

## Back to the Source By Darrell Powell

Have you ever tried to untangle a cluster of cords or cables that have become intertwined? At first, it can seem an

impossible task as each one is wrapped numerous times around the others. You cannot tell which one is which, and you have no idea how they ended up in such a jumbled mess. But at last, when you slow down and patiently take the time to follow each cord to the source, they unravel and are restored to an orderly state. That same concept can be applied to our lives.

So many people feel as if their entire life is in disarray. They have no idea how things became so tangled, and the thought of being set free from their troubles seems unattainable. But it can be done if the confusion is followed to its source. James said, "But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full grown, brings forth death." (James 1:25) Sin is the source of all wrong and unhappiness in the world, and the father of sin is the devil. (John 8:44) As long as one is in bondage to Satan, life will be to him a bed of uncertainty, sorrow, and impending death. But there is another source, which brings forth life.

One does not have to let his/her life lie in ruin. Just as every terrible thing comes from the devil, God is the source of all that is good. (James 1:17) When life seems to be filled with turmoil, if one will turn to God, he or she will find peace. God will provide for His children physically (Mt. 6:33), and He will light the way to every spiritual gift ... including life eternal. (Rom. 6:23)

This life will always contain trials and tribulations. But if we remember that their source is sin and the devil, and we acknowledge that God is the source of all that is good, we can be free from the confusion and doubt that causes unhappiness.

The Elders

## What Have You Been Singing Lately? (4)

One is labeled a hypocrite who teaches one thing and then practices something opposite to it. We can be hypocritical not only in that which we teach, but also in that which we sing. We are to "sing with the understanding" (1 Cor. 14:15). Thus, not only should we insure that the songs we sing are scriptural we must also seek to insure that our lives are in conjunction with them. So, what have you been singing lately?

Have you sung the song, "*I Love to Tell the Story*" lately? Among its words are these:

"I love to tell the story, 'tis pleasant to repeat, what seems, each time I tell it, more wonderfully sweet; I love to tell the story, for some have never heard, the message of salvation from God's own holy Word. I love to tell the story! 'Twill be my theme in glory, to tell the old, old story of Jesus and His love."

Do you really "love to tell the story?" Or, is it the case that you have never mentioned "the story" to anyone? One of the great commands of the Lord is to teach (Mt. 28:19; Mk. 16:15; Heb. 5:12-14). Concerning this command, are we singing one thing and practicing another?

Another familiar and oft-sung song with similar sentiments is, "*I Want to Be a Worker*." Two of its stanzas state:

"I want to be a worker for the Lord; I want to love and trust His holy Word; I want to sing and pray, and be busy every day, in the vineyard of the Lord. I want to be a worker ev'ry day; I want to lead the erring in the way, that leads to heav'n above, where all is peace and love, in the kingdom of the Lord."

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## Teens

### December meeting dates:

Dec. 10—*Teen Bible Study (TBS) after evening services. Pizza will be provided.*

Dec. 31—*Teen Devo/game night*

### Winter Area Devotionals:

January 6—*Radford 6-7:30*

February 3—*Christiansburg 6-7:30*

March 10—*Lake Drive 6-7:30*

### Dates for Teens:

March 3, 2007 *Southwest Virginia Bible Bowl*

June 17-23, 2007 *VCC*

July 1-6, 2007 *Horizons Senior Week*

July 8-13, 2007 *Horizons Junior Week*

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## What Have You Been Singing Lately? -continued

Can one truly sing (thus, say) that he wants to “be a worker for the Lord,” “love and trust His holy Word” and “be busy every day” if he refuses even to gather for worship when the saints assemble (Heb. 10:25)? Are you among those who sing hypocritically when this hymn is sung? May we ever examine our lives by the teaching of God’s Word. - Eddy

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## Rules for Happier Living

Give something away—no strings attached.

Do a kindness—and forget it.

Spend a few minutes with the aged—their experience is a priceless guidance.

Look intently into the face of a baby—and marvel.

Laugh often—it is life’s lubricant.

Give thanks— a thousand times a day is not enough.

Pray—or you will lose the way.

Work—with vim and vigor.

Plan as though you’ll live forever— because you will.

Live as though you’ll die tomorrow—because you will die on some tomorrow.

## Westside’s Older Workers

WOW members will be preparing 20 holiday baskets at our next meeting Tuesday, December 12 at 10:30. Please bring small gift items, which may include individually wrapped cookies, candies, lotions, etc. Gifts should be for both men and women. Items can be brought to the WOW meeting or given to Don or Mitzi.

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### With Thanks

**I appreciate all your prayers, the many beautiful cards, visits, flowers and calls.**



**Affectionately,**

**Luetta Gregory**

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### Kitchen Update

The kitchen is coming along nicely. The floors were installed last week along with new baseboards. Cabinets were installed yesterday. Counter-top will be delivered on Monday. Appliances should be in place and working soon. The white cabinets were put back in place and refilled. In the bathrooms, the stalls were put into place on Friday and next week the plumbing should be finished.

