

## MOVING UP HIGHER

with *Joyce Meyer*



After I became a Christian, there were many years when I had no victory in my everyday life. I was miserable because I still had wounds in my soul from the past that made me insecure, angry, suspicious of others, and hard to get along with.

Even though I loved God and went to church every week, I had no idea that there was power available to me to overcome the hurts from the past and the struggles of everyday life. And everything that came along that was hard to handle, defeated me.

But I was so grateful when I found out in God's Word that not only is He powerful, but He wants to fill us with His power. He promises in His Word that we can have abundant life in Christ because He has overcome the world! (See John 10:10; 16:33.)

The truth is, as believers in Christ, we don't have to live weak, wimpy, pitiful, pathetic, bare-

ly-getting-by lives. We can have God's power working in us to enable us to do whatever we need to do in life!

There's No Such Thing as a Problem-free Life

Some people have the misconception that when they give their lives to Jesus, they will no longer have any problems. It would be nice if this were true, but in this world, we WILL have trials and tribulations. The good news is we can cheer up anyway because Jesus has overcome the world.

In John 16:33 (AMP), Jesus says, "...In the world you have tribulation and distress and suffering, but be courageous [be confident, be undaunted, be filled with joy]; I have overcome the world."

No one can promise you a problem-free life, but God promises that if you will put your trust in Him, He will give you a faith that enables you to rise above the problems you face. And when you get through them, you'll be stronger on the other side than you were before you had them.

The Truth About God's Power

Knowing you can have power from God to live in this world is one thing, but learning to believe

this truth and walk in it is the key to having victory over the trials and suffering you face. I love Philippians 3:10 because it says we can actually experience the same power that raised Christ from the dead.

In this verse, the apostle Paul says his determined purpose was to "know Him [experientially, becoming more thoroughly acquainted with Him, understanding the remarkable wonders of His Person more completely] and [in that same way experience] the power of His resurrection [which overflows and is active in believers], and [that I may share] the fellowship of His sufferings, by being continually conformed [inwardly into His likeness even] to His death [dying as He did]" (AMP).

This is an amazing and encouraging promise from God, because we all face problems and have weaknesses we can't overcome in our own strength or effort. But if we are determined to trust God in every situation, all the time, we can fight the good fight of faith by HIS grace.

Being More Than a Conqueror Through Christ Romans 8:37 (AMP) says: "Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors and gain an overwhelming victory through Him who loved us [so much that He died for us]." I love this phrase "more than conquerors." But what does it really

mean?

Being more than a conqueror means that before you ever have a problem, you are confident that you have whatever it takes to overcome it through your relationship with Christ. In other words, you know you have the victory before you ever get the problem.

Now, in order to "qualify" for the power of God, we must first come to the place where we recognize that in and of ourselves, we are weak and we have limitations without God. If we didn't have any weakness, we wouldn't realize we need Him. And one of the best prayers we can ever pray is "God, I need You, and I'm nothing without You!" (See John 15:5.)

It's so important for us to understand this because if we wait until we have a problem that's too big for us to handle before we rely on God's strength, then we're setting ourselves up to fail.

The best thing we can do to live this life in victory is to continually seek God with our whole heart, realizing we're desperate for Him all the time. Spend time with Him in prayer and studying His Word every day. Then, when the storms of life happen, you will be confident that in Christ, you already have everything you need to overcome them...and you'll experience the power of His resurrection as you rise above them!

### Lauralee Caldwell 1939-2017



Lauralee "Laurie" Caldwell, age 77 of Cottage Grove, OR went to be with her Lord and Savior Thursday, July 13, 2017.

Laurie was born September 14, 1939 in Lansing, Michigan to Henry Lowell Busch and Barbara June (Scheidt) Busch. She graduated Webberville High School with the Class of 1957 and then relocated to Cottage Grove in 1969.

Laurie will be lovingly remembered by her husband William "Bill" of 46 years and their son Richard "Rick" (Jenn) Caldwell of Clayton, NC; sons Bob Maxwell, Kurt Maxwell, Ken Maxwell all of Michigan from a previous marriage; her 3 stepdaughters Wendie Dunbar, Cindy Reynolds both of Mississippi and Tracy Kozick of Arizona; 15 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren; her brothers Henry C. Busch and Jonathan Busch both of Michigan, her many nieces and nephews and the rest of her family and friends.

Family and friends were Laurie's pure love and joy. Always loving, praying and being a big part of everyone's lives. As she would say "lov-

ing on others as Christ loved her". Laurie always saw the best in every situation and everyone. Laurie was very well known for her colorful spirit and her colorful hair.

Laurie worked for Gierau's Market, Oregon Pacific & Eastern Railroad, Central Oregon and Pacific Railroad, Commonwealth Financial and her most enjoyable "Laurie's Lifesavers" Housesitting and Pet Sitting. She was an active member of the Cottage Grove Faith Center and held various roles within the community such as the Chamber of Commerce Greeters President and a volunteer at Magnolia Gardens.

