

# *Rejoice in the Lord*

God never moves without purpose or plan  
When trying His servant and molding a man.  
Give thanks to the Lord though your testing seems long;

In darkness He giveth a song.

I could not see through the shadows ahead,  
So I looked at the cross of my Savior instead.  
I bowed to the will of the Master that day;  
Then peace came and tears fled away.

Now I can see testing comes from above;  
God strengthens His children and purges in love.  
My Father knows best, and I trust in His care;  
Through purging, more fruit I will bear.

O rejoice in the Lord, He makes no mistake.  
He knoweth the end of each path that I take.  
For when I am tried and purified,  
I shall come forth as gold.

—Ron Hamilton (“Patch the Pirate”)

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# Dear Readers



Over the past month I have been reading a book from our church library that I couldn't put down. It tells the story of a wife who is going through the experience of the death of her husband. The book is, *To Live Again*, by Catherine Marshall, the wife of Dr.

Peter Marshall, a penniless

Scottish immigrant who set foot on American soil at Ellis Island, New York in 1927 at the age of 24, and went on to become one of America's greatest preachers and a Senate Chaplain. He died suddenly at the age of 49. His wife writes these words after his death:

"I was to be led by God along the path that leads through and out of the Valley of the Shadow of Death. Not a single one of us can fly across the Valley of the Shadow of Death; we must walk its rocky paths step by step. There would be steep slopes, slippery places, and many a fork in the road where a clear-cut decision would be required. I knew none of the trails: The Valley was untrodden country. Yet by sure steps I would be led through it. I was to discover the Lord as my Shepherd—quite literally and in many practical ways.

To read the thoughts, prayers and inner pain of Catherine Marshall took me back to conversations and letters that I have had from some of you dear *CF* readers. Many of you have expressed what she found too—her only hope was to hold fast to the Lord as the days came one at a time.

"Flooding my heart, pounding at my brain, were the whirling thoughts—now you are all alone, all on your own. You are not ready to live without him. How are you going to get along? But part of the whirling thoughts were mistaken. I was not alone, not altogether on my own. It only seemed to be that way. For this was fear, natural enough under the circumstances. But deeper than fear was the sure knowledge that from the moment of Peter's death,

God had taken over for me and my son in a new way. It was as if, at the time of Peter's death, I literally stepped into the radiant Kingdom of God on earth."

As you read through this issue of *CF*, our prayer is that you will know the comfort and leading of the Great Shepherd, our Lord Jesus Christ. May He restore your soul in these difficult days; may He help you not to live in fear, but be comforted by His presence even as you walk through the valley of the shadow of death. What a wonderful Shepherd we have!

—Miriam Lofquist

*Editor, wife of The Executive Director of IFCA International, and mother of five.*

## Psalm 139:7-12

Whither shall I go from Thy Spirit? Or whither shall I flee from Thy presence?

If I ascend up into heaven, Thou art there.

If I make my bed in hell, behold, Thou art there.

If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea:

Even there shall Thy hand lead me, and Thy right hand shall hold me.

If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me,"

Even the night shall be light about me.

Yea, the darkness hideth not from Thee;

But the night shineth as the day:

The darkness and the light are both alike to Thee.

—excerpted from a psalm of David



# It Takes One to Know One



At the age of 27, Ron Hamilton developed a problem with his left eye. After exploratory surgery, Ron's wife told him, "The doctor found cancer. Your left eye is gone." This unwelcome circumstance caused Ron to "see" God in a new way. Consequently, he wrote a

testimony song, the words of which appear on our front cover.

Eventually God transformed Ron's loss into unexpected blessing. Because of his eye patch, children nick-named him, "Patch the Pirate." Now he and his family reach children around the world through Patch the Pirate Story and Song Cassettes and CD's. They have a nationwide radio program as well.

The beautiful tune and words of Ron's "signature song" have ministered to me in a special way. In 1998 I too heard the word "cancer," an extremely rare kind growing on the side of my head. It took three surgeries to remove the cancer, along with most of my ear and my

hearing on the right side. Like Ron, "I bowed to the will of the Master that day; [eventually] peace came, and tears fled away." So I feel a kinship with Ron; only instead of a patch, I wear my hair down.

