

Volume 3, Issue 6
(First Quarter)

A newsletter for all church leaders and members who live with and without disability and/or chronic illness.

*But now, O Lord,
you are our Father;
we are the clay,
and you are our potter;
we are all the work
of your hand.
~Isaiah 64:8 (ESV)*

Note from the Editor:

The information in this newsletter is not meant as medical, legal or professional advice.

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Jars of Clay

A Grace Note from Lois

Living by God's precious gift of grace

What happens when we find our satisfaction and contentment in God alone?

It was the summer of 1977, and I just spent seven weeks at Uncle Sam's expense in the VA Hospital in Brookline, Mass. On the day I was discharged, my landlord in Old Town, Maine called to give me 30 days notice to move out of my ultra-cheap, second floor apartment. I opted not to go into a nursing home, but returned to my apartment. This was not easy as I used a back brace and forearm crutches, taking pain and muscle relaxant medications, because I was unable to sit up, stand or walk on my own. I could not work and received only \$70 per month of VA disability compensation, so I went on welfare and food stamps.

Looking back it seems odd that it was the most wonderful, spiritual time in my life. Why? Was it the huge amount of time I spent in the hospital, reading and meditating on God's Word? Was it being immersed in the very God-centered writing of Amy Carmichael? Was it seeing the Lord provide for my needs in wonderful and marvelous ways, mostly through the help of many Christian friends? Or was it all three?

John Piper sheds some light on the real reason I did so spiritually and emotionally well. Piper points out the importance of finding our complete and total satisfaction and contentment in the Lord alone.¹

Suffering and the Christian Life

Suffering is one of the biggest threats to our trusting in God's goodness. This is because we do not see suffering as a natural part of our world. Suffering threatens our American culture's values of immediate gratification and pleasure. We think suffering only brings pain, discomfort, trouble and difficulty. When we are part of God's Kingdom our suffering has a different purpose, including forcing us to find our satisfaction in God alone. We tend to see suffering as an

Paul's thorn in the flesh served to humble Paul and to magnify the all-sufficiency of the grace of Christ... The heart of the message of Christ is His suffering and death. Christ, Himself, came to Paul and told him how much he would suffer as he ministered the gospel. But Paul's suffering isn't what his message is about; Christ's life and suffering and resurrection is what Paul's message was all about... Christ's suffering is seen and presented to those for whom He suffered, and His glory shines with surpassing value as the greatest treasure of the universe.

-John Piper¹ concerning 2 Corinthians 12:9

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interruption of our plans, rather than part of God's plan. We fail to see that suffering can strengthen our faith. We can also *learn* to be content in whatever circumstances He places us. This type of contentment is not resigning ourselves to what we feel we cannot change. For us to be content with what God provides, we must actively choose whatever God knows is good for us. We will see God glorified, Christ honored and the church strengthened when we help one another to seek our total satisfaction in the Lord, and our contentment is in His provisions.

Pertinent Scriptures

The Bible tells us many things about the role of suffering in the Christian life. Though not exhaustive, the following will help get you started.

We see that the righteous have many afflictions (Psalm 34:19; 1 Thess. 3:3). In the book of Job, we see his friends coming to the false conclusion that people suffer because they have sinned and are receiving their just punishment. But at the end of the book, God reprimands them for incorrectly speaking (Job 42:7). If we suffer with Christ, we will be glorified with Him as fellow heirs (Romans 8:17). More importantly, our suffering cannot compare to the glory to come (Romans 8:18). This gives our suffering an eternal perspective.

Suffering is at the Heart of Jesus' Ministry

Jesus came to serve, and to redeem His people by giving His life for them (Mark 10:45). As we follow our Master, we must also suffer (1 Peter 2:21). Jesus' suffering made Him unique, since His suffering purchased our salvation (Hebrews 2:9).

The apostle Paul understood that his own suffering was an extension of Christ's suffering, and that all this was for the sake of His church (Acts 9:16). Paul learned that God purposely places the treasure of the gospel of His glory in "jars of clay." Why? Because it has to be God's power and His work which results in the sharing of this treasure with other people, not our own strength and capabilities. It is all done in God's power—not ours. The result is that God's surpassingly great power is displayed (2 Corinthians 4:7-9).

