

The Faithful Word

September 2003

“Let Jesus Fix It For You”

Edition 14

Join Us For Service

Sunday Services

Sunday School: 9:45 A.M.
Morning Worship: 11:15 A.M.
Pastoral Teaching: 6:00 P.M.
Evening Worship: 7:30 P.M.

Tuesday Service

Prayer & Bible Band 10:00 A.M.

Wednesday Rehearsals

Youth Choir: 6:00 P.M.
Inspirational Choir: 7:30 P.M.

Thursday Services

Y.P.W.W.: 6:30 P.M.
Youth Service: 7:30 P.M.

Individual Highlights:

Prayer	14a
Trivia Time	14b
“Life in the Belly”	14b
“The Wooden Bowl”	14c
College Tips	14c
Calendar Events	14d
Health Wise	14d
Cd Review	14d
Kids Corner	14e

Greater Victory C.O.G.I.C.

253 West Mill Street
San Bernardino, CA 92408
(909) 889-7205
www.greatervictoryonline.org



Pastor, George A. Martin

From the Pastor's Desk

“State Faithfulness is the Price”

Revelation 2:10,11

“Be thou faithful unto death and I will give thee a crown of Life.”
Faithfulness is something everyone can do. You may ask what does the Lord require of me to receive, a Diadem or a crown? Micah 6:8 says, “To do justly to have mercy and walk humbly with thy God.” Be faithful... To God, his word is his work and purpose.

The Lord Jesus spoke to the seven churches of Asia minor (to their Pastors) and gave them instruction concerning his will for them. To the church at Smyrna he praised their works, recognized their tribulation and poverty, but proclaimed that they were rich. How were they rich? In their faithfulness to God to

keep his statutes no matter the cost. We need to take note that sometimes we suffer to reign. Being impoverished of the world is not forsaken by God. The riches of his Glory is more precious than fine gold. Though this church had little in God they were highly esteemed. My point is to observe the manner of faithfulness and the benefits of pleasing God. He said that he has come that they might have life and that they might have it more abundantly. Abundant life starts with a clean heart and a relationship with God. Beyond that start are riches untold, first with character (God likeness) and blessings in every category in life. “The blessing of God maketh

rich and added no sorrow with it” (Proverbs 10:22). In our commitment to God, we find riches in serving the Lord in the beauty of Holiness (I Chronicles 16:29); those wonderful characteristics of love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, and faith. Peace to sleep at night, joy like a river, loving our enemies, doing good to those who despitefully use us, etc. We are the essence of seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness and all of these things shall be added unto you. Faithfulness is the price because God is faithful. His mercies are new each day. He is consistent in all his ways and we need to be like him to be “overcomers” because “overcomers” go to heaven.

The Five Fingers of Payer



September

Sis Martin
Mo Strickney

1. Your 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 once said, a "sweet duty."

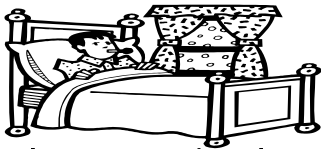
2. The next finger is the pointing finger. Pray for those who teach, instruct and heal. This includes teachers, doctors, and ministers. They need support and wisdom in pointing others in the right direction. Keep them in your prayers.

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

4. The fourth finger is our ring finger. Surprising to many is the fact that this is our weakest finger; as any piano teacher will testify. It should remind us to pray for those who are weak, in trouble or in pain. They need your prayers day and night. You cannot pray too much for them.

5. And lastly comes our little finger; the smallest finger of all, which is where we should place ourselves in relation to God and others. As the Bible says, "The least shall be the greatest among you." Your pinkie should remind you to pray for yourself. By the time you have prayed for the other four groups, your own needs will be put into proper perspective and you will be able to pray for yourself more effectively. Should you find it hard to get to sleep tonight, just remember the homeless family who has no bed to lie in.

Sick and Shut-In



Please remember those who are sick and shut-in. Keep them in your prayers.

Sometimes a kind word, a phone call, or even a smile can make a world of difference.

Message From the Sunday School

***If you know your Bible, the Sunday School needs you. If you don't know your Bible, you need to come to Sunday School each Sunday morning at 9:45am. Sis Stephanie Harris - Sunday School Supt.

