

#### Hello and Welcome

back dear friends to our 19th Good News Magazine Edition. We hope that you had a blessed time and that you were able to tap something for yourself from God through our previous edition which

spoke more on patience, perseverance and persistence. We are excited to introduce and share with you the Magazine with its new changes in terms of



layout and the puzzle. We hope that these new changes won't affect your reading and that it will be easy for you all to follow, read and share with friends.

We at the Good News Magazine are so happy to have a dear friend who joined us recently to be part of our team. For this short period, he has been of great help to us in many ways and as a growing team; we will work together as the Lord leads. We so thank the Lord for bringing him to our team. Having said that, I am

glad to introduce to you our title for this edition by asking ourselves, "Would you give your life for a friend?"

Life would be so boring if we had no friends to chat with, talk to, share with confide to, cry with and



Ecclesiastes 4:9-10 says, Two are

better than one; because they have a good reward for their labour. For if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow: but woe to him that is alone when

he falleth: for he hath not another to help him up. The man who had great wisdom knew better to say two are better than one. It is indeed true

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## Giving Your Life

run to. Oh, how lovely this is! I wonder how many people would prefer to stay without friends. I guess even the cruelest people do have someone to call a friend. A friend is a person you know well and regard with affection and trust. He is always cooperative and of great assistance. A friend is a person with whom you are acquainted. But, then if indeed a friend is all of the above I have described, would you give your life for your friend?

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Issue #19 August 2015

#### **Proverb Of Friendship**

by Deborah Webster Senese I think each one of us can look back to the days of our childhood. That last day of school when every child from every class came shooting out of the school building like a bullet. Huge smiles on our faces; It was the last day of school & the first day of summer. What was summer? Playing outside with your friends from dawn til dusk. Yes, there were the whole group of neighborhood friends that we played with, but it always seemed to come down to one special friend whom you did everything with.

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#### **Giving One's Life**

by Justus Ondieki [continued]

We learn so much from the above scripture; it speaks to us so directly and in an easy way to understand. In other words we need each other in this life we live in. But most of the times the opposite happens. One whom you trusted so much, turns against us. It could be someone we thought would be of great help to us but then turns out to be unfamiliar to us. It is like we know nothing about them...King David too did experience this. In Psalms 41:9 Yea, mine own familiar friend, in whom I trusted. which did eat of my bread, hath lifted up his heel against me. This shouldn't surprise us at all. But one thing we must remember is that. when friends forsake you, God will never do so. And it is in this regard I want to share about my best friend. Do you know Him? Have you met Him? I wish you knew Him. You will always want to be associated with Him. His Name is JESUS, the best friend I have ever

Jesus My Lord, the one who gave His life for me. He died a cruel death so that I could live. He took my place of sin and paid the penalty. HE loved us so much, that He gave His only begotten son. He cleansed me and said, ALL IS FINISHED! What more can I say about my friend? Is there a friend who can do such a thing? HE sure is a friend to be trusted. From the beginning to the end, His love for us is limitless! He heals our sick bodies. He forgives our sins. Yes, Jesus my Lord, Savior and friend defends the feeble. He is more than a friend. He is never too far away from us. He is closer to us than we

could imagine or think. He dwells in our hearts to all those who have accepted His eternal, lasting friendship!

I wish you knew what kind of friend I am talking about. The Spirit of the Lord is upon Him, He is anointed to preach the gospel to the poor. He came to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised. Oh, did you hear that? My friend Jesus is a humble servant. He was God Himself. His residence was in heaven but He desired to live with mankind. He was seeking for a life time friendship and as He came to His own, His own received Him not. They rejected Him, a friend who had come to help us. Him they did not want to associate with. Nevertheless, this never put Him away from us. He established His Kingdom. His will on earth He fulfilled. He gives us our daily bread. He forgives us our debts. He leads us not into temptation but delivers us from evil! Who could do this other than Jesus, the Son of God?

John 15:15 says, Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you. This is why I love my friend Jesus. He reveals all things to us who believe Him. Whatever He hears from His Father He makes it known unto us. For greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. Jesus is a true friend. To Him I pledge my allegiance. I will do whatever He commands me to, His grace will always help us all in

obedience to do what He wills. May it be unto us all, if we really are Jesus' friends, to do all that He commands us! *Greater love hath no man than this...* By these words our Lord shows, how far love to one another should extend, even to the laying down of our lives for our friends!