As we suffer individually, we must remember that we do

*God ordained the suffering
of His apostle [Paul] so
that he would be radically
and totally dependent on
nothing else but God.*

-John Piper¹

*“And a light shined in the cell,”
And there was not any wall,
And there was no dark at all,
Only Thou, Immanuel.*

*Light of Love shined in the cell,
Turned to gold the iron bars,
Opened windows to the stars;
Peace stood there as sentinel.*

*Dearest Lord, how can it be
That Thou art so kind to me?
Love is shining in my cell,
Jesus, my Immanuel.*

*~Amy Carmichael
(Gold Cord)*

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not suffer alone, because we suffer within our church family. Also, we suffer in complete dependence upon God. We must trust Him to provide, dying daily to self, showing others that the Lord Jesus is to be desired more than anything else—then others will see, and learn, and will find their total satisfaction in the Lord and will be content in whatever situation He places them (2 Corinthians 12:9).

Keys to a Growing Christian Life¹

- ↪ Focus on becoming more like Christ. Our relationship with Christ is based on confessing and repenting of our sins, then accepting the forgiveness purchased by Christ on our behalf.
- ↪ Like Jesus, we must focus our life on God’s glory, not our own.
- ↪ God is most glorified when we find our complete satisfaction in Him alone.
- ↪ Part of finding our satisfaction in God alone is to be content in whatever situation He places us.
- ↪ To be content, we must trust in God’s goodness.

Conclusion

Piper reminds us that if we seek our complete satisfaction in the Lord, we will see His wisdom, worth, beauty, goodness and power in His glory, even when we suffer the loss of everything else. We need to pray that the Lord will satisfy us with Himself.¹

In the summer of 1977, I did so well, not just because of the long periods I spent reading my Bible, nor just the wonderful writings of Amy Carmichael, nor just the wonderful way God provided for my needs. God used these means to teach me to trust Him in every situation. Instead of fighting to keep my situation the way I wanted it, I found myself content with the situation in which my Lord had placed me. I could rest in Him and trust Him to work it all out. Instead of looking to external things to satisfy me, I found my satisfaction in the Lord and in Him alone. The Lord opened wide the gates of Heaven to shine His glorious light into the darkness that filled my life.

It is only when we look to Him to satisfy our needs, as we are content in whatever situation He places us, that His glory will shine in and through us, declaring His glory to whomever we may meet—to the praise of His glorious grace. ~lad



I PRAISE YOU
BECAUSE I AM FEARFULLY & WONDERFULLY MADE

Psalm 139:14

*...wonderful are
your works;
my soul knows
it very well.*

~Psalm 139:14 (ESV)

“A loving, devoted, spiritual family not only is a great joy and strength to its members but also strengthens and blesses those around it.”

~John Mac Arthur³

Fearfully & Wonderfully Made

The medical facts
to consider

Invisible Chronic Illness (ICI)

Some of the most devastating diseases or disorders are what would be termed as invisible chronic illnesses. Many people have been sick and in pain for months, going from one specialist to another, but no one can figure out the reason for their distress. Without a definitive diagnosis, some people begin to question whether what they are experiencing is real, or it is “all in their head.” Once a diagnosis is finally found, some people make another round of physicians, looking for the right treatment.

Many ICIs affect people’s ability to work fulltime. Stress on their working conditions can result in the loss of their job and/or career. If they are a male with a family to provide for, when they find it impossible to work they discover that they are now also traumatized by their circumstances. When they apply for Social Security Disability, they discover that they may have as long as 2 years of applying and appeals before it is awarded. In the meantime, they may consume whatever financial savings they may have, just to have food and a place to live. If they have no savings, in addition to losing their home and possessions, welfare and food stamps may be the only way to survive.

Common Characteristics of ICIs

To every rule there is an exception, but what follows are some of similar characteristics you may see in most ICIs.

- ▶ **Invisibility:** Often we cannot see that a particular individual has an ICI. These disorders usually do not require external assistance such as a wheelchair, walker or cane. It is only as you get to know the person that you learn about their chronic health problems.
- ▶ **Difficult to diagnose:** An accurate diagnosis of some ICIs is often difficult. Symptoms are sometimes so nebulous that their existence is questioned.
- ▶ **Intervals of Illness:** Between flares or attacks, the person often feels and looks normal.

