

Fall 2004

Community

Bible

Study

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## A Time to Remember, A Time to Forget

*“There is a time for everything...a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant, and a time to uproot ...”* (Ecclesiastes 3:1-2). As I apply this *my* life, the Holy Spirit prompts me to include, “a time to remember and a time to forget.”

I am going to take a trip into my past to “remember” some things I don’t think about very often to show you how incredibly God has worked in my life.

My parents were 15 and 18 when they married and I was born a year later. They had three children after me—all sons, one of whom died within 24 hours of his birth. My mother didn’t realize it, but my Father was most likely an alcoholic when she married him—a fact that would change the course of all our lives.

My grandmother was a Christian and there was a small country church within a mile of my house where I was taken and most often dropped off. When I was about six years old, I went forward to receive Christ as my Savior. I still remember the day and the song being played on the piano. My experience was very real to me even at such a young age.

I didn’t realize how much I would need Jesus at that time and I shudder to think of how different I might be today if Christ had not come into my heart and life when He did. He has truly had His hand of protection and guidance over me for the past 40 years!

The atmosphere in our home was so volatile and violent that I often feared for our lives. My mother, two brothers, and I tried to escape from my father twice, only to be found by him and told that if we didn’t come back home he would kill my mother.

Because he drank, my father would often come home angry and tear up our house. I remember how painful it was the day I realized that people in our community must have an idea what our home life was like. Other mothers would not let their little girls come over and play at my house or spend the night.

All of the anger, abuse, and dysfunction culminated one day in June right after my 14<sup>th</sup> birthday. My Father discovered that my mother’s sister was trying to help us get away from him, and he was determined to stop us. He shot my mother twice and killed my aunt. Mom survived, and

faced being a 32-year-old wounded, single-parent with an 8<sup>th</sup> grade education who had to raise three children aged 14, 12, and 7. She is an incredible woman who did her best to provide for us and hold our family together.

Two days after I turned 16, I got a job to help pay the monthly bills, including rent payments. During my last few months of school, I worked full-time in a yarn factory from 4 p.m. until midnight, with a rotation of six days on and three days off. Amazingly, I was on the Honor Roll, and at my graduation, I was awarded the “I Dare You Award.” The faculty gave this award to someone they felt had greater capabilities than their plans for the future reflected.

I dated the mayor’s son in the small town where I lived, and when I graduated, he encouraged me to go to a local community college, which I did. After two years I received a degree as a legal secretary. Shortly after, God did an amazing thing in my life, second only to my receiving Christ. He allowed me to meet and date a strong Christian man who planned to be a minister! We dated only a few times, but he dramatically changed my perspective of what I wanted in a husband. I realized that love between two people who know the Lord doesn’t even compare with the “love” that I had experienced in my life thus far. I started praying for a Christian husband.

I worked and lived on my own for about five years before meeting my husband at the church we both attended. With my family background, I was not exactly the girl to take home to meet the family, but we were married a year and a half later. I thank God He has blessed me with a husband who has given me what I lacked growing up—unconditional love. No matter what we have gone through in our marriage, or how I have acted, he has mirrored the love of Christ to me.

When I was in my early 20s, my father was



Melinda Williford

released from prison. While he was incarcerated, I wrote to him letting him know that I had forgiven him for what he did, according to Matthew 6:14-15, *“For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.”*



The Williford Family  
Ben, Melinda, Dan & Bradley

After his release, I invited him to an evangelistic meeting in my community, and he agreed to go. I asked many of my friends to pray that he would come to know Christ. A day or so before the event, he called me in the middle of the night, waking me, to say that

he didn't love me nor would he ever love me. He said that I had never been a daughter to him and I never would be. I was very aware of the Holy Spirit's presence that night, and I was able to simply say, "I'm so sorry that you feel that way, Daddy."

I was convinced that God must be preparing my father's heart to come to know Him at that meeting, and that his call to me was Satan's last ditch attempt to get him to back out. If I lashed out at him, he most likely would not have come. But come he did—complete with a flask of whiskey in his breast pocket—and he listened. Then he went back home, unchanged.

### He Asked My Forgiveness

I am happy to say that in the past several years my dad and I have been in touch more often. He tells me that he is not drinking anymore, and that he has received Christ. In the past year, he asked my forgiveness, and I was able to assure him that I had already forgiven him.

My past is a painful subject for me, but I know that everyone deals with painful experiences. As I look back at my life, I remind myself to be thankful—thankful for Christ coming into my life when I was very young, for His hand of protection and guidance, and for all of the people He used to bring me to this point in my life. Without Jesus Christ and His Word, I would not be where I am today. My desire is to continue to mature in my walk with Christ and to be a testimony to Him in the future more than I ever have before. *“Not that I have already obtained all this [speaking of Christ-likeness], or have already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. Brothers [and sisters] I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining [sprinting] toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus”* (Philippians 3:12-14).

Most spiritual knowledge and growth I have obtained in recent years has come from involvement with in-depth Bible studies. I spent 6 years in Bible Study Fellowship, started and taught an Explorer's Bible Study in Salisbury, and now God has called me to teach a CBS class.

One of my favorite verses is Deuteronomy 32:47, *“These are not just idle words for you— they are your life.”* Bible study brings with it the responsibility of obedience to the Word of God, which is *the key* to living the abundant life He has promised.