Because of cancer and other losses that year, I wrote the Bible studies that appear in each *Chera Fellowship* magazine. This issue contains one of my favorites—it deals with finding God in the darkness, which I have selected as our theme this time. Where is God during the darkest periods of our human experience? The answer may surprise you!

Other authors tell about finding hope from their "dark night of the soul." We have also included our prayer ministry feature, "Anna's Kin" and another "Book to Help You Heal." We encourage you to write and let us know other ways we can minister to you. I would especially like to hear how you answered the final question of this issue's Bible study on page 7. My addresses are on the back cover.

—Marcia Hornok

*Managing Editor, pastor's wife, and mother of six young adults. Ron Hamilton's resources can be accessed by calling 800-334-1071 or on the Web at [www.patchthepirate.org](http://www.patchthepirate.org) or [www.majestymusic.com](http://www.majestymusic.com) <<http://www.majestymusic.com>>.*

# The Discipline of Hearing

Sometimes God puts us through the experience and discipline of darkness to teach us to hear and obey Him. Song birds are taught to sing in the dark, and God hides us "in the shadow of His hand" until we learn to hear Him (Isaiah 49:2).

Pay attention when God puts you into darkness, and keep your mouth closed while you are there. Are you in the dark right now in your circumstances, or in your life with God? If so, then remain quiet. If you open your mouth in the dark, you will speak while in the wrong mood—darkness is the time to listen. Don't talk to other people about it; don't [attempt] to find out the reason for

the darkness; just listen and obey. If you talk to other people, you cannot hear what God is saying. When you are in the dark, listen, and God will give you a very precious message for someone else once you are back in the light.

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# See Jesus in Your Clouds

*Behold He is coming with clouds...* —Revelation 1:7

In the Bible clouds are always associated with God. Clouds are the sorrows, sufferings, or providential circumstances, within or without our personal lives, which actually seem to contradict the sovereignty of God. Yet through these very clouds, the Spirit of God teaches us how to walk by faith. If there were never any clouds in our lives we would

have  
clouds



of His feet” (Nahum 1:3). They are a sign that God is there. What a revelation it is to know that sorrow, bereavement, and suffering are actually the clouds that come along with God! God cannot come near us without clouds—He does not come in clear-shining brightness.

It is not true to say that God wants to teach us something in our trials. Through every cloud He brings our way, He wants us to unlearn something. His purpose in using the cloud is to simplify our beliefs until our relationship with Him is exactly like that of a child—a relationship simply between God and our own souls, and where other people are but shadows. Until other people become shadows to us, clouds and darkness will be ours every once in a while. Is our relationship with God becoming more simple than it has ever been?

There is a connection between the strange providential circumstances allowed by God and what we know of Him, and we have to learn to interpret the mysteries of life in the light of our knowledge of God. Until we can come face to

face with the deepest, darkest fact of life without damaging our view of God’s character, we do not yet know Him.

“They were fearful as they entered the cloud” (Luke 9:34). Is there anyone except Jesus in your cloud? If so, it will only get darker until you get to the place where there is “no one anymore, but only Jesus” (Mark 9:8; also see verses 2-7).

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*I believe in the sun even  
when it is not shining. I  
believe in love even when not  
feeling it. I believe in God  
even when He is silent.*

—Anonymous inscription on the wall  
of a cellar in Cologne, Germany,  
where Jews hid from Nazis.



# A Light Bulb Story

When your husband dies, you don’t care if you live or die; you hope you will die but you know you won’t. You have God’s promises, but sometimes you are so resentful of God, you don’t want His word. You want someone’s hug, but you live alone now.

After Dan died, I knew I had to give myself time. Time does it. Time heals, so I kept doing what I knew I should do, but then something would go wrong, and I would feel helpless again.

One evening sitting in my home office, I noticed that an outside light to our (my) driveway had burned out. Changing it would be a man-sized job. With a sigh I recalled how easy it used to be to take care of things like that: I would tell Dan, and he would fix it. Now I had to find someone, ask them

nicely, and wait who-knows-how-long for it to get done.

