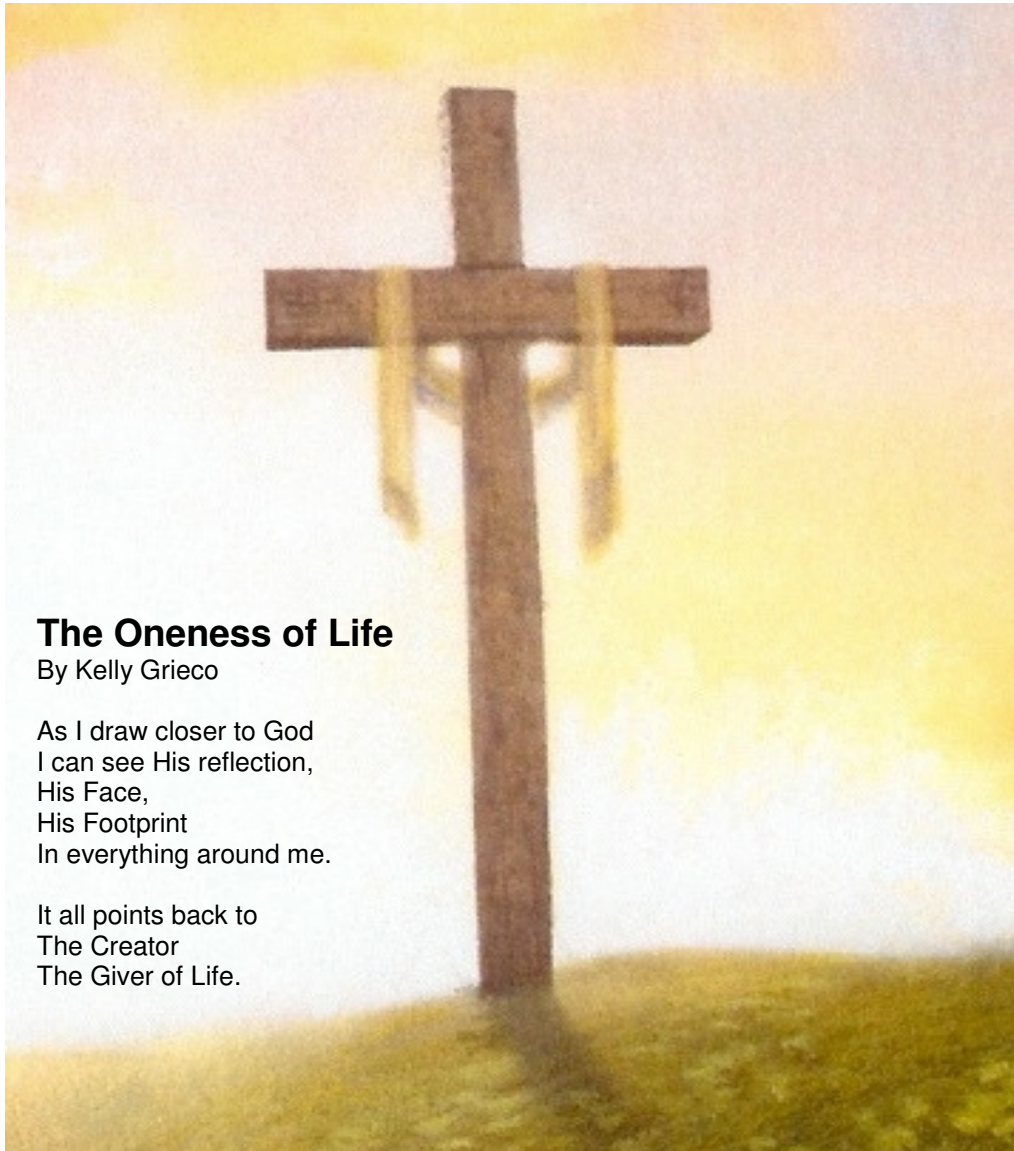


# Links

*Connecting the Women of New Life to God and One Another*



## **The Oneness of Life**

By Kelly Grieco

As I draw closer to God  
I can see His reflection,  
His Face,  
His Footprint  
In everything around me.

It all points back to  
The Creator  
The Giver of Life.

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1. f	5. f	9. t
2. t	6. f	10. f
3. f	7. t	11. t
4. t	8. f	12. f

## **African Pearls of Wisdom: Irene Kasirivu**

by Ellen Rumpff

Irene Kasiviru was the speaker at the recent women's conference. I sat down with her during her visit to listen to her testimony. Irene's story started out like so many I hear here at home, with just a few differences. She had 19 children in her family, with 4 younger extended family members also living in her home. Her parents were Christians. Her father went to church every Sunday, but he had no relationship with Christ. Her mother was more active. She took Irene and her siblings to church and to fellowship. Her mother read the Bible to her children and prayed for all her kids.