Are you like me? Is there someone you need to forgive? Is there something in your past you need to let go of? Look back, as I did, and see how God worked in your life. Then determine to forget it and move on. To *forget* in Webster's Dictionary means *to disregard intentionally; cease remembering*. It does not mean having amnesia. We can't control what comes into our minds, but we can control what *remains*. It is imperative we don't allow our past to plague us and keep us from fulfilling the God-given ministry that might be before us.

I was severely hurt as a result of my upbringing, but that has given me the desire to minister to hurting women. I encourage them to turn to God and the Bible for healing in their lives. The most effective way to do this is through in-depth Bible study. There we can come to understand the depth of love and forgiveness that must be *extended* and *received* in order to walk in the freedom God intends for us to experience. Whatever we are going through, we must not let it be wasted. Our greatest ministry may come from our greatest pain.

Melinda Williford  
Teaching Director  
Statesville, NC CBS

## When?

When did my burden leave me?  
When did the hurting cease?  
Was it when lost in Your comfort  
I exchanged my pain for Your peace?

When did the darkness start passing?  
When did the sadness depart?  
Was it when wooed by Your mercy  
I surrendered the keys to my heart?

When were the questions answered?  
When did the doubts lose their hold?  
Was it when drawn by Your Spirit  
I experienced Your love in my soul?

Those trials that once held me captive  
Now seem messengers sent from above,  
For when clinging to You as they held me  
I came to touch the depths of Your love.

Mary Joyce Hays  
Clarksdale, MS CBS

# Letting Go

One of five children, I was born into a home where we did not know or honor the Lord. We were Christmas and Easter church goers, but when I was about 12, my mom accepted Jesus Christ as her personal Savior. She shared the gospel with all of her children, and before long I asked the Lord Jesus into my heart.

My parents separated a couple of years later, and my father moved out of state, making mom a full-time single parent. She was so inspiring to us as we witnessed her personal walk with Jesus.

Unfortunately, we still did not attend church regularly, and by the time we settled on a church home, I had become a typical teen with other priorities. I didn't study the Bible because I didn't know how, and frankly I was intimidated by it. I kept searching for the emotional high I experienced when I was saved, not understanding the whole picture. I was a perfect example of a new Christian starving for the Word of God and not realizing it. Without strong biblical teaching and direction, I continued in familiar, sinful patterns. Not surprisingly, I became a self-centered young adult, seeking a good time, and pursuing worldly interests.

When I was 20, my mom moved to California to be near her siblings. My twin sister, Terri, and I decided to stay in Maryland where we shared an apartment and a singles lifestyle. With no parental guidance or financial support, we were on our own. I poured myself into working two jobs and partying with my friends.

At 23, I married Jim, a wonderful man, but I continued on the path I had chosen. I became a workaholic, working my way up the career ladder, pausing briefly, when I was 30, to have a baby daughter. I convinced myself I could have it all, and thought I did. I was a company director running a proposal center for a successful government contractor. I was good at what I did, but I worked long and crazy hours on projects for weeks on end. Work had become my god.

My husband and I faced the normal challenges working couples do, such as negotiating who would take our daughter to day care, who would pick her up, and who would stay home when she was sick. Kia was sick a lot. By the time she was a year old, she'd had 10 ear infections, two lung infections, and she had dropped off the growth chart even though she ate like a horse. Several months passed with more colds, ear infections, and a third lung infection. We were at our wits end.

After several tests our world came crashing down. We were told Kia had Cystic Fibrosis (CF), which causes the body to produce thick and sticky mucus. In the lungs, this mucus clogs airways and traps harmful bacteria, causing inflammation and chronic infection and ultimately permanent lung damage. In the pancreas, mucus keeps digestive enzymes from reaching the intestines where food is broken down into absorbable nutrients, causing mal-

nutrition. Life expectancy, we were told, was 28 years.

Kia, gravely ill with pneumonia, had to be admitted to Children's Hospital for IV antibiotics and other treatments specifically for CF. I called my family with the bad news. Mom and Terri, who was now a strong Christian, started their prayer chains. I was numb. My little girl had a fatal disease. I couldn't believe what was happening. I felt dead inside. I couldn't pray. My only communication with God was "Why? God, where are You?" I felt that God had turned His back on us.

Self-sufficiency once again took over. At the hospital I read everything I could get my hands on about CF. I closely monitored Kia's medications and care. I took copious notes on everything and would not leave her side. I had to control what I could in an uncontrollable situation.

As sick as she was, Kia never lost her sunny disposition. She was a joy to the nurses and doctors. Even at her sickest she wanted to play and visit with people. She was the sunshine that

kept my husband and me going during our darkest hours, or so I thought.

Kia responded well to treatment. After 2 1/2 weeks at Children's Hospital, we were trained to take care of Kia, and she was allowed to come home. She needed nebulizer treatments and chest physical therapy four times a day. Chest PT is clapping on the rib cage in various places to clear the airways of mucus. She would also need to take medication with food so her body could absorb the nutrients.

Kia's babysitter and our family members learned chest PT, too, and soon enough we were into a new routine, with me back to my demanding job. A couple months later, I was promoted again. "I can still do it all," I said to myself. "I will not let this disease destroy our lives."

