

## LOVE???

By Carol Sites

At a slave market in 1845 there stood a slave stripped to the waist. A potential buyer came up to look at him and noticed that he had scars all over his back. The man said to the slave "You must have been a mighty mean slave." "No sir," the slave said. "My master would come home drunk and just beat me for no reason." The slave began to beg the man to buy him. "Please sir," he said, "I'll work hard for you. I am a good slave." So the man bought him and several years later when Lincoln freed the slaves, this slave left for a life of his own in his newfound freedom. When the slave heard of his master's death, he returned to attend the funeral. Looking down at his master, the slave said, *Master, how I loved you. When I was beaten, bruised, and scarred and no one would have me, you bought me.*

We are bruised, battered, beaten and scarred by sin. Maybe we have had feelings that no one wants us. Don't we sometimes fail to understand how God could love so much. You see, He wants us — so much that the supreme sacrifice of His own Son paid the price for our freedom. **"Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us, and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins"** (1 John 4:10). Now don't we see that we should love Him with all of our heart, mind, soul and strength (Mark 12:30)?

Truly, we love Him because He first loved us (1 John 4:19).

- the Elders

## What Have You Been Singing Lately? (7)

Singing is one avenue through which we worship God (Acts 16:25). As worship, it is regulated by God (Jn. 4:24). It is to be done using the only instrument God has ordained- the human heart (Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16; Rev. 22:18, 19). It is also a means of teaching (Col. 3:16). Since this is the case, it must be truthful in its composition. Too, it must issue forth from a sincere heart (1 Cor. 14:15). In order not to be hypocritical, one must live in accordance to that which he sings. Do we live truthful to the words of the songs we sing? What have you been singing lately?

Have you sung the song "My Jesus, I Love Thee" lately? Its words are these:

"My Jesus, I love thee, I know thou art mine;  
For Thee all the follies of sin I resign;  
My gracious Redeemer, my Savior art Thou:  
If ever I loved Thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.

I love Thee because Thou hast first loved me,  
And purchased my pardon on Calvary's tree;  
I love Thee for wearing the thorns on Thy brow:  
If ever I loved Thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.

In mansions of glory and endless delight,  
I'll ever adore Thee in heaven so bright;  
I'll sing with the glittering crown on my brow:  
If ever I loved Thee, my Jesus, 'tis now."

Can you sing this song and be true to its sentiments? Jesus stated, "If ye love me, keep my commandments" (Jn. 14:15). He also stated, "And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?" (Lk. 6:46). To call Him my Lord and fail to obey Him is hypocritical. To sing that I love Him and then reject what He requires of me is likewise hypocritical. If we fail to "resign all the follies" of sin and yield our will to His, the "mansions of glory and endless delight" and "glittering crown" on our brows will be just so many meaningless words as well. As long as we put other things ahead of the spiritual (Mt. 6:33) and refuse to abide by His teachings, we will always sing with hypocrisy, "My Jesus, I Love Thee." What have you been singing lately? - Eddy

## Teens

*January dates to remember:*

*Jan. 28—Movie afternoon*

*Winter Area Devotionals:*

*February 3—Christiansburg 6-7:30*

*March 10—Lake Drive 6-7:30*

*Dates for Teens:*

*February 17, 2007 Mock Bible Bowl*

*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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### Sign up sheets

**There are several sign up sheets that EVERYONE needs to look at. Please check your calendar and if you are available and desire to come please sign up today!!!!**

**Feb 7—Wednesday Fellowship**

**Feb 10—Sweethearts Dinner**

**Feb 17—Education Banquet**

**Feb 18—Africa Dinner & Slideshow**

**April 27 & 28—Marriage Seminar**

**We need to get as accurate a count as possible for all of these events for food/catering purposes! So sign up today!!**

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Sunday after church, a Mom asked her very young daughter what the lesson was about. The daughter answered, "Don't be scared, you'll get your quilt."

Needless to say, the Mom was perplexed. Later in the day the teacher stopped by for tea and the Mom asked her what that morning's lesson was about. She said, "Be not afraid, thy comforter is coming."

## West Side's Older Workers

The next WOW meeting will be Tuesday, February 13 at 11:00 at Famous Anthony's.

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### Team Events

New Team events are going on!!! Check here every week for activities your team will be doing!

Team 1 - Tom Duff

There will be a Sweethearts Dinner for all West Side Sweethearts on February 10 at 6:00. Team 1 will be sponsoring this event and inviting the whole congregation. Please sign up on the board so we will have a count.

Team 2 - Bob Garby

Team 3 - David Brown

This morning after services, Team 3 will be having a pot luck meal. Plan to stay and find out what is going on in Team 3.

Team 4 - Tom Rogers

Team 4 will be having a Spring Get Together on March 3. Mark your calendars,

TEAM LEADERS: This section will be in the bulletin every week. E-mail any events to the office before Friday 8 AM.

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### Did Noah Fish?

A Sunday school teacher asked, "Johnny, do you think Noah did a lot of fishing when he was on the ark?"

"No," replied Johnny, "How could he with just two worms?"

