

# TIMES OF REFRESHING NEWSLETTER



October/November/December 2022

## OPEN THEIR EYES!

by  
**WADE URBAN**

Acts 26:15-18 – “And I said, ‘Who are You, Lord?’ And the Lord said, ‘I am Jesus whom you are persecuting. But get up and stand on your feet; for this purpose I have appeared to you, to appoint you as a servant and a witness not only to the things in which you have seen me, but also to the things in which I will appear to you, rescuing you from the Jewish people and from the Gentiles, to whom I am sending you, to open their eyes so that they may turn from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who have been sanctified by faith in Me.”

This was Paul’s testimony of meeting Jesus on the road to Damascus. He was given his assignment—to open their eyes to turn them from darkness to light! This insinuates a gross spiritual blindness existed, a blindness that was profound darkness! Paul later explained in 2 Cor. 4:3-4, “But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing (lost), whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them.” ... vs.6 – “For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.” The “god of this age” includes the world’s cultures, politics, and carnal reasoning creating a veil distorting the reality of Christ causing minds to go insane, manufacturing their own gods! Sin is a mind issue – blindness of the mind to a depth of affecting imaginations and identities! This blindness is even a deeper, darker problem for those caught in a religious trap of believing in an angry, irritated god intent on punishing and sending them to hell!

Jn.8:1-12 describes Pharisees confronting Jesus with a woman caught in adultery, demanding He issue the Law’s punishment of stoning her to death. The Pharisees thought they had sprung the perfect trap! If Jesus refused to order stoning, He would be violating the Law; if He ordered the stoning, He would have violated Roman law and would be arrested! Jesus knelt and wrote in the dirt, saying, “He who is without sin among you, let him throw a stone at her first.” The Pharisees were convicted leaving the scene one by one, with the oldest first. Jesus then asked, “Woman, where are those accusers of yours? Has no one condemned you?” She replied that there were none. Jesus said, “Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more.” Jesus said, “I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness but have the light of life.”

This was a profound example of God’s nature – loving sinners, while not condoning their sin! Jesus interacted by eating with Jewish society’s most hated people – tax collectors. To eat with someone was a form of covenant, declaring solidarity with them! Again, He even loved tax collectors, not condoning their sin. Even more shocking to those

hearing Jesus’ words from the cross, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do.” This is God in the flesh forgiving those who tortured and murdered Him! What a contrast to darkened, blinded minds believing God desires to punish them! Blindness does not change the reality of “what is” - the blind cannot see nor understand, so they manufacture their own reality. This is the death that came from the Garden of Eden – separation from God! Blindness is so profound that it caused amnesia and dementia, mankind forgot who their Father is! Darkness is the realm to which Satan and his demons have been relegated – chains of darkness until the judgment (2 Pet. 2:4; Jude 6). Darkened minds give legal access to powers of darkness to infiltrate with their intentions to steal, kill, and destroy lives! These are “strongholds” of darkness (ignorance and unbelief) that must be pulled down (2Cor.10:3-6)! Pride, depression, accusation, lying, manipulation, control, lack of self-control, envy, jealousy, bitterness, hatred, fear, victim/poverty mentality - all are strongholds of darkness. Darkness is absence of Light – Truth, who is Jesus Christ!

Deliverance ministry pulls down strongholds by displaying darkness (ignorance of who God is) extinguishing it with Light (Truth – Jesus)! In essence, it is “opening eyes” to the reality of Truth “in Christ!” Faith is not believing and confessing to influence God to act! Faith “opens eyes” to see what already exists! Only Holy Spirit can open eyes to see Truth! Modern evangelistic training uses the same methods as training insurance salesmen to close a sale, convincing a prospect to say a “magic” sinner’s prayer to “get saved” then add that sale to a tally board comparing it with other salesmen. Here’s the Truth – nothing eternal occurs until eyes are opened to Truth!