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### Blame the Kids

A little boy came home from Sunday School and asked his father, “Why does the Bible talk so much about the ‘children of Israel’? Didn’t the grown-

## SICK

**Shirley Baker** is in Lewis Gale Hospital, room 533, with intestinal problems.

**Marquerite Charles** will be having out patient procedures soon to improve her long-range health.

Keianna Angelotti, 2 1/2 year old niece of **Sandy Garby**, is in the hospital in Port St. Lucia with lung problems. May need to be transferred to West Palm if she does not improve.

Robert Hill, co-worker of **Lori Whitlow**, has been diagnosed with a serious form of cancer.

Several of our members have been out this past week due to various viruses and colds.

Remember the following in prayers: **Teresa White, W.J. Wood, Glenna Richardson, Luetta Gregory, Clyde Scott, Dan Hudgins, Larry Phillips, Joy House, Effie Wimmer.**

### In Sympathy

We extend our sympathies to the family of Sharon Basham, **Donnie Montcastle's** sister, who passed away last week.



Happy Birthday this week to:  
Rosemary Bush—12/14  
Dotty Collins—12/17

Happy Anniversary this week to:  
George and Bonnie Mellon—12/16



**MILITARY:** Ty Stricklin at 29 Palms Marine Base, Jonathan Simpson, John Shannon and Gabriel Hayes who are in Iraq. Jonathan Chumley, Kosovo.

Marguerite Charles is excited to announce she is expecting her 16th great-grandchild in August. Proud parents are Ben & Tabitha Simmons.



## LADIES' NIGHT OUT HOLIDAY PARTY

TOMORROW at **Jo Ann Edwards'** at 6:30. Please sign up on the board in the hallway. Don't forget your ornament for the gift exchange.

## 50TH ANNIVERSARY RECEPTION

Roger & Dorothy Mays will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary with a reception held in the fellowship hall on December 16 from 2-4. See Rebecca or Judy Durham for details. RSVP by 12/11.

## TRANSPORTATION

New sign up sheet on board for **transportation for Elsie Smith.** Please sign up today.

## ASSIGNMENTS

New communion preparers and care of baptismal garment **assignments** for next year are posted on the board.

Pick up the new **2007 pocket calendars** that are available in the foyer.

## DIRECTORIES

After much work and correcting, we finally approved the final proof book for the new Photo Directory. Thank you for your patience with this task. Hopefully, it will not be much longer before we receive our new directories.

## NEW MEMBERS' DINNER

Has been rescheduled for January 20.

## MARK THE DATES

**Education Banquet** will be on February 17, 2007 at 5:45. All education workers are invited along with spouses or friends.

**Southwest Virginia Bible Bowl** on March 3, 2007.

**Making Marriage More Meaningful** by Eddy & Jeanny Gilpin on April 27 & 28 at Westside Church of Christ.

**Virginia Christian Camp** is June 17-23, 2007.

**Horizons** Senior week is July 1-6, 2007 & Junior Week and CTS is July 8-13, 2007.



**NOVEMBER/DECEMBER ITEMS FOR STAFFORDS** Stain sticks, markers (any kind, all colors)

**December 2006**

**Announcements** Fred Altizer  
**Song Leader (AM)** Charlie Gwaltney  
**Opening Prayer (AM)**  
12/3 David Brown  
12/10 Jeff Durham  
12/17 Collin Gregory  
12/24 Charles Maness  
12/31 Danny Guard  
**Preside at Communion** Bob Garby  
**Serve Table**  
T. Richardson J. Harrington  
S. Valentine C. Puckett

**Closing Prayer**

12/3 Mark Brooks  
12/10 Murphy Scott  
12/17 Paul Mays  
12/24 Greg Edwards  
12/31 Roger Mays  
**Song Leader (PM)** Eric Earnhart

**Opening Prayer (PM)**

12/3 Mike Durham  
12/10 Tom Rogers  
12/17 Bobby Martin  
12/24 Tom Duff  
12/31 Don Pettit  
**Scripture Reader** Preston Duff

**Closing Prayer (PM)**

12/3 Barry White  
12/10 Mitch Jearls  
12/17 Adam House  
12/24 Jim Bush  
12/31 Glenn Hartman

**Serve Table (PM)** G. Durham L. Guard

**Song Leader (Wed)** David Brown

**Prayer (Wed)**

12/6 Crawford Keith  
12/13 Jim Cooke  
12/20 Paul Faw  
12/27 Herb Baker

**Door Man** Jerry Anderson

**Greeters** Maness Whitlows

**Nursery Attend** B. Mellon S. Altizer

**Ushers** N. Gearhart C. Oakes

**Handouts** E. Argabright W. Jenkins  
B. Martin G. Neighbors

**Alternates** Danny Guard C. Guard

**Prepare comm.** E. Murray M. Rogers

**Last weeks attendance** 12/3 & 6/2006

Bible Class—139 Worship Service—176

Evening Worship—133 Wed. Service—131

Contribution—\$5583

**December 10, 2006**