

August 2011



Lighted Lamp Magazine

From the Editor

This summer I have been crocheting an afghan and today as I crocheted, I began to think that crocheting an afghan is a little like living our lives. When I think about all the troubles in the world that have been caused by sin, and all of the people who need Jesus, I feel that I should be accomplishing some great deed that will help many people or else I haven't been doing a very good job of living. Yet when I crocheted, I began to realize that it is not only big things that make a difference, but an accumulation of little things. One stitch does not look like much, but when it is repeated over and over until all nine of my skeins of yarn are used up, it makes a beautiful and warm afghan. In the same way, instead of getting discouraged that the small, repeated things we do for Jesus don't make much of a difference, we can remember that if we persist in doing them, their effects will be noticeable and valuable. I'd like to close with Galatians 6:9 (KNJV): "And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart."

God bless,

Priscilla

Contents

Articles:

4 Stand, Inspire, and Shape

8 Dust Bunnies and Decisions... Oh My!

14 Poor but Rich

Poetry:

7 Hue

15 Got Hope?

Regular Features:

10 Insight through Hebrew

13 Prayer Page



Photography by Haley

“A man’s most glorious actions will at last be found to be but glorious sins, if he hath made himself, and not the glory of God, the end of those actions.”

—Thomas Brooks

“Full Life” by Elaine Schnider



Mission:

To encourage and strengthen Christian teens to love and follow God with their whole hearts, souls, and minds; and to glorify God.

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Photography by Priscilla

Stand, Inspire, and Shape

by Alyssa Cordel

Wars raged, speeches were made, bills were submitted, and laws were implemented. History was shaped and the people who took their stand years, decades, and centuries ago continue to somehow impact our lives today.

William Wilberforce abolished slavery. Adolf Hitler led the Nazis who caused the Holocaust that killed millions of people. What do these two men have in common? They both stood firm for something they believed in, they fought

for them with so much might and did whatever it would take to achieve their goals. Because of that, they now play such big roles in world history.

It is very important that we know what we stand for and stand only for the right things for only the right reasons because standing firm for what we believe is very powerful; it can build or break, make peace or spark chaos, inspire or degrade people. Most importantly, it can honor or dishonor GOD.

How do we know what to stand for? Read the Bible! GOD's Word is the Source of all wisdom. If we would read and listen carefully to His Word we would realize that what God wants us to do is against the flow of this world. GOD's Ways and commands are countercultural, but they are the only ones that give us everlasting blessings and would help us draw close to God.

Why is it important to stand for what God wants us to stand for?

1. GOD tells us to not “become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. (Romans 12:2, The Message)” God tells us not be like the people of this world, but instead be like Him. “You must be holy because I, the LORD, AM holy. I have set you apart from all other people to be my very own. (Leviticus 20:26, NLT)”

2.GOD wants to use us mightily in the lives of other people. It doesn't mean the majority does it we must do it, too. We can't impact this world the way God wants us to if we are always swayed by the devil and by the things of this world. We don't need to stoop down to this world's level and meet their standards to inspire them. Instead, we must bring them up and help them meet GOD's high standards which are attainable because GOD would never ask us to do something if we can't do it. When GOD gives us tasks, He also gives us the grace to do them. Rebecca Nichols Alonzo describes GOD's grace as “the ability to do something that you can't do with your own strength.”

3. “Their responsibility is to equip God's people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ. This will continue until we

all come to such unity in our faith and knowledge of God's Son that we will be mature in the Lord, measuring up to the full and complete standard of Christ. Then we will no longer be immature like children. We won't be tossed and blown about by every wind of new teaching. We will not be influenced when people try to trick us with lies so clever they sound like the truth. (Ephesians 4:12-14, NLT)” **In verse 14, GOD makes it clear that HE doesn't want us to be swayed.**

4. Alexander Hamilton was right when he said, “Those who stand for nothing fall for anything.”

5. We inspire others as we remain strong. The people who inspire me the most are those who are strong in their relationship with GOD and are firmly rooted in GOD's Word. They inspire me to continue running in life with GOD and in faith. GOD uses them to let me witness that He truly truly rewards those who are faithful to Him. God's fire in us will ignite and re-ignite the fire of others for Him. It can and it will.

