

THE CALVARY EXAMINER

DECEMBER 2005

VOLUME 2 NUMBER 9

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called

Wonderful Counselor,

Mighty God,

Everlasting Father,

Prince of Peace.

~ Isaiah 9:6 NIV

WHAT CHILD IS THIS?



If you know who this little girl is please sign up or email your guess.

*Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,
"Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests." ~ Luke 2:13-14*

CCA

CCA is in need of someone to take pictures at the school's Christmas Play on December 9th. The play will start at 7:00 PM. If you are interested / willing to help, please call the school office or speak to Melissa Penney. Thank you!

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GREETINGS FROM GRENOBLE!

By: Marybeth Myhren



Happy December to all and "Bonjour!" from Grenoble, France! It's hard to believe, as I sit here writing this, that I have lived, studied, traveled, and worshipped in Europe for the past three months. Now as the day of my departure draws near, I am filled with a million different emotions--sadness to leave my host family and friends here, happiness to be returning to the United States and my family and friends there, and excitement to see what God has planned next for my life.

This semester has been one of opportunities and experiences--a time when I have learned repeatedly what it means to put all of my trust and my entire life into God's hands. I have learned to rely on His strength and daily humble myself before Him. There have been some scary times in Europe--canceled trains, lost wallet, my hostel being evicted in Rome, but far more good memories that include going up the Eiffel Tower at night, hiking in the Alps, walking the beaches in Normandy, visiting John Calvin's church in Geneva, bike riding through the Camargue (wetlands) in Southern France, seeing the Pope in Italy, trying fondue in German-speaking Switzerland, and visiting the Mediterranean in Barcelona. Mixed in there, I've gone to intensive language classes and learned a lot about French culture, society, government, geography, and history.

France is a country in serious need of prayer. Right now we are experiencing civil unrest because the foreign populations and minority groups, who are severely underrepresented in government, are showing their dissatisfaction with their social status and life in France by rioting--protests, strikes, burning cars, etc. Internal problems that have been hidden for a long time are now being exposed in France, and the French government is being forced to confront these issues. Although the situation is serious, my day-to-day activities have not been interrupted--now I am just more cautious about where I go and what I do in the evenings after class.

Thank you so much for your prayers and notes! I am coming home on December 17th--I can't wait to see you all for Christmas!

If you want to catch up with her European adventures please check out her website at <http://www.xanga.com/FrenchDaisy611>.

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NORWEGIAN RICE PUDDING



My family has been making this recipe for generations. Every year it is our dessert after Christmas Eve dinner. A custom in Norway is to place an almond in the pudding and the one to find it gets a present. It is traditionally served cold for dessert and hot for a meal.

In double boiler: Heat 2c. milk,
add 1/2 c. Rice that has soaked over night with enough
water to cover.

Cover and cook over boiling water
May take at least 1 1/2 hrs.
Add more milk until rice is soft and cannot absorb
any more liquid
Add sweetened condensed milk for extra sweetness
and thickness
in place of some milk.

Whip heavy cream with sugar and almond to taste.
Fold into rice. Serve cold with sauce if desired

Sauce: thaw and crush pkg. of frozen raspberries. Add
1 1/2 tsp.
cornstarch and boil until slightly
thickened. Strain and
cool before serving.

* I cook the pudding directly on stove making sure
to stir and watch so as
to not burn. If serving as a hot meal do not add cream, but
butter and cinnamon.

Should make about 3 cups.

~Lynn Tonnesen

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Christmas Events at Calvary Baptist

Monday, Dec. 6th - LIFT Christmas Party – 6PM – Carolyn Barkocoy's home.

Friday, Dec. 9th – CCA Christmas Program – 7PM

Saturday, Dec. 24th – Candlelight Christmas Eve Service – 7PM

Sunday, Dec. 25th – Christmas Day Sunday Service – 10:30AM

Singing the Eternal Song



by Cherwyn Ambuter

Why is music of praise to God beneficial in the life of the believer? What benefit does it have for us, or for our Heavenly Father?

Well, there are many things that music, and especially praising God through music, serves to accomplish for us and for Him. It is a real gift of God!

