

## Story with a sad ending



by Dawn Reed  
E. Ky. Columnist

While I love to tell stories, this is one I have dreaded sharing.

Several weeks ago, I told about my friend Beverly (not her real name) whom I had met at a Bible study at the jail last January. (I loved her right

away!) She gave her heart to Jesus a few weeks later and was baptized in March. It was the first time she had been clean in a long time.

Beverly told me she started doing drugs at age 11. When I asked her where in the world she had gotten drugs, she said from her family. She had already lost many of them to drugs: her mother, father, a brother, and numerous friends.

After her baptism, Beverly began to change. She was reading her Bible and LOVED it...seeing clearly for the first time in decades. After several months, she was transferred to an in-house drug rehabilitation at another county jail. I visited her regularly, talking on the phone through plexiglass. We prayed each time before I left with hands together on the scratched glass. She was upbeat and thriving! We were making plans for her future; not just for the upcoming holidays, but Beverly hoped to be-

come a peer counselor helping others overcome addiction.

After she finished her rehab, she had 30 days left to serve in our county. A few weeks ago, I asked for prayer that God would work miraculously to find another place for her to finish that time-not in jail lest she digress. Many of you did just that and even contacted me. Thanks again! God did work a miracle! Her lawyer, the assistant county attorney and a very kind judge arranged for her to go to a rehab facility for those 30 days. I was beyond thrilled! Though I could not contact her, knowing she was warm, in a real bed, being fed and going forward helped me sleep at night.

Less than a week in, my dear Beverly walked away from that rehab. She went back to old friends and old ways. I got a call one evening that she was in ICU after an overdose; she was unresponsive. Days later, she was taken off life-support.

Her funeral was the next week. I am still in disbelief.

I do believe Beverly was sincere when she gave her heart to Jesus. While in a (mostly) protected environment she thrived, like a baby in an incubator. But her old life beckoned. The draw of 27 years of drug addiction was too great. She was pulled back in.

During the visitation and funeral, my grief was heavy. I was overwhelmed with the reality of the drug epidemic in our area. I felt so burdened it seemed like someone was standing on my shoulders. With many tears, I wondered if we were making a difference at all at the jail. I pondered what more I could have done personally.

Days before, Paul Chitwood, President of the IMB, had shared in Kentucky Today how we could pray for international missionaries. He mentioned that they sometimes suffer from "compassion fatigue" be-

cause of the "continuous exposure to horrific pain and loss". Though here at home, I could now somewhat relate. The staggering numbers of those under the influence of drugs are continuous and growing. This day, they seemed insurmountable.

After a good cry, I remembered missionaries in hard places with people suffering from starvation and disease. I thought of Mother Teresa who served lepers in Calcutta. And, of course, I thought of Harriet Tubman-a favorite overcomer-leading slaves to freedom in Canada. Acts 26:17-18 reminds me: "I am sending you to them to open their eyes and turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of satan to God, so that they may receive forgiveness of sins..."

I picked up my phone and texted some of the ladies on our jail ministry team: "We will pray. We will go. And we WILL NOT give up!"

## Seeds of Hope



Nine-one-one is the national number to use in the event of an emergency. When we use it, we know someone is there who will come to our rescue. Though we have heard stories of the misuse of that number and reports of incompetent responders answering calls of people in a crisis, it is comforting to know that help is available.

Psalms ninety-one and verse one is a number for Christians to "re-call" when there is a need for assurance and reassurance. It firmly states that our God is on guard and "standing by" to guide us through the crises of life.

The word "dwells" is such an important word for us to understand. It invites the believer "to remain, stay, tarry, endure, and find peace in one's abode." It

suggests continuance and permanence. It is a place where God's people can "live" - forever. How comforting it is to know that our God is a "shelter" and a "refuge" in times of life's storms. For the Christian, He is our dwelling place for life.

Shortly after a submarine had been commissioned, the commanding officer took it to sea. It was to undergo various tests to make certain that it was trustworthy and ready for service. Shortly after leaving the christening he gave the order to "submerge." Several days later after he returned to shore, the reporters besieged him with many questions. Asked one, "How did the storms affect you?" "Storms? What storms?" he replied. "We were not aware of any storms. We were dwelling in a safe and secure place in the valleys between the ocean's mountains."

What comfort we have when we dwell in God.

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## A Living Sacrifice, What does it Mean?

by BOB CASEY, preacher  
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In Romans 12:1-2, it is written, "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. <sup>2</sup>And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God."

