



The Newsletter For Women By Christian Women

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Redeemed

*Redeemed how I love to proclaim it!
Redeemed by the blood of the Lamb;
Redeemed thru His infinite mercy,
His child, and forever, I am.*

*Redeemed and so happy in Jesus,
No language my rapture can tell;
I know that the light of His presence
With me doth continually dwell.*

*I know I shall see in His beauty
The King in whose law I delight;
Who lovingly guardeth my footsteps,
And giveth me songs in the night.*

Chorus:

*Redeemed (redeemed)
Redeemed (redeemed)
Redeemed by the blood of the Lamb;
Redeemed (redeemed)
Redeemed (redeemed),
His child and forever, I am.*

Words: Fanny J. Crosby (w. 1882)

Music: William J. Kirkpatrick (w. 1882)



1 Peter 1:17-19

And if you call on the Father, who without partiality judges according to each one's work, conduct yourselves throughout the time of your stay here in fear; ¹⁸ knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, ¹⁹ **but with the precious blood of Christ**, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.



Redeemed

By Lorna Smith

God told Hosea to marry a promiscuous woman, Gomer, and to have children with her. He told Hosea that by doing this, he would be living out in his life the story of Israel. Israel had strayed from their love of God and appreciation for all He had done for them, and had turned to idolatry and living lives far removed from what God had wanted for them.

The prophet did as God told him, but can you imagine his heartache as the woman he married and had children with, left him for the arms of others? Every night as Hosea crawled into his bed to sleep, he was reminded that his wife had spurned his love and turned to others.

Then one day, God told Hosea to bring Gomer back into his home and take her once again as his wife. Hosea searched for his wife, and finally found her. She was dirty, her clothes were rags, and she was on the auction block to be sold. Hosea bought Gomer and brought her home with him and put her back into the position of being his wife.

This is a story of redemption. This is our story. All of us have strayed from the path God would want us to live. Romans 3:23 says, "All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." We have turned our backs on God and turned to the arms of the world and the delights therein. However, God did not stop loving us. He wanted us back at home with Him. So when we were on the auction block, deep in our sinful state, God sent His son to pay the price for our return. "But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." Romans 5:8. That price was the very life of His only begotten Son. Our redemption price was the blood of His Son.



Let us always remember how much it cost God to bring us back into His home, His church, and gratefully sing in our hearts, “Redeemed, how I love to proclaim it!”

Lorna Smith lives in Lubbock, TX



A Clean Slate

By Sally Shank

My friend Annette grew up in Munford Tennessee, in the mid-seventies. Her dad owned a feed and seed store. As the store expanded, it became a meeting place for the farmers, where they could buy a sandwich and milk while exchanging news.

One day a customer came in and couldn't pay his bill and asked if he could pay the following day. Annette's dad said, “Yes,” pounded a nail in the wall, and put the receipt on the nail. Soon the wall was filled with receipts hanging on nails.

A large company left Munford, relocating in another state. Several men lost their jobs, and Annette's dad noticed the decrease in business. He realized customers weren't coming to his store because they couldn't pay their bills.

Understanding their predicament, he made a large sign that read, “Everybody's bill is clear,” and put it in the store's front window. He wanted his customers to know he was wiping the slate clean, throwing the receipts in the trash, and giving them a fresh start.



Annette thought her dad was making a big mistake but learned a valuable lesson she never forgot when he said, “Annette, that's what Jesus did for us when he died on the cross.”

Paul told the Colossians in chapter 2: 13, 14, “When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your sinful nature, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, having canceled the written code, with its regulations, that was against us and that stood opposed to us; he took it away, nailing it to the cross.”

We all can be thankful that Jesus has wiped our slate clean at Calvary.

Sally Shank live in Oklahoma City, OK



Second Chances

By Evelyn Waite

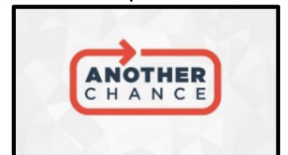
Have you ever gotten a second chance? There was a time in my life when I wandered away from the Lord's church—for six years! During those years, I was blissfully happy in my marriage and with our firstborn child (our second child had not yet been born). Spiritually, I was miserable. I knew I wasn't where I should be, and I knew I wasn't doing what I should be doing.

My Father was merciful to me. We were soon to move to another city, and already my mind was made up. I was going to return to the Lord's church as a fresh start in a new city. About two weeks before we were to move, we were hit from behind by a speeding driver on snow covered streets. My neck was injured, but it could easily have been broken! Hence, the second chance.