1) **POWER and SPIRITUAL WARFARE**

Look what happened in the Bible as a result of the use of praise music.

II Chronicles ch. 20:

The Moabites, Ammonites, & Meunites came against Judah in a vast army. King Jehoshaphat felt utterly hopeless and helpless, and proclaimed a fast and he prayed, "We have no power against this vast army that is attacking. We do not know what to do, but our eyes are upon You." All of Judah stood there before the LORD. Then the Spirit of the LORD came upon Jahaziel a descendant of the musician Asaph, and prophesied that the battle was the LORD's. He appointed men to sing

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at the head of the army, which was going out, and to praise the LORD for the splendor of His holiness. As they began to sing and praise, saying, “Give thanks to the LORD, for His love endures forever,” the LORD set ambushes against the enemy and they were defeated, without so much as lifting a spear!! This place was called thereafter the Valley of Praise. The LORD rewarded Judah’s willingness and determination to praise Him with a song even when all looked hopeless! What lesson might there be for us in this?!

Acts ch. 16:

Paul & Silas experienced the effectiveness of praise while in the Philippian jail. They began at midnight to pray and to sing praises unto God. An earthquake came and the prison doors flew open!!! WOW!!!

I Samuel ch. 16:

When David played the harp for Saul (surely it was praise music, as this is the music David composed!), the evil spirit stopped bugging Saul and decided to go somewhere else more hospitable!

Most of you reading this are not in jail nor are we facing warring nations coming against us. But never doubt for a single minute that evil spirits target us. Satan has his legions and they try to find our “weak spot” so they can bring us down. Satan sends his “fiery darts of the evil one” toward us – target practice (only for real)! Singing praise to God is a powerful expression of resolve to follow God. It is an expression of humble trust in Him despite what our eyes tell us, and helps us to cling to the Lord when all seems lost. The Lord rewards such obedience with His defense and protection against our spiritual enemies. Sometimes He even responds to our determination to praise Him with action in the physical realm, changing our circumstances; but of course there is no promise that this is what will happen. Even in scripture, sometimes believers lost their very lives while their hearts still praised God! But praising God gives our spiritual enemies notice that we remain on the Lord’s side, that we have not given up hoping in Him and that we have confident faith He will be our deliverer. It is even possible that Satan finally left Job alone because of his refusal to stop praising God, nullifying the boast that Satan had made to God that he could force Job to curse Him to his face (Job 2:5).

With regard to singing, specifically, it should truly not amaze us that modern science has recently discovered benefits to the activity of singing. Singing lowers our cortisol levels, which in turn

- reduces stress
- produces relaxation
- helps depression to flee

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- helps us to sleep better
- and even helps with weight maintenance!

Singing has also just been discovered by university researchers to build up the immune system.

Singing praise to God, then, not only assists our souls and minds in warfare against the spiritual enemies and spirits that come against us, but also helps us even in the physical realm and is good for our bodies! Leave it to God to come up with something so perfect for us – and it is absolutely free! We can sing a song without even breaking the bank! Hallelujah! We don't even need to buy a CD or a CD player. We can sing completely a capella, and a holy presence surrounds us and brings us to the throne of God. So many times God can produce, through singing to Him, a complete release of bondage or anger or hopelessness and replace these things with just resting peacefully in His love. This is spiritual warfare!

I once visited a tiny church while on vacation that had only 15-18 people present for the worship service, and no instruments – not even a piano. But we sang our hearts out to the Lord, and it was one of the most memorable worship experiences I have ever had, because we were so near to the heart of God. You could just feel God almost so palpably encouraging His people as they gathered in His name and sang so heartily to Him, even in small numbers. This is how I envision the secret house churches in China: small, persecuted, but powerful praisers because they know how much God is sustaining them. Think of how the American slaves' songs were used by God to sustain them against the spiritual danger of losing their faith, even though deliverance from slavery didn't come for hundreds of years! It kept their hope alive.

Is it no wonder that the Lord commands us to sing praise to Him?

I Chronicles 16:23: “Sing unto the LORD all the earth.”

Psalms 9:11: “Sing praises to the LORD, which dwelleth in Zion.”