As I attempt to research this passage, I want to return as much as possible to the original words first spoken; so, I make my appeal to W.E. Vine and to the Strong Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible for any information, and there are others I use as well. These are some of the greatest minds on the Bible for over 300 years combined. And to add, I thank God for every one of them.

So, when we look deeply upon what this inspired Apostle says, here, notice he used the word beseech, meaning to invite, invoke by imploration, exhortation, consolation brethren. So, this is a very, very important teaching. Then he stresses, by the mercies of God. This mercy is described for us in Ephesians 2:4-5, Even when we were dead in trespasses and sins, Christ died for us. Then, to diagram these verses, he instructs us to present your bodies. We do this by what we say, what we do, where we go, and by who we associate with. We are warned in 1 Corinthians 15:33, not to do it.

Then he says we always ought to present ourselves as a living sacrifice! How sad it is, that nearly all the men in the Arab nations think that God prefers them to be dead martyrs as a demonstration of their devotion to God by killing others who disagree with their teachings. They teach that if you are defending the Koran, you will go to Heaven. This is completely foreign to the teachings of our Lord. He wants us to be living examples of what is good (Matthew 5:16). "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."

What does it mean to be a sacrifice? The original

wording means an item or thing that must be killed or slain. Also, in the study of this word sacrifice, the ancient word, "Thusia" is used, meaning the actions of the victim that is slain. Then is added the adjective to describe this act as an altar or place of sacrifice. It is used to say it is immutable (meaning) unchangeable that, a slaughter of the victim must take place.

Now Friends, I don't know what you are thinking, but as for me I can trace my Lord's reason for coming to this earth to purposely die for my sins, and what he did was give himself to the slaughter of his body by the hands of evil men. And he did it because he loved us. And yet, so many are remaining ungrateful.

Then Paul added that because of what God and Christ has done for us, we ought to strive to be holy and acceptable unto God, which is a reasonable service. But, are we doing it?

Then he adds, as a believer, not to be conformed to this world. This word simply means to fashion or shape one thing like another. Thus he is saying of our bodies and our manner of life. So, don't pattern your life after the things of this world, because one day, at the return of Jesus, this world along with all its patterns will be burned up!

Then he says the safe way to live is to be transformed (being born again as John 3 teaches, by the water and the spirit). This is being baptized in water to be washed by the blood of Jesus. Romans 6:3. By taking heed to what the word -- the Spirit of God teaches us. This obedience will lead to the renewing of your mind. Only then by living a sacrificial life based upon the teachings of the Bible, is the only way you can prove what is that good, acceptable and perfect will of God.

Read 1 Timothy 2:1-6, verse 3-4 says, "For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; <sup>4</sup>Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth."

In closing, I hope that all our readers are in a right relationship with God, but if you are not but may be contemplating the need to do so, we invite you to come, listen, compare, and hopefully obey the Gospel that will save your soul from eternal destruction. I close this with a prayer that this will fall upon all who need salvation today.

Sincerely, Bob Casey, (1-859-369-4165), local

## THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, the seventeenth day of the month, on that day all the fountains of the great deep were broken up, and the windows of heaven were opened. And the rain was on the earth forty days and forty nights.

GENESIS 7: 11,12

Detail of "The Flood" by Clare Leighton (1952)



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## BIBLE TRIVIA

by Wilson Casey

1. Is the book of Jonah in the Old or New Testament or neither?  
2. In Genesis 19, who escaped to Zoar on hearing wicked cities were going to be destroyed? Gomorrah, Elijah, Lot, Shimei  
3. Who confessed to an angel, after beating his mule, that he had sinned? Sodom, Balaam, Samuel, Dan-

iel  
4. From Job 4, who was so frightened by a dream that his hair stood on end? Eliphaz, Abraham, Ehud, Joseph  
5. Who had to parade his eight sons before a prophet as found in 1 Samuel? Aaron, Jacob, Naboth, Jesse  
6. From Exodus 14, whose chariots were lost in the Red Sea? Solomon's, Pharaoh's, Samson's, Ahab's

Answers on bottom of Page 12  
Sharpen your understanding of scripture with Wilson's Casey's latest book, "Test Your Bible Knowledge," available in stores and online.

## Americanisms



"Always be a first-rate version of yourself, instead of a second-rate version of somebody else."  
— Judy Garland

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## BIBLE WORD SEARCH

by Elie's Spiritual Treasures

ISAIAH 60:1-2

Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD rises upon you. See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples, but the LORD rises upon you and his glory appears over you.

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Find the **bolded/underlined** words in the diagram. They run in all directions — forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

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