As a teen, Irene stopped going to church and fellowship. However, when she was 18, she started having strange pains in her body and back and had severe headaches. She went to doctors, who could not make it go away. This continued for six months. Finally, her mother said she would no longer take her to the doctor. She would take her to the church. Everyone prayed for her, and six months later, Irene became saved.

Irene felt maybe God really was the answer to her problems. Between her family's poverty and the physical pain she went through, Irene began to serve the Lord and seek His will for her life. Once she began following Christ, there was no turning back. People thought she was crazy, all the time reading her bible and praying! She was always at church and fellowship. He grabbed hold of her. She began teaching Sunday school. Continually, Irene was drawn to church. Her family wondered

why she always spent her time with the Lord and His people. She kept feeling God calling her stronger and stronger, and she would hear in her mind what she felt was God telling her to go into the ministry. Finally, in 1987, she enrolled in bible college, where she studied for 3 years.

Her bible college often had street preaching, and Irene would attend, but never speak. She finally gave her concern to the Lord and allowed Him to give her that chance. Her opportunity came one day, but she was so scared and shy she only spoke 5 words before leaving. She kept going back to a verse God had given her in Jeremiah 1, where a young Jeremiah questions the Lord when He says to him: "I am sending you to be a prophet to the nations...Whatever I will tell you to speak, you will speak." She did not know what her future held, but she continued forward anyway, relying on God to show her the path.

She also grew concerned about looking foolish or uneducated compared to the other preachers who seemed to know exactly what Scripture to say and when to say it. That's when the Lord revealed to her that she needed to rely on Him more. "I may not be an expert, but all I had to do was speak out what God had put on my heart to say."

Once she married Pastor Peter Kasirivu in 1994, they moved to Ggaba, where she saw the desperate needs of the children in the community. They did not have clothes, food, or medical care. Most did not go to school. Along the way, Pastor Peter and Irene became parents to James (now 15), Lydia (13), Joy (8), and Isaac (2). She worked with the sponsorship program exclusively until 2004, when she began to focus more on her ministry at Ggaba Community Church.

Irene explained how the sponsorship program develops in each area. First, they start the child sponsorships linked to a local church. The children must attend the Sunday school of the church in order to participate in the program. Once there is

enough funding, they start a school, and then a medical center, and continue to provide more and more services, all Christian in nature, to the community. Her hope is to see that all needed services are taken care of, and that through meeting those needs, the people will turn to Christ.

Even as she worked hard teaching the children in both school and church, the mothers did not always reinforce the lessons at home. The mothers needed to be educated as well. In 2007, Irene started focusing on this aspect of her ministry-mentoring the women of Ggaba.

Irene truly believes that when you bring the children in, the mothers will follow. She has seen it time and time again. This is especially true with the child sponsorships. When the mothers begin to see that their child is being given tuition for school, school uniforms, medical care, they also see the love being given to the children. They start coming to church too, to find out why these strangers love their children so much.

She now oversees Family Life Ministries at Ggaba Community Church. Family Life includes the children's, women's, men's, and other ministries, but her main focus is in bringing up the women of Ggaba. She knows there is a great need for the older, mature Christian women to mentor and teach the younger women. "It is a good and challenging ministry. God is just opening the doors to see what we can do."

Irene is a dedicated servant for the Lord. It is amazing to see her in action now, knowing that not that long ago, she was shy and quiet and did not know what to say. It proves that God can work in all of us, with all our "shortcomings", to become bold and powerful workers for Him!

## Superhuman Empathy

By Shawna Fancher

I read the "First Person" essay in the Dispatch on Saturday, November 7 entitled "Humans' Limited Ability to Empathize is for Our Own Good ", it was written by Peter Schaeffing. (Read it online at <http://www.dispatch.com/live/content/life/stories/2009/11/07/firstperson.html?sid=101> ) Schaeffing contends that if we truly felt everyone else's pain as deeply as our own, we would go crazy. "The volume of sad news that bombards us," he writes, "would have the entire population racked with grief at all times, struggling to function under the weight of the tragedies that plague the world."

Praying through the list of past prayer requests (sent to the Women's Prayer Group at [womensprayergroup@enewlife.com](mailto:womensprayergroup@enewlife.com)) made me aware of how right he was. Some of these ladies' troubles are so enormous, I don't know how they go on. The weight of their burdens is stunning to me, and I'm not feeling anything compared to what they are.