6. GOD tells us to not be conformed to this world. “Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect. (Romans 12:2, NIV)”

7.GOD blesses those who are faithful to Him. “A steadfast man hath multiplied blessings. . . (Proverbs 28:20, YLT)”

8. We grow and are strengthened when we take a very firm stand for God. “. . . Instead, fix your attention on God. You'll be changed from the inside out. Readily recognize what He

wants from you, and quickly respond to it. . . God brings the best out of you, develops well-formed maturity in you. (Romans 12:2, The Message)"

9. When others see us standing strong they will be intrigued and ask us, “Why? Why do you do this?” When that happens, we will have an open door to share the Gospel. Let's not hesitate to share It. Instead, let's continue to drop those seeds grabbing every opportunity God Himself gives us. And someday we and everybody else will be surprised to see that those seeds have grown to be the strongest and most beautiful trees in the world! We can only drop seeds, but only God can make them grow. Let us not give up in fighting for the right things, for the Will of GOD.

10. When we let GOD use us, we can turn this world upside down!

Before I end, let me tell you a hard truth: in this world we will suffer even when we live for GOD. In John 16:33 Jesus tells us that "I have told you all this so that you may have peace in me. Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows." But He also goes on to say, "But take heart, because I have overcome the world." But before that Jesus also said, "If the world hates you, remember that it hated me first. The world would love you as one of its own if you belonged to it, but you are no longer part of the world. I chose you to come out of the world, so it hates you. (John 15:18-19, NLT)"

The Christian life is not a bed of roses. It will be hard, but God promises us His grace. He has promised us so many great things; our trials are nothing compared to them. And we are confident that He will fulfill them for He is The

Faithful God. His Promises and Word sustains us.

One of the verses that have encouraged me when I went through a certain trial was Isaiah 41:10 ("So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand. , NIV").

"But in that coming day no weapon turned against you will succeed. You will silence every voice raised up to accuse you. These benefits are enjoyed by the servants of the Lord; their vindication will come from me. I, the Lord, have spoken! (Isaiah 54:17, NLT)"

One of my most favorite definition of glory is "glory means weight." When we see GOD's glory we see how light other things are and we would start valuing GOD and all that are His and His Will more. Let's continue to ask GOD to show us His glory.

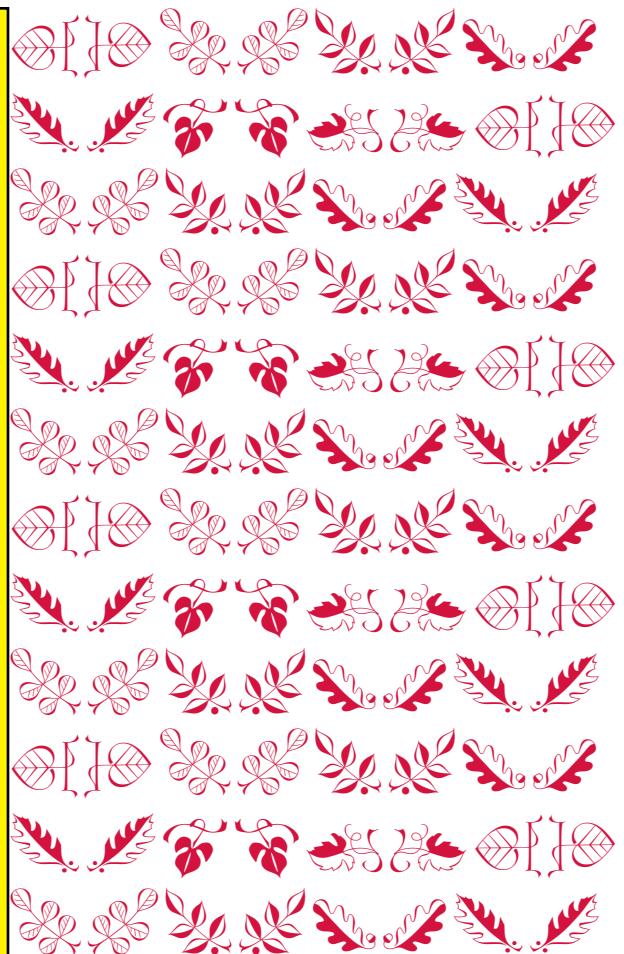
When we look at something bright like the sun everything else in the background fades. In the same way, when we focus on The SON of GOD all else fades. Let's keep our eyes, mind, and heart on God alone.

