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# The Epistle

Saints Want to Know

## The Lap of Luxury

Natalie Patman-Deas

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One of my most cherished pictures is a snapshot of me sitting in my father's lap as he attempts to demonstrate the array of

sounds on my miniature piano. It is one of my most deepest and tangible memories of love and devotion. It is a moment that has encased within it a glimpse of what it means to be in the light of the eternal, being unencumbered by the relativity of time and unfettered by the "mammon" of this world. Love has never been a scarce commodity in my life because I have had a father

who has loved me from infancy into adulthood. But I am not alone. There are many daughters and sons that have had their lives enwrapped in the infinite energy of love by men who have put their "hand to the plough" of fatherhood and never looked back. And it is with this thought that I write this article with humble reverence for our often unseen laborers, our fathers. Con't on pg. 12

## Remember the Poor

DEACON AL ALFORD

**CLEAR THE AIR**

- If heaven is on earth, then hell is imaginable.
- Jealousy is not a sickness, its ungratefulness.
- If your child is not becoming to you, then you and your child should be coming to Sunday school.
- Isn't it a bit hypocritical for Christians to send chain letters? Is that trusting in God, or fortune?



New Orleans Lower 9<sup>th</sup> Ward

What if the destructive forces of hurricane Katrina directed her damaging winds towards the ritzy glitzy coast of California instead of New Orleans' impoverished Lower 9<sup>th</sup> Ward? What if the mansions in the metropolis of Beverly Hills and Hollywood were flooded to their ceilings? What if famous movie stars, producers, and other people of above-average-means were stranded on their rooftops posting "PLEASE SEND HELP" signs? What if whole wealthy families were wading in chest-high floods? What if beach sun-tanned bodies were floating face down in toxic water? What if the enormous crowd of desperate people eagerly awaiting assistance outside the Superdome were majority blonde haired with blue-eyes? What if they were identified as Refugees instead of Americans? Con't pg. 6

## RELATIONSHIPS

### PASTOR EARNEST L. DEAS

Everybody has one. Perhaps it may be legal, illegal, productive or non-productive. Other relationships may be committed, noncommittal, self serving, abusive, friendly, loving... and the list goes on and on. Did you know that certain whale species have long committed relationships, and that there is a myth that black widow spiders have a very short lived relationship due to her turning on her "spouse" and killing him after a brief intimate encounter? Supposedly this is how she got her name "black widow spider". Now what type of relationship do you have? Do you have a **black widow** type relationship or do you have a **whale** of a relationship?

Jesus Christ has proven his relationship to us in ways words can't describe. His death on the cross was his ultimate expression of his relationship and love to us. He also stated that He would never leave us nor forsake or turn on us. His love and commitment is steadfast.

There are deadly or risky relationships which remind me of the black widow spider relationship. Often times the offender in these types of relationships want to cut you off from communicating with family and friends. They try to lower your self esteem and make you think you are nothing and will never amount to anything unless they allow it or help you succeed. People in these type relationships may need to reassess their relationship and see who you have partnered up with. Perhaps you have part-

nered with the "devil" and don't know it. For the thief cometh not, but for to steal (your joy, self esteem, self worth, your dignity, ultimately your soul) and to kill (your dreams, your success, your body by taking your life) and to destroy (make you a complete failure and a ruin). Jesus has come that you might have life, (freedom) and that you might have it more abundantly, (live life large), St. John 10:10.

Have you made a qualitative check lately to assess your relationship(s)? Are you in denial of the obvious? At this juncture, you must face facts fairly after thinking and praying things through, realizing that right thinking and sincere prayer followed by right actions can lead to right results.

How can one tell what type of relationship they are in? You must look at the big picture. Are there any tests or measuring devices? Is the person believable? Are their words and actions in sync with each other? Are many sacrifices made on your behalf?

All relationships should have purpose, a sense of direction which leads to some type of happy, healthy and hopeful culmination. A long term employment hopefully will lead to retirement. Taking T-I-M-E getting to know one's future spouse will hopefully lead to a meaningful, committed, happy, and enjoyable marriage.

Pause with me for a moment while I try to make a lasting and meaningful impression on you. Which of the following fractions are greater in numerical value? Is it  $2/3$ ,  $3/4$  or

$5/6$ ? It is hard to tell until you find the lowest common denominator of them all. If my math is correct,  $12$  is the lowest common denominator. By finding the lowest common denominator you can better see how these numbers relate. It is also true with people. Often you can establish good or better relationships by finding out what you have in common with the person of interest to you, and then build from there. When I was a child, preparing for college, two of my 4-H Club leaders told me what type of girl to be on the look out for to marry. They also told me what type girl not to marry. Needless to say, I listened to them and did exactly as they advised. I married a girl with a similar background, one with good morals, principles, scruples, honesty, and integrity. She knows how to squeeze a buffalo off of a nickel or how to squeeze a dollar till it hollers. We never argue about money and discuss amicably issues that arise. I have had to literally trust her with the last dollar in my pocket.