Revealed Truth takes us directly to the Gospel, and the Gospel begins with the Resurrection of Jesus Christ! The Gospel is a backward story starting with the resurrection and victory over sin, death, and Hades! The resurrection changed the very nature of sin! Sin is no longer a matter of breaking the Ten Commandments; sin is not believing in Jesus! Only opened eyes can “see” the totality of Jesus’ Finished Works – the Law and Prophets have been fulfilled, done, over (Matt. 5:17)! Love (Agape) rules as Grace operates through those having been re-connected to God through Holy Spirit! The resurrection reversed death! It announced the death of Death! Rev. 1:17-18 – “Do not be afraid: I am the First and the Last. I am He who was dead, and behold I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death.” The Greek word “Hades” is comprised of “H” meaning “negative” or “the opposite of”, and “ades” meaning “I see” or “understand”. “Hades” means not able to understand or “blindness” – ‘darkness’.

Paul’s prayer for the church at Ephesus was for them to receive the Spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Christ, that the eyes of their understanding be enlightened to know what was their calling and inheritance in Christ, and the resurrection power of Holy Spirit. It is Holy Spirit’s power that is required to open eyes through the foolishness of preaching the Gospel with signs, wonders, healings, and miracles so people can experience the reality of God’s love and intention for them. This causes repentance (metanoia) – radical exchange of mind to “see” Truth, activating the mind of Christ (1 Cor. 2:16) and demonstrating God’s goodness leading to repentance (Rom. 2:4)!

The ministry of “opening eyes” is restoration meaning taking one back, to the place where they left the path. Once a person ‘sees’ the Light of Truth, those previously in darkness can be restored to their original identity which was lost in the Fall, by becoming a new creature in Christ, a container/ expresser of God’s life, His address on earth! Amen.



## PRAISE PRAISE PRAISE REPORTS

Mondays at 6:00 (EST), we stream teaching and intercessory prayer. If you have a request, message Connie or join the chat. Here are testimonies from recent streamings:

- We prayed that Brandi would get a job. She did.
- One night an unusually heavy anointing fell during class. A lady felt it over the internet. Mary had a word of knowledge about hip pain; during the night the lady's hip began to hurt. She remembered the word of knowledge/wisdom and claimed it. Pain was gone by morning. She also testified that Wade had prayed for her neck pain. She immediately felt better and was healed completely in two days.
- We prayed for a lady to reunite with her daughter. She reports that they have been reconciled.

### OTHER PRAISE REPORTS:

- Wade prayed one day on Noontime Prayer for Richard, who had very high BP. He reports that it's nearly normal now.
- One day, Tina shared that she had a splinter in her foot, and she nor her husband could get it out. We joined hands and prayed. It came out just like we prayed!
- Mary had a mammogram which showed nothing wrong with breast tissue. Pain is gone.
- Jeff went to his kidney doctor and got a great report. The doctor said, "I don't know how you're doing it." Jeff replied, "I know how!"
- My brother had a seizure, fell, and suffered 2 brain bleeds. He was without medical attention for 2 days. Though the prognosis was bleak, much prayer went up. I'm glad to report that he's home and doing well.
- Dylan reports that he had injured his back. Several prayer warriors took him to the Lord. His back is healed.



## SHEPHERD'S STAFF

Our online submission is from *Katie Holtel* from Indiana.

### PRAYER

Here is a simple prayer for your financial blessing:

"Heavenly Father, most Gracious and Loving God, I pray to You that You abundantly bless my family and me. I know You recognize that a family is more than just a mother, father, sister, brother, husband, wife, but all who believe and trust in You.

"Father, I send up a prayer request for financial blessing for not only the person who sent this to me, but for me and all that I have sent this message to. The power of joined prayer by those who believe and trust in You is more powerful than anything. I thank You in advance for Your blessings. Father God, deliver the person reading this right now from debt and debt burdens.

"Release Your godly wisdom that I may be a good steward over all that You have given me, Father. I know how wonderful and mighty You are. If we just obey You, walk in Your word, and have the faith of a mustard seed, You will pour out blessings. I thank You now, Lord, for the recent blessings I have received and for the blessings yet to come. I know You're not done with me yet. In Jesus name, I pray. Amen."



## The Lighter Side

Why is it that our children can't read a Bible in school, but they can in prison?

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CHURCH SIGN: "You can't unsay a cruel thing."