Let us not let anyone look down on us because we are young, but let us set an example in speech, in life, in love, in faith, and in purity (read 1 Timothy 4:12). Let others see only God in you. GOD has destined all of us for greatness! So come on, let's shape history together and set the world ablaze for God! ☀

Hue

by Tabitha Hope

A thousand leaves spin from the sky
And fill the lanes with scarlet dye;
The trees at night are ringed with dew
Like hardened bits of pearly glue.
What season turns the brush to flame?
Not summer, with her gentle name
Not winter, with her savage snows
Nor spring, where roses bud and blow.
These months are full of light and heat
Yet nightly ices still defeat,
And though the geese seem self-assured
They wing away, like all the birds.
One explanation must be true:
This must be autumn's fiery hue.



Photography by Haley





Photography by Priscilla

Dust Bunnies and Decisions... Oh My!

by RuthAnne Irvin

Warning: the following has the tendency to paralyze with fear, cause sudden outburst of uncertainties and quite possibly cause you to post-pone adulthood due to conflicting emotions and desires. What am I talking about? Decisions. Yes, we can all relate to the big monster of making a decision especially if it's a big one. He snarls at us, or so it seems and we try to hide him under our bed until we can figure out a better place to put him. Friends, it's time to face Mr. Decision head on with the best tool around: God's word.

In the Bible, we aren't given a step by step process on how to make a decision. What we are given though is a priceless life treasure which is wisdom. We have everything we need to make godly decisions throughout the Bible. If we want to get rid of that dusty monster hiding under our bed, we must fight him with the mighty Conqueror himself. Here are a few points I have found helpful to making decisions that honor God and are Bible based.

Every decision we make has an outcome and

a result. Be it good or bad, there is going to be an end product. With this in mind, we need to look at the decision we are faced with and ask several questions:

- Is the decision going to lead to holiness like God commands? 1 Peter 1:6
- Can and does it glorify God in some way? Colossians 3:23
- Is it going to lead to loving God with all your heart, soul and might? Deuteronomy 6:5
- Is it beneficial to just you, or to others as well? 1 Corinthians 10: 23 & 24

These points are not exhaustive, but they cause us to dig deeper into what scripture has to say and also our motives for our actions. They guide us when we have several options to choose the best one.

In Proverbs, we see the downfalls of lack of wisdom and we also see the benefits of answering wisdom when she beckons. Proverbs 15:22 says “Plans fail for lack of counsel but with many advisers they succeed.” When we are faced with big decisions, we aren’t supposed to try and solve them on our own—we are to ask for advice! If you have godly parents or a mentor, go to them with your concerns, dreams and thoughts about the decisions that is weighing you down. Ask what they think and know from the scriptures and then listen! God has graciously and providentially placed these people in our lives not so we can ignore them and not so we can go elsewhere for guidance. He’s most likely placed that godly mentor who has many years of wisdom and experience under the same roof as you. Take advantage!

The thing I have had the most trouble learning is to just do something. Gasp! Just do something? Is she serious? Yes, from my head down to my toes and into my soul. We see what we think to be Mr. Decision’s claws peeking out from under our bed ruffle when in reality it is nothing but a dust bunny from days gone by. We should examine through scripture, ask for advice, use common sense and then go for the option that would be most enjoyable if it’s there. We have to do this knowing all along that we are going to make mistakes and we will trip and fall. Ecclesiastes 7:20 says that “there is not a righteous person on earth who does what is right and never sins.” We are human and we sin but we are also kept close to the Maker of the universe and are promised that everything we go through is for our sanctification and His glory. When we face this fact, Mr. Decision will no longer be an arch enemy but rather something we see God using to make us more like Him. I believe it is time for us all to clean out from under our beds and in return gain a new perspective on biblical decision making. ☺

Rebekah M.'s

Insights through Hebrew

Wisdom part 1: Overview

The Operational Definition of “Wisdom” is “Seeing and Responding To Life from God’s Frame of Reference”. It is opposite to “Human Inclination”. Wisdom is a practical and wonderful thing which every person needs in life.

This past week, I have been studying Scriptures relating to wisdom, such as the book of Proverbs. There is just so much to learn and to apply. Today I would like to share about the importance of wisdom and how to seek God for wisdom.

Why Wisdom?

One of the disadvantages of youth is that we lack experience and discretion. We still have much to learn about this world and how to live our lives. Often the lack of sensible forethought and knowledge of consequences will save us much, much trouble in life.

As youth we lack wisdom. I do lack wisdom in many things. We have the ability to think, to act, and to assume responsibility. We have learned much academic material. However, we possess little real life experience.