I thought of someone I could ask and called them up, “When you find time, do you think you could come over and replace a lightbulb on my driveway?” It sounded so needy. I didn’t want to be single!

The next time I pulled into my driveway at night, the light was burning. My friend had answered my request already. I recognized God saying to my heart, “I’m going to take care of you—one light bulb at a time.”

—Ardith Koster

*Ardith Koster lives in Byron Center, MI and enjoys skiing, hiking, and traveling. She coordinates luncheons and Bible studies for her church and speaks at ladies retreats.*

# Bitter or Better

What is the point of trials? What are we to gain from the pain, suffering, and loneliness we experience? In seeking to understand what God communicates about suffering, widows, and the fatherless, my musings and study have settled into one conclusion. God’s focus in our trials is: “What happens in our relationship with Him?” Does it become bitter or better, distant or close, strong-armed or submissive, independent or dependent?

We have many different ways of avoiding intimacy with God. Some are sinful; some seem benign. Yet God allows these responses! How amazing! He, the God of the Universe, listens to us as we stand down here with clenched fists and angry postures and demand, “Why has this happened to me? Why now?” We say (or at least think) these things in our lonely moments. Meanwhile, His love for us continues through it all! “Oh, but this can’t be love. It hurts too much.” Isn’t pain part of love? Any relationship that has depth to it contains elements of both pain and joy. Consider family relationships, childbirth, friendships, Jesus’ death.

Even so, we who are grieving are left with pain and

aloneness. What can we do with it? We offer it back to God—over and over and over again—until we have received His comfort, His purposes, and His plans as our renewed perspective. Our lives refocus on the eternity we long for (Phil 3:20, 21), while maintaining clarity about our temporalness (Isa. 40:6-8), and a stronger understanding of God’s purposes for leaving us here. He would have us worship (I Pet 2:9; Eph 1:3-12) and serve Him (I Pet 4:6-11) and evangelize the lost (I Pet 3:15).

Yes, there are many ways we cope with loss, suffering, and death. Yet the bottom line remains: will we let Him hold us (when there’s no one else to do so), tend our tears, and draw us close to His heart and will for us? Our choice yields eternal results.

—Eidene Anderson

*Eidene Anderson writes from Raymore, MO. She began working at Calvary Bible College in Kansas City after her husband David’s death.*



# In the Dark of the Night

Nights are worse than other times. I hear noises—the creaking house, wind, and probably imagined sounds. My mind and emotions are exposed, unprotected. Sometimes tears wet my pillow. Molehill problems assume mountainous proportions. I don't dare think about big problems or I would never get any sleep. My physical weaknesses are magnified.

At night I think of death. Sleep is so much like death. Because my husband died in his sleep, I feel more vulnerable at night. I lie awake wondering if my heart palpitation is normal. I'm afraid to stay awake and afraid to fall asleep. The children's prayer, "If I should die before I wake..." becomes frighteningly real to me.

When I'm in the throes of insomnia, rather than thrashing around in bed restlessly, I get up and read or

write my thoughts or feelings in a journal. I find it best to use my bed only for sleeping and confine reading to my favorite chair.

One sure way to combat my sleep problem is to take a bulldog grip on one of God's promises. I repeat it mentally over and over before going to sleep, during interrupted sleep, or when I wake too early. It may be a whole verse, a phrase, or the words of a hymn. Repeating impresses its truth indelibly on my spirit, mind, and emotions, and lulls me to sleep. "I remember Thee on my bed, I meditate on Thee in the night watches" (Psalm 63:6).

I have also discovered that when my mind is on the Lord, He sometimes reminds me to pray for certain people or impresses me with something I should do or say that I would not otherwise have thought of. "Thou hast tried my heart; Thou hast visited me by night" (Psalm 17:3). "I will bless the Lord who has counseled me; indeed, my mind instructs me in the night" (Psalm 16:7).

Morning will come at last. It always does. "My soul waiteth for the Lord more than they that watch for the morning" (Psalm 130:6). And God's faithfulness will be new again to take me through another day. "I lay down and slept; I awoke, for the Lord sustains me" (Psalm 3:5). "In peace I will both lie down and sleep, for Thou alone, O Lord, dost make me to dwell in safety" (Psalm 4:8).

