

THE ENCOURAGER

August 2010
Volume 1, Issue 3

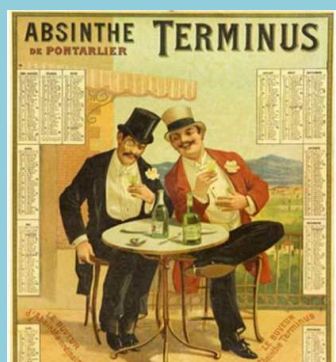
“He comes alongside us when we go through hard times, and before you know it, he brings us alongside someone else who is going through hard times so that we can be there for that person just as God was there for us.” 2 Corinthians 1:4 (THE MESSAGE)



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ABOUT ME: *I am a Landscaper, Writer, and Christian Brother living in Orlando, FL.; reaching out to encourage the body of Christ. This monthly e-newsletter is intended to challenge and strengthen your faith. Please feel free to email your comments and suggestions to me at: TonyGulledge1@aol.com. Thanks for reading this issue.*



“The Pleasure of Your Company”

By Tony Gulledge

While growing up with two brothers, I seldom heard my mother tell us how much she enjoyed the pleasure of our company. Who would have enjoyed being referee to the constant foolishness the three of us engaged in? Yet as we matured and spent less time at home, I often now hear her say, “Thank you for the pleasure of your company.” Was it absence that made the heart grow fonder?

I find it fascinating that our God, who created and sustains everything, values the pleasure of my company.

In Psalms 145:18 David tells us that “The Lord is near to all who call on him.” Have you ever noticed how hard it is to have a relationship with someone who refuses to communicate? Many married couples live as roommates because one or more of them have tired of trying to communicate. By evading interaction conflict and pain are avoided. Sometimes we dodge God’s in the same manner, but it wasn’t that way with King David. He reminds us that even if we can’t see God, he is near to us when we call upon Him. What’s more in chapter 34:18, the Psalmist reminds us that God is near the brokenhearted. The Message Bible goes on to say, “if you’re kicked in the gut, he’ll help you catch your breath.” Now that’s a committed friend!

Continued on page 2

A" The Pleasure of Your Company, Continued..."

Too often we let sin and guilt cause us to we avoid the pleasure of God's company, instead of remembering that Jesus is our high priest. In Hebrews 10:22 (NIV) the word tells us to "draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water." Each time we confess our sins and ask for forgiveness, its Jesus blood that pays our sin debt. Then our relationship with Him is reignited.

I'm thankful that my parents loved me just as much when I was a little snotty nose mouthy kid; always questioning everything, as they do today. However, today our relationship has matured into a richer more meaningful level of significance. Now I'm a grown man but I still value my parent opinions and input. Today, most times I don't even have to ask what they think, because over the years I've learned most of their ways and beliefs. It's that way too as Christians. We learn what God thinks from reading the Bible and gaining wisdom for life's challenges.

I love the fact that each day God invites me to come to Him. In John 8:12 (NIV): we hear Jesus say, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." What a relief to know that we don't have to meander through life in a black hole, but can have the light of life to guide us! Roman 8:38 confirms that NOTHING can ever separate us from God's love. (NIV) Now take a deep breath and remember, God loves YOU and wants the pleasure of your company. ALL THE TIME!

Operation World Missions:



STEPHEN AND SONIA WALLACE :
Missionaries to Argentina- Continued on Pg. 3

Salvation & Helper



- The other day I heard the popular Inspirational Speaker and Author Chuck Swindle share this story of a car named Salvation. It seems that a father wanted to get a special high school graduation gift for his son to remind the boy how proud he was of him. The father's only requests were that the graduate name the car Salvation, and call the key to it Helper. Everyday the son could be seen polishing the car and showing it off to his friends around town. One day a couple of months later the father found the boy pushing the car up a hill. Not wanting to embarrass the boy in front of his friend; the Father waited until his son arrived back home to inquire why he was pushing the car. It was at that time the father found out that his son didn't realize that the key he had given him would start the engine and compel the car to move without pushing. As Christians we have been given the wonderful gift of salvation but too many of us strive our whole lives share this gift with others, never bothering to use the key which is HOLY SPIRIT. Most of us are on the journey and will one day see the completion of our salvation; but why struggle when our all sufficient HELPER (Holy Spirit) is there as our companion and guide?