The world tells us to find real life experience outside of the home, in the big, wide, world

where we can learn to be savvy and worldly-wise. However, the real wisdom and the truth can be found very near us, in the place where we least wish to learn it.

Wisdom is a real and practical thing. Wisdom is not what we want to hear, most of the time. Wisdom is a spoilsport to our natural desires and inclinations to do what is fun and pleasing.

“Wisdom comes with age,” they say. If so, then the best place to find wisdom is in God, because He is eternal, and has been so even before the beginning. God of the ages, God of eternity, He alone knows all. And He gives wisdom to our authorities, such as our teachers, pastors, and governmental leaders. The place where He tells us to find wisdom is from our parents. We shall examine this later in the book of Proverbs.

Two Kinds of Wisdom – Man vs. God.

Scripture tells us of two kinds of wisdom – man’s earthly wisdom, and God’s heavenly wisdom. True wisdom from God is “Seeing and Responding To Life from God’s Frame of Reference” whereas earthly wisdom is following carnal human inclination.

Read 1 Corinthians Chapters 1-3, Colossians 2:8, James 1:5-6, and James 3:13-18. Try reading them in different versions, especially the Amplified Bible. I would encourage you to memorize select verses from the New Testa-

ment about wisdom, such as these. You can write them out on index or business cards and keep them to memorize.

From Scripture we can draw the following conclusions about God's and man's wisdom.

Wisdom of God	Wisdom of Man (Folly)
Meek, pure	Bitterness, envy, rivalry, self-ambition, pride, untruth
Peaceable, courteous, deferential, compassion, good fruits, whole-hearted, straightforward, unfeigned	Earthly, sensual, demonic
Christ is the wisdom of God	Wisdom of this world is demonic (Of Satan)
The Cross of Jesus Christ is the wisdom of God	The Cross of Jesus Christ is sheer folly and offensive; unphilosophical nonsense
Even in "foolishness" is wiser than man	The wisest of men is foolishness to God, Who is infinitely above and beyond man, who is "wholly other"
Seeing life from God's frame of reference	Seeing life from our limited human experience

When I view life from God's frame of reference, I see it more holistically. I see eternity, and the eternal consequences of sin. I know realize my lack of this wisdom, and purpose to seek God for wisdom.

Wisdom Detranslated

Here are three definitions of wisdom found in the Bible for your reading. I will discuss them in Part 2.

חָכְמָה f.—(1) *skill of an artificer, dexterity,* Ex. 28:3; 31:6; 36:1, 2.

(2) *wisdom*, see more as to the idea which this comprises, under the word **חָכְמָה** No. 2, Job 11:6; 12:2, 12; 15:8; 26:3; 28:18. It comprehends various learning, Dan. 1:17; piety towards God (Job 28:28); it is ascribed to a ruler, Deut. 34:9; to a king [Messiah], Isa. 11:2; in a greater and more eminent sense to God, Job 12:13; 28:12, seq.

בִּינָה f. [root **בִּין**].—(1) *understanding*; Isa. 33:19, “a people of strange language **אַנְנָן בִּינָה** whom thou dost not understand;” Dan. 8:15; 9:22; 10:1.

(2) *intelligence* (*Einsicht, Verstand*), *insight*, Pro. 4:5, 7; 8:14; 9:6, 10; 16:16; Job 28:12, 20; **בִּינָה** “to be or to become intelligent,” Job 38:4; Prov. 4:1; Isa. 29:24. Pl. **בִּינּוֹת** “an intelligent people,” Isa. 27:11. Specially *skill*, in any art or learning, 2 Ch. 2:12; 1 Ch. 12:32; **בִּינָה לְעַתִּים** “skilled in understanding the times” (compare Est. 1:13).

σοφία, -ας, ἡ, (σοφός), Hebr. **חָכְמָה**, *wisdom, broad and full intelligence*, [fr. Hom. down]; used of the knowledge of very diverse matters, so that the shade of meaning in which the word is taken must be discovered from the context in every particular case.

a. the wis-

How to Learn Wisdom

- 1) Acknowledge you need Wisdom
- 2) Ask God to give you wisdom
- 3) Believe in God that He will give you wisdom
- 4) Seek the Wisdom in Scripture
- 5) Purpose to Apply Scripture to Your Life

Righteousness and Wisdom

Righteousness is a state in which every deed, thought, word, attitude, and motive, past, present and future, is absolutely right. Thus only God is righteous. In 1 Corinthians 1:30 it says, “30But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption:”

