

# Merry Christmas

ARDEAN  
GREEN

QUEENA  
MERRIMON

JEFFERY  
LEHMAN

MALEA  
LOVE

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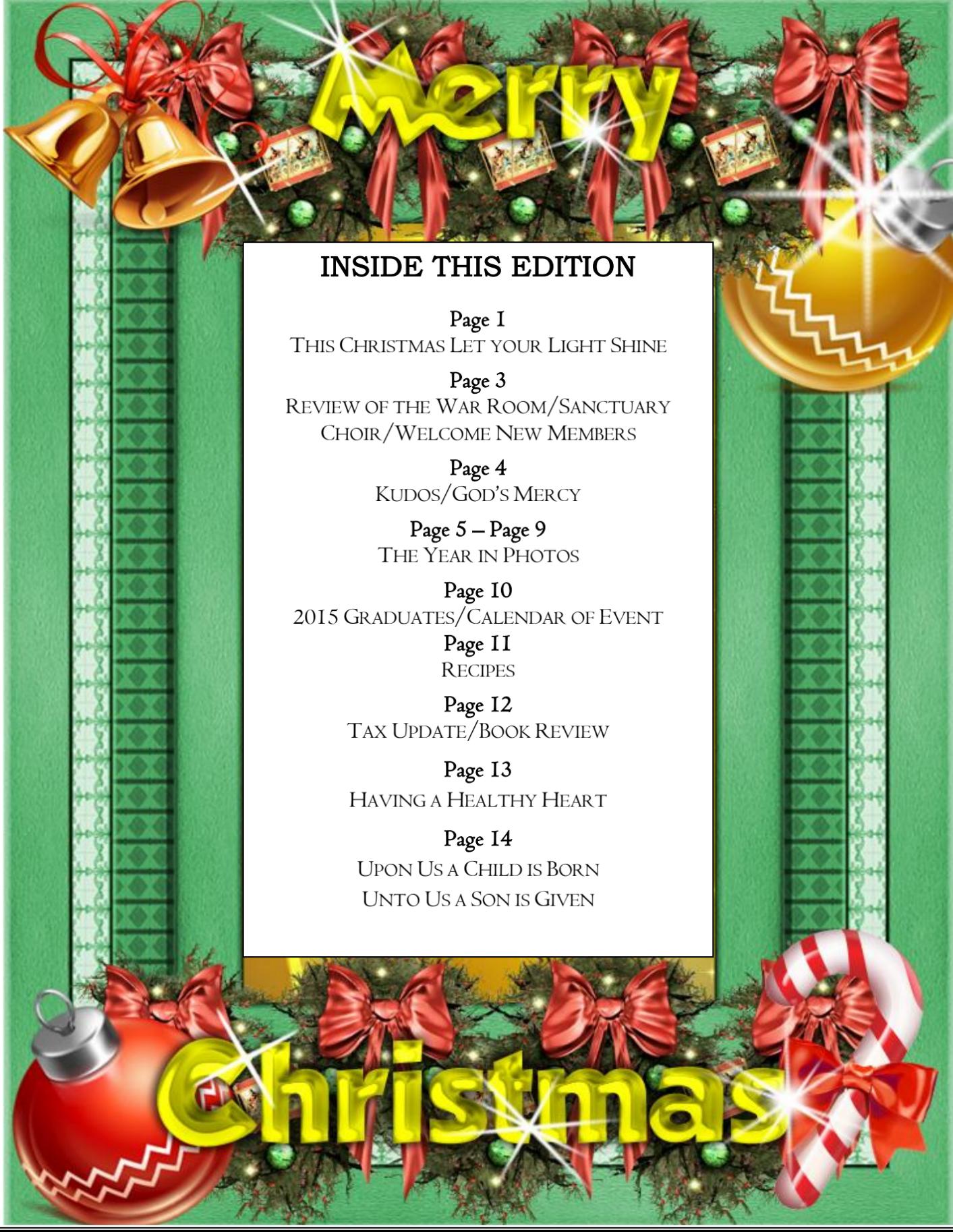
## HOLIDAY EDITION OF THE MOUNT ZION SPIRIT

