

RELIGION

Signed Encouraged

Crises In Families

BY VALERIE RENAY DOAKES

If there was ever a time I needed words of encouragement it was on my bus ride to Seattle from Portland.

In my mind I was struggling with feelings of inadequacy, rejection, unworthiness, and bitterness. Why? Why was I feeling this way? The devil disguised as a man.

Eight years ago I made the decision to maintain my virtue until I was married. I prayed earnestly before God. I said, "Lord if I wait for sex, please when I finally can have it, let it be the most beautiful thing that's ever happened to me!" Deep inside I hear the Lord say, "Fear not, I am thy God, I will help thee. I will uphold thee with my righteous right hand." (Isaiah 41:10)

I was ecstatic. It seemed so wonderful to have that blessed assurance. But not long after, I met the man of my dreams. He was just way too fine. He was "all that and a bag of chips." The only problem was that he "needed" sex in order to be in a meaningful relationship. I was torn. I knew that I had made a commitment to God. I really did not want to break our covenant. I tossed and turned with the decision of should I or shouldn't I.

In the meantime my boyfriend became so obsessed with the need for sex that he got sick! Literally had to be taken to the hospital. He later told me he could not live without it, and if I couldn't someone else would.

Unfortunately this turned out to be too true. Someone else did. The man of my dreams turned out to be the man of my nightmares. We went our separate ways. I was sixteen then. However that situation scarred me. I felt a sting of shame. Yes shame for the reason that I could not keep my man. I was not woman enough to wholly satisfy him.

Six years later I found myself faced with the same old song just a different beat. The new adversary

came to me with his nice clothes, home, business, and of course looks. This devil-man had it going on! He pursued me like Delilah pursued Samson. Just reversed.

I was not only flattered that a man of such caliber had such a great interest in me but that he was intelligent and had a sure future. He seemed to want the same things I wanted. This could get deep. However I knew I had to eventually let him know where I stood on the issue of sex. I was a little reluctant at first. I knew how too many of my past had turned disastrous after I'd shared this part of me. When I told him where I stood. He said he respected that! We hung up the phone and I felt a sense of relief. Things would be different this time around. I'd finally found someone who could accept me.

After that conversation I didn't hear from him for two weeks! When I did hear from him he began to lie profusely about all the messages he'd left on my answering machine. I guess it was broke when I listened to it.

The flame of his interest had suddenly died down to a flicker. After that conversation we talked in spurts. One week here, maybe two weeks later there. When I finally realized what was going on with him, my emotions were already deeply planted.

The deal was he found out I was not going to be his bed partner and he bailed out. He could not deal with a relationship that was not going to have the benefits of intercourse. It was not even worth his time. We've been talking for two months and this brother couldn't even tell you my birthday, what I like to wear, or if I have corns on my toes or not! I've worn sandals several times.

This is because this person could care less. His basic interest was a sex toy! Me!! Heaven forbid. Satan I rebuke you.

Yes, I should have rebuked Satan, but instead I internalized the whole situation and allowed the devil to make it my fault. I berated myself

for being so old fashioned and out of touch with the nineties. I criticized myself for not being able to meet his needs.

I questioned my wisdom, womanhood, and sexuality. I really felt low! I knew that someone was probably warming his sheets at that very moment as I sat on the bus and contemplated over how it could and should be me.

At that moment the spirit of the Lord moved me to peruse the "Observer." I then came upon the article "Gateway to Life." As I read it, my understanding was opened.

This was Satan himself working in my life! He had come in with a nice face and all the other trimmings to make me fall as he'd made my mother Eve. Oh I was too hot. It dawned on me. That low down Satan has had it in for me since the day I made my commitment to God. He heard me, and now he wants to destroy me. "Thought you knew Satan!"

On that bus, the Lord let me know that I was blaming the wrong person. Me. He led me to know that deciding to keep my virtue was the best thing for me and that as long as I was "operating within his [God's] will, my seed would be blessed." Everything I touched would be blessed. I began to think on how wonderful it was going to be for me and the man of God's choice. I rejoiced!

I decided that I liked myself very much and that I did not need anyone who would make me feel differently about me. I don't need a man who cannot respect me for the intelligent woman I am. What I need is a God fearing man who is committed to the word of God and to me. I know the Lord is going to give me this desire of my heart. He promised! Until then, I'm waiting for my Prince. The sacrifice is and has been long and hard. But somehow I know that it will all be worth it in the end. Praise God. No more fear, rejection and shame. I'm rising up and strutting my stuff in the name of Christ!

BY M. ISAACS

We go about our daily lives, content to face minor upsets, disappointments, setbacks in finances, schedules, recreation and work plans; Even character maligning is not devastating.

But... when serious problems arise; death threatening situations; The Christian Family comes together in a bond, strengthened by trust, faith and prayer. The extended Christian family quickly becomes aware of the problems faced by the ones being attacked (their fellow Christ-followers), and a cloak of prayer goes up to the throne of mercy to cover the ones under attack.

As God has allotted to each a measure of faith. Romans 12:3 NASB, so they pray for recovery and restoration of the ill one in the flock of Jesus Christ.

The gift of trust in God, (EPH. 2:8) is put into increased action by the multitude of believers and the fruit of the Spirit of God, love, peace and long suffering invades those under attack by Satan and the evil hold is broken

(GAL. 5:22,23).

