in a cornfield?
Because the corn has ears. :)

What do lumberjacks shout at the start of fall?
Sep-timberrrrrr! :)

How do leaves get from place to place?
Autumn-mobiles. :)

ASK Jesus Into Your Heart

The ABC's of Salvation

A ADMIT that you know you are a sinner and ask God for forgiveness

B BELIEVE in Jesus and that the Bible is true. Pray and ask God into your heart.

C CONFESS that Jesus is your Lord and that you believe he died on the cross for your sins

The Wise Old Owl

There was an old owl that lived in a tree. Every day he saw incidents happening around him. Yesterday, he saw a boy helping an old man carry a heavy basket. Today, he saw a girl shouting at her mother. The more he saw the less he spoke.

As he spoke less, he heard more. He heard people talking and telling stories. He heard a woman saying that an elephant jumped over a fence. He also heard a man saying that he had

never made a mistake.

The old owl had seen and heard about what happened to people. Some became better and some became worse. But the old owl had become wiser each and every day.



FALL WORD SEARCH

H	J	N	I	F	I	P	J	K	R	F	H	R	E	T
A	D	M	B	Z	O	R	U	E	T	F	J	E	Y	H
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But You, O Lord,
are a shield for me,
MY GLORY
and the One who
lifts up my head.
Psalms 3:3



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Seeker. If the dollar is determined to be a winner, the cash reward will be given at the end of the month. This feature of The Seeker is sponsored by Smith's Tire Center, US 25 North, in Berea, KY. We appreciate their support of this contest. Call (859) 986-2032 or email:

kristimiller1005@gmail.com to make arrangements to meet if you have found the winning number. Three new Lucky Bucks will be released during the first week of each month.

Each month that the Lucky Buck is not retrieved, the cash prize grows by \$100, Thanks to our Sponsor, Smith's Tire Center. (Family and employees of The Seeker Christian News are NOT eligible to win. May take 6 weeks to process. All winners will be photographed and

The 3 LUCKY BUCK NUMBERS

Can be found inside...

Hope you win!!!

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BATTLING SATAN

By Dr. Charles Burton

SOME TIME AGO, I read a story about the great missionary, David Livingston. God had called him to share the Gospel as a medical doctor. This would open doors otherwise closed to Christians. Dr. Livingston had agreed to go to Africa. It would be a very dangerous assignment.

After being there a while, word got out that a tribal leader was coming to their home to kill the missionaries. He showed up one night late and all thought this is it, we die tonight. But all the sudden they were gone. They were saved and safe.

Dr. Livingston would be called home to give a report at his home sending church. He told of how they had been spared certain death. He told them that 39 angels saved them. They asked him what the date of this was. He told them and to their amazement 39 people had been praying that night for protection against Satan. WOW double WOW. What an amazing story of the power of God against Satan.

We battle the Devil all the time. Although your story may not be as miraculous as this, you can still win some battles against the Devil.

Look at these encouraging words:

#1 Battle Satan with the Word.

Mark 4:15

These are the ones who are beside the road where the word is sown; and when they hear, immediately Satan comes and takes away the word which has been sown in them.

#2 No weapon formed:

Isaiah 54:17

No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord, and their righteousness is of me, saith the Lord.

#3 Greater is He:

1 John 4:4

Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.

#4 Satan and the Lord Jesus cannot occupy the same place.

Matthew 4:10

Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.

#5 Oppression is not possession.

John 17:3

And this is life eternal, that they might

know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.

#6 You are the author of your thought life.

#7 Do not let Satan know what you are thinking.

#8 Battling Satan is dealing with the Spirit not necessarily the flesh.

Ephesians 6:12

For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

So, if Satan is so strong? How can we defeat him?

By living Ephesians 6:11-18.

11 Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

13 Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

14 Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness;

15 And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace;

16 Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.

17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:

18 Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;

Look at this:

13 Is any among you afflicted? let him pray. Is any merry? let him sing psalms.

14 Is any sick among you? let him call

**BATTLE CONTINUED ON
PAGE 21**



Dr. Charles Burton



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ASK, TRUST AND THANK GOD

BROTHER OR SISTER, when your soul trembles with worry and the weight of this fleeting life presses hard upon you, do not look first to yourself, for you will only find weakness.

Ask GOD, for HE alone is the fountain of wisdom and strength. HE commands us, "Call upon ME in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify ME" (Psalm 50:15). To neglect asking is pride, but to ask is faith.