But then it struck me: God DOES feel our pain as deeply as we do. He plumbs the very depths of our griefs and sorrows, our fears and anxieties; all of our pain, both physical and emotional; all the multitudinous varieties of suffering this world can pile onto us . . . He understands it and experiences it all right alongside us. As human beings, we are not able to empathize with more than a handful of people, because the weight of their troubles, combined with our own, presses on us so overwhelmingly. But God is so big that all the misery and agony and despair of all the six and a half billion people on the planet enter into His consciousness like one drop of India ink in the Pacific Ocean. His compassion is boundless, His care and concern for every one of us is like a parent for a favorite child, but He carries the weight as easily as we carry

the weight of our eyebrows!

Schaeffing's essay continues, "It would be superhuman, in the grandest sense, to truly and deeply suffer with those who are burying a beloved son in an Ohio graveyard, with those who saw their home and entire community washed away by a typhoon, with those in the world who are being tortured *right now*. It would require an unfathomable omniscience and immunity to time. [...]

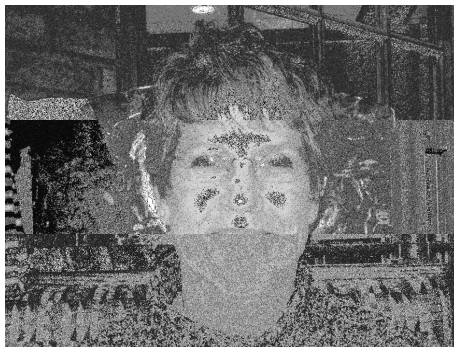
To be steeped in every emotion being felt across the planet, to share in the experiences of all the world's people -- from their darkest days to their most brilliant moments -- might be a beautiful thing. One would know humanity in a comprehensive way that just isn't possible. One would know." And that, of course, is exactly the way our Father knows us.

Ladies of New Life, I can't imagine how some of you are making it through your enormous challenges, day after day, and I imagine that you aren't always sure how to keep going . But God knows all about it, not only what has happened, but what is going to happen. And in His love for us, He has promised that He will be with us through everything (Matthew 28:20), and has given us this assurance: "I've told you all this so that **trusting me, you will be unshakable and assured, deeply at peace**. In this godless world you will continue to experience difficulties. But take heart! I've conquered the world." (John 16:33, *The Message*)

### **Gifts From God**

by Kelly Grieco

Look them in their eyes,  
not over their heads.  
Hear their heart,  
not just their voices.  
Join them in play,  
be involved in their day.  
Accept them as a gift  
from God each day.



**Meet Linda Palmer,** married to husband Kenny for 44 years. The Palmers' have three daughters and five grandchildren. Linda was born and raised in Columbus. She resides in North Columbus area in a house she raised her family for the past 35 years.

Linda has a story of desperation and challenge that brought her to a new faith and walk with God. She shares her story to encourage our faith and to honor God for His love and care for her and her family.

A good title for this amazing story is one of her statements **“God is bigger than I ever thought”**. In December 2008, Kenny told her their family business of 44 years was unable to cover expenses or provide a living for them. She had lived in a world of false security with the business providing a good life for many years. Kenny told the family he would have to close the doors in January and they would have to start over. Fear and uncertainty paralyzed her. The shock was like a death. She felt numb and lifeless. She admits that in the beginning, she had trouble getting dressed. She did not work out of the home. All she could think was how will we live.

The first time in her life she realized she couldn't take care of herself. God was the only answer. She turned to His Word to seek comfort and guidance and peace. From the beginning God showed her He would provide.

She keeps a journal of God's miraculous provision. The first month's house payment and utilities were paid. A close friend filled their pantry with enough food for a month. Gifts of money and gas cards, grocery cards and encouragement with dinner engagements continue to help them get by.

God gave her verse after verse to sustain her and to increase her faith.

She also keeps a journal of verses that have blessed her just when she needed a lift. Philippians 4:6-7 “Be anxious for nothing”, Colossians 3:15 “And let the peace of God rule in your hearts.”, Nehemiah 9:10 “the joy of the Lord is my strength” are just a few of her favorite verses she clings to. She has learned much about herself but even more about her God. When ever she is worried she reminds herself that *anxiety stems from a desire to control and indicates she has ceased to trust Jesus.*

I asked Linda for some suggestions to help others if they were discouraged or suffering. Linda’s answers “*First and foremost, get into God’s Word, believe it, and trust God. Get connected with other believers. My ladies small group and our couple’s small group continue to support us spiritually and financially. Our future is still uncertain but I know my God is big enough.*”

Linda loves to tell her story of God’s love and care. Just ask her and you will be encouraged and inspired.