Winter 2015

Volume XIV

REDISCOVERING, RETELLING AND RECLAIMING *Matthew 28:19-20*

'Rediscover Linking and Building Strong Families 'Reconnect Our Church Family 'Evangelize New Neighborhoods  
'Witness 'Retell the Gospel of Christ 'Reclaim our Church Family 'Rediscover our Passion for Christ  
'Rediscover our Need for Study 'Rediscover our Desire to Worship



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UPON US A CHILD IS BORN  
UNTO US A SON IS GIVEN



## *“This Christmas - Let your Light Shine”*

In 1929, a blind African American preacher from the street of Texas name Willie Johnson, wrote, sing and produced a song he called “Let your light shine on Me.” When he was seven years old, his stepmother, fighting with his father, threw lye in his face, permanently blinding him. From his youth he sang gospel songs while playing guitar. Johnson recorded 30 songs in 1927–1930. His strong voice was a rough, low baritone; joined with his urgently rhythmic guitar, along with his singing achieved great force in his message, in spite of the darkness in which he lived. His life’s message was dedicated to letting the light of Christ shine. This present age is filled with threats of terrorist attacks, twisted morality, a refusal to accept and recognize God’s values, and yet as Christians we are called to Let our light shine and walk in His Light.

Christ has placed His Church in the world at this time to “shine as lights,” we are to shine in this age like stars in the midst of a dark sky. We are heaven’s royal ambassadors, our charge as Christian is to share the Word of God with all those who are in darkness. Jesus described this light as our “good works” - “Let men see your good works that they may glorify your Father who is in Heaven” (Matt 5:16). The Bible says, “but if we walk in the Light as He Himself is the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleans us from all sin” (1 John 1:7).

ISIS (the Islamic State of Iraq and Sham) -- "Sham" is an old Arabic term which means Syria and Lebanon) the name doesn't need any more explanation. We know what it is -- evil personified. ISIS has brutally killed thousand's mostly non-Sunnis, in a quest for power; Christians and small groups called Yazidis

have been targeted. In the words of President Obama, “this is a new evil encroaching our perceived freedoms and international interest.” We have seen in the United States, airplanes flown into buildings, our citizens beheaded, mass shooting, bombing and just recently another mass shooting at a Christmas party. It is easy to see our world is grown anxious about terrorist and fear is becoming the new normal. This dark world is surely ripe for the light of Jesus; we must not fail our call to serve this present age. The need is great to let our light shine.

Every dedicated saint makes the difference in this dark world. As Christians of the Mt. Zion Primitive Baptist fellowship, we must continually align ourselves to answer the call to let our light shine – answer our calling. Our light shines best when we witness and share Christ. We must let our light shine and not allow it to be concealed or dimmed in any way, either by offense, neglect, laziness, shame or by terror. We must walk in a way that is consistent with the written Word, for Scripture is light to our path. We must refuse to be quite, to be overwhelmed, to be at a lost of what to do, but rather we must be engrossed and assessed with shining our light.

As we walk in the light, we notice the 1John 1:7, here we learn first that God is Light and in Him there is no darkness at all. When we live and allow ourselves to be absorbed completely in Him, we are cleansed from all sin and have fellowship with God. Our fellowship with Him is because we are living inside the presence of the person of the Holy Spirit. The command to walk in the Light implies His light is right and realistic, this walk bring real relationship. “The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the defense of my life; whom shall I dread ----My Adversaries and my enemies, they stumble and fell.