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I have told how the stock phrase about “enforced rest” rankled on a day when half of my kneaded matter was held fast in iron, and the other half lay in a lassitude that was very far from rest. Another of those flying words addressed to the sick came in letter occasionally; it was about being “laid aside.” It was the sort of thing one might say to a cracked china cup: “Poor dear, you are laid aside.” But then the Lord’s servant is not a china cup. He (she) is a soldier. Soldiers may be wounded in battle and sent to hospital. A hospital isn’t a shelf; it is a place of repair. And a soldier on service in the spiritual army is never off his battlefield. He is only removed to another part of the field when a wound interrupts what he meant to do, and sets him doing something else...

No soldier on service is ever “laid aside”; he is only given another commission, sometimes just to suffer (we are not told yet the use of that), sometimes, when pain and weakness lessen a litte, to fight among the unseen forces of the field. Never, never is he shelved as of no further use to his Beloved Captain.

*~Amy Carmichael
(Rose from Brier)*

▶ **Secondary Illnesses, Weakened Defenses and Progressive Decline:** With time, damage occurs to the body, resulting in additional diseases and disorders. One disease weakens the body’s ability to fight off additional disorders. Side effects of medications result in other problems. For example, reduced mobility, and chronic use of steroids can lead to early osteoporosis (brittle bones). Another example concerns people with diabetes who may not “look” disabled, but their limitations are real and can become more visible as the body breaks down. Diabetes can result in damage to the nerves in their extremities and blood vessels throughout the body. This results in difficulty walking, requiring the use of braces and canes. Since diabetics do not heal well, so foot ulcers or other injuries to limbs can result in amputations.

▶ **Chronic pain:** This is a component of many ICIs, including arthritis, nerve damage (disc disease, radiculopathy, etc.) and fibromyalgia. Recent legislation is improving the recognition and treatment of both acute and chronic pain. Pain management centers provide a full program of various components to try to bring chronic pain under control. Remember that these pain centers may not necessarily help everyone because of individual physiological differences.

▶ **Fatigue:** One of those nebulous symptoms that can be very distressing is fatigue. It often accompanies many ICIs. Chronic pain can cause fatigue, and fatigue contributes to brain fog (see below). Chronic Fatigue Immune Dysfunction Syndrome (CFIDS) takes fatigue to the extreme, causing considerable physical and emotional pain. To compare CFIDS to “just feeling tired” only minimizes the extent of the disorder and how people may feel.

▶ **Brain fog:** Many ICIs cause cognitive dysfunction and short-term memory loss. Chronic pain will result in brain fog, where word retrieval and memory take a back seat to coping with the pain. Ask my husband about the times when I run out of words to describe and name things, even everyday objects.

▶ **Denigration and belittling:** Sometimes a person with ICI is stigmatized with a label such as a “gold brick,” “lazy,”

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“hypochondriac,” etc. Since people with ICI can usually “pass” as able-bodied, they often get comments such as, “But you look so good!” and “You must be doing better, your color is good.” Comments like these only tell women that their make-up covers well for how they really feel.

Ministering to People with Invisible Chronic Illness and Similar Disabilities

More than likely you already know of a number of people who live with an ICI. So how can you minister to them? The following are some suggestions.

- ▶ **Pray for them!** The greatest battle is won on our knees. People who suffer know when others are lifting them up before God’s throne, and their lives are better for God’s powerful support. As you get to know them, ask specifically how you can be praying for them.
- ▶ **Listen to them!** Listen and leave your suggestions for a cure for some other time. Listen to understand and comprehend what their life is like. It is difficult to hear about the pain and limitations that fill people’s lives without trying to “fix” them, but doing so is probably the greatest gift you can give. When they share their burden with someone who cares for them, it is amazing how much better they may feel.
- ▶ **Be a part of their lives in whatever way you can.** A phone call can cheer up a difficult day. Send simple notes to say you are praying for them. Study God’s Word together. Be prayer partners. Go places together. Serve others together. Glorify God together.

~lad

*Who am I? They...tell me
I bore the days of
misfortune equitably,
smilingly, proudly, like one
accustomed to win.
Am I then really that which
other men tell of?
Or am I only what I myself
know of myself?
Restless and longing and
sick, like a bird in a cage.*

~Dietrich Bonhoeffer
(quoted in *Sick and Tired
of Feeling Sick and Tired*)



When anxiety was great
within me, your consolation
brought joy to my soul.

