

Walking in Hope

December 2009

DEVOTIONAL: AWAKE! YOU CAN LISTEN AS WELL AS YOU HEAR!

By Martha Alice Hand

Have you read or heard a passage of scripture that had never taken up residence in your spirit and then one day the "light bulb" comes on?

Paul writes in Ephesians 5:14 (KJV), "Wherefore he saith, Awake thou that sleepest, arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light."

The Message Bible makes this command plain and simple:

"Wake up from your sleep, climb out of your coffins; Christ will show you the light! So watch your step. Use your head. Make the most of every chance you get. These are desperate times!"

Yes, these are desperate times for ALL of us in the Body of Christ. At least, I have felt that way in my spiritual walk as a follower of the Word. However, something was still lacking and it seemed no matter what I did or read I could not

walk forward spiritually.

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DELTA'S CORNER: "THERE WAS AN ANGEL SAYING..."

By Delta Schrade



*Delta Schrade
Metro Pastor's Wife*

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying: "Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!" So it was, when the angels had gone

away ... the shepherds said to one an-

other, "Let us now go ... and see ..." Luke 2:13-15.

During Christmas 2009, I know your family, like mine, will be doing your very best to hold to family traditions, treasure special moments, and reverently worship our Savior. I am struck by these words of Luke though in a different and strange way this season.

Some two thousand years ago, angels interrupted what had been for the shepherds a routine starry night, declaring peace and goodwill to them, and their lives were forever changed. But angels are no longer interrupting starry nights with this message of peace and goodwill ... or are they?

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RELATIONSHIPS: MY MARRIAGE

By Sharon Mayeux

Joe and I have been married for almost 20 years now, and are in full-time ministry to help build strong marriages and families, and we still have to work at our marriage. I think we all can fall into the trap of being in life-as-usual mode. I am no different.

Just recently, Joe went on a trip and was gone for over a week. I had some time on my hands and did some reading in a particular book that caught my attention. The book, *Have a New Husband by Friday*,

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BOOK REVIEW: REDEEMING LOVE

By Ashley Geringer

Have you ever felt completely alone? Have you ever felt beyond God's love? Have you ever felt your mistakes were too big to receive grace and mercy? Francine Rivers' novel, **Redeeming Love**, is about a woman with such fears.

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"Yet this I call to mind and therefore I have hope: Because of the LORD's great love we are not consumed, for His compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness ..."

— Lamentations 3:21-23.

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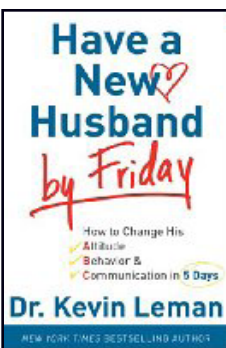
In Ephesians, Paul was speaking to the Christians. "Light bulb!" That is me. Yes, I have been asleep. It was time for me to climb out of that coffin and repent of allowing other things in my life to drown out my "Love Song" to the One who has always been there for me and Who gave His life for me. He wants me

to be INTENTIONAL in my walk and in telling others of His great love for them.

Have you been asleep? Wake up! Our Lord has an incredible walk for you in these desperate times. Once you wake up, you will never want to go back to complacency again. ♦

Martha Alice Hand was born in Birmingham, but has lived in many parts of the U.S. She once owned a Christian bookstore in Pensacola, Florida, and more recently worked as a partner in an interior design firm in Atlanta. She has three children and three grandchildren. She and her husband Darrell were mar-

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by Dr. Kevin Leman, gave me a reminder of things I already knew but some new insight as well. It's not that I want a new husband by any means, but

I do want to keep the one I have!

This book just reminded me of how important it is to be intentional about the most important relationship in my life besides God. It reminded me once again how differently men and women are wired. Not wrong. Not unequal. Just different. Our husbands are really pretty simple ... simple in the things they need most from us.

Do you know the biggest secret of all? He wants to be a good husband. He wants to please you. But he doesn't know how to do that. He needs your help.

Men are simple creatures, according to Dr. Leman. There are only three things your husband desires from you, in this order:

- 1. He needs to be respected**
- 2. He needs to be needed**
- 3 He needs to be fulfilled**

First, RESPECT is important to all of us, but it is crucially important to men, especially in today's

society. Here's the bigger issue behind respect. A man needs to feel your respect in order to love you the way you want to be loved. If he doesn't feel your respect, he won't climb out of his shell to risk loving you because he might get hurt.

Second, your husband needs to be needed—not by just anyone, but by you. When you show your husband that you need him in your world, you trigger his God-given drive to provide, to help, and to solve problems. That's what a man likes to do best. He's a natural at it. That is why your husband sometimes drives you crazy telling you that you should do this, that, and the other in certain situations.

That is his way of taking care of the problem and therefore showing he cares for you. Shut down that problem-solving mechanism, and your man no longer feels needed.

Third, he needs to be fulfilled. Sexual fulfillment affirms the very core of who a man is. It affirms his masculinity. It intensifies his drive to protect you, to care for you, to love you, to provide for you. Sexual fulfillment is extremely important to a man. Notice here "sexual fulfillment"—not just "sex." Being a sexual partner isn't enough. He needs you to be a willing partner.