In the last day of Jesus' life on earth, Pilate sought to release the Man he knew was innocent. To the howling mob stirred up by the chief priests and elders, he offered to let Him go. Instead, they demanded that he release Barabbas, a known murderer and insurrectionist, while they clamored that Jesus be crucified.

Barabbas, deserving of death, was given a second chance! Have you ever wondered what he did with that chance? Was he in the crowd on the Day of Pentecost? Did he hear Peter say, “God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ.” Was Barabbas among the 3,000 baptized that day? We don't know. If he was, what a story of redemption he could have told!

What about you? Has your life been spared in an accident, a tornado, a fire, or a flood? Have you survived cancer? What have you done with your second chance?



We cannot know what Barabbas did with his second chance. You, however, can live your second chance story as a life well lived in service to Christ Jesus. What better outcome could you possibly have than **eternal life** in the very presence of God?!

A time is coming when there will be no second chances. That time will be the day of resurrection or our deaths if our lives end before Jesus calls us to meet Him in the air. As for my second chance, I am eternally grateful to God for allowing me to live long enough to return to Him and serve Him. He is my Redeemer!

Evelyn Waite lives in Rolla, MO



THE BEAUTY THAT WAS THERE ALL THE TIME

By Peggy Bailey

Are you creative? I am in awe of people who can create something from a hunk of wood or a piece of stone. I have read that sculptors say the wood or stone (or pencils as shown in the picture) speaks to them and tells



them what it was meant to be. They conceive of something in the wood or stone and bring it out. They don't see it as chipping to get

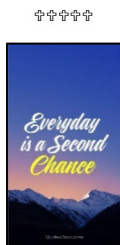
what they want. Rather, they are getting rid of what doesn't belong to reveal what is hidden in the dark inside trying to come into the light.

We need to take a lesson from that. When we look at the people in the world, we should be looking for the inner person, what is deep inside, hidden in darkness trying to get out into the light. Don't let their physical appearance fool you. Inside every person is a precious soul. It might be so mired in sin you will have to slowly, lovingly, and carefully chip away until you get rid of what never belonged and reveal the beauty that was in there all the time.

I have seen the ugliest, most misshapen piece of wood or stone become a beautiful work of art. Something that draws people to it in amazement. How much more awesome to see a beautiful soul revealed, putting away the sin and ugliness that had covered and hidden it. Let the Holy Spirit speak to you and tell you what that soul was meant to be, a beautiful child of God. When Jesus shines from us, we can draw others to the Father.

"For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified." 1 Corinthians 2:2

Peggy Bailey lives in Crosby County, Texas



I KNOW THAT MY REDEEMER LIVES!

It was a time of heavy anticipation for all of us. Our brother in Christ lay dying in a hospital several hours away. As I went to sleep, he was on my mind and in my prayers. During the night, I woke several times, each time thinking of and praying for him. Just before four o'clock in the morning, I woke again, still thinking of him. My heart was so sad to think of losing this spiritual giant.

As I lay there grieving for him and not really knowing if he was still alive or already dead, the words of an old hymn rang in my mind. I know that my redeemer lives! That is the way Junior lived his life. For as long as I knew him, he worked tirelessly teaching the gospel to the lost.

Just weeks earlier when he was very sick, he asked me to make several calls with him—just to be sure he had done his best to reach a few more with the soul saving truth. On several of those evenings, I did not "feel like" making visits. Junior was very sick and was in a long decline, yet he felt like setting up studies and conducting them! He knew that his redeemer lives, and he wanted everyone else to know that, too.

The rest of the story is that Junior did not die that night. Though he had a staph infection and double pneumonia and his kidneys had shut down, he survived! His doctor, a native of Beirut, Lebanon, later came into Junior's room and said, "Junior, I did everything I could to save your life, but your God saved you. When you are better and stronger, I want to study the Bible with you. I want to know more about your God!"

Less than three weeks later, Junior was strong enough to go home again. We thought we had lost a treasure—temporarily. It was a temporary loss if we, too, know that our redeemer lives. If we dedicate our lives to our redeemer as Junior dedicated his, that loss will someday turn to joy as we greet one another in eternity.

Junior did pass away a few months later, but we know that our Redeemer lives!

Evelyn Waite



Sunrise is a monthly newsletter written and/or assembled by members of the Rolla Church of Christ. Sunrise is printed and distributed (primarily via email) to individuals and congregations around the country. All previous issues can be accessed by going to <http://www.seekgrowserveLove.org>. Click on the Resources tab, then on Sunrise Newsletter. You will find the current issue plus all previous issues.