



LET'S VISIT

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THE STORM OF DISCOURAGEMENT

Don't let your defeats defeat you, don't lose your song. That is something a minister must learn to say to people. He also has to learn to say it in many different ways. You see, there are some things that never happen in the life of a preacher. No one has ever called me to say, "This is such a happy day in my life, I wanted to call and tell you all about it". I have never picked up the phone to hear the voice on the other end say, "My marriage is so perfect, and we are so happy, I just wanted to share it with you". Then again, I have never had anyone walk in my office to tell me, "God has so abundantly blessed me, I have more money than I can ever spend, so I wanted to know what projects of the church I could go ahead and pay for so that we could get started." Those are just not the kind of things I hear about.

You see, the preacher hears about the heartaches and broken dreams. He hears about the disappointments and the defeats. He hears about those who have lost their song. It seems everybody is in some way defeated in life. As a matter of fact, everyone is. Some have had harder defeats than others. But, along the way, everyone meets defeat.

Life is not a series of unbroken victories. Most of us would confess that if we are honest. Generously mixed in with our triumphs are many defeats. Sometimes we fail when we have done our very best. Sometimes we fail because we didn't do our best. For all of us, there are disappointments and discouragements. There are times when the song is gone from our hearts. The pressures of life snatch our song. Then, some morning we wake up and realize it has been a while since we caught ourselves singing.

I think the Psalmist found himself in that situation in Psalms chapter 40. He has been bogged down by

the problems he faced. He has let his defeats defeat him. Apparently he has lost his song. For him, life was the pits. David tells us in Psalm 40:2 he has been in a horrible pit. It may have been when Saul drove David from the palace and pursued him in jealousy. Or it could have been when David's own son Absalom went against him in battle. Then, possibly his pit was the grief he suffered when Amnon violated his half-sister Tamar.

Whatever the pit may have been, it was uncomfortable. It was dark and wet and slimy. It was impossible for him to get out of it without help. Right now, as you are reading this, you might be in a pit. Remember the humorist Erma Bombeck? She wrote a book, "If life is a bowl of cherries, Why am I always in the pits?" Maybe for you, life seems to be the pits. The pit is the breaking point for the overworked man or woman in business. It is the outer limits of exasperation for the mother of constantly crying children. It is the grinding stress of illness for ourselves or those we love. The pit of our life is anything that causes a sense of helplessness and desperation.

God placed David on the Rock. There is no secure footing in a dark, muddy, slimy pit. If you can't stand up, you can't escape. When you're in the mud, the more you squirm, the deeper you sink. You're stuck! Overwhelmed by his rescue, when

(Continued on page 2)

In Search of the Lord's Way



Tune in to this Television Ministry
KSHV 45 - Shreveport - 7:30 a.m. Sunday
DISH channel 239 - 6:00 a.m. Sunday
DIRECT TV channel 307 - 6:00 a.m. Sunday

Gathered Here and There



Miracle Drugs For The Soul

For The Pantry. . .

September 6 – Paper Towels/Napkins



**August 30, 2026
\$ 2,469.00**

The Lord's plan of giving ... "as ye have prospered"

Storm of Discouragement – Continued from page 1

David thought of God's deliverance, he thought of a rock. He wouldn't have to sink anymore. He could freely move about, unrestricted on a sure foundation.

Living life inevitably brings pits. Slimy, watery, sticky pits. We must firmly plant our feet on Jesus, the solid rock. David was not defeated by his defeats. God lifted him out of the pit and put a new song in his heart.

God did not create us to be defeated and silent. He created us to conquer and sing. We sing in the shower, and we whistle while we work. All of us have at some point paused to listen to a bird chirping in the trees. When we sing, we may sound like two cats having a near death experience but by nature we love to sing. No one helps us understand this better than David. As a young shepherd boy, David would play on his harp while he tended sheep. Later in life, he played the harp so well that it quieted the weary soul of Saul. David knew the song and the music, but he had not yet experienced the new song.

We may sing songs when we are in a hole in the ground. The songs we sing then are sad songs.

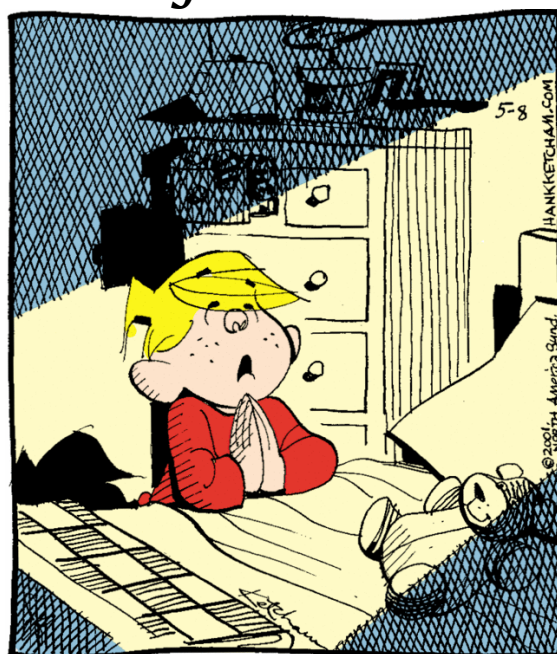
Songs about tragedy, misfortune, sorrow and grief. Songs about anger and bitterness. But when we get out of the pit, we want to sing a new song. It's a song of praise to the living God.

