

*A Woman's Place Ministries
P O Box 936
Winnsboro, SC 29180
Director@awpministries.org*

December 2000

Another Christmas! This is actually our THIRD Christmas Newsletter since A Woman's Place went online! God has been so good to this ministry. He has blessed, and given exceeding abundantly. My prayer is that your life and your holiday will be overflowing with the blessings of God.

By Christmas, Brother Doty and I will be in our new city-Sacramento, California. Please remember to pray for us. Moving is so very taxing and stressful-and we certainly aren't as young as we used to be! But we are both excited about this move, and joyfully anticipate what the Lord has in store for us. Many of you have already enrolled in the correspondence Christian Counseling course, and several have inquired about Patten College at the Rock, where I will be teaching. The campus in Sacramento, headed up by Rev. Nathaniel J. Wilson, is truly the "IN" place to be!

Remember-A Woman's Place will still be here for you, although my computer will be shut down for awhile as we move. And then I must find another Internet provider. But it will be up and running again soon-same e-mail addy-so keep your letters coming. Director@awpministries.org Although I will have to travel less, I might still be available to minister in YOUR area. You might want to talk to your pastor about it.

New Magazine Column

Watch for my new column on hurting and healing in "CONNECT" Magazine. I certainly covet your prayers with this undertaking. Should you wish to subscribe to "CONNECT," you can send \$19.95 for a year's subscription to: "CONNECT" -P.O. Box 292100-Elk Grove, CA 95624. You can use your credit card if you call 1-800-762-5990.

Stress, Stress, Stress

Watch your stress level during the holidays. Stress can truly make one ill-emotionally and physically. Take a moment and look at this verse, Psalm 103:14: "For he knoweth our frame; he remembereth that we are dust." He knows us inside-out-through and through. He knows our strengths and our weaknesses. Wow! We are weak, we are only dust in a universe crafted by His Hand. We tend to forget that-especially at Christmastime-and push our minds and bodies beyond endurance. This year, let's remember our frame, and not take on so much that we lose the meaning of the season. Cook a little less, perhaps-use fewer decorations-give fewer gifts-Who's to know? Or care? The most precious gift we can give to anyone is to let the love of Jesus touch them through us. I want to choose less stress and more Jesus this year. Keep it simple.

And this was contributed by Sister Brenda Story: "Did I ever tell you the story about a Man they called Jesus? Well let me tell you about Him. He is the reason for the season!!! And did I ever tell you all the wonderful things He has done???? Probably not, they wouldn't fit in this

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email. Just in case you're feeling a little stress today, "He only is YOUR rock and YOUR salvation: He is YOUR defense: You shall not be moved."

Depressed at Christmastime?

Christmas should be a celebration of joy that He came into this world. But for some, there is only sadness and depression. It is true that we don't know the actual birthdate of our Lord, but the fact is that He WAS born. God Almighty, who made heaven and earth and all that is therein-this same God chose to come to earth as a tiny, newborn babe. That is the reason Christians celebrate. If you are one of those who grow sad this time of year, try to remember the Reason for the season. HE truly is! Try to let your mind focus on Him. Try to let it be a time of thanksgiving for all that He has done for us, and for all that He is. Sit down with your Bible and read the Christmas story (Luke 2). And while you're in the Word, flip over to the last two chapters of Revelation. Read them over and over. I have found it impossible to be depressed when I contemplate the end of the story! Praise the Lord! We know how this thing winds up! And ladies, we-WE-are on the winning side! We might lose some BATTLES along the way, but we will win this WAR!

Speaking of war:

I have a friend who wrote a book on it-spiritual warfare, that is. We all know that spiritual warfare means P-R-A-Y-E-R, right? I have felt sometimes lately like I was losing the battle. I e-mailed this friend an SOS that went like this: "I just can't seem to break through in prayer. It's like a solid brick wall that I'm butting my head against."

Have you ever felt like that? I know you have. And I know the struggles some of you are having with prayer. For that reason, I want to share her response with you-be encouraged! Here is what she wrote: "That has happened to me before and it is probably some kind of a spirit wall that is going to have to fall and it is putting up a resistance-but believe me, your prayers are being heard and it WILL break!! No telling what you are coming against that you may not even realize, but one thing about praying is this-it is like living for God-we do not feel Him 100% of the time and yet we live for him anyway-Same with prayer-you do not go by feeling but faith and, if you are praying, something is happening.

"A sister and I used to go to the church at 6am and pray till right at 9am every weekday morn and it felt like we had not even prayed and that we were hitting a wall, but when we needed that power later it was in that heavenly bank account and we FELT it-it is just trying you, whatever the wall is-keep hitting it!!!!!! YOU ARE WINNING! And if the adversary has thrown this at you, you are making great progress. He is gonna try to bluff you out-some of my most fought prayer meetings have ended up some of my most beneficial-we live not by sight but by faith and we live not by what we feel but by what we know. And we know when we pray, He hears us-remember Daniel and his prayers were hindered and the angel had to fight to get to him, but his prayers were heard the first time he prayed them! Keep hitting that wall-our God is undefeated and so are you-through Him!!!"

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This friend's name is Deborah Randall, and her book is titled, "Treasures of Darkness." (Isaiah 45:3) Spiritual warfare at its most powerful. Hear straight from the heart of a battle-scarred but victorious Louisiana pastor's wife how to wage war in these last days. The enemy has saved his best for last, but God intends for YOU to be the winner! I recommend it highly. Why not order one for yourself, and maybe one for a friend, for Christmas? To Order: Mail \$10.25 (includes shipping) to Deborah Randall PO Box 205 Abbeville, LA 70511.

My friends, I love you, respect you, and pray for a blessed, holy Christmas for you and your loved ones.

God bless you,
Your friend,
Lynda Allison Doty

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