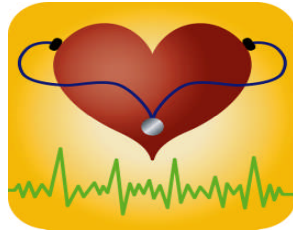


I conclude that I have a **WHALE** of a relationship. What about you? What do you conclude?

## A NEW HOPE FOR LIFE

ARIEL SMITH

**44** year old Debbie Hall of Savannah, who has suffered from heart failure, is the first in Georgia to receive a Heartmate II ventricular assist device (VAD) at Emory. The Heartmate II ventricular assist device is a form of destination therapy for those who are not able or reluctant to receive a heart transplant from a donor. "There are approximately 5 million Americans who suffer from congestive heart failure, with another



half million diagnosed each year, yet are not able to be transplanted for one reason or another," says Dr. Vega.

The unique design of this device allows for automatic speed control that allows the regulation of pumping activity based on different levels of patients or cardiac

activity. Since the device is so small, (12 ounces, 1.5 inches in diameter, and 2.5 inches long) it allows for smaller patients, such as women to have a fighting chance at life.

The four hour procedure has given new found hope for those with blood clots, cancer, debilitating health conditions, religious beliefs, and a number of other problems. One thing for sure, God always makes a way.

"There are approximately 5 million Americans who suffer from congestive heart failure, with another half million diagnosed each year, yet are not able to be transplanted for one reason or another"

Reference: [http://www.whsc.emory.edu/press\\_releases2.cfm?announcement\\_id\\_seq=10663](http://www.whsc.emory.edu/press_releases2.cfm?announcement_id_seq=10663)

## "THE CLARITY OF BLOOD DIAMONDS"

NATALIE PATMAN-DEAS

**F**ormer Liberian President, Mr. Charles Taylor faces 11 charges of war crimes for the unsavory role he played in the 10-year civil war in Sierra Leone. The detainee has recently been granted an extenuation of time to prepare a more adequate defense after refusing to leave his jail cell to attend trial in The Hague (located in the Netherlands). Mr. Taylor is being accused of having a "business relationship" with rebels in Sierra Leone, allegedly shipping arms, ammunition, and drugs in exchange for diamonds.

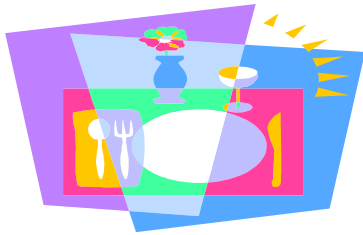


# TO YOUR HEALTH

PASTOR EARNEST DEAS

I believe that we all have a basic desire to be healthy. At least that is what we say or would have others to believe. Do our actions support what our mouth says? Well, let's take a look at three areas or components that would support good health and measure how well we're doing. If you would allow me, let's expand this health business beyond the realm of physical health and also include your spiritual well-being.

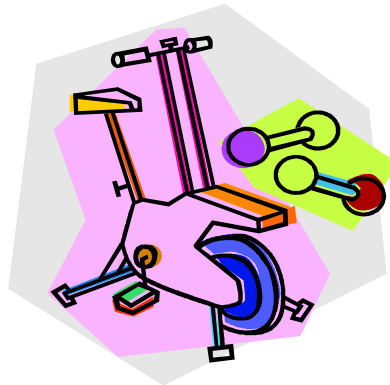
The first area I want to explore is our intake of **food**



(ingestion). It is common knowledge that we are to intake foods from all of the food groups in reasonable portions. Our vitamin A, B's C, D etc., minerals, proteins and the like are part of a healthy diet. When Jesus was talking to the Pharisees in St. Matthew 23:23 regarding tithes, He said that they pay tithes of mint and anise and cumin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the Law, judgment, mercy, and faith: these ought ye to have done, and not leave the other undone. I am saying to you we ought (owe it to ourselves) to consume a proper diet that includes items from all of the food groups, but we should not have left another essential component out. This is what Jesus referred to in St. Matthew 4:4 when He said that man **shall not** live by bread alone (everyday natural food) but by every word that proceedeth out

of the mouth of God. How is your spiritual diet? Have you had a healthy portion of the Gospels lately? What about a reasonable helping of the epistles? Hmmm, now this is good eating. Jesus said except you eat my flesh and drink my blood, you have no life in you, St. John 6:50-69. Of course Jesus was speaking spiritually and did not expect for people to literally eat his physical flesh or drink his physical blood, but allowed them this opportunity to see the depth of their obedience and commitment to Him and His teachings.

