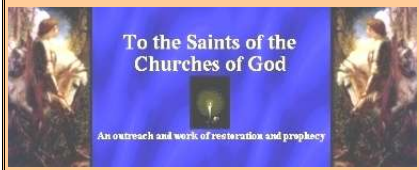


To the Saints of the Churches of God

Chodesh Newsletter

rosh chodesh [a new month]



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This is a free monthly newsletter for the saints publication by **To the Saints of the Churches of God**, written and edited by David and Sharon Lacey with contributors located world wide.

To contact **TTS_COG** please see the information at the end of this newsletter.

Greetings friends!

Chodesh 12 has come!

I recall how long and cold winter seemed to be when I was young. Living in the Eastern states the cold would be bitter and could chill a person all the way to the bone as we would say. The snow



would crunch under our rubber buckle up over shoes and the air would cause tears to form in our eyes as we walked through it. Crisp weather it was called. The over shoes were good for keeping your feet dry and for traction but folks knew it would take two pairs of socks to keep your feet warm. The long-johns were an itchy last resort, but sometimes necessary just to keep warm.

Then the weather would tease us with an early Spring like storm, a freezing drizzle during the day only to turn to ice at night. The next day would be cold again and glittering from the ice on the tree limbs and power lines. Long ice cycles hung from the rain gutters and a walk to the curb to meet the school bus was an exciting and sometimes bruising experience.

We were almost expectant that warmer temperatures would eventually come and the cold days and long nights of winter

would fade away to the more balmy and hopeful days of planting season. Then burning fence rows and drainage ditches would somehow fill the air with an excitement along with the pungent aroma of the burning wood and unwanted weeds. Hot beds prepared for seedlings would be

covered with thin frost proofing linen and fields were beginning to show their color as the fresh dirt will have just been turned before it was made flat again by discs.

Meanwhile, the weather of the season was ever changing to meet its appointment with the terra to quench the thirst of all the freshly sown seeds of the fields. Early planting and crop season was near upon us. All knew it was only a matter of weeks, perhaps days, before that last killing frost passed and the seasons were officially renewed. Our constant reminder, for the moment however, was the nights still freezing grip upon the grasses and the absence of the buds upon the trees, the frost and a thin layer of ice at the edges of the creek. Oh well, we would say then, Spring's not that far away.

The dynamics of the transition from Winter to Spring season is quite a time for all the earth and its inhabitants. All mankind as

Scriptural Allusions

Rev 11:3 And I will give *power* unto my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred *and* threescore days, clothed in sackcloth.

Rev 11:4 These are the two olive trees, and the two candlesticks standing before the God of the earth.
(See page 9 for a complimentary OT verse.)

well as the creation on Earth depend upon its arrival. Much history with mankind has occurred during this particular season. There has also been much fiction and science written to further purport manmade myths and legends about this season and its characteristics. One such is signified by the now internationally known Americana tradition of observing the shadow of Phil the groundhog on February 2nd in Punxsutawney, PA. More on that later.

But for our purpose we offer current data of the biblical calendar within it's season so that we may know "who's house we abide in". That is yet another months topic and we first need to present to you this month info. So first, **the data.**

The data:

As seen from From Jerusalem Israel on **February 21, 2004** at even there will be a new moon of about 2.1% illumination. In the USA on **February 21, 2004** we will see about a 3.4% illumination. False start sightings may sometimes be reported in the USA prior to the new moon sighting in Israel. Please defer to the Biblical global time zone of Israel.

This chodesh **12** begins Biblical calendar month "eleven". Why is it month 12 and not 11 or 13? For answers to this question and more please see a helpful bible study titled [Calendar Studies - Abib](#). A complete booklet with answers to all your biblical calendar questions may be found at "[The Sacred Calendar Book](#)", <http://atschool.eduweb.co.uk/sbs777/saccal/calbook/index.html>

Data this month is also from [Home Planet for Windows](#) and [Ephemeris vs. 2.0](#) software for Windows operating systems. These are free software packages and are available free for download at: <http://www.fourmilab.ch/>

Actual new moon sightings list for the last 2-3 years dates can be seen at the monthly new moon chart at: [Calendar Info](#) <http://home.earthlink.net/~dwlacey/faq/calendar/nmcalthart.html>

Names of the Month

The Roman calendar month

March:

Mars, the Roman god of war, Middle English *March(e)* Anglo-French *March(e)* Old English *Martius* Latin *Martius* "of Mars" Latin *Marti(s)* "Mars" + *-us* (adj. suffix) Latin *Martius mensis* "month of Mars"



Martius has always had 31 days.

March was the original beginning of the year, and the time for the resumption of war.

Mars is the Roman god of war. He is identified with the Greek god [Ares](#).

The Jewish calendar month

Adar Month twelve of the Hebrew year, extending from the new moon of February to that of March ([Zec 1:7](#)). Assyrian *sabatu*,



"storm." (See MONTH.)

From [Easton's Dictionary](#) **Adar** -- large, the sixth month of the civil and the twelfth of the ecclesiastical year of the Jews ([Est 3:7](#), [Est 3:13](#); [Est 8:12](#); [Est 9:1](#), [Est 9:15](#), [Est 9:17](#), [Est 9:19](#), [Est 9:21](#)). It included the days extending from the new moon of our March to the new moon of April. The name was first used after the Captivity.

[*Note: Roman month references are NOT to correct per biblical calendar seasons -see [tefukah](#).*]

The Biblical Calendar Month [KJV]

[Strong's Hebrew 2320](#) - chodesh kho'-desh from [2318](#); the new moon; by implication, a month:--month(-ly), new moon; and Abib means green ears of grain.