By Claire Robbins

## **The Word of God**

By Kelly Grieco

It’s a mirror  
And a blanket.  
It’s a refreshing drink of water  
And a warm hand on my shoulder.

Your Word is my strength  
My meditation  
My breath.

## Everyone Deserves A Touch of Comfort

Donna J. Noeske



In the summer of 2006, I found my comfort sitting on my porch swing in the evenings.

I'm not very good at sitting still and just doing nothing, so I decided to crochet small afghans for the patients in Mt. Carmel East hospital, where I work. I also read *The Prayer of Jabez* by Bruce Wilkinson. A friend had insisted that I should read it and I am so glad that I did. I began to pray *The Prayer of Jabez* nightly.

*And Jabez called on the God of Israel saying, "Oh, that You would bless me indeed, and enlarge my territory, that Your hand would be with me, and that You would keep me from evil, that I may not cause pain." So God granted him what he requested. 1 Chronicles 4:10 NKJV*

Each night I wondered what 'my territory' would look like if it were enlarged. And what was my territory, anyway?

The summer of 2010 is near and my porch swing will soon be tempting me to relax once again. I still pray the Prayer of Jabez. Now I know what my enlarged territory looks like.

My enlarged territory is a vision that God gave me for comforting others.

I'm very busy and sometimes pretty weary, but God reminds me to "Just Have Faith".

In less than 4 years I have donated 104 afghans to all 3 Mt. Car-

mel hospitals with the assistance of my co-worker Barb Moore.

We wanted to provide more patients with comfort, so I created a fleece Huggin. My good friend Diana, who is a photographer, helped me create inspirational cards to slip in the pocket of this item.

With the help of my good friend, Steven, we created a non-profit organization. Jim, a long-time friend agreed to help with research and computer STUFF.

Then God said "Make Quilts". I designed a small quilt, added a storybook and a stuffed toy. God showed me that he wanted it to encourage a parent to cuddle their child and for the parent to feel cuddled as well. Hugs can be powerful and life sustaining. They can get us through very difficult times.

With the help of a local librarian, Mary Campanelli, we designed the Cuddle Me 2 Kit for young mothers in crisis pregnancies and other young mothers with few resources or opportunities.

In each and every scenario God brought the perfect person into my life to help me realize the vision He was showing me.

I was invited to an open house for Jim's first grandchild and I presented the parents with one of my little quilts. They loved the comfort of the quilted top and the fleece backing. One of the first guests of the evening was my friend Barb Baumhackl, whom I hadn't seen in a few years. She took one look at the Cuddle Me 2 Kit and became very excited. She wanted to be part of this expanding ministry. Barb was the answer to my prayer for a talented assistant.

Barb and I seem to have the same song in our hearts and we are always in harmony. We now produce a small pillow for breast cancer patients, called A Kiss. This is paired with our fleece Huggin to bring comfort to post-surgery patients. Our

Kiss and Huggin surely represents A Touch of Comfort. We currently have around 20 volunteers. Several of these ladies are breast cancer survivors.

The vision continues to enlarge and the business has taken over my home and garage. Once again God brought forth the answer to prayer. My daughter and son-in-law recently purchased a 22,000 square foot building to house their roofing business in Westerville. They have donated 1,000 sq.ft. of newly carpeted space for a workshop to expand this ministry. We plan to open Our Little Playhouse in May. We hope to be open 2 days per week.

Anyone who enjoys sewing and crafting with a heart for this ministry may join us and become one of our playmates. We have many activities planned to continue to provide A Touch of Comfort.

To learn more about the ministry, please find us at [touchof-comfort.multiply.com](http://touchof-comfort.multiply.com) Donation information can be found on this website.

Please direct your words of encouragement and ideas to [touch\\_of\\_comfort@yahoo.com](mailto:touch_of_comfort@yahoo.com)

## **The Whisper of Your Love**

By Kelly Grieco

Wrap me in the whisper of Your Love.  
Blanket me with the warmth of Your grace.  
Let me bask in the glory of your presence.  
Hold me in Your hand.

## **“Economical Ellen”**

by Ellen Rumpff

My husband starting working again a few weeks ago for a bank after having been unemployed since September. Even during that time, I saw God providing for us in many ways. We were able to keep making our house payment, our bills were paid, and we had plenty of food. It was a time of blessings rather than sorrow. Praise God! I had been praying for a while that God would find a way for my husband to be home with us more. Never did I imagine that my prayer would be answered by means of mass layoffs!

