

The Heart Beat

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The Trust Factor, by Gary and Tanya James

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all of you!

This month our focus is on Trust. What is trust? The dictionary defines it as, "complete confidence in a person or plan." That is what God wants us to have with Him. We say over and over that we trust God, we sing songs about trusting God, but how many of us really "Trust God"? In reality, we only trust Him to a certain extent. If we trusted completely, we would never, ever complain about what is happening in our lives. We would hold to the scripture, "All things work together for good..." That includes illness, disease, cancer, death, loss of a home or a car, a husband or wife cheating, wayward children, and on and on. God allows us to go through things for a purpose that we have no clue about. All He asks is that you just simply trust Him to bring you out.

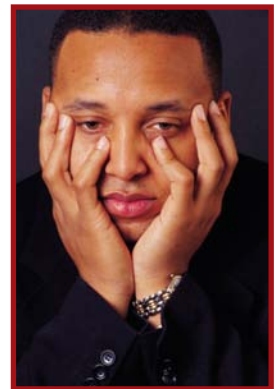
We really need to get out of the mindset that everything is going to be easy. Trials are here to make us stronger. Hardships put us in a place of having to lean and depend on God. Sometimes He has to allow struggles to get our attention. Because of sin, we have been separated from our Heavenly Father but through the blood of Jesus we have been reconciled. We have to begin the journey back to

full restoration and that takes pruning of the sinful ways we have developed over time. We have to trust that the process He takes us through is the best way for us. Don't compare your process to others because no one else will follow the same procedures as you.

How do I know this? Well, a few years back, my husband and I were working in ministry and we took a stand against wrong-doing. As a result, we lost everything! We both became unemployed at the same time. We began looking for new jobs working in our field of training, but nothing came through. We prayed and cried and prayed more for God to come through. We had two other mouths to feed. But it was as if God was silent. We didn't know what to do. We went out to get food assistance. Oh, what an experience! I have never been treated so unkindly in all of my life, but God was doing something in us. We endured the humiliation and the shame, while He kept telling us to trust Him. We worked off and on trying to maintain our apartment but the money just wasn't enough. We were evicted and we lost our vehicle. God, what are you doing?!!

My faith was seriously challenged. We still had to minister in the midst of all of this and no one knew what we were going through. After a year and a half, God slowly turned things around. He sent me a job that was designed for me. I almost blew it because I was sitting around in self-pity. He told me to get up and go to the interview.

See Trust, continued on p. 2



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They hired me right on the spot. What a blessing! We had friends that let us use their vehicle for a while and other friends that let us stay with them until we could get back on our feet. I could see the hand of God working on our behalf. He was restoring us. But in the midst of our restoring, we spiritually grew so much. It was a humbling experience, but as I look back, it was needed.

God taught us how to have compassion for people. Out of our pain, He developed a ministry for us called Renewed Hearts, Inc., a ministry to reach the hurting and restore their hearts back to God.

Our world is in a mess and without the presence of God, it would soon



destroy itself. There is no guarantee for what tomorrow may bring. All that the believer can do is to completely rely on God for the very moment. We need to be just like that baby that stands up holding on to his or her parent's hand, completely trusting that they won't let them fall.

Even if things seem like they are failing around you, God's word says in Matthew 6, "Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? For your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." With that in mind, will you completely trust God with **everything**?



Gary and Tanya James are the Ministry Directors for Renewed Hearts, Inc.

Food for Thought

*Happy moments, praise God.
Difficult moments, seek God.
Quiet moments, worship God.
Painful moments, trust God.
Every moment, thank God.*

Author Unknown

*Trust in the LORD with all
thine heart; and lean not unto
thine own understanding. In all thy
ways acknowledge him, and he shall
direct thy paths.*

Proverbs 3:5, 6



Short Cutz.....

Resources for Saving

This month we want to feature websites that offer savings to help you keep more money in your pocket. Please note that we may not necessarily support every aspect of these sites. They are to be used for reference only.

