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**A Monthly
Inspirational Paper
For Senior Citizens**

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Vol. 6 No. 9

Living Springs

by CHRISTIAN EDUCATIONAL PUBLICATIONS

Hourglass of Time

*Life is likened to an hourglass.
Each moment and memory is but a
fleeting grain of sand filtering
through our life.
Just as the grains of sand
continuously pour through
the opening of the glass,
so do our personal experiences,
whether great or small,
slip from the present into the past,
never to be relived again.
However, new beginnings and fresh
experiences are always hovering
in the future,
waiting to be sifted through
the time tunnel into our presence.
These grains are numbered,
and one day the last
grain will tumble through
the opening, while the final
spark of life within us
flickers out.*

by
Reda Moore

Time

*The Days of Our Years
Psalms 90*

by
B.C. Jennings

*The days of our allotted time
Are but threescore years and ten.
They're very brief, like song or rhyme,
And written with our Maker's pen.*

*Tho some may attain to fourscore years
Mid trouble and labor and sorrow,
Memories of the race, boos, cheers
Bring hopes for another tomorrow.*

*Another generation, not very far back
Looks on with sympathy to say,
"His day is ending on life's racetrack;
So sad he'd no longer to stay.*

*Pray tell why lament when a life is spent,
Unless it was spent in vain.
Go finish that race of Him who meant
To be run in poverty, wealth or pain.*

*What then is this brief life all about?
Is death the end, the grave the goal?
If so, why weep, why shout?
Unless we possess a never dying soul!*

*So teach us, O Lord, to number our days
And unto wisdom our hearts apply,
Assured if we run His righteous ways
We'll never, no never, no never die.*



Just Another Day?

Joe finished reading the Monday morning news, swallowed the last drop of coffee in his mug, and slouched back in his recliner. "First day of another week," he mumbled, "and what for? I've golfed every course around Denver, taken a nature class, helped raise money for two charitable organizations, visited each of our four kids and all in the first two months of retirement. Sixty-three years old, and ready for file 13. Tillie, come here, please."

Tillie, Joe's wife of forty years, come strolling in. She'd heard Joe grumbling in the den and figured he'd be after her next. "What is it, dear?" she queried.

"Tillie, something just is not right. I feel so empty and useless. Mondays were never my 'cup-of-tea', but I never used to feel this badly. Maybe I ought to go see Dr. Block. He knows me well and could tell if I were physically ill." Joe shook his head slowly and looked down at his strong hands. He curled the fingers into fists, then opened them and let them fall limp on his lap.

"I know Joe, why don't you clean..."

"Not on your life, Tillie! I've cleaned the attic, the garage, the basement, the workshop, stripped and waxed the den and kitchen floors, cleaned the church basement and stripped and waxed dozens of floors there. I'm all cleaned out."

The door bell rang as Joe was finishing his little speech, and Tillie gladly escaped to answer it.

"Well, good morning, Pastor Morton!" Tillie tried to sound chipper. "How about a cup of coffee with Joe? He surely could use the company." Pastor accepted, and Tillie went to the kitchen for the coffee.

"Morning, Joe," Pastor said solemnly. "How ya' doing?"

Joe was glad for the opportunity to chat with

Pastor. He just might have an answer to his problem. Tillie came in with the coffee, then left quietly.

Pastor started slowly, "Joe, I desperately need some help. I am sure you're enjoying retirement and are very busy, but I thought it might be worth a try. I have a list a mile long, almost, of folks in the hospital, my young couple's class teacher just found out he's being transferred, and I have a small group of retired folks interested in starting a Bible study. Could you ever help in any of these areas?"

Joe sat quietly in his chair while pastor talked, thinking back over the past 40 years. He had been rather active in church—a deacon for a number of years, and Sunday School teacher off and on, but there were always conflicts that kept him from really getting involved. For twenty-odd years, it was his family responsibilities plus the added burden of building his career. Then for the following years, it was the traveling and business meetings that kept him tied down. What was it now? Suddenly it became clear to him. His empty useless feeling was not some latent disease—it was the way God was using to show him that it was time to seek his new place of responsibility.