Operation World Missions Cont.'d

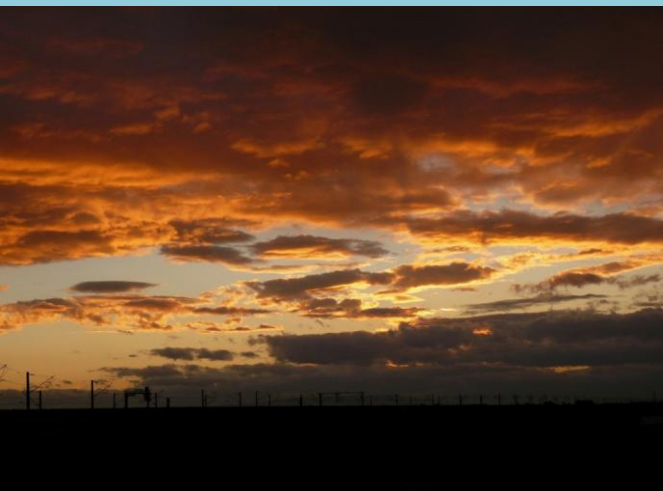
"Our heart and passion is to see God establish a foremost training center for future pastors, missionaries, church planters and leaders in central and northern Argentina.

We are so encouraged to see many Argentines answering the call to full-time ministry service and we desire to come alongside these young ministers and help them grow in their spiritual walk, preparing them for their area of ministry here in Argentina and around the world.

We see ourselves serving in a 4-fold capacity. We help "**mold**" each student by helping them develop character and spiritual qualities; we "**equip**" students by providing them an excellent foundation in Biblical truth; we "**inspire**" young people by challenging them to serve God with their whole life; and we help "**release**" ministers into the harvest field of Argentina and around the world. " Thanks for praying for The Wallaces!



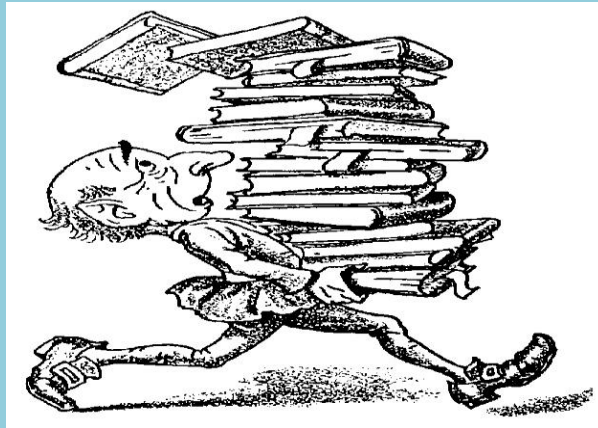
Heaven...



A little girl was walking with her daddy under a starlit sky. After several moments of silence, she remarked, "Father, I've been thinking. If the wrong side of heaven is so beautiful, just imagine what the right side will be!"

Christian Endeavor World

BOOK REVIEW: “Bring Back The Joy”, by Shelia Walsh



Sharing from her own life and the lives of her friends, Shelia illustrates the things that seal our joy and gives practical steps to restoring joy at a depth we've never experienced before – through resting in the one who is joy.

Several of you will remember Shelia Walsh, either as a Christian Recording artist or as co-host of the 700 hundred club with Pat Robertson. Years ago I heard reports that this nationally recognized virtuous Christian woman; had resigned her position with the 700 club, driven across state, and checked into a mental hospital. Several months later when Sheila reappeared on the 700 Club in a guest interview I was amazed by her candor and transparency, as she outlined the series of events that rocked her world.

Last year I found a copy of BRING BACK THE JOY in our public library and consumed it in less than a week. Through Shelia's seminary training and practical application of life experiences, she illuminates the importance of authenticity, gratitude, friendship and highlights the importance of making time to encounter God's joy with all of our senses. The small investment you can make by purchasing this book online will be well worth your time and attention. Joy is something all of us should refuse to live without.


Hell YES or NO?



Do you know what this guy is thinking about? Rodin's famous sculpture of THE THINKER was contemplating the horrors of a literal hell.

Did you know that most American's believe in a real heaven but only a small number of people believe in a bona fide Hell? According to more than 70 direct references made by Jesus Christ to Hell, it is a real place of mental suffering, physical agony, emotional turmoil, and complete isolation. The Bible's New Testament mentions hell over 162 times.

To me it seems very unfortunate that most people in the US believe in heaven and think they are going there; but few have made a sincere commitment of their lives to Jesus Christ. As Christians, I'm convinced more and more each day that we should be avoiding phrases such as "(hell) no, What in the (hell), or worst of all... Go to (hell). Although expressions such as these have become acceptable form of speech, wouldn't our God be disappointed with our use of these empty phrases, which minimize the existence of the place he has prepared for the eternal punishment of sin? We would all do well to remember James 1:19 which encourages us to be quick to listen and slow to speak.

A close-up photograph of a small, grey and white bird with a yellow beak, perched on a weathered wooden post. The bird is looking towards the left of the frame.

Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap,
nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them.
Are ye not much better than they?

Matthew 6:26