When I look back I can see that I was suffocating under the weight of my self-sufficiency, but I can also see that God was there. He was always there. He gave me a loving and supportive husband as a partner, as well as wonderful babysitters and medical people to take care of Kia's CF needs. But at the time, I didn't see that it was God's hand.

My personal agenda was so loud that it deafened my ability to hear God. Yet God still worked on my heart, slowly drawing me in. I know this was a result of the fervent prayers of my mom and sister. Finally, two years later, I realized that I was supposed to leave my career and be at home with my family. I was certain God wanted me to do this. Right after I started my new job as a homemaker, I found out I was pregnant. What a confirmation that was! I knew I was in the right place.

Kia and I had a lot of time to make up for, and we had our ups and downs. She wasn't used to having Mommy around all the time. But the time together was priceless, and she stayed healthy. It was also a time of healing in my marriage. I could now focus on supporting my husband in



Karlie, now 6 & Kia, 11

his career, and as a dad, in ways I never had before.

Kia started kindergarten, and soon after, I gave birth to Karlie. Sadly, we found out that even though we had a 75% chance of having a disease-free child, Karlie also had Cystic Fibrosis. Another blow. "Why, Lord, Why? This



Kia, Sherri & Karlie

isn't fair. We deserve a break here. You owe us!" Obviously there was more work to be done in my heart. Kia's reaction was, "Wow, Karlie has CF just like me." It was as if they were members of a special club.

God's love and mercy pre-

vailled, and He continued to draw me closer to Himself. A year later I joined Terri in CBS, my first experience in studying the Bible. That was five years ago and almost 30 years since I said "Yes" to Jesus. I haven't looked back. CBS has been an incredible experience, first as a Core Group member and now as a Children's Teacher. It is my lifeline to the Word of God. I still feel like a new Christian because the more I learn about my Lord, the more I realize there is to learn. And I so want to learn.

CF was something God allowed to come into our lives. I don't know why, and I may never know why, but I have accepted that it is part of His perfect plan. Kia and Karlie are gifts from God, and CF is part of who they are. I'll take it, and I'll take it with joy and thanksgiving, for now I know I can do anything through Christ who strengthens me. To reach this place, I had to let go of my sin of self-sufficiency. I could not do that alone. God had to lead me. I am grateful that He did so slowly and surely.

All my life I yearned for a peaceful place. Not like a secluded beach with white sand, turquoise water,



Karlie, Jimmy & Kia

calm breezes, and warm sun. But peace like that of a child who fears a monster under the bed and calls for Daddy. Daddy checks under the bed, pulls the frightened child into his large, strong arms, and says, "There are no monsters, honey. Everything is all right. Daddy's here." Whatever happens with Kia and Karlie, God will be there. I just need to keep crawling into His lap and letting him take care of the monsters, even Cystic Fibrosis. He will take care of my girls. He loves them more than I ever could.

There is joy in letting go because letting go means giving it to God. People will say, "You are so strong. I don't know how you do it." It is the Lord's strength in me that keeps me going. He meets us where we are today and gives grace for every step of the journey, until our journey is ended.

When I think of my girls' disease and their future, it is devastating. I have to stay focused on Jesus and on today. Being Christians gives us an eternal perspective that transcends any trial in our lives, including fatal diseases.

One of my favorite Christian artists, **Ginny Owens**, who is blind, wrote a song that has really spoken to me.

### ***If You Want Me To***

*The pathway is broken  
And the signs are unclear  
And I don't know the reason why you brought me here  
But just because you love me the way that you do  
I'm gonna walk through the valley if you want me to.*

*Cause I'm not who I was  
When I took my first step  
And I'm clinging to the promise  
You're not through with me yet  
So if all of these trials bring me closer to you  
Then I will go through the fire  
If you want me to*

*It may not be the way I would have chosen  
When you lead me through a world that's not my home  
But you never said it would be easy  
You only said I'll never be alone*

*So when the whole world turns against me  
And I'm all by myself  
And I can't hear you answer my cries for help  
I'll remember the suffering your love put you through  
And I will go through the valley  
If you want me to*

I can't help but wonder where I'd be without these trials in my life. Would I be seeking to know the Lord, or would I still be seeking only worldly success? Would my children know Jesus, or would they have a strictly secular perspective? Would I treasure today or always have my mind on my "to do" list? God has brought me a long way, yet I am still a "work in progress." I struggle with the fear that my daughters will be taken from us. Earlier this year one of my pastors addressed the church congregation and said he felt the Lord had a message for us. He stressed that everything we have is on loan from God, and if we cling too tightly to what God has given us, we're not trusting in His perfect provision. He asked us what we were clinging to. Was it money, career, appearance, family? I was so convicted. I knew this message was for me, and I was clinging to my girls. They are His, and they are on loan to me. God loves them far more than I ever could. I can trust that He has a plan for their lives, as well as for my husband and me. "For I know the plans I have for you [and your children], declares the Lord, 'plans to prosper you [and them], plans to give you [and them] hope and a future'" (Jeremiah 29:11).