Ephesians 5:18-19: “And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess, but be filled with the Spirit; speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making music in your heart to the Lord.” Many people drink alcohol to numb their internal pain and anxiety – but the Lord presents us with a powerful alternative: singing godly songs and scriptures to ourselves, encouraging and edifying ourselves in Him! Releasing any pain and agony in our hearts unto Him, the Suffering Servant Who comprehends totally and Who is Himself the very Balm of Gilead to our souls. Who even often provides a natural “high” or sweetness as we envelop ourselves in His presence and allow Him to wrap His arms around us. How much better this is, than to

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turn to wine and seek fulfillment in a created thing! Healing is always better than chemically-induced forgetfulness.

2) THE PRESENCE OF GOD

Praising God has a special way of bringing His presence near to us, or rather, He chooses to *manifest* to us His presence which is already here. In our praise, God is given opportunity to work in us and to take up His rightful place as King in our hearts. From this outflow of praise comes the potential of real worship, which then flows out into greater obedience and sanctification. For what is worship but “ascribing worth” to God? Praising Him for Who He is, is a tremendously effective way to get into His Presence and worship Him!

“Praise and Worship” is a phrase we hear a lot, and we often use these words interchangeably. But, they are not. But spending time praising God helps us to submit to the Holy Spirit in bringing us to a point of true worship, bending the knee of our heart to Him. It is not that praising and worshiping God are mutually exclusive activities; they can happen both at the same time. Worship can happen even just while reading God’s Word, hearing it taught, seeing a sunset or beautiful waterfall. But true worship of God is not possible if we cannot praise Him in our hearts!

If you feel yourself growing cold or apathetic toward God, go take a walk outside where you can be alone, or find a “prayer closet” where you can be alone... Or else even seek out a group of believers who are gathering in His name, and begin to praise Him and to sing to Him and see how He embraces you in His love. Worship of our God, in His presence is the highest expression of intimacy with Him; this is why He relates His relationship with us, the Church, to that of a husband and wife. There is passion, there is longing (remember how David longed for the courts of the Lord!), there is joy in being together, there is sweet communion as His love fills our hearts. Do you long for Him, long to praise Him in the assembly of the saints? If not, try singing praise to Him every chance you get, and really think about the words and sing them for all you’re worth, ask Him to come close as you sing to Him, and you will start to see your zeal for Him grow. This is, of course, in addition to studying His Holy Word and praying!

The LORD rewards the praises of sincere devotion and dedication with the sign of His presence, approval, and pleasure.

II Chronicles 5:13-14: When the Ark was brought to Solomon’s newly-built Temple, all of the Levites who were musicians played. They and the singers joined as with one voice, raising their voices in praise to the LORD and singing: “He is good; His love

Psalm 22:3 says that God
INHABITS OUR PRAISE.

A more accurate
translation of the Hebrew
says that God is

**ENTHRONED UPON
OUR PRAISE.**

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endures forever.” Then the Temple was filled with a cloud, and the priests could not perform their service because of the cloud, for the glory of the LORD filled the Temple of God.”

We, the BODY OF CHRIST, are the Temple of the Lord. As we join together as one, raising our voices to Him and dedicating our own temples and temple (the Church) to Him, He will fill us with His presence and He will even “rest in His love, He will rejoice over [us] with singing”!!! (Zeph. 3:17). Isn’t it beautiful that the Lord will seem to just stop whatever He’s doing, and “rest in His love” (for us!), and linger and relax with us in a leisurely way? God actually sings over us, His redeemed! He has His own song for us! So many times we might think our song of love to Him is one-sided and we wonder what He is REALLY thinking when He hears us. Beloved, know that He takes great pleasure in the song of the redeemed and He rejoices with singing over you! Think of a baby or young child cooing to its Daddy from the crib or while being cradled in His arms, and the Daddy singing a sweet melody of love to the baby, while softly gazing upon it and smiling with a tender expression in his eyes. That is what God does! Listen carefully – do you hear it? He has great affection for you and expresses that in a song.

3) CAN HELPS US SEE OR SENSE WHAT GOD IS DOING

Music and prophecy, in the broadest (or sometimes specific) sense, are connected several times in scripture.

