

# *the Real News-Review*

Chronicles, Editorials, Epistles

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

***In This Issue...***

***December 2009***

A December To Remember  
by Dr. Collins

Nothing Overshadows ME  
by Nancy Collins

On The Light Side  
by Audrey West

Joy In The Journey  
by LeAnn Kennedy

Worship  
by Dr. Collins

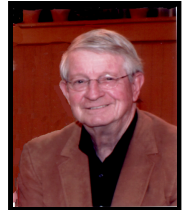
Shared Space  
by Dr. Collins

Caretakers and  
Caregivers  
by Dr. Collins

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*A Message from Dr. Paul Collins...*



Dr. Paul Collins

## **A December to Remember**

The number 25, in Biblical terms, is a reminder of ***Grace***. Many people associate grace with ***God's Unmerited Favor***. This month of December, 2009 can be ***A December to Remember!*** If we will take very seriously that Jesus is God's gift to us, this Christmas season will be memorable for its content of divine love. We can exit this year with God's love reigning supreme in our hearts, and enter the new year of 2010 with hope in the ***Good News*** in spite of the proliferation of ***Bad News***.

## **Christmas Is Special**

Because we know in our hearts that what we believe in our heads is true, we recognize that Christmas is very special. The staff of ***the Real News-Review*** extends to you and yours the assurance that our prayers are with you in December for a special Christmas, and they continue for you and yours to have a truly blessed 2010. ***Have a JOYOUS Christmas in the Lord Jesus, and a blessed new year in 2010 to show Christ to your part of God's world.***

LeAnn ... President ... RN-R Writer  
Paul ... Vice President ... RN-R Writer  
Audrey ... Secretary-Treasurer ... RN-R Writer  
Nancy ... Board Member ... RN-R Writer  
Margaret ... RN-R Editor

**For those who can attend the Second Sunday Service in Springfield on December 13 and / or the Fourth Sunday Service on the December 27, you will be blessed by the great music and the Bible messages. The service times are always 2:00 in the afternoon. ☐**



# Nothing Overshadows ME

by Nancy Collins

Nancy Collins

The Holy Spirit gave me this thought that has permeated my thoughts, feelings, emotions, and actions of my spirit, mind and body. Everyday this Holy Spirit given thought lights up my life to bring overcoming power, peace, and perspective.

The thought of God Almighty, all powerful, all knowing, all caring, all sufficient, and ever present overshadowing me within and without makes me want to jump and shout! *“Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen” (Ephesians 3:20-21).* Psalms 91:1-16 is of *“you who live in the shelter of the Most High, who abide in the shadow of the Almighty...”*

What is going on in your life? Or the life of family, friends, work, church, or neighborhood? In other words, your whole life? What kind of thoughts are going through your mind? What you say is what you get. How do your thoughts and words make you feel? Like there is no hope, help, or answer? Negative? Pessimistic? Is there more bad than good? Look at how you think and feel overall. Look at all of this as if you were looking down in, out, top, bottom and underneath of a box. What is the outcome of your analysis? Then apply this finding to what your thoughts of Him are in the Light His Word. Are you found wanting? It is alright if you came up short because now you can adjust your understanding of Him overall. It has been said that what you focus on, you become. Hopefully, you are able now to let Him be the God that is bigger than your problems, needs and thoughts.

Read Hebrews 11: 1-6. Read Colossians 1:9-27. Also Psalm 104:1-35. Isaiah 40: 26-31. Psalm 33: 4-22. Psalm 104: 1-35. Revelation 4:11. Psalm 51: 10-12. May you jump and shout everyday as you see Him great, high, and lifted up in you and your whole world. □

## On The Light Side By Audrey West

Morning Thoughts

*“But we refused to give in to them for a single moment; we wanted to preserve the truth of the gospel message for you.” Galatians 2:5 NLT*

Have you ever heard a song or melody that just stuck in your head and you catch yourself unconsciously humming the tune? Not long ago I heard the song “If You Don’t **Stand** For Something, You Will **Fall** For Anything.” During my early morning time of reading my Bible and meditation, my time with God, the words of that song keeps coming into my mind.