H143

אָדָר 'adar *ad-awr'* Probably of foreign derivation; perhaps meaning *fire*; *Adar*, the H12 th Hebrew month: - Adar.

The *biblical calendar* month is similar to the Jewish calendar moon [month]:

([Est 3:7](#), [Est 3:13](#); [Est 8:12](#); [Est 9:1](#), [Est 9:15](#), [Est 9:17](#), [Est 9:19](#), [Est 9:21](#))

As was necessary to adjust fro the seasons a second Adar was sometimes added.

From [Easton's](#) When the season was backward, and the lambs not yet of a paschal size, or the barley not forward enough for abib, then a month called Veadar, i.e., a second Adar, was intercalated.

[Josephus's Antiquities of the Jews](#) has this to add: **Ant.** 4.8.49

Months	Weather	Crops & activity
Adar (Feb/Mar)	Spring rains	Almond in bloom / flax harvest

The civil month 6 [twelfth of the ecclesiastical year], Adar, was also named in the scriptures.

12	Adar	Esther 8:12	Fire/twelfth
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[Est 8:12](#) Upon one day in all the provinces of king [Ahasuerus](#), *namely*, upon the thirteenth *day* of the twelfth month, which *is* the month Adar.

THE TRIBES OF ISRAEL (JACOB) Gen 32:28, Gen 49:1-33

Issachar	amethyst	Adar (Feb/Mar)	Wine like purple	Achlamh	Swiss/Dutch/Fins	Laden Ass	9 Leah	Gen 30:18
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Gen 30:18 And Leah said, God hath given me my hire, because I have given my maiden to my husband: and she called his name Issachar. **Gen 49:14** Issachar is a strong ass couching down between two burdens:

KJV Biblical Calendar – Sebat (Jan/Feb) 2004

Now Moses lived in all one hundred and twenty years; a third part of which time, abating one month, he was the people's ruler; and he died on the last month of the year, which is called by the Macedonians *Dystrus*, but by us *Adar*, on the first day of the month.

Esther 9:20-32 Purim

A feast instituted to commemorate the deliverance of the Jews from the plot of Haman. **Adar 14 and 15. Vs 9:22** ... days of feasting and joy, and of sending portions one to another, and gifts to the poor.

From Easton's Pur, Purim

a lot, lots, a festival instituted by the Jews (**Est 9:24-32**) in ironical commemoration of Haman's consultation of the Pur (a Persian word), for the purpose of ascertaining the auspicious day for executing his cruel plot against their nation. It became a national institution by the common consent of the Jews, and is observed by them to the present day, on the 14th and 15th of the month **Adar**, a month before the Passover.



Wishing You A Joyful Purim
Judah - brother to Israel!

Note from the author: The differences of the **Roman**, the **traditional Hebrew** and the **Biblical** calendars reveal much regarding the histories and customs of their respective origins. Today we use the civil Roman calendar for our commerce and governments with almost global acceptance. For the Bible student it should be noted

that there are several factions among each of the faiths thus the sometimes confusing and differing names of the months, seasons, beginning of years including sometimes even the **Holy Days**.

For further reading see [The Sacred Calendar Book](#).

The **birthstone*** for the month of **February** is the amethyst, the color is purple, the flower is the **Violet**- meaning **Faithfulness**.

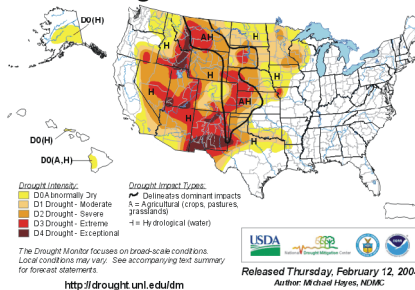


For the Biblical student the only source for true and accurate information regarding birth stones and colors based upon heraldry comes from the **[KJV] Bible** under the list of the names of the **The Tribes of Israel (Jacob) Gen 32:28, Gen 49:1-33** [See above for this months featured tribe].

Drought Info:

Here is a graphic of the current drought as given from NOAA and the others whom comprise the Drought Monitor:

U.S. Drought Monitor February 10, 2004



Holidays February

22
Note: Some Holidays are only applicable on a given "day of the week"

British Commonwealth : Girl Guides Thinking Day (1857)

Central African Republic : President's Birthday

Egypt, Syria : Unity Day (1958)

India : Mothers Day

México : National Mourning Day (Francisco I Madero-1913)

Qatar : Amir's Assumption of Amirship (1972)

St Lucia : Independence Day (1979)

Virgin Island : Donkey Races Day

World : Brotherhood Day (1934) - - - - (**Sunday**)

Religious Observances February 22

Christian : Feast of Blessed Isabel

Moslem-Qatar : Amir's Assumption of Amirship

Roman Catholic : Commemoration of Chair of St Peter at Antioch

Roman Catholic : Commemoration of St Margaret of Cortona, Franciscan tertiary

This Day in Christian History February 22

1680 Death of Thomas Goodwin, 79, famed English Congregational Nonconformist preacher. His last words were: 'Ah, is this dying? How I have dreaded as an enemy this smiling friend.'

1805 Birth of Sarah Flower Adams, English religious writer. Her most enduring verses today comprise the lyrics to the hymn, "Nearer, My God, To Thee."

1906 Black evangelist William J. Seymour first arrived in Los Angeles and began holding revival meetings. The "Azusa Street Revival" later broke out under

Seymour's leadership, in the Apostolic Faith Mission located at 312 Azusa Street in Los Angeles. It was one of the pioneering events in the history of 20th century American Pentecostalism.