Secondly, I will visit this

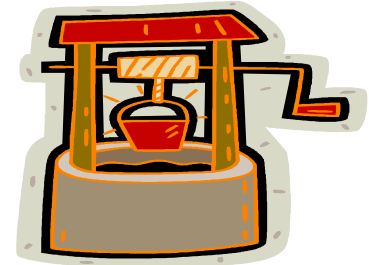


business of **exercise**. Most guys and girls want a well defined body for whatever the reason may be. Exercise is good for the heart, bone mass and many other things. Even the scripture supports physical exercise, (1 Tim 4:7-8). It also teaches in the same text that we are to exercise unto godliness, which is more profitable. When we exercise unto godliness we can discern both good and evil (know the difference between good and evil) and make better life choices.

Third and finally, I must touch on this all important component called **water**. Water comprises the major portion of your

body weight. Rather than to bore you with all of the technical stuff about how important water is to your living, let me state it this way. You can survive longer without eating than you can without water. Without water you will simply die. With this thought in mind, the bar is raised which causes me to think about another water which if it is not consumed, you certainly will not live. When Jesus was talking to the Samaritan woman at the well in Luke 4:14-15, He said whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life. The woman then requested this water saying, **"Sir, give me of this water, that I thirst not"**.

Perhaps your thirst is greater than you realize and you



need to make the same request of Jesus as did this Samaritan woman. This water that Jesus spoke of was the Holy Spirit that would live within us and bring new life to a dying soul. Another aspect of this water business is found in 1 Peter 3:20-21. It talks of being **SAVED** by **WATER**, and concludes by saying **baptism** doth also now **save** us. My brother / sister you need this water and you need it now. It is a matter of life and death, choose this water, and you will choose LIFE.

# Entrepreneurs' and Kids' Inventive Nature

BLANCHE HOLMES



In any business venture, you first must be optimistic. Then you have to believe you can accomplish your goal. This principle also applies to life. Sure, venturing out can be a bit scary and uneasy; but there is so much help out there for you. The Small Business Administration (SBA) provides a gamut of services such as loan applications and granting loans for new businesses, marketing plans, bookkeeping, and personnel setup assistance.

Job was a very successful businessman in the field of agriculture. He faced a lot of the same kinds of pressures we encounter today including death and disease, but he still kept his faith and integrity. I am reminded of a quote by Byron Katie, "remember, the mind is a child, it believes what we tell it." We can

do it. Just do it.

Some people who stepped out in faith and became entrepreneurs are young in age and spirit. One such person is Chestina Perry of Columbia, SC, who started her company in March 2004, called Drive Safe. She was 18 years old, but sold magnetic signs to promote careful driving. The first sign was: NEW DRIVER IN TRAINING, PLEASE BE PATIENT. This helped reduce her stress level while learning to drive. She was awarded an official patent for



Driver Safety Notification Signs in 2005.

There are other young inventors, such as Taylor Hernandez, who at age 10 invented the Magical Sponge

Blocks which featured embedded magnets that stay together and flatten like a pancake for storage. There is also Krysta Morlan, a 10th grader who in 1998 invented the Cast Cooler; a device that relieves the discomfort caused by wearing a cast by blowing air through a plastic tube from a modified aquarium pump with a nine volt battery.

I am sure that we have many more very smart and innovative inventors today who analyze situations and come up with positive alternatives. Where would we be without the microwave and cellular phone? Yet, with all these inventive minds and time saving devices, we as humans don't take time out for real rapport building. My optimism rises to the top, and I remain positive about our future. Our young people are the pathway to the future, and I say as always.....**Stay encouraged.**

## References:

Black Enterprise Magazine, May 2006 "Teenpreneur Award Nominees", pg.48; <http://user.aol.com/faithwork>; [www.bkfk.com/inventors/kids](http://www.bkfk.com/inventors/kids); [www.aarpmagazine.org](http://www.aarpmagazine.org); AARP, May/June 2006, "Quit your Pain" pg.44; AARP, March/April 2007 "Life Etc." pg 96

# Remember the Poor

DEACON AL ALFORD

Con't from pg.1

What type of response would this nation of "We the People" witness? Let's just say that within hours (if not minutes) high-ranked people would be displaying compassionate faces on every major network TV station. Their encouraged assistance would pour out like gushing rivers of water, originating first from the four corners of the Oval Office. The Coast Guard would immediately be dispatched to search and rescue missions. The military would also be discharged to patrol those areas of the wealthy to protect their possessions from the anticipated onslaught of looting by the poor. The response would be immediate, the impact would be overwhelming and the whole world would witness America taking care of its own. "America, America God bless America".