Sherri Bachelder  
Children's Teacher  
Gaithersburg, MD CBS

# CBS Classes

## ALABAMA

BIRMINGHAM MEN  
BIRMINGHAM NE  
BIRMINGHAM SHELBY  
BIRMINGHAM SOUTH  
BIRMINGHAM SE MEN  
BIRMINGHAM (W) EVE  
COLUMBIANA  
DECATUR  
DOTHAN  
ENTERPRISE/WIREGRASS AREA  
FAIRHOPE\*  
FLORENCE  
HUNTSVILLE  
MONROEVILLE  
OPELIKA  
OPELIKA EVE  
PRATTVILLE  
TUSCALOOSA

## ARIZONA

ANTHEM\*  
CAREFREE  
PHOENIX CENTRAL  
PHOENIX EVE  
PHOENIX NORTHWEST  
PHOENIX NORTHWEST TEEN  
PRESCOTT  
SCOTTSDALE  
SCOTTSDALE EVE  
SCOTTSDALE TEEN  
SUN CITY  
SUN CITY WEST

## ARKANSAS

CABOT  
LITTLE ROCK  
LITTLE ROCK EVE  
LITTLE ROCK TEEN  
NORTH LITTLE ROCK  
SALINE COUNTY  
VAN BUREN/FT. SMITH

## CALIFORNIA

BAKERSFIELD  
BAKERSFIELD EVE  
BAKERSFIELD TEEN  
BELLFLOWER  
CALAVERAS COUNTY  
CAMARILLO  
CHATSWORTH EVE  
CHULA VISTA  
CONCORD  
CONCORD EVE  
CONEJO VALLEY EVE  
CORONADO  
EAST COUNTY  
FREMONT EVE  
FRESNO/CLOVIS  
FULLERTON  
FULLERTON MEN  
GLENDALE  
HEMET  
HUNTINGTON BEACH  
HUNTINGTON BEACH EVE  
HUNTINGTON BEACH TEEN  
KINGS COUNTY  
LAGUNA HILLS  
LAKE ARROWHEAD MEN  
LAKE ELSINORE  
LA QUINTA  
LOS ALAMITOS  
MALIBU  
MISSION VIEJO MEN  
MISSION VIEJO TEEN  
NEWPORT BEACH  
OAKLAND  
ORANGE  
ORANGE COAST (W) EVE

ORANGE COUNTY MEN  
ORANGE COUNTY (W) EVE  
ORANGE TEEN  
PALM DESERT  
PALM DESERT EVE  
PALM SPRINGS EVE  
PALOS VERDES  
RANCHO SANTA MARGARITA  
ROSEVILLE  
ROSEVILLE (W) EVE  
SACRAMENTO  
SACRAMENTO EVE  
SACRAMENTO TEEN  
SAN BERNARDINO MTS  
SAN DIEGO CENTRAL COAST  
SAN DIEGO NORTH  
SAN DIEGO NORTH INLAND  
SD/RANCHO BERNARDO MEN  
SAN JOSE  
SAN JOSE EVE  
SAN JOSE TEEN  
SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO  
SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO TEEN  
SAN MATEO  
SANTA MARIA  
SANTA MARIA EVE  
SANTA MONICA  
SHAFTER  
SIMI VALLEY  
SOLANA BEACH  
TEMECULA\*  
TEMECULA VALLEY TEEN  
TEMECULA VALLEY EVE  
TUOLUMNE COUNTY  
TURLOCK  
WESTCHESTER  
WESTCHESTER EVE  
WESTLAKE  
WESTMINSTER  
YORBA LINDA  
YUCAIPA

## COLORADO

AURORA  
BOULDER  
BOULDER EVE  
BOULDER TEEN  
CASTLE ROCK  
COLORADO SPRINGS  
COLORADO SPRINGS EVE  
COLORADO SPRINGS TEEN  
CONIFER  
DENVER  
DENVER WEST/FOOTHILLS TEEN  
DENVER NORTHWEST  
DENVER SOUTHWEST EVE  
DENVER (W) EVE  
DENVER WEST EVE  
ENGLEWOOD EVE  
ESTES PARK  
ESTES VALLEY EVE  
EVERGREEN  
FORT COLLINS  
FORT COLLINS EVE  
GREELEY EVE  
HIGHLANDS RANCH  
LAKEWOOD  
LITTLETON EAST  
LITTLETON EVE  
LITTLETON eTEEN  
LITTLETON TEEN  
LITTLETON WEST  
MONTROSE  
THORNTON

## CONNECTICUT

BETHEL MEN  
FAIRFIELD EVE

FARMINGTON VALLEY  
GREENWICH  
GREENWICH EVE  
MADISON/OLD SAYBROOK  
NEW CANAAN  
ORANGE/MILFORD  
RIDGEFIELD EVE  
RIDGEFIELD/WILTON  
WESTPORT  
WETHERSFIELD

## DELAWARE

DOVER  
DOVER EVE  
NEWARK  
WILMINGTON EVE

## FLORIDA

AMELIA ISLAND  
AMELIA ISLAND MEN  
AMELIA ISLAND TEEN  
CLEARWATER  
CLEARWATER MEN  
DESTIN  
DESTIN eTEEN  
FT. MYERS  
FT. MYERS TEEN  
HAINES CITY (W) EVE  
JACKSONVILLE SOUTH  
NAPLES  
ORLANDO  
ORLANDO EVE  
PALM BEACHES  
PEACE RIVER  
SARASOTA  
SARASOTA MEN  
SARASOTA (W) EVE  
TAMPA NORTH  
TAMPA SOUTH  
TAMPA TEEN  
TAMPA WEST