Though a host encamp against me, My heart will not fear, Though war arise against me. In spite of this I shall be confident." Psalm 27:1-5

This Christmas we are reminded that while in Bethlehem Mary gave birth to God's Son. Scripture reminds us that Jesus' birthplace fulfills God's promise. "But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, *though* thou be little among the thousands of Judah, *yet* out of thee shall he come forth unto me *that is* to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth *have been* from of old, from everlasting" (Micah 5:2) God Son left heaven and came to a world filled with darkness to bring light to every man woman and child. That night Jesus birth was celebrated with light that shone brightly in the fields where the shepherds were watching over their flock. Because of Jesus we no longer walk in darkness, God has provided us with LIGHT though His Son Jesus. Christmas reminds us we walk in the spiritual Light, and we are rescued from spiritual darkness.

In Conclusion, this Christmas season we are charged to let our light shine, and walk in the Light. Christmas is a reminder that Jesus is the light, "Let it Shine." I close with the words of the Rev. Willie Johnson. His song was a passionate plea to God that the light from the Lighthouse would shine on him. Since we have God's promise, His Word, and His Spirit, His light shining on us we are charged and commanded to let our light Shine and Walk in His Light. Rev. Willie Johnsons sing:

*Let it shine on me, let it shine on me  
Oh, let Your light from the lighthouse shine on  
Let it shine on me, let it shine on me  
Oh, let Your light from the lighthouse shine on*

*My Lord, he's done just what he said  
Let Your light from the lighthouse shine on me  
Heal the sick and rise the dead  
Let Your light from the lighthouse shine on me*

*Oh, let it shine on well, let it shine on  
Let Your light from the lighthouse shine on me  
Shine on oh, let it shine on  
Let Your light from the lighthouse shine on me*

*I know I've got religion and I ain't ashamed  
Let Your light from the lighthouse shine on me  
Angels in Heaven, done wrote my name  
Let Your light from the lighthouse shine on me*

*Oh, let it shine on well, let it shine on  
Let Your light from the lighthouse shine on me  
Shine on well, let it shine on  
Let Your light from the lighthouse shine on me*

*Merry Christmas!*

*Mylon L. Burwell*

## MT. ZION PRIMITIVE BAPTIST CHURCH CELEBRATES THE



*Anniversary*

*Of Pastor*

*Mylon L. Burwell*



*Sunday, December 20, 2015*



11:00 A.M.  
ST. LUKE PRIMITIVE  
BAPTIST CHURCH  
Elder Jerry D. Russell, Pastor



2:30 P.M.  
ST. STEPHENS PRIMITIVE  
BAPTIST CHURCH  
Elder Christopher Collins, Pastor

*Christmas Theme...*

### JESUS IS THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

Sermon Title 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday  
*The Revealing Light*  
*John 8:12 and Isaiah 9:2*

Sermon Title 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday  
*Jesus is the  
Guiding Light*  
*Matthew 2:1-12*





War Room is a film that shows that prayer is a powerful weapon. A family was experiencing problems that were leading to destruction. They had good jobs, and a nice house but they also had a lot of problems. The husband/dad was being untruthful to his wife and stealing from his job. The wife/mom was not communicating her anger to her husband. And the daughter felt abandoned because neither of her parents were paying attention to her. The wife/mom came to know an older lady who started to teach her about the right way to fight your battles; through prayer. Once the wife/mom learned how to pray in the closet, the daughter started to do the same thing. When the husband found their private prayer closets, and that they were praying for him and for God to fix their family, he changed his attitude and began to pray also. This was a good movie, I think everyone should see it.

*New*  
  
**Choir Members**  
*Welcome!*

### CONSIDER JOINING THE SANCTUARY CHOIR

Do you love singing praises to God? Are just waiting for an invitation? Well here it is, we have a place for you in this ministry. Join us in ministering to others through song. We rehearse every Tuesday before the first Sunday and third Sunday. We are waiting for you!