Post Katrina, where was the compassion for the poor people of the Lower 9<sup>th</sup> Ward? Or for that matter, where was our nation's leader- the "compassionate conservative"? I can't even imagine wealthy American citizens stranded on their rooftops five days later, still waiting for rescue teams to arrive with life essential resources. We can dispatch an entire United States Naval fleet to the Middle East in less time. We'll spend a few hundred thousand dollars and many days of Coast Guard man hours to escort one stranded whale to safe passage hundreds of miles towards famil-

iar waters. But there was no safe passage just across town for the citizens of the Lower 9<sup>th</sup> Ward.

As in the case of the Katrina victims, this country has shown us how quickly the poor is forgotten. Why is there such a contrasting response to the poor versus the rich, to the oppressed versus the liberated, to the downtrodden versus the affluent, to the underprivileged versus the wealthy? Jesus is said to be **'moved with compassion'** for helpless people (Matt 9:36). The God of the Exodus intervenes on behalf of the powerless and oppressed, why not America? This is supposed to be a nation built upon "Christianity" with a leader that professes the same. Jesus told the rich man to sell all he had and give to the poor. The Word of God clearly states that we should **"remember the poor"** (Gal 2:10).

How can a two term president's reputation sink so low from a height of popularity? Why is this current presidency headed for such a colossal historical disgrace? I believe it's because he has hidden his eyes from the poor. The word of God says **"He who gives to the poor will not lack, but he who hides his eyes will have many curses"**. (Pro 28:27) Look at the subsequent events that has plagued this administration; disastrous domestic policies, foreign-policy blunders and military setbacks, executive misconduct, crises of credibility and public trust. Bush is certainly one of a kind in our entire

presidential history.

On the other hand, I read an article recently that states: "Abraham Lincoln and Franklin D. Roosevelt guided the nation through what's considered its greatest crises- the Civil War and the Great Depression. With seemingly impossible circumstances, they brought together the nation, governed brilliantly at times, and left the nation more secure than when they entered office. Bush has divided the nation, governed erratically, and left the nation worse off".

Anytime there is the slightest upward trend in the economy or a positive blip in the stock market, conservative talk show hosts seize the opportunity to coerce their listeners in believing "It's those Bush tax cuts". Not too many ordinary, rank-in-file citizens have seen the benefits of recent tax cuts, (certainly not in my paycheck).

This administration has alienated the poor and aligned itself to the wealthy. Speaking at a fund raiser Bush told his conservative audience "Some people call you the rich, but I call you my base". God has put a lot of emphasis on the way we treat the poor and needy. Has this "Christian" leader not read his Bible? Is he not aware of scripture?

Con't on pg. 7

## Remember the Poor

# What Does God's Word Tell Us?

- *God has chosen to bless the poor. Luke 6:20*
- *God hears the cries of the poor. Psalm 69:33*
- *He made provision for the poor. Leviticus 25:35-38*
- *The poor were not to be charged interest. Exodus 22:25*
- *The fruit of fallow ground during the seventh year was for the poor. Exodus 23:10-11*
- *Happy is the one who shows mercy to the poor. Proverbs 14:21*
- *He who oppresses the poor reproaches his Maker. Proverbs 14:31*
- *Whoever shuts their ears to the cry of the poor, will cry and not be heard. Proverbs 21:13*
- *Paul instructed churches on how to take up a benevolent collection for the poor. 1 Corinthians 16:1-4*



The early Christians were very diligent to help the poor, they were not only obeying the commandments of Jesus and His apostles, they were also displaying compassion that has always characterized the people of God. Compassion is more than sympathy or 'feeling sorry' for the poor. It's not 'pity' for someone weak or inferior. Compassion is a 'doing verb' relieving the pain of others. What can we do to remember the poor? Give liberally to charitable organizations and the church for the benefit of needy Christians.

**Let's honor God and glorify Christ by remembering the poor.**

# WANTED

## 12 MIGHTY SAMSONITE MALES



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# “THE juice”