Once you have asked, do not waver in fear or doubt, but trust GOD. HE is not a man that HE should lie, nor a son of man that HE should change HIS mind (Numbers 23:19).

HIS promises are sure, HIS power is unshaken, and HIS purposes cannot fail. Trusting GOD means resting in CHRIST, who said, "Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in GOD; believe also in ME" (John 14:1).

And when HE answers—whether by granting, withholding, or redirecting—bow low and thank GOD. Gratitude is the seal of true faith, for the heart that

trusts HIM will bless HIS name in both abundance and in want. "Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of GOD in Christ Jesus for you" (1 Thessalonians 5:18).

Ask GOD in humility, trust GOD in confidence, thank GOD in worship. To live this way is to walk as a child of light, dependent on HIM alone, glorifying CHRIST in all things. © God's ARMY-Soldier Of Faith.



COIN FACT

From Alan Barnett

Did You Know...

One factor that affects a coin's value is its condition. Coins are graded on a scale from 1-70, with categories such as uncirculated, extremely fine, very fine, fine, very good, good, and about good.

ON MY FATHER'S SIDE

By Bruce Walker @2025

IT MAY BE TRUE WORLDWIDE, but in rural Alabama, a distinction is made between "your mother's side" and "your father's side of the family." According to whoever is telling it, your good traits come from one side, and your bad traits come from the otherside.

Throughout history, familial lineage is essential: it gives identity, tracks covenantal promises in scripture, and is crucial in fulfilling prophecies. My father would tell us, "We may not have much, but our name means something, don't dishonor it."

A lifelong friend, John Rhinehardt, recorded a song titled "On My Father's Side." (<https://youtu.be/ttL9KqRtVbc?list=RDttL9KqRtVbc>) The song details the conflicts between human and Godly nature. As a baby in the manger, He depended on His mother to feed, nourish, and care for Him. (Mt 2:13-15).

On His Father's side, in Luke 2:41-50, Jesus, at twelve years old, is at the Temple in Jerusalem explaining the meaning of Moses' law to the scholars, Rabbis, and learned men. When questioned by his earthly parents why he had not followed them home, Jesus said, "I must be about my Father's business." (LK. 2:49)

Fast forward to Jesus at 33, in the garden of Gethsemane, grappling with His imminent crucifixion: He asks His Father, "Is it necessary for me to die? (Luke 22:41-44). On the cross, Jesus cries, "Father, why have you forsaken me?" (Mt.27:46). These scriptures give insight into the physical and emotional agony Jesus suffered.

The apostle Paul, writing just 20 years after Jesus' resurrection, mentions over five hundred people had seen the resurrected Jesus, not an apparition or ghost, but a physical, human Christ. He appeared with the wounds he received on the cross. The oldest New Testament book (1 Corinthians 15:3-6). If Paul had been misrepresenting what happened to Jesus, there would have been a vast number of people who would have refuted him. History records no one doubting his resurrection except the

religious and political authorities, who had much to gain if they could discredit Jesus' resurrection. All our hope and faith are based on this one event. Paul stated that if the resurrection was not a fact, then all of us are doomed to a satanic rule. (I Cor. 15:17-18.)

We have established that Jesus has two natures, human and divine. What does that mean to us? The scriptures teach that the feelings of our limitations, struggles, and weaknesses touch him (Jesus). Jesus is not a distant God, cold, aloof, and unattached. Because of the 33 years he spent in human form, he understands our frailty in every sense—spiritual, emotional, mental, and physical. (Hebrews 4:15) He is not just empathetic; He came to earth and gave us a path to overcome this sin-broken world!

The psalmist tells us in Psalm 139:13-16 that God knew us in our mother's womb. Just as Jesus had a "mother's side" and a "Father's side." So do we. The most important action we take in human form is recognizing who and whose we are. He is the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. (Romans 8:29).

Our path is a limitless life, with the ability to overcome all the frustrations, fears, and anxieties of this present world, with a clear understanding, we are inheritors of God's Kingdom on this earth. We have a heavenly mission and earthly responsibilities.



