



# Leader's Digest

## For Such a Time as This

This year, 151 ladies from across the district gathered at the Hope Hotel for the 36th Annual Women's Fall Retreat, sponsored by the Women's Ministries Committee. Ladies came with expectant and open hearts for what God was going to do and were not disappointed. Jennifer Shaw, accomplished speaker, singer-songwriter, recording artist and worship leader challenged the women through a study of the life of Esther, a godly woman who learned how to trust God for the big picture, even when she couldn't see it in



her present circumstances. God had raised her up for a specific purpose, as He does us, "for such a time as this."

Following the last official gathering, ladies were encouraged to attend one of three break-out sessions, *Parenting a Special Needs Child* led by Jennifer

Shaw; *Knowing and Using Your Spiritual Gifts* led by Donna Kephart, and *Dealing With a Prodigal* led by Edie Leinbach.

Through a Silent Auction and a special missions

offering, over \$1,500 was raised for Don & Judy Day, missionaries to Oliva, Spain. Judy was able to attend the retreat in person to share specifically regarding their ministry.

The ladies of Union Chapel did a spectacular job in hosting the event! The food was delicious and the fellowship wonderful. Next year's retreat is scheduled again for the Hope Hotel, October 5-6, 2012, with Claire Dent the keynote speaker.



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## From Our District Superintendent



### Thanksgiving

“Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all

circumstances, for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.” 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 (NIV)

I have to admit that I had trouble with these verses when I first learned them as a child.

“Be joyful always...” Are you kidding me, there were a lot of things in life that did not produce joy in me. Did Paul really mean this? “Pray continually...” Of course I thought the only way you could pray was with your eyes closed so how could I obey this scriptural injunction? Even after I learned I could actually pray with my eyes open I still struggled.

But the last part of Paul’s words “...give thanks in all circumstances...” really threw me under the bus. Even as a young person I understood that some situations just don’t seem to call for thanksgiving. What was Paul thinking? Could he be serious?

When I was in college the book “Prison to Praise” by Merlin Carothers was popular and was making the rounds among evangelical Christians. Carothers said we were to praise God always, for all things. As I remember, he said that as a man’s wife left him for another man, the first man was to praise God that his wife left. (I will leave out any snide comments) And I remember some of the college students trying to practice this teaching. Fail a test, praise God. Come up short on money to pay tuition, praise God.

It was in the midst of this

situation that my older brother died. Glenn was 29 when he died of cancer, leaving his wife and a six year old son and a 4 year old daughter. When I shared of his death one of my friends said something to the effect of “Well praise God, he has something good for you.”

Really I thought, I am to praise God that my brother died? Sorry, but that was not something I felt I could do, not in that situation. I remember talking with one of the professors about my brother, the “praise God always” teaching, etc. He wisely pointed out that Paul did not say we were to praise God FOR everything but IN everything. While I could not praise God that my brother died, were there things I could praise God for in the midst of my pain?

My brother was not one that was always “into church.” While he went most of the time it was not a priority to him and I wasn’t sure where he stood spiritually. Glenn had been adopted and seemed to talk a lot about himself, maybe to show people he was important, I’m not sure. My other brother and I found ourselves uncomfortable at times with the way Glenn talked.

I was in California at Azusa Pacific when Glenn died and a married college student does not have the money to travel to Indiana for a funeral, at least we didn’t. My parents paid our way home so we could be with the family. I talked with my brother Keith and he told me of the change in Glenn during the last year of his life. God touched Glenn in a way that seemed not to have happened before. Keith said Glenn was fun to be around and seldom talked about himself. He asked

about others and was genuinely interested in their lives. He also said Glenn’s commitment to God and his family had grown by leaps and bounds. Since I had been gone for the last year of Glenn’s life I had not been able to experience the change in him.

When I talked with Keith my attitude changed. Even in Glenn’s death I could practice Paul’s admonition to “give thanks in all circumstances.” Yes, I wish I could have been around the transformed Glenn. And I wish he could have lived longer. But even at his funeral I could praise God. I remember standing at his graveside and saying “Goodbye Glenn, I’ll see you in heaven.”