Lower My Bills

Choose a Bill to Lower or Comparison Shop for Products and Save
www.lowermybills.com

Google Product Search

Search for stuff to buy
www.google.com/products

Shopping.com

What are you shopping for?
www.shopping.com

Amazon.com

Shop For Bestselling Products
www.amazon.com

Retailmenot.com

Find coupons for more than 20,000 stores
www.retailmenot.com



Please Note

Due to unforeseen circumstances, the section entitled "In Case You Didn't Know..." will be not featured in this issue. However, it will resume in February's issue.

Trust and Financial Freedom, by Karla Bliss

Trusting God with my finances should be pretty much understood but this is one area of my life where I have had to continually grow. In 1996 after I had given birth to my second child, I became increasingly convicted that I needed to stay at home with my two young sons.

I had no problem with the idea of staying home, the biggest problem I faced was wondering how our family would manage financially. After much inward battling and contemplating, I stopped working and had to learn to trust God to help us make it through the difficult times. I didn't realize



it at the time, but my problems were more than a concern about our well being. The real issue was my lack of trust in God. Putting pretty labels on it like "my concern" or "my struggle" made me feel better spiritually but the problem was a heart issue caused by a lack of faith.

Not long after I stopped working my husband lost his job and my faith had to grow to another level. We went from two incomes, to one income, to no income, and it was quite a trying

time for us. We couldn't figure out why my husband didn't find a job right away. God was teaching us to rely and depend on Him. Proverbs 3: 5-6 says to trust in the Lord, lean not to your own understanding, acknowledge God and let him direct your path.

I could not trust because I had fear. Fear of the unknown, fear of what

might happen, and it was interfering with my trust in God. 2 Timothy 1:7 says, "For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind." It was only four months ago that I was tested in this area again.

After homeschooling my sons I decided this year that

I would not be able to do it again for various reasons. The only option for putting them in school was the local church school. It was a few days before the first day of school and we didn't have a clue as to how we would be able to do this financially. I worried needlessly all during that time, and God already had things under control.

My mother-in-law volunteered to pay their registration fee as well as the first two months of tuition. A few months later we were able to pay their school bills for the whole year. I said, "O.K. God, I have learned my lesson." God says the



cattle upon a thousand hills are His. The earth is the Lords and everything in it. I know all of these things intellectually but the real test comes when my family is without. Matt 6: 25-34 tells us not to worry. Don't worry about the bills, the economy, the savings account, the retirement fund or anything else because God will take care of all of these things.

So, I ask you this question, "Are you acting in faith and trust in God or are you sinning against the one who says not to worry about anything in life?" Can God trust you to trust Him? There's freedom in trust.

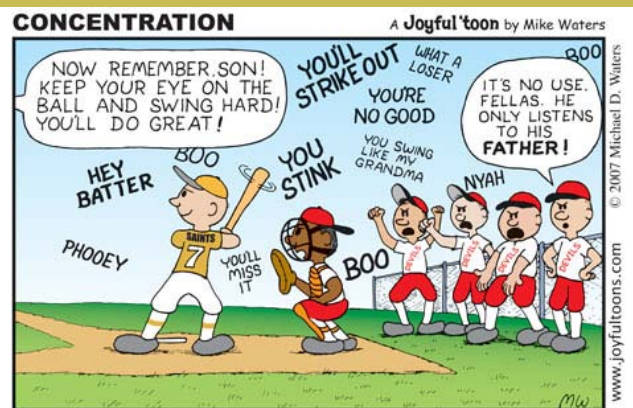
It is better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in man.
Psalms 118:8

Blessed is that man that maketh the LORD his trust, and respecteth not the proud, nor such as turn aside to lies.
Psalms 40:4

Quote of the Month

*"Love all, trust a few.
Do wrong to none."*

William Shakespeare



You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you. - ISAIAH 26:3 ESV

Family First: How's Your Trust Level?, by Marsha Peters

Trust, once broken, is hard to restore. A sense of intimacy and security is lost that must be built up again by painstaking effort a little at a time. It's as though the life of the relationship has been snuffed out. It takes the cooperation of both parties, patience, perseverance and a lot of time to get the relationship back to where it was before. Trust is something earned, and once lost it takes sometimes painful and strenuous effort to get back on track.