P s a l m 9 4 : 1 9



Now you are
the body of Christ
and individually
members of it.
~1 Corinthians 12:27
(ESV)

When thy soul is in
distress,
Think upon His
faithfulness.
~Amy Carmichael
(Toward Jerusalem)

One Body... Many Members

Serving one another in the
Body of Christ

Loneliness in the Body of Christ

Who are the lonely?

It is difficult to know who is lonely in our churches. And remember that people we would expect to be lonely because of their circumstances might not necessarily feel that way. There are people in our churches who may not have to live with disability or chronic illness, but a face similar struggle with loneliness. The following is a list of circumstances that people in our churches may experience. It is not an exhaustive listing but it is designed to alert you to some of these suffering saints in your midst, and how you can reach out and minister to them.

- ▶ **Singles** might be lonely especially when there are no healthy relationships in their lives. This group includes widows, divorced people and single parents.
- ▶ **Elderly** people might be lonely for a number of reasons; for instance, the elderly may be lonely because their spouses have died, because they depend on other for mobility and transportation, or because their children live far away. Single and childless elderly are especially prone to loneliness.
- ▶ **Institutionalized** people live in nursing homes and assisted living facilities. This situation separates them from the community and our churches. Those with dementia or Alzheimer's disease can be especially lonely.
- ▶ **Shut-ins** are people who have become captive in their home when their mobility and health decline. They usually do not make it to worship services and other church activities. They are left home alone when their caregivers are at work, or they spend whole days alone when there is no consistent caregiver.
- ▶ **Disabled and chronically ill** people are left alone by friends and family who would rather not be in contact with them. Transportation difficulties and low energy, strength



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and stamina levels compound their isolation. They may have little contact with other people with similar problems. In a world of able-bodied people, they feel like outsiders and often feel misunderstood.

▶ **Internationals and Minorities** are often isolated from other people with similar backgrounds. International students may be especially lonely, since they are usually away from their families.

Circumstances and Problems of the Lonely

Again, this is not an exhaustive list and you may know of some other problems in people who are lonely.

▶ **Isolation:** being left alone fosters feelings of being unwanted. Also, isolation makes it difficult to determine whether a feeling is valid or is a result of the isolation. People who are isolated from others can lose touch with reality. For example, because she lived alone, my husband's grandmother lost track of what was real and what she had just seen in a dream. This made conversations with her an adventure in discernment.

▶ **Lack of mobility and/or transportation:** contributes to the isolation of the elderly, disabled and chronically ill. Often the only time they get out is to see a doctor. This is a particular problem for those who have had to stop driving because of physical and mental deterioration. The ability to drive means freedom, and the loss of this ability feels like imprisonment. Many find Paratransit a poor and increasingly expensive substitute.

▶ **Depression:** the result of isolation, feeling powerless to change their situations, and feeling misunderstood can result in deep depression.

▶ **Anger:** Sometimes anger is depression turned inward. The lonely may also be angry at situations that cause their isolation, at the loss of ability, and at various forms of injustice, and even discrimination.