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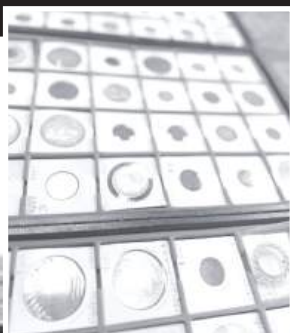


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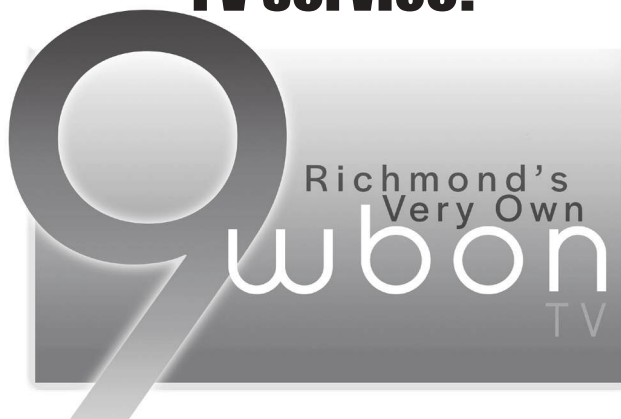
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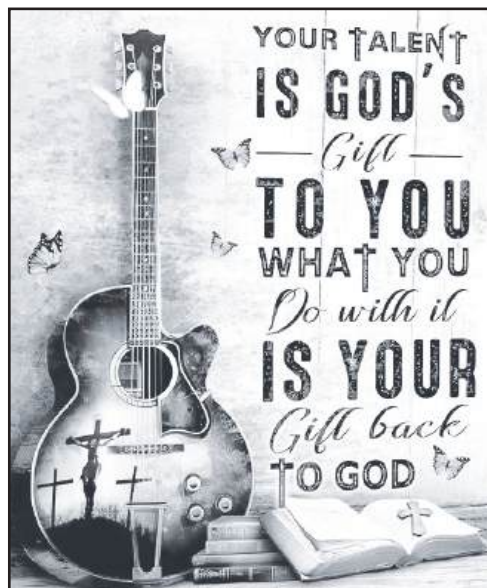
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DO YOU KNOW THE ANSWERS?

1. Which Austin French gospel song mentions work in the title?
2. Which classic rock artist had the hit, "Workin' On a Building?"
3. Which classic hymn by Horatius Bonar encourages active and dedicated work in service to others?
4. Which hymn by Jan Struther, with its second verse, focuses on God's strength at the place of work and the importance of daily labor?

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ELEVATING JOB’S WIFE

By Dr. Robin Richmond Mason

My friend Wade, is the middle son of 9 children. Recently his mother died after a period of illness. In the decades before her death, Wade’s mother had left Kentucky and returned to her home state of Michigan. Before passing, she bequeathed that Wade, who still lives in Eastern Kentucky, would be responsible for the dispersion of her belongings, after her death.

Wade is not a chatty man. Sometimes he only says a few sentences and they contain a lot of information. He went up to Michigan to visit his mom before her death, returned after the death, and then spent more days there on another trip as he fulfilled his mother’s request related to her property and possessions.

I called to express condolences and to hope that the auction had been as manageable as possible. I began the difficult conversation with, “I am glad that you have finished your responsibilities with the auction. Did you and your brothers and sisters get finished with everything?” He replied, “Yeah, we divided up her quilts and her Bibles, most of the auction things sold real cheap.”

Did you catch that phrase, “we divided up her quilts and her Bibles”? That was a legacy statement. What had been important in Wade’s mother’s life, is important to her children. The hand-made quilts and the worn Bibles represented her love and her character to the adult middle aged children. She left her children with the work of her hands and the faith of her soul.

I don’t think that Wade’s mom ever became a famous person or that her story or that the challenges and triumphs of her life were recorded anywhere. Today, I am thinking about short character sketches and the power of legacy that can be captured in a few words.

One of the people in the Bible who has always peaked my attention is Mrs. Job. I have always wondered about this person for whom we get a glimpse in the book of Job. The whole narrative of that book, is about Job and he certainly deserves our attention and respect. Very little, almost nothing to be exact, is written about his spouse. I reviewed commentaries related to Mrs. Job and

the possibilities for the void of detail related to this woman. Some of the scholars were comfortable with shallow knowledge and unresolved mysteries about this minor character. Others were holistically harsh and condemning of Mrs. Job because of the one statement quote, appearing in the narrative. I do not find my own perspective of honest inquiry in alignment with either this former or later perspective.