## GEORGIA

ALPHARETTA TEEN  
ATHENS  
ATHENS MEN  
ATLANTA CUMMING  
ATLANTA DRUID HILLS  
ATLANTA NORTH COBB  
ATLANTA NORTHEAST (W) EVE  
ATLANTA ROSWELL  
Dacula/LAWRENCEVILLE  
DUNWOODY  
GWINNETT CO. MEN  
LAKE OCONEE  
PEACHTREE CITY  
PEACHTREE CORNERS  
SAVANNAH  
SNELLVILLE  
TOCCOA/LAVONIA

## IDAHO

IDAHO FALLS EVE  
LEWISTON

## ILLINOIS

ARLINGTON HEIGHTS  
CHICAGO  
LAKE FOREST  
LAKE FOREST EVE  
MOUNT PROSPECT EVE  
NAPERVILLE  
NAPERVILLE eTEEN  
NAPERVILLE EVE  
NAPERVILLE TEEN  
PARK RIDGE  
PEORIA  
PEORIA EVE  
ROCKFORD MEN  
SOUTH LAKE COUNTY

## INDIANA

BLOOMINGTON EVE

NEW ALBANY  
WARSAW/WINONA LAKE

## IOWA

BETTENDORF  
FORT DODGE  
LEE COUNTY  
LEE COUNTY EVE  
SOUTHWEST IOWA

## KANSAS

OLATHE  
OVERLAND PARK/SHAWNEE  
WICHITA

## KENTUCKY

ASHLAND  
BARDSTOWN  
LOUISVILLE  
LOUISVILLE EVE  
LOUISVILLE TEEN

## MARYLAND

BALTIMORE  
BALTIMORE EVE  
BETHESDA  
DAMASCUS  
EASTON/EASTERN SHORE  
ELDERSBURG  
FREDERICK  
GAITHERSBURG  
GERMANTOWN  
HAGERSTOWN  
ROCKVILLE EVE  
SILVER SPRING  
WESTMINSTER  
WESTMINSTER EVE

## MASSACHUSETTS

MERRIMAC VALLEY  
NEPONSET VALLEY  
NORTH SHORE  
SOUTH SHORE  
SPRINGFIELD  
SPRINGFIELD EVE Condensed

## MICHIGAN

ALPENA  
ALPENA 18-2-24  
ANN ARBOR  
ANN ARBOR EVE  
BIRMINGHAM  
BRIGHTON  
BRIGHTON EVE  
FENTON  
GRAND RAPIDS  
GRAND TRAVERSE  
HOLLAND/ZEELAND\*  
JACKSON  
KALAMAZOO/PORTAGE MEN  
KALAMAZOO/PORTAGE (W) EVE  
LENAWEE COUNTY  
MIDLAND  
NEWAYGO COUNTY  
ORCHARD LAKE  
ORCHARD LAKE EVE  
ROCHESTER  
ROCHESTER EVE  
SAGINAW  
SAGINAW EVE  
TROY EVE\*

## MINNESOTA

AUSTIN  
BROOKLYN PARK EVE  
BUFFALO  
BURNSVILLE EVE  
CHANHASSEN EVE  
DULUTH  
DULUTH EVE  
EDINA EVE  
FAIRMONT  
MANKATO EVE

