

Highly Flavored *ministry*

BURNING ISSUES: “Made for a Purpose”

By Pam Key
Correspondence Editor

“You watched me as I was being formed in utter seclusion, as I was woven together in the dark of the womb, you saw me before I was born. Everyday of my life was recorded in your book. Every moment was laid out before a single day had passed.” Ps. 139:15-16 (NIV).

Have you ever wondered why you were born? I can imagine that this may have crossed the minds of many individuals. I want to assure you that you have been made for a purpose in the mind of God. Made for a purpose ... on purpose! As we go through life we are given titles at the very beginning. The title may have started out as little boy or little girl and then evolved into sister, brother, man, woman, son, daughter, wife, husband, friend, co-worker and so on. There is no doubt however, that we are more than the titles that have been attached to us.

I remember being twenty-one trying to figure out my life’s purpose and wanting it all right away. I forgot the most important thing about life is that you have to live it one day at a time. You may have had many challenges in life trying to find your purpose while living life through the eyes of others or living life through the titles you have acquired over the years. It is very important to remember our Creator, who made us, and even more important to seek His will for our lives. When we

surrender to Him we no longer have to face the challenge of trying to figure out our purpose. As He guides we can begin to really live a life that is full of unspeakable joy and everlasting peace.

Isaiah did not really recognize the presence of such a magnificent God, the Lord God Almighty, until King Uzziah died (Isaiah 6). So many times we lose focus and may never realize the powerful presence of God in our lives until the death of someone or something. Go after God and all that He has for you with all of your might.

There are three examples of individuals, in Mark chapter five, who had a purpose despite their situations and circumstances.

1) The first was a man possessed with many demons ranting and raving in a cemetery. When the demon-possessed man encountered Jesus, he asked what Jesus’ purpose with him was. No doubt this man had his own perception of himself. The Bible says that he hung around the cemetery day and night and was out of control. 2) Later in the same chapter Jesus is confronted with a man of status, a leader, who was in great distress about his little girl and 3) then a lady that had an incurable condition.

All three individuals were rejected, distressed, abandoned and cast off. The demon-possessed

man, even in his demonic state, had a purpose; the man of great status, in distress, had a purpose and the lady who had deep rooted medical issues also had a purpose. The purpose of all of them was to become a living example of what the power of God is

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Highly Flavored, Inc. is a community-based organization committed to assisting in the leadership development of children and teenagers in at-risk situations and/or communities through life-skills management training, empowerment programs and mentoring support services. Highly Flavored, Inc. participants develop the skills to make wise choices and contribute in a positive manner to their communities. Highly Flavored Ministry is a newsletter that is mailed to penal institutions internationally free of charge.

← BEEN THERE - DONE THAT →

BEAUTY THAT COUNTS

By Gene Anderson

It's no secret that people want to look physically attractive. This is nothing new. Make-up and other means to bolster one's appearance have been around for thousands of years. Even the wicked queen Jezebel "... painted her face and tired her head ..." (II Kings 9:30). The same is the case today. Solomon said: "... there is no new thing under the sun." The desire is the same but the methods have changed drastically. There is nothing wrong with wanting to look good and everyone should take care of themselves but people become so obsessed with the desire to look good that they will go to extreme measures to accomplish this.

Giving God all the credit as Creator of all things, we realize that "beauty is in the eyes of the beholder." It's simply a fact of human nature that what one person finds beautiful may hold no attraction at all for another.

I love Ecclesiastes 3:11 that says, "He had made everything beautiful in His time ..." This, of course, does not mean that all people will find all things beautiful but I believe one of its applications can mean that everything God creates has purpose. This cannot be truer than of the

human being. God sees beauty in His creation that not all see. God does not create junk, nor does He create anyone who is useless. No matter what "defects" we may see in people, every life fulfills some purpose in God's eternal plan. When Moses used his speech impediment as a reason to reject God's call, God's response was: "Who hath made man's mouth? Or who maketh the dumb, or deaf, or the seeing, or the blind? Have not I the Lord?" (Exodus 4:11).

The sad fact is that while most people look at the outward, physical qualities of a person, it is what's in the heart that makes one who they really are. To think that finding the perfect "10" will cause you to live "happily ever after" is not realistic. No amount of make-up or plastic surgery is a guarantee to bring happiness and a better life to those who use them. There is not an instant cure for loneliness and depression

The truth is if beauty-seekers would pursue spiritual perfection the way they do physical perfection they would be a lot better off. We spend more time trying to impress people than we do in serving the Lord. The apostle Peter gave sound advice about primping in I Peter 3:3-4: "Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting

the hair, heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price." Beauty, natural or brought, cannot and will never fill the void that only the Creator and Redeemer can; we are to find our fulfillment in Christ.