Joe looked across at the pastor. There had been silence for several minutes, and the pastor's face showed signs of fatigue and worry. Joe smiled. A sense of excitement filled his heart, much like the feeling he had experienced so many years before as he had begun his life's career. "Pastor Morton, you're the answer I've been needing. Yes, I will help you. Let's talk about these three areas of need and see how I fit in."

A peace began to well in Joe's heart that had eluded him for some time. "Thank you, Lord", he whispered.

Light for Living

by
Dr. James T. Jeremiah

THY WORD IS A LAMP UNTO MY FEET, AND A LIGHT UNTO MY PATH.

Ole Bull, so the story goes, was one of the world's most noted violinists. One day, in his wanderings, he became lost in the forest. In the dark of the night he stumbled against a log hut, the home of a hermit. The old man took him in, fed and warmed him. After supper, they sat in front of a blazing fireplace, and the old hermit picked some crude tunes on his screechy battered violin. Ole Bull said, "Let me try it." He took the old marred violin and drew the bow across the strings, suddenly the hermit's hut was filled with beautiful music. According to the story, the hermit sobbed like a child.

We are battered instruments; life's strings have been snapped; life's bow has been bent. Yet, IF WE WILL ONLY LET HIM TAKE US AND TOUCH US, from this old battered, broken, shattered, marred instrument He will bring forth music fit for the angels. He wants us to submit to Him and claim the promise: "I can do all things through Christ who strengtheneth me" (Phil. 4:13).

He is the strength we need and have, if we claim it, in all the adventures of life and the possibilities that await us at death. A godly pastor was asked by a friend during his last illness whether he thought he was dying. The pastor replied, "Really, friend, I care not whether I am or not; for if I die, I shall be with God; if I live, He will be with me."

"For whether we live, we live unto the Lord; and whether we die, we die unto the Lord: whether we live therefore, or die, we are the Lord's" (Romans 14:8).

In Christ, every Christian has a love that can never be fathomed and a life that can never die. We have a peace that can never be understood, a rest that can never be disturbed, and a joy that

can never be diminished. Since He is our strength, we possess a light that can never be darkened, and a purity that can never be defiled. By His strength there is a wisdom that can never be baffled and resources that can never be exhausted.

It is evident from a reading of the Psalms that God's people, from earliest times, learned to rely on the promise of the Lord's strength.

"The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?" (Psalm 27:1).

"The Lord will give strength unto his people; the Lord will bless his people with peace" (Psalm 29:11).

"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble" (Psalm 46:1).

"My flesh and my heart faileth: but God is the strength of my heart, and my portion forever" (Psalm 73:26).

One thing all Christians have in common is that we are weak; yet, we have a Saviour who has promised to strengthen us.





"To Everything There Is A Season And A Time To Every Purpose Under Heaven"

Ecclesiastes 3:1

In today's youth-oriented society, I believe that though this verse is quite common, the meaning of it has been missed.

Life is a series of changes, passing from one stage to another so smoothly that often the reality of a new stage of life does not hit us until we are half through it. We awake one morning to realize we are adults with children age 9, 7 and 4, heavy mortgage payments, and have grandparents for parents. A few years down the road, we awake to find ourselves grandparents of five grandchildren, no mortgage payments, and looking forward to retirement. Then overnight, we are great-grandparents, retired, and considering selling our home and moving to a warmer climate. Are any of these 'times' more important than another?

No! God's Word says that there is a certain time in man's life for each new stage. For seven verses in chapter 3 of Ecclesiastes, things are given that God has created and planned to happen at specific times. It could be you are at a time in your life when you feel there is no purpose for existence. Think again! God has created all things for Himself. Accept Him as your personal Savior and Lord and the purpose for your life will come alive. If you are a Christian but have lost the vision of the purpose for your existence, stop and read the promises of God's Word. They are yours! Claim them and live by them.