1944 English apologist C.S. Lewis wrote in a letter: 'Heaven enters wherever Christ enters, even in this life.'

1980 American Presbyterian apologist Francis Schaeffer wrote in a letter: 'None of us are normal, even after we are Christians if we mean by that being perfect. What is possible, however, is for us to live in the fullness of life in the circle of who we are, constantly pressing on the border lines to try to take further steps.'

Source: William D. Blake.

ALMANAC OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH. Minneapolis: Bethany House, 1987.

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Focused Education Material

Understanding Abuse

by Larry and Vicki Scherand John Cafourek

[reprinted with permission of the authors and UCG-International, UN Feb. 2004]

The Focused Education Program will be presenting four quarterly articles on the subject of abuse. They are intended to inform, educate, and provide understanding of abuse issues. Our first article is on understanding abuse.

Abuse, in its myriad forms, is a problem of astronomical proportions in our world today. Community educator, Ellie Kimaro, of Seattle Rape Relief, confirms that in the U.S. one in four girls and one in six boys will have been sexually assaulted by age 16. In addition, other types of abuse such as verbal, emotional, and physical battering wreak havoc in the lives of millions.

Broadly defined, abuse is any pattern of behavior that threatens the physical, mental, or emotional

well-being of another. Abuse is detrimental to the human spirit. The nature of abuse, as in all sin, is progressive if allowed to continue (James 1:13-15). The following behaviors illustrate how abuse progresses.

Attitudes Behind Abuse

To enhance our understanding of abuse, we must begin with its origin. Abuse began with the corrupting of God's truth and the breaking of His laws by Satan, the originator of all abuse. Genesis 1:2 describes the end result of abuse perpetrated by Satan against God's creation. In his rage and quest for power and control, coupled with his inability to direct it at God himself, Satan lashed out at God's creation, His entire plan, and the future home of mankind. The Bible begins with the end result of all abuse—confusion, ruin, destruction, loss, and emptiness.

Improper Treatment

Our present world groans and travails under the weight of its continued abuse. Satan has replaced truth with his principles of power, force, greed, lust, self-centeredness, selfish ambition, deceit, and pleasure-seeking, to the point of hedonism. He has successfully convinced the world to pursue these principles. Although we live in the world, we are not to accept its principles and practice its abusive methods. Paul warns the Corinthians in 1 Corinthians 7:31 that while they must live in the world, they are not to abuse, overuse, or be controlled by the things in the world. Abusing the earth results in disease-causing and life-threatening environmental pollution.

Mankind has long fought personal battles against alcohol and other substance abuse. God encourages temperance and control in Proverbs 16:32. It states: "He who is slow to anger is better than the mighty; and he who rules his spirit, than he who takes a city."

A Deceitful Act

Deceit and manipulation are chief ingredients used by an abuser, resulting in the emotional

abuse of the victim. Emotional abuse is the cruelest and longest lasting of any abuse. It scars the heart and crushes the human spirit, leaving the victim traumatically affected for life. Where trust and hope once flourished, there remains only a sense of dread, uncertainty, confusion, hopelessness and helplessness. Misplaced guilt and deep sadness shatter the victim's bond with the abuser.

The pain created from childhood experiences doesn't stop in adulthood. For some it worsens, turning into anger and imploding on itself. Abuse becomes repetitive and cumulative. It is very easily learned and imitated, perpetuating the cycle from one generation to the next (Exodus 34:7). It is only through education that the truth about abuse can be understood and the healing process begin.

If deceit in the abuse cycle fails to accomplish what the abuser intends, the means of persuasion intensifies and gives rise to the next behavior.

Verbal Abuse

Verbal abuse is vehemently expressed language that unjustly blames the other person. Verbal abusers squelch, put down, correct, criticize, belittle, trivialize, snub, sneer at, and when all else fails, put on displays of rage in order to dominate and control others. Verbal abuse always lowers self-esteem. The victim believes, at least on some level, what they are told, robbing them of self-worth. The abuser is often so good at control that he or she can turn his or her intimidating displays on and off so they continue to "look good" to the outside world.

Verbal abusers often use the following techniques. Cruel joking and teasing, insisting such comments are humorous. Accusing and blaming the victim for pain the abuser has inflicted upon them. Judging and criticizing which sends the message, "I will tell you what is wrong with your thoughts and actions, and I will thereby maintain control."

Trivializing, to make the victim feel insignificant.
 Purposefully undermining to erode confidence and determination.
 Threatening and name-calling to imply the imminence of physical harm.
 Convenient forgetting to maintain control over the victim and waste the victim's time and energy.
 Denial of the inappropriateness of their abusive behavior.
 Angry outbursts used in a scary and threatening manner to help the abuser get his or her own way.
 After all the verbal abuser's techniques have been exhausted, he or she intensifies the quest for control and proceeds to the final phase.

Physical Abuse

This aspect of abuse often includes sexual abuse, battering, and the deliberate deprivation of human needs such as food and emergency medical care. If the abuser doesn't get his or her way, the result can be the death of the victim.

In God's Word, we find an example of sexual abuse occurring centuries ago, yet containing all the ramifications experienced by today's victims. Like today, the abuse begins in the family. Second Samuel 13:1-32 describes the incident and the consequences that follow. In verse two we see Amnon so consumed with his lust for Tamar, it results in his physical illness. Please notice Tamar is a virgin-completely inexperienced.

A plan is devised (deceit) for Amnon to be alone with Tamar (verses 3-10). Amnon then asks for her cooperation (verses 11, 14). When Tamar refuses and resists, she is raped. Notice the long-term effects she suffers as a result of the sexual abuse. Victims today suffer the same traumas. She is in shock and disbelief at Amnon's actions (verses 15-17, 19) which leads to feelings of undeserved humiliation, embarrassment, and self-blame.