"It's not fair and it's not right," I kept saying to myself. My parents had been in ministry together ever since before they were married. Now they were retirement age, and both of them were sick "They should be visiting their children and grandchildren, not suffering from illnesses", I complained. My mother became ill first, with that dreaded disease called Alzheimer's. It was very sad to see her slowly lose her memory, and even sadder to watch my dad as he watched her slowly decline. He eventually was diagnosed with congestive heart failure, and passed away before my mother. That's typical of what happens to spouses of Alzheimer's patients; the care-giver dies first.

One day I was in one of those "it's not fair" moods about my mother. I wanted God to give her back her mind. I kept saying, "God, they've lived their whole lives for you, why would you let this happen to them?" As I was sitting there complaining,



this thought came in my mind that wouldn't go away, and I know it was God: "She was my child before she was your mother." I kind of sat there in shock for a few minutes as the words begin to sink in. Then the tears started to flow. God was saying to me, "I've got this, Marsha, and I've had it since before you were born, and I'll have it through eternity. Now, do you trust me with it?" Once I stopped trying to tell God how to run my parents' lives, I had peace.

During the last six years of my mother's illness, I stopped working to help take care of her. We went to one income, and it was hard, but once again, we had to trust God to take care of us. When my mother passed, I started a home school in my home to help our income. We had previously decided that I would stay at home with our son, and this was a good way to do that. What I began to notice was that I really was unable to spend the time I needed to spend with him one on one because I was too busy, and it was beginning to show. We decided to let the home school go. That meant going back to one salary. There again we had to trust God to take care of us, and it has not been easy.

See How, continued on p. 6



Tips to Manage Stress

The American Psychological Society

1. Identify your sources of stress. What events or situations trigger stressful feelings?
2. Learn your own stress signals. People experience stress in different ways. You may have a hard time concentrating or making decisions, feel angry, irritable or out of control, or experience headaches, muscle tension or a lack of energy.
3. Recognize how you deal with stress. Determine if you are using unhealthy behaviors to cope.
4. Find healthy ways to manage stress. Consider healthy, stress-reducing activities such as exercising or talking things out with friends and family.
5. Take care of yourself. Eat right, get enough sleep, drink plenty of water and engage in regular physical activity. Take regular vacations or other breaks from work. No matter how hectic life gets, make time for yourself.
6. Reach out for support. Accepting help from friends and family can improve your ability to manage stress.

See Coping, continued on p.9

Reflection on Life... by Tanya James

Life is short and tomorrow is not promised. So often we tend to treat others way better than we treat our own family. We greet others with a smile, we are helpful, kind, and courteous towards others but at home we are fussy, negative, and sometimes demeaning. It seems as if your family is a burden to you. It is important to let your family know that you love them and you are thankful for them. They could be gone tomorrow. The following poem reflects on doing things differently if you could "redo" your life.

If I Had to Live My Life Over...

by Erma Bombeck

I would have invited friends over to dinner even if the carpet was stained and the sofa faded.

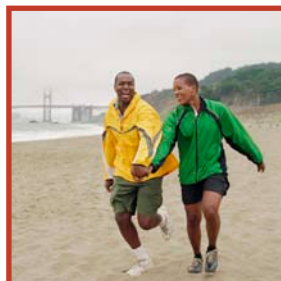
I would have eaten the popcorn in the "GOOD" living room and worried much less about the dirt when someone wanted to light a fire in the fireplace.

I would have taken the time to listen to my grandfather ramble about his youth.

I would never have insisted the car windows be rolled up on a summer day because my hair had just been teased and sprayed.

I would have burned the pink candle sculpted like a rose before it melted in storage.

I would have sat on the lawn with my children and not worried about grass stains.



See *Life*,
continued on p. 7

"I Believe I'll Testify", by Colette Braaf of South Africa

In 2007 the Braaf family moved into a granny flat. It was old, but lovely. One day whilst rummaging in the food cupboard something black came racing out of the cupboard at such a speed it sent me screaming to the bedroom where I leapt on the bed and started violently brushing off whatever my imagination thought may be on me from this 'thing'.

