



Chalmette Church of Christ

March 28, 2010

“Why” Part 1

[Brother Don McWhorter, long time gospel preacher and great encourager to this editor, wrote the following article that originally appeared in the Gospel Advocate, February 3, 1972. It later appeared in the preface of Jane McWhorter's book, Let This Cup Pass. Brother Don went home to be with the Lord in November, 2008. Sister Jane, who survived not just one, but two, near fatal accidents, lives in Fayette, Alabama, and continues to be a noble instructor of women and a gracious and kind encourager of all.]

“Why?” is the most timeless and universal of all questions, as old as the first tear and as recent as the latest newscast. The answer to that complex and baffling question is in the Word of God, and that is one of the many reasons that Book is both timeless and universal. Why must there be suffering, sorrow, heartache, death, even among God's own children? With the recent death of a dear father and the tragic automobile accident that injured my entire family, Jane so critically, I have thought about this question many times. When the accident occurred we were on our way to our former home in Gadsden, Alabama to assist a dear friend in laying to rest the body of his mother, a Christian lady so close to Jane and me as our own family. We were driving slowly and carefully and yet someone took our lane and hit us head-on in a car traveling much too fast. Though I was injured in case I should be guilty of injuring someone else, she had no insurance, not even a driver's li-

cence. Two members of my family were nearly killed and it will require at least a year for the recovery of Jane's health. The head injury alone resulted in the fracturing of her skull in more than 200 places. Her arm, ribs, back, pelvis, and leg were broken. While we kept vigil in the waiting room of the Intensive Care Unit of Erlanger Hospital for more than a month as her life hung in the balance there was ample time to wonder “Why?” And to the Word of God we continually went. May I share with you some of the conclusions reached?

1. *Suffering keeps this world from becoming too attractive.* Though our dwelling places here may have more permanent foundations than the Bedouin tents of our father Abraham, we are reminded that we are no less pilgrims and strangers. (1 Peter 2:13). Woe to the man or woman whose life here on this earth is so pleasant that he forgets about heaven. But the affairs of this life are so ordered that this world soon loses its attraction. Most young people would like to live forever but by the time a man reaches his three score and ten he is usually happy he has been able to endure one life and is ready for something better. This world is too full of pain, grief, and heartache to be very pleasant or attractive for very long.

2. *Suffering brings out our best.* The common bond shared by families in the waiting room welded them into one concerned group. All lost many hours of lost, all were uncomfortable, all were deeply concerned

with their own problems and yet each was deeply aware of the other's needs and did everything possible to make it easier for the others. At times I thought I could feel better if I could muster some hard feelings toward the ones who brought this suffering upon my family. Probably under less trying circumstances these feelings could have come all too easily and yet I searched my heart here I honestly could find no ill will. Suffering brings out our best. Jane has always been a brave and courageous woman. During this illness she has exhibited a remarkable courage, one that the doctors feel contributed immeasurably to her recovery. That ready smile was always there and since she has been able to talk a word of thanks and praise for all who have ministered to her.

And the best has been brought out in so many others who have shared this burden for us. For a month, twenty-four hours each day, there was always some dear friend in the waiting room to give me a chance to get some rest and to keep me company during those long, lonely hours. For a month breakfast was the only meal that had to be prepared at our house. Food was prepared and brought by the house each day by those who love us. While I didn't get to be home for many of these meals my mother and children, and on occasion, Jane's mother and father thoroughly enjoyed them. During the week the entire family was hospitalized someone kept the children company in their rooms every day.

So many have been anxious to help share the tremendous expense I have incurred in all this. The hospital bill alone will exceed \$10,000. And then there are twelve doctors to be paid. Regardless of the expense they earned every cent and I gladly shoulder the debt. Many individuals and congrega-

tions are helping and I know the Lord will provide a way.

Intellectually you know this is the way Christianity works and yet an experience like this serves to deepen the faith of all involved. Jane and I will never be the same and the fine congregation at Greens Lake Road has grown spiritually through this episode in a way they could never have grown otherwise. It has all been for the good.

To be continued

By: Don McWhorter

WORKS WE SUPPORT

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Preaching

Curry Montague— Budapest

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The Truth in Love

In Search of the Lord's Way

Kid's Korner

See if you can answer the following questions:

Answers from last week:

1. Lazarus
2. Mary, His mother
3. Peter
4. King Herod
5. About the ninth hour

New Testament Novice

1. The Jews, Jesus confounded, they could not understand; destroy this temple, He said in _____ I will raise it again .
2. Jesus purchased the church but not with silver or gold; what price did He pay for it? In His Word we are told.
3. Money is sometimes an idol yet, Paul does reveal It's not money, but this that is a root of all kinds of evil.
 4. What must we confess while the earth we plod? Else, Christ will deny us before the angels of God.
 5. Jesus sent out preachers seventy on one day; how many went together the words of Christ to relay?

Tune in next week to see if you got all the answers correct!

Helping Those In Need

Continue bringing your canned food items. We help a lot of families on a daily basis.



Cleaning Schedule

April- Need a volunteer

***There are several slots still available to help with keeping the building clean & to prepare the Lord's Supper. Thank you for all of your help!*

Upcoming Events

March 28- Ladies Class

March 28th—April 1st- 44th Annual Memphis School of Preaching Lectureship

April 4-8- Gospel Meeting at Chalmette

April Birthdays

3 Emily Snyder

7 Trey Menessess

11 Bill Green

14 Scott Russell



Prayer List



**Mary Jo Lance
Joe Riley
Alice Riley
Sherry Towle
Betty Grisham
Burnell Rogers
Margo
Lisa Lance
Patricia Rodney
Donny Vick
Judy Hennessee
Jessica Lance
Mark Lance
Charlie Whitley
Rhonda Jones
Nell Russell**

***All of our brethren scattered across
the United States & our troops in
Iraq**



**Chalmette Church of Christ
200 De La Ronde
Chalmette, LA 70043
504-279-9438**

Services of The Church Sunday

Bible Classes 9:00 am
AM Worship 10:00 am
PM Worship 6:00 pm

Wednesday

Bible Classes 7:00 pm

Elders

Mark Lance 504-250-8492

J. V. Russell 504-277-0251

Charles Whitley 504-277-4717

Evangelist

Mark Lance 504- 250-8492

gospelpr@cox.net

Deacons

Scott Russell 504-232-4120

Wayne Schulz 504-392-3999

Butch Snyder 504-682-0051

Mike Swanner 504-271-2465

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