

**Do You Want to Be Made Well?**

*This seems like an odd question to ask someone who had an infirmity for thirty-eight years. However, our Lord Jesus Christ asked a man at the pool of Bethesda this very thing. I believe the Lord is asking us that same question today. Let's look at the Gospel according to John in Chapter 5 beginning in verse 2. It reads, "Now there is in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate a pool, which is called in Hebrew, Bethesda, having five porches. In these lay a great multitude of sick people, blind, lame, paralyzed, waiting for the moving of the water. For an angel went down at a certain time into the pool and stirred up the water; then whoever stepped in first, after the stirring of the water, was made well of whatever disease he had." I want you to imagine this scene. A pool with five porches all around it and a "multitude" of sick people, blind, lame and paralyzed who are obviously sitting or lying there waiting for the moving of the water. The word Bethesda in the Hebrew literally means "Place of Outpouring" or "House of Grace". I can picture all these people just focused on the pool not wanting to miss their opportunity to step in first and be made well. They would come back day after day just waiting for the moving of the water. I believe these scriptures and this scene around the*

*pool describes a lot of people today. You see, when I read my Bible I ask the Holy Spirit to illuminate His word so that spiritual insight would come to me. In the natural, I see this multitude of people who are "physically" sick, blind, lame and paralyzed. But in the Spirit, I see them and people today who are "spiritually" sick in their sin, "spiritually" blinded by the god of this age, "spiritually" lame to the point their freedom of movement is impaired and "spiritually" paralyzed, which is to make powerless or inactive. I see these characteristics in both the church and the unchurched. It is understandable to witness these things in those who do not confess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior but it is heart-breaking to see it in those of us who confess Christ. We know that our enemy the devil comes to steal, kill and destroy. He is a thief that comes to rob us of our spiritual strength, blind-side us with some form of deception, impair our freedom in Christ and wear us down until we are spiritually powerless and inactive. These people by the pool were waiting for the moving of the water. And the Holy Spirit is witnessing in my heart that some of us reading this message have been sitting around too long in this condition and*

*are waiting and waiting and waiting for something to happen before we rise up from whatever situation we may be in. Our eyes are focused on the wrong thing. Maybe we have a troubled marriage and our eyes are focused on our spouse and we are waiting on an apology. It may be a strained relationship with a child and we are waiting for him or her to straighten up, so our eyes are focused on our situation. It could also be that we are disillusioned with our church and its leadership and we are just sitting around waiting for something to change and in the meantime, we are consumed by it. Or it could be a besetting sin that only we know about and we don't think it is affecting anyone else so we are waiting to deal with it because we don't view it as a problem. Can I please share with us that as long as sin is our friend we will never be delivered from it. We must stop trying to manage our sin and allow Jesus to set us free from it. The devil will always take us further than we want to go and costs us more than we are prepared to spend. For example, adultery is the last act that began with a wrong thought. This sin has cost many people their marriages and families. We can't afford to play with sin.*  
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To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. We proclaim Him, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone perfect in Christ. To this end I labor, struggling with all His energy, which so powerfully works in me.

COLOSSIANS 1:27-29

[Continued from Page 1]

*Sin separates us from God, and the wages of sin is death. Can I please ask you what "pool" is it that has our attention today? Is it a pool of bitterness? Unforgiveness? Financial trouble? Disappointment? Hurt? It could be any number of things but each of us knows exactly what it is. I believe we should also ask ourselves what or who are we waiting for in regards to this situation? Are we waiting on man or the Lord? And are we waiting for someone else to make a move instead of us moving ourselves? Let us read on, starting in verse 5, "Now a certain man was there who had an infirmity thirty-eight years. When Jesus saw him lying there, and knew that he already had been in that condition a long time, He said to him, do you want to be made well?" Jesus knew that man's condition and exactly how long he had been that way. The Lord also knows our condition as it relates to us physically, spiritually, mentally and emotionally. Jesus desires for us to be made whole in our body, soul, and spirit. I believe that is part of the reason why He asked the man if he wanted to be made well. I'm kind of thinking it is an outlandish question to ask a man who had suffered thirty-eight years in this condition. But Jesus knew this man's heart and attitude and therefore saw this question as necessary for the man to examine himself. Maybe this man had accepted his condition and didn't really believe he could be well. Perhaps the man was enjoying being by the pool everyday hanging out with the multitude of sick, blind, lame and paralyzed people. The man must have*