This month on greatervictoryonline.org:

Youth Witnessing Team

The Greater Victory Youth Witnessing Team is led by President Minister Jerry Hawley. The team holds wonderful and creative activities including prayer marches, tract distribution, and "scavenger hunts" that allow participants to meet new people and witness to them. Prayer Marches are held the first Monday of every month at 6:30 pm here at the Greater Victory Church.

2003 Dempsey Hardy Memorial Walk-A-Thon

The Greater Victory Brothers for Christ will officially kick off the fall season with the annual Dempsey Hardy Walk-a-Thon on Saturday, September 27, 2003 at Littlefield-Shultis Park. The Walk-A-Thon will start at 8:00 am. Brothers are now soliciting for Walk-A-Thon sponsorship. Moneys raised during the Walk-A-Thon will go to the Greater Victory Scholarship fund. The brothers are also selling Dempsey Hardy Walk-a-Thon T-shirts at the discounted price of \$5.00 per shirt.

Life In The Belly

by Sis Savannah VanKummer

In the book of Jonah, the Lord orders the prophet to go and preach the Gospel to a Gentile nation called Nineveh, which was the capital of Assyria. In Jonah's defense, his initial reluctance to be obedient was at best understandable. If the historic inscriptions are true, Assyrians skinned their enemies alive, and made heaps of their skulls amongst other ghastly practices.

Aside from fear, Jonah also knew that his anointing would probably bring the city to repentance, and therefore be spared God's wrath. The very thought that a message of grace could now be extended to a Gentile nation such as Nineveh drove Jonah nuts. He wanted the city to be judged and destroyed like any other enemy of God's people.

Unfortunately, Jonah's attitude drove him into a deliberate disobedience that would put his life on hold. Thinking He could somehow escape the eyes of the Lord, Jonah abandoned God's plan and hopped a boat to Tarshish instead.

As the familiar story goes, the boat to Tarshish ran into a divine storm. The tempest was so unusual that the unsaved crew began to call on their gods and cast lots to see who brought it on. When the lot fell on Jonah, he knew that the hand of the Lord was upon his life and that he was busted. He then gave a very brief, but life converting sermon to the mariners that his God was Maker of the sea, dry land and the storm.

After convincing the crew to toss him overboard, the Lord brought Jonah's life to a forced shut in prayer and fast for 3 days and 3 nights in the belly of a fish. Then powerless over his situation, Jonah began to realize that salvation belonged to God. It was not his to withhold and work as he pleased.

At first glance, the story of Jonah

can be seen as a big lesson in God's sovereignty. Whether or not we ever decide to get with God's agenda for our lives, His "will" will be done regardless. However, if we choose to do our own thing and abandon the will of God for our lives, failure, frustration and wasted time are certain.

In actuality, God showed much grace towards Jonah in that he only lost 3 days. Imagine if God had allowed him to waste 3 years pursuing un-anointed and dead-end ministries? Sure, in his disobedience, Jonah was able to convert a boatload of heathen mariners over to the true and living God with his confession, but it wasn't until he obediently went to Nineveh that his anointing converted an entire city.

A bigger picture behind Jonah's story is that if you are unsaved, consider yourself living life in the belly of a fish. God's will for your life is that you live holy (1 Peter 1:16), flee fornication (1 Corinthians 6:18), study and believe His inspired Word (2 Timothy 2:15), become a faithful tither (Malachi 3:10) and member of a church that will nurture your spiritual walk while providing you with edifying relationships (Hebrews 10:25).

You may feel that you are already a good person and have no need for church or restrictive living, but you are on your way to Tarshish and life in the belly. You may even be a wealthy person, but unable to buy joy that lasts.

Well, God (the Creator of joy) is the only standard of what is good, so unless you are in Christ, your idea of a "good person" will never be good enough. Just as Jonah learned, we don't get to make up the rules about the Lord's salvation without there being serious consequences.

Underestimating the eyes of God on our lives is foolish and costly.

As in Jonah's case, some of the storms in our lives do not come to make us strong, but rather as a wake-up call that we're busted. Unfortunately, disobedience also carries a ripple effect that rarely inconveniences just us. This is because storms also have a way of affecting others around us.