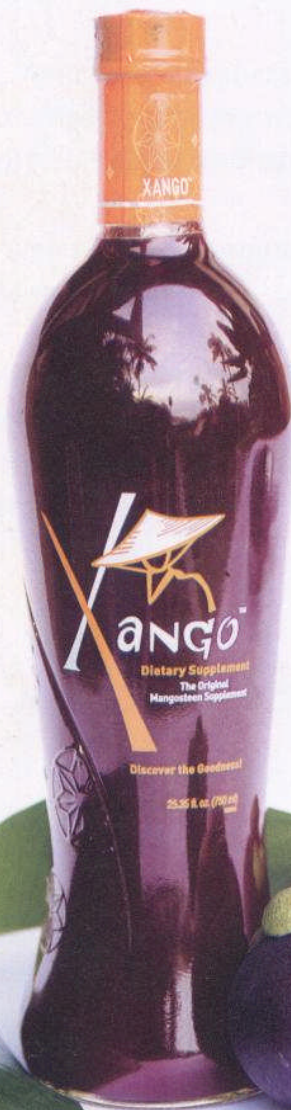
**I** BELIEVE A RE-INTRODUCTION OF SORTS IS IN ORDER. I was officially introduced at last year's Convention as XanGo's new senior vice president of sales and marketing, a true honor. It was then, and it is now. On the surface, I may appear to be the proverbial fish out of water—the guy from Chicago who couldn't seem to find a decent pizza or hot dog in all of Salt Lake City (and, alas, still can't!)—but I'll re-iterate what I've already said: I fully intend to do my part in building XanGo into a billion-dollar brand.

I may be the new kid on the XanGo block, but please don't let that fool you—having been a senior executive with the MWW Group previous to signing on here, I come equipped with a wealth of marketing and public relations experience. I've worked with Volkswagen, Samsung, Bally Total Fitness and the Ford Motor Company, to name a few. In focusing on the health and wellness arena, I eventually ended up working with XanGo. I built and directed teams of professional writers, scientific marketing groups and medical community leaders—all in the name of building the brand.

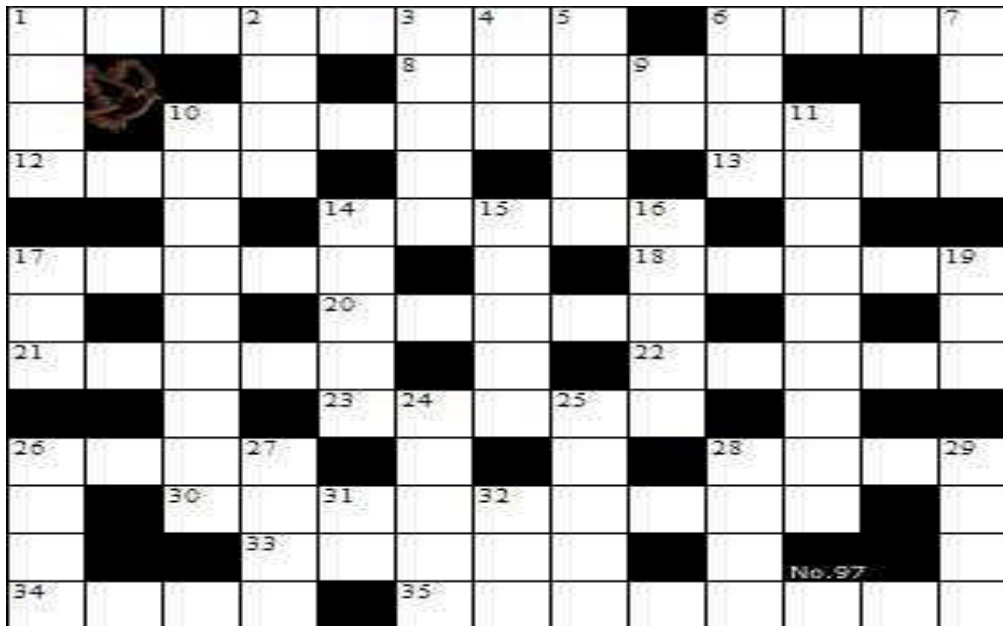
I have one focus and philosophy and it is this: If we are to become a billion-dollar company in the next 3-4 years, we should start acting like one immediately. This is one reason why XanGo is the first-ever corporate title jersey sponsor in U.S. pro sports. This year, let's continue to focus on three things that'll take us to the top—retention, international growth and consumer conversion. If you need help in any of those areas, well then, that's what we're here for.

It's a pleasure doing business with you.

**John Digles**  
senior vice president, sales and marketing



# Game Section



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## ACROSS

- 1 There will be no more death or \_\_\_ or crying or pain (Rev 21:3-4)
- 6 Then God said, "Let us \_\_\_ man in our image, in our likeness (Gen 1:26)
- 8 rodent (Lev 11:29) KJV
- 10 official awards
- 12 make the Most High your dwelling, \_\_\_ the LORD, who is my refuge (Ps 91:9)
- 13 being not a forgetful hearer, but a \_\_\_ of the work (James 1:25) KJV
- 14 Take ye wives, and \_\_\_ sons and daughters (Jer 29:6) KJV
- 17 The entire \_\_\_ of the herd and flock, every tenth animal (Lev 27:32)
- 18 They \_\_\_ the eggs of vipers and spin a spider's web (Isa 59:5)
- 20 Let love and faithfulness never \_\_\_ you; bind them around your neck (Prov 3:3)
- 21 He has delivered us from such a deadly \_\_\_, and he will deliver us (2 Cor 1:10)
- 22 less (Num 33:54) KJV
- 23 Pleasant words are a honeycomb, \_\_\_ to the soul and healing (Prov 16:24)
- 26 The LORD is \_\_\_ to anger, abounding in love (Num 14:18)
- 28 part of the garden of Eden (Gen 2:16)
- 30 But you have \_\_\_ the more important matters of the law (Matt 23:23)
- 33 interpret dreams, explain riddles and \_\_\_ difficult problems (Dan 5:12)
- 34 temporary dwelling (Ex 33:7)
- 35 And his servant was healed in the \_\_\_ hour (Matt 8:13) KJV

