

Behind the Scenes

January 2024

A Gift to Share From the Desk of Charlie Oliver

January is one of my favorite months. I enter the new year still warm from a holiday season spent with friends and family, with the lovely sights and sounds of Christmas concerts and events still echoing in my mind. The path ahead is still pure, untarnished by the stumbles sure to come!

What do you bring with you into the new year? Are you trying a new New Year's resolution on for size? Perhaps a new workout regimen or diet plan? What changes lie ahead for you this year, and how does Jesus figure into your plans?

Have you ever been on a trip and realized you forgot to pack something really important? That's what it's like to start the new year without Jesus. For many, unfortunately, Jesus is someone you only bring out over the holidays, like the Elf on the Shelf. The season ends, and He is boxed up until the next relevant holiday, or maybe until one is midway through a crisis and pulled out to pray to for help.

My friends, we have a Gift to share, a Gift that should not be reserved for holidays and special events. We get to tell people about Jesus, and we have the privilege to open our hearts to Him so that He shines and works through us!

I was reminded of last weekend after playing a small part in a wonderful Christmas program at our church. Afterward, a well-intending person came up to me and offered a criticism rather than a kindness. A friend of mine saw my spirit drop and offered a few kind words and a funny video she knew would hit the spot. That my friends is exactly what I'm talking about here, and the difference made when Jesus is in the equation!

So, I have a New Year's resolution for you. This month, this year, introduce people to Jesus in both



words and action. You can join us in that by sharing Better Life with someone needing encouragement or answers. Invite people into a relationship with Jesus, into a healthy community with His people. We all need more Jesus in our lives!

Our focus this year is community, and we're making it easier to engage with Better Life. That means new programs and new ways to engage with us. We're now on virtually all apps, and we are present on all your social media feeds. Come join us in community with each other and with Jesus Christ!

Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed.

-1 Peter 4:12-13



Inspirational Musings

by Jeanette Stark

Have you ever suffered a tragedy or loss and looking back, you would not change a thing?

It was July 27, 1993. I had worked an 8-hour day and needed to run errands. My two oldest boys were preparing to go to Colorado for a big Pathfinder gathering and they needed batteries for their flashlights.

At one point while downtown, I looked towards the SW section of Grants Pass. There against a blue, summer sky was a HUGE dark mushroom cloud of smoke. It looked as if a bomb had gone off. That still small voice told me I needed to go home.

Throng of people, cars, and fire engines blocked the way, but I could see flames leaping above rooftops. I parked my car two blocks from my home and ran. It was my house!

I began yelling "No! Dear God, no!" A neighbor approached and quickly told me the kids were safe and at another neighbor's house.

Fire officials discovered that a window a/c in the master bedroom had overheated, catching the curtains on fire which then led to the ceiling.

The police chief said flames were leaping 100 feet in the air and he called it "the hottest house fire in recent Grants Pass history."

I had one good cry over losing every and then I began to count my blessings. All four of my children were safe and unharmed. Even the family cat got out safely, although we did not see him for 3 days.

We received enough donated items to furnish an entire 3-bedroom home. I even had a call from a woman who said, "I have a rental...the renters are moving out in a couple of weeks, it's yours if you want it."

And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:19 NIV

God provided for my family's needs through the generosity of others. And remarkably we did not receive a duplicate of anything!

Yes, it was odd setting up house with all these things that had never been mine. But we started over and I would not change a thing. I really wouldn't!

My faith and trust in God deepened through that experience. My kids were able to see a calm and collected mother who, although had lost all her possessions, was still positive and optimistic. My husband followed my example. We were going to be okay, and I was thankful.

Friend, we are told to give thanks in all things. Not just the good things, but all things. 1 Thessalonians 5:18 says, "*in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.*" – NKJV

It is God's will; His desire, that we give thanks at all times, through all things. I believe when we give thanks, we are showing God, and others, that we trust Him. That we know He is watching over us; that everything will be fine.

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Paul wrote, "...we know that for those who love God, all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose."
Romans 8:28 ESV

If you are going through a trial, if you are overwhelmed with what life has thrown at you, trust God. It could be His plan for your life. Nothing takes Him by surprise.



New Beginnings

by Christie Anderson

Have you had to answer the common "What is your New Year's resolution?" question yet this year? The phrase sparked a brief discussion recently after our morning worship. The first response was a collective groan.

Why is this question so unwelcome? Because many of us see New Year's resolutions as a future disappointment. Yes, we want to improve, but we also know our resolution history is filled with a long line of failures. What seems to be a fresh start, a clean slate, an opportunity to start anew has lost its charm.

In Jesus, we are not defined by our failures. *"This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!"* 2 Corinthians 5:17 NLT We can join Isaiah in saying, *"I delight greatly in the Lord; my soul rejoices in my God. For he has clothed me with garments of salvation and arrayed me in a robe of his righteousness, as a bridegroom adorns his head like a priest, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels."* Isaiah 6:10 NIV

We do not have to wait until the New Year to start over. Every day is a new start. *"The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is thy faithfulness."* Lamentations 3:22-23 RSV He hits the reset button for us each morning! He has more forgiveness for us! Praise God!

May you have a blessed New Year in Jesus!



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ways to share
Better Life with
family & friends

1. Text Message

Send a quick text with the show name, episode details, and airing time.

2. Social Media

Share your favorite program's YouTube link, add a comment, and tag friends.

3. QR Code

Share the QR code below for easy access to Better Life website and live-streaming



Dear Better Life,


I'm so thankful for how God is using Better Life TV and your awesome devoted team. God is a blessing! So glad to be able to share Better Life TV with so many friends, family and those God brings into my path. Praise God we know He is coming soon. Your updated look is wonderful. Your updating of style and programming is God led. We can never lose when He leads. My prayers are with you, Charlie, and awesome your team.

-Pelham, AL

Dear Better Life,

I love this station! It's on Channel 21 on Spectrum here in North Bend. I'M TELLING OTHERS ABOUT IT! What a blessing!

-North Bend, OR



**As Christians, now, the mission is to bless the lives we touch,
To share the hope and joy we hold within our grateful clutch.
The knowledge of God's love and care, which we have come to know,
We dare not harbor for ourselves, but should God's blessings show.**

**Since we have reason to rejoice regarding Heaven's plans,
Are we not obligated now to share this with each man?
The Spirit who has touched our lives must be shared with all,
So that with better insight, men can answer to God's call.**

**God's Spirit is living in the hearts of Christian men,
Is never satisfied until they share God's truth again.
If you will share the joy you know, which in your heart abounds,
That joy will be contagious and in others will be found.**

-Sandra A. Haynes



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In celebration of Willis & Lillian Christinas's 71st Anniversary

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Jeanne Oltman, wife
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If you wish to make a donation in honor of, or in memory of an individual please call our office during regular business hours, or mail your donation to:

Better Life
PO Box 766
Grants Pass, OR 97528
Phone: (541) 474-3089

Note: It may take up to 2 months for names to appear in the newsletter.

CHANNEL GUIDE

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