What makes you give thanks? Do we tie our thanksgiving to things we like or when things go well for us? How do we react when we are downsized from our employment? How do we talk when the doctor’s report is not what we wanted to hear? What kind of language do we use when our children are giving us fits? Thanksgiving is coming and we will take time to give thanks (I trust.) What will be on your list of things for which you give thanks? In the midst of the turkey, dressing, family, Lion’s football (and maybe even a win this year) what will your list? Too often we begin with the financial/physical blessings, so this year, change things a little. Begin with the MANY spiritual blessings we have in Christ regardless of our circumstances. Spend time recounting the riches we have in Christ.

As the hymn says “Count your many blessings, name them one by one. Count your many blessings see what God has done.” Do this and you will find it easier to give thanks.

# Lumberjack Retreat a Success!

God delivered the perfect weather for this year's Lumberjack Retreat, held October 21-22, 2011 at Ludlow Falls Camp. Again, approximately fifty men from across the district showed up with all kinds of heavy duty machinery ready to tackle some pretty extensive jobs.

Here are just a few things the men were able to accomplish with the help of some construction professionals who donated their time.

- ▶ Spread three large loads of gravel between the cottages.
- ▶ Built a fifty foot elevated boardwalk along the trail in an area that seems to wash out each year.
- ▶ Set the new six-person teeter-totter on a new concrete pad.
- ▶ Graded the main road next to the lodge so that the water flows off properly.
- ▶ Lowered the electrical box

located by the lodge so that it is flush with the ground.

- ▶ Cut down several dead or dying trees and limbs to make camp a safer place to be.
- ▶ Cleared branches around the volleyball court and laid mulch behind the courts in preparation of placing a set of donated bleachers.
- ▶ Painted the windows and doors of the lodge.
- ▶ Cleared and burned honeysuckle in several areas around the camp.

Besides completing several projects around the camp, the men enjoyed some great fellowship with other men from across the district. A special thanks goes to Keith Berger and his team of workers who served up "man food," to keep everyone on task. Thanks also to the men and women who sacrificed their weekend to further the ministry of Ludlow Falls Camp.



## From Our Director of District Ministries



### Turning a Blind Eye

Admiral Horatio Nelson was a British officer famous for his service in the

Royal Navy, particularly during the Napoleonic Wars. His inspired leadership and unconventional methods resulted in a number of decisive naval victories.

Nelson was wounded several times in combat, which included the loss of one arm and his vision in one eye. He was eventually shot and killed in the Battle of Trafalgar in 1805 at the age of 47.

Before reading this article, most of you had probably never heard of this fierce warrior, Horatio Nelson, but the majority of you have probably used the expression credited to him.



It was the year 1801 and the British fleet was engaged in an attack against a joint navy made up of ships from Denmark and Norway, which would later be etched in history as the Battle of Copenhagen. The British fleet that day was commanded by Admiral Sir Hyde Parker who

felt the battle was not going well for the British. He sent up signal flags to Admiral Nelson's ship to disengage the enemy. Nelson, on the other hand, felt that if he pressed the battle a bit longer, he could turn the tide and bring about a victory, so he lifted his telescope up to his blind eye and said, "I really do not see the signal," and ordered his forces to continue to press the attack. The British won the battle and Horatio Nelson is forever remembered for "turning a blind eye" defined as "refusing to acknowledge something which you know to be real," in this case, the command to retreat.

I think at times it might be a good thing to turn a blind eye to a situation. It was Benjamin Franklin who said, "Keep your eyes wide open before marriage and half shut afterwards." I know firsthand that this is a good principle to take into parenting, or else one could be disciplining kids all the time.

Another wise man, King Solomon wrote centuries earlier in Proverbs 19:11, "A person's wisdom yields patience; it is to one's glory to overlook an offense." (See also Proverbs 12:16.)