"Lord, help me anchor my mind on You in the quiet and darkness of night so my emotions won't drift into stormy waters."

—Leona Choy

*Excerpted from The Widow's Might, p. 81. A regular contributor to Chera Fellowship, Leona has authored more than 28 books, which she offers to CF readers at a discount of 20% when you mention Chera. A popular speaker, workshop leader, and editorial director of Golden Morning Publishing, Leona has written devotional books titled, The Widow's Might: Strength from the Rock and Walk (Don't Skip) the Green Valley: Travel Tips for Your Journey Through Loss. Other books include: Hospital Gowns Don't have Pockets: Why Me? What Now? and Are You Mad At Me, God? Jumping Illness Hurdles. Access her Web sight at [www.goldenmorning.com](http://www.goldenmorning.com) <<http://www.goldenmorning.com>> or call 540-877-1813 to order.*

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## The Tourist's Psalm

The Lord is my Tour Guide; I shall not worry.  
He makes me lie down in eternal security.  
He leads me on the great adventure.  
He renews my spirit.  
He guides me through all hardships and hurts  
for His name's sake.

Yea, though I grope through dark valleys and  
steep mountains,  
I will fear no danger, for You are with me.  
Your Guide book and Your presence; they  
comfort me.

You prepared my travel arrangements and paid  
in full for all that I need.  
You anoint my future with hope.  
My cup of comfort overflows.  
Surely His goodness and mercy follow me all  
the days of my journey,  
And I shall reach my destination safely,  
Dwelling in the House of the Lord forever.



# Our Readers Write

Dear Miriam,

Thank you for sharing with me and listening and for your heart-felt sympathy. Also for sending me ten copies of *Chera Fellowship*. I have given copies to the "Hospice" here in Mason. I'll be sharing a copy with a friend tomorrow, who just lost her husband.

My wife made a study years ago on "Becoming a Woman of Excellence" by NavPress. I read her notes recently and I can say from her notes and her life, she was a woman of excellence. She became a woman of God.

May the Lord richly bless you.

—Robert A. Mains, Mason, MI

Dear Marcia,

I am sorry but I can't remember if I wrote you and thanked you for the *Chera Fellowship* magazine. I do appreciate your sending it to me and enjoyed all the articles and poems so much. I was sorry that it doesn't come every month and did call so that I will continue getting it.

—Lila Brooks, Douglas, WY

Dear Miriam,

I have really enjoyed the *Chera Fellowship* for the last seven years, since my beloved husband went to be with the Lord. The articles have been a great source of comfort to me. I keep most of the issues and go back and read them over many times.

I still miss my husband, Erwin, very much, and life will never be the same without him. The Lord has been so close to me and given me great peace in my heart.

Thank you for everything, and may the Lord continue to bless you and give you wisdom.

—Lydia Pankratz, Elon, NC

Dear Friends,

I have been receiving *Chera Fellowship* since 1997. The Gregorys were good friends of Bob and myself. In fact, Dick sang at our wedding. Carol introduced me to *Chera*, and I was privileged to write an article for the magazine. I have been greatly blessed by the ministry. It is a wonderful outreach to widows and widowers.



I am enclosing a small check to help with the cost of this labor of love and would like it to be in memory of my loving and godly husband. May God continue to bless and use you for His glory as you seek to encourage and minister to widows and widowers. Praise God for the blessed hope we have of heaven when God calls us home. I have often said, "God never promised us a smooth sailing; only a safe landing." What joy is awaiting us in God's time.

—Ruth Dunzweller, Lansdale, PA

To Whom it May Concern:

Thank you so very much for listing my name and my husband's name in the "Donations in Memory" (Summer 2002). My husband, Allen Jackson, Sr., passed away November 14, 2000. I still miss him so very much! The *Chera Fellowship* that I receive has helped me a lot. I am comforted when I read it. Thank you for caring.