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## FIGHT FOR YOUR FAMILY

by

*Connie Hunter-Urban*

Wade tenderly gathered me into his arms, stroked my hair, and held me against his chest as I sobbed. Issues had been building in our family; that morning they culminated in my broken heart. I wasn't sure what the future would hold, but I wanted God's will. That day as I sought the Lord, He told me distinctly to fight for my family. A few days later, I turned on TBN. The preacher's sermon was entitled, "Fight for Your Family." Then at our Sunday service, a young man brought his wife, children, and extended family forward for prayer. He said that in a dream the night before, God had spoken, "Fight for your family." I got the message loud and clear.

We live in a time when American families are in crisis. However, the Bible addresses family issues. A calamity occurred in the days of Nehemiah, cupbearer for King Artaxerxes. Jerusalem's walls hadn't been rebuilt, so he became distraught as God laid this burden on his heart. Nehemiah found favor with the king, who gave him a leave of absence and resources to reconstruct the walls. Nehemiah organized the nation for restoration, despite the seemingly insurmountable rubble from earlier devastation. At first, enemies thought he had no chance to accomplish this. However, when they saw the wall taking shape, they decided to "attack Jerusalem and create confusion" (Neh. 4:8). Doesn't that sound like the enemy?

One problem that arose was that Nehemiah had to address issues not only for the nation but also for individual families. That meant, he had two jobs—continuing the work God had entrusted to him and keeping his people safe too. He charged workers to "not be afraid of them. Remember the Lord...and fight for your brethren, your sons, your daughters, your wives, and your houses" (Vs. 14). In other words, fight for your family! So they continued to do both God-ordained jobs; and "those who built on the wall, and those who carried burdens, loaded themselves so that with one hand they worked at the construction, and with the other held a weapon" (Vs. 17).

This story gives a spiritual and practical application for protecting and repairing brokenness. Like Nehemiah, we have God-ordained jobs. When we commit our existence to the Lord, Satan fights to destroy our destinies. The enemy besieges us to create confusion and discouragement so we'll give up on what God has assigned us to do. One way is by attacking our families, a powerful unit for the Lord's work. However, when we're attacked, like Nehemiah, we're to work and fight amid the devastation.

While we fight the enemy, we must work to rebuild the family unit that's in shambles. That involves a lot of pushing up our sleeves and doing whatever is needed. We can begin by respecting one another, not taking anyone for granted or denigrating them. By treating our spouses and children like the gift from the Lord they are. By spending quality time with them. By turning off the television or laying aside our phones and working as a unit, just talking or listening. By swallowing our pride, apologizing, or doing what we can to reconcile. By reading and praying as a family.

On the other hand, like Nehemiah's group, we war in the Spirit, for "the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds" (II Cor. 10:4). We must wield spiritual

armaments to fight for our families—praying, fasting, standing on Scripture, travelling, or going through doors the Lord opens. For our relationship with God and for our family's sake, we should operate in obedience. When we step outside that obedience, we open ourselves up to defeat. However, we can't do the Lord's work exclusively and neglect family obligations. A balance must be struck, which Nehemiah articulately addressed. Just as the group was working with one hand and fighting with the other, we too must do both and let satan see we aren't giving up. We use our sword, the Word of God, to combat him in all ways.

My younger sister went through a time of rebellion—staying out late, drinking, and generally doing whatever she could to reject godly precepts. My mother didn't give up on her, though, but rather labored to rebuild that wall. With one hand, she worked to love (sometimes with tough love) my sister back in right standing with the Lord. With the other hand, she prayed, fasted, enlisted other prayer warriors, counseled, searched the Word, and followed every lead for victory. After a time, my sister changed. Today, she's a wonderful, Christian woman on fire for God and His righteous ways. Just like with the wall at Jerusalem, if my mom had given up on the rubble of my sister's life, rebuilding would've gone undone, and my sister may never have found her way to restoration.

We have to fight both in the natural and spiritual for our families; yet as we fight, we must know we have a Partner Who ensures victory. Like everything else, we must work to do what we can and "having done all, to stand, stand therefore" (Eph. 6:14-15). Then, trust that He will do the rest.

## PRAYER REQUESTS

### PRAY FOR:

#### PHYSICAL:

**ACCIDENTS:** Rob (motorcycle, many injuries), Deborah (mobility, difficulty walking after accident, has to lose 20 lbs.)