Finally, it dawned on me that perhaps it was a mouse? I called my husband (hoping he was close to home) so he could come and sort the problem out as I wanted to start preparing the family meal. He was far from home and found my situation quite humorous. I realized I had two choices; either I return to the kitchen and hope that this little creature be nowhere to be seen or leave the granny flat and remain



out until my husband came home. I decided that Hannah and I should gather a few things and leave the flat as soon as possible. The thought of some little creature running around was more than I could bear. I was petrified! In no time we had a small bag packed and we were out of that back door (although Hannah didn't seem to share my fear at all).

As the days wore on this little creature (which turned out to be a mouse) became bolder and came out whenever it suited his/her fancy, much to my dismay. To hear petrified screams coming from the granny flat must have had our neighbors wondering, "What is up with that crazy woman"? Unlike Hannah, Terri had a deep appreciation for the word mouse. She was just as petrified as I was and of no earthly help to me in getting rid of this 'thing'. Finally,

one evening Rodney laid some traps. After setting the traps he conveniently decided to pop out to run an errand, and Terri and I were not sure if we were more afraid of the traps or the mouse?

Within minutes of trap setting we heard that horrible sound. Something or someone had been caught in one of the traps in the kitchen. I ran to Terri's room and the first thing I noticed were her eyes bulging in fear as she met me at her door. I wondered if my eyes looked just as silly. We clung to each other as I gently tried to encourage her to be the brave one and go and have a look as to what got caught in the trap. She thought it would be an even better idea if I went to have a look. Whilst trying to convince one another that the other person would be best suited to have a look we edged our way slowly towards the

See *Testify*, continued on p. 8

How, continued from p. 4

We've had to go without a lot, but as David said, "I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread." Ps. 37:25

I've also had trust issues with friends and loved ones that only God could help me with. I once had a very good friend who turned on me for some reason that I still don't know of today. This person said some really mean and hateful things about me and my family to a group of people. I was really hurt and shocked, because my family had accepted them as family, I couldn't think of anything we could

have done to bring this on. I was very angry, and wanted to get back, but after praying about it, I felt convinced to forgive and let it go, and I did, but I dealt with this person with a long-handled spoon. Every time I talked to the person they would apologize for what they had done, every time. As time passed, I decided to remove the long-handled spoon and treat the person as if they had never harmed me. I told them to stop asking for forgiveness because I had truly forgiven them, and do you know, I can't even remember what the mean and hurtful things were that they said. Only God could do that.

What trust issues are you having in your family, or with God? He says, "Come unto Me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give your rest." Matt. 11:28. What trust issues are you heavy laden with? Give it to Jesus. Take a chance, and trust Him today. Remember, broken trust doesn't have to spell the end of a relationship; it could be the beginning of something new, and better.

For more information on how to rebuild trust, visit www.lifescrpt.com and find the article, "Building Trust in a Relationship Again".

Trusting God, by James Blanchard Cisneros

Do you trust God? If you were asked this question, your immediate response would probably be, "Yes, I do trust God."

If you were also asked: Do you ever

worry? Your answer would probably be, "Yes, I worry sometimes."

My friend, allow me to say that if you truly trust God, then you would never worry. If you

choose to worry in any situation then know that you are not fully trusting in God.

Trust God or worry. These are the two choices that we have in every situation. Trust God and be at peace. Worry and experience stress. Our

choices are that simple, and we make our lives as peaceful or stressful as we choose to make them. Trust God and be at peace. This is all that is asked of us. Yet, over and over again, we

choose worry over trust, and make our lives a living hell.

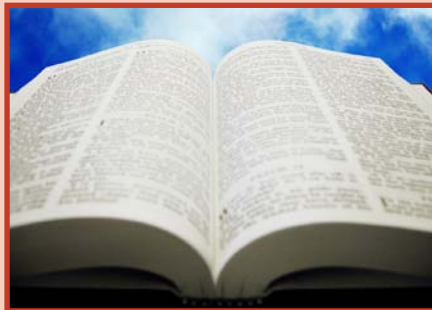
Our level of peace is directly related to our level of trust in God. The more we trust God, the more peace we experience.