When we are in Christ Jesus, we have wisdom

and righteousness from God and our lives belong to Him. Therefore when it comes to right being, Christ is our righteousness, and when it comes to right doing, Christ is our wisdom. That means that I don't have to go to God for every teeny little detail of life and expect Him to instruct us how what toothpaste I should buy and how many spoonfuls of sugar I should put in my coffee. No, we are not to remain earthly and simple-minded. We are to receive wisdom from God. This wisdom, which comes through learning from our authorities, learning from Scripture, and hearing God's voice, will enable you to live life in a God-fearing and God-honoring way. Wisdom from God is a spiritual wisdom that aligns our soul (mind, will, and emotions) and body with God's perfect will and righteousness.

Wisdom in can be applied in so many areas of our life – friendships, spoken words, habits, etc. It is so vital and important, as we shall soon see in the book of Proverbs.

For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; 10 that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; 11 strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and long-suffering with joy; 12 giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light. 13 He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, 14 in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins. 

Poor but Rich Cont.

them.'

Earthly poverty or riches are not what matters. In heaven, what matters is knowing God. Remember the words of Henry Smith's song, "Give Thanks":

Give thanks with a grateful heart;

Give thanks to the Holy One;

Give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ,
His Son.

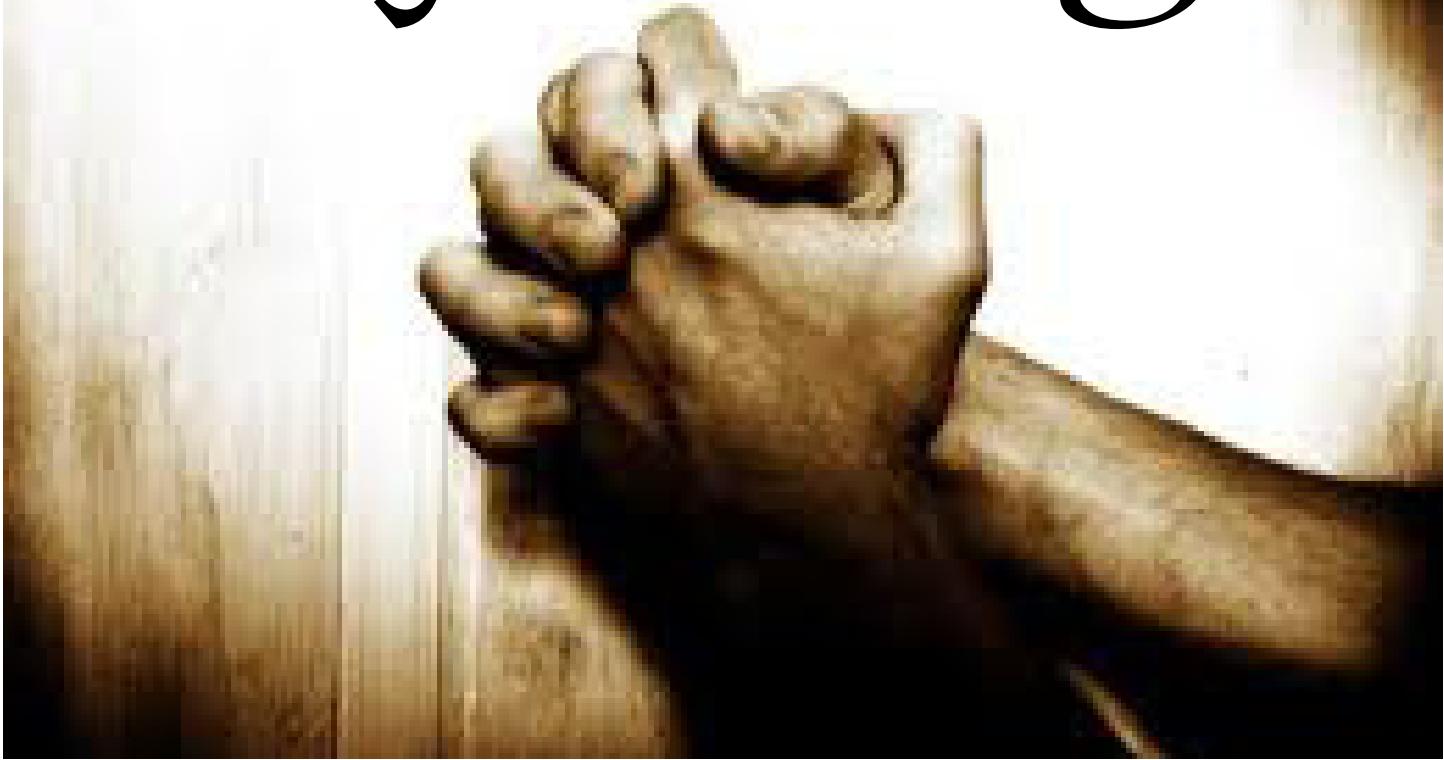
And now let the weak say, "I am strong;"

Let the poor say, "I am rich,"

Because of what the Lord has done for us.