## SICK

**Betty Jenkins** is at UVA Medical center.

Sam McNeil, **Luetta's** brother, is in Memorial Hospital.

**Dan Hudgins** saw his doctor on Friday.

Remember the following in prayers: **Teresa White, Larry Phillips, E.V. & Effie Wimmer, Bessie Gilpin, Danny Guard, Brandon Grigsby, Marquerite Charles, Elizabeth Mullins, Oliver & Mariam Majors.**

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**Blood Drive** - If you would like to give blood in Dan's name, you may do so at the Red Cross Donor Center (352 Church Ave. SW, Roanoke) on Feb 1 (7:30am – 1pm), Feb. 3 (9am – 1 pm), Feb 6 & 7 (12 – 6pm), Feb 8 (7:30am – 1 pm), Feb 13 & 14 (12 – 6pm), Feb 15 (7:30 am – 1pm). You must make an appointment by calling 1-800-GIVELIFE (448-3543). Let them know you want to donate blood in the name of Dan Hudgins.

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**Happy Birthday** this week to:

Fred Altizer—1/30  
Hazel Maness—2/2  
Lori Whitlow—2/2  
Curtis Oakes—2/4  
Nathan Pelfrey—2/4

**Happy Anniversary** this week to:  
Tom & Melissa Rogers—1/30



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

**JANUARY/FEBRUARY ITEMS FOR STAFFORDS:** Pepperoni and Crystal Light (assorted fruit flavors). Give your items to Jeanny and she will ship them over!!



If you are the last one to leave the church building, please check to make sure all lights are turned off. Thank you!



## POT LUCK—TEAM 3

There will be a pot luck for Team 3 this morning after services.

## TEEN MOVIE

The youth group will be going to see a movie today. Meet in the High School classroom after services.

## WEDDING RECEPTION

There will be a reception honoring newlyweds Paul & Eloise Faw this evening, Jan. 28, after services. Join us for cake and punch to congratulate this fine couple. If you'd like to give a gift, we suggest certificates to local restaurants or to Wal-Mart.

## WINTER YOUTH DEVO

Christiansburg will be hosting the Winter Devo on February 3. See Mike for details.

## ELDERS/DEACONS/PREACHERS MEETING

There will be an EDP meeting on Sunday, February 4 at 4:00.

## WEDNESDAY FELLOWSHIP

Wednesday Fellowship will be on Feb.7. Menu is soup, salad and sandwiches. Sign up by Feb. 4 and pay an elder \$5.

## EDUCATION BANQUET

Please sign up for the Education Appreciation Banquet as soon as possible on the hallway bulletin board. The banquet is Saturday, Feb. 17 at 5:45. ALL Bible class teachers, helpers, workers in the teacher workroom are invited including spouses and friends. The meal will be catered. Please come for great fun, food and fellowship.

## MAKING MARRIAGE MORE MEANINGFUL

There is a sign up sheet on the board to sign up for this event. We realize it isn't until the end of April. But plans are already in the works and we need to know how many West Siders will be here for workbooks, kits, décor, and food. Invitations will be sent out to area congregations soon. Please sign up today!

## LADIES NIGHT OUT

We still have openings for hostesses in February and April. If you're interested sign up on the board or contact Jo Ann.

## FELLOWSHIP HALL RESERVATIONS

There is a new calendar in the kitchen to be used to reserve the Fellowship Hall. If you have an event that requires the use of the Fellowship Hall please check the availability and pencil it in and NOTIFY the office.

**February 2007****Announcements** Wayne Dixon**Song Leader (AM)** Jeff Durham**Opening Prayer (AM)**  
2/4 Eric Earnhart  
2/11 Charlie Gwaltney  
2/18 A.C. Janney  
2/25 Fred Altizer**Preside at Communion** Eddy Gilpin**Serve Table**  
B. Martin G. Benefield  
L. Guard A. House**Closing Prayer**  
2/4 Tom Richardson  
2/11 Mark Brooks  
2/18 Charlie Puckett  
2/25 Gary Sartain**Song Leader (PM)** Paul Mays**Opening Prayer (PM)**  
2/4 George Mellon  
2/11 Roger Mays  
2/18 Bob Garby  
2/25 Murphy Scott**Scripture Reader** Garrett Durham**Closing Prayer (PM)**  
2/4 Claude Crowe  
2/11 Crawford Keith  
2/18 Glen Hartman  
2/25 Walter Jenkins**Serve Table (PM)** D. Guard D. Brown**Song Leader (Wed)** David Brown**Prayer (Wed)**  
2/7 Jim Cooke  
2/14 Ethan Rogers  
2/21 Paul Faw  
2/28 Jim Harrington**Door Man** Mike Durham**Greeters** J. & R. Bush McFalls**Nursery Attend** Dee House Judy Durham**Ushers** Greg Edwards Richards Simms**Handouts** Tom & Weston Rogers  
Ed Argabright & Dylan Tyler**Alternates** Curtis Oaks**Prepare comm.** S. Neighbors S. Altizer**Last weeks attendance** 1/21 & 24/07

Bible Class— 112 Worship Service—131

Eve. Worship—n/c (ice) Wed. Service—134

Contribution—n/a