—Larine Jackson, Las Vegas, NV

Dear Marcia Hornok:

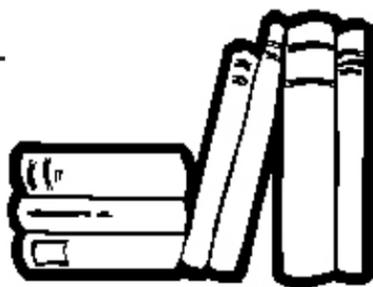
Thank you for the five extra copies you sent me. I will be sure to give them to the right people. I also want to tell you I enjoyed so much the article about Ruth Gray ["Church- Based Support Groups" Fall, 2002]. I attended Westchester "Senior Saints" for years and it was a real blessing to all the people. Ruth doesn't know me personally, but I remember her and her husband. He always had a kind word when he shook your hand and a great smile. He was a real man of God. God bless you and the *Chera Fellowship*.

—Ruth Barnes, Melrose Park, IL

*Editor's note: Ruth Barnes also contributed information for our Fall, 2002 issue of CF. We appreciate all our Ruths!*



# Books to Help You



*He Gathers Your Tears: Words of Comfort for a Widow's Heart* by Phylis Moore. Fleming Revell, Grand Rapids, MI, 2002; 128 pages.

After a memorial service for her husband, the dessert reception was attended by hundreds of people. Phylis, radiant in red, greeted them all. She said it seemed like New Year's Eve. Then she crashed.

After weeks and months of deep mourning, she states, "you don't get over grief; you have to go through it." She wrote down her feelings, and as she read her Bible, she found that God had an answer for each issue she faced.

In this pocket-sized book, a distillation of her journal, she says, "I wrote...He wrote."

I enjoyed this book because I found that my worries and aloneness were thoughts and feelings shared by widows. The reality of widowhood, the bereavement, the spiritual and physical needs have to be lived through. God's

promises are compassionate and sustaining, offering hope that eventually all will be well.

It's the kind of book I would pick up and read again and again the verses that touch on my need.

—Patricia M. Chambers

*Patricia M. Chambers taught elementary school for 31 years. Besides writing, she enjoys swimming in her backyard pool in Landrum, SC and traveling. She recently completed a "castle tour" of Great Britain with two of her daughters.*

# Memorial Gifts

Many of our readers on a fixed income receive this magazine without charge. Your tax-deductible donations help make this possible. To honor your loved one with a memorial gift, please make your check out to IFCA International and include the name of the person you wish to honor. May God continue to be your strength for each moment.

Addie Lister  
in memory of  
RAY LISTER

Dorothy Brace  
in memory of  
KEN BRACE

Ruth Morgan  
in memory of  
LEE MORGAN

Gladys Gillett  
in memory of  
ESTON GILLETT

Evelyn Matiuk  
in memory of  
PAUL BISHCOFF

Marion Albarran  
in memory of  
LUIS ALBARRAN

# FROM GOD'S WORD

*Romans 15:4 tells us that through patience and comfort of the Scriptures, we will have hope. Encourage yourself in the Lord from these special verses.*

At times, prolonged emotional darkness drains us of desire to fellowship with God. I've learned that anger, resentment, and fear can make me feel like turning my back on Him and asking Him to leave me alone. Such damage can be remedied by learning how some Bible people experienced darkness and God.

**Abram** - Read Genesis 15:12-18. What did Abram feel when the sun was going down in verse 12? \_\_\_\_\_

In the next verse, God spoke to Abram. In verse 17, "the sun went down and it was dark, but what happened in verse 18?" \_\_\_\_\_

Yes, Abram experienced God in a new way, but it came with horrible darkness.

**Job** - What did Job say about God in Job12:22? \_\_\_\_\_

**David** - Look up Psalm 18, written after running from King Saul for 10-15 years. What do you learn about darkness from the following verses?