The less we trust

God, the less peace we experience. If we choose to completely trust God, then stress will not be a part of our experiences. If we experience any level of stress, it is because we have chosen not to fully trust God.

You might be trying to convince yourself that you can trust God

and worry at the same time. Yet, my friend, if you consider the irrationality of that possibility, you may reconsider your thinking. How could you fully trust the Creator of the universe with a specific event in your life and also worry that He is not carrying it out with your best interest in mind? You could say that the Creator does not have your best interest in mind and therefore you are worried, but somewhere deep within, you know that this is not so. How could the father of peace, happiness, kindness and love have anything but your best interest in mind? It is this that you need to remember when you experience worry or stress in any situation.



Health: My Life is in Your Hands, by Karla Bliss

God sometimes uses situations, experiences and other people to teach us lessons about our relationship with him. One characteristic that a person who truly trusts God has is the ability to remain calm and unmovable even in the most stressful and trying situations. When I first became a nurse and started working in the hospital there was always one doctor who would always amaze me. He stood out from other doctors because of his calm disposition even in the midst of a crisis.



When one of his patients went into cardiac arrest (heart stopped beating) or some other crisis situation arose he always arrived on the unit the same way - composed. He would come striding down the hall quietly and calmly, give orders in a warm and relaxed way, talk to other medical personnel respectfully and get the patient stabilized or off to the Intensive Care Unit.

He would not raise his voice or become impatient or irritable. No matter how others acted around him he remained the same. He was a breath of fresh air compared to some other doctors who would curse, become angry and lose control.

One day someone asked him why and how he could remain so serene in the midst of chaos. He stated that if he reacted to things that were happening around him, or if he allowed things on the outside to control what was going on in the inside, that he would not be productive. He is now one of the most successful and one of the wealthiest

doctors in Atlanta.

Trust in God is something like that. Many of you are facing serious health issues personally, or dealing with health issues of a family member or close friend. Perhaps you've been dealing with these issues for some time now and it's been hard to "Let Go". I remember having to do this with my family members. We got opinions from this doctor and that doctor, tried herbs, vitamins, prayer, anointing and fasting, looking for that miracle;

that answer from God that meant physical healing. I also remember the disappointment and sadness as each grasp of hope for a cure faded.

I had to eventually learn to "Let Go" and like the doctor in the story, not let things that were happening on the outside (sickness, discouraging prognosis, visible decline) affect what was going on in the inside. (Trust in God)

One day I had to say, "The news may not be what I want to hear, my loved one may still be sick, but God is still God and even though I don't understand, I'll trust." The outside situation didn't change because I lost family members to death, but I changed.

When we trust God with our health and our family member's health, and remain calm even in the midst of a crisis or bad news, others will become amazed and wonder what it is that makes us this way. Then we will be able to share our secret. Isaiah 26:3-4 Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on

thee: because he trusteth in thee. Have you put your health and your family member's health in God's hands? Let God give you that perfect peace.



Life, continued from p.5

I would have cried and laughed less while watching television and more while watching life.

I would have gone to bed when I was sick instead of pretending the earth would go into a holding pattern if I wasn't there for the day.

I would never have bought anything just because it was practical, wouldn't show soil or was guaranteed to last a lifetime.

Instead of wishing away nine months of pregnancy, I would have cherished every moment realizing that the wonderment growing inside me was the only chance in life to assist God in a miracle.

When my kids kissed me impetuously, I would never have said, "Later. Now go get washed up for dinner."

There would have been more "I love you's" and more "I'm sorry's" but mostly, given another shot at life, I would seize every minute..... look at it and really see it ... live it ... and never give it back.



Testify, continued from p. 5

kitchen. I didn't know her thoughts, but mine was, "What if this mouse is not complexly dead and just lying there waiting to spring up at me?"

