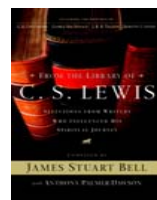




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We Recommend!



FROM THE LIBRARY OF **C. S. Lewis**, SELECTIONS FROM WRITERS WHO INFLUENCED HIS SPIRITUAL JOURNEY, compiled by James Stuart Bell, "a treasury of insight and wisdom. Over 250 selections from Lewis's favorite authors offer a rare glimpse into the intellectual, spiritual, and creative life of one of literature's great writers."



"**The Vigil**" by Kemper Crabb seeks to re-create the spirit of the vigils knights held before dangerous missions—times of humble worship and supplication, of providing an impetus toward fervently seeking and following the will of the Lord Jesus. Available for sale or for download at www.feverdreamrecords.com.



Are you ready for international travel? The quiz at this link will help you evaluate:
<http://fekids.com/img/kin/flash/DontGrossOutTheWorld.swf>



Ware, staff writer for Focus on the Family and author of several children's books, looks at fairy tales from a Christian perspective ("with Christ-colored glasses"). He illustrates how these wonderful old stories contain rich illustrations of many major themes of Christian theology.

New Ministry DVD Available

"Just what do you do?" We've always found it difficult to answer that question adequately—so we collected videos of ministry around the world and our friend and gifted producer Allison Perry put it all together.

If you'd like information to see if we fit your ministry plans, simply want one because you're curious or so that you can pray for us more accurately, drop us a note and we'll be glad to send you one.

Making it Work in 2005

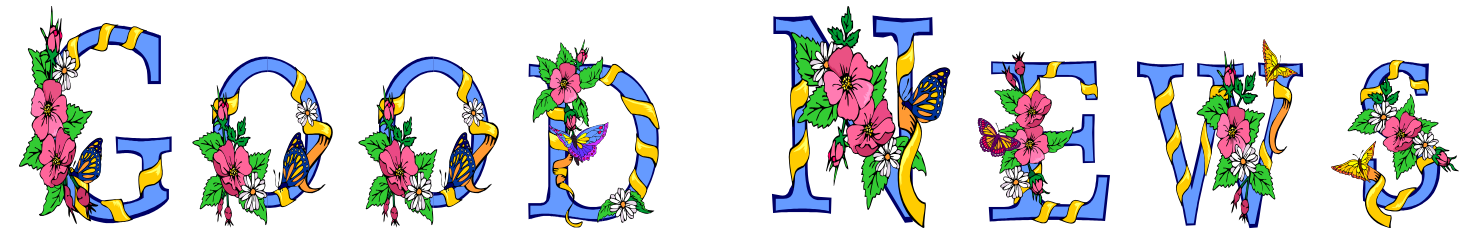
There are a number of ways you can be a part of what God has called us to do around the world. Some of them are . . .

- ☛ **Pray for us regularly.**
- ☛ **Become a monthly supporter—it's the many varying amounts working together that enable us to do what God has called us today...and consistent giving enables us to budget wisely.**
- ☛ **Consider a substantial one time gift—for a specific project or in memory or honor of someone you love.**
- ☛ **Give to the Meeting House Building Fund—our own place of ministry will dramatically increase what we are able to do here at home.**
- ☛ **Join with us in the Sons of Thunder Food for Life program.**

Call, email or write us and we'll be glad to discuss any of our programs with you.

Gifts to Creative Ministries are exempt from federal taxes.

Creative Ministries, Inc.



Volume 27, Issue 1

February, 2005

Celebrating with Phyllis!

Fay Nelson's Column

On February 4th Phyllis Stick slipped fully into God's presence, bringing to a close her long battle with failing health. A unique era on the Outer Banks ended that day, an era that has impacted the world and will long continue to do so. Though she had not been physically in our area since early 2001 when she was moved to an assisted living facility, it seems as if Phyllis never left.

Adjectives don't exist to adequately express her passion for God, family, and friends. Phyllis' personal epiphany occurred in the late 60's when she was in a hospital facing cancer surgery. She reached out to God and He filled her with such an assurance of His love and presence that she never doubted and she never got tired of introducing others to His love, or teaching His Word, or reaching out to those who were in need.