If you are saved, but have chosen to turn a deaf ear to God's calling on your life, your surroundings may not look like a bunch of fish guts, but it is. In time, you will begin to feel stuck. The ability to accomplish anything will become futile, and life will literally begin to stink. This is because according to the spiritual principle in Psalm 19:21, many are the plans of a man's heart, but it is the Lord's purpose that will prevail whether you go along with it or not.

Just as spiritual principles will always override earthly ones, so God's agenda will always undermine ours. This is why it is important to make sure that our life plans have been cleared by Heaven. If you feel as though your life has become stagnant, and deep down inside you know that you are living in disobedience, your breakthrough is nigh.

Simply admitting that you may have taken matters into your own hands, made up a few spiritual rules to live by in order to make things more convenient, or thanked God for the wrong successes in life is the first step towards your breakthrough.

The second step is to make a choice. Matthew 7:13 says that broad and easy is the road to destruction. Most people choose that path; but narrow is the way to a real life and few even find it.



However, finding it is not impossible. Once found, it may be difficult to give up things that are not nurturing to your spiritual growth and Christian walk, but not choosing it will cost you peace and possibly your life.

Make today victorious. Stop shortchanging your prosperity and flee fornication. Destroy curses in your life by becoming a faithful tither, and loose real joy by making a commitment to live obediently from here on out. Even if you stumble along the way, shame the devil and get right back up again with a Hallelujah on your lips and a praise in your hands.

Be blessed today.

Trivia Time!!!



What is the number of "probation" or "testing" in the Bible?

- A. 7
- B. 12
- C. 40

***Find the answer by visiting:
<http://www.geocities.com/thedoubledgedsword/>

Inspirational Thought:



“Faith...brings into our...hearts a spiritual force greater than our circumstance.

-Charles Capps

Reference Scripture:

*...Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go to the Father.
(John 14:12 NAS)*



Newsletter Staff

Editor in Chief:

Jessika Shields

Assistant Editor:

Savannah VanKummer

Reporters:

Sis Jonni Atkins

Bro Robert Shields

The Wooden Bowl

Submitted by Sis Jonni Atkins

A frail old man went to live with his son, daughter-in-law, and four-year old grandson. The old man's hands trembled, his eyesight was blurred, and his step faltered. The family ate together at the table. But the elderly grandfather's shaky hands and failing sight made eating difficult. Peas rolled off his spoon onto the floor. When he grasped the glass, milk spilled on the tablecloth.

The son and daughter-in-law became irritated with the mess. "We must do something about Grandfather," said the son. I've had enough of his spilled milk, noisy eating, and food on the floor. So the husband and wife set a small table in the corner. There, Grandfather ate alone while the rest of the family enjoyed dinner. Since Grandfather had broken a dish or two, his food was served in a wooden bowl. When the family glanced in Grandfather's direction, sometime he had a tear in his eye as he sat alone. Still, the only words the couple had for him were sharp admonitions when he dropped a fork or spilled food. The four-year-old watched it all in silence.

One evening before supper, the father noticed his son playing with wood scraps on the floor. He asked the child sweetly, "What are you making?" Just as sweetly, the boy responded, Oh, I am making a little wooden bowl for you and Mama to eat your food in when I grow up." The four-year-old smiled and went back to work. The words struck the parents so that they were speechless. Then tears started to stream down their cheeks. Though no word was spoken both knew what must be done. That evening the husband took Grandfather's hand and gently led him back to the family table. For the remainder of his days he ate every meal with the family. And for some reason, neither husband nor wife seemed to care any longer when a fork was dropped, milk spilled, or the tablecloth soiled.

On a positive note, I've learned that, no matter what happens how bad it seems today, life does go on, and it will be better tomorrow. I've learned that you can tell a lot about a person by the way he/she handles three things: a rainy day, lost luggage, and tangled Christmas tree lights. I've learned that, regardless of your relationship with your parents, you'll miss them when they're gone from your life. I've learned that making a "living" is not the same thing as making a "life. I've learned that life sometimes gives you a second chance. I've learned that you shouldn't go through life with a catcher's mitt on both hands. You need to be able to throw something back. I've learned that if you pursue happiness, it will elude you. But, if you focus on your family, your friends, the needs of others, your work and doing the very best you can, happiness will find you. I've learned that whenever I decide something with an open heart, I usually make the right decision. I've learned that even when I have pains, I don't have to be one. I've learned that every day, you should reach out and touch someone. People love that human touch holding hands, a warm hug, or just a friendly pat on the back. I've learned that I still have a lot to learn.

