

PRAISE News

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Working... Together



By Merlin Carothers

All things work **together** (not separately) for good, to those who love God.

We may become hopelessly confused if we attempt to understand exactly how each event will work for our good.

Things that happen to us work “together” with other events, to work some good purpose.

During the reign of Queen Mary of England, a man was sentenced to be burned alive for the crime of preaching the Gospel. When the man was told of his impending death he said, “Well, never mind, for all things work together for good.” When he was asked how his death sentence could work good, he said, “I do not know how, but I know that it will.”

While the man was being taken to London for his execution, a guard treated him so unkindly that one of his legs was broken. Then in mockery the guard asked, “Well, tell us, how this is going to work together for your good?” The man said, “I do not know how, but I know that God will work it together with my other circumstances for my good.”

The injured leg was placed in a crude splint, but the time involved caused the guards to delay their trip to London by one day. The day before they reached London, Queen Mary died. Queen Elizabeth revoked the sentence and set the man free.

Broken legs, arthritis, heart ailments and all kinds of problems are not in themselves good. But God will make them work together with other events for good

to those who love Him. And love requires trust. When we trust Him enough to believe Him, and to say, “God will use my broken leg to work some good,” He takes our faith and works out His promise.

A prisoner who read *Prison to Praise* decided to put His confidence in God’s promise. When the prisoner’s wife and children came to visit him, he cheerfully shared with them his new faith and confidence in God. He said, “I want to be free so I can help you, but I’ll stay here and believe that God is using each day for some good.” However, his wife did not agree with her husband’s new faith. She said, “We don’t have enough to eat. The children need clothes. We need a place to stay. How is this going to work for good? Do something to get out of here, so you can help us.”

There was nothing the prisoner could do to get released from the prison. But instead of spending his days in anxiety he continued to trust in God. He trusted God so completely that every time his wife came to see him, he was a picture of perfect contentment. However, this increased her anger towards him.

After twelve visits to the prison, the prisoner’s wife became so angry that she said, “OK, explain it to me. Why am I so miserable, and why are you so happy? It doesn’t make sense!” God had opened her heart! Patiently, the husband explained to his wife the simple plan of salvation. The doors of her “prison” were opened, and the wife stepped out, a new creature in Christ. God had caused the prison sentence to work “together” for good. Months later the man was released, and he and his wife began a ministry of helping the families of other inmates.

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The Real Heroes



By Mary Carothers



1932 - 2024

Have you ever wished that God would use you in a big, “important” ministry?

Do you wish you could be in the “front

lines” doing battle with the enemy? Do you feel **less** important to God because about all you can do is to pray for those who have the obvious, and therefore seemingly more important, places of ministry?

Isn't it funny how God seems to always look at things differently than we do! For example, when Joshua was “out front,” doing battle with the enemy, (see Exodus 17) he was not the “hero” or main character of the story. The ones who stayed behind and *prayed* had the important ministry in God's eyes. For Joshua could not prevail against the enemy unless Moses' hands were upheld in prayer for him. Well,

big deal, you may say. *Anyone* would have to take a back seat to Moses. But wait a minute! Moses wasn't the hero of this story, either. Read for yourself how God used two others, Aaron, and Hur, **to hold up Moses' hands**. Joshua could not win over the enemy, nor could Moses prevail in prayer, except for Aaron and Hur doing their part. *They* were the heroes of this story. *They* were the ones who made the victory possible.

Be assured that every “important” and “glamorous” ministry that you see is being upheld by those who pray and give of themselves behind the scenes. And God, who looks upon our hearts rather than upon the more obvious things, knows who the real heroes are! In fact, no ministry is possible at all without the all-important saints who do their part by lifting the “Joshuas' and Moses” in prayer. As we all do our part, the Kingdom of God will go forward till Jesus comes!

(Reprint from March 1991)

March 30th marks the one-year anniversary of our beloved Mary graduating to her Heavenly Home. While we miss her every day, we rejoice that she is in the arms of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ and Merlin is right there beside her! Life gives us brief moments with one another but sometimes in those brief moments we get memories that last a lifetime.

