

# Serve In His Name

*Serve in the Power of the Holy Spirit*

## Priorities

Dee sent this email to me about four months before Jesus took him home. We had been talking and praying about his healing the evening before.. God was always first on his mind and in his heart.

Good morning Margaret,

### Priorities

We pray a lot for my healing.

The disease continues to cripple me.



I wonder if we are too focused on this, and not focused enough on our main thing ---**Practicing the Great Commandment** so we are becoming more credible witnesses to the renewing power of Christ's salvation.

"By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another" (John 13:35).

Every day is an opportunity—

- To be grateful
- To show mercy and stifle tendencies to criticize or judge
- To forgive
- To develop more compassion
- To pray for others
- To meditate on God's word
- To seek Him for insights on things that hinder me.

Love you, Dee

This email took Dee over two hours to type..

We believed in God's healing power and I thought up to the end that we would see that for Dee. God had other plans.

Dee's focus was on finishing the assignment that God had given him. He simply wanted to please our Father.

Dee talking to a stranger on a park bench. Within minutes of meeting her she told him, "I love Jesus."



## *The Poor You Will Always Have With You*

**The phrase,** "The poor you will always have with you," was not intended to be a definitive statement that excuses us from sharing with the poor. Neither was Paul's statement, "If they don't work, they don't eat."

Loving kindness is the main characteristic of God, and He intends that we take on his character. We too are to be known for our kindness, even toward those who may seem unworthy. The first phrase is too easily used as my excuse for doing nothing in the face of a person's real need. We might think to ourselves, "Oh well, there will always be poor people, so why bother."

We want everyone to work as hard as we do, but some people cannot, for various reasons. A disabled or elderly person, or a family whose breadwinner has abandoned them, are examples. We would not tell a 90 year old woman whose resources have dwindled to a poverty level, "If you don't work you don't eat."

A good rule of thumb is to ask God how to respond to human need in each case. Biblical principles are personalized by the Holy Spirit who guides our responses to human needs. God in us is available to enable us to love others as He does.

***What a mighty God we serve.***

By Dee Stribling

## What a year.....

† **The good news,** Dee is in heaven with Jesus and out of the prison of a body that left him with only movement of a couple of fingers on his right hand and movement of his eyes. He was still able to get a few words spoken with great effort. As I've said before BRAVO was his choice word the last few months before his graduation.

**The bad news,** I'm missing him more than I imagined possible. I guess I figured the Holy Spirit would swoop in and fill that hole quickly, but it has not been so. The memories of the last few years kept flooding my mind and especially those thoughts that made me wonder if I could have done more to make Dee comfortable.

I try to focus on all the good memories we shared as we looked back over our lives together. We constantly thanked God for how much He had changed us and allowed us to serve Him through His Name Ministries.

I marveled as Dee became sweeter and sweeter as his time to leave came. It was so evident that Jesus was with him. His grace and peace flowed from Dee.

God provided us with just the

right equipment at the right time. Provided money to hire in home help to relieve me from some of Dee's care so I could keep up with the ministry work. Dee was able to continue at the computer until a few months before he left this realm and he was in constant prayer for those who called for assistance.

As donation came in we would open the envelopes together and thank God for each donor and asked God to bless them with what He knew they needed. We both were, and I still am, amazed at the gifts that God brings in. We know it has to be His Spirit that is touching these donors. IHNM thrives under HIS leadership. How awesome is His mercy and grace.

I now pray for folks with more fervent prayers who have also lost someone they loved. May all of us complete the race and learn to rejoice in the adventure that is left before us as we walk with Jesus.

I want to thank all of you who have kept me lifted up in your prayers. I am very aware of their power to strengthen and encourage a soul that is in despair and feeling such loss.

In HIS warm bonds of love and gratitude,  
Margaret

*May we lean  
on the guidance of the Holy  
Spirit  
more in 2010  
then every before.*

### **We are known by our love.**

I John 3:17-19 His beloved disciple wrote, "If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him? Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth. This then is how we know that we belong to the truth, and how we set our hearts at rest in his presence." (NIV)

### **If You Love Those Who Love You, What Credit Is That To You?**

Luke 6:32-36 "If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even `sinners' love those who love them. And if you do good to those who are good to you, what credit is that to you? Even `sinners' do that. And if you lend to those from whom you expect repayment, what credit is that to you? Even `sinners' lend to `sinners,' expecting to be repaid in full. But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. (NIV)

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