As our world conditions continue to get farther and farther away from God and it becomes easier to **fall** victims and prey to Satan’s devices, God’s people must **stand** up and take notice. In my opinion, in the United States this is partly due to “politically correct bullying.” Bullying has shrewd effectiveness. It can cause loss of confidence in dealing with what was before a simple action. God’s people must recognize what is happening and accept the fact that they are being bullied and that it’s the “bully” who has the problem and then “get on” with thinking and doing what we know to be true. We have to remember that God is still in control and is as powerful and as mighty as He has ever been. His faithfulness and mercies are still just as sure. I believe some of our churches have been bullied into the “politically correct” mode of thinking. Don’t give in to the bullies while we still have the liberty to make a difference when we enter the voting booth.

The moral courses for our lives should be as simple and as familiar to us as  $2 + 2 = 4$ . These concepts of life should be embedded in our minds and can be immediately re-called from memory without contemplation. However, there are life decisions that take prayerful consideration. This brings to mind the three Hebrew children when brought before the wicked king. They refused to bow down to an image at the sound of certain music. Daniel, also, was disobedient in refraining from prayer which would have been disobedient to his God.

When God’s people are confronted with decisions about moral uprightness, we should be prepared to act so that we do not consider for an hour, minute or moment how to respond. We get to this point in our spiritual life by the elementary concept of repetition; the earnest repetition of prayer, Bible study, mediation and the listening to the preaching of the true gospel message. Those of the “politically correct” crowd are out to make those opposed appear to be non-informed, intellectually inferior or just plain uneducated. They try to force the idea they are more powerful or forceful than they really are. God’s people still have the resources to be in charge of their mind and therefore the results of their thinking. We must have the divine will that no one can or will break our spiritual mind set.

That song still plays in my head. If you don’t stand for something, you will fall for anything. Whether in life or death we should be ready and willing to **STAND** in earnest contention for the faith once delivered to the saints. (Jude 3)

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



## Joy in the Journey

by LeAnn Kennedy

I'm not sure what twists and turns your lives have made over the last year, but I've been down a windy road and God's Word is true: He has held my hand all the way, and I'm still hanging on! To the best of my ability and by His grace I have kept my eyes on Him and have

experienced peace and joy while traveling down some rather rough roads. Are you experiencing joy in your journey? Life here on this earth is unpredictable to say the least, but if we have done everything (according to Ephesians 6) and are standing on the solid Rock, Jesus Christ, then come what may and see the faithfulness of our God!

How have you believed God this past year? What have you believed Him for? Has your faith grown? Have you believed Him to do more "unbelievable things" in your life than you believed Him for last year? Are you now able to believe Him for even greater things in your life?

The world through which we are traveling is experiencing tumultuous times and those of us who live in American society are definitely witnessing change like none I've known before. The waves are crashing against us and the storm is raging. Will the storm cause us to crash into the sea? Or will we be determined to keep our eyes focused on the Light—the One who will keep us in perfect peace, if our minds are stayed on Him? Will we continue to believe that He is able to guard that which we have committed to Him?

Is your Christianity really "working for you?" Or are you just going through the motions and find yourself without peace and without joy? It will be in tumultuous times like these that we will be able to see the glory of our God if we believe Him. To believe Him, we must know what He has said. Continue to read and re-read His Word. Hide it in your heart. We are not to be hearers only, but we are to do what He says. Then by grace, BELIEVE HIM, believe what He says! Believe it way deep down inside of yourself. Then experience the supernatural peace and joy that only comes through the Holy Spirit. If you are troubled by circumstances, He is still waiting to consume your whole life—your mind, your will and your emotions. He is believable and He will care for His own.

Sometimes I think the greater miracles God does are those He does in our own deceitful little hearts when we know that it had to be God transforming the way we think and bringing to us a peace that is inexpressible and full of glory.

God is still alive and active in our world and in our hearts. Let His soldiers stand; let His warriors exhibit

victory in their own lives. Let others marvel at the great things God does to conform His adopted children into the image of His Firstborn. Are people able to look at us and say "Wow! What a difference God has made in your life"? What a gift we could give back to Jesus if we would cooperate with Him by listening to the Holy Spirit regarding areas of our lives that need to be dealt with, to receive grace to confess any revealed sin, to ask Him to heal those areas of our lives where His glory has yet to be reflected in us.