**GOD**  
 ME YOU THEM  
 RELATIONSHIPS  
 FRIENDS FAMILY  
 PASTORS ELDERS DEACONS  
 BROTHERS & SISTERS IN CHRIST  
 TEACHING PREACHING  
**FAITH BIBLE**  
 SALVATION SANCTIFICATION  
 PRAISE ADORATION THANKSGIVING  
 LOVE JOY PEACE  
**WORSHIP**

**SISTER DEBRA MATTHEWS**

**SISTER ALETHA TEAGUE**

**SISTER MARQUITA GARNER**

**SISTER GERALDINE BROWN**

**SISTER CALI BINFORD**

**SISTER LASHONDA MALONE**

**WELCOME**  
 WE'RE GLAD YOU JOINED US



## Mt. Zion Spirit Celebrates and Congratulates Our Church Family!!!!

Congratulations to **Selex Green**, son of **Caster and Ardean Green**. Selex has been Commissioned as a **Calvary 2nd Lieutenant** into the Mississippi State National Guard. Selex will Live in the Madison area where he has accepted a position with the Baseball Coaching staff at James Clemons High school in Madison AL.

Congratulations to **Nikita Lehman**. Nikita earned her **Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC) certification**.

Shout out to **Elder William Tyes**. Elder Tyes received a **Master of Arts** in Christian Ministry from Liberty

Kudos to **Loraine Cordule** she has received three more **Designations** in Real Estate

which are **MRP (Military Relocation Professional)**, **SFR (Short Sale Foreclosure Resource)** and **GRI (Graduated Realtor Institute)**. She also serves on the **Realtors in Action and Bylaws Committee**, and is the **Co-Chair** of the **Professional Standards Committee** and **Chair** of the **Young Professionals Network** at the **HAAR (Huntsville Area Association of Realtors)**.

### GOD'S MERCY QUEENA MERRIMON

Through God all things are possible..... We hear those words throughout our entire life. As a kid when you first hear those words you don't know what those words truly mean until you get older. I never knew what those words truly meant until I truly experienced the real world. The real world can be a cruel and dangerous place for anyone, but when you have God on your side the world does not seem so big and scary after all. *Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid (John 14:27)*. This verse helps get me through hard times when I feel like the world and everyone is against me. Sometimes we as Christians let fear conquer us and stop us from achieving our goals and accomplishing the things we have set out to achieve. A wise person once said we have nothing to fear, but fear itself.

If it was not for Jesus dying for our sins then where would we be today? If Jesus had said no I am afraid to die for their sins and refused to then we would not be able to repent for our sins. If it was not for Jesus then we would not be washed of our sins. I am sure He was afraid, but instead of cowering He called on God his father; our father. That is where the saying thru God all things are possible means. This reminds me of a scripture: *Psalms 120:1 I call on the Lord in my distress, and he answers me*. God heard Jesus's words and he comforted him as he died on the cross for our sins. God will not forsake you in your time of need. All you have to do is just call on him and he will help see you through your time of need. No matter what we do God still loves us because we are his children. No one is perfect but God, we all are sinners. Just because you have done some things you are not proud of does not mean that you turn your back on God. God's mercy is forever and ever.

## *Pastor's 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary...*



## *Marriage Ministry Fellowship*



## *Black History Program*



## *Audio Visual Update...*



*Family and Friends Day....*



*Male Chorus in Bowties ☺*



*Celebrating Baptism*



*Easter. . .*



## *Women's Day. . .*



## *Mother's Day Celebration...*



## *Developmental Fund Rally...*



## *Vacation Bible School...*



## *J.B. Pride Honor's Banquet...*



## *Church Trip...*



## *Women's and Youth Congress...*



*Youth Day...*



*Youth and Fall Revival ...*



*Thanksgiving Baskets...*

*...Sunday School Convention*



## Homecoming...



## Annual Association and Celebration Gala...



Special Thank you to Regina Redus-Smith (A&G Photography) and Kenneth Owens Photography for many of our Photos. May God continue to bless your gift and your ministry!