At that time the local Kitty Hawk Methodist pastor, Hank Wilkinson, had a dream of reaching out creatively to the many tourists who already were flooding this area. That dream, **The Circus Tent**, required not only a visionary but someone who could recruit and keep enthused the hundreds of volunteers needed for the ministry to be successful. Hank called Phyllis.

For the next 10 years Phyllis had that as her secondary ministry—the first priority was always her beloved sons Mike, Greg and Tim (and later their wives and children.) In addition, she taught Sunday School, a weekly Bible study that began in 1972 (and continues today as students have become teachers) when many of us made deeper commitments to the Lord, and opened her home for meetings, fixed meals for staff, let people passing through stay in her home a night or two or however long needed, and generally showed God's love to all who crossed her path.

In 1978 an opportunity arose to do a Christian television show for children. Phyllis, CliffAnn Perry and I formed **Creative Ministries** that fall and began an adventure greater than we could ever have imagined. She was 60 that year and she opened her home to be not only the headquarters of the ministry, but home for the staff as well.

And thus she became a recording star, an author of scripts, and always the encourager of all who worked on the show. Her ministry to all of us and to the crew in the studio where we recorded was immense. After a year of production, the ministry focus became "live" outreach and again her zeal and joy and zest for life impacted many. Throughout her 60's she traveled with us in ministry, at festivals, churches, conferences and camps. A tireless writer of notes and cards, she included a thank you note for every donation and helped make the ministry a personal one. Her "retirement" from the road trips was sad for us, because trips were never boring when Phyllis was along.

But like all true ministers, it wasn't the things that Phyllis did that count for eternity, it was simply who she was and how effectively she communicated God's love as she went about her everyday life. And so we rejoice with her that she is with the Lord. We thank Him for His great love for us that He led our paths to cross and intertwine for so many years. We thank God for the privilege of growing up as Christians with Phyllis. We thank Him for the privilege of serving with her in His kingdom.

Family and friends will gather at Kitty Hawk United Methodist Church in Kitty Hawk, NC at 1:30 p.m. on April 30th to celebrate her extraordinary life and thank God for all that He did through her. You are welcome to come and share with us.



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Sunset at Stickville

The Meeting House

We know you have heard us talk about the Meeting House as an ongoing project but we are finally at the point where we can start doing something tangible to get it ready for use. The first priority is to put on a new roof. It is so old it has the original cedar shakes underneath the two layers of current shingles. It needs to have everything removed and a new roof put on.

The best estimate we have for the job is \$16,000. Thanks to the Percy W. and Elizabeth G. Meekins Charitable Trust we have a grant for \$10,000. We still need \$6,000 to replace the roof. If God puts it on your heart, please make your donation to Creative Ministries and indicate that you wish the money to go to the Meeting House.

The Good News is that we are already making use of the building. There is a teenage men's Bible Study currently meeting there. Hallelujah!!



Program Report by CliffAnn Perry

New Office Occupied—937b W Kitty Hawk Road!

Moving takes so much more time than I ever plan for. Although we had desks and workstations up and going a couple of weeks into the New Year, we still have boxes to sort through and pictures to hang. The biggest push still to come is that the puppets have to move in. They are waiting for their place to hang to be installed. The boards were cut yesterday and there is hope that by the time you receive this they will be in their new home.

Incidentally, we are retaining our original post office box but can now receive mail both at PO Box 1603, Kill Devil Hills, NC 27948 and at 937b West Kitty Hawk Road, Kitty Hawk, NC 27949. Our phone remains unchanged—252.441.7976.

Part of the hold up is that we have been in and out of town. Praise God we did go to visit Phyllis just a few weekends before she went to be with Jesus. We are grateful for God's timing.

Ministry:

We did a Missions Training Day for Cape Carteret Baptist Church in Swansboro, NC. That team will be going to Cuba and I'm sure God will use them greatly.

Maranatha Christian Fellowship in Wilmington, NC had us participate in their two morning worship services after which we met with two young ladies about possibly becoming summer staff.