Verse 9 \_\_\_\_\_

Verse 11 \_\_\_\_\_

Verse 28 \_\_\_\_\_

**Solomon** - In I Kings 8:12, where did God say He would dwell? \_\_\_\_\_

**Daniel** - What does Daniel 2:22 say about God? \_\_\_\_\_

**Moses** - Turn to Exodus 19 and 20. List all the "audio-visual" displays God used when He manifested Himself at Mt. Sinai (19:16-20) \_\_\_\_\_

When the people saw and heard God in this way, how did they respond? (20:18-19) \_\_\_\_\_

In Exodus 20:21, Moses had the privilege of drawing near to God. Where was God when Moses went to Him? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you want to "stand afar off" like the people of Israel or go into a thick cloud of darkness and meet with God? \_\_\_\_\_

Where is God in the dark seasons of your life? \_\_\_\_\_

Finally, read Isaiah 45:3. When God gives us "treasures of darkness and hidden riches of secret places," what do we come to know about Him? \_\_\_\_\_

What "treasures of darkness" has God given you? \_\_\_\_\_

"For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness Who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ" (2 Corinthians 4:6). Darkness teaches us to walk by faith because it is impossible to walk by sight. Such faith pleases God (Hebrews 11:6). The brightest diamonds grow in the darkest cavities of the earth. Look back on your "darkest" experience and tell how it became one of your best times with God. \_\_\_\_\_



# Anna's Kin

*Anna...as a widow to the age of 84...never left the temple, serving night and day with fastings and prayers (Luke 2:36-37).*

To help you have a prayer ministry, we periodically list things you can pray for or helps in having an effective prayer life. To that end, we offer the following suggestions:

1. Divide up the names in your church directory into 30 sections and pray for one section each day for a month.
2. Get 31 people in your church to choose a certain day of the month when they will pray for your pastor and his family. Buy a calendar and have them fill in their name on that day. Remind them to write "PRAY FOR PASTOR" on their own calendar for the day of the month they chose. Then give the calendar to your pastor. He will be thrilled to know he is being prayed for every day.
3. Choose seven people you know and pray for one each day of the week for four weeks. The next month, choose seven others. Use this for missionaries, neighbors, government leaders, famous people, teachers, Christian authors and workers, or ?
4. Place a sticker on each of your clocks at home. Every time you see it, say a thank- you prayer to God for who He is or what He does. When you get used to seeing it, change

the sticker! You can even put a small dot on your watch.



# A Seed in the Dark

God has power to penetrate a dark world. One medium He uses is the death of His saints. A seed cannot bear fruit until and unless it dies. Then in darkness, it begins to pierce the earth with shoots and roots.

Comparing our lives to a seed, it sometimes takes physical death to reap a harvest. Other times it takes death to self, which means sacrifice and suffering. Jesus said, "Verily, verily, I say unto you, except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone; but if it die, it

bringeth forth much fruit" (John 12:24). God's plan is for death to result in fruitfulness.

—Don Landis

*Don Landis is pastor of Community Bible Church, founder of Rocky Mountain Bible Camp and Jackson Hole Bible College, all in Jackson, WY.*



# Faith in the Dark

We live in a fallen world where humanity suffers. And we all cope with sin, error, sickness, and death. The only way we can learn to trust and obey is to have circumstances occur which we cannot understand. Faith grows in the dark, when I am afraid and alone, when situations don't make sense.

When my husband Matt died at age 36, I eventually learned that grief purifies our lives, bringing us into a deeper relationship with God. The refining fires test us and make us strong. "You have been grieved by various trials, that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ" (1 Peter 1:6-7). With Job, we can say, "Though He slay me, yet will I trust Him." God desires that kind of faith of His people. It is hard to let go of the ones that are more precious to us than life itself, but we must trust them to the Father's love.



no hope. (1 Thessalonians 4:13-14). The truth of the resurrection dispels our loss and fear, for death is not the end of the story. The deep ache and hurt we experience through grief is very real and sorrowful. But there will be a restored order to life when God wipes away all tears, and death no longer touches us (Revelation 21:1-7).