## DOWN

- 1 Counsel and sound judgment are \_\_\_; I have understanding (Prov 8:14)
- 2 I will send you \_\_\_ in its season, and the ground will yield its crops Lev 26:4
- 3 Do not make idols or set up an \_\_\_ (Lev 26:1)
- 4 I desire mercy, \_\_\_ sacrifice (Matt 12:7)
- 5 when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will \_\_\_ you into all truth (John 16:13)
- 6 a time to tear and a time to \_\_\_ (Eccl 3:7)
- 7 Nobody has \_\_\_ heard of opening the eyes of a man born blind (John 9:32)
- 9 Jesus got up and went with him, and \_\_\_ did his disciples (Matt 9:19)
- 10 We have come from Cornelius the \_\_\_ (Acts 10:22)
- 11 The boundary ran \_\_\_ from there to include the (Josh 17:7)
- 14 HOLY TO THE LORD will be inscribed on the \_\_\_ of the horses (Zech 14:20)
- 15 If \_\_\_ pickers came to you, would they not leave a few grapes? (Jer 49:9)
- 16 out of men's hearts, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, \_\_\_, murder (Mark 7:21)
- 17 The curtain of the temple was torn in two from \_\_\_ to bottom (Mark 15:38)
- 19 He said to \_\_\_, "Daughter, your faith has healed you (Mark 5:34)
- 24 By faith the \_\_\_ of Jericho fell (Heb 11:30)
- 25 see that you also \_\_\_ in this grace of giving (2 Cor 8:7)
- 26 to \_\_\_ their own desires, they will gather around them a great (2 Tim 4:3)
- 27 compass direction (Ps 103:12)
- 28 commanders of thousands, of hundreds, of fifties and of \_\_\_ (Deut 1:15)
- 29 The fathers eat sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on \_\_\_ (Ezek 18:2)
- 31 he said to them, "Sit here while I \_\_\_ over there and pray (Matt 26:36)
- 32 the mother of all the living (Gen 3:20)

## THE LAP OF LUXURY

NATALIE PATMAN-DEAS

Con't . from Pg. 1

What I saw in these words as he read them was the mantra of my father's life, casting aside all strongholds that interfere with his heart's intention of being a servant leader. After all, the idea of the servant leader is synonymous with father, daddy, and papa. These are words that signify all men that exemplify the qualities of the righteous man in the book of Psalms, chapter 1. For blessed are the men whose love is stronger than death. Blessed are the men who have taken up the charge of being a confidant and guide to the fatherless. Blessed are the men that have girded up their loins to battle the terse world from work shift to work shift on behalf of their wives, daughters and sons. Blessed are the men who rock their little ones to sleep to the sound of sweet lullaby. Blessed

are the men whose joy is made complete by the smiles of those they are mentoring. Blessed are the men who "give their bodies to be burned" for the disenfranchised and underprivileged. Blessed are the REAL men who courageously fill the gaping void of the absentee. Blessed are the men who understand the power of fidelity and the unadulterated truth. Blessed are the wounded healers, the men who break the painful cycles of abuse and abandonment and mend the mind, body, and souls of the afflicted. Blessed are the patriots, the men of the blue and the camouflage that dodge bullets and bombs for our freedom and security. For blessed are ALL THE MEN who lay down their lives, the men who die daily for the cause of family and community (St. John 15:13).

Yesterday I was

a toddler resting in the comfort and nurture of the lap of a man who conquered his fear and traversed terrain that had not been mapped out for him by a present father of his own. Today I am the mother of my own toddler, and in this snapshot moment of my life I am entranced in a reminiscent gaze as I watch my son, Draidon sitting in his father, Emmanuel's lap subdued by his father's voice as he reads his favorite book. My God, how excellent it is to be enveloped in the luxurious love of our fathers. To all the fathers, I see you and I thank you.



To all the fathers, I see you and I thank you.