Mrs. Job was a spouse who suffered the same losses and calamities, that fell upon her husband. When Job lost his camels, Mrs. Job lost her camels. When Job lost his servants, Mrs. Job lost her servants. When Job lost his social standing, Mrs. Job lost her social standing. When Job lost all of his children, Mrs. Job lost all of her children. Bonk! Did you hear the hammer hit the coffin nails in that last sentence? The death on one child is enough to break the heart of any mother. Let us give Mrs. Job some grace. She lost all of her children in one colossal disaster.

Then, after the funeral, there were the foreclosures, the gossip, the medical diagnosis, and the judgmental visits by Job’s friends. By the way, I would also like to interject a question related to hospitality services. Please recall that the book of Job is an ancient writing. When you and I read about Job’s friends coming for an extended visit, the domestic hostess in all of us has to ask, “Where are they sleeping? Who is drawing the water? Who is cooking and cleaning and serving the food to the grumbling lot?” We all recognize that the answer is probably, Mrs. Job. Whatever compromised accommodations that Job and his wife had been reduced to, were now shared by the uninvited “friends” who came for an extended visit.

From my Southern Appalachian perspective, I see Mrs. Job adding more water to the sweet tea. She picks tiny stones out of her dwindling reserve of dried beans and tries to make the rice stretch extra far. Aside from the burden of extra work during her time of profound personal grief, she listens to the lengthy condemnation and “counsel” of Job’s visitors. After the men leave from their over-extended visit, I think that I see her quietly walking back into the kitchen as she silently sobs into her apron.

“Curse God, and die” are the only



Dr. Robin Richmond Mason

words that most of us associate with an unconsidered, deplorable opinion of Mrs. Job. The full verse actually reads as follows and only seems to solidify our scantily informed character profile.

“Then said his wife unto him, Dost thou still retain thine integrity? curse God, and die.” Job 2:9

So for a minute, I want to ask us all to suspend our judgment and preconceived opinions of Mrs. Job. The suspension invites some reflection on the following points:

- 1.The testimony of her presence. Mrs. Job showed compassion and commitment in remaining present during Job’s pain. Sometimes it is very hard to be present when another person, especially someone that we love, is hurting. Mrs. Job did not leave town; she didn’t abandon Job during the darkest hours of their lives.
- 2.The brevity and timing of her words shows self-control. Mrs. Job didn’t chime in or interrupt with the long litanies of the friends. The visitors, each went on and on for paragraphs. Mrs. Job chose her few words, carefully. Quiet contemplation can reflect great self-control. Instead of condemning Mrs. Job for what she did say, we might honor her by the restraint of what she didn’t say.
- 3.Her loyal respect for Job, was unshaken. Even in her famous “Dost thou still retain thine integrity?” line, she is affirming that Job has been a man of integrity and that his departure from that solid character attribute would certainly bring death.

Integrity defined Job’s life and she affirmed that fact. As Job sat, depressed, covered in boils, and rejected by his friends, she offered a word of truth based on a life time of

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observation.

4.She recognized that Job’s reliance on God was central to his strength, thereby affirming Job’s faith and his strength. I call that a double affirmation, even if it was spoken in a harsh tone.

5.Mrs. Job saw that the only thing keeping Job alive and sane, was his relationship with God and her comment reflects her belief that as long as Job held to his faith in God, there was still hope. Kind readers, that is a pretty profound theological position on hope, from a broken hearted woman.

6.Last of all, I want to point out that when the time of Job’s great testing had passed and his health and possessions were restored, Mrs. Job bore more children. She birthed the exact number of children, post disaster, that had been lost in the house collapse tragedy. That fact speaks silent volumes. Conception, birth, rocking, nursing, loving, rearing children are the work of a strong woman who has a faith in her God and a love for her husband that has been tried to the brink.

The death of Wade’s mom has caused me to think about the summation of a life in only a few words. Wade’s mom was a fine matriarch, Job was a pillar of patience and resilience and Mrs. Job, I suggest deserves a deeper understanding.

Seeker Snicker

CAN YOU HANDLE THESE
"A-CORNY" JOKES???

What is the cutest season?
Aww-tumn.!

What's the ratio of a pumpkin's circumference to its diameter?
Pumpkin Pi!

If the Pilgrims were still alive, what would they be most famous for?
Their age!

Why's it so easy to trick a leaf in October?
They fall for anything!

What did the apple say to the pie baker?
Use cherries instead!

Why is autumn the proudest season?
It's fall of it!

Why do birds fly south for the fall?
Because it's quicker than walking!

