

the Real News-Review

Chronicles, Editorials, Epistles

Unity, In Christ, Through the Holy Spirit • actsministry@sbcglobal.net • www.actsministry.org

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April 2010

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## Personally ...

*From Paul Collins*



Dr. Paul Collins

Yes, I have opinions. Yes, I listen for the voice of the Holy Spirit to guide my thoughts. Yes, I have been known to be wrong, but the Holy Spirit never makes a mistake. Sometimes I say I know I have heard the Holy Spirit. Sometimes I say I think I have heard the Holy Spirit. What do you think?

### Politics

Every political subdivision wants more income, but government does not produce a product. Government only has one source of income — directly or indirectly — and that source is the citizens who are producers. Productive citizens are the taxpayers.

### Local Churches

Coming together on Sunday morning continues to be very traditional — even among Christians who often come against “tradition.” Fewer churches have Sunday night services. Local churches can be found that are evangelical, charismatic, Pentecostal, liturgical, etc. Some have little (if any) distinguishing characteristics. A developing trend is the presentation of “feel good messages.”

### Money Matters

There is an increasing number of people feeling very disconcerted about money. The uneasiness is seen in the stock market, manufacturing, service industries, and the church. What is the true value of the dollar? What is the true rate of inflation? What is the true percentage of unemployment in America?

### Health Issues

We are told there are (or will be) a shortage of physicians. What will you do if medical care is not readily available?

### Personally Speaking

“Seek first the Kingdom of God.” The words of Jesus are very relevant to the current situation in America. Jesus preached the gospel of the Kingdom. □



Nancy Collins

# Is Anything Too Hard?

by Nancy Collins

Have you ever felt so overwhelmed that you felt mentally unable to think and physically unable to put one foot in front of the other? There was nothing left in you. From past experience, I will continue to feel bad because of my thoughts; thoughts that are more inwardly directed than to my Father. That changes one's perspective on whatever is a problem!

My Father is so great that my problem, in comparison, is the size of DNA in the light of His greatness! Think of His creation — and how great, intricate, and wonderfully made! Read Genesis 1:1 through 2:4. Think about DNA — who made it and what it contains. Now read Psalms 139: 1-18, Colossians 1:15-20, Hebrews 1:1-3, 10-12 and Revelation 4: 11. I AM who I AM. I AM the first and I AM the last (Exodus 3:14 and Isaiah). “I am with you always, to the end of the age.” ( Matthew 28:20). When you and I feel like there is no one, this verse says that He is with us always. We have someone with us. Somewhere there is the word that He sticks closer than a brother. I AM the bread of life and the light of the world (John 6:35, 8:12). I AM the resurrection and the life (John 11:25). I AM the way, and the truth, and the life (John 14:6). I AM the true vine (John 15:1). Think about each scripture as pertaining to only you and your situation. Let the Holy Spirit lift you above the problem as you read these words. Get lost in the Word.

Now think about these miracles: the demoniac in Mark 1:23-27 and in Luke 4: 33-36; the leper in Matthew 8:2-4 and Mark 1: 40-45; the paralytic in Matthew 9:1-8 and Mark 2:1-12. The widow's son was raised in Luke 7:11-17. There is the story of the blind man in Matthew 9:27-31, the mute man in Matthew 9: 32-33 and Lazarus being raised in John 11. The storm was stilled in Matthew 8:23-27 and Mark 4: 37-41. I continue to see answers from my prayers about the weather and health issues. He is ever faithful. Matthew 14: 15-21 and Mark 6 :35-44 are about the feeding of the multitudes.

John 21:1-14 is the story of Jesus telling the disciples where to throw their nets that resulted in catching so many fish they were not able to haul them all in. Now He asks, “Is anything too hard for Me.?”

May you be blessed as you get your mind and eye on Him. ☐

## On the Light Side By Audrey West

### Multum in Parvo

In a world which now believes that more is better, we honor the big over the small. We see the big as the potential for fulfillment. To appreciate small things we must come to the point of seeing the big things as they are. A good point to consider is this adage, “that may be very precious which is not voluminous.”