Let's be diligent in serving Him knowing that while good looks may bring temporary pleasures, righteousness has eternal rewards.

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able to do and to share it with others.

I want to challenge you to look beyond your current perception of yourself, your situation circumstances, title or attitude and begin to seek God regarding His purpose for your life. Take time to reflect on the past as you draw near to the end of this year and know that you were made for a purpose in the mind of God. Go into the New Year with greater expectations of His will; for you were *fearfully and wonderfully made for a purpose!*

Inspired by a Potter's House experience. Write Pam Key about Burning Issues you would like direction on.

HELP WANTED: WRITERS FOR HFM NEWSLETTER

Please send your writings and we will publish you in our newsletter. Keep in mind HFM reaches over 1,000 prison residents per quarter. This is an incredible tool for those *Saints Behind Bars* to witness to others in the same situation. Send your articles directly to me. **Big thanks** to all who keep the mail and articles coming.

Also write us to get on our mailing list and be included in our congregation's prayer box.

Send your material and requests to:

Highly Flavored Ministry · Attn: Val Carr · P.O. Box 4418 · Gary, IN 46404



KEEP IT REAL SAINTS

THE POLITICS OF PROMISE

By Cedric Dupree

Obama, will he make it to the White house or will it be McCain? Will a change come or will it be the same ole politics? What about the candidate's promises, will they be kept or will they fail to come through? As inmates, our friends and family may have let us down and failed on their promises.

Today, as the atmosphere is charged electrically with promises of politicians, we are reminded that there is one Candidate we can vote for whose promises are always "Yes" and "Amen" (II Corinthians 1:20).

Together, let's make sure we all elect Jesus to be the President of our lives this election season!

THE TONGUE: DANGEROUS AND DECEITFUL

By Charlie Carter

Satan has destroyed many; don't be one of them. He has deceived you and you in time have deceived others who are deceiving still others. Your tongue is like a two-edged sword, slaying the spirit of goodness in many. Let it not destroy their lives as well.

Deceit is a killer and lies are the tools of the devil. A kind word spoken is worth a fortune. Good words heal and bring life. So please quit killing me, yourself and others. Put a little love in your heart and be thankful for what you have. Remember what our God has given to you He can also take from you. Therefore, count your blessing and take it to the Lord in prayer.

He is there waiting to hear from you. Be free and know that I forgive

you though God may or may not, lest you repent and extinguish this fire. For you speak of matter which you know nothing about.

THE OFFENDERS CHOICE

By Troy Clark, Ph.D

Former Inmate/Recovery Advocate

What is the price of jail beyond making bail?
It is the choice to change or offend again and fail.

The "old you that brought on trouble lay buried in court document rubble.

Rest this poor corpse in peace.
Respect the NEW YOU on the double!

Can you see the rich opportunity present itself to you and me?
After Plan A goes wrong, fate unfolds Plan B.

The crossroads of hereafter stand as a powerful tool at your command.

An apology, repaid debts,
relationship mending, alas the pathway to freedom land.

Prayer gains strength from above to resist temptation to resist temptation.

You'll love winning
the day guilt-free.
Give past sins a shove.

One day at a time living whole
recovers the life your
offense once stole.
Saying "I can" makes
a far better man.
New goals regain control.

Across sands of time your future
either may be footprints in desert
deviance or by restoring sea.
Along cleansing tides or in barren
waste desire you which mortality?

Resolve to right past mistakes with poise.
Hearken! now to your wisest voice.
What powers are changed
life from within?
Not mastery, not money ...
CHOICE!

CHOOSING LIFE

By Charles Austin

Living for the high and the wings I had grown.
My feelings were lost,
afraid to be shown.
As I look at my past
it's so easy to see,
The fear that I had, afraid to be me.

I'd pretended to be rugged,
so fast and so cool.
When actually lost like
a blinded old fool.
I'm getting too old for
this tiresome game
Of acting real hard with
no sense of shame.

It's time that I change
and get on with my life.
Fulfilling my dreams for
a family and wife.
What my future will hold
I really don't know.
But the years that
I've wasted are starting to show.

I just live for the day when
I'll get a new start.
And the dreams I still hold
deep in my heart.
I hope I can make it,
I at least have to try.
Because I'm heading toward death
and I don't want to die.