I
— was —
THIRSTY
— & —

— you —
GAVE ME
something to
DRINK.
MATTHEW 25:35

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A Historical Perspective

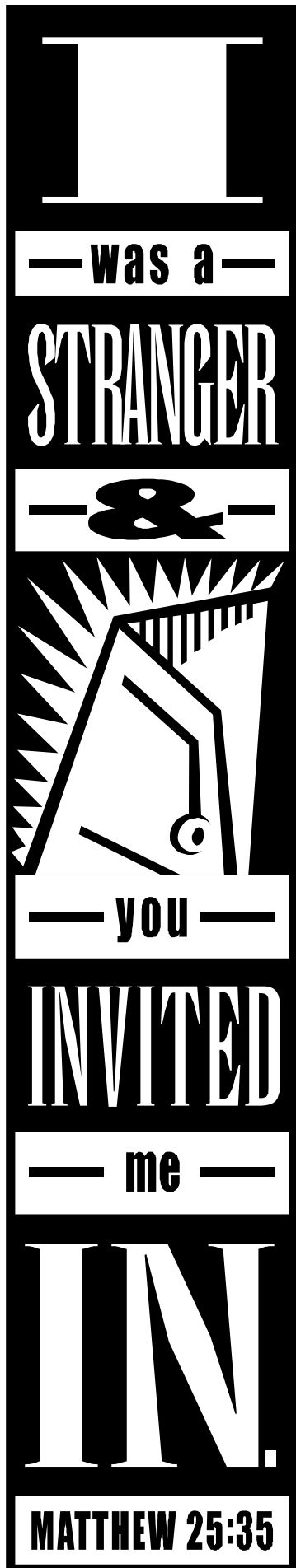
It all goes back to Genesis. In Genesis 2:18 we are told, *Then the LORD God said, 'It is not good that the man should be alone.'* To fix this problem, God then created the first woman, Eve, out of the first man, Adam. Then something went terribly wrong. Sin came in to mar all of our relationships. But our loving Lord is in the business of redeeming our lives and our relationships. God has purposely placed us within families, but even then, dysfunction and sin contributes to feelings of loneliness.

Historically people were born, grew up, lived and died in the same geographical area. (See Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and their children in the Old Testament.) We used to see multiple generations in the same home. When an elderly parent could not take care of themselves, they were taken care of by their children. Today in our society, economic pressures often split up family members. This has a drastic affect on all of our familial relationships, but especially the care of the lonely and weaker members of our family.

As we look at weaker members of our society, we must remember that many of them are lonely. And many of our lonely weaker members of society are also part of a local Body of Christ. Those who have no family willing to ensure their care are today's "orphans and widows." Among the laws the Lord gave Moses, He was especially concerned about justice for the weaker members of society: *"You shall not mistreat any widow or fatherless child. If you do mistreat them, and they cry out to me, I will surely hear their cry, and my wrath will burn and I will kill you with the sword, and your wives will become widows and your children fatherless."* (Exodus 22:22-24 ESV) Notice how seriously God values these lonely weaker members of His family.

Moses tells us *"He executes justice for the fatherless and the widow, and loves the sojourner, giving him food and clothing. Love the sojourner, therefore, for you were sojourners in the Land of Egypt."* (Deut. 10:18&19 ESV) David tells us more about God's role with these lonely weaker members: *"Father of the fatherless and protector of widows is God in his holy habitation. God settles the solitary in a home..."* (Psalm 68:5-6a ESV) One of the reasons God gives for sending Israel into exile was their mistreatment of their lonely weaker members: *"Everyone loves a bribe and runs after gifts. They do not bring justice to the*

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fatherless, and the widow's cause does not come to them.” (Isaiah 1:23b ESV)

Jesus gives us another perspective for people who are lonely when He said, *“If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him.”* (John 14:23 ESV)

Remember Psalm 23? So, how does it end? *“Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the day of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord.”* (Psalm 23:6 ESV) And in John 14:2 Jesus tells us that He is preparing a place for us in His Father's house.

The Lord seriously considers how we treat people who are unable to defend or protect themselves. We need to seriously consider how we can minister to and with people who live with disabilities and chronic illnesses, and others who go through life without a family to support and encourage them.

We were **not** created to be alone. God created us and has redeemed us to place us in His family. The apostle Paul discussed the various responsibilities of different people in the church. Each Christian has been given gifts for ministry. Each Christian is called to serve others.

Debbie's Story

Debbie was born with a number of congenital defects. When her mother saw the “monster” she gave birth to, she deserted the child and her husband. Debbie's father raised her and got her set up in a home of her own, working to make it accessible. Once she was out on her own, her father became increasingly distant.

One night I went with Debbie and several other people to a meeting of a secular handicapped access group. After the meeting Debbie broke down, weeping uncontrollably. Eventually she was able to tell us her story: her father had remarried, but he refused to tell his new wife about his severely disabled daughter. The people Debbie needed the most selfishly refused to allow her to be part of her own family. Debbie was devastated. She was now an orphan.

Over time I learned that Debbie found a new “home” in her church family. She loved Jesus and loved to sing His praises, knowing all the verses to a large number of hymns. She was “adopted” by the people in her church, who loved and accepted her. She was an orphan, given a new home by

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“Loneliness definitely has an adverse affect on our well-being. Over the last few decades, medical research has found that people who don’t regularly enjoy meaningful relationships with God or others are likely to have lower levels of health. Lonely people are at greater risk for heart attacks, ulcers, strokes, infectious diseases, many types of cancer and other life-threatening illnesses.”
~Dr. Walt Larimore⁴

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her loving Lord and Savior.