I always like to think of myself as someone who works hard to save money and not be a financial burden on my husband. However, recently I have found myself spending money here and there that I probably shouldn't be. I am hoping to go back to Uganda this summer and we really would like to purchase a second car to alleviate some gas burdens from needing to drive my husband to his new job location. After a recent shopping trip, I felt that familiar feeling on my heart of the Lord chastening me. It wasn't that I committed a sin by going shopping, but I felt guilty buying those extras that we really didn't need and certainly will just fill up my house with more clutter!

I felt a calling on my heart to do better. After prayer and spending some time listening to what the Lord has to say, I feel the need to start a “spending fast”. I am not sure how long the Lord will call me to do this, but I do know that I will not be spending money on anything that is not a true need for this next season. I think my husband will appreciate this too! Don't get me wrong. It's fine to go shopping. In fact, some of my favorite finds and deals have been in thrift shops or department store sales with friends during shopping days just for fun. However, I know that in order for our family to

reach some financial goals, I must start here. Who knows how much money we will be able to save by doing this!  
Keep me accountable ladies! I will need it! :-)

Here are your websites for this issue. I hope these will bless you and help you be a better financial steward!

Even if you do not homeschool, you may still find some great freebies at Homeschool Freebie of the Day. They offer at least one great educational product every week day. I usually find something I can use. They are located at <http://www.homeschoolfreebie.wholesomechildhood.com>.

Our very own Carol Middendorf shared a website with me called Groupon. How it works is that they offer a deal each day. Depending on how many people decide to take the offer, the price will go either go down more or remain the same. The catch is to check every day to see what they have. There is a Groupon site specifically for Columbus, so many of the deals and offers will be for local restaurants, spas, etc. Check it out at <http://HOW IS .>

The Frugal Girls post multiple deals and freebies each day on their blog located at <http://www.thefrugalgirls.com>. Even if you don't find everything to your liking, there's bound to be something you can use there!

I am not a coupon clipper, but many of you are. Someone told me about a site called The Grocery Game. By going to <http://www.thegrocerygame.com>, you will find numerous tips, freebies, and even a message board.

Until next time,

stay frugal, ladies!



## HOW IS YOUR MARRIAGE GROWING ?

*Our marriage can be  
compared to a garden*



***Flowers don't just happen.*** Most flowers need plenty of sun and water and loving care. Married love will wither if it is not continually nurtured. Hugs and smiles and loving touches will warm a relationship and give it life. When I get too busy and distracted with commitments I can feel numb and lifeless. A hug is a great boost both physically and emotionally. ***Let me tell you about hugs!***

***Hugging – Feels good – Dispels loneliness – overcomes fears – eases tension (and) hugging is proven to slow down aging. The Hug Therapy Book can give you many more reasons to hug your sweetie. Warm your couple love with more hugs.***

***Flowers die a slow death from lack of water.*** Water your relationship regularly with little acts of love. Do little things for your mate. Take him coffee, fix his favorite food or snack. Fertilize with surprises, a small gift, a love note, or encouraging words (*such as you're so strong, or you're so smart or you amaze me*). Remember strong roots survive bad weather.

***Flowers need time to blossom.*** Be more patient. Grow in understanding. Be sensitive and learn his likes and dislikes. Don't insist on your own way. Give your man freedom by accepting him.

***Plastic flowers don't smell good.*** Be real and honest with your needs. Grow in trust. Don't try to be someone you are not. For many years I was independent and rarely allowed Bill or anyone to see my fears and doubts. True love can only happen when we

are real with one another.

**Enjoy your garden.** Make time together. Plan special dates, play games, take walks and sit close every opportunity. The more interests and activities you share the closer you become. Making time to laugh and play makes for a joyful couple.

***HOPE YOU WILL warm and water and care for your MARRIAGE GARDEN.***

*By Claire Robbins*



## **HUGS**

Hugs are practically perfect.  
They are low energy consumption,  
High energy yield,  
No monthly payments,  
Nonfattening,  
Inflation-proof,  
No pesticides,  
No preservatives,  
Nontaxable,  
Nonpolluting,  
And, of course,  
Fully returnable.

Author unknown

# Crazy Love

## OVERWHELMED BY A RELENTLESS GOD

A Book Review by Alice Stevenson



Have you noticed that certain books generate a current of excitement? There are books that everyone seems to be reading and talking about. Crazy Love is just such a book in the Christian community. Recommended by pastors—selected as a devotional book by a mission team—it even has multiple holds at the public library! So I was eager to finally get my hands on the slender red paperback. Why the buzz?

Pastor Francis Chan’s hook is to tap into our general feeling of malaise regarding complacent Christianity in contemporary culture. “There’s something wrong,” he says. And immediately Chan puts his finger on the problem: our concept of God. Our God is too small! And our religion is Man-centered instead of God-centered!