1 Chronicles 25: David separated 288 musicians that were “instructed in the songs of the LORD, for the purpose of prophesying with harps and with psalteries and with cymbals.

1 Samuel 10:5-6: Samuel anointed Saul king and told him to go to “the hill of God.” There, Saul would meet a company of prophets coming down from the high place with a psaltery and a tabret and a pipe and a harp, before them; and they would prophesy. Samuel said, “And the Spirit of the LORD will come upon thee, and thou shalt prophesy with them, and shalt be turned into another man.”

2 Kings 3:15-16: Jehoshaphat went to Elisha recognizing that the word of the LORD was with him. Elisha commanded, “Bring me a minstrel.” And it came to pass, when the minstrel played, that the hand of the LORD came upon him. And he began to prophesy.

Now, does this mean that music of praise is necessary in order for the word of the Lord to go forth? Of course not! God is not a God of “magic formulas” and simple chain reactions.

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Of course much prophecy was given in scripture *without* music being played or sung. But we can see from several passages that the Lord chose to respond at these times in a special way bringing illumination and revelation when music of praise was being offered to Him. The Lord can show us something or speak to us when we are worshiping Him in song.

4) PRAISE GIVES GOD THE GLORY THAT IS DUE HIM

It is good for us to give God the praise that is due Him.

Psalm 92:1: It is a good thing to praise the LORD.

Psalm 135:3: It is a pleasant thing for the upright to praise Him.

Psalm 48:1: He is worthy of praise!!

Isaiah 43:21 & I Peter 2:9: We are formed and chosen by God to praise Him!

It serves to cause us to retain an even and balanced perspective of who we are, who He is, and that the world does not revolve around “me.” But that there is Someone Else “out there” Who is over all, and above all, and Who is managing all with great skill and full knowledge and understanding and love. It also helps us accomplish what we were made and chosen to do. So, praising God offers us fulfillment and perspective. Truly, this IS a good thing He commands us to do!

Stay “tuned” for more next month, especially about music in the End Times!!!

*Sing joyfully to the LORD, you righteous;
it is fitting for the upright to praise him.
Praise the LORD with the harp;
make music to him on the ten-stringed lyre.
Sing to him a new song;
play skillfully, and shout for joy.
~ Psalm 33:1-3 NIV*

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It's not Christmas without...

Do you ever have that moment where you say “Now, its Christmas!” Growing up I used to be able to see the Christmas tree from my bedroom door. Christmas morning my mom would sneak around the house and finally turn on the tree when she was done. I am not a morning person so I always missed it, but when the sun would turn the sky gray about 6:30ish I would wake up and announce that it was Christmas. The sparkling lights were so pretty. This year, I'm toying with the idea of having a full size Christmas tree in my bedroom to recreate my childhood. I love watching the lights shimmer of the glass ornaments.



Christmas looks a lot different to me now that I'm all grown up. Its marked with closing the year out at work, getting all the cousins addresses on the envelopes of my cards, buying my coworkers something, and decorating. Now, my gifts are wrapped weeks in advance because I work right up to Christmas Eve and if I wait to wrap it won't get gone. My mom makes it look so easy. She's been “making Christmas” for 30 years. And I've just started.

As people grow up and move away from the faith Christmas loses something. Why are we all coming together anyway? The feelings that surround Christmas change. Christmas isn't about that magic feeling when you open your eyes and realize that its here. It's not about the gifts or the food or the family who gather or those who chose to stay away. We celebrate Christmas because Christ loved us so much that left Heaven and came to Earth to redeem us while we were still in sin. If that's not reason for a party I don't know what is. Christmas may not look the same as you or I remember it looking, yet, we have a Saviour who is unchanging and loves us!

~ Kyra Joy

*Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room... Joy to the World - Isaac
Watts*

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CBC Cookbook

Please email your recipes to Keri Field at kfield@warick.net or place them in the basket on LIFT's tea cart!

<i>Title:</i> _____
<i>Submitted by:</i> _____
<i>Ingredients:</i>
<i>Directions:</i>
<i>Serves:</i> _____
<i>Category:</i> _____

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Please use this page if you need more room for your recipes!

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