

LAUNCHING INTO THE DEEP



RIVERS OF JOY MINISTRIES NEWSLETTER Volume 11 Number 2 June 2008

THE CHOICES WE MAKE

by Dr. Marion E. Criddle

It is so interesting how the choices we make have such a profound and everlasting effect on our entire life. It's like traveling through a maze. If we make the wrong choice, we hit a wall and often we must backtrack a long way before we can make progress again. A widely referenced choice is found in the book of Joshua. Joshua challenged the children of Israel to decide whom they would serve. He reminded the people of the blessings and victories provided by the Lord without any real effort on their part. He encouraged them to put away the gods that their ancestors served. He realized that they had other choices, for the land in which they dwell had gods of their own. None of these gods could compare to the true and living God. Nevertheless, the people still had a choice. That's because we serve a God who chose to give us free will. Even though the exercise of our free will may result in unpleasant circumstances, God still gives us an opportunity to choose an alternative path and recover from the consequences of our choices. Unfortunately, the god of this world blinds the people and they do not learn that God's way is really the best way until they are waist deep in quicksand or even neck deep. Joshua challenged the people to

“fear the LORD, serve Him in sincerity and in truth, and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the River and in Egypt. Serve the LORD! And if it seems evil to you to serve the Lord, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that *were* on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.”

We in America are faced with the same challenges. Are we going to continue down a path of rejecting our God and the principles on which this country was founded or are we going to embrace the gods of the environment in which we live or are we going to be true to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ? Deuteronomy admonishes that if God's people choose to turn away from Him and serve other gods, they will perish. Basically, it's a matter of life or death (rf. Deut. 30:15-20). The more we choose to embrace a love relationship with God, the more we experience the liberation power of His grace and the more His blessings flow into our lives as well as the lives of our children. If we are not mindful of our ways, we will become like the post-Joshua generation, who did whatever they thought was right in their own eyes. As a result, they were plunged into a repeating cycle of bondage and deliverance because over and over again, they did evil in the sight of the LORD. What choices are you going to make daily? “Choose you this day whom you will serve!” □

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

All About Tithing

Submitted by Connie C. Hamilton, St. Mary's, GA

Dear Christians,

This letter is to encourage some who are struggling with tithing. I am a living testimony that it works. I believe that I know where you are with that—I really do, and it is HARD. I was one saying, “I cannot afford to give 10%; I don't have any money; I need this money for something else; and God understands; He knows I don't have any money.” This is why He knows that if you learn to tithe, more will come your way. Believe me, you can't afford not to tithe! Just try it. What do you have to lose? You don't have it anyway. God says give and you shall receive. GOD can do more with that 10% you give from the heart than that 90% He's letting you keep. Or He could ask for 90% and you keep 10%, but He only asks for 10%. In reality He could take the 90% too! So, why not give GOD a chance? In life we have tried all sorts of things. Perhaps you have tried hair products, diet pills, money plans, get rich programs, and/or repair kits. You have tried everything else and you see nothing else works! Based on experience, if you tithe, I guarantee the results. Now try what works- JESUS- Everlasting results-

My testimony

When I tithe—first of all it doesn't always come back in finances. It may come back in your health, and you can't buy that—so, count your blessings. I am diagnosed as a diabetic, taking seven (7) shots daily, I have had medical complications from it—my kidney was removed; I had a full hysterectomy; sometimes I am not able to see; I have symptoms of neuropathy; I was told I need a pump to live, but, guess what? I am not afraid, I feel great! I am not sick in the hospital; I probably get around more than the average person, basically with all the medical problems. By the doctors' estimations, I am supposed to be dead, but with GOD by my side, I am still here and all my needs are met just like the birds that GOD provides for daily. Thank you Jesus! □

INSIDE THIS EDITION

Dates to Remember	4
Food For Thought	1
Humor Corner	3
Meditation Corner.....	3
Poetry Corner.....	2
The Choices We Make.....	1

POETRY CORNER

Submitted by Helen Blakey, MD

A poem written by Judge Roy Moore, Alabama, who was sued by the ACLU for 10 commandments in the courtroom

America the beautiful,
 Or so you used to be.
 Land of the Pilgrims' pride;
 I'm glad they'll never see.
 Babies piled in dumpsters,
 Abortion on demand,
 Oh, sweet land of liberty;
 Your house is on the sand.
 Our children wander aimlessly
 Poisoned by cocaine
 Choosing to indulge their lusts,
 When God has said abstain
 From sea to shining sea,
 Our Nation turns away
 From the teaching of God's love
 And a need to always pray
 We've kept God in our temples,
 How callous we have grown.
 When earth is but His footstool,
 And Heaven is His throne.
 We've voted in a government
 That's rotting at the core,
 Appointing Godless Judges;
 Who throw reason out the door,
 Too soft to place a killer
 In a well deserved tomb,
 But brave enough to kill a baby
 Before he leaves the womb.
 You think that God's not angry,
 That our land's a moral slum?
 How much longer will He wait?
 Before His judgment comes?
 How are we to face our God,
 From Whom we cannot hide?
 What then is left for us to do,
 But stem this evil tide?
 If we who are His children,
 Will humbly turn and pray;
 Seek His holy face
 And mend our evil way:
 Then God will hear from Heaven;
 And forgive us of our sins,
 He'll heal our sickly land
 And those who live within.
 But, America the Beautiful,
 If you don't - then you will see,
 A sad but Holy God
 Withdraw His hand from Thee.