Leaders of Kidz Ablaze, a conference to train children in ministry and a time for them to worship and draw close to God, invited us to teach workshops at their Raleigh Conference. I was amazed at what our group of advanced puppeteers were able to do when the weekend was over.

Missions:



Many of you know that our trip to Africa has been moved from February to September. We will miss the time of ministry there and the chance to catch up with friends, but have a peace about making the trip later. God's timing is always best. Our missions schedule for 2005 now includes a July trip to the Dominican Republic and a September trip to Zambia and England.

SCHEDULE:



- March 12 Mid-Atlantic Women's Conference, Kill Devil Hills, NC
- April 1-3 Dance Retreat, Maranatha Fellowship, Wilmington, NC
- April 8-9 Carolina Fellowship of Christian Puppeteers, Charlotte, NC
- April 22-23 Taking it to the Streets, St. Andrew's Baptist Church, Columbia, SC
- April 30 Memorial for Phyllis Stick, Kitty Hawk UMC, Kitty Hawk, NC, 1:30 p.m.

We are available for outreaches, Vacation Bible Schools, retreats, ministry and workshops created for the needs of your congregation.

The Joy That is Set Before Us

CliffAnn Perry

Phyl's list is really complete. She doesn't even have to find it anymore. She has fought her good fight and finished her race. She has kept the faith. Now there is in store for her the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to her. (2 Timothy 4:7-8)

Her legacy is the people she so purposefully invested in. She "taught those who would teach others also," (2 Timothy 2:2) through Bible Study, Sunday School, Circus Tent, and Creative Ministries. She made God's word come alive verse by verse. She has been a true friend, full of laughter and love.

One of her favorite songs was "Show me Your Face". Now, her Bridegroom, Jesus has come for her and she can see Him face to face. She who loved Israel will see the New Jerusalem. She now knows complete healing, body, soul, and spirit. She is able to dance on streets of gold and any question she has is now answered by the one who is all Truth. Her adventurous spirit is satisfied as the adventure of living in God's presence forever has begun. Her love of music is expanded as she not only hears but can join with the Angels to sing, "Holy, Holy, Holy." After her hours of Bible Study, Phyl can now speak face to face with the one who is the Word. She has now joined the great cloud of witnesses, friends who have gone before her and those she only read about but can now meet.

We can rejoice not only for Phyllis but that we who know Jesus have the same joy set before us. Hebrews 12:1&2 says, "Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God."

He did that so that we could join Him to be forever with the Father. That promise is ours now as we walk in fellowship with the Lord but it is our hope of things to come as well.



One of the gifts (?) my father left me is a love of sports. Over the years I've struggled with my attitude and the time consumed as I watch my favorites—college basketball, baseball (during the playoffs and World Series), and NFL football. With God's help I eventually realized that my watching isn't really necessary for my teams of choice to win.

I've come into balance, but the love is still there. And as so often happens, God speaks to me as I watch. Last week I was watching my Carolina Tar Heels living up to their promise at last, and I was struck by the glow on the face of one of their most gifted players. The announcer (for whom I should pray more and be irritated with less) was talking about how the team members were playing as a team, considering each other, preferring to advance the goals of the team rather than their own NBA prospects, and then went on to say they'd win it all this year. (Finally, I could agree with the man about something.)

I watched the player, whose joy lasted through a rest time on the bench, and whose joy grew as he went back into the game and time after time threw a pass to someone else rather than trying to score himself. Carolina won. More than a game or an advance in national ranking, they won as young men who have captured an essential principle of living.

What a picture of the joy God gives us as we come to Him, bringing back to Him the gifts and talents He gave us and submitting them to Him. He will faithfully lead us to the same spot as my Tar Heel—of considering and encouraging others who know Him. And that brings joy, fulfillment, and a glow that will grow and grow as long as we live, regardless of our circumstances.

Go, Heels!

Let's keep a firm grip on the promises that keep us going. He always keeps his word. Let's see how inventive we can be in encouraging love and helping out, not avoiding worshiping together as some do but spurring each other on, especially as we see the big Day approaching.

HEBREWS 10:23-25, THE MESSAGE