Debbie’s experience is not unusual. Also, those people with disabilities who have been placed in institutions such as nursing homes and other special homes are often forgotten by friends and family, making them a type of orphan.

Another Church’s Story

The Reformed Presbyterian Church in Ephrata, PA has developed a disability ministry in which people in the church come alongside people and families in crisis and with long-term needs, especially families with disabled children. People commit to partner with or temporarily “adopt” people in need. As people minister their lives are blessed in ways they cannot express.

How Can We Help?

Some things we can do to help people who are lonely and isolated include:

- ▶ **Pray for people who are lonely.** Ask for guidance as to what God may be calling you to do.
- ▶ **“Adopt” someone who lives alone,** or adopt a couple who do not have a local family to be part of, who can spend holidays and special occasions with you. This can be either official or unofficial. Try it for a year and then reevaluate.
- ▶ **Be a friend** by calling, visiting, and sending cards.
- ▶ **Get involved in ministries in your church.** Tenth Church has ACTS Ministry and Grace Ministry. ACTS Ministry works with several groups of people who are lonely including homeless, single and divorced parents and those who live in nursing homes. Grace Ministry has a support group of people with disabilities and can always use able-bodied helpers.
- ▶ **Put together a team of people to rotate these responsibilities:**
 - ▶ Regularly visit people who live in nursing homes and assisted living facilities.
 - ▶ Provide transportation to church, shopping, outings to museums, or picnics, etc.

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▶ Help with household chores such as repairs, cleaning, baking, mowing the lawn, shoveling us out, etc.

When you go to help a particular individual, identify someone who may be a good match, in personality and characteristics. Church leaders, parish leaders and pastor may help in this process. For example, a family with children is not really helping someone who finds children to be a bit too much. Then, choose what would work best for you on a regular basis. Don't try to do too much to begin with, until you get a feel as to what you can reasonably do.

If you are lonely...

First become active in your church. (Here at Tenth we have a growing number of ministries you can become involved in.) When we minister to other people, our own problems seem smaller, especially loneliness.

Second, it is also important that you be in a small group Bible study. The people there will probably be closer to you geographically, and many small groups act as "family" for people who have no other supportive relationships.

Conclusion


Consider how you would feel if you were alone, for whatever reason, and how you would want others to minister to you. We live in a society of increasing isolation. Some people prefer it this way, but there are others who go unnoticed and ignored, yet they are still our brothers and sisters in Christ. Our Savior has placed us within the Body of Christ, to minister and to receive the loving care of others. The key is selfless service, serving as if you were ministering to Jesus Himself. ~lad

*Thou has not that,
My child, but thou has Me,
And am not I alone
enough for thee?
I know it all, know how
thy heart was set
Upon this joy which
is not given yet.*

*And well I know how
through the wistful days
Thou walkest all the
dear familiar ways,
As unregarded as
a breath of air,
But there in love and
longing, always there.*

*I know it all; but from
thy brier shall blow
A rose for others.
If it were not so
I would have told thee.
Come, then, say to Me,
My Lord, my Love,
I am content with Thee.
~Amy Carmichael
(Rose from Brier)*

But those who hope
in the Lord will
renew their strength.
They will soar
on wings like eagles;
they will run
and not grow weary, they will
walk and not be faint.



I S A I A H 4 0 : 3 1



For the ministry of this service is not only supplying the needs of the saints, but is also overflowing in many thanksgivings to God.
~2 Corinthians 9:12 (ESV)



Equipping the Saints

Resources to grow and minister

The following are several resources to assist you in learning more about the three subjects presented in this issue: (1) finding your satisfaction and contentment in the Lord alone, (2) Invisible Chronic Illness, and (3) ministering to lonely people in your church. This is not an exhaustive list, but will help get you started. Most of the books can be obtained through your local Christian book store, on-line at Christian Book Distributors and used editions can be found at Powell's Bookstore online. This month we have several different categories where you can find the resources you need to put what you have read into action: key websites, a new magazine, and other publications. ~lad