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YOUR DAILY SOUL FOOD

“O taste and see that the Lord is good!”

OCTOBER

1. The Value of Our Work - Col. 3:23-24
2. God Is With Me! - Heb. 13:5
3. Rejoice Anyway - Hab. 3:17-18
4. A Smiling Face - Matt. 5:16
5. God's Own - John 1:12
6. Mid-Life Crisis - Lam. 3:22-23
7. Financial Stress - Romans 13:8
8. My Legacy Will Be - II Kings 22:1-2
9. The Power of God's Word - Luke 11:9
10. The Great Potter - Isaiah 6:1-8
11. Follow That Car! - I Cor. 11:1
12. Seeing More Clearly - I Cor. 13:12
13. Good News - John 15:8
14. Leaning on the Beloved - Ps. 8:5
15. God's Assurance - Ps. 118:24
16. In Loving Arms - John 10:14-15
17. An Always God - Ps. 27:8
18. Only Peanut Butter - Matt. 6:26
19. An Eagle's Feather - II Cor. 9:8
20. A Clean Slate - Ps. 32:1
21. A Spiritual Tool - Phil. 4:6
22. No Vile Thing - III John 1:11
23. An Unlikely Messenger - Matt. 25:40
24. Each New Day - Luke 12:29, 31
25. Step By Step - Isaiah 28:9-10
26. Just Enough Strength - Luke 12:24
27. New Life - I Cor. 15:42-43
28. A Helping Hand - I John 3:17-18
29. A Forgiving Heart - Ps. 86:5
30. Planted and Growing - John 15:8

NOVEMBER

1. Daily Message - II Cor. 3:3
2. Unknown Ways - Isaiah 55:8
3. God on the Train - Ps. 113:5-6
4. Communion of Saints - I Cor. 1:2
5. Delight in the New Day - Ps. 118:24
6. The Gift of Listening - Prov. 18:13
7. Why Pray? - Luke 11:1
8. Then What? - Eph. 1:9
9. Attraction - Heb. 12:2
10. Deferred Dreams - Jer. 29:11
11. Loving With God's Love - Romans 8:35
12. Unseen Beauty - Matt. 6:28-29
13. This Old House - Philp. 1:6
14. Give It All Away - Matt. 6:21
15. Seeing Christ - II Cor. 3:18
16. Loving Correction - I Peter 1:15-16
17. Risky Discipleship - Matt. 25:30
18. Hope Overheard - Ps. 31:24
19. Parables and Peddling - Luke 10:36-37
20. Ordinary People - Matt. 28:19
21. The Best Days - John 10:10
22. Bountiful Blessings - Gen. 8:21
23. A Tilting Bale - Phil. 3:13-14
24. Remembering God's Truth - Ps. 119:30, 32
25. A Simple Reminder - Matt. 6:33
26. What Matters - II Cor. 2:12-13
27. Applauding God's Glory - Ps. 19:1
28. Wrong End of the Binoculars - Matt. 25:40
29. Christ Grieves With Us - John 11:35
30. Be Perfect - Lev. 11:44

DECEMBER

1. Never Alone - Joshua 1:9
2. Hope in Darkness - Luke 21:28
3. Jump Time! - Prov. 3:1-8
4. Peace of God - Phil. 4:6
5. Lost Sheep - Isaiah 40:11
6. Choose to Commend - Prov. 12:25
7. Trust - Luke 1:38
8. Good Neighbors? - Romans 12:18
9. Restorer of the Broken - Mark 1:2-3
10. Learn to be Content - Phil. 4:12
11. Prepare to Help - James 1:22
12. Love Test - Duet. 13:3
13. Beyond Social Boundaries - Matt. 25:35-36
14. Finding Jesus - John 9:39
15. God Understands - Matt. 28:20
16. Praying with Joy - I Thess. 3:9
17. The Light - John 8:12
18. Christmas Peace - Luke 2:14
19. Changes - Eccl. 3:13
20. A Time for Prayer - Matt. 11:28-30
21. God With Us - Rev. 2:7
22. Build on the Rock - Matt. 7:24
23. Love That Gives - I John 4:10
24. Clap Your Hands - Ps. 98:4
25. Waking to Christmas - John 14:27
26. In Need and In Plenty - Phil. 4:6
27. Constant Presence - Heb. 13:5
28. Back From Christmas - Luke 1:30-31
29. Walking With Jesus - I John 1:7
30. The Breath of Life - Gen. 2:7
31. Make a Joyful Noise! - Ps. 100:2