**ADDICTIONS:** Brandi (break chains), Brice, Joshua (freedom from pot)

**AUTOIMMUNE DISEASES:** Crohn's (Noah – 12, Abby – 10), Lupus (Tom), RA, MS (Jackie), Grave's (Rhonda), Alzheimer's (Loretta, Ruth), Hodgkin's, Parkinson's (Linde, Brenda, Cheryl, Members of a Family), Hashimoto (Melana), Primary Biliary Cirrhosis (Tina), Barrett's Esophagus (Rena)

**CANCER:** Arlene (both lungs), Beni, Bill (returned), Carson (leukemia), Connie (breast), Denny (skin & leukemia; lymphoma; clarity of mind), Diane (eye), Ernest (skin), Fran (surgery to remove skin cancer), Grandmother (had surgery to remove from colon, cancer in lymph glands), Jayna (had lumpectomy), Jimmy, Julie (4<sup>th</sup> stage lung, 3<sup>rd</sup> stage kidney disease), Kernie (multiple cancers), Kim (had ovarian cancer, spread to kidney & liver), Kimmy (cervical, Stage 2, excessive pain meds don't help), Linda, Lynn, Megan (breast, aggressive), Meghan (had surgery to remove both breasts, found cancer in cervix), Mike, Norm, Racheal, Raquel (return of breast cancer), Sofia (leukemia), Sue (bone marrow transplant), Pastor Tom (leukemia)

**COVID:** Virus be eradicated, Healthcare providers, Natalie (residual effects), Julie (recovering from Covid & heart attack), Mike (Covid residuals, muscles in back of neck & legs), Sheri, Anne, A Family (Stepmom, Dad, Daughter), Curt (to be completely healed), Mary

**DIABETES:** Brice, Chad, Charles, Colby (child), Curt, Derek, Jamie, Jeff, Larry, Mary, Norm, Virgie

**EYES:** Romy (miracle for right eye), Bash (complete healing after cataract surgery), Mae (healing in right eye)

**GOOD REPORT:** Bart (from neurologist about back)

**HEALING:** Clint (total healing from mass in abdomen), Stephanie, Jamie, Anna, Bart's Brother & Sister (in nursing homes), Anna (concussion, memory loss, problems talking at times), Steve (tongue makes speech slurred, not feeling well), A Lady (lumps in breast), Virgie's Family with many needs (IBS, PTSD, Mental illness, diabetes, memory loss, salvation), Ben (skin disorder), Becky (bladder), Cameron, Vilma (possible stroke), Charlie, Rhonda (persistent itching knee to foot on left leg), Mazie (6, serious cough), Karenlynn (miracles needed), Tom (infection in intestine & blood), Xandra (growth on kidney; pancreas, kidney numbers to go up, diabetes numbers to go down), Addie (child, infection in intestine, high white blood cells, vomiting, dehydration), Heidi (7-day stay in hospital for seizure diagnostics), Mark's Brother (nursing home), Jena (spinal issues & bowel problems), Lucas (child, ADHD), Bill (stroke, didn't find him for 2 days)

**HEART:** Wade (afib), Larry, Dave, Ben (taking nitroglycerin), Lois (also kidneys), Martha (congestive heart failure confusion), Lonnie (90% on oxygen), Mary Lou (heart rate not right)

**LUNGS:** Joni (chest, lungs, congestion, headaches), Richard (blood clots in lungs, pneumonia)

**PREGNANCIES: CONCEIVE:** Julie, Chelsea, Amanda, Tiffany, Kaylee, Rachel, Michelle, Jen, Brittany, Tiffany, Mercedes, Sarah

**SURGERY:** Jason (full recovery from brain surgery), Brenda (having procedure to remove mass), John (recovery from knee surgery), Bob (removed growth on brain), Larry (multiple issues, trying to stabilize vital organs to do bypass surgery), Charles (having surgery for bladder cancer)

### SPIRITUAL:

#### **BAPTISMS IN HOLY SPIRIT**

**COMMITMENT:** Joshua & Hannah (come back to church), Jay (grasp hold of Lord), Rhonda (peace & wholeness in life)

**DELIVERANCE:** Ginnifer (opened door to familiar spirit)

**MINISTRIES:** The Von Raeders (missionaries in Nepal), Restoration Ministries (direction), Crossroads Recovery (breakthrough)