Tips for Making the Most of College:

4. **Know the campus bus schedule** and plan on leaving before the last run of the night.
5. **Stick to public places** when you go out with someone you don't know well.
6. **Keep your finger on the button.** Mace or pepper spray won't do any good in your purse.

"Safety on Campus"



"Grades stress you out... learning draws you in."

1. **Know how you're getting home** before you go!
2. **Let people know where you're going** and when you'll be back. If your plans change, call.
3. **Don't use ATMs at night**, especially if you're alone.

Calendar Events

September Events:

27th- Dempsey Hardy Walk-a-thon

October Events:

3rd- 4th Couples Retreat

6th- Bishop's Visit (Holyland)

11th Minister's Wives Black & White Dinner

12th- 14th Revival w/ Beverly Willis

25th - YWCC Shopping Spree 10am

25th- (DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME)

31st- Hallelujah Night



Health Wise: Heart Disease

Coronary Artery Disease causes roughly 1.5 million heart attacks each year, and one-third of those suffering heart attacks die. Even more worrisome, 250,000 people with heart attacks will die before ever reaching the hospital. Because heart disease is so common and often silent until it strikes, it is important to recognize the factors that put you at risk.

What Are the Risk Factors for Heart Disease?

There are several risk factors for heart disease; some are controllable, others are not.

Uncontrollable risk factors include: male sex, older age, family history of heart disease, post-menopausal, and race (Blacks and Mexican Americans are more likely to have heart disease than whites). ***Still, there are many risk factors that can be controlled. By making changes in your lifestyle, you can actually reduce your risk for heart disease. Controllable risk factors include:

- Smoking.
- High LDL, or "Bad" cholesterol and low HDL, or "good" cholesterol.
- Uncontrolled hypertension (high blood pressure).
- Physical inactivity.
- Obesity (more than 20% over one's ideal body weight).
- Uncontrolled diabetes.
- Uncontrolled stress and anger.

Making changes in your lifestyle is a proven method for reducing your risk of developing heart disease. While there are no guarantees that a heart-healthy lifestyle will keep heart disease away, these changes will certainly improve your health in other ways, such as improving your physical and emotional well being.

CD Reviews: Derrick Milan and Glenn Johnson from GospelFlava.com

Derrick Milan and The Krew

Live: I've Been Through 2 Much Already

Sound of Gospel

Derrick Milan introduces **The Krew** on his latest project from *Sound of Gospel*, and from the get-go, it's clear this new vocal group is all about the groove. **Kenny Wells** leads off solo-style on the hyper "I'm Blessed". Music director **Roderic Edwards** takes full advantage of a band crew that brings together some of Motor City's finest. Slower rides such as the Fender Rhodes touched "God Is Good" and the laidback jazziness of "Can't Nobody" have no less of a groove factor. **Tolan Morgan's** "Jesus Reigns" and **Vashawn Mitchell's** "Help Me" are notable. Sometimes rugged sound doesn't deter from the energy and enthusiasm of Milan's new Krew.

(SN: 01/05/2003)