MAPLE GROVE EVE  
 MEDINA MEN  
 MINNEAPOLIS WEST  
 PLYMOUTH EVE  
 ROCHESTER EVE  
 ST. PAUL  
 ST. PAUL EVE  
**MISSISSIPPI**  
 CLARKSDALE  
 GREENVILLE  
 OLIVE BRANCH  
**MISSOURI**  
 COLUMBIA  
COLUMBIA TEEN  
 ST. CHARLES  
ST. CHARLES CO TEEN  
STE. GENEVIEVE TEEN  
 ST. LOUIS MEN  
 ST. LOUIS CITY (W) EVE  
 ST. LOUIS MID COUNTY  
 ST. LOUIS NORTH COUNTY  
 ST. LOUIS SOUTH COUNTY  
ST. LOUIS TEEN  
 ST. LOUIS WEST COUNTY  
 ST. LOUIS (W) EVE  
 WILDWOOD  
**MONTANA**  
 MISSOULA (W) EVE  
**NEVADA**  
 CARSON VALLEY  
 CARSON VALLEY EVE  
**NEW HAMPSHIRE**  
 AMHERST/MILFORD  
 CONCORD  
 MANCHESTER  
 MONADNOCK  
 SEACOAST  
**NEW JERSEY**  
 BASKING RIDGE  
 CLINTON  
 FLEMINGTON  
 HILLSDALE  
 MANASQUAN  
 MANASQUAN EVE  
 MIDLAND PARK  
 NORTH JERSEY EVE  
 PRINCETON (W) EVE  
**NEW MEXICO**  
 ALBUQUERQUE  
 ALBUQUERQUE EVE  
ALBUQUERQUE TEEN  
 ARTESIA  
ARTESIA TEEN  
 FARMINGTON  
 LOS ALAMOS  
 LOS ALAMOS EVE  
LOS ALAMOS TEEN  
 ROSWELL  
ROSWELL eTEEN  
 ROSWELL EVE  
ROSWELL TEEN  
 SANTA FE  
 SANTA FE EVE  
**NEW YORK**  
 BEDFORD HILLS  
 FINGER LAKES (THE)  
 MID HUDSON VALLEY  
 NEW YORK CITY MEN  
 ROCHESTER  
 ROCHESTER EVE  
 ROCHESTER WEST  
ROCHESTER TEEN  
 SKANEATELES  
 SKANEATELES EVE  
**NORTH CAROLINA**  
 ASHEBORO EVE  
 CARY  
 CHARLOTTE  
 CHARLOTTE EVE  
 CRYSTAL COAST  
CRYSTAL COAST TEEN  
 GASTONIA  
 GASTONIA MEN  
GASTONIA TEEN  
 GASTONIA (W) EVE  
 GREENSBORO  
 GREENVILLE  
 GREENVILLE MEN  
 LAKE NORMAN  
 LAKE NORMAN MEN  
 MATTHEWS-WEDDINGTON  
 PINEHURST  
 PINEHURST EVE  
PITT COUNTY TEEN  
 RALEIGH  
 RALEIGH EVE  
 SHELBY  
 STATESVILLE  
 WAKE FOREST\*  
 WILMINGTON  
 WINSTON-SALEM  
 WINSTON-SALEM EVE  
**OHIO**  
 CLEVELAND SOUTH EAST  
 MANSFIELD (W) EVE  
 YOUNGSTOWN  
 YOUNGSTOWN EVE  
**OKLAHOMA**  
 BARTLESVILLE  
 MCALESTER  
 TULSA  
**OREGON**  
 BEAVERTON  
 BEND  
 KEIZER  
 PORTLAND WEST  
 THE DALLES  
**PENNSYLVANIA**  
 DOWNINGTOWN  
 LONGWOOD  
 LOWER MERION  
 MAIN-LINE PHILADELPHIA  
 PITTSBURGH BEAVER VALLEY  
 PITTSBURGH BEAVER VALLEY EVE  
 PITTSBURGH EAST  
 PITTSBURGH NORTH  
 PITTSBURGH NORTH HILLS EVE  
 PITTSBURGH SOUTH EVE  
 PITTSBURGH SOUTH HILLS  
 PITTSBURGH WEST  
 SOUTHERN CHESTER COUNTY\*  
 WEST CHESTER  
 WEST CHESTER MEN  
 WEST CHESTER (W) EVE  
 WESTMORELAND COUNTY  
 WILLOW GROVE  
 YORK  
**SOUTH CAROLINA**  
 BEAUFORT  
 BLUFFTON  
 BLUFFTON EVE  
 COLUMBIA  
 COLUMBIA (W) EVE  
 COLUMBIA MEN  
COLUMBIA TEEN  
 GREENVILLE  
 GREENVILLE MEN  
 HILTON HEAD  
 HILTON HEAD EVE  
HILTON HEAD TEEN  
 SENECA\*  
**SOUTH DAKOTA**  
 BLACK HILLS  
**TENNESSEE**  
 BRENTWOOD EVE\*  
 BRISTOL TN/VA  
 BRISTOL EVE TN/VA Condensed  
 COLLIERVILLE  
 COLUMBIA  
 COOKEVILLE  
 COOKEVILLE EVE Condensed  
 COVINGTON  
 DYERSBURG  
 FRANKLIN  
FRANKLIN TEEN  
 MCMINNVILLE  
 MEMPHIS  
 MURFREESBORO  
 MURFREESBORO (W) EVE  
 NASHVILLE CENTRAL  
 NASHVILLE (W) EVE  
 SHELBYVILLE  
SHELBYVILLE TEEN  
 SOMERVILLE  
**TEXAS**  
 AMARILLO  
 AUSTIN CENTRAL  
 AUSTIN EVE  
 AUSTIN/GREATER LAKE TRAVIS  
 AUSTIN NORTH  
AUSTIN TEEN  
 BELLVILLE  
 BELLVILLE EVE  
 COPPELL/LEWISVILLE  
 CORPUS CHRISTI  
 CORPUS CHRISTI EVE  
 CORSICANA  
 DALLAS CENTRAL  
 DALLAS NORTH/PLANO  
 DALLAS EVE  
 EASTLAND COUNTY  
 EASTLAND COUNTY EVE  
 EL CAMPO  
FLOWER MOUND eTEEN  
FLOWER MOUND TEEN  
 FORT BEND COUNTY  
 GEORGETOWN  
 HIGHLAND LAKES  
 HOUSTON CENTRAL  
HOUSTON CENTRAL TEEN  
 HOUSTON CLEAR LAKE  
 HOUSTON EVE  
 HOUSTON KATY  
 HOUSTON MEMORIAL  
 HOUSTON NORTHWEST  
 HOUSTON WOODLANDS  
 HOUSTON WOODLANDS EVE  
KATY TEEN  
 KINGSVILLE  
 LAKE TRAVIS MEN  
 LAGRANGE EVE  
 LUBBOCK  
 LUBBOCK EVE  
LUBBOCK TEEN  
 MCKINNEY/ALLEN\*  
 MIDLAND  
MIDLAND 18-2-24  
MIDLAND eTEEN  
 MIDLAND MEN  
MIDLAND TEEN  
 MIDLAND (W) EVE  
 MT. PLEASANT  
 NACOGDOCHES  
NEW BRAUNFELS eTEEN  
 PARKER COUNTY  
 ROSENBERG/RICHMOND EVE  
 SAN ANGELO  
 SAN ANGELO EVE  
 SAN ANTONIO  
 SAN MARCOS  
 SOUTHLAKE  
 SULPHUR SPRINGS  
 SULPHUR SPRINGS EVE  
SULPHUR SPRINGS TEEN  
 TAYLOR (W) EVE  
 TEMPLE/BELTON EVE  
 VICTORIA  
 VICTORIA EVE  
WALBURG 18-2-24  
WALBURG TEEN  
 WHARTON COUNTY EVE  
 WIMBERLEY MEN  
WIMBERLEY TEEN  
WOODLANDS TEEN  
**UTAH**  
 LAYTON  
**VERMONT**  
 SOUTHERN VERMONT  
**VIRGINIA**  
 ALEXANDRIA  
 ARLINGTON\*  
 BLACKSBURG EVE  
 BRISTOL TN/VA  
 BRISTOL EVE TN/VA Condensed  
 CHARLOTTESVILLE\*  
 DULLES  
 FAIRFAX  
 FREDERICKSBURG  
 GLOUCESTER  
 LEESBURG/PURCELLVILLE  
 McLEAN  
 McLEAN EVE  
McLEAN TEEN  
 NEWPORT NEWS  
 RICHMOND FAR WEST END  
 RICHMOND NORTH  
 RICHMOND NORTH MEN  
 RICHMOND NORTH (W) EVE  
 RICHMOND SOUTH  
RICHMOND SOUTH TEEN  
 RICHMOND (W) EVE  
 RICHMOND WEST  
 SMITH MOUNTAIN LAKE  
 VIRGINIA BEACH  
 VIRGINIA BEACH EVE  
 WEST FAIRFAX EVE  
 WILLIAMSBURG  
 WOODBRIDGE  
**WASHINGTON**  
 BOTHELL  
 LAKE WASHINGTON EVE  
 MERCER ISLAND  
 SAMMAMISH PLATEAU  
 SEATTLE  
 VANCOUVER/SW WASHINGTON Condensed  
**WISCONSIN**  
 MILWAUKEE  
 MILWAUKEE EVE Condensed  
**\*Designates New Classes**  
 Please note the following designations.  
 Eve - coed evening class  
 Men - men's evening class  
 (W) - women's evening class  
 No additional designation - day class  
 Condensed - Former CBS classes  
 now using our Condensed  
 material