Well, what do we have to do to sing that new song? Have you ever taken a good look at the book of Hebrews? It was written to a small band of people who were discouraged. People who had lost their song. People who were in the pits of life. They had been converted from Judaism to Christianity. When they left their own group, their old friends and even their own families had turned against them. They found it hard to make a living and they faced bitter opposition.

The book of Hebrews contains the most eloquent statement on faith ever recorded. Chapter 11 begins by telling us that faith is the substance of things hoped for and the evidence of things not seen. The writer then goes on to tell of the struggles of great people in history and how by faith they won the victory. They were lifted out of the pits and their song was restored. To the Hebrew Christians, the writer is saying hold on to your faith and you will not be finally defeated. As chapter 12 begins, the writer tells them to look to Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith. When you are discouraged, when life is the pits, look to Jesus.

tp

On The Lighter Side. . .



"YOU KNOW WHO STEPPED IN THE WET CEMENT,
AND I KNOW, BUT DO WE HAFTA TALK ABOUT IT?"



September 13, 2026

Make Your Plans To Be Here!

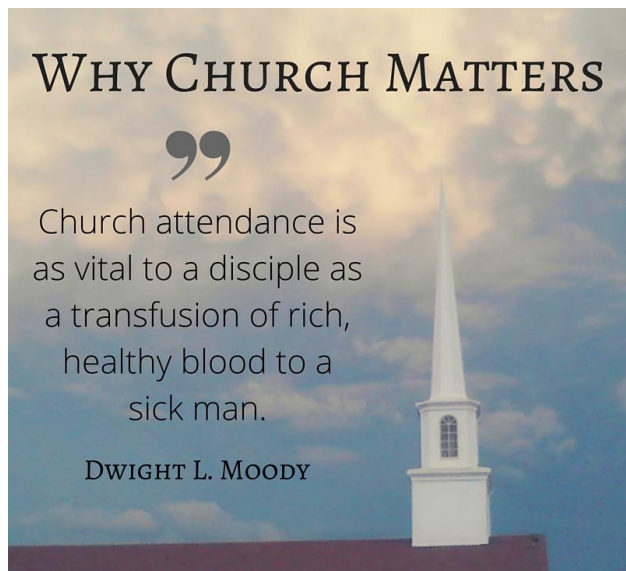
Invite Others To come be our guest!

Let's Have a Great Day to the Glory of God



Make your plans to join us on **Wednesday, September 30, 2026** when we will meet at 6:00 for our fellowship meal and followed by singing at 7:00 p.m.

If you don't want to come and share the meal, **PLEASE** plan to come and join us for the singing.



OUR "CHURCH FAMILY"

Cissy Amos, Stanley Amos, LaJuan Baugh,
Gene Bradshaw, Martha Bradshaw, Martha Jean Golden,
LaResa Livingston, Mike Lout, Debra Pate,
Jerry Pate, Betty Willis

"EXTENDED FAMILY" AND FRIENDS

Tami Abernathy (friend of Isaiah & Amanda Molloy hospitalized) **Leslie Adams** (friend of Diedra Hughes) being treated for brain cancer; **Peggy Baylor** (Tim Bradshaw's mother) **Debra Clifton** (friend of LaResa Livingston) **Norma Cortez** (Manny Ortiz mother) **Coleen Dickerson** (friend of Cissy Amos with leukemia) **Hugh and Pat Fletcher** (Sarah Fletcher's brother and sister-in-law dealing with multiple health issues) **Joyce Fontenot** (Debra Pate's mother) **Pat & William Ford** (cousins to Martha Bradshaw) **Dot Grant** (Friend of Debra Pate) **Suzi Hogan** (Mike Bostick's sister-in-law) **Albert Magby** (Melonie Bradshaw's father) **Karen McCormick** (friend of Sarah Fletcher) **Doug "Goob" Milford** (cousin of Amanda Molloy) **Calvin Smith** (Debra Pate's uncle); **Heather Simmons Stewart** (Friend of Cissy Amos) cancer; **Max Windham** (Friend of LaResa Livingston) additional cancer treatments.

THOSE IN THE MILITARY AND FOREIGN SERVICE

Cole Barbee, Adam Bradshaw,
Rosie Tate and Lucas Tate

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IMPORTANT DATES FOR 2026

**Reserve these dates for important events
in the life of our Church for 2026**

December 6, 2026 – "No Excuse Sunday"
December 20, 2026 – Annual Christmas Party

Communion Preparation - September
Larry & Melonia Molloy



Across The Preacher's Desk

A preacher one time was asked if a certain man and his wife belonged to the church where he preached. His reply was, "No they do not belong to the church here. They are members but they do not belong to it."

"It's like this," the preacher explained. "Neither their time, their affection, their energy, their money, nor their influence belong to the church."

Do you wonder what kind of membership these people had in the church? The preacher said, "They came to us, and we received them in good faith, and we thought they were looking for spiritual fellowship and service. Sadly, their attendance has been so infrequent they have no sense of belonging to the church family and the church has not been a spiritual home to them. The idea of service has never entered their minds and they have never entered the church family in a real sense. Truly there is not an ounce of this man and his wife that belongs to the church. All they have ever added to the church is a name on the roll.

The tragic truth is the rolls of local churches are loaded with names that are "members only". This is their only indication of love for Christ. Is it time to do some soul searching? Is it time to decide if I really "belong to the church"? What kind of membership do I have in the local church?

it's something to think about.....tlp

**The Lord's Plan
For Evangelism –
Each one Bring one!
Will you?**