

In The Arena of Faith - Love For A Lifetime

by Andrew R. Dickinson

A wife of noble character who can find? She is worth far more than rubies. Her husband has full confidence in her and lacks nothing of value. ... "Many women do noble things, but you surpass them all." Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting; but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised. Honor her for all that her hands have done, and let her works bring her praise at the city gate. Proverbs 31

This week marks the 33rd wedding anniversary of Andy and Bonnie Dickinson. That's right, Bonnie has been putting up with me for 33 years.

I want to share my admiration, for all that she does every day for me and for her children and grandchildren. Bonnie is tireless in rising to make sure her grandchildren are cared for. She does this day in and day out. Her willingness and dedication doesn't mean that it doesn't cost her dearly. There are the days that she suffers pain that I can only imagine. There are the days that she is not able to meet most of the plans that she had for herself. There are the days that I come home and find here alone in our bedroom, crying and frustrated. Yet, when the call comes, she once again takes it up and serves.

There are all of the days (years really) that she has cared for and loved me. There was the time that I broke both of my wrists and had both arms in casts. Let me tell you, when you're in that state, you can't do anything for your self, ANYTHING. But, my wonderful wife was patient and kind, taking care of me like a helpless child. She did that because she has the heart of a servant and she loves the Lord with all of her heart.

There have been times of struggle, with sickness, financial woes, rebellious sons and daughters, and personal pain and suffering. All of those would have been enough to make some women give up and quit. But, not Bonnie.

And, then there's the great lout of a man she married. My pastor tells our church that I'm a good man and blessed of God. I'm thankful for that. But, I'm not a prince of men. I'm selfish and vain and thoughtless, among other things. Yet Bonnie still loves me with a perfect unfailing love that only reminds me and confirms in my heart the matchless love of my Heavenly Father and of His Son, Jesus, who came and died in my place. Such amazing love... I am so unworthy.

And so, I bow to honor her. This is the great woman I married. I am so proud of her! Thank you, Bonnie.

*The man who finds a wife finds a treasure, and he receives favor from the Lord.
Proverbs 18:22*

**JOY CHRISTIAN
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THE

JOYFUL

NEWS

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May, 2011

Thank God for Mothers

by Pastor Billy Canipe

May is a month that we have the National Day of Prayer, and Mother's Day. Abraham Lincoln said about his mother, "*I remember my mother's prayers, and they have followed me. They have Clung to me all my life.*" I thank the Lord that He is involved in giving us mothers. In Luke 1:26 God sent the angel Gabriel to tap a woman on the shoulder to bring His Son into this world. Mary's response to the Heavenly Father shows a woman pliable in God's hands. We can see her as a woman of faith. When the angel Gabriel told her "*for with God nothing is impossible*" she responded with a great state of faith. "*Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word.*" She did not waver at the word of the Lord for her. She was a reservoir of faith for her family. Mary was a believer in God before being told she was the chosen one to be Jesus' Mother. This experience definitely added to her faith. She saw the Heavenly Father provide every need they had. She found that, "*with God nothing is impossible*", was really true. She came to know that Jesus was truly the Son of God. In John 2:1-10 Mary and Jesus were invited to a wedding. They ran out of wine and Mary said to Jesus that there was no more wine. She was expecting Jesus to do something about the shortage of wine. Mary told the servants to do whatever He said to do. She saw this first miracle that Jesus did.

Moms get to see the miracle that are our children the miracle that life itself holds. Mothers are special instruments of grace, mercy, and love that God uses for us. I want to thank the Heavenly Father once again for my mom, Dorothy Jean Crowell Canipe. I never doubted that my mother loved me with all she had and in reality gave everything she had for me. Thank God for the foundation of faith she laid for me.

God bless all of our mothers on this special Mother's Day!



SUNDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY 6:00-7:30PM @ JOY

Please come for an exciting, spirit-filled Bible study as we join Perry Stone's Hixon, Tennessee conference on DVD. You will be challenged in your thinking and grow leaps and bounds in your spiritual walk. The spirit of God is not limited by time or space. Come and join us as we enter in as if we are in the conference room. Amazingly, the Holy Spirit meets us – right here in Aurora!



Foursquare News

After a series of deadly tornadoes ripped through six states this week, the [Foursquare Southeast District](#) reports that all 154 churches located in the impacted areas were not directly hit. All Foursquare credentialed ministers have been accounted for and are safe.