Now, it is very important to know that for us to be good friends, we must love one another. If we don't love one another, we can never give our lives for a friend. That's why Jesus Himself commanded us to love each other. John 13:34 says, A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ve also love one another. Jesus our best friend, did not only come down from heaven, and lay aside His glory and royal majesty, but He laid down His life! He could have laid down His gold, silver and the riches of this world, which were all His, but He opted to lay down His very own life; than which, nothing is dearer to a man, is Himself, His all, everything He was! That indeed is a friend we all need to have!

Jesus was and still is the Lord of glory and Prince of life. He was crucified and slain. We deserved all this, but He, being a good and caring friend gave it all for our own sake. His life had never been forfeited by sin, nor could it have been forced away from Him by men but it was laid down of and by Himself, freely and voluntarily. He became a ransom for us. Jesus, being our surety and substitute, stood in our legal place and took our sins upon Him. He bore the curse of the law with all the punishment due to sin; and suffered death, the death of the

cross. How painful this was for a dear friend to lay down His life for us. It is not that He was a sinner, we were and He was sinless, just and upright.

Notice, Jesus didn't want to call His disciples servants, but He called them friends. Not that they were originally so; being enemies and enmity itself to God, when He laid down His life for them and for us all. God's main agenda is to reconcile and bring us back to Himself. We, who were His enemies by His grace called us friends. He laid down His life for His enemies, without any sinister or selfish move, Jesus freely and voluntarily died on the cross for us ALL. Proverb 18:24 A man that hath friends must shew himself friendly: and there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother. That friend is Jesus who will always sticker closer to us. Who is like Him? Will you allow Him to come into your life? Will you let Jesus be part of your life? Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me. Let us all open the door of our hearts and let Jesus in. He is indeed a friend who can give His life for a friend. Will you?

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## Proverb Of Friendship

[ continued ]

Friendships are important. Not just to us as humans, but even throughout scripture, we're shown examples of friendships. My favorite was the true friendship love between Jonathan & David. So much so, that we named one of our sons Jonathan David! The struggles they had to go to just in order to be able to meet together, the risks Jonathan took to even see David when he knew his father was seeking to kill him. But they had a friendship that even those fears couldn't keep apart. True friendship.

I believe that we take friendships for granted. We have the friends that can do for us and that's when they're our friends. Otherwise, we really don't have too much contact. Then there are the friends that we don't hear from them until they need something from us. There are friends that when you meet for the first time, you instantly click and grows into lifelong friendships. That is true friendship.

To have someone, that when your heart is burdened about something, to be able to pick up the phone, or write and pour your heart out to them and them alone knowing they're not going to critique what you share, but prayerfully take before the Lord with you, and seek Godly advice to share back with you, encourage you, cry with you, rejoice with you. These friends are hard to find. But is a true blessing once found. For they are the ones that would do what seems to be impossible for you.

The Bible gives us many examples of not only WHAT kind of friend to look for, but the benefits of a true friend, how you know if they are a true friend, and how to keep that friend.

We're told right in Proverbs 18:24 - "A man that hath friends must shew himself friendly." Absolutely! A true friendship is give and take.

Not one of us is perfect. Even the

Not one of us is perfect. Even the best of friends, when asked, I'm sure can point out flaws in our characters. Perhaps one we're not aware of, perhaps some we're working on. However, if we prove ourselves to be friendly through thick and thin, it does tend to bring the bond closer together. Does that mean we'll never disappoint? By no means. It means that we do our best to be friendly towards others, and they will either respond in kind, or turn the other way not looking for true friendship. A good verse backing this up is Proverbs 17:17 - A friend loveth at all times," Not just when its been a good day, or everything has gone right. But even when we mess up, have a bad day, hurt them verbally (intentionally or unintentionally). Do we hold a grudge toward them and punish them with our silence when they come to us with an apology? Or perhaps never apologize at all? They may not have realized they even hurt or offended us. But they are our true friend.: And we should love them at ALL times.

True friends also do something to each other. Its like putting two halves together when they are together. They compliment each other. Proverbs 27:17 -" *Iron sharpeneth iron*; so a man