In the first chapter, he streaks from the dawn of creation to the judgment throne to remind us of our truly awesome God. In the second chapter, in his own breezy and humorous style, he tells us to “get over ourselves.” We humans are small!

Paradoxically, the third chapter reveals God’s incredible (even crazy) love for humans! But how is this love expressed? In God’s relentless pursuit of us, and in his desire for us to glorify himself:

*“If God is truly the greatest good  
on earth, would he loving us if  
He didn’t draw us toward what  
is best for us? ...The greatest*

*good on this earth is God. Period.  
God's one goal for us is Him-  
self."*

The remainder of the book illustrates our potential responses to God's crazy love. Will we remain "lukewarm" and serve God our leftovers? (The chapter on the **Profile of the Lukewarm** person is worth the price of the book!) Or will we be positively "obsessed with God" like a devoted lover? (The **Profile of the Obsessed** is another gem of a chapter!)

In my mind, the hinge of the book is a prayer that concludes a chapter that comes between these two profiles. Can we be honest enough to tell God that he hasn't been the most important thing in our lives? How do we get from **Lukewarm** to **Obsessed**?

*"Tell him you want him to change  
you, that you long to genuinely  
enjoy him. Tell him how you want  
to experience true satisfaction  
and pleasure and joy in your rela-  
tionship with him. Tell him you  
want to love him more than any-  
thing else on earth."*

The person who has become immersed in God will then be able to express a human version of "crazy love" in a radical Christian lifestyle, which Chan illustrates, with many real examples, in the closing chapters.

Many people find something vaguely offensive about a conceptualization of God as one who desires to be glorified. However, the idea is not new. In 1986 John Piper offended many with his book Desiring God, in which he carefully developed the same idea. He, in turn, refers back to that phrase in the venerable creed of Christian faith called the Westminster Confession: "The chief end of man is to glorify God and enjoy him forever." I highly recommend the Piper book as a companion book to

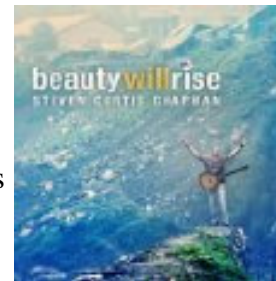
Crazy Love, because it fills in any sketchy parts of the theological underpinnings.

In conclusion, meditate on this characteristic of the Lukewarm person:

*Lukewarm people are **moved** by stories about people who do radical things for Christ, yet they do not **act**. They assume such action is for “extreme” Christians, not average ones. Lukewarm people call “radical” what Jesus expected of all his followers.*

Francis Chan. Crazy Love: Overwhelmed by a Relentless God. David C. Cook, 2008.

Music Review:  
**Beauty Will Rise** by Steven Curtis  
Chapman



On May 21, 2008, a five year old girl was run over by a car in the driveway of her home. The girl's name was Maria, and her father was musician Steven Curtis Chapman. Do you remember praying for the stricken family, that God would bring healing, and their faith would not falter? Steven Curtis Chapman's new CD, *Beauty Will Rise*, has just been released. Listen to the music. Study the liner notes. And rejoice in the fact that the answer is yes, GOD is FAITHFUL.

Chapman's music is pensive. Acoustic guitar and piano combine with strings to create an intimate mood. However, the lyrics are the true treasure. As David does in the Psalms, Chapman opens up his heart in all its varied moods.

Some lyrics will be too painful for you to enjoy:

*"It was the day the world went wrong--  
I screamed 'til my voice was gone  
And watched through the tears  
As everything came crashing down."*

Some songs question God:

*"Who are you God?  
Cause you are turning out to be so much differ-  
ent than I imagined."*

Some lyrics caress the lost daughter (who had been adopted from China):

*"Heaven is the face of a little girl  
with dark brown eyes  
That disappear when she smiles."*

The song February 20 celebrates the day Maria had prayed to receive Christ:

*"She prayed, 'Jesus, please come and live in my heart  
And someday I can live with you.'  
And we never could have imagined  
She'd be going there so soon."*

All verses are determined to praise God:

*"Our God is in control.  
Though this first taste is bitter,  
There will be sweetness forever."*

If you let Stephen Curtis Chapman be your worship leader as you journey through your own valley of weeping, he will keep you oriented toward the One who will make beauty rise from the ashes.