Key Websites:

1. Rest Ministries

<http://www.restministries.org>

National Annual Invisible Chronic Illness Week

Rest Ministries is a Christian organization that serves people who live with chronic illness or pain. Founded in 1997 by Lisa Copen, who has rheumatoid arthritis and fibromyalgia, the web site www.restministries.org receives over 50,000 visitors per month. Free daily devotionals by others with chronic illness are available (www.restministries.org/pro-devotions.htm). One of the programs, HopeKeepers® consists of over 200 support groups throughout the U.S. and beyond. Rest Ministries is also the sponsor for *National Invisible Chronic Illness Awareness Week*, held annually in September (www.invisibleillness.com). Copen has authored several books and Bible studies, including a devotional book "Mosaic Moments" (www.comfortzonebooks.com) and "A Woman's Health Resource Journal" (<http://www.restministries.org/hj/home.htm>). (From website)

2. The Invisible Disabilities Advocate

www.invisibledisabilities.com

"Helping People Understand Chronic Illness and Pain!" IDA publishes a booklet: *But You LOOK Good: A Guide to Understanding and Encouraging People with Chronic, Debilitating Illness and Pain*

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Cost: \$3.95 includes postage in the USA.

Checks payable to "W Connell"

Send orders and check to:

IDA, 41553 Madrid Drive, Parker, CO 80138

Started by Wayne and Sherri Connell

This is a website with a wealth of information concerning invisible disabilities. "The Invisible Disabilities Advocate is not an organization or a business. The title is used solely to signify the desire to educate others about disabling illness."

~lad

New Magazine!

HopeKeepers Magazine.

A new publication from Rest Ministries.

The premier issue, January/February 2004, includes:

- ▶ Interview with Renee Bondi as she shares where she found hope after her tragic accident.
- ▶ Article: How Can I Get a Copy of My Medical Record?
- ▶ Article: What I Wish My Pastor Understood About Chronic Illness
- ▶ Article: Talking to Your Spouse About Your Illness: How Much is Too Much?

Subscription: \$17.97/1 year; \$35.00/2 years

Sample copy: \$3.00

Send Checks to:

Rest Ministries, P.O. Box 502928, San Diego, CA 92150

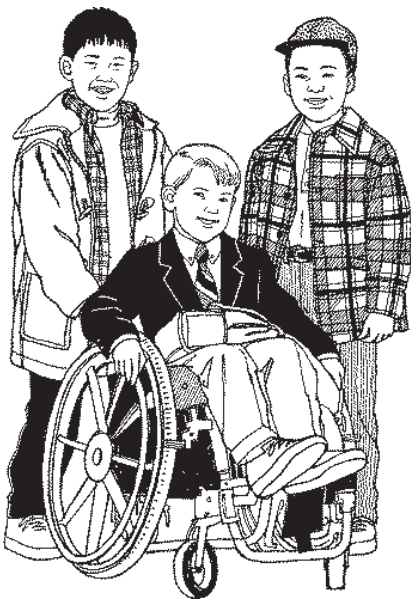
Other Publications:

1. Books by Amy Carmichael:

His Thoughts Said...His Father Said was my first book, a gift from a classmate when I became a Christian in 1967. From the first page, Amy's writing struck a chord of recognition in my heart which has enthralled me for over 30 years.

Rose from Briar was instrumental in the early days of my disability. The last 20 years of Amy's life were spent confined to bed, in almost constant pain. She wrote this book during that time. She died in India among her beloved children in 1951. Knowing that she had spent such a difficult time in the Lord's care, has been an encouragement to me.

Gold Cord is the story of Dohnavur Fellowship, the ministry Amy started to save the Indian children from service



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to the temple gods.

Other books by Amy Carmichael are:

Candles in the Dark

Edges of His Ways

Figures of the True

God's Missionary

Gold by Moonlight

If

Learning of God

Thou Givest... They Gather

Toward Jerusalem (collection of Amy's poetry)

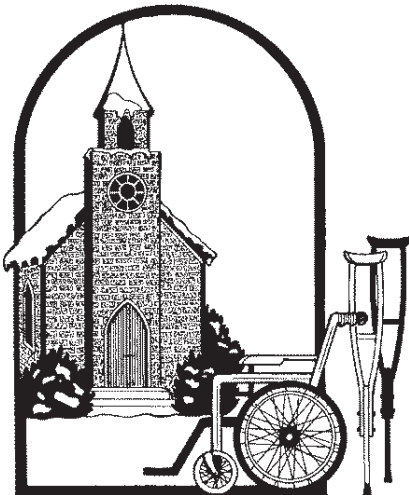
Whispers of His Power

Each of these books is still in print and some are also available as used books on the Internet. All are published by the Christian Literature Crusade (CLC) in Fort Washington, PA.