sharpeneth the countenance of his friend.". Best friends, true friends, just bring out the best in each other. True friends are not afraid to confront a friend with an issue they may see going in a wrong direction. Because they love them, they may need to share some painful things with them. Hearing those things may be even more painful than the person sharing them. However, a true friend is going to listen, and then "hear" what the friend is saying as they are not one in the same. You can listen to music in the background and hum along subconsciously. But hearing is taking in every word, and pondering it. Praying about it, even praying together about it. In the end, if its a true friendship, you will both come out stronger than before. That is why we are told in Proverbs 27:6 -" Faithful [are] the wounds of a friend; but the kisses of an enemy [are] deceitful." There are many types of friendships, but the one true one is the most important. We're told in the latter part of Proverbs 18:24, "...and there is a friend [that] sticketh closer than a brother." We all have access to this Friend, if we choose to. That is Jesus Christ! He's as close as a whispered prayer away. Once you have found and vielded vour life over to Him, He IS that friend that will NEVER desert you, turn away from you, leave you alone in the darkness of night when you're heart is so heavily burdened. He knows us, He loves us, and He cares for us in a way that our earthly friends may fall short at times. He will not! We're assured of this in John 15:13 - "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life

for his friends." Jesus Christ was this man. While He walked this earth, He was man and God. Yet it was His humanity that He offered freely, without hesitation, for His friends...that we may be with Him always even into eternity. And ves, while Jesus was here on earth, it is mentioned in scripture that He was a friend to all, and yet, He had a couple of "best friends". One we know was Lazarus. John 11 conveys this in vs.3 "Therefore his sisters sent unto him, saying, Lord, behold, he whom thou lovest is sick. " And again in vs. 5 "Now Jesus loved Martha, and her sister, and Lazarus." While Jesus had a plan, and knew what His Father wanted Him to do, in the eyes of the disciples, Jesus was taking a great risk for these friends as we read in vs. 7 "Then after that saith he to his disciples, Let us go into Judaea again. 8 His disciples say unto him, Master, the Jews of late sought to stone thee; and goest thou thither again?" But that didn't stop Him. We continue reading and it says, " after that he saith unto them, Our friend Lazarus sleepeth; " So we see that while here on earth, He did have friends...and He saw His friend die. And it effected Him, we know, as one of the most popularly quoted verses because of it being the shortest verse in scripture is because, "Jesus wept". Even though He knew He was going to raise Lazarus from the dead, it pained Jesus so, that He wept. When Jesus tells us He knows all that we've been through, every pain, every emotion we feel, its because He did while here on earth; Everything but sin. That is why He was able to be that One

lay down His life for a friend. On the cross of Calvary, He laid down His life for you and me. Not because we were friends with Him, but because He was friends with ALL.

My friend, and I do consider you a friend, perhaps not a "best friend", but a friend enough to lovingly share with you this crucial fact. As much as God loves you, your end result will not be eternity with Him in Glory, but quite the opposite.

Yielding to Him means you've chosen Jesus Christ to be your lifelong Lord and Savior; given Him complete control, confessed your sin before Him for His forgiveness, mercy and grace, repented and allow the Holy Spirit to guide you as you grow in Him. While Hell was NOT created for human habitation, but for the angels that had fallen, if you do not choose His free gift of salvation here on earth, when you pass into the next life, He will have no choice but to say, "depart from Me, I never knew you". What a horiffic thing to even imagine; Eternity in Hell.

So dear ones, while we can enjoy our friendships here on Earth, and continue to feed them and grow them, remember, there is a Friend that sticketh closer than a Brother, His Name is Jesus!

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"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth on Him (His Son) should not perish, but have everlasting life." (John 3:16) "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved!"

(Acts 16:31)

and only special Friend who could

### Am I My Brother's Keeper?

by Deborah Ann Belka
I am my brother's keeper,
I help him to understand
I encourage him to put
his life into God's hand.

I am my sister's keeper, I help her to see the light I encourage her to grow to keep Jesus in her sight.



I am my neighbor's keeper, I pray for their daily needs I tell them to always listen to follow where God leads.

I am my mother's keeper, in her old age I help her out I hold her hand when lonely to calm her fears and doubt.

I am my father's keeper, I lift to God, his very soul I pray each day and night Jesus will make him whole.

I am my children's keeper, I listen to their concerns I pray as they become adults God's will, they may discern.

The Lord is my keeper, He is with me every day He watches over me . . . as souls to Him ~ I sway.

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"And the Lord said unto Cain, Where is Abel thy brother? And he said, I know not: Am I my brother's keeper?" Genesis 4:9 KJV

#### **Testimony**

By Justus

Did you know that our mothers have played a big role in our lives in getting to know about our Lord JESUS? I so love my mom, she has invested a lot in me and what she deposited in my heart will always remain as a seal in me. I so cherish her and love her so much.

My mum was the first one in our family to give her life to the Lord. She got saved back then in 1991 when she received an invitation to go to church by a friend. 'I felt such a great move and very peaceful in my heart that day...' I recall her telling me her story. She had no future, all she used to do was to sell illegal brew, she was the devil's captive but when she received Jesus, life was never the same again.