These trials are only to test our faith, to see whether it is strong and pure. Our faith is being tested as fire test gold and purifies it -- and our faith is far more precious to God than mere gold; our faith must remain strong after being tried in the test tube of fiery trials; it will bring all believers (those under attack and those praying for those under attack) much praise and glory and honor on the day Christ returns. 1 Peter 1:7 LB.

If we find life, we must find it through trusting God. Romans 1:17 LB. anything is possible if we have faith. Mark 9:23 LB. You can get anything... anything you ask for in prayer... if you believe. Mat. 21:22 LB.

We are a family of Christians that face crisis situations, not with panic, defeated and lost; but with the knowledge that God will give us one heart, and one Way, that we may fear Him forever, for our own good, and for the good of our children after us. Jeremiah 32:39 KJV. We must obey the laws of God, so that all will be well with us and our children. Deut. 4:30 LB. We Christians walk in Integrity... so our children are blessed after

us and will always have a place of refuge. Proverbs 20:7 NASB, 14:26 KJV.

The prayers of faith shall save the sick and the Lord shall raise him up. James 5:15 KJV. The Lord will sustain him upon his sickbed; in his illness, the Lord doth restore him to health. Psalm 41:3 NASB.

In all crises, We, the believers, never waver in our trust, faith and belief in God's promises, for they are true to all who serve the Lord. We (I) will serve the Lord only; for then He will bless us (me) with food and with water, and He will take away sickness from among us. Exodus 23:25. The wounds of Jesus Christ on the Cross have already healed us; our souls are His. 1 Peter 2:24. We (I) are not upset. We (I) expect God to act! For I know that I shall again have plenty of reason to praise Him for all that He will do. He is my help! He is my God! Psalm 42:11 LB.

God bless and anoint all prayers offered in behalf of my daughter, Benita Lynne Payne, and for my sister in Christ, Mattye Callier-Spears! God bless and sustain all who pray to the Living God, Creator of all.

Christmas Comes But Once A Year, Hunger Does Not

The Northeast Emergency Food Program has launched its annual "Christmas in July" food drive. The downtown drop-off point is at the Church of Scientology of Portland 323 SW Washington Street. Collections of perishable foods, toothpaste, soap and other necessities will be gathered throughout the month of July.

Sponsored by Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon, Albina Ministerial

Alliance, and the Urban League, the program provides businesses and churches with a display "Christmas tree" loaded with paper ornaments listing an item. Members or employees take an ornament and replace it with the item listed.

"This is an effective type of program in that the ornaments state exactly what is needed and the "Christmas tree" display raises the awareness level that hunger exists all year,"

says Community Relations Director of the Church of Scientology, Alicia Reid. "There are families where both parents are working hard to make ends meet. This program does help those who help themselves."

If your church or business wants to help, call Jack Kennedy, Program Director at 284-5470, or drop off food items downtown at the Church of Scientology of Portland, 323 SW Washington St.

Playgrounds Help Children Heal

Garlington Center's Child and Family Services needs your help in building a playground for its preschoolers.

Children, ages 3 to 6, attend Garlington's Day Treatment program on a regular basis and work through their trauma caused by abuse. Many of the children have under-developed muscles, decreased balance and poor body awareness.

Program therapists have found that outdoor therapy does wonders in building a child's self-esteem and it facilitates physical growth. This in turn spells good news for teachers, family and the world-of-work. Physically and mentally fit children can grow up to become productive adults.

Children at Garlington Center have only a small indoor facility with minimal equipment. Outdoor activities take place during non-rainy days on a vacant parking lot.

Your assistance in helping the children build their very own - swings, climbing structures, towers and slides, friendly roads and pathways - safe and developmentally sound playground, will enable them to grow up

properly and have fun in the process. The playground will cost \$22,000 to build which includes equipment. For information on how you can help, call Garlington Center's Development Department at (503) 249-7990.

ST. MICHAEL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH JOANN WEBER EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER

NE 29th and Dekum 282-0000

- 3-year-olds meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays
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For further information call the Church Office at 282-0000.

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ADVERTISE IN
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call 503-288-0033

St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church

8101 N. Fiske Avenue • Portland Oregon 97203
Church Phone: 289-0147 • Study Phone: 289-1911

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Sunday School 9:30
Bible Study 6:00
Evening Service 7:00pm

Pastor, Re. James C.E. Faulkner

Mallory Avenue Christian Church

"Come to me all you who are weary and heavy laden and I will give you rest."

9:45am Sunday School
11:00am Morning Worship
7:30pm Tuesday Bible Study and Prayer

Inter-racial Congregation

126 NE Alberta Portland, OR 97211 (503) 288-5173
Denise Bell, Pastor



Mt Olivet Baptist Church

Has moved Sunday services to
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Worship Services 8:00am & 11:00am,
Church School 9:30 to 10:30am,
Bible Study, Wednesdays, 116 NE Schuyler, 10:30am & 7:00pm
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St. Mark Baptist Church

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- Sunday School - 9:30am
- Sunday Morning Worship Service - 11:00am
- Sunday School Teacher's Meeting Tues - 6:30pm
- Bible Study Wednesday 6:00pm
- Prayer Meeting Wednesday - 7:00pm

Church Phone Number
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Dr. Joe S. Hardie, Pastor