I recently was able to purchase a used copy of *Pools and the Valley of Vision*, one of Amy's books which is no longer in print. In the dedication she writes, "For the grieved and the bruised in heart who see no light anywhere, because of the sorrow of the world." Inside I found a special jewel:

*Lover of all, I hold me fast by Thee,
Ruler of Time, King of Eternity;
There is no great with Thee, there is no small,
For Thou art all, and fillest all in all.*

And now you can see why I love Amy's writing and find it so wonderfully enriching. ~lad



2. *A Chance to Die: The Life and Legacy of Amy Carmichael* by Elisabeth Elliot published by Revell. Ms. Elliot tells Amy's story in a wonderful way. "In a far more secular and self-preoccupied time Amy Carmichael's vision of the unseen and her ardent effort to dwell in its light, making any sacrifice for its sake, seems hardly believable, let alone worth trying to imitate." (From the book cover.)

3. *The Chronic Illness Experience: Embracing the Imperfect Life* by Cheri Register, published by Hazelden Information and Educational Services. This book covers in detail the various problems of people who live with many types of chronic illnesses. I first came across this wonderful book in the 1980s under a different title. Even though it is a secular publication, it does have some insights from which we can benefit. ~lad

Continued on page 16

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newsletter before using in other materials.

(ESV) refers to The Holy Bible: *English Standard Version*. 2001 (Electronic Edition) Wheaton: Good News Publishers.

4. *Sick and Tire of Feeling Sick and Tired: Living with Invisible Chronic Illness* by Paul J. Donoghue, Ph.D. and Mary E. Siegel, Ph.D. published by W. W. Norton & Company. Another good secular book. Interestingly, Dr. Donoghue has also written a Catholic book about Jesus.

5. *What to Do When You Don't Know What to Say* by Mary Ann Froehlich and PeggySue Wells published by Bethany House. A small book I discovered to be very helpful. The authors provide a number of great suggestions on how to minister, using stories.

Do you have a resource that has helped to educate you or has ministered to you in a deep and special way? Write and tell us about it for a future Equipping the Saints edition. ~lad

End Notes:

¹ Piper, John "Counseling with Suffering People," *The Journal of Biblical Counseling*, Volume 21, Number 2, Winter 2003.

² Carmichael, Amy *Gold Cord*, published by Christian Literature Crusade.

³ Mac Arthur, John *1 Corinthians: the Mac Arthur New Testament Commentary*, Moody Press.

⁴ Larimore, Dr. Walt "From the Experts," *Focus on the Family*, February/March 2004.

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Editorial Note:

“Best laid schemes...” (Robert Burns)

I must apologize for not publishing these newsletters as originally planned. My reasons are complicated: First, there are my own limitations, as a person who lives with several disabilities and chronic illnesses; Second, is the process I must go through to research and then write up topics which have been chosen specifically because of their importance to those of us in the disability community. None of these topics are easy to fully comprehend. Prayerfully, what I do give you will whet your appetite to learn more. My own knowledge is flawed and incomplete, so I invite anyone to help me learn.

My prayer is that each of us will grow and learn, and that we will put that knowledge to work in our attitudes and actions. ~lad

*In the next issue of
Jars of Clay...*

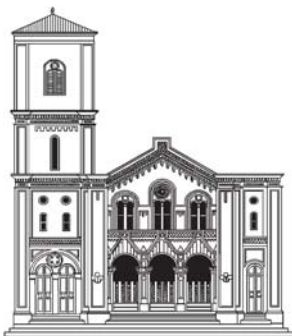
Starting a new series on
*Myths and
Misunderstandings,*
with Special Issue 7.

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<http://www.tenth.org/grace/index.htm>

Any questions, comments, problems, or feedback are greatly appreciated!


Grace grows best in winter

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