Give thanks! 

Prayer Page



With the approach of the school year, there are many people to pray for, and teachers can be easy to forget about. Teachers have a huge influence on those in their classrooms. The way they teach some subjects, such as history and science, can determine what their students believe about the origin of man and the role religions have played in history. Pray that Christian teachers will stand up for their faith, and that non-Christian teachers will present their subjects fairly.

Not only do the lessons teachers give affect their students, but the way they live does also. Because they usually live in the same community where they teach, their students know whether their lives uphold the values they teach, so it is also good to pray that teachers will be a good

example in their personal lives.

Because the words and actions of teachers can change how their students view the world and the opinions their students form on many issues, please pray for teachers this month.

Proverbs 22:6(NKJV)

Train up a child in the way he should go,
And when he is old he will not depart from it. ☩

P O O R B U T R I C H

FOREIGNERS SERIES

by *Priscilla Carsten*

Luke 6:19-23(NKJV)— “There was a certain rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen and fared sumptuously every day. “But there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, full of sores, who was laid at his gate, “desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man’s table. Moreover the dogs came and licked his sores. “So it was that the beggar died and was carried by the angels to Abraham’s bosom. The rich man also died and was buried. “And being in torments in Hades, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom.

Which man was rich, the man in fine linen or the beggar? The beggar, of course. Nothing on earth is as valuable as knowing God. No amount of wealth or fame or popularity or friends or success in business or perfect families or power or houses or *anything* compares with knowing God. It just doesn’t matter.

Luke 12:16-19 tells about a rich man who amassed a lot of riches. He devoted his life for it. He tore down his barns and built bigger ones. He decided that tomorrow he would retire and enjoy what he had worked so hard for. Luke 12:20-21 says, ““But God said to him, ‘Fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?’ “So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.”” Proverbs 23:4 says, “Do not overwork to be rich; Because of your own understanding, cease!” What you

gain will not do you any good!

In light of eternity, our focus should not be on work. It should be on God. In the context of this world, riches mean a lot. They mean status and power. In the context of heaven, riches are something we are stewards of for a short time. How we use our blessings to further God’s kingdom will be the only thing they will relate to in heaven. The people who are citizens of the world want to be rich, but citizens of heaven want to live like Christ.

How we should use the riches we have relates back to putting God first and being concerned about other people. Jeremiah 9:23-24 says, ‘Thus says the LORD: “Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, Let not the mighty man glory in his might, Nor let the rich man glory in his riches; But let him who glories glory in this, that he understands and knows Me, That I am the LORD, exercising lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness in the earth. For in these I delight,” says the LORD.’

God also is concerned for the situation of those who are poor. I Samuel 2:7-8 says, ‘The LORD makes poor and makes rich; He brings low and lifts up. He raises the poor from the dust And lifts the beggar from the ash heap, To set them among princes And make them inherit the throne of glory. “For the pillars of the earth are the LORD’s, And He has set the world upon

Continued on page 12 ➔



Photography by Haley

got hope?

by Priscilla Carsten

He looked like a hippie,
Tangled hair in a ponytail
Driving a beat-up flowered car
Filled with half the stuff he owned
And between the spray-paint patterns
Was a black sticker that said,
‘got hope?’

She partied all night long,
Laughing with everyone she knew
And they all called her a good friend
She’d no cause to be lonely,
But she woke up in the morning
Breathed steam on the window, wrote,
‘got hope?’

He was a business man
Getting more raises than the rest
Bigwig guests for dinner tonight
Traveled all over the world
Had all the gadgets he could want
Yet his paper’s margin read,
‘got hope?’

She had turned ninety-two
Struggled to breathe with a macine
Couldn’t stand up or hear a shout
She sat and read her Bible
Prayed for all the kids and grandkids
Shook as she wrote one last note,
‘got hope!’

UUMagazine

Matthew 5:16