As Tamar's emotional depression intensifies, she becomes regressively fearful, clinging, and needy-desperately

looking for help, support, and understanding. Instead of encouraging her to talk about it, her brother, Absalom, insists she tell no-one. Tamar's fear and despair seize control of her life and render her desolate, lonely and emotionally damaged. Without a concerted effort to overcome the affects of incest, Tamar is to be robbed in her youth of ever experiencing a healthy male-female relationship.

Her brother, Absalom, as with family members of rape victims today, finds himself dealing not only with his own reactions to the assault on a loved one, but also forced to witness the psychological and behavioral changes he sees in the victim. For over two years Absalom witnesses the emotional decline of his sister and plots his retaliation (verses 23 and 32). As in many occurrences of sexual and physical abuse, death is the result.

Physical battering is the last desperate attempt by the abuser to gain control of the victim. The progressive nature and pattern of abuse requires an abuser and a victim. You may not be able to change the abuser, but *you can quit being the victim*. Here are fourteen suggestions to end the cycle of abuse.

1. Don't accept abuse. The longer the pattern continues, the harder it will be to stop.
2. Report any sexual or physical abuse to the police or to other authorities.
3. Take abuse seriously. It is life-threatening. One reason abuse is accepted is because the victim's life has been devalued by self and others. Fear is another reason

“Pleased to Dwell”

The following explanation is from the United Church of God's Statement of Belief on “Divorce and Remarriage” (see www.ucg.org/papers):

“Only the following two reasons can (but do not necessarily have to) dissolve a marriage in which a believer is involved.

“• *porneia*, or sexual immorality. This would include in the broader sense all cases of sexual deviancy, adultery being an example. The implication is habitual sexual misconduct, but is not limited to this.

“• Not pleased to dwell. Paul explains in the book of 1 Corinthians that if an unbeliever is not pleased to dwell and departs that a Christian is not ‘under bondage.’ An individual may express his/her displeasure in a number of ways—*habitual* misconduct such as immorality (refers back to implications of *porneia*), criminality, addictive behaviors, abuse, desertion or willful failure to provide physical support (1 Timothy 5:8). In such cases it may be appropriate for the ‘believer’ to initiate the proceedings.”

abuse is accepted.

4. Take emotional abuse as seriously as physical abuse. Physical abuse can cause death, and emotional abuse can result in suicide.

5. Don't believe it is your fault. No-one deserves abuse. Abuse is a statement about the abuser, not the victim.

6. Don't accept excuses. This gives the abuser permission to abuse you under those circumstances.

7. Don't confuse *love* with *abuse*. If you are loved, you will not be abused. If you are being abused, you are not being loved.

8. Don't deal with conflicts when they are hot. When one or both of you is emotionally inflamed, judgment and reason are impaired. This is no time to attempt to solve problems. *Calm down first*.

9. Don't use abuse to stop abuse. Countering abuse with abuse will guarantee a dysfunctional relationship. It will mess up your life and the lives of your children.

10. Insist on professional help. The very first time abuse occurs tell your partner in no uncertain manner the abuse must stop. Talk out your problems, learn conflict resolution techniques, and get communication training from a professional who specializes in

abuse issues.

11. Consider the damage to your children. Many abused women who will not take action to protect themselves will at least take action to protect their children. If your children are not already being abused, the odds are they soon will be. An abuser invariably turns his abuse on his children. The damage is psychological and spiritual as well as physical.

12. Consider the damage to the abuser. Abuse also harms the abuser. If you don't stop the abuse, neither of you will have a healthy relationship.

13. Be prepared to leave. If you are an emotional or financial hostage, you and the others who depend on you for protection are vulnerable to continued abuse.

14. Seek God's help and guidance through the power of prayer.

God's Word offers a clear perspective on godly friendships and marriages in which each partner submits to the other in love (Ephesians 5:21). It shows it is His will that all people do their part to live in peace (1 Corinthians 7:15, Romans 12:18). First Peter 2:17 and Philipians 2:3 emphasize treating one another with respect. Galatians

6:2 reminds us to bear one another's burdens.

The next article will discuss how preventing child abuse is an important step in the development of an emotionally and spiritually healthy person. *UN Larry and Vicki Scher live in Columbia, Missouri, where Larry is an elder. John Cafourek lives in Olympia, Washington, with his wife, Sandy, where John pastors.*

Breaking the Cycle of Abuse

by John W. Cafourek
[reprinted with permission of the authors and UCG-International, UN Feb. 2004]

Abuse statistics are

appalling, but many who are being abused never report it. How can we break the vicious cycle and experience God's divine intervention and healing from abuse?

I feel totally betrayed, and I do not know what to do! At this point I just can't seem to forgive my abuser . . . there has been no apology and no admission of wrongdoing . . . All of this is

affecting my spiritual life, my ability to take the Passover . . . I also cannot find any peace, nor am I able to really forgive myself . . .

Abuse is an extremely painful reality in our world today. Statistics regarding abuse, as shocking and appalling as they may be, give an incomplete picture. Much abuse is never reported, for a variety of reasons. Meanwhile, the normalizing and even glorifying of violence by the media further exacerbates the problem. Within some families, this growing violence has now resulted in the spawning of multigenerational cycles of abuse.

How can we break the vicious cycle of abuse? The process of healing from abuse involves a number of vital steps, some of which are primarily spiritual. As a result, God's people have the opportunity to access a marvelous additional blessing experiencing God's divine intervention and healing from abuse.

Begin With Repentance and Forgiveness

"I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish" (Luke 13:3). Jesus taught repentance as an individual

Steps That Can Save Your Life!

