

SCRIPTURE OF THE WEEK
Ephesians 2

RELIGION



God Hears and Answers

by Mary L. Kupferle

There are times when things seem to go wrong, when feelings of hopelessness arise, when the heart seems totally empty, and the mind confused — even disbelieving. Then, more than ever, it is important to spend time in giving praise and thanksgiving to the Father and to keep on pouring out this thankfulness in words such as: "Father, thank You for hearing and answering — always!"

A friend wrote: "At a time of great loss in my life, there were times — even days — when it seemed I could not handle or cope with anything. Finally, in desperation, I grasped hold of the idea that God does answer prayer, that God is a responsive presence and power that cares for me. I began thanking God, in spite of all the continuing challenges. I gave thanks again and again. I shut the door to nagging fears and doubts by decreeing: **God hears and answers my prayers! Thank You, God!** As a result, the clouds began to lift and a response from deep within came: 'Your greatest good has just begun to unfold.' Within a short time this was revealed to be true, and in a far better way than I could have imagined myself!"

In challenging times — when you feel alone or overwhelming by obstacles, people, places or things — remember again **there is an ever-responding presence of good at hand!** Call upon and give thanks for that presence and power of God, remembering that this is exactly what Jesus did when the fullness of His faith was sought by so many who needed encouragement and support.

This is the kind of attitude Jesus evidence as He stood be-

fore the tomb of Him beloved friend Lazarus. It is the manner Jesus showed to the mourning and disbelieving minds and hearts around Him. As He looked on and spoke the words, "Father, I thank Thee. Thou hast heard me" (John 11:41), He was making a sweeping affirmation of His agreement with the Creator. He was accepting the presence within as totally responsive life, knowing that God responds always.

Jesus focused consistently upon life and healing, love and peace, and upon an everpresent responsive God as the source of it all. Jesus saw responsive life where everyone else saw only lack and disease. He looked past the limitation surrounding Him, knowing that the power of God's goodness was there ready to respond. He called it forth in Lazarus and in a multitude of persons, places, and occasions — time after time. And the elements of wholeness and well-being honored His call of faith in a never-failing response.

Jesus' words, "Lazarus, come out" (John 11:43), were spoken in the loud, clear tones of conviction that the Father answers always. So powerfully was Jesus' attention given to thanksgiving for God that nothing could have hindered the miracle resulting! Jesus openly praised and worked with God, knowing that results could tell the story better than any words of explanation.

Let your prayers now, dear friend, be filled with renewed, revitalized faith in your Father's responding power. Know again and again that **God hears and answers — always!**

Fellowship Missionary Baptist Church will be sponsoring the First Annual Gospel Music Workshop April 13-16 at the Church located at 635 N. Killingsworth Court. Pastor Johnny Pack, IV, stated that the Church "wanted to highlight our own" in selecting two local accomplished musicians.

The Workshop will be conducted by Mrs. Lorene V. Wilder and Rev. Robert E. Houston, Sr., who both serve on the Music Staff of the Church.

On Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. will be a special Mini-Workshop for all Choir directors of music. The Mass Choir Workshop begins immediately at 7:30 p.m.

On Thursday and Friday at 6:30 p.m. there will be a special Mini-Workshop for all children and youth between the ages of 3 and 16. The Mass Choir Workshop begins immediately at 7:30 p.m.

On Saturday, April 16th at 7:30 p.m. the Choir will be in full concert at the Church. There will be special musical guests at this concert.

Mrs. Wilder is a native of Camden, Arkansas. She has resided in Portland over 30 years. Dur-

Dorsey and the Wilder Ward Singers. Along with playing for Fellowship she also plays for Bethel

gress for lifelong achievement in the Portland area. Mrs. Wilder also is an accomplished singer/songwriter and is the organizer of the Wilder Ensemble.

Rev. Houston is a native of Portland, Oregon. He is currently completing his Bachelor's Degree at United Theological Seminary in Theology. Rev. Houston is known throughout the nation as a preacher/musician and has played since the age of 17. His combination of talents has allowed him to travel through the nation and has been involved with the musical presentations of the Youth Conventions of the General Baptist Convention of the Northwest and the National Baptist Convention of America, Inc. Rev. Houston is currently involved at Fellowship as the Administrative Assistant to Pastor Johnny Pack, IV, and plays for the Mass Choir.



ing her residency in Portland she has been the musician for several churches in the area along with playing for various Gospel and recording artists including Willa

A.M.E. Church. She is the 1988 recipient of the S.Q. Broadous Award presented by the Portland District Sunday School, Baptist Training Union and Ushers Con-

This workshop is open to the general public.

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Tuesday	Bible Band	7:30 p.m.
Thursday	Choir Rehearsal	7:00 p.m.
Sunday	Sunday School	9:15 a.m.
Morning	Worship	11:15 a.m.
Y.P.W.W.	Worship	6:30 p.m.
Evangelistic	Worship	8:00 p.m.
Tuesday Friday	Noon Day Prayer	
Friday	"The Pastor Speaks"	7:30 p.m.
Saturday	Morning Prayer	9:00 a.m.

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Psalm 34:3

"Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
and
The Expansion of the American Revolution"

Friday, April 15th
12:00 noon
"Great Hall"
Koinonia House
(Broadway & Montgomery)
P.S.U.

Rev. James L. Bevel
* Former Director of Non-violent Direct Action, S.C.L.C.
* Founder of The Non-violent Human and Community Research and Development Institute
* Director of Studies for Education and Economic Development (S.E.E.D.)

Gospel Musical
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3. Are your gums pulling away from your teeth?	Yes No	7. Is there any change in the fit of your partial dentures?	Yes No
4. Do you see pus between your teeth and your gums when the gums are pressed?	Yes No	8. Do you have bad breath?	Yes No

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Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr."
Hosea Williams

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"James Bevel... probably the greatest mind in the country for dealing with Young People."
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Singers in Concert

The Jubilee Singers will perform in concert, April 17, 1988 at 5:00 p.m. at Mt. Olivet Baptist Church, 116 N.E. Schuyler. A reception will follow in the Lower Auditorium.

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