

# Message

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## Are You Ready?



ANDREA JOHNSON/Editor

Lying on the exam table awaiting the results of my latest biopsy, I couldn't help but wonder about the future. My two youngest children had lost their first

mom to breast cancer when they were still babies. Surely they should not have to go through that again. If only I knew the outcome – either way....

The Lord interrupted my thoughts. "And what would you know? Whatever the results, you could die tonight, next month, or maybe not until you are 90."

How true. When an acquaintance of my mother heard Mom had been diagnosed with terminal cancer she took the time to write her, letting her know how much she appreciated her and assuring Mom of her prayers. Mom didn't get the letter. It was found among this dear woman's things after she herself unexpectedly passed away, soon after writing the letter.

Events like these cause some people to think about eternity. They surrender their lives to God so they are certain of where they will spend eternity. Others put off this commitment, attempting to wait until the very last minute. Someone close to me admitted, "I know I should give my heart to the Lord, but there are some things I am not ready to give up." He didn't "get it." Planning for eternity is important; yet a relationship with Christ is about so much more than where one spends the hereafter.

Once you make a commitment to serve Christ He changes your desires. Sins that used to strangle you in a death grip lose their appeal. Other people's needs become more important than your own. And, committing oneself to a relationship with Christ is an adventure in and of itself. Jesus is the most loving, bewildering, amazing Being

who ever lived. He is the Friend who sticks closer than a brother, challenging us to the impossible – like loving our enemies – knowing full well He will have to provide us the grace to do it. And, while committing oneself to Christ does not guarantee life happily ever after (at least not until heaven), that does not mean you will have to sit piously around all day fighting boredom. Jesus certainly did not.

People loved being around Him. More famous than any modern-day celebrity, our Lord knew how to draw a crowd. Special effects included raising dead people to life. He also gave sight to blind eyes, health to the infirm, forgiveness to sinners, and justice to the oppressed. He was truly the perfect man.

When I committed myself in marriage to my husband, I promised to be true to him in good times and bad...until death someday parts us. Some days it's easier than others to honor that commitment (for both of us!). Yet the longer I know him, the easier it gets, though there are mysteries about him I will never understand.

When I committed to Jesus Christ as my Lord, I found things about Him I did not comprehend. Yet as I read the New Testament, I realize how awesome He is. He is always good, always trustworthy, and always right – whether I agree with Him or not. The longer I know Him, the more I know I made the right decision. There is not one time in our journey together He has ever left me, and He promises He never will. Even death will not separate us.

A covenant of marriage can be broken by either party. Nonetheless, I can be certain God will never break His commitment with me. It is simply not in His nature. Are you ready for that kind of relationship?

Andrea Johnson,  
Managing Editor

## Contents:

### 4 STACIA'S BIG SWIM

By Michael Goecker

A near tragedy causes one dad to appreciate more fully the depth of our heavenly Father's love for each person.

### 5 SOMEONE I CAN LOVE

By Dar Bliss

After a life of abuse and the accompanying shame, a woman finds hope through the death of her father.

### 6 SOMETIMES GOD LETS YOU HIT THE WALL

By David Henderson

A man's alcohol addiction nearly costs him everything he holds dear. What will it take for him to finally give it up?

### 8 ONLY THE SCARS REMAIN

By Maggie May Quiroz

Imagine being married just over a year and learning you have breast cancer. How will your husband react? How will you cope? Read one young woman's poignant journey through the world of cancer.

### 9 NO LONGER ALONE

By Kay Miller

When Kay first began attending Desperation Church services, she sat in the back and left before anyone could talk to her. Discover why she is now one of the last ones to leave the building.

Plus Much More!