Here are some steps you can take to free yourself and your children from abuse.

- Ask God for help. Psalm 9:9 says, The LORD also will be a refuge for the oppressed. A refuge in times of trouble. Refuge means protection or shelter, sanctuary, anything to which one may turn for help. God, our refuge, helped me, and He will help you.
- Seek wise counsel. What you need to do and the action you need to take are some of the most important decisions you will ever make. God's ministers are available to help you make wise decisions. Proverbs 2:10- 12 reminds us,

When wisdom enters your heart, and knowledge is pleasant to your soul, discretion will preserve you; understanding will keep you, to deliver you from the way of evil.

- Talk to a friend, minister or family member who can help. Do not be ashamed! It is not your fault that your spouse cannot control his anger! Leave! There are emergency shelters in all major cities that will take you and your children. Search on the Internet for resources. Call the police.

If you are a child or teen, and a parent is abusing you, talk to someone. It is not your fault! The abuse will not stop until you get help. No one has a right to touch you where you are uncomfortable

or beat you. Parents who love you and want the best for you will correct you out of love, not out of rage. Correction from a loving parent should not leave you ashamed or in constant fear.

Remember, God will see you through and help you every step of the way. So take action, get help! Your life and your children's lives may depend on it. Mine did!

Additional Resources:

The hotline for domestic violence in the United States is 1-800-799-7233. They can refer you to women's shelters and other services in your area.

Use the Internet and search on violence against women in the various search engines to find information in the United States and other countries.

responsibility and requirement before God. But how should we respond to abuse when the perpetrator professes to be repentant? Many victims of abuse have wrestled with this enigma.

It is difficult, if not impossible, to break the cycle of abuse and to really progress through the healing process without understanding how repentance and forgiveness interact. Let's be sure we understand that, unmistakably, Jesus Christ teaches us to forgive others. "For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses" (Matthew 6:14-15).

How should we apply this instruction when abuse has been perpetrated? Notice the common misconception evidenced in the following example. He broke my arm, and then I had to get right back into bed with him, grieved a woman whose faith community had forced her into a premature reconciliation with her husband. Too often Christians demand that others forgive immediately, before it is appropriate or advisable, before there can be adequate contrition, reflection or amelioration. (*No Place for Abuse*, page 113).

The Bible certainly does instruct us to forgive. However, it does not insist that we return to the abusive circumstances that occasioned the offense in the first place. Forgiveness does not necessarily imply or require reconciliation. Especially in the case of domestic violence, reconciling may throw open the door to continued abuse. This can unwittingly encourage the continuation, the frequency and even the severity of the abuse.

In the healing process, we need to be clear-sighted enough to understand the responsibility of the person who wronged us. If we are partially at fault, that must be acknowledged; but ultimately we must also understand what is *not* our fault and *not* our responsibility. If we are confused about responsibility, we will

probably continue to harbor vengeful feelings (*No Place for Abuse*, page 114).

What Forgiveness Is Not

- Forgiveness is not condoning or pardoning harmful behavior, which is sin.
- Forgiveness is not healing the wound lightly, saying peace, peace when there is no peace.
- Forgiveness is not an expectation of any degree of future relationship with the person who has perpetrated the abuse.

What Forgiveness Is

Aphiemi, the main New Testament Greek word translated forgive, means to put something away, set it free, as well as to put one thing aside in order to move on to something else. Forgiveness involves the putting away of anger toward another, putting it aside so that it no longer controls our lives.

Our part in forgiving certainly includes being willing to put the matter in God's hands and to pray for His will to be done. As Paul wrote, Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus (Philippians 2:5). The mind of Christ in us has the awesome power to grant us true peace of mind. We are assured that the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus (Philippians 4:7).

The Path to Healing

The healing path is not a jaunt in the park. It is a life-rattling, heart revealing journey that takes us through danger, harm, heartache and ultimately to new trust, profound hope, and a love that can't be scorched by assault or destroyed by loss. The healing path is glorious, but the only way we will stay on course and resist the temptation to flee to safer ground is by comprehending more deeply the assaults and losses we will face on our journey. In the desert and valley we will pass through the dangers of betrayal, powerlessness, and ambivalence. These three realities will pull faith, hope, and love right out from under us if we are not ready

for them. (*The Healing Path*, page 23).

The road to recovery from abuse is generally long, difficult and at times treacherous. This path may meander in and out of darkness and light, confusion and clarity, with loss tempered by gain and progress, and residual heartache countered by healing and restoration. Working through the times of grief, anger, rage, sadness, despair and depression is an important part of the process. Don't use the recovery process as an entitlement or excuse for needlessly indulging these negative emotions. Spending years regurgitating these emotions can turn the road to recovery into a never-ending treadmill.

And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose. (Romans 8:28). This familiar Bible verse can strengthen our faith, our hope and our love as we continue to look to God for His healing in our lives. Certainly, we can implore God for His divine healing, requesting anointing and asking God to remove the pain and anger and to give us comfort, understanding and strength through His Spirit.

With this strong spiritual foundation, we can and must move forward. As Paul wrote, Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 3:13-14).

God expects us to call upon Him for His intervention and deliverance in our lives. Be sure to read the accompanying article on taking action in your life. And remember, God's love is powerful enough to see us through any and all difficulties we face in this life.

What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? . . . Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or

sword? . . . Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. (Romans 8:31, 35, 37).

Resources

Dan B. Allender, Ph.D., *The Healing Path*, Waterbrook Press, 1999. Catherine Clark Kroeger and Nancy Nason-Clark, *No Place for Abuse: Biblical & Practical Resources to Counteract Domestic Violence*, InterVarsity Press, 2001. UN

From the Old Farmers Almanac

Question: We often hear the expression "brinksmanship." Does this mean diplomacy to the brink of war or sanctions?

