

THROUGH THE VALLEY OF THE SHADOW

I like the King James Version of Holy Scripture when it comes to reading the Psalms. There is a certain beauty in reading and having read the Psalms in Olde English. For other parts of the Scripture I prefer other translations. A part of the 23rd Psalm reads:

*“Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil for Thou art with me.
Thy rod and thy staff, they comfort me.
Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies.
Thou anointest my head with oil;
my cup runneth over.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.”*

I have discovered during these past few weeks that it is one thing to go through the valley of the shadow of death with a loved one and quite another thing to walk through it yourself.

I have a long history of heart disease. It has been an issue with which I have dealt for well over half my life. It is nothing new and God has brought me through three heart attacks, some bypasses, some stents, several visits to hospitals and participation in cardio rehabilitation programs.

I praise God for his healing touch and for how he has worked through the medical profession to restore a heart that has been insulted on multiple occasions.

Recently I experienced heart issues that necessitated some short term stays in two different hospitals. The first was in Kona, Hawaii while vacationing there with my daughter, Teri, and her family. The second was two days after returning home and admitted to the local hospital.

Statistically, about 610,000 people die of heart attacks each year in the United States. It is the leading cause of deaths. Anyone dealing with heart disease is well aware of these statistics and makes effort to have a lifestyle that is heart healthy, including proper eating habits, exercise, rest and living in a way that avoids things that cause stress.

I say all this in order to say that **through it all**, God has blessed me with a sense of his presence and a *“peace that passes understanding.”* Each episode reminds me that

God is always at work to walk us through something. Those who trust in him come to know that he takes us **through** something, he doesn't leave us in the middle of it. This is especially true when faced with the real possibility of walking through the valley of the shadow of death.

At the same time we must be aware that there is a heart disease far worse than that of the physical heart and that is the disease of the **hard heart**—a life that is closed off to God, a life that is hardened by bitterness, hatred, greed, animosity, un-forgiveness and a life that has no sensitivity—and desires to have no sensitivity, to the things of God.

That heart disease is deadly to the point that it brings eternal death—death of relationship with God as well as death of relationships with people around us. It brings us into a valley from which there is no way out. It is a dead end valley, literally and eternally. It is permanent...

Except, God, in his amazing love and redeeming grace, has provided a way through it for the one who chooses to recognize this deadly condition of their heart and who desires to let God change it.

God's Holy Spirit keeps seeking to rescue those trapped in that valley of the hard heart and show that the way out is through the forgiving and redeeming work of Jesus Christ.

Belief in Jesus softens the hard heart and brings healing to the wounds that hardened the heart in the first place.

God always provides a way when there seems to be no way, and it is always through brokenness into wholeness, through sickness into health, through lost-ness into found-ness, through dark into light and through death into life.

If you happen to have a physical heart disease, as I do, let us encourage each other to engage in that holy lifestyle that protects that special organ that is a gift from God, given to pump life into our physical bodies.

If you happen to have a hard heart disease, as many do, pray that God will do as he promised Israel through the prophet Ezekiel, *“I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you. I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws.”* Ezekiel 36:26,27. Do it Lord!

God always provides a **way through** each and every valley in our lives. How we respond to his leading is a matter of the heart—with eternal consequences. lle

Wind of the Spirit Ministries

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SEPTEMBER 2015

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WIND OF THE SPIRIT MINISTRIES



MINISTRY CALENDAR

PLEASE POST AND PRAY FOR THIS EVENT

OTHER MINISTRY EVENTS ARE IN THE PLANNING STAGES
Eddings Email address: woseddings@msn.com

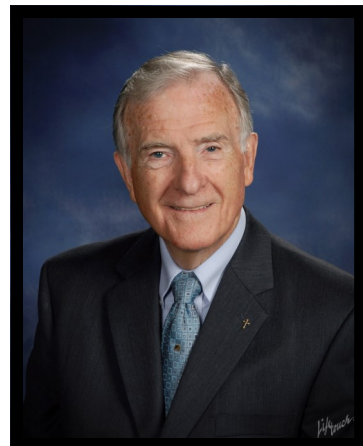
SEPTEMBER 23—Worship and Concert by Lee Ann Williamson and Lori Smith of Christian World Missions from Starkville, MS, at Silverdale UMC

OCTOBER 4-7 Larry will preach for a revival service at the Irondale, AL United Methodist Church. Rev. Taylor Gallman, pastor

The ministry event, originally scheduled for Recife, Brazil in November has been cancelled because of Larry's present health issues. Let us continue to keep Shores of Grace Ministry, with Nicholas and Rachelle Billman, in our prayers as they engage in the vital ministry of helping women and girls exit from the prostitution lifestyle. We pray that we may have opportunity to be with them in the future.

OUR GOD IS AN AWESOME GOD—AND THE ONLY GOD!

“He gave some to be apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers, to equip God's people for works of service, so that the Body of Christ may be built up ...attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. Ephesians 4:11



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My Prayer Request Is: _____

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Please return this slip with your next gift. Checks payable to "Wind of the Spirit Ministries" are tax deductible. **THANK YOU!**

In addition to my prayer and moral support of Wind of the Spirit Ministries, I wish to contribute the following:

\$ _____

AN OPTION TO RETIREMENT WITH ADDED INCOME

A geezer became bored in retirement and decided to open a medical clinic. He put a sign up outside that said: "Dr. Geezer's clinic. Get your treatment for \$500, if not cured, get back \$1,000."