**SALVATION (or turn back to God): FAMILIES & EXTENDED FAMILIES,** Anne, Beth's Family, Brice, Ernest, Gretchen, Hunter, Marilyn's sons, Mark, Paul, Quentin, Steven, Verne, Vincent

**TEENS:** Spirits of suicide, addictions, homosexuality (running rampant)

#### MENTAL/EMOTIONAL:

**ANXIETY:** Katie (just got married, bought first house), Betty

**DEPRESSION:** Steve, Hannah, Josh, Naomi, Hannah's Daughter, A Daughter

**GRIEF:** Browning Family, Sebree Family, Shepler Family, Howard Family, Bradley Family, Easley Family, Frost Family, Gregory Family, Marsha's friend whose wife passed, Family of 2 slain GA deputies, Cox Family, Jewell Family, Burton Family, Griffin Family

**LEGAL ISSUES:** Naomi, Joshua, Hannah (favor w/ 3<sup>rd</sup> Circuit Court)

**MARRIAGES:** A Christian Couple

**PURPOSE:** Donna

**RAGE:** Mary (put in psychiatric hospital, dementia, in fit of rage attacked nurse)

#### LIFE:

**DECISIONS:** Constance (remodeling home, not to be taken advantage of), Aaron & Austin (for God to open right doors)

**DIVORCE:** Liz (going through divorce finalization, custody issues, abusive spouse)

**FINANCES:** Romy (also healing from depression) & Mark (high electric bills), Marsha

**FLOODS:** Eastern KY

**JOB:** Mark (get a raise)

**MOTIVATION:** Steve (get his house cleaned out to sell)

**PRAYERS FOR OUR NATION**

**RELATIONSHIPS:** Becky and her Grandkids, Tammy (softening of husband's heart), Pray for Judy's grandchildren, Kevin & Rowan

**Two Unsolved Homicides in Connersville in the last month**

*Announcements*



OUR UPDATED CALENDAR IS AVAILABLE ON OUR WEBSITE.

We have a new children's book, *The Josie Adventures: Bingo*. This is the fourth in the Josie series where God teaches Josie a lesson through Grandma's cats. Our other books—*God's Plan for Our Success*, *Nehemiah's Way*; *The Elijah Anointing*; *Your Holy Spirit Arsenal*; *Be Healed!*; and *Enemies of Destiny*—are available on book sites, our website, or by sending \$15. (includes shipping in U.S.) to our PO Box. Study guides are available for some books. Connie's children's books, *Butchie's New Home*, *Butchie Comes Home*, & *Izzy: Outside Our Reach* are also for sale.

~~SPEAKINGS/BOOK SIGNINGS~~

- If you want us to speak/minister to your group, contact us. Besides preaching in churches & conferences, we do one-day workshops. *We'd love to be with you!*

~~~RESTORATION MINISTRIES' UPCOMING EVENTS~~~

- TRAINING FOR REIGNING – Each Monday @ 6 p.m. (EST). Wade is now teaching on "Higher." You can come in person

to the HPWC Resource Center, 1210 Illinois Avenue, Connersville, IN or watch on Facebook Live.

- The next round of Discipleship Class has begun. This class follows Wade's on Mondays. After a short break, Discipleship Class begins @ 7:15. The class focuses on understanding the progression of our Christian walk toward our destiny. Whether you're a new Christian and want to learn what comes next or just want to understand how God is preparing you to step into His will for your life, you're welcome to attend. If you would like to participate, let Connie know. Books are provided.

F.Y.I.

*We're hoping to Send More Email Newsletters in 2023. If We May Send Yours Via Email, Please Provide Us With Your Address. Thanks!*

If you need prayer or know anyone to add to/delete from our mailing list, send names & addresses to:

Restoration Ministries, P. O. Box # 634, Connersville, IN 47331

EMAIL: [conniehunterurban@gmail.com](mailto:conniehunterurban@gmail.com)

WEBSITE: [restormin.org](http://restormin.org); TWITTER: [http://twitter.com/restor\\_ministry](http://twitter.com/restor_ministry)



**We're touched & appreciate your 2022 support of our ministry. We pray 2023 holds many blessings for you & your family. Have a great Thanksgiving, Christmas, & New Year!**

**GOD BLESS YOU!**