"He hath made everything beautiful in His time!" Eccl. 3:11.

Senior

"The Christiana

Our church has a great many "senior servants", many being widows and widowers. Let's zero in on one widow, Mrs. Adeline Bertsch, who has a great love for her Lord. She would not miss the Sunday services, Wednesday night prayer meeting, or any other meeting of the church. She has proven herself faithful to her Lord and our local church, despite the fact that her road of life has been rugged and steep. Through it all, her Lord has brought her through the valleys with victories and faith. I would like to share with you some of these struggles and victories.

While still relatively young, and with children at home, she lost her husband in a fatal car accident. Being forced to go to work to support her family, she continued faithful to her Lord and His church. She never forsook her duties as a mother or a child of the King. A few years later her daughter would be involved in an accident that would leave her a quadriplegic. As she lived with her daughter, prayed for her daughter, and helped to raise her grandchildren, her faith increased. Throughout these and other experiences, her prayer was, "Lord, increase my faith." The Lord Jesus Christ always answered her prayers with the grace and faith to live each day, one day at a time.

Servants

n Taxi Driver"

Today Adeline Bertsch is an active worker in our church. She has served as a Sunday School teacher, choir member, church clerk, and has helped with the auditing committee each year. She has chosen 2 Corinthians 5:17 as one of her favorite scripture verses. Paul says here, "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ Jesus, he is a new creation; the old is gone, the new has come." Mrs. Bertsch has certainly demonstrated this verse in her life. We call her our Christian taxi driver because she rarely comes to church alone. She is either bringing with her other ladies of the church, or her own grandchildren, or visitors. Mrs. Adeline Bertsch brings true encouragement to our faith and trust in our God. Our lives are enriched for being around her. She is, in the words of this column, a "senior servant".



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Staff Stats

My name is Sharon Banzhof and I am in my second year of writing for **Living Springs** which I thoroughly enjoy. It was actually by accident that I found out about this paper. When I received a note in my mailbox stating that I had signed up to work for the **Springs**, I was bewildered because I couldn't even remember ever hearing about the paper! Surprisingly enough, I was encouraged at the first meeting by the spirit and enthusiasm with which the others regarded the paper. This year when I was asked if I would like to continue with the **Springs**, I quickly responded, "Yes!"

I am from Muncy, a small town in Pennsylvania. Being at school in Ohio I get homesick for the mountains. At present, I am majoring in Spanish and looking for another major to supplement this. I enjoy camping with my family, water skiing, racquetball, and making crafts.

At home, I attend a relatively small church, where I find that the faithfulness and friendliness of the older people are a blessing to me. Hopefully, through **Living Springs**, I can return this blessing by being a blessing to Senior Citizens throughout our country.



“A Murderer In The Church?”

While I was an assistant Pastor, part of my responsibilities was to go to our county jail once a month, with a group of men from our church, to conduct a church service. Fear was a natural part of our feelings on these particular Sundays. It is not that we did not trust the Lord—we just did not know how far we could trust the inmates! After our service one week a man approached me, and spoke with me about the Lord. During the conversation he said that he was a Christian, and was sorry for what he had done. Lo and behold, he was present in our morning worship service the following Sunday. I could not remember where I had seen him, until he reminded me. Needless to say, I was surprised to see that he would come to our church. Unfortunately he moved away from our area, so we never saw him again. However, other churches have had similar experiences, but with “worse” criminals. The following incident was related to me. Ask yourself, would you let this person in your church?

A man in his mid-thirties was roaming the streets of many towns on a murderous rampage. He would either murder the people himself, or plan the murder of countless men, women and even children. A problem arose when the authorities could not catch up with him. However, after many killings, he met the greatest Authority and was miraculously saved. The Lord,

in His matchless wisdom and grace, brought this man into His family. When he showed up on the doorstep of the local Baptist church, he was not welcomed. In fact, they were all afraid for their own lives, because they knew of his reputation. If we were a part of this church, I wonder, would we have reacted the same way, or would we have welcomed him with open arms?