Dr. "Young," who was positive that this old geezer didn't know beans about medicine, thought this would be a great opportunity to get \$1,000. So he went to Dr. Geezer's clinic. This is what transpired:

Dr. Young: "Dr. Geezer, I have lost all taste in my mouth. Can you please help me?"

Dr. Geezer: "Nurse, please bring medicine from box 22 and put 3 drops in Dr. Young's mouth."

Dr. Young: "Aaagh! This is gasoline!"

Dr. Geezer: "Congratulations! You've got your taste back. That will be \$500."

Dr. Young gets annoyed and goes back after a couple of days figuring to recover his money.

Dr. Young: "I have lost my memory, I cannot remember anything."

Dr. Geezer: "Nurse, please bring medicine from box 22 and put 3 drops in the patient's mouth."

Dr. Young: "Oh no you don't. That is gasoline."

Dr. Geezer: "Congratulations! You've got your memory back. That will be \$500."

Dr. Young [after having lost \$1,000] leaves angrily and comes back after several more days.

Dr. Young: "My eyesight has become weak and I can hardly see anything."

Dr. Geezer: "Well, I don't have any medicine for that so, here's your \$1,000 back." And he handed him a \$10 bill.

Dr. Young: "But this is only \$10."

Dr. Geezer: "Congratulations! You got your vision back. That will be \$500."

Every story has a moral. The moral of this story: Just because you are Young doesn't mean that you can outsmart an old Geezer. [Story credited to Mr. Harold Englen, 1951 classmate]

THE HEALING POWER OF LAUGHTER

Scripture reminds us: "A merry heart does good like a medicine. A brittle spirit dries up the bones." Proverbs 17:22

- The ancient Greeks included a visit to the "home of the comedians" as part of the healing process.
- The American Ojibwa Indian tribe had clown-doctors perform antics to cure the sick.
- John Hopkins Hospital plays slapstick funny videos for patients.
- Wilcox Hospital has comedians come in to entertain patients.
- A Catholic Hospital in Texas teaches members of their staff how to tell jokes for the benefit of their patients.
- Norman Cousins calls laughter "inner jogging." When we are engaged in a good hearty laugh, every system in our body gets a workout.

"A merry heart does good like a medicine."

bears fruit wherever they go for the Kingdom of God.

They were with us a year and a half ago to lead in a time of worship and preaching. It was an anointed time when all in attendance experienced the presence of God's Holy Spirit.

Don't miss this opportunity for a beautiful evening of worship through Song and preaching from the Word of God. You will be richly blessed but also strengthened in your own faith journey.

The service begins at 7:00 p.m. in the Silverdale United Methodist Church Sanctuary, Silverdale, WA.

NOTICE OF CHANGE IN MINISTRY EVENT

Bishop Rudy Juan, Bishop of the Manila Metropolitan Area of the Philippines, has notified us of a change in plans and venue for the annual Bishop's Convocation.

Circumstances have necessitated the change of the dates for the Convocation from October of this year to June of 2016. The place will be announced when final plans have been formalized.

Larry Eddings has once again been invited to speak at the Convocation in June.

Let us keep our brothers and sisters in the Philippines in prayer as they continue to hold fast to the truth of God's word and preach the gospel in the face of political upheaval in the country and tensions within the denomination.

Under Bishop Juan's leadership, they continue to stand for truth and demand integrity in the leadership of their church and their country. Bishop Juan has been chosen by God for a time such as this. He demonstrates strong leadership as a man of faith with great integrity.

Let us keep him in our prayers for physical strength and spiritual refreshment. He oversees twelve Annual Conferences and conducts many seminars and training events for his pastors, laity, Districts as well as leading local church events.

WEB-PAGE
Wind of the Spirit Web Page address is
www.wosm-nw.org

HEALING SEMINAR TESTIMONIES

The August Healing Seminar proved to be a time when all of us experienced the real presence of God's Holy Spirit. God always keeps his promise that where two or three gather in his name, he is with us. That was surely the case as we proclaimed the name of Jesus throughout the Seminar and as we were led by the Holy Spirit to worship God "in spirit and in truth."

The following are two other testimonies that came out of the seminar:

Dear Wind of the Spirit Ministries Staff,

My daughter and I were so very blessed at the Healing Seminar last week. Even after thirty years I felt like it was yesterday and the Spirit was so alive and well.

Each group was so about others and I was so blessed to pray and be prayed for. We get so caught up in our own needs we forget that those gifts we were given so many years ago are to share with others in the now because Jesus is soon to come for us and none want to be left behind without His Spirit in our lives.

I was so impressed with the young among us who are so eager to walk in His ways and be proud when the world wants to push them away.

Thanks to all for your hard work and sweet spirits to give us hope and love for today.

Blessings, Jan Kiliz and Denise Yates.

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ANOTHER TESTIMONY

"When are you going to have the next Seminar?"

A SPECIAL TIME OF WORSHIP

Wind of the Spirit Ministries is excited to announce that on Wednesday, September 23, we are honored to have with us, once again, Lee Ann Williamson and Lori Smith from Christian World Missions, located in Starkville, MS.

These two women are anointed vocalists and worship leaders who travel to places far and wide to minister through their music, through preaching and teaching and through praying with people in need.

They have been instrumental in establishing churches in the Philippines, in Africa, Nepal and other places. Their work