

# PRAISE News

July 2024

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## HAVE YOU HEARD ABOUT...?

By Merlin Carothers

Being a busybody (better known as a gossip) and prying into other people's affairs are listed along with the sins of

murder, stealing, and making trouble (see I Peter 4:15 TLB).

Christians sometimes fall into the sin of prying into other people's affairs and then gossiping about them. Apparently, God considers this as serious a sin as stealing or murder! That's rather shocking, isn't it? And it does seem strange that prying into other people's affairs and then gossiping about them is so severely condemned by God. Perhaps God has watched the suffering and pain that has been created by those sins!

Most Christians would staunchly declare that they would never steal from anyone and certainly have never committed murder. But how many of us regularly pry into other people's lives? And then do we pass our information along to others?

If it's true that a fellow Christian was once on drugs or guilty of some other sin, do we feel it's our business to find out. If we find out that he, or she, has been guilty would we then tell other people? If we did, would that please God?

Of course, we should not sin. But how strange to us that in *God's eyes* it seems the sins of stealing and murder are no worse than our effort to point out other people's sins!

Perhaps all of this has something to do with the fact that God has forgiven our sins. He doesn't want us to be reminded of them, even at the Judgement Seat.

God paid the great price of permitting His Son to be humiliated and crucified, in order to provide the forgiveness of our sins. Maybe the great price He paid causes Him to be angry when we find it necessary to pry into that which He has forgiven.

I strongly recommend that you carefully ponder your attitude toward the sins of others. If you have been eager to hear about other people's mistakes, reflect on the consequences before you once again practice the fine art of prying – even if you clothe your curiosity by saying, “I want to pray for them.”

Remember that Jesus told us to pray: *Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.* But the act of prying is saying, “I don't want to forget; I want to find out what others have done.” Just like Eve, we want more knowledge of good and evil!

Many sufferings come to those who disregard God's warnings. The sins of prying and gossiping sink men's hearts into discouragement. I've seen it happen. Christians, who were once filled with confidence and joy that Jesus was their Lord and Savior, drifted into doubt and discouragement after they centered their attention on another person's sins or failures. They found it difficult to believe that God had forgiven their own sins!

When we learn about another man's faults, we may be tempted to judge him. We need to consider Romans 14:4 (NIV): *Who are you to judge someone else's servant?*

Jesus said, *Do not judge, or you too will be judged* (Matthew 7:1). For this reason alone, we would be wise to flee from making critical judgements about others.

(Reprint from November 2000)



# UNDERSTANDING OUR DESTINY

By Mary Carothers

Pharaoh's daughter drew Moses out of the river and adopted him as her own. However, while he was very young, she had him stay with his own family. Daily, at his mother's knee, he must have heard the story of God's Divine intervention in saving him from death. At a very early age he must have been fully persuaded that God had a special plan for his life. Later, growing up in Pharaoh's palace and educated as a prince, he must have often wondered about his destiny.

When Moses was grown and saw the sufferings of the Hebrews, he was sure that he should deliver his people. He saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew and immediately put into action what he believed to be God's plan. But like many of us, his understanding of God's plan for his life was something less than perfect. For one thing, his timing was a little off. (Did I say a little off! How about 40 years off!) For another thing, he tried in his *own* power to accomplish that which only *God* could do. Originally, he raised his own arm to fight the Egyptians. Eventually, God had him raise just his rod – *God's* mighty arm was raised to set His people free.

Although he was God's chosen vessel, he needed to be prepared. Forty years of "preparation" were spent in humbling this mighty man of God. Numbers 12:3 tells us that Moses was the humblest man on earth. When Moses was convinced that he could be of no use whatsoever to God, then God was able to use him most effectively. He indeed became the Savior of his people, a picture of the coming Messiah – the Savior of the world.

God has a destiny for each one of us, too. It matters not at all whether we were "planned" or a so-called "surprise." God had determined that we would belong to Him – before He made the world

(see Ephesians 1:4-5). Each of us was *planned by God*, and each of us has a destiny to fulfill.

How can you know your destiny? For starters, you are destined to be conformed to the image of Jesus (see Romans 8:29). In other words, to become like Him. You say that would take a miracle? Our loving Heavenly Father is a God of Miracles! The problem is that – *He needs our cooperation*. The Lord does the changing in us, but we must *let* Him, by being obedient to Scripture and to what the Holy Spirit lovingly speaks to us in our hearts.

For example, Jesus commanded us in John 15:12 to love each other as He has loved us. This is how the lost will be drawn to Christ, by our love.

Sometimes, I'll have an attitude that isn't honoring the Lord, or I'll say something displeasing to Him. At these times, the Holy Spirit will correct me in my spirit. Then, it's *up to me* to be obedient to His loving rebuke. I must *choose* to repent and turn away from that attitude. I must *choose* to change my words, to make them agreeable to the Lord and to His Word.

As I learn to obey the Word of God, as I choose to walk in obedience to His correction, little by little I am fulfilling my destiny. You can do the same.