Sharon Mayeux

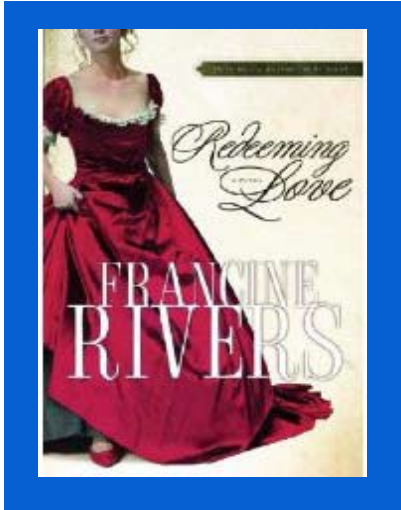
He needs to be needed. Sex is important to your husband even if it doesn't rank high on your priority list. So make time for this very important aspect of your marriage relationship.

President John F. Kennedy once said, "Ask not what your country can do for you; ask what you can do for your country." Now apply that to your marriage.

"Ask not what your husband can do for you; ask what you can do for your husband."

How would your marriage change if you applied that principle? I want a marriage that honors and pleases the Lord, and to do that, I have to work at it. ♦

BOOK REVIEW CONT'D FROM PAGE 1



Angel is a young prostitute who has seen the worst life has to offer, including rape, abandonment, and even murder, and has long given up on the existence of a loving God.

She is jaded by her circumstances and has succumbed to the belief she will spend the rest of her life alone and without hope.

Then she meets Michael Hosea, a man who loves God and practices

daily obedience to Him.

God instructs Michael to take Angel away from her life of sin and despair and marry her. Michael is resistant, but chooses to obey the Lord by marrying Angel and loving her despite her apparent anger and shame. Angel refuses to allow Michael into her heart because she believes her past has made her unlovable.

Michael perseveres and attempts to show Angel a life of faith, forgiveness, grace, and hope by seeing beauty in her broken life and opening her eyes to the Father she never knew.

Eventually, Michael realizes he must allow Angel the freedom to carve her own path in life, and Angel must decide if she will open her heart to Michael, and God, or walk away from them both forever.

Based on the book of Hosea in the Bible, *Redeeming Love* is a testament to the unyielding love

of God and the miracles that can occur when we submit our lives to Him and actively pursue His plans for our lives. This book is a one every woman should own in her personal library. It is captivating, uplifting, heartbreaking, and joyful. ♦



Ashley Geringer graduated from the University of Alabama in 2004 with a degree in Human Development and Family Studies. She and her husband Trent have a one-year-old daughter, Caroline.

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I just returned from a very memorable tour of my heritage dating back to the Revolutionary War. For Thanksgiving this year, my mother, my sisters and their families, Mark, Gabe, Josiah, and I journeyed back in time with my father as we retraced with him the places he and his family had lived. Black Jack Sanders, along with a brother and two cousins, all from England, purchased property in South Carolina in the 1700's. We walked that property, visited an old family cemetery, and even saw what remained of my great-grandparents' home. Then, we met with great-cousins and cousins "once

removed."

A few miles down the road and a little closer in time, we saw the home of my father's birth and the places where once stood his schools and the barber shop that my grandfather operated for the mill town. Then we drove up a hill to a home site where my father heard the audible voice of God saying, "Ray, Get up! I'm healing you for a testimony." He had been bedridden for over nine weeks with rheumatic fever and had deteriorated as a young boy of nine to barely 50 pounds. We saw the church where on the very night of his healing he bounded

up 21 stairs and entered through the church doors. The sight of him started a 13-week revival with over 150 people added to the little church and the Kingdom of God.

We then drove to an even earlier church that my grandmother had first been invited to attend and where she had given her heart to Christ. Shortly thereafter, my grandfather, who had been an angry, mean alcoholic, joined my grandmother and gave his heart to Christ, leaving both the disposition and the bottle behind.

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With each mile my heritage was etched deeper and deeper into my soul, and with each photo I took, I wondered what my life would have been or even if it would have been if that friend of my grandmother had not invited her to church. She may never have known, but her declaration to one has become the proclamation to tens of thousands around the world for there are four of my grandparents' descendents in full-time ministry ... all as a result of this woman's invitation to my grandmother. I am so glad she didn't stay silent, get embarrassed, or wonder what my grandmother would think of her. I am so glad she chose to speak up and face possible rejection or ridicule. I am so glad she didn't give in to fear or nervousness, but chose to interrupt the norm of my grandmother's day with an



invitation to church. Whatever the words ... whatever the method, her message to my grandmother to attend a routine church service on a starry night some seventy years ago forever changed my life. I don't even know her name, but she is the angel God used to speak "peace and goodwill" to the Sanders family.

In the hustle and bustle of all that this season brings, may we not be too busy to purposefully interrupt the routine nights of others with the message of peace and goodwill so that their lives, their children's lives, and their children's lives may be forever changed!

Merry Christmas ... and peace and goodwill to all! ♦

Sponsor A Metro Single Mom's Child for Christmas

Hello Friends, As you have probably guessed, I need your help once again. As in the the past several years, I am heading up the project of making sure the children of our Metro single moms have a happy Christmas. I have a list of 9 children to be sponsored. We try to spend about a hundred dollars on each child. If you decide to help, you will receive the child's name, age, clothes sizes, and special interest. One person may sponsor a child or you can go in with a friend or even a group and sponsor a child. We need to have everything together by December 19th so please let me know if you can help. These single moms are members of The Metro Family.

I hope to hear from you soon.

Thank You, Joni Ellard



**Monday, December 14
9:30 am
Fellowship Commons**

Metro Church WOMEN'S E-MAGAZINE

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