## Forgiving Quiz

### True or false?

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. As a Christian, we should “forgive and forget”.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Forgiving is grace (undeserved favor).
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Tolerance is a form of forgiving.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Forgiving comes from a free will.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Given enough time, forgiveness will occur naturally.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Forgiving means “excusing” something.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. Forgiving is a decision.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. Forgiving means I trust you again.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. Forgiving is a tool for dealing with the pain in life.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. Forgiving is a great way to avoid conflict.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 11. Forgiving frees me to love unconditionally.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 12. If someone hurts me & then say’s they’re sorry, I need to reconcile with them. *(Answers inside front cover)*

*Col 3:13 Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.  
14 And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.  
(Forgiveness brings unity.)*

Resource Suggestions on Biblical Forgiving:  
Forgive & Forget .....Lewis B. Smedes  
Forgiving The Unforgiveable.....David Stoop, PH.D.

## **I've Got Something 'More' To Say...**

By Julie Strickland

When I finished speaking at “I've Got Something to Say” back in October 2009, there were so many questions left unanswered; and many have asked me for an update on how things have transpired since my speech. First and foremost I want to say how freeing it was to finally give voice to my story. As I was speaking, the tears flowed easily from my eyes, cleansing the inner shame I had held inside for too many years. The weight I had carried upon my shoulders for years was lifted with each word spoken.

One of the things I shared was that I had filed for an expungement of my criminal record; however, I had not received word back as to whether or not that request was granted. I didn't expect to hear anything for at least another one to two weeks at the earliest. However, when we step out in faith, and do what God asks us to do, no matter how uncomfortable it is, He blesses us. On Saturday, the day after speaking at “I've Got Something to Say,” I received a notice in the mail from the court stating that my records were sealed. I had never been so elated to read the words: “It is so Ordered!”

In November, during the last week of my externship at the law firm in Lancaster, I was offered a full-time position with the firm. I was so excited to have a job in my career field before I completed my final classes, especially in today's job market. I continued to work there on Mondays and Fridays and going to classes on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays through December when I finished my last class. I felt so blessed!

It didn't take long, however, after working full-time starting in January that things began to go downhill. Without going into detail, let's suffice it to say that I did not feel comfort-

able working there. I would cry everyday on my way home. And I would pray every morning on my way there. I cried out to God, telling Him I didn't understand why He had provided this job opportunity, if it was going to be so horrible. I asked Him for direction, and a new job, one closer to home.

With God's prompting, I advised the lead attorney that I was going to begin looking for work closer to home. I was scared, and was certain I was committing career suicide. I thought it would be better to not say anything until I had actually found a new job; but God had other plans. I became even more nervous as the firm began to interview prospects to take my place. But God is faithful!

During an interview with an attorney located in downtown Columbus, I was told that "other applicants are more experienced." I left the interview torn, it went well, I thought, except for the little detail that I didn't have the experience that others did since I was just recently graduated. I immediately went to work drafting the best Thank You letter I have ever written in my life. I addressed the concern of my lack of experience and focused on my strengths.

After over a week, I still had not heard anything, even though the attorney said he would contact me 'one way or the other.' I was resigned to the fact that either he had not yet made a decision or he had, and I wasn't it. I had sent my résumé out to multiple places and had received no other interviews. I was beginning to get very worried.

On January 27<sup>th</sup>, a Wednesday morning, I prayed continuously on my long drive to work. I remember spilling out my concerns to God, especially that of being unemployed; and also asking him to let me hear something, one way or the other, regarding the job I had interviewed for; and ending in admitting that I knew that God had the right job lined up for me, and that I was trusting Him completely in the situation.

That afternoon I received a phone call at work from the attorney in Columbus, asking me to come in for a second interview, either that afternoon or the next morning. So, on Thursday, I met with him again. He informed me that he had a few other interviews that afternoon, but that I was 'at the top of the list.' He went further to say that unless something 'rocked the boat' he would be calling me that night or Friday to offer me the position. I praised God the entire way to work following the interview!!

On Thursday afternoon, I was called into the lead attorney's office in Lancaster where I was told that they appreciated the work I had done to help them catch up on work, but that they had come to a place where they didn't need me anymore, so Friday would be my last day. I let her know that I understood, and that I would possibly be offered a position in Columbus that needed me to start on Monday, so that actually helped me because I was concerned about not being able to give a two week notice. At that time, she informed me that she had someone else starting on Monday and it was a space issue, which I found out later to be untrue.

I went in to work on Friday, prepared to work in my usual attire which included hose and heels. I was put in the basement pulling files that needed to be destroyed. I wouldn't have minded, however, their basement is a cellar basement where you have to go outside to get to it, and it was only 17 degrees outside that day. Within fifteen minutes, I was freezing. I decided that since it was my last day anyway, even though I had not yet heard from the other attorney, that I was leaving at 11:00, which I did. Let's just say that I am very thankful to be out of that place.