She received critics, others telling her that she will never amount to be anything at all, that now she is not selling liquor where could she get money? You see the enemy is very deceptive, though she sold all this, she never profited in it, all she got was losses after losses and now when she came to Jesus, she got critics. But she said, it is better I live for Jesus than die selling liquor.

Well she had made her decision. She started taking us to the church, by then I was only 8 years. We went to church every Sunday, my brother Dennis and I would be happy at Sunday school but then we only heard of the Lord's great deeds but never received Him in our lives.

One day, in the year 1998 mum

called us at the table, my brother Dennis and I. 'My sons, you know you have to receive Jesus as Lord and savior in your hearts', she said. Then I responded, 'Mum, we do go to church every Sunday, and we have heard the pastor preach to us about Jesus.'

It was then that mum lovingly expounded the scriptures to us, and I listened carefully as she taught us God's word in plain truth. That we were all sinners, and that unless you confess with your mouth that Jesus Christ is Lord and He rose from the death, and that He is the son of God, and call upon His name, you can never be saved. This startled me, and compelled me and my brother to receive Jesus in our hearts. She prayed for us and led us in a confession prayer.

From that day, my faith started growing... and my life was never the same again. My heart was filled up with joy and going to church was not something normal but I saw it as a place where I found my peace, joy, love and getting to fellowship with brothers and sisters in one accord.

My mother was a humble woman and so she is up to now. She also taught my dad the word, dad too came to church after mum told him that the Lord wanted him for His service. Dad came to church and the pastor prayed for him and received Jesus as Lord and savior in his heart! What a big role my mum played!

I am so thankful to the Lord for my mother. She is the reason for us knowing the Lord. She spent most of her time in prayer and her prayer was, 'Lord, save my whole family, let them know you Lord Jesus' and this prayer has already been answered as my whole family are now born again. With God all things are possible. All that seems to be impossible with men, it is possible with God.

Don't go by the opinions of men, just like my mother received many critics from the people, she stood her ground and the Lord has been faithful to her and to us all. Trust in the Lord and have faith in Him. Accept Him today and start your life afresh in Him.

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#### What Does It Mean?

by Gramps Curtis
The jealous evangelist began
speaking to those self-righteous
backslidden preachers about the
trials and treachery he had
survived. His words were meant
to prick their hearts, and call
attention to their phoney
ministries.

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Before we continue learning about this jealous evangelist, I'd add a couple suggestions here. So often, in our hectic daily agendas, we tend to snack on scripture, much like we snack from a sack at the nearest drivethru. We know that burger is not good for building strong bones, but we gotta hurry, hurry, hurry.

To be strong faithful soldiers for the Lord Jesus Christ, we need to FEED on scripture, not just snack and go. When we take our seat at the

dinner table, we first thank God for our food, and ask Him to strengthen us to joyfully do His will. Well, we must approach 2Corinthians 11, and all of scripture in the same way; with prayer, and prepare to march into battle for Our Dear Savior. We must ask God to help us savor scripture, not only as a history book, reference manual, collection of daily Bible readings, but as a diary. We ask God to help put us in the mind of Moses, or Jonah, or the Apostle Paul.

While you may be reading the contents of The Good News Magazine from a hand-held reader, we'll follow here with that chapter 11 of 2Corinthians.

Now as you move down through all the terrible things that Paul suffered, notice what he adds at the end of the list – or rather, separate from the list. Read it closely and prayerfully, 'cuz he's talking about you and me, in vs. 28.

What does it mean in telling us about Paul's heart? What does he consider most important to his daily agenda? Compare the giving of his life daily, to your

#### Jesus My Best Friend

© David Holt Boshart, Jr.

Whenever I'm in trouble
Or when I am afraid
He helps me work my problems out
And the hurt just seems to fade.

Whenever I am feeling low, He helps me not to feel so bad, He makes my life worth living, Jesus really makes me glad!

He's always there when you need a friend, On Jesus you can always depend; When you take your problems to Him, He gives you peace and joy within.

It's nice talking to Jesus,
Because he understands what you need,
If you have sadness in your heart,
He will help you out indeed!

I'm glad I know Jesus,
Because now I have eternal life,
I'll be up there in Heaven,
Where there will be love and no strife.

So if you are not saved And you want to know this friend, Ask Jesus to come into your life, And your broken heart He will mend.

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agenda.