THANK  
YOU

## ASPIRE : FAITH

THE GRAIN OF MUSTARD SEED

ARIEL SMITH



I have found that people don't take much stock in faith. Some believe that if I am a good and positive person who works hard, then the universe will take care of me. They are proof seeking, doubtful, straddle the fence, too afraid to stand on truth people. For God's word tells us our salvation is based upon faith in Jesus Christ. But there are others who firmly believe in faith in Jesus Christ, and yet have no power over their own lives, let alone an effective ministry. They live stagnantly, relentlessly complaining, or consistently wondering where their blessings are. Without faith, how can people be released from bondage, yokes be broken, spirits saved, delivered, and healed?

Still you're wondering, why *faith* is so important? It is only by **FAITH**, "the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen," that people can be *changed* the very hour they truly believe, that they count it done before it even happens. Let's begin with hope, anticipation of things to come. There is scientific proof that terminally ill patients with hope generally fare better than those

— John 3:16  
 Luke 8:22-25  
 Hebrews 11:1

without hope, because belief in a tomorrow gives not only your mind, but your body a fighting chance. This holds true in general because when a person loses hope, they lose the will to live. If you're reading this, you probably already have hope, and if not, keep reading. Now faith is hope in action. It allows you to act on your feelings.

Consequently, the question becomes what should I have faith in? *This is a critical question.* Many who offer self helps tell you to have faith in yourself, but what they don't tell you is you'll let yourself down quicker and more times than anyone or anything ever will, because ultimately it was your decision that got you where you are today. Some people have faith in other people, but if those people can't get it right, how much do you think they'll be able to help you? Still others put their faith in worldly materials or knowledge, things that are ephemeral. But all of these things are just that, short-lived, and not worthy of faith. What, then is worthy of faith? What gives us the ability to have complete trust that we can and will do whatever it is we need to do? **Jesus Christ**, a name with matchless power. Man has continually tried to tap into a greater power, but God has given it to us freely, through his son, Jesus Christ. And all you need is faith.

How can I obtain faith? Start simply. Romans 10:17 tells us that "faith [comes] *by* hearing, and hearing *by* the word of God." *Persistently* read God's word ... *seemingly* simple enough. "I read everyday, or I hear God's word every Sunday morning, yet my faith has not increased." The key words in Romans 10:17 are "by", meaning through the means, *work*, or operations of. Understand that faith *is* an **action**. It is not enough to believe something will happen, but you must act on that belief. It is easy to hope God's word is true, but to stand on it and live by it takes faith, steadfast and active belief "that all things work together for good to them that love God". "But I thought all we needed was faith, now what's this about work?" Again I say, understand that faith *is* an **action**. Without proving your faith, all you have is hope. Even devils believe that God is real, thus believing is futile if you don't keep God's word. I encourage you to keep God's word in your heart, for it is in God's word you will find your faith starting to grow, beginning with "the grain of mustard seed!"

— James 2:17  
 Romans 8:28  
 James 2:14  
 James 2:19-20

REFERENCE  
SCRIPTURE

Romans 10:17

"So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."

It is easy to hope God's word is true, but to stand on it and live by it takes faith, steadfast and active belief "that all things work together for good to them that love God".

SUPPLEMENTARY  
PASSAGES:

JAMES 2

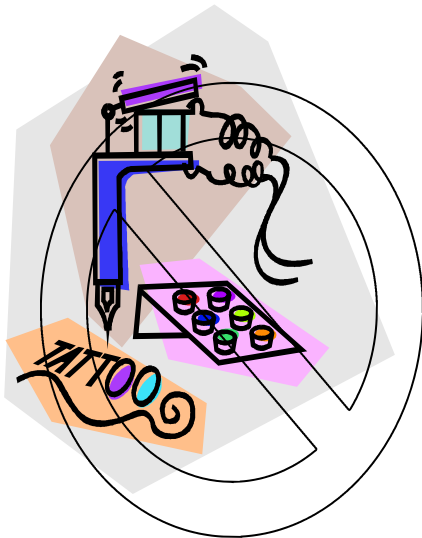
MARK 11:12-24

REFERENCE:  
 HOLY BIBLE,  
 KJV

# Glorifying The Body

## ARTISTIC CANVAS OR SPIRITUAL TABERNACLE

ALVRY ALFORD



Earrings, nose rings, eyebrow rings, tongue rings, and tattoos ... what associations come to mind when you hear of these objects? You might think of fashion, or accessories, or new growing trends. Any of these objects on a person's body speak volumes about their personality, individuality, and to some depths spirituality. But how deep into a person's spirituality does it dwell? To what degree do these objects symbolize a person's spirituality? What spirits are they "innertaining?"