## A Life Well Lived



**Bill & Jane Wetmore**

My wife, Jane, was the picture of health, until August 2003, when strange things began to happen. In September, she had a biopsy on her liver. A malignancy was found, as well as traces of cancer in her lungs and brain. Diagnosed with Stage IV cancer, she began treatment immediately. During this time she was confident and assured in the Lord. She never complained, though I know that it had to be difficult for her, especially when she lost her hair.

For some time, our daughter, Cathy, and I took care of her, doing all that we could to make her comfortable. Toward the end of 2003, Jane was admitted to the hospital due to extreme loss of weight and dehydration. I am thankful we were able to arrange for 24 hour nursing care and bring her home until she went to rest in the arms of her Savior.

Our grown children, Ben and Cathy, and their families were faithful in their loving support, concern, and practical assistance. In addition to them, the nursing assistants, Carolyn and Betty Smith, gave Jane loving care 24/7. These relationships went beyond patient and nurses. I am also grateful for the many friends who prayed for us.

As 2004 progressed, Jane got weaker. She did not complain but remained beautiful and positive. No longer able to pray and sing hymns together, I sat beside her and held her hand. On that final day, our family was there but left the room for us to be alone one last time. I told her I loved her, that she was a wonderful wife and mother, and that she had made a difference in this world. I said I would see her again, and I held her hand and prayed as she entered the presence of the Lord.

Jane knew she was dying, but she also knew she was going to be with her Lord because she believed the words of Scripture, and was deeply committed to the Living Word, the Lord Jesus Christ. Jane met Lee Campbell, the founder of CBS, over 30 years ago, and became involved in this ministry. She learned to trust God's Son as she studied His Word. As a result, our children are believers and are very active in CBS. Ben, who traveled every other weekend to see his mom during her illness, is the Teaching Director of the Pittsburgh South Evening class. Cathy, has been a member of CBS classes in Virginia and North Carolina. Jane brought many people to the Lord and to CBS. We received hundreds of cards, expressing love and thankfulness for her encouraging them to attend Bible study.