Finally, I decided to release Terri and go and have a look. The tiny form of this little mouse lay dead in the trap. There were spots of blood on his body and as I looked I instantly felt sad. I was sorry for his death and God brought home to mind, that one day very soon we are going to go to a place where there will be no more death. No more fear, no more tears and heartache. I long for that place.

In times when we are so busy trying to make money, finish projects, raise our children, bear children, complete studies, pass our exams, deal with the disappointments and heartaches of life, bury our love ones and just stay afloat, it is so easy to forget. It is so easy to let go of the promise that Jesus left with us that one day He will return and come to take us home. Too often we are busy chasing the wind. Too often we convince ourselves that spiritually we're okay, and there is no need for spiritual growth. Too often we become slothful in our walk with God because we forget. We forget the Blessed Hope. We let go of that bright and glorious morning when our Savior shall come to take us home.

We bury ourselves in fashion, in sexual immorality, in work, in gossip, in acquiring great wealth, in positions of prestige because we forget.

The day is fast approaching and no earthly government (no matter how

wonderful the promises made by man) is going to take care of us in a world that is fast dying, fast being



destroyed. It is time that we realize we have no more time. It is time that we recognize that what we have and where we are is only because of the great love of God. It is time

for us to get ready to go home. Jesus is coming and whilst the world is falling apart I pray we do not forget

Just last night Rodney and I settled down to a quiet evening after the children had retired to bed. I asked him to have a look amongst the furniture in our bedroom as I could hear a scratching sound. He did have a look but found nothing, telling me it was only the sound of the heavy rain falling outside. Later we were watching something on the computer and in the dark (I know I saw it) was another little grey creature that dashed back to wherever he is hiding when he heard my screams. I leapt onto the bed and stood up (wishing the bed was even taller) whilst my poor husband had to shake himself from the warm covers to help this damsel in distress. How in those moments I loved my husband, hahaha! I wondered what made him so brave to be able to face this tiny little creature without any sign of fear? He couldn't find the mouse. I insisted that I was not going to sleep in our bedroom for that night and he needed to carry me from our bed across to the open door. I have a lovely husband and he could see he wasn't going to convince me to

remain in that room a minute longer. Like an oversized child I was carried and the minute my feet was placed on the floor I went dashing into Terri's room, waking her up and there I remained until the morning. Before we fell off to sleep Terri decided to take extra precautions and shoved some clothing under the door so that nothing could get through.

I too wait for that day when (if I am faithful and prove myself fitting for heaven) Jesus will come to take me home. I can almost guarantee He will make me the carer of mice when we get to heaven, and I will never need to fear again.

It is not easy...

*To apologize,
To begin over,
To be unselfish,
To take advice,
To admit error,
To face a sneer,
To be charitable,
To keep trying,
To be considerate,
To avoid mistakes,
To endure success,
To profit by mistakes,
To forgive and forget,
To think then act,
To keep out of a rut,
To make the best of little,
To subdue an unruly temper,
To shoulder a deserved blame,
To recognize the silver lining-
BUT IT ALWAYS PAYS.*

A Twisted Tale or A Twisted Christmas? submitted by Colette Braaf

On November the 19th my little daughter Hannah celebrated her 4th birthday. In the hope of avoiding unnecessary conflict we reminded our oldest daughter that it was not her birthday coming up, but Hannah's and she was not to expect any gifts. For most of us, we understand this concept, if it is not our birthday.



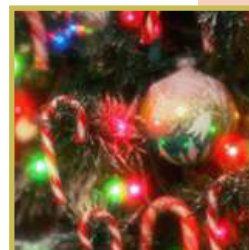
of Easter, Christmas, Valentine's Day etc that we are not really 'looking' at all?

Whilst the church acknowledges that there is no known evidence that Christ was born on the 25th of December, one of my favorite writers encourages us in Adventist Home not to

ignore the day and to spend it doing good to others. When our eyes are upon the Christ of Christmas we will no longer spend it as we once did. Our very activities during this time will reflect whether we are a people preparing for this very same Christ to come and take us home.