Scripturally, we as Christians are to treat our bodies with respect. They are not ours to do whatsoever we please. Our bodies, which belong to God, are to be the tabernacles for the Holy Spirit to dwell within. In the book of 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians, chapter 6:15, 19-20, the apostle Paul wrote, *Do you not*

*know that your bodies are members of Christ himself?...Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, Who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought with a price. Therefore honor God with your body.* Ironically many people, including Christians, believe that they honor God with their bodies, mainly through the artwork permanently pressed into their skin. As a way of *giving back* to God per se, people oftentimes will mark or *tattoo* on themselves pictures that have world renowned and private meanings. For instance, you might see people with tattooed angels or angel wings, scripture scrolls, Jesus with a crown of thorns, the Virgin Mary, and the infamous crucifixes or hands bound together in prayer with the words "Only God can judge me."

Although these symbols may have sentimental and even spiritual meaning, the Bible clearly speaks against this false sense of honor and instead petitions us to have His honor written in our hearts and minds. The apostle Paul says it best to the Romans, *Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God- which is your spiritual worship. Do not conform any longer to the patterns of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is – His good, pleasing and perfect will (Romans*

12:1-2).

To be honest with you, I've pondered at the thought of having tattoos, but I asked myself, what glory would this bring to God or better yet, how would this build His kingdom? Besides, I'm sure I would not be as effective as a witness as I could be having a tattoo or a piercing. I believe it could be a distraction from God's message. So I told myself that I would not "innertain" those thoughts. But the question is, will you entertain these entertaining thoughts that I have put before you? Or will you instead ponder and obey what God's word has to say regarding the matter? I pray that you will make the right choice!



# The Straight "A" Guarantee

Kriss White



All kids want to

know the secret to making excellent grades in school. No matter what grade you are in, it is never too early or too late to learn skills necessary for academic success. While straight A's may not come immediately, practicing the following five skills can help you to learn to excel academically.

**Organization:** For many students, academic problems are related more to a lack of organization than to a lack of intellect. Whether it's keeping track of homework assignments or remembering to bring home a lunch box, you must be organized to succeed in school. **Time Management:** Even when teachers give students a week to do a project, many won't start until the night before it's due. Learning to schedule enough time to complete an assignment takes practice and is imperative to making good grades. **Prioritization:** Sometimes kids fall behind and fail to hand in

assignments because they simply don't know where to begin. Prioritizing tasks is an invaluable skill. **Concentration:** It is important to study and complete assignments in an area with limited distractions and interruptions. **Motivation:** Most children say they want to do well in school, yet many still fail to complete the level of work necessary to succeed academically. The reason is often motivation. Ask your parents or teachers for ways you can apply your personal interests to school.

Bored now that school is over? Try this fun and easy recipe for a great way to have fun and a tasty snack. Remember to ask for a parent's permission first!

PBJ Face Sandwich By: Sara Lee®

#### Ingredients:

2 slices Sara Lee® bread  
1 tablespoon peanut butter  
cookie cutter or small clean bottle cap  
1 tablespoon strawberry jelly

#### Instructions:

Spread peanut butter onto one slice of the bread. Spread jelly over the peanut butter. Use the small cookie cutter or bottle cap to cut two circles for eyes in the other slice of bread. Use the knife to cut a slightly curved line for the mouth below the eyes. Place the slice of bread with the face over the peanut butter and jelly. Serve.

#### Materials:

Butter knife  
Small circle



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**SAY IT LOUD!**

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To the greatest mother in the world, who is loving, caring and very devoted. Thanks for all you have done and for being more than a mother. I could not ask for a better friend and confidant.

Love U,  
Sheila/daughter

If He brings you to it, He will bring you through it.

Lenora Minnefield

Ministry isn't always what we go and do; It's what we do as we go.

Kenneth Mays

May God Continue to keep you and richly bless you.

Anonymous

You make a living by what you get.

You make a life by what you give.

Kenneth Mays

## ABC Bible Memory Challenge

- **A**-Rom. 3:23 • **J**-John 14:6 • **S**-Is. 55:6
- **B**-Acts 16:31 • **K**-Ps. 34:13 • **T**-Gen. 16:13
- **C**-Eph. 6:1 • **L**-Isa. 45:22 • **U**-Ps. 75:1
- **D**-Ps. 34:14 • **M**-Pr. 23:26 • **V**-John 16:23
- **E**-Pr. 20:11 • **N**-Matt. 6:24 • **W**-Ps. 56:3
- **F**-Isa. 43:5 • **O**-Ps. 118:1 • **X**-2 Pet. 1:4
- **G**- 1 John 4:8 • **P**-Ps. 147:1 • **Y**-Matt. 5:14
- **H**-Ex. 20:12 • **Q**-1 Co. 16:13 • **Z**-Ps. 97:8
- **I**-John 14:14 • **R**-Ex. 20:8

Be the first to memorize these bible verses and win a prize. . See chief editor for recitation and prize.