Have you been by a drive through lately? Were you tempted by the attendant to “up size” your order from what you originally thought you wanted? Were you given the option of an order of larger fries and a big-gulp drink, all for just a few cents more? This is one example of tactics we fall for from time to time. Later the evil effects show up in our dress and pants sizes. That’s the time to repent and beg ourselves not to eat anything by going on THE DIET. We now see the big things for what they are.

Have you been victimized by the Random Act of Kindness group? Has some stranger smiled at you? Has someone held the door open for you or given you their seat in a waiting room or on the bus for no known reason? By the world's standard these are but little things. But small deeds can change the world. One smile, one word, one touch, one hug, one coin, one blessing can bring about encouragement, hope and love to a hurting and dark world. No good deed or act of kindness goes unnoticed by God. We may not be equipped with great talents and gifts but God has blessed each of us with small gifts and talents that we can use for his glory. *Moses had a staff, David had a sling, Samson had a jawbone, Rahab had a string, Mary had some ointment, Aaron had a rod, Darcas had a needle, all were used by God.* What do you have?

Have you been inside a palace lately, the inside of a small church? It’s a little palace for the Kingdom of God, where His congregations are called to be agents for the Lord. Have you been inside a large church lately? Have you been inside that magnificent building with a spectacular marquee announcing the great entertainment event coming soon? Meanwhile back at the small church Jesus is having coffee with an unpleasant little man who needs a ladder to see the pulpit over everyone else’s head. Or the large marquee may have revealed the day and time for members to take part in the local drive to “Clean up the City”. Meanwhile back at the small church Jesus is washing his disciples’ feet. We need to give space to God’s glory and humble ourselves by realizing that we are not as great on our own as we think we are.

It’s the small things we do over and over that eventually add up and make a big difference in our life, the life of a family member or friend or the life of a church. It’s those small faithful deeds everyone does no matter how insignificant they may seem at the time. Let’s not forget multum in parvo, or much in a little. Each one of us can have our own personal ministry aiming to make others happier, wiser and better.

**Reminder: When praises go up, blessings come down.**



LeAnn Kennedy, President

# Easter

by LeAnn Kennedy

What a most blessed Easter I celebrated this year! Joy, gratitude, thanksgiving, love, and excitement were bursting forth this weekend. He IS alive!

The rain, the fragrance of hyacinths, the bursting forth of green leaves, the sunshine. Oh what a beautiful time to reflect on what has been accomplished on our behalf.

Because of Jesus' power of an indestructible life, he is our Great High Priest forever and has given us power over sin, ourselves and the enemy. We have been given victory over death and the grave!

Hope radiates from the empty cross and tomb of our Lord. What Good News for a desperate world in which we find ourselves, a world sinking deeper and deeper into debauchery. But Jesus IS alive and he still loves sinners.

He is alive. I've talked to him. He's talked with me.

He is alive. I see him in the beauty of the tulips and smell his sweet fragrance in the hyacinths.

He is alive. I see him in you. I see him in the kind expression on your face and the patience and tender compassion you have toward others, although you don't know that they are struggling and you don't know the depth of their pain or sorrow.

He is alive. I feel him deep inside my inner self. A swelling of love that is bursting to produce the fruit of the Spirit, if I would just get out of his way!

He is alive. He continues to change me as he teaches me more about grace.

He IS alive.

Unlike the first Easter and the weeks that followed, each of us who are children of God has the blessed Holy Spirit living within us. We do not have to wait for power to overcome sin or to boldly proclaim the good news of the gospel of Christ. The one who is all-powerful lives within us and as we surrender to his Lordship and his will, he will work mightily in us and through us.