(Reprint from July 1994)





# Words of Love for Mary & Merlin



I'm so happy for Mary and so sad for all of you. I imagine Mary will be missed. God bless, comfort, and direct your steps as you continue to fulfill the mission of Merlin and Mary. **MAUREEN, DE**

I am so sorry to hear that Mary passed. You have my sympathy. I thank you for keeping the ministry going. **VICKIE, MN**

Merlin and Mary have left a legacy that will live for eternity. Reading the books and **Praise News** was so helpful I feel like I knew them and yet never met them. **EVELYN, LA**

What a pang it gave my heart to read that Mary had gone to join Merlin at the side of Jesus. What a blessing they have been in my life! I read **Power in Praise** in 1975 and have the original book all marked up. The message never grows old. **ANN, MI**

We sincerely thank God for Mary and her warm wise words. The things she shared in the **Praise News** each month revealed how wonderfully she was constantly growing in the knowledge of our Savior. Thank you for continuing the ministry of praise. **RANDA AND BEN, CO**

Thank you for sharing that Mary has passed on to her heavenly reward. Although greatly missed, we rejoice with you that she is now enjoying Jesus and Merlin face to face, beautiful music and all that God has in store for us. **ESTA, TX**



I enjoyed meeting Merlin and Mary when they came to Germany many years ago. Mary spoke to our ladies' group and what a sweet, lovely woman she was. I'll be 84 soon and looking forward to our heavenly home. **PAT, MO**



## FOUNDATION OF PRAISE HAS RECEIVED GIFTS

### In Loving Memory Of:

#### **Merlin & Mary Carothers**

By Irma L. Varnado  
of Los Angeles, CA



By Janet Lohmann  
of Westerlo, NY

By Weston Wardell, Jr  
of Wilmington, DE

By Mark & Loy Leslie  
of Monmouth, ME

By Eilene Clay  
of Canon City, CO

#### **Mary Carothers**

By Ruth Johnson  
of Waukesha, WI

By Greg & Marianne Wilkins  
of Grand Rapids, MI

By Eliabeth Thompson  
of Riverside, CA

#### **Our Veterans**

By Sue Goodwin  
of Middleton, MA



### In Honor Of:



#### **George Dilworth** **90<sup>th</sup> Birthday**

By Pidge & Kay McClure  
of Cape May NJ

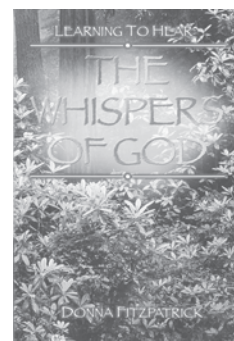


**Our loss is Heaven's gain!**  
**Our prayers are with those**  
**who loved them.**



## The Whispers of God

A friend of the **Foundation of Praise** has generously donated copies of her book, **The Whispers of God**. This book encourages believers to recognize the quiet touch of God in everyday situations. The pages are bursting with humorous and serious stories that explain how we can learn to hear the whispers of God. For those who donate a gift of \$15 or more to the **Foundation of Praise** you will receive a copy of **The Whispers of God**. To receive your book, please be sure and mention the code **Whispers** with your donation.





Your faithful support has enabled us to send free praise books to the following facilities!

County Jail, St. Louis, MO  
County Jail, El Paso, TX  
Kern State Prison, Delano, CA  
Wellstar Sylvan Grove, Jackson, GA  
Bannock County Jail, Pocatello, ID  
Jackson County Sheriff, Medford, OR  
Correctional Complex, West Liberty, KY  
Broward County Jail, Ft. Lauderdale, FL  
Parish Detention Center, Livingston, LA  
Clark County Detention, Las Vegas, NV  
Wake County Corrections, Raleigh, NC  
Pawmunky Regional Jail, Hanover, VA  
Beaver County Corrections, Aliquippa, PA  
DuPage County Corrections, Wheaton, IL  
Reception & Guidance Facility, Jackson, MI  
North Branch Corrections, Cumberland, MD  
Lee Correctional Institute, Bishopville, SC  
Crestwood Behavioral Health, Kingsburg, CA  
Otero County Processing Center, Chaparral, NM  
Stafford Creek Correctional Center, Aberdeen, WA  
Montgomery County Processing Center, Conroe, TX  
Atlantic County Justice Facility, May's Landing, NJ



**GOD BLESS  
AMERICA!**

Please agree in prayer for everyone who receives **Praise News**. We receive so many requests for prayer. Some of these requests are for:

Our Nation  
Marital problems  
Loss of a loved one  
Healing of loved ones  
Financial difficulties  
Salvation  
Health Issues  
Unemployment  
Our military personnel  
Family hardships and conflicts

*But from there  
you will seek the Lord  
your God, and you will  
find Him if you seek Him  
with all your heart and  
with all your soul.*

Deuteronomy 4:29

## Foundation of Praise Pledge

We rejoice when we are able to provide **Prison to Praise** and the other praise books to those who need to hear the Good News of the Gospel. *If you are currently pledging to the Foundation of Praise, there are no words to tell you how blessed and grateful we are for your continued faithful support and generosity.*

If you are not pledging, please pray and consider doing so for the remainder of 2024.

Now more than ever we are in need of your monthly support. We are praying and trusting the Lord to continue to meet our needs so that we can carry on the message of praise that Merlin began. Your monthly support will help us to know how many books we can plan on sending this year to our military personnel, prisons, hospitals and pregnancy centers.

Yes, I want to pledge to the **Foundation of Praise**. Enclosed is my first month's pledge of \$\_\_\_\_\_. Please send me monthly coupon reminders for 2024.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

I am not able to pledge, but I would like to give a donation of \$\_\_\_\_\_.