I think the New Testament counterpart would be found in the words delivered by Jesus in His famous Sermon the Mount, "But I tell you, do not resist an evil person. If anyone slaps you on the right

cheek, turn to them the other cheek also." Matthew 5:39

Apparently, God's Word reminds us that there are times when we should exercise patience when people don't respond exactly the way we would like them to, forgive people before they even ask for it, and extend a bit of grace to those who irritate, or even hurt us.

But why should we "turn a blind eye" to those who intentionally say or do things to hurt us? Why not teach them a lesson and exact some revenge so they can feel what it's like to feel pain? Why, as Christians, do we always need to be the one to bite our tongue or turn the other cheek?

The answer is because we have a God who in His mercy, "turns a blind eye" to our sin. *Psalm 32:2* tells us, "Blessed is the man whose sin the Lord does not count against him and in whose spirit is no deceit."

As Christians, we should be very thankful that we do not receive the full punishment that our sin deserves. We should be grateful that we worship a God who is loving and merciful, who is patient with us as we mature in our faith.

This is not to make light of our sin. God hates it when we sin. Jesus Christ died a  
(Continued on page 5.)

# Turning a Blind Eye *Continued from page 4*

criminal's death on a cross to pay the price for our sin. Our sin still brings tough consequences to us and to others we love. Yet, if God did not "turn a blind eye" once in awhile, we would all have been destroyed long ago.

Now before you run off and think that it's okay to sin because you can always say "I'm sorry" later and because God is love, He'll "turn a blind eye" to my open rebellion, let's re-visit one of Paul's stops on his second missionary journey. The people of Athens saw their gods as deities who lived above man and had little concern for what took place on earth. This allowed mankind to basically live a hedonistic lifestyle with no fear of consequences.

Paul addressed the people and told them point blank, "In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent." Acts 17:30 Just because we worship a God who is loving and merciful, it does not give us license to live a sinful lifestyle, presuming upon God's good nature. None of us are in a place to plead ignorance, as were the people of Athens. We should know by now that sin in a believer's life will bring not only negative consequences but also divine punishment.

If this article finds you living with hidden sin, thinking maybe that you're one step ahead of God's punishment,

be grateful for God's patience and follow Paul's advice, REPENT. Why? Paul gives us the reason, because "[God] has set a day when He will judge the world with justice by the man [Jesus] He has appointed. He has given proof of this to all men by raising Him from the dead." Acts 17:31

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"IF THE SUBJECT SHOULD EVER COME UP, YOU CAN SAY YOU'RE LEGALLY BLIND."

## Coming Events

- ✓ **November 12, 2011**  
Youth & Kids Quizzing Begins  
Pleasant View Missionary Church
- ✓ **December 2, 2011**  
Pastors & Wives Christmas Dinner  
Union Chapel Missionary, Lima
- ✓ **December 10, 2011**  
Youth & Kids Quizzing Begins  
Pleasant View Missionary Church
- ✓ **December 28-30, 2011**  
3DYC  
Grand Wayne Center, Fort Wayne, IN
- ✓ **February 2-4, 2012**  
Pastors & Wives Retreat  
Embassy Suites in Blue Ash
- ✓ **February 25, 2012**  
Christian Ministries Conference  
Troy Christian High School
- ✓ **March 2-4, 2012**  
Keeping the Faith  
Embassy Suites in Blue Ash

# Keeping The Faith

**March 2-4, 2012**  
Embassy Suites Blue Ash



**COST: \$85**  
per person

### GUEST SPEAKER:

**Dr. Jeff Kephart**, Senior Pastor of Trinity Church in Middleburg Heights, OH.



# Christian Ministries Conference

Saturday, February 25, 2012

9:30 AM - 1:00 PM

Troy Christian High School



*Keynote Speaker: Dr. Gary Wilber*

Gary Wilber is the Superintendent and Founder of Troy Christian Schools. He began the school over 30 years ago as an obedient step of faith to God's calling to provide a Christian education not only to his own children but to those around him. In 2010, he received an Honorary Doctorate from Toccoa Falls College. Gary is passionately committed to developing a biblical lens in the hearts and minds of students for Christ's kingdom. The school's motto is "The heart of education is the education of the heart."



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