*We hold you close within our hearts, And there you shall remain.
To walk with us throughout our lives, Until we meet again.*

(continued from page 1)

If you are not in prison, is there some other circumstance in your life that God could use to work some great good? Whatever that circumstance is, I've noticed one common denominator. The more difficult

the problem the greater potential it has to be used for some great good! There need be nothing good about the circumstance. It needs only to be something that will require great faith that God can use it for our good.

(Reprint from September 1989)



Praise and Rejoice



I felt a sadness for the loss of Mary but happiness knowing that she is with our Lord and Savior.

MARY, CA

I have been receiving the *Praise News* since the '70's. They are so inspiring. I miss Merlin, he was a "great man of God".

ROSEMARIE, LA

I have been praising God for almost 50 years now and I am so grateful to Merlin and his books on praise. It has really made a big difference in my life. Please keep up the good work. I look forward to the *Praise News* and still find great encouragement and comfort in reading it.

MARIE, NJ

Thank you for reprinting Merlin's articles. It means so much to me.

SUSAN, VA

Thank you for your continued donation of books for my guys here at the Central Correctional Facility. I know they look forward to your books. It is a blessing that your ministry continues to strive and can provide the praise books to those in need. God bless you all.

STEPHEN, TN

Thank you for your wonderful messages of Praise.



JUDITH, NH

Please keep *Praise News* coming. I look forward to getting it every month.

NAOMI, CA

I enjoy the *Praise News* and it has helped me for many years. I met Merlin in 1979 and I'm happy that you are continuing with his ministry.

HELEN, IN

Thank you for the books you sent our Chaplain. These books have changed my life. I am in prison, yet I feel freer than when I was on the outside. I have been journaling my conversion and if I could have your *Praise Journal*, I think it would really help me.

FRANK, STATE PRISON, IN



The Serenity Prayer



God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change. The courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference. Living one day at a time, enjoying one moment at a time. Accepting hardships as the pathway to peace. Taking,

as He did, the sinful world as it is, not as I would have it. Trusting that He will make all things right if I surrender to His will; that I may be reasonably happy in this life, and supremely happy with Him forever.

Reinhold Niebuhr, 1892-1971



The Foundation of Praise



HAS RECEIVED GIFTS IN LOVING MEMORY OF:

*Shirley Bruner
and Mary Williams*

By their friend
Betty Koonce
of Georgetown, TX

Betty Charlton

By her sister
Linda Mitchell
of Lilesville, NC



Mary Carothers

Dale Huffman

April Wigand

By Joann Thomas
of Escondido, CA

Lyla Thorson

By Margi & Tom Meis
of Eleva, WI



No matter how life changes, no matter what we do, a special place within our hearts, is always kept for you.



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

Regional Jail, Salem, VA
 Women's Prison, Plainfield, IN
 Psychiatric Hospital, Ancora, NJ
 Marion County Jail, Salem, OR
 Correctional Facility, Lawton, OK
 Middlesex Jail, North Billerica, MA
 JMJ Ministry for Jesus, LaHarpe, IL
 Linda Woodman Unit, Gatesville, TX
 LaPalma Correctional Center, Eloy, AZ
 Correctional Complex, Anchorage, AK
 Bonneville County Jail, Idaho Falls, ID
 Butte County Sheriff's Office, Oroville, CA



Sevier County Jail Annex, Sevierville, TN
 Women's Correctional Center, Denver, CO
 Cois Byrd Detention Center, Murrieta, CA
 Central Correctional Facility, Sykesville, MD
 St. Francois County Jail, Farmington, MO
 Federal Correctional Institute, Pollock, LA
 High Desert State Prison, Indian Springs, NV
 Ouachita River Correctional Unit, Malvern, AR
 Medium Correctional Institute Torrington, WY
 Kirkland Correctional Institute, Columbia, SC
 Federal Correctional Institute, Waseca, MN
 McKenzie County Correctional Facility, Watford City, ND

*May your
 mornings
 bring joy, And
 your evenings
 bring peace.
 May your
 troubles grow
 less As your
 blessings
 increase.*

Power in Praise

We hope you will take advantage of this **Power in Praise** reduced price. Order your copies today and ask God to guide you to those who need to hear the message there is in the power of praise!

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