How do you mend a broken pumpkin?
With a pumpkin patch!

What's the best thing to put into a pumpkin pie?
Your teeth!

What do you get when you drop a pumpkin?
Squash!

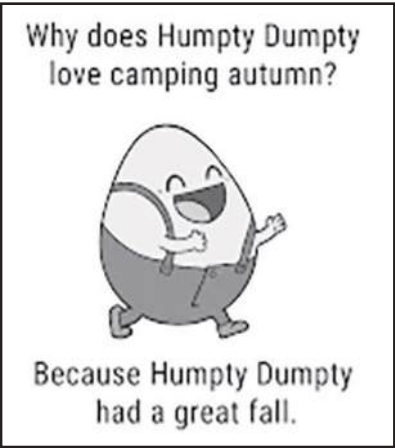


Why did the tree giggle?
It heard acorn-y joke!

Who helps the little pumpkins cross the road?
The crossing gourd!

What is a tree's least favorite month?
Sep-TIMBER!

What is a scarecrow's favorite fruit?
Straw-berries!



I CAN TRAVEL nearly 100 miles per hour but never leave the room. You can cover me up, but that doesn't slow me down. You will not know if I come only once or again and again and again. What am I?

A sneeze.

Breaking Bread

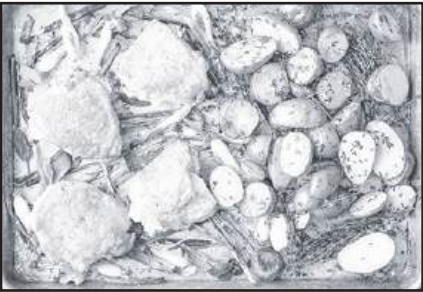


SHEET PAN CHICKEN WITH RED POTATOES AND SAGE

Ingredients:
3 tablespoons olive oil, divided
2 large bunches scallions, trimmed and cut into 1 1/2-inch pieces
16 to 20 fresh sage leaves, coarsely chopped
4 chicken thighs (about 2 1/4 pounds), skin on but bones removed
2 1/2 teaspoons kosher salt, divided
1/2 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper, divided
1 bunch fresh thyme
1 pound baby red potatoes, halved lengthwise

Directions:
Heat oven to 375°F. Coat the entire surface of the pan with olive oil. Arrange the scallions over half the baking sheet. Sprinkle with sage scallions. Salt and pepper chicken. Place skin-side

up on top of the scallions and sage. Spread out the thyme sprigs on the empty half of the baking sheet, arrange the potatoes on top in a single layer. Salt, pepper and drizzle the remaining 1 tablespoon oil over the chicken and potatoes. Roast until the chicken is just cooked through, 30 to 35 minutes. Cover the potatoes with aluminum foil. Return to the oven and broil until the chicken skin just browns and crisps, being careful not to let it burn, 1 1/2 to 2 1/2 minutes



Ingredients:
1/2 cup sugar
1/2 tsp cinnamon
1 Tbsp cornstarch
1/2 tsp vanilla
1 pinch salt
1/4 cup apple cider, apple juice, or water
2 sheets frozen puff pastry, thawed
1 Tbsp cold butter, cut into small cubes
a few tablespoons milk or cream for brushing

FOR THE GLAZE
Preheat oven to 400F. Line a baking sheet with a piece of parchment paper and set aside. To make the apple filling, add the apples, sugar, cinnamon, vanilla, salt, cornstarch, and cider (or water) to a large heavy bottomed saucepan. Heat over medium heat until bubbling, and allow to gently simmer for about 10 minutes. Set aside to cool until it is lukewarm. You can put it in the refrigerator to speed the process. Roll out one of the puff pastry sheets lengthwise until it is about 14 inches

EASY PUFF PASTRY APPLE STRUDEL

long. Place on the prepared baking pan. Roll out the other sheet of puff pastry to the same size. Using a sharp knife, make 8-10 slashes in the pastry, cutting all the way through. Spread the cooled apple filling evenly over the bottom sheet of puff pastry, leaving about 3/4" on all sides for crimping. Dot the butter evenly over the filling. Place the top layer of puff pastry over the apple filling. Use a fork to crimp the edges together. Brush the whole top with the milk. Bake for about 30-35 minutes until puffed and golden brown. Allow to cool to room temperature before glazing. To make the glaze, whisk the powdered sugar with the milk until smooth. Drizzle evenly over the strudel.