Answer: "Brinksmanship" was a term used by Adlai Stevenson in the 1950s in his criticism of the policies of then Secretary of State John Foster Dulles; Stevenson believed Dulles' methods would lead the United States to the brink of war. The word is still used in this context.

According to the current USA media coverage it would seem that our nations news wholly shares in Stevensons' displeasure, only with the current President. If the saints were to just accept the postulations of so many politicizing men then we would be little more than sheep obeying the masters of mens' works. But what does the Bible say about being submissive to governments in power over us?

1Pe 2:13 Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake: whether it be to the king, as supreme;

1Pe 2:14 Or unto governors, as unto them that are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers, and for the praise of them that do well.

1Pe 2:15 For so is the will of God, that with well doing ye may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men:

Should be then even blindly follow after men of ill repute?

1Pe 1:13 Wherefore gird up the

loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ;

1Pe 1:14 As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance:

1Pe 1:15 But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation;

1Pe 1:16 Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.

That Explains It!

Why is it that if you tickle yourself it doesn't tickle?

There are so many external and internal stimuli hitting you at once that your brain has learned to filter them out.

The first ones that get ignored are ones that you do; which is why you probably don't notice your vocal chords when you talk, your tongue movements when you chew and why you can't tickle yourself.

When you are tickled, your laughter is the reaction that occurred because that ticklish feeling sends us into a state of panic. You most likely weren't expecting that person to sneak up behind you and tickle your sides, were you? This was probably a defense mechanism that developed in our cave-men ancestors to detect predators.

When you try to tickle yourself you are in complete control of the situation, there is no need to get tense and therefore there is no reaction.

The part of the brain that cancels out stimuli it is expecting is called the cerebellum. The cauliflower-like mass can be found at the back, under the brain. The cerebellum is known to basically be the party planner, it coordinates movement control in relation to sensory signals received in other areas of your brain.

It is possible to tickle yourself though!!!

You would have to fool your cerebellum. Studies have shown that with as little of a 200-millisecond delay between you

moving your hand and the tickling, you would react. However there is only one way to do this- by remote control. Did you know?

Science has been able to design a robot that allows people to tickle themselves. To use the machine you would have to lie on your back with your eyes closed. The robot, located near you, would have a piece of soft foam attached to a plastic rod which you would control by joystick. You would maneuver the remote control and after a short delay, would respond. This takes advantage of the delay in the cerebellum.

Signs in the lights of the heavens?

Solar flares.

A solar flare is an explosion on the Sun that happens when energy stored in twisted magnetic fields (usually above sunspots) is suddenly released. Flares produce a burst of radiation across the electromagnetic spectrum, from radio waves to x-rays and gamma-rays. [more information]

Scientists classify solar flares according to their x-ray brightness in the wavelength range 1 to 8 Angstroms. There are 3 categories: X-class flares are big; they are major events that can trigger planet-wide radio blackouts and long-lasting radiation storms. M-class flares are medium-sized; they generally cause brief radio blackouts that affect Earth's polar regions. Minor radiation storms sometimes follow an M-class flare. Compared to X- and M-class events, C-class flares are small with few noticeable consequences here on Earth.

SPACE WEATHER

NOAA

Forecasts

Solar Flares: Probabilities for a medium-sized (**M-class**) or a major (**X-class**) solar flare during the next 24/48 hours are tabulated below.

Updated at 2004 Feb 10 2200 UTC

FLARE	0-24 hr	24-48 hr
CLASS M	30 %	30 %
CLASS X	10 %	10 %

Geomagnetic Storms:

Probabilities for significant disturbances in Earth's magnetic field are given for three activity levels: [active](#), [minor storm](#), [severe storm](#)

Updated at 2004 Feb 10 2200 UTC

Mid-latitudes

	0-24 hr	24-48 hr
ACTIV E	15 %	20 %
MINOR	05 %	10 %
SEVERE	01 %	05 %

High latitudes

	0-24 hr	24-48 hr
ACTIV E	20 %	30 %
MINOR	10 %	15 %
SEVERE	05 %	05 %

For current biblical calendar information please see the articles [Calendar Info](#) and [Calendar of the Saints II](#).

Further reading of [The Sacred Calendar Book](#) can also be seen at: <http://atschool.eduweb.co.uk/sbs777/saccal/calbook/index.html>

**Take Action! Your Life
May Depend on It
Where abuse is concerned,
inaction could be deadly.**

by Janet Treadway

[reprinted with permission of the authors and UCG-International, UN Feb. 2004]

**Awakened in the middle of the
night by screams of terror, I ran**

to my bedroom window and knelt down and began praying in earnest. I was pleading with God to intervene, to stop the terror, the terror that was going on right across the hall. I had done this many times before after awakening to the screams of my mother, begging for my father to stop hitting her. Each time I would get on my knees, asking God to please stop him somehow.

I was only a young teenager when all the terror started. I was able to escape such violence when I was a small child because I was raised in foster care. I had never experienced such violence until I was returned back to my real parents at age 14.

It did not start out that way though. I can still remember the thrill of seeing my father for the very first time after being away so very long. How proud I was that this was my dad, my real dad that I had longed for all my childhood. He would protect me now, and I would never have to leave again. I felt safe in his arms when he reached out to hug me for the very first time, but the joy of that first meeting was not to last.