When 5:00 pm came and went, I actually began to cry. I still had not received the call I had been praying for. My wonderful husband hugged me and told me that everything was going to be alright, and that we would get through this. I was certain that I didn't get the other job since I had not yet heard anything. However,

God being God, sometimes waits until the eleventh hour. I received the phone call offering me the job at 5:30 that evening. I went in on Saturday for training on the computer programs I would be using, and began working there on Monday morning. This new job is awesome! It is as stress free as an attorney's office can be, I received a pay increase, which will help as I begin paying back my student loans, and it's located closer to home and has free parking! I have already learned so much in the short month that I have been there, and am grateful for God's provision once again in my life!

## **Mover of Mountains**

*(c)Julie A Strickland*

Mover of mountains  
And healer of hurts  
Send me Your Spirit  
Lift me from the dirt

Place those in my path  
Who can show me the way  
Strengthen my faith  
Through Your Word, everyday

Lead me to the valley  
Yet walk by my side  
Bring me through my suffering  
So You're glorified

Mover of mountains  
Forgiver of sin  
Use me to help others  
Who are now where I've been

## A Naked Face

By Laurie Brown



Sometimes we tend to think God is not interested or paying attention to the minutia of our lives. I found out we could not be more wrong!

A friend once said to me, “You should never put anything on your skin that you can’t eat!” I was intrigued and after a little research, I realized that some of the products we use contain chemical and preservatives that can cause cancer. This, however, isn’t the point of this article.

This little bit of research launched me into a lot of research. I began searching for cosmetics and products that were healthy for the skin and body. I spent hours looking for healthy products. I enjoyed it! I surfed the web and read books on the subject.

### *God was looking over my shoulder.*

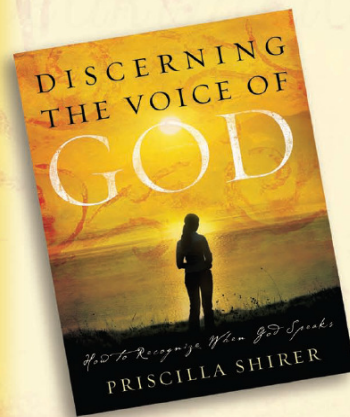
One day I was lamenting to God about a few pounds I had gained. Rather than empathizing with me He very distinctly said, “you need to take off your makeup.” Did I need any more confirmation that God was keenly aware of what I was doing and how much time I spent on it?

With an incredibly high anxiety level, I reluctantly obeyed. I went to church on Sunday and into work that week without my makeup. My co-workers (even the men) were very supportive. God released me from my obligation later in the week. I thought I was finished with that!

But He had a bigger plan. He challenged me to challenge all of you to be makeup free for the week before our Spring Conference. I heard from a number of you that, indeed you took up the challenge. Some of you gave up other things like junk food, pop, sugar and television. Every person I talked with said they were blessed to do this type of “fast.”

I’ve learned three things from wearing a naked face. First, He showed me that makeup had become an idol in my life. Second, I cared way too much what other people thought of me. The only opinion that matters is His. Finally and most importantly, I need to get over myself and focus on more important matters - the ones God has put on my heart!

How do you know when  
**God** is speaking to you?



New video teaching series from LifeWay

*Discerning the Voice of God: How to Recognize When God Speaks*

by Priscilla Shirer

This insightful new study teaches you how to recognize God's character, language, and tone of voice. *Discerning the Voice of God* is a six-session Bible study by popular author and speaker Priscilla Shirer. Classes begin soon!



## Women's Summer Study 2010

Discerning the Voice of God with Priscilla Shirer

Plan to join us  
for this is a six-week study  
beginning in June.

Watch for more details  
and specific dates  
coming soon!



### **What would you like to read in Links ?**

We truly want this newsletter to serve the women of New Life and the New Life Women's Ministries. Please contact us if you have:

- ♥ A topic for an article
- ♥ A book you would like to review or see reviewed.
- ♥ Comments or feedback.
- ♥ Someone you would like to see interviewed.
- ♥ Something of special interest to women

We'd love to hear from you. This is just the beginning of a wonderful journey in helping link together the women of New Life to God and one another. Please keep us in your prayers; you are in ours.

#### **How to link up with us:**

Susan Frey - [jels@wowway.com](mailto:jels@wowway.com)

Sue Bomgardner - [2bomgars@att.net](mailto:2bomgars@att.net)

Ellen Rumpff – [gidgetpeke@yahoo.com](mailto:gidgetpeke@yahoo.com)

**Our many thanks to all the volunteers who help put LINKS together!**

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