## Congratulations Class of 2015

Congratulations to the Class of 2015!!!

We Salute Morgan Jones (Calhoun)

Priscilla Horton (Nursing School – RN)

Devan Harris (Bob Jones)

Kennedy Jefferson (James Clemons)

Ashley Lewis (Buckhorn)



Raquon Johnson (Johnson)

Alexis Posey (Sparkman)

Raven Pruitt (Grissom)



Everyone is Invited to Join us for  
our Christmas Celebration –  
Wednesday, December 16, 2015  
at 6:30 p.m. – We pray you make  
plans to join us!

## Zion Recipes...

### Potato Casserole

32 oz Frozen Hash Brown Potatoes  
 8 oz Sour Cream  
 1 Stick of Melted Butter  
 1/2 Cup Chopped Onion  
 1/3 Cup of Milk  
 1 Can of Cream of Mushroom Soup  
 8 oz. of Cheddar Cheese  
 1 tsp Salt  
 1 tsp Pepper  
 1 tsp Season Salt

*Submitted by  
 Deaconess Loraine Cordule*

Pre-Heat Oven 400. Mix Frozen Hash Browns and Seasonings together in Large Mixing Bowl and set aside. Melt Butter and Saute' Onion. As soon as the Onion are Clear pour in Milk, Sour Cream, Mushroom Soup, and Cheese and Stir. When Cheese is melted...Pour Mixture over Frozen Hash Browns and Seasons and Mix Thoroughly. Once Mixed Pour in a 9X13 Dish for 20 to 30 Minutes or until golden brown.

### Mother Jefferson's Apricot Cake

#### INGREDIENTS:

1 Box Lemon Cake  
 1/2 Cup of Sugar  
 1 Cup Apricot Juice  
 3/4 cup Wesson Oil  
 4 eggs

#### DIRECTIONS:

Mix cake mix and sugar well  
 Add juice and Wesson oil  
 Add eggs one at a time  
 Bake at 325 for 1 hour

#### GLAZE

Lemon juice  
 Confection sugar  
 Mix well. Pour over hot cake while HOT

### Mother Mary Toney's Jiffy Corn

1 Can of Creamed Corn  
 1 Can Whole Kernel do not drain  
 1 Stick of Butter  
 2 Eggs slightly beaten  
 1 Box of Jiffy Corn Bread Mix  
 1 8oz Cour Cream

Mix together all ingredients. Poor in 13x 9 pan. Bake at 350 for 45 to 50 minutes. Enjoy!

*Submitted by Mother Mary Toney*

### Fresh Apple Cake

#### INGREDIENTS:

2 eggs  
 1 cup White Sugar  
 1 cup Brown Sugar  
 1 1/4 cup Wesson Oil  
 3 cups Flour  
 1t Soda  
 1t Cinnamon  
 1/4 teaspoon Salt  
 1 cup chopped Nuts  
 3 cups Apples Chopped  
 2 teaspoons vanilla

#### DIRECTIONS:

Beat eggs, add sugar, oil and beat three minutes. Sift dry ingredients together and add slowly to creamed mixture. Add apples, nuts, and vanilla. Bake in greased, tube pan at 350 for 1 hour and 15 minutes or until done

#### ICING

1 8oz  
 1 stick of margarine  
 1 teaspoon of vanilla  
 1 box confectioner's sugar  
 1 cup chopped pecans  
 Cream the cream cheese, margarine and vanilla together. Slowly add confectioner's sugar until mixed. Add nuts and spread on cake when it is cooled.



With the year coming to a close Tax time is right around the corner. The filing deadline for Tax year 2015 is April 15, 2016. Alabama State deadline is also April 15, 2016.

Beware of the newest phone scam where the callers claim to be with the IRS. They can sound convincing when they call. They use fake names and fake IRS identification numbers.

They may alter the caller ID to make it look like the IRS is calling.