Fortunately one person reached out to him. One person took him under his wing and disciplined him. For a long time this person was the only friend the new convert had. After a while, and after the new life in Christ was being seen, people began to bring him into their group. He became an integral part of the work of God. In fact, he went on to be an outstanding missionary statesman and preacher. His life ended in tragedy, just as he had ended so many others.

What do you think? Would you have accepted the apostle Paul, alias Saul, into your church? Would you have been the Barnabas who disciplined Paul, or would you have been a rejector? Let's be careful that we do not turn away potential servants of Christ just because of their past.

by
Roger McCarty
Pastor of First Baptist Church
Baker, Montana

Puzzle

The words listed below can be found throughout this month's issue. Happy Searching.

Schedule	Hourglass
Time	Strength
Routine	Murderer
Watch	Season
Clock	Created
Priority	Taxi driver
Steward	Blessings
Past	Peace
Present	Respect
Future	Life

C V O P S T R E N S T H
Z O P R E S E N T S U O
B C E I A J R K R T S U
C K A O S I U P A S T R
R P C R O W T L Q C E G
E T E I N A U M P H W I
A C V T L T F I M E A A
T E T Y H C Z N F D R S
E P N F G H U I O U D S
D S G H I S L S E L B W
O E R O U T O I N E V X
M R E V I R D I X A T Y

To The Young At Heart

*Young at heart? Yes, even though
We've now lived many years;
We still have goals, and like to meet,
Have sweet fellowship with peers.*

*Why stay at home and stagnate
When all around are ways
To be of help to others
And to our Lord bring praise?*

*How merciful the Lord has been
To each one, every day;
His love and grace, so limitless,
Have strengthened us always.*

*"Great is Thy faithfulness," we sing,
And sure it will continue!
Our daily aim is: live for Him,
And to the Word be true.*

*There'll soon be no more aches and pains
Nor even a tear or sigh;
So, Young at Heart, keep lookin up—
"Your redemption draweth nigh."*

[Luke 21:28b]

by
Irma M. Dobson

Irma Dobson sent along with the poem a note of explanation about the "Young at Heart."

"The **Young at Heart** is an active group of 'mature' Christian people of Grace Baptist Church which is located in Cedarville, OH.

We get together once a month for fellowship, to minister to others, or to go to some interesting place together. Our average attendance is 35-40.

As we serve the Lord Jesus Christ, we also strengthen and encourage one another."

I. Dobson



Time

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Webster says that time is the system of those relations which any event has to any other as past, present, or future. Time is something that most of us take for granted. We do not know how much time we have left. "Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away" James 4:14. This is why we need to live our lives to the fullest for God.

Sometimes Christians get caught up in worldly affairs and put the Lord off till a later time. We have a tendency to procrastinate when it comes to doing what God wants. We say "later, Lord" or "I have something else to do." Luke 9:61 is an example of procrastination: "and another also said, Lord, I will follow thee; but let me first go bid them farewell, which are at home at my house." Other examples are in Gen. 19:16 and Mt. 8:21. We should not put off time to be with

God.

Dr. Martin Clark of Cedarville College suggests ways to manage and use our time effectively. He mentions that the key to time management is the setting up of priorities. Dr. Clark states that every person has a certain time in the day that he performs at his best. We should try to perform the things that are important to us during this time. During the rougher times of the day we should do activities that we enjoy. Dr. Clark mentions that time is an asset and that we shouldn't just kill time. One of the most important suggestions that he mentioned, which we should be mindful of at all times, is being good stewards of time. We don't know how much time God will allow us to be on this earth, but we should use the time we have, glorify God, and be watchful of Christ's coming. "Watch therefore; for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh" Mt. 25:13.

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But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.

John 4:14

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