Many in ignorance celebrated X-mas, not Christmas! As God's professed people called to a be a light shining to the world, let us ensure that we show the Christ of Christmas. The world beckons to us at this time, with it's tinsel, pretty wrapping and rich diet, (as Satan tried to tempt our Lord in the wilderness) but God is waiting for a people to stand and represent Him, a people who will testify of His great love. Who will tell of the sacrifice that Jesus paid on the cross for us.

On Christmas day where will Jesus be, sitting amongst our rich celebrations or waiting in the home of a little girl who knows that her momma and daddy are too poor to buy food, let alone a doll? That home has your name on it. Will you go? Will you go? Will we all go?



Yet on the day that the world has chosen to celebrate the birth of Christ the rules seem to change. Why? Instead of giving gifts to Jesus (through acts of kindness to the destitute, lonely, sick and suffering) too often God's professed people are found doing just the opposite. Large amounts are spent on expensive gifts for those not in need. And often even without consulting Jesus as to where His birthday gifts should be given. Children are not taught to think of others instead they are encouraged to think only of themselves on 'someone else's birthday'. Many of the toys/ gifts purchased made by human hands and too often worldly minds are not even suitable, violating bible principles.

We need not enter the lowly stable to lay our gifts at the manger of a little baby. No, our Christ is risen and preparing a place for us. How then should we be living at Christmas time and any other day? The Jewish nation of old read and spoke of a coming Messiah, yet the night He was born, they knew it not. We too look for a coming Saviour, but are we so caught up in the commercialization

Coping, from p. 4

How we cope with Stress

Americans rely on a variety of stress management techniques, not all of them healthy.



Some of the most popular methods are listed below.

Listen to music	52%
Exercise or walk.....	47%
Read.....	44%
Spend time with friends.....	41%
Watch TV or movies 2 or more hours a day	41%
Nap	38%
Play video games or surf the internet.....	37%
Pray.....	37%
Eat	34%
Hobby	30%
Church or religious services	21%
Drink alcohol	18%
Shop.....	18%
Smoke.....	16%

Source: American Psychological Association

Prayer Requests

Please pray for this ministry. Renewed Hearts, Inc. is a 501(c)3 God-supported, non-profit organization. If you have a request, email us at: prayers@renewedheartsinc.org.

Please pray for the following families:
(Initials are used for confidentiality reasons)

- EW and family
- N & J
- F & S
- T & K and family
- G & T and family
- E & T

Also, please pray for:

- Our finances and the economy
- Those who have lost their jobs
- Those who are abused
- Our families
- Our Churches and Pastors
- The youth and young adults
- A grant writer - to help raise funds in order to provide needed services.
- A facility for this ministry

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Today..., Author Unknown

When I got mad today and hit my child, "For his own good," I reconciled, And then I realized my plight... **TODAY**, I taught my child to fight.

When interrupted by the phone, I said, "tell them I'm not home." And then I thought, and had to sigh... **TODAY**, I taught my child to lie.

I told the taxman what I made; Forgetting cash that was paid, And then I blushed at this sad feat... **TODAY**, I taught my child to cheat.

I smugly copied a cassette, To keep me from one more debt, But now the bells of shame must peal... **TODAY**, I taught my child to steal.

Today I cursed another race, Oh God, protect what I debase, For now, I fear it is too late... **TODAY**, I taught my child to hate.

By my example, children learn that I must lead in life's sojourn in such a way they are

lead by what is done and not what is said.

Today I gave my child his due by praise for him instead of rue. And now I have begun my guide: **TODAY**, I gave my child his pride.

I now have reconciled and paid to the IRS all that I have made. And now I know that this dear youth: **TODAY**, has learned from me the truth.

The alms I give are not for show, And yet, this child must surely know That charity is worth the price: **TODAY**, he saw my sacrifice.

I clasp within a warm embrace, my neighbor of another race, The great commandment from up above. **TODAY**, I taught my child to love.

Someday my child must face alone this fearsome undertone, But I have blazed a sure pathway: **TODAY**, I taught my child to pray.



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