—Gina Noel-Howard

*Gina Noel-Howard is involved with the bereavement ministry at her church in Greensburg, PA. She believes God does not allow situations in our lives without the purpose of ministering to others. Seven years after Matt's death (See CF Volume 10, Number 3) Gina married Ken Howard. God has granted them great joy in looking forward to adopting an orphaned girl from China in May.*

*I was made  
for God, and my  
heart will never rest  
anywhere else, but  
in the shadow  
of the Almighty.*

As the pattern of life continues, we pick ourselves up and go on with the life God gives us. We don't walk this valley alone, for God becomes our Husband and establishes the widow's borders (Isaiah 54:5 & Proverbs 15:25). I was made for God, and my heart will never rest anywhere else, but in the shadow of the Almighty.

God's word says we do not grieve as those who have



# Broken Branches and Canoes

What a privilege we have as God’s messengers in Brazil to teach the Guanano Indians about Christ. One of our greatest challenges is the lack of good vocabulary.

In one Bible study we talked about what it means to be spiritually dead, separated from God because of our sins. We brought out a broken branch to illustrate Ephesians 2:4-5, “But God, who is rich in mercy, for His great love wherewith He loved us, even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us [made us alive] together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved).” We explained that when Adam and Eve sinned, they were separated from the One who makes things live, and became like broken branches. Just as a broken branch has no life apart from the tree, so we have no life apart from God. We need spiritual life, and Jesus is the only one who can give it. Jesus said, “I am like Life-Giving Food from heaven.” We must trust in Jesus to

forgive our sins and give us eternal life.

The Guanano word for “trust” is *wacu tua*. It means, “to think strongly about someone or something.” We ask them to “think strongly” on Christ for salvation. I illustrate it with a comparison: When you want to cross the river, you *wacu tua* your canoe. You know your canoe. You know it’s in good shape; it floats fine; it can carry your weight; it doesn’t leak; so without fear you climb into your canoe and cross the river. In the same way, you need to *wacu tua* Jesus and place your life in His hands. Because He died and came back to life, He can save you from your sins and give you new life which lasts forever!

—Lindy Drake and his wife Carol serve as missionaries with New Tribes Mission. They have worked with the Guananos since 1986, both in Columbia and Brazil.

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Please email articles (under 1000 words) and short poems to Marcia Hornok at <kenmar@burgoyne.com> or mail to 2451 Surrey Road, SLC, UT 84118-2027. Include a self-addressed, stamped envelope and your phone number.

*Chera Fellowship*  
IFCA International Headquarters  
PO Box 810  
Grandville, MI 49468  
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Rejoice in the Lord! You are here: Home. We can see this in the life of Prophet Samuel. The Bible says that after Saul rejected the Lord, Samuel was mourning for Saul for a very long time. When God saw this, He intervened. «Now the Lord said to Samuel, «How long will you mourn for Saul, seeing I have rejected him from reigning over Israel? Fill your horn with oil, and go; I am sending you to Jesse the Bethlehemite. For I have provided Myself a king among his sons» (1 Samuel, 16:1). Rejoice, rejoice, And again I say, rejoice. Rejoice, rejoice, And again I say, rejoice. [https://www.hymnal.net/Hymns/NewSongs/svg/ns0325\\_p.svg](https://www.hymnal.net/Hymns/NewSongs/svg/ns0325_p.svg). [https://www.hymnal.net/Hymns/NewSongs/svg/ns0325\\_g.svg](https://www.hymnal.net/Hymns/NewSongs/svg/ns0325_g.svg). The joy in the Lord is a cure to our weary heart. Joy is a virtue rendered into us by the indwelling Spirit. I enjoy Rom. 14:17 "For the kingdom of God is not the food and drink but the righteousness peace and joy in the holy Spirit." Rejoice in Him always. Feb 9 2014. Sister Victoria. Jacksonville, FLorida, United States. "However do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are recorded in the heavens." (Luke 10:20, Rcv) Lord Jesus, may we rejoice in You always. Amen. Details. Be glad in the Lord and rejoice! 2 What though in the conflict for right Your enemies almost prevail, God's armies, just hid from your sight, Are more than the foes which assail. 3 Though darkness surround you by day, Your sky by the night be o'ercast, Let nothing your spirit dismay, But trust till the danger is past. 4 Be glad in the Lord and rejoice, His praises proclaiming in song; Acclaim him with trumpet and voice, The loud hallelujahs prolong. Source: The Song Book of the Salvation Army #537.