Rejoice; the Lord is with you. It is possible to enjoy the journey. It is my prayer that you will experience peace and joy in yours. ☐

## WORSHIP

by Dr. Paul Collins

Worship can be studied in textbooks. You can attend lectures on the subject. Worship services in churches vary from congregation to congregation and denomination to denomination. Worship can feature classic hymns, contemporary choruses, a pipe organ, guitars, drums, and keyboards. Some churches use no musical instruments. They sing without accompaniment. Some churches feature music that is loud and fast and consider themselves to have "lively worship." Other churches have music that is subdued but majestic.

Is there a right way to worship? Jesus said to the Samaritan woman at the well, "God is a Spirit, and those who worship him, must worship him in spirit and in truth." I guess that answers the question.

### Please ... this is important!

If you are moving, please notify this office. We need your new mailing address. Without it, there is a waste of God's money to "buy back" the envelope with your *Real News-Review* on the inside. The "round trip" ends up costing the ministry extra postage, a wasted envelope, and too much time standing in line at the Post Office to retrieve your letter. **WE WANT TO BE RESPONSIBLE STEWARDS ... WILL YOU HELP?**

If your e-mail address is changing, please send us (via e-mail) your new address. Please include your name. You would be amazed at how many people simply send an e-mail address and we have no way of knowing who they are. **We want to be efficient in God's work ... will you help?**

# Shared Space

Dr. Paul Collins

- Jesus had an approach to health care; when he was around, there was never a health care crisis.
- Jesus had an approach to financial recession; when he was around, there was more than enough fish and bread to feed a multitude.
- Jesus never conducted a funeral. In his presence, there was always life.
- Jesus will be your caseworker, so you will never need state welfare.
- Jesus was a capitalist because he directed fishermen to an extremely large catch.
- Jesus was a worshiper even though he was God.
- Jesus prayed.
- Jesus wept.
- Jesus!

In the day of crisis just before the return of Jesus, will you stand up, speak up, or shut up?

## Testimonies

There have been evidences of God doing miracles in the services in Springfield, and I know they have been happening in other parts of the country among our members of the Acts Ministry Family of Faith. From northwest Texas to south central Texas, from northeast Missouri to southwest Missouri and other places on the globe, have come reports of healing and deliverance ... and reports of the greatest miracle of all ... people being saved.

This is my invitation to you: please send me your testimonies. I want to share them with others in our Acts Ministry Family of Faith.

## ACTS MINISTRY PRAYER CIRCLE

A REMINDER: Rev. O.K. Neal is the Acts Ministry International Prayer Pastor and is the designated person to lead our effort to develop the Acts Ministry Prayer Circle. His e-mail address is [okneal49@hotmail.com](mailto:okneal49@hotmail.com). Send him your prayer requests ... or sign up to be a member of the Acts Ministry Prayer Circle.

# END of the YEAR

The end of 2009 is in sight. Your tithes and offerings will be put to good use in the expansion and maintenance of Acts Ministry for the sake of the Gospel. You can give online at [www.actsministry.org](http://www.actsministry.org) or you can send your tithes and offerings to Acts Ministry, PO Box 11084, Springfield, MO 65808.

## CARETAKERS AND CAREGIVERS

by Dr. Paul Collins

Every caretaker isn't a sexton in a cemetery and every caregiver isn't looking after the health of a person. Now that I have your attention, consider this:

- Stewardship is one of the ways the Bible describes what is expected of a Christian regarding material assets. We are to be **CARETAKERS** of God's resources. Stewardship is God's way of giving us a charge to be careful in the use of his resources.
- Stewardship is the measure of Christian spirituality.
- Stewardship is at odds with ownership.
- Stewardship is about money.
- Stewardship is not just about money.
- Stewardship is not business as usual ... it is serious business ... *"to whom much has been given, much is expected."*
- Stewardship is a privilege, because it places us in a privileged position.
- Stewardship is ... (you can add your words).