After a few short weeks of great joy and security, this man, my dad, changed. Who was this man who replaced my dad? My dad was no longer my protector but turned out to be a raging volcano. This was not the man I dreamed of all my childhood, who would love me, take care of me and keep me safe. We never knew when the rage within him would

erupt, and someone in our family would be at the other end of that eruption. I could relate to children who live in a country during wartime the fear they must feel, waiting for the next bomb to go off around them. That is how I felt, not knowing when the next bomb would explode in our home. The difference between the children of war and me was that the enemy was my father.

I prayed every day and asked God for protection, asking God to help our family and intervene, to somehow change my father, make him loving and kind so that he would not hurt us anymore. But the violence continued on for several more years. Many times I was the victim of his violence, and I thought many times that I would not live through the beatings. I wondered many times why God did not intervene and stop all of this terror? Perhaps it was my fault that God did not intervene and answer my prayers. Why wouldn't God answer my plea for help?

I felt trapped, very alone and had even given up at one point in my life. I thought I would die in this situation and even wanted to at times. I just simply gave up and felt that this could not be solved.

Have you ever been in a situation where you felt your problems could not be solved, that God was not hearing your prayers?

All of us face trials in our lives that really make us feel that they are not solvable. We may feel

Scriptural Allusions

Zec 4:11 Then answered I, and said unto him, What *are* these two olive trees upon the right *side* of the candlestick and upon the left *side* thereof?

Zec 4:12 And I answered again, and said unto him, What *be these* two olive branches which through the two golden pipes empty the golden *oil* out of themselves?

Zec 4:13 And he answered me and said, Knowest thou not what these *be*? And I said, No, my lord.

Zec 4:14 Then said he, These *are* the two anointed ones, that stand by the Lord of the whole earth.

God is not hearing us and that we will stay in this trial forever. But does God require more out of us than just prayer? Or do we look at God as a Superman, coming on the scene to intervene and save us. If He doesn't, we feel forgotten and forsaken. Does God forget you and turn His back? Did God forget me?

My Escape

My prayers did get answered several years later. The answer came when I stepped out and took action. My father was in one of his rages and this time I knew I was in grave danger, with my very life being threatened by his explosive anger. If I were to save my life, I realized that I must act and act quickly.

One morning while my mother and dad were asleep, I packed a few clothes and fled my home. By this time I was legally an adult, but it was like I was in a trap, and I was unprepared to leave. I ended up at a bus station. There was a minister I had once talked to who lived in Chattanooga. I thought if I could get there, then perhaps he could help me.

I went to the ladies room and poured my heart out to God. I told God that I was trying, that I took the step to leave, but I could not do it on my own. I didn't have the money for the ticket, and the people I had asked for help at the bus station had said no. I had to have His help!

Thankfully God protected me from the predators who often lurk in such places, ready to prey on helpless teens. When I left the rest room, there stood waiting for me a man who handed me the money I needed to get to Chattanooga. Then more people began to give me money. Answered prayer! You bet! God heard my plea and intervened.

I purchased my ticket and got on the bus headed for Chattanooga. I should have been terrified of getting on that bus, but I only felt an overwhelming sense of peace

for the first time since I was 14. All the fear that I lived with for so long was gone. I had no idea what lay ahead for me, no home to call my own, and I was going into a strange city, but I knew God was helping me, and it gave me peace. I was on my way to freedom.

I called the pastor when I arrived. He sent a family to pick me up and take me into their home until I could get on my feet. God gave me a fresh start and brought me out of a terrible situation. That day will always be etched into my mind as the day God parted my Red Sea.

Why did God wait so long to answer my prayer? Four years was a long time to endure such violence! Why did He allow me to go through so much before helping me? I asked myself this over and over again.

Then years later I understood it. He did not intervene until I took action! Sometimes we have to take action, then God will help us. It takes faith and courage on our part to take that first step in solving our problems. Once we take it, God is there to help us through the problem.

Abuse Can Lead to Death!

It is sad to know that one quarter of all murders in the United States take place within the family. Surveys of American couples show that 20 to 50 percent have suffered violence regularly in their marriages. The records indicate that between 2 and 4 million incidents of domestic violence occur every single year. Wife abuse is one kind of family violence that probably occurs far more often than most people imagine. The tragedy is that many women suffer this abuse for years without getting help.

Most injuries occur to the head and neck, in addition to bruises, strangle marks, black eyes and split lips. The results include eye damage, fractured jaws, broken noses and permanent hearing loss. Assaults to the trunk of the body are almost as common and

produce broken collarbones, bruised and broken ribs, fractured tailbones, internal hemorrhaging and lacerated livers.

Once wife beating occurs, it is likely to happen again and again, with the violence getting worse over time. Children are abused as well. My mother and I would receive beatings at least once a week. I lived in fear every day. I feared for my mother; I feared for my own life.

If you are in this situation, you do not have to stay trapped like I did. Why did we stay? Why do countless women continue to suffer abuse at the hands of a man?

Why Do Women Stay in an Abusive Situation?

- Change, I thought I could change him. I thought if I tried harder, my father would not go into his rage, and he would not hurt my mother or me. I tried very hard to please him by good behavior. I thought that he might love me. It did not work.
- Isolation I felt alone and trapped and that there was no one to help me. I was too fearful to talk to anyone. I felt if my father found out, he would kill me. He even took me out of school in ninth grade, which only isolated me more. Most abusers will isolate their victims.
- Guilt I felt that perhaps I deserved it, that it was my fault. Abusers will lay the guilt on others to keep from facing their own guilt.
- Fear I was fearful for my life. If I ran away, he would find me and kill me.
- Support I had no money or means of caring for myself. I was only a teenager. Many women in that same situation feel trapped for lack of funds or marketable skills.
- Shame I was ashamed that this was happening to me.
- Love I still loved my father and needed his love.