**WE WANT TO HEAR
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BATTLE BY CHARLES BURTON CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

...for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord:

15 And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him.

16 Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.

Also:

I Peter 1:7

7 That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:

Again, What to do?

Get up Praising - Go to bed praising - Live your life Praising. Claim the POWER THAT IS THE BLOOD OF CHRIST.

You may not need 39 Angels but it's possible.

THE PERFECT ASHLAR

By Howard Coop

An ashlar is a stone cut square for building purposes. The perfect ashlar is a stone "made ready by the hands of the workmen," and it reminds us of "that state of perfection at which we hope to arrive by virtuous education, our own endeavors, and the blessing of the Lord of the universe."

George Washington is a name known to every American. Although his birthday is no longer a national holiday, most of us remember it each February. Some has called Washington called the "perfect ashlar," a man by whom all American citizens "may gauge their labors and square their activities."

But George Washington has been called more than that. He has been called "the Father of His Country," and someone called him a "living stone" who "became the cornerstone of American civilization" and who "remains the milestone other civilizations follow into liberty and equality."

Washington is remembered for his

SEEING CLEARLY

BY CHARLENEA KAY WIRTH

WE DIDN'T REALIZE ONE OF our grandchildren was having such a difficult time seeing until his eyes were crossing. The doctor discovered his eyes were having a hard time trying to focus, making his eyes at times cross -eyed. He could barely see anything nearby!

To correct this, his parents bought him toddler sized prescription glasses and how amazing his world now has opened! He can see! There are no obstacles in his path, and with uncrossed eyes he is able to focus on what is in front of him. He is free to recognize faces and explore the world around him!

I, too, noticed in very different circumstances of my life that obstacles were in my way of following parts of my path and living freely. Until obstacles were let go, and the Lord released me of them, I didn't realize how clearly I could see without these joy stealers in my life. Sometimes I believe our vision gets cloudy and things get in our way without us being aware of how much distraction

can cause. Sometimes we must wait for His timing until He moves the mountains.

For me, with much prayer and faith in Him alone trusting in His wisdom and understanding beyond my own, He cleared my path a little more. I feel His freedom and peace that follows walking in His light, His Word, His strength and His loving kindness and rejoice!

Is there anything in your path distracting you from walking in freedom, in love, in peace? Or do you need clarity to stand firmly in boldness in His name, not wavering to the right or to the left? Do you lack vision in a decision you are seeking answers for but can't seem to focus exactly on what you need to do and when or how? Or are there circumstances dumped in your path that seem overwhelming and weighing on your peace and joy?

I am praying for you to find the wisdom and discernment you desire and that any obstacles in your path are moved in His name. I pray your eyes are opened and others around you that need to see truth or clarification on your part see accuracy and opportunity and/or make amends. May you

distinguished career. He was the Commander-in-Chief of the Continental Army during the American Revolution, and he is recognized as one of the Founding Fathers of the United States. He was unanimously chosen to preside over the Federal Constitutional Convention that met in Philadelphia in 1787, and in 1789, he became the first president of the new nation and served it admirably for eight years. During his presidency, he was privileged, on September 18, 1793, to lay the cornerstone for the United States Capitol in Washington. Henry Lee, an American Revolutionary War officer known a Light-Horse Harry, eulogized Washington as "first in war, first in peace, and first in the hearts of his countrymen."

February 22, the birthday of George Washington, may not be a national holiday as it once was, but on that day, American citizens can remember him and the contribution he made to our nation. They can take a moment to be reminded that he is, indeed, the perfect ashlar by which they can, and should, gauge their labors and square their everyday activities1 Corinthians 3:11

tions can cause. Sometimes we must wait for His timing until He moves the mountains.

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see and feel His peace that passes all understanding for all those who trust in Him. May you see health and provision in His name as your cup overflows with sweetness!

Mark 8:25 Then Jesus laid his hands on his eyes again; and he opened his eyes, his sight was restored, and he saw everything clearly.

Proverbs 15: 3 The eyes of the Lord are in every place, keeping watch on the evil and the good.

Proverbs 4:25 Let your eyes look directly forward, and your gaze be straight before you.

Proverbs 3:5-6 Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make straight your paths.

Charlenea Kay Wirth singingheartky@gmail.com

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Matthew 7:7 KJV
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AND YE SHALL FIND;
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AND IT SHALL BE OPENED
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