Seasons change. As you welcome spring, continue to celebrate the miracle of our transformation by the One who never changes, the One who desired to not only make his home in heaven but also in the hearts of the

contrite and lowly of heart. Let the miracle of Easter be displayed in your life each day as you allow His power to continually transform you more and more into His own image, to the Father's glory! ☐

## To Potential Writers and Future Authors

You probably have a book inside you somewhere. Everyone has experiences in living that are worth reporting. This is the best time in history to be a writer and become a published author. Someone, somewhere, needs the blessing of your words.

Acts Ministry Publishing (aka Acts Press), in conjunction with Bible Mystery Publishing, is ready to assist in your writing project. If you can talk into a cassette recorder, your book can become a reality. Call the Acts Ministry office.

## Acts Ministry Chapters

It has been with a sense of mission that Acts Ministry has encouraged people in several geographic areas to begin an Acts Ministry Chapter. The first one is in its beginning stages in Lubbock, Texas. The purpose is to provide a venue for trans-denominational fellowship and a means of taking ministry into the needs of a particular community. It is a great idea inspired by the Holy Spirit. The time has come! Call the Acts Ministry office to learn how you can have a chapter in your part of the country.

## Acts Ministry University

We are maintaining an open door policy. We want instructors. We want students. You may qualify to be an instructor. You may qualify to be a student.

# Practical Theology for Ministers

... (ideas from Dr. Paul Collins)

- Laziness is inexcusable. I know too many ministers who loaf their way through “ministry.” There is a mandate for ministers to set the example by working diligently.
- Retirement is not a part of God’s plan for ministers.
- Procrastination never gets work done on time.
- Reading must be a daily experience.
- Studying must be a daily experience.
- Stewardship means accountability.
- Health is a divine gift to be protected.

## Practical Theology for All Christians

... (more ideas from Dr. Paul Collins)

- You become (physically) what you eat and drink.
- Money must not be the master.
- Addiction can be physical or mental.
- Honesty is ONE of God’s policies.
- Real love is always genuine.

### The 144 Minutes Challenge by Dr. Paul Collins

There are 1440 minutes in every twenty-four hour day. Ten percent of 1440 is 144. Therefore, a tithe of the time God has given you each day will be one hundred and forty-four minutes. That comes out to two hours and forty minutes.

How about spending some fellowship time with Jesus (as Holy Spirit) each and every day? Do you think he will enjoy your company? I think anyone who really wants to be close to the Holy Spirit can make room for one hour in the morning, one hour in the evening, and the other forty minutes can be fit into the remainder of the day’s schedule. When in the automobile, listen to the Holy Spirit rather than a radio talk show host or your favorite “Christian” CDs. Your commute time (or errand time) can take on new meaning. Also, instead of always looking for a human being to share your lunch time, why not “do” lunch with the Holy Spirit? He is the best company you will ever experience this side of Heaven.

Two hours and forty minutes every day, seven days a week, 365 days a year, will revolutionize your life.

**If you will take the 144 Minutes Challenge, let me know. This is a serious invitation for “Home Improvement” because the Holy Spirit lives in the true Christian!**

Please remember to keep the Acts Ministry office informed if you change your mailing address, e-mail address, or phone number (yes, including cell phone numbers).

Services in Springfield are ALWAYS the second and fourth Sundays of the month. April’s dates are the 11th and the 25th. The services are always at 2 PM in the chapel on the campus of Maranatha Village.

Dr. Collins (founder of Acts Ministry) is in the process of finalizing his travel schedule for the remainder of 2010. If you have a need for him in your area, now is the time to contact him through the Acts Ministry office.

Receipts for your tithes, offerings, and gifts are sent at the end of the calendar year unless you have a need for them earlier.

Web Sites and the Internet ... these have arrived! They are a necessary part of our communication systems. If you are serious about Kingdom Business, you will want to include these tools.

**Remember to pray for all Christians everywhere, especially those who are being persecuted for their faith in other parts of the world. Continue to be thankful that for now, at least, we still live in a country where we are able to freely worship the Lord God Almighty without fear of physical persecution.**