God richly blessed us with 49 years of marriage, and He could not have given me a greater life partner. Jane and I have always contributed to CBS with our time and finances, because of our great love for this ministry. Before her death, Jane and I decided to contribute to the **God Will Provide Fund** as a way to repay CBS for the opportunity it gave us to serve Him. I have asked Camilla if I might make that contribution in Jane's name. I hope others will join us in giving because of what they have received. My desire is that many find the joy and peace Jane found, which helped her face this final challenge with love, strength, and dignity. One of her favorite Scriptures was 2 Timothy 4:6-8, *"For I am already being poured out like a drink offering, and the time has come for my departure. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing."*

**Bill Wetmore**

## Prayer Corner

### Called to Be People of Prayer



*"Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus"* (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18). We are told to pray continually for this is God's will for us in Christ Jesus. Not infrequently I hear the term "prayer warrior" used with reference to someone who apparently spends much time in prayer. The term is well intended, but I think may infer that being a prayer warrior is what that person is called to be. The Scripture quoted above, as far as I can tell, was not addressed to any specific group of people, and I find no reference in the Bible to prayer warriors. The nearest thing we find is in Luke 2:36-38 where we read of Anna, a prophetess, who was in the temple when Jesus was taken by His parents to Jerusalem. Anna was 84 years old and never left the temple, where she worshiped night and day, fasting and praying. She could do so because there were no other demands on her time. Not so with Jesus. His life was filled with teaching, healing, and ministering to the needs of the people. Yet we are told repeatedly that He went aside and prayed. In fact, on occasion, spent all night in prayer (Luke 6:12).

In the words of Charles Spurgeon, "If ever one born of women might have lived without prayer, it was our perfect Lord. And yet none was ever so much in supplication as He! The fact of this eminent prayerfulness of Jesus is a lesson for us. He has given us an example that we may follow in His steps."

The fact is that it is not only those we consider to be prayer warriors who are called to make prayer a priority in their lives. We are all called to do so, as 1 Thessalonians 5:17 clearly states. CBS has been wonderfully blessed, but if we desire to see a greater ground swell of the moving of God's Spirit in our midst, it will come as we begin to pray continually and earnestly for God's intervention. Looking through the pages of history, every major moving of God's Spirit has occurred because people were earnestly praying. Knowing this, where do we start?

A few suggestions:

- For each of us every day should start with prayer, whether morning is our major prayer time or not and whether we are AM or PM people. One can start to develop the discipline of prayer by praying each night before retiring, "Lord, please give me the desire to get up and pray in the morning." Then we must set our alarms accordingly.
- We can make ourselves accountable to others to hold us to that prayer pattern.
- Begin keeping a record of people and causes to pray for, and then pray—not for five minutes a day, but however long it takes to cover the needs of those for whom we are praying. There are so many needs to pray for that we will soon find our prayer lives expanding.
- AND we can start praying for real awakening throughout CBS and throughout our nation. If we do, God will move in our midst.

Will you pray with me?

*Dr. John Woods  
Teaching Director  
Rochester Evening, MN CBS*

# God Will Provide



The temporary home of the National Service Center is the lower quarter portion of the beautiful building pictured here.

Today I am writing this in a beautiful new office! Less than one year ago, we heard the Campbells were considering selling their 70% portion of the office building we shared for over 10 years. The National Board of Trustees voted in January to join them and sell CBS's 30% interest. We had a contract immediately! We quickly began the frantic search for a temporary site for our National Service Center, to give us time to pray and see the Lord's leading as to where He wants the national office to be for the next 25 years! We looked at so many different rental spaces to try and find the same amount of space (approximately 12,000 square feet) we had in our former location to accommodate both CBS and CBSI. (Northern Virginia is a very expensive place to shop for real estate, but nothing is impossible with the Lord. We had seen Him provide a home for Bill and me seven years ago.) We found our beautiful current address for the National Service Center just a couple of miles from

our previous office home, and moved in on June 16! Just as Abraham called the place of God's provision in Genesis 22:14 "The Lord Will Provide" we now gratefully call this temporary CBS and CBSI home our "The Lord Will Provide" interim dwelling. We are so grateful for His provision. The Lord provided an amazingly reasonable sublease until August 2006, and now the prayer and search for a new, permanent home begins in earnest. We believe the Lord is leading us to build or buy an office building with 20,000 square feet—allowing us to grow as the Lord blesses. We would like to be located close to the National Conference Center in Loudoun County (near Dulles airport) where we hold Day and Evening Training. Please pray with us!

Shortly after we moved into our new space, some CBSers began to ask how they could give toward the proposed next location. Bill Wetmore (former Area Director & Regional Director) was the first to contribute to the future building in memory of his wonderful wife Jane, who recently went to be with the Lord. Others have called and said they would like to contribute to CBS's new home, and so we have established the **God Will Provide Fund**. We have never done anything like this, but we do now have that fund as a designated place for gifts for the future offices of CBS. If the Lord is leading you to contribute to the new office, please let me know. We are praying and seeking His place for the National Service Center—and we really cannot wait to see what all He will do. We truly believe God will provide, because this is His ministry and all of us—both in this office and you out in the field—are His servants seeking His perfect will. What an exciting position to be in....trusting Him and Him alone for His provision! We all need to be in that place daily, don't we?



*A Personal Word From Camilla*

If you would like information for yourself, a family member, or a friend about one of our classes, please contact Community Bible Study, 200 Fairbrook Drive, Suite 102, Herndon, VA 20170  
800 826 4181 • 703 438 8223 • 703 438 8228 fax

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