2Corinthians 11 (KJV)

1 Would to God ye could bear with me a little in my folly: and indeed bear with me. 2 For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ. 3 But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. 4 For if he that cometh preacheth another Jesus, whom we have not preached, or if ye receive

another spirit, which ye have not received, or another gospel, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with him. 5 For I suppose I was not a whit behind the very chiefest apostles. 6 But though I be rude in speech, yet not in knowledge; but we have been throughly made manifest among you in all things. 7 Have I committed an offence in abasing myself that ve might be exalted, because I have preached to you the gospel of God freely? 8 I robbed other churches, taking wages of them, to do you service. 9 And when I was present with you, and wanted, I was chargeable to no man: for that which was lacking to me the brethren which came from Macedonia supplied: and in all things I have kept myself from being burdensome unto you, and so will I keep myself. 10 As the truth of Christ is in me, no man shall stop me of this boasting in the regions of Achaia. 11 Wherefore? because I love you not? God knoweth. 12 But what I do, that I will do, that I may cut off occasion from them which desire occasion; that wherein they glory, they may be found even as we. 13 For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. 14 And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. 15 Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works. 16 I say again, Let no man think me a fool; if otherwise, vet as a fool receive me, that I may boast myself a little. 17 That which I speak, I speak it not after the Lord, but as it were foolishly, in this confidence of boasting. 18

Seeing that many glory after the flesh, I will glory also. 19 For ye suffer fools gladly, seeing ye yourselves are wise. 20 For ye suffer, if a man bring you into bondage, if a man devour you, if a man take of you, if a man exalt himself, if a man smite you on the face. 21 I speak as concerning reproach, as though we had been weak. Howbeit whereinsoever any is bold, (I speak foolishly,) I am bold also. 22 Are they Hebrews? so am I. Are they Israelites? so am I. Are they the seed of Abraham? so am I. 23 Are they ministers of Christ? (I speak as a fool) I am more; in labours more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequent, in deaths oft. 24 Of the Jews five times received I forty stripes save one. 25 Thrice was I beaten with rods, once was I stoned, thrice I suffered shipwreck, a night and a day I have been in the deep; 26 In journeyings often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils by mine own countrymen, in perils by the heathen, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren; 27 In weariness and painfulness, in watchings often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness. 28 Beside those things that are without, that which cometh upon me daily, the care of all the churches. 29 Who is weak, and I am not weak? who is offended, and I burn not? 30 If I must needs glory, I will glory of the things which concern mine infirmities. 31 The God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which is blessed for evermore, knoweth that I lie not. 32 In Damascus the governor under Aretas the king kept the city of the Damascenes

with a garrison, desirous to apprehend me: 33 And through a window in a basket was I let down by the wall, and escaped his hands.

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#### **FINAL WORD**

\*\*\*If you would love us to pray with you, please do not hesitate to contact us through the emails listed below:

If you have taken this step and made that all important decision to accept Jesus Christ as the Blessed Controller of your life, please contact us via email with name and physical address. And if you need to talk to us by phone, please let us know so we may PM you our phone numbers. Would you like us to send you some material concerning the next steps in your walk with the Lord? Do you have a special prayer request? If so, please let us know through the emails provided above.\*\*\* Please feel free to visit our online blog and share with friends. You

thegoodnewsmagazine.blogspot.com

may also let us know how we can make this blog serve you better or improve it.

May you prosper in all that you do! God hasn't forgotten about you. You are in His mind and thoughts. Always praying for you.

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# Puzzle Partners >>

# **Give Your Life**

There are a number of ways to GIVE YOUR LIFE as the Lord leads. A few of them are:

# Mother and Military Soldier Martyr, Missionary, Minister

goals to Jesus Christ. require a personal giving up one's will and What's interesting is that each of these

efforts to the Auca Indians, of Equador, South America. They put their tools, talents and very lives on the line in four others were martyred in evangelism In 1956, missionary pilot Nate Saint and Jesus Christ, and His sacrifice on Calvary. teaching others the saving power of

Most everyone has fun solving word TGNM is excited to lead you in using the

> yourlife thirteen

PUZZLE PARTNERS monthly feature we're excited about word search fun to help share your faith and love for Jesus Christ. That's why we're putting in your hands the

can discuss together. You can also make a few fresh reminded of God's blessings beyond words, that you both copies and have search contests! Fun! Fun! Fun! help you with some of the words, also. YOU BOTH will be As you find the first few puzzle words, invite your friend to

responsibility to our Lord's Great Commission. What fun you can have with others, fulfilling your

Last issue's solution >>>

Puzzle Partners is an exclusive feature of GOOD NEWS MAGAZINE.

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