A category F-5 tornado ripped through Alabama, leaving more than 200 dead. Pastor Huey Hudson has already set up relief efforts at his church, [Restoration](#) (Huntsville Foursquare Church), located in Madison, Ala., fed 400 people on Thursday, April 28.

There is already word of additional Foursquare churches looking for ways to make a difference in the lives of those who survived the storm. [Living Way](#) (Adairsville Foursquare Church) in Adairsville, Ga., pastored by Tina and Jon Spellman, and [Refuge West](#) (Marietta Refuge Foursquare Church) in Marietta, Ga., are partnering to feed and care for disaster relief workers today (April 29). In addition, Living Way is both a shelter and collection point for clothes and supplies needed by government and relief organizations.

"We're so thankful that our immediate Foursquare family was spared, but amidst such intense devastation, it is time to demonstrate the gospel," says Ted Vail, associate director for [Foursquare Missions International](#)—U.S. Missions. "Not only is there physical damage, there is fear and uncertainty. May we extend His heart and hands together!"

Tom Isenhart from [Foursquare's Relief and Compassion](#) reports that immediate needs include water, ice, baby supplies, food, candles, flashlights and generators. Longer-term needs include food, clothing and temporary housing.

Those looking to offer relief to those in need can donate funds through give.foursquaremissions.org to "U.S. disaster relief." In addition, those interested in making donations can contact Foursquare's Relief and Compassion via [e-mail](mailto:), or by calling 213.989.4320.

The Silent Sermon

A member of a certain church, who previously had been attending services regularly, stopped going. After a few weeks, the preacher decided to visit him.

It was a chilly evening. The pastor found the man at home alone, sitting before a blazing fire. Guessing the reason for his preacher's visit, the man welcomed him, led him to a comfortable chair near the fireplace...and waited.

The preacher made himself at home but said nothing. In the grave silence, he contemplated the dance of the flames around the burning logs. After some minutes, the preacher took the fire tongs, carefully picked up a brightly burning ember and placed it to one side of the hearth all alone, then he sat back in his chair, still silent.

The host watched all this in quiet contemplation. As the one lone ember's flame flickered and diminished, there was a momentary glow and then its fire was no more. Soon it was cold and dead.

Not a word had been spoken since the initial greeting. The preacher glanced at his watch and realized it was time to leave. He slowly stood up, picked up the cold, dead ember and placed it back in the middle of the fire. Immediately it began to glow, once more with the light and warmth of the burning coals around it.

As the preacher reached the door to leave his host said with a tear running down his cheek, 'Thank you so much for your visit and especially for the fiery sermon. I will be back in church next Sunday.'

We live in a world today, which tries to say too much with too little. Consequently, few listen. Sometimes the best sermons are the ones left unspoken.

The Lord is my Shepherd ----- that's a Relationship!
I shall not want ----- that's Supply!
He maketh me to lie down in green pastures ----that's Rest!
He leadeth me beside the still waters -----that's Refreshment!
He restoreth my soul -- that's Healing!
He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness -- that's Guidance!

For His name's sake ----- that's Purpose!
Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death --that's Testing!
I will fear no evil ----- that's Protection!
For Thou art with me ----- that's Faithfulness!
Thy rod and Thy staff comfort me -----that's Discipline!
Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies ---that's Hope!
Thou annointest my head with oil -----that's Consecration!
My cup runneth over ----- that's Abundance!
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life ---that's Blessing!
And I will dwell in the house of the Lord ----- that's Security!
Forever ----- that's Eternity!

What is most valuable is not what we have in our lives, but WHO we have in our lives

MAY 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																		
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"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:6-7)

2011 Graduates

Please join us in congratulating our senior this year who are graduating high school. We pray that God blesses her as she prepares to step out into the world as a young adult.

Our graduating senior this year is Micolé Barajas.

Birthdays

Melissa Barajas
Micole Barajas
Joseph Harris
Jandi Fyffe
Jerry Fyffe
Heather Barron
Anthony Gonzales

Anniversaries

Andy & Bonnie Dickinson
Merle & Yvonne Satterlee

May 7th
May 9th
May 11th
May 13th
May 16th
May 27th
May 31st

May 5th
May 30th