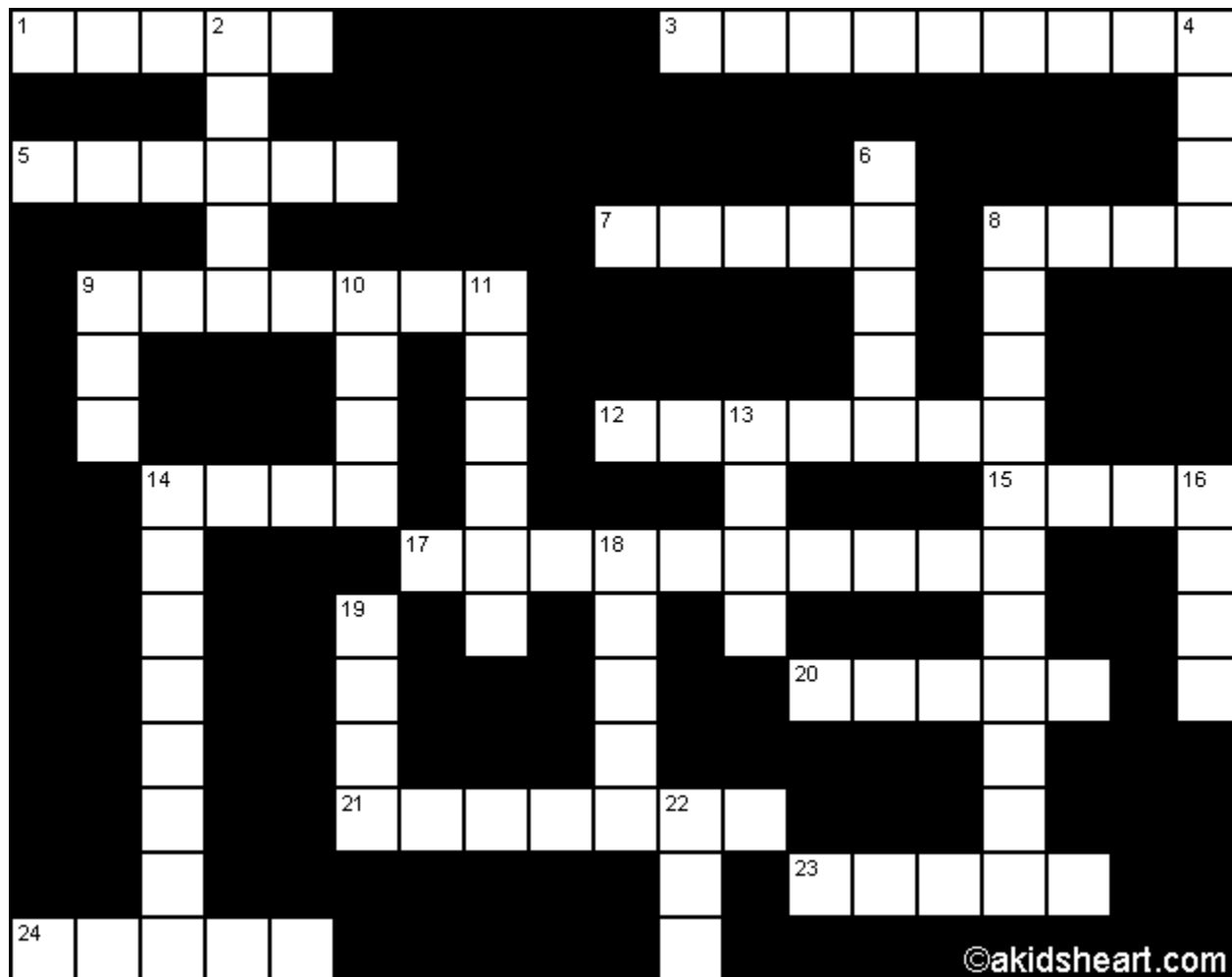
Glenn Johnson & The Voices of Innerpeace

Praise Report

Sirjohnsong Records

From that choir hotbed of Chicago comes **Glenn Johnson & The Voices of Innerpeace**. Putting the spotlight on solid choir material, the collective's live album (recorded at Prayer Garden COGIC in Northa Chicago) satisfies with numerous traditional selections. the choir's director, Johnson, writes the lion's share of the album's thirteen songs, with "He Is Worthy To Be Praised" and the melodic "Say Yes" (with solo from **Scharema Daniels**) making an impression. Also note the standout "Constant Friend", a mid-tempo, organ and piano-backed praise featuring **Donna Dallas** out in front.

(SN: 09/15/2003)

Kid's Corner

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Across

1. First musician
3. This Mary was the first to see the risen Christ
5. The last Adam was made a quickening _____.
7. First nomad
8. First Murderer
9. First Book of the Bible
12. Seek this first: the _____ of God
14. The first Adam was a living _____.
15. First murder victim
17. Last Book of the Bible
20. At the last _____, the dead shall be raised
21. First Book of the New Testament
23. Last enemy to be destroyed
24. The First and the Last

Down

2. First Jewish High Priest
4. The place of the first animal sacrifice
6. First rainbow came after the great _____
8. Honor your Father and Mother is the first _____ with promise
9. He rested on the first Sabbath
10. First king of Israel
11. The last celebration of the Passover by Jesus with His disciples is called the Last _____.
13. Built the first altar
14. These shall come in the last days, walking after their own lust
16. Many that are first shall be _____.
18. First to build a city
19. First man
22. First woman