From the memoirs of the late Daisy Palmer

CHURCH PESTS

Written by the Late Isaacher H. Gordon
 To Whom It May Concern, Search Yourself

Will go to Church on Sunday night,
 Will start a fuss and pick a fight,
 Will criticize the song and prayers,
 Will occupy about two or three chairs,

Will criticize the preacher's text,
 If it's not his choice he will be vexed.
 The pastor trying to preach the word,
 They'll talk so loud he can't be heard,

They'll talk about Sis. Susie's dress,
 And bring up old forgotten mess,
 Of what she is and what she's got,
 And what Sis. Susie hasn't got.

They'll talk about the preacher's wife
 And publish all her private life.
 They think the entire Church is wrong,
 They think the services hold too long,

And when it comes collection time,
 They'll hardly want to give a dime.
 They'll say the choir cannot sing,
 The organist can't play a thing.

They'll whoop and holler, jump and shout
 After service they'll cuss you out.
 They'll leave the church without a fear,
 And go and get a glass of beer.

They'll take Communion right with you,
 And try to take your husband too.
 At church the next Communion night
 They'll serve as if they are right.

But not one thing will they confess
 That's what I call a real 'Church Pest'.

This poem was not written to criticize any one, only to help someone mend their ways. (IHG) ■

"Judge not, that you be not judged. "For with what judgment you judge, you will be judged; and with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you." Matthew 7:1-2

HUMOR CORNER
Collard Greens

Submitted by Evelyn E. Johnson, MD

An old man lived alone in the country. He wanted to dig his yearly collard green garden, but it was always very hard work for him because the ground was hard. His only son, Junebug Jankins III, who used to help him, was in prison. The old man wrote a letter to his son and described his predicament.

Dear Junebug Jankins III,

I am feeling pretty bad because it looks like I won't be able to plant my collard green garden this year. I'm just getting too old to be digging up a garden plot. If you were here my troubles would be over. I know you would dig the plot for me.

Love Dad

A few days later he received a letter from his son.

Dear Daddy Jankins,

Whatever you do, don't dig up that garden. That's where I buried the BODIES.

Love Junebug Jankins III

At 4am the next morning, FBI agents and local police arrived and dug up the entire area without finding any bodies. They apologized to the old man and left. That same day the old man received another letter from his son.

Dear Daddy Jankins,

You can go ahead and plant the collard greens now. That's the best I could do under the circumstances.

Love Junebug III

MEDITATION CORNER
Garbage Truck

Submitted by Helen Blakey, MD

One day I hopped in a taxi and we took off for the airport. We were driving in the right lane when suddenly a black car jumped out of a parking space right in front of us. My taxi driver slammed on his brakes, skidded, and missed the other car by just inches! The driver of the other car whipped his head around and started yelling at us. My taxi driver just smiled and waved at the guy. And I mean he was really friendly.

So I asked, 'Why did you just do that? This guy almost ruined your car and sent us to the hospital!' This is when my taxi driver taught me what I now call, 'The Law of the Garbage Truck.'

He explained that many people are like garbage trucks. They run around full of garbage, full of frustration, full of anger, and full of disappointment. As their garbage piles up, they need a place to dump it and sometimes they'll dump it on you. Don't take it personally. Just smile, wave, wish them well, and move on. Don't take their garbage and spread it to other people at work, at home, or on the streets.

The bottom line is that successful people do not let garbage trucks take over their day. Life's too short to wake up in the morning with regrets, so love the people who treat you right. Pray for the ones who don't. Life is ten percent what you make it and ninety percent how you take it! Let God handle your garbage.

-----✂cut on dotted line and return-----

Please pray for God's intervention in the following areas of my life and the lives of those I love.

- Please remove my name from your mailing list.
- Please correct my address as follows
- Please add the following to your mailing list.

I have a testimony to share about:

I would like to support the ministry with

My time: Call me at _____

My Finances to be used as needed:

Enclosed is a gift in the amount of \$ _____

My Gift for Missions \$ _____

My Gift for a Brick(s) \$ _____

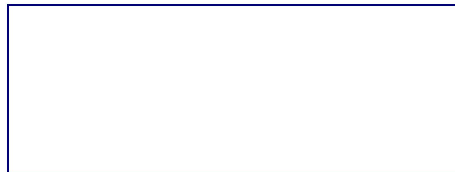
Make checks or money orders payable to
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All gifts are tax-deductible.

Name (Optional)

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DATES TO REMEMBER

8/11/08 **ANNUAL VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL,**
thru 6:30-8:30 PM at District Heights Elementary
School
8/15/08 2200 County Road, Dist. Hgts., MD. 20747
**ANNUAL FALL RETREAT PAYMENT
DEPOSIT DUE NOW!!! - \$40 Non-refundable;**
\$40 installments due 31 Mar, 30 June & 30 Sep
Total Cost \$160 due September 30, 2008. After
September 30, fee will be \$185
Dates: Friday – Saturday November 21-22, 2008
Place: New Windsor Conference Center
New Windsor, Maryland
FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL 301-249-2498 or
e-mail eejretreat@aol.com
OR CALL 301-499-3117

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

**Rivers of Joy Bible Fellowship Church
Order of Services**

Sunday School 10 a.m. (All ages including adults)

Sunday Worship 11 a.m.

**Worship Service Held at
District Heights Elementary School
2200 County Road, Dist. Hgts., MD. 20747**

Holy Communion – 1st Sundays 11 a.m.
Baptism – Tuesday night before 1st Sunday 7 p.m.

**Thursdays, 7 – 9 p.m. Intercessory Prayer and
Bible Study;**

Held at 1403 Waterford Drive, District Heights, MD

You can now visit us on the Web at
www.riversofjoyministries.com

or e-mail us at

riversofjoybfc@aol.com

For more information call (301) 499-3117. □