Victims are told they owe money to the IRS and it must be paid promptly. NOTE that the IRS will never: 1). call to demand immediate payment or money owed without first sending a bill or a letter. 2). Require you to use a specific payment method for your taxes. 3.) Ask for credit or debit card numbers over the phone. 4) threaten to have the police or other law enforcement arrest you for not paying.

Also the IRS does not initiate email contact with taxpayers to request personal or financial information.

**Ardean Green, ABR** [agreen@riserealestate.com](mailto:agreen@riserealestate.com)

Associate Broker

256-683-2270 Direct

Rise Real Estate

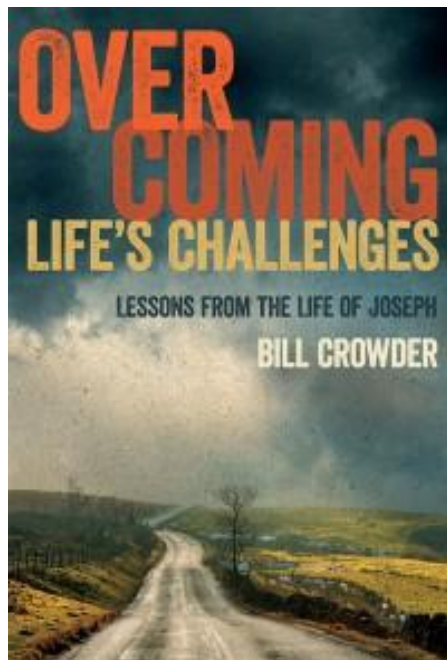
256-772-8000 Office

256-772-8159 Fax

800-453-5289 Toll Free



## BOOK REVIEW: A Must Read for All Christians



A Must Read for all Christians. One of your greatest challenges is to allow hard, painful, and tear-filled experiences be your guide through life's journey. But you never need to walk alone!

Bill Crowder's 80-page book, *Overcoming Life's Challenges* helps you discover the Old Testament man, Joseph, and to explore what it means to overcome trials and tribulations from the Bible's perspective. You'll find chapters on temptation, disappointment, the past, and bitterness, to the final chapter on trust—God's secret for overcoming pain.

Some experiences in life bring disappointment, pain, and even failure. In his book, author Bill Crowder helps you gain a new perspective on dealing with difficulties, as he examines the life of Joseph. Find out how you can respond to your own challenges with faith, hope, and confidence in

the God who is always in control.

The Bill Crowder includes topics covering Lessons of Life, Overcoming Treachery, Overcoming Temptation, and Overcoming Disappointment, Overcoming the Past, Overcoming Bitterness and finally the Trust that Overcomes.

BY DR. JEFFERY LEHMAN



## Having A Healthy Heart

*A joyful heart is good medicine, but a crushed spirit dries up the bones. Proverbs 17:22*

A question to our men. How often do you go to the doctor? Do you keep regular visits or do you wait until you are very sick? The biggest obstacle to improving the health of men is themselves. Statistics show that women are 33% more likely than men to visit the doctor. Men don't always make their health a priority. They wait as long as possible to see if they get better or symptoms go away before seeking medical care or advice. The biggest problem that men have is not so much a specific

disease, but the diseases are a result of lack of healthcare monitoring earlier in life. For example, if you don't get your cholesterol checked when it's going higher when you're in your 20's, or don't get your blood pressure checked when you're in your 30's, maybe your blood sugar starts increasing when you're in your 40's. What do you think may happen when you hit 50's? If you said heart disease, you are correct.

Heart disease is one of the leading causes of death in black men. This article isn't to tell you about the signs and symptoms of heart failure, for I am sure most of us has heard them many times, but to inform you of some important factors to help you keep a healthy heart. ***"Beloved, I pray that all may go well with you and that you may be in good health, as it goes well with your soul. 3 John 1:2.*** It's the Lord's Prayer that you be in good health not only a healthy soul, but a healthy body. I want to share some tips to help you maintain a healthy heart, body and soul.