I learned many years later that

women in abusive situations generally experience similar feelings. Their self-esteem is totally shattered as mine was. It would take years to restore a proper respect for myself through the power of God's healing. My mother reasoned that she should never divorce, and my father convinced her that she was to submit. My mother also reasoned that as long as my father was pleased to dwell with her, she should not leave.

Pleased to dwell what does it mean? Does God require a woman to submit to continuous beatings? Not the loving God I have come to know. (See the sidebar, Pleased to Dwell, below.)

Christ Took Abuse for You So You Can Live for Eternity!

Christ humbled Himself, came to this earth to give His life for you and me. He took blows and beatings that we might live! He shed His blood for you and me that we might have eternal life. My mother and I did not understand that God did not wish us to be punching bags. We did not know what it meant to be cherished and loved, loved in the way that God loves us. So then, why would God expect any woman to stay in a situation like that when He so willingly gave His life for us so we might live? Christ can relate to our suffering. He took the abuse for us!

There are countless women living with an abusive man today who do not understand what true love is. Did my father love me like God does? Did my father love my mother? Did my father protect her, cherish her and, if necessary, would he have given his life for her and me as God did? Would your abuser be willing to take the blows the way that Christ did for you? Does God understand what you are going through? You bet He does because He has been there!

Satan Works Through Inaction!

Satan works through inaction, whether it is through neglect of prayer and Bible study or avoiding

solving our problems. We give Satan greater power to destroy us through *inaction*. Satan gets a stronghold on our lives and takes us captive when we are inactive. We fall into a state of despair, feeling hopeless and abandoned by God. This is how Satan wants us to feel to give up and lose hope! I lost hope through inaction.

One of my greatest heroes in the Bible is King David. He also had to take action. He prayed and with courage fought lions, bears and the giant, Goliath. Everyone else was too afraid to take action and fight this giant. David may have felt that same fear, but to end the trial, he had to do more than pray about it. He had to take action! I, like David, had to take action. My situation was not solved as long as I was inactive.

When I took that first step to solve my problem, then God held out His hand, took mine in His, and helped me along the way. Everything began to fall into place. Now, years later, my father has since died, but I am still very thankful that I escaped when I did.

Take Action!

Too many women give up and suffer needlessly. This brings trauma upon the children as well. Women need the courage to take the first step and the faith to know that God will help them.

If you are in an abusive situation, you have to pray about it, and then you have to *take action!* The abuse generally doesn't get better. It only gets worse with time. You must realize that your children are in danger emotionally as well as physically. They will have scars they will carry with them for the rest of their lives. Do not convince yourself that you are staying for the children's sake.

Violence against women, children and even men presents a real danger in many homes. All writers and authorities advise those in abusive relationships to take whatever steps are necessary to protect their own safety along with

that of their children. Trust your instincts and avoid dangerous situations.

For advice on where to obtain legal or other professional services in your area, contact your minister or local women's shelters, law enforcement agencies or other suitable agencies or professionals. Women's shelters and other professionals can also give advice for specific cases and information regarding local laws to people helping those who are abused.

For more specific actions to take, see the sidebar. Steps That Can Save Your Life! UN

Note: Future articles are to be made available on the separate topic of "divorce and re-marriage. For immediate support information please e-mail the author of this newsletter at: dwlacey@adlephia.net.

Local help IS available! Any calls and or e-mails requesting assistance in these matters of abuse, divorce, re-marriage are held in greatest confidence for your safety and expedient resolve.

Scriptural Reading

Pro 6:16 These six *things* doth the LORD hate: yea, seven *are* an abomination unto him:

Pro 6:17 A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood,

Pro 6:18 An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief,

Pro 6:19 A false witness *that* speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren.

From **MHCC** [Matthew Henry's Concise Commentary on the Whole Bible]

Pro 6:12-19 - If the slothful are to be condemned, who do nothing, much more those that do all the ill they can. Observe how such a man is described. He says and does every thing artfully, and with design. His ruin shall come

And **finally**, ... some signs of warmer weather!



Spring thaw.



Icy tunnel. Please watch your step and bears.



Icy fog, door stuck - oh no!



Yeah, we're back

without warning, and without relief. Here is a list of things hateful to God. Those sins are in a special manner provoking to God, which are hurtful to the comfort of human life. These things which God hates, we must hate in ourselves; it is nothing to hate them in others. Let us shun all such practices, and watch and pray against them; and avoid, with marked disapproval, all who are guilty of them, whatever may be their rank.

Classified Ads

Seeking real estate information in Western Missouri, USA. Small acreage farms 40-75 acres desirable. #1-719-633-2514 David.

Help Want Ads

None to report.

Obituaries

None to report.

**IF YOU DON'T KNOW
WHOSE SIGNS THESE
ARE
YOU CAN'T HAVE
DRIVEN VERY FAR
BURMA-SHAVE**

Classified Ads

Announcements

None to report.

~/~
*Night is a good shepherd ... it
brings home man and beast.*
~ olde Irish proverb ~
~/~

*TTS_COG
2616 Weir Ave
CS, CO 80910*



Media Links:

Audio files: [coming soon]

To contact the author or to comment please email: dwlacey@adelphia.net or visit one of the links listed below.

A friend in Christ,
David W. Lacey

YHWH, The Almighty God of Israel Is With Us!

To the Saints of the Churches of God is at: <http://users.adelphia.net/~dwlacey/>
The **Stewarton Bible School** web page is at: <http://atschool.eduweb.co.uk/sbs777/>
A Voice in the Wilderness web page is at: <http://www.avoicethewilderness.org/>