Laurie had a true love for the Cottage Grove Community - Giving back more than she even had.

Laurie is preceded in death by her parents Henry and Barbara Busch; daughter Cynthia Maxwell and brother Ronald Busch.

A Celebration of Life will be held on Saturday July 22, 2017 at 11:00 AM at the Cottage Grove Faith Center 33761 Row River Rd Cottage Grove where everyone will be encouraged to share a moment or way Laurie has touched your lives. A potluck reception to follow immediately after. Contact Darlene at 541-729-6988 for potluck information.

### BIRTHS

Danielle Mitchell of Cottage Grove welcomed a set of twins, boy and girl on June 26 at PeaceHealth Sacred Heart Medical Center-RiverBend.

Aryana Swanson and Travis Hansen of Cottage Grove welcomed a baby boy on June 30 at PeaceHealth Sacred Heart Medical Center-RiverBend.

### Ruby Bailey 1944-2017



Ruby Sue Bailey of Cottage Grove died on July 13, 2017. She was 72.

Ruby was born in Idabel, Ok on November 8, 1944 to parents Glen and Helen (Coffman) Strawn. She married Jim Bailey on October 27, 1961 in Cottage Grove.

She worked for WIS International Inventory Counting Services for 16 years. She also was a Se-

curity Guard at Shemya Island, AK. She enjoyed traveling, bowling, and going to concerts. She is survived by her spouse of 56 years, Jim Bailey; daughter,

Terry Bailey-Ledford of Cottage Grove; son, Jim Bailey, Jr. of Bend, OR; sisters, Bonnie Elis, Creswell, OR and Kay Dennis of Anchorage, AK.; 5 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by grandson, Kyle Ledford.

A private service will be held. Arrangements are in the care of Smith-Lund-Mills Funeral Chapel.

### Death Notice

Broughton- James Robert Broughton, 64, of Creswell died July 11. Arrangements by Smith-Lund-Mills Funeral Chapel in Cottage Grove.

### Anna Mae Westberg 1921-2017



Anna Mae Westberg, 95, of Cottage Grove passed away June 18, 2017 due to age related causes.

She was born June 25, 1921 in Argyle, Wisc. to Frances (Demnowski) and Jacob Stalder.

She graduated from Cottage Grove High School.

On Aug. 22, 1942 in Cottage Grove, she and Axel Emanuel Westberg were married.

Anna Mae worked in the kitchen at the old hospital for many years. When she retired, she volunteered at Riverview Terrace every Wednesday for 25 years. She loved to work in her garden. Her gardening, canning, and cakes won many prizes at the South Lane Fair for several years. Anna Mae also decorated cakes for brides and other special occasions.

Survivors include her children, Beverly Scott of Springfield, Cheryl Olson of Cottage Grove, and Steven Westberg of Billings, Mont., 10 grandchildren, 17 great-grandchildren, 21 great-great grandchildren and four great-great-great grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Axel Westberg, daughter, Karen Louise Westberg, great-grandson, Ryan Bird, great-great granddaughter, Emily Ann Matthews, and her siblings, John Stalder, Albert Stalder, Jacob Stalder, and Jean (Stalder) Smith. Burial June 23, Cottage Grove.

### Kenneth Dale Harris 1942-2017

Kenneth Dale Harris, 74 of Independence, OR passed away on April 22, 2017.

He was born June 2, 1942 in Cottage Grove, OR to Dale and Dorothy (Wittekind) Harris. Kenneth graduated from Cottage Grove High School in 1960. He joined the US Airforce in 1961 and served until 1969 in aviation mechanics and repair and achieved the rank of Staff Sargent. He took a break from the service in 1973 and attended Oregon Institute of Technology in Klamath Falls, OR and received an Associates of Science in Mechanical Engineering Technology. In 1975 he reenlisted in the service with the Army and was stationed in Germany. He achieved the Rank of Sargent and received an honorable discharge in 1978. From 1978 until 1980 he worked in his Father's welding shop in Cottage Grove. During this time, he bought and refurbished a boat as he enjoyed going to Newport, OR to go fishing and crabbing. In 2002, he moved to Independence Oregon. He retired from the Postal service in 2009 and later became a volunteer at the Jensen Artic Museum in Monmouth from 2012 until it was closed in 2014. Ken loved gardening, traveling and skiing in Europe, and loved his German Shepard Duketta, who was always by his side when he would walk around Independence, making sure everything was right with the town.

Ken was never married or had any children. He is survived by his older brother Stanley Harris, of Palmdale, CA. his younger sister Wanda Woody of Cottage Grove, OR and his younger brother George Harris of Silverton, OR. He was preceded in death by his parents, Dale and Dorothy Harris and his brother Russel Dean Harris. Kenneth's remains were interned at Willamette National Cemetery on July 14, 2017.



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