1. Reduce fat intake. A certain amount is good for a well-balanced diet. Limit saturated fats because they affect your cholesterol level.
2. Eat less salt. We all know large amounts of salt has been linked to high blood pressure. Try a salt substitute like accent or Mrs. Dash.
3. Exercise. Regular exercise improved heart function and lowers blood pressure and blood cholesterol. It doesn't have to be extensive, walking or swimming are two great ways to exercise.
4. Keep weight down. Being overweight puts extra stress and strain on your heart. Try eating more fruits and vegetables and less sugary foods.
5. Stop smoking. This cuts your chances of getting heart and respiratory disease. If you have had a heart attack quitting will reduce the risk of a second one.
6. Relax. Find time for relaxation. Try meditation and prayer, quite time to read the bible, put your problems aside for awhile. This helps to reduce stress.
7. Think lifestyle changes rather than dietary changes. By living and eating in a healthier way you will feel better, more energized, more confident and happier.
8. Monitor your health status. Keep check on your weight for any abnormal weight gain suddenly. Monitor and record your blood pressure. This is necessary if you have high blood pressure or has had a previous heart attack.
9. Drink five or more 8oz glasses of water a day. This could help lower your risk of heart disease by 60%.
10. Keep those regular doctor visits. No one likes going to the doctor, but it is something that is needed to monitor your health.

These tips are not a fool proof way to prevent heart disease, but it decreases your chances tremendously. For more tips on having a healthy heart please visit [menshealth.com](http://menshealth.com) "100 ways to protect your heart".

***"A peaceful heart leads to a healthy body." Proverbs 14:30.*** You were created with a sensitive spirit, an intricate mind and a complex body so that you can be in an intimate relationship with God, our Creator and in loving relationship with others. This is His purpose for you and for each person in the world. So, take these tips and be happy, be healthy.

God Bless,  
Sister Priscilla Horton, Nurses Guild



## *Upon Us A Child is Born, Unto us A Son is Given*

*“Upon us a Child is born, unto us a Son is Given: and the government shall be upon His shoulder: and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, The Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace” (Isaiah 9:6)*

### **The Incarnation**

These powerful statements from the prophet Isaiah resonate with the description of our Savior, Jesus Christ. His birth was foreshadowed. His sacrifice had been planned from Eternity past. He was willing to leave the glorious presence of God the Father to take on human flesh for the fulfillment of His Eternal plan. God became man and dwelt among us and we beheld His glory. As stated in the Gospel; “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was God, and the Word was with God, and the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.” (John 1:1,14) *Adapted from Gail Seidel*

### **The Eternal Son**

“Upon us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given: (Isaiah 9:6). This verse, becoming so popular at Christmas time, presents two (2) truths: the Son of God is fully human and eternally Son. The first part of the scripture says He became man - “a child is born.” When Luke wrote in his gospel that, “unto you is born this day .... A Saviour, which is Christ the Lord” (Luke 2:11), he conveyed the same message. Both the Hebrew and Greek words for “born” refer to child-bearing. In Lukes’ latter part of the scripture verse saying “Son is given”. This reference is to the eternal sonship. In the Hebrew, the word “given” does not refer to birth or beginning, but to “bringing forth with purpose” the Son who already existed. John recorded His being brought forth in these word: “God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through Him might be saved” (John 3:17). Our Lord did not become the Son of God – that He always was, is and will be (Hebrews 13:8). The whole truth is not just that “a Child is born”, but also that “a Son is given.” Those who focus on the first part may only enjoy His coming for the Christmas season. Those who also grab hold of the second part can enjoy His coming for all seasons - even to the end of the Age. *Adapted from Larry Ondrejack*

My Our Lord love and grace bless all the family here at Mt Zion, may the knowledge of His grace and love keep you in His Joy throughout this season as well as the years to come.

Nikita Lehman, MS/LPC

Editor Mt Zion Spirit