*had somebody to take him to the pool and then carry him back home and could have been enjoying the attention he got from being needy. This man could have very likely been pampered by people due to his condition and perhaps totally given up on ever being made well. And just as this man dealt with his condition we must also deal with ours. We have to make the decision that we do want to be made well! Verse 7 reads, "The sick man answered Him, Sir, I have no man to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up; but while I am coming, another steps down before me." Here, Jesus Christ the Son of God, is standing in this man's presence and he responds that there is no man to help him. I thank God for my brothers and sisters in Christ but I cannot expect "man" to do for me what only Jesus Christ can do. Jesus did not sympathize with his excuses and He doesn't sympathize with ours either. However, we do have a High Priest who can sympathize with our weaknesses (Heb. 4:15). The man's other excuse was that another person steps down before he can get into the water. I hear this excuse a lot when people will say things like—well I was going up for prayer but about the time I was getting up "Joe Blow" beat me to the Pastor or altar worker. It's amazing to me sometimes what we will and won't wait for. If we really want a breakthrough in our condition, I believe waiting in a prayer line is a small sacrifice. In verse 8 we read, "Jesus said to him, Rise, take up your bed and walk. And immed-*

*ately the man was made well, took up his bed, and walked." It doesn't record Jesus discussing the man's excuses but rather He spoke a direct word of instruction to him. At that point the man had a choice to respond in faith to Jesus' words or stay down lying on his bed filled with excuses, doubt, and unbelief. He could keep his eyes on the pool or fix them on Jesus! Praise God he responded in faith and Jesus' healing power was manifested in his body. I pray that we will also choose to respond in faith to God's word. Whatever your situation may be that has you down, let us learn to apply these principles of scripture. We too can rise up from our troubling condition and walk in victory to the Glory of God. Now thanks be to God who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and through us diffuses the fragrance of His knowledge in every place (2 Cor. 2:14). Remember — God knows you the best yet still loves you the most!*

*Love in Christ,*

*Clark Stallings*

We will be going back to Moyewood to hold another Tent Crusade **November 21-22**. Please join us in prayer for Holy Spirit to be preparing the hearts of the people — that they would receive the Living Word and the gift of salvation through faith in Jesus Christ!

We will be providing Thanksgiving dinners for every family in the Moyewood Subdivision. There are 242 units in the neighborhood. If you would like to sponsor a family for a donation of \$15, please call 321-6857.

## God's Gracious Gift

How awesome is the Lord! He alone is worthy to be praised! It has been an exciting few months at God's Gracious Gift. We have seen the faithfulness of our Father move in so many ways. We had our ECU tent revival "Doorway to Destiny". We had an incredible time tilling the soil and planting the seeds of the Gospel. We praise God that His word goes forth and shall not return to Him void, but shall accomplish what He pleases (Isa. 55:11). We appreciate Pastor Charlie Asby and all his volunteers for helping with the altar team ministry. When the Body of Christ comes together in unity of the Spirit there is a corporate anointing that is released.

We had our first mentoring session September 29th with the transitional housing residents of the Greenville Community Shelter. We would like to thank Peter Mazzei for inviting us to partner with them in this new program. We are having our next meeting with these residents on November 17, and Keais Hoyt, with Crown Financial Ministries, will be speaking on financial stewardship. If you would like to be a part of this mentoring program, please contact me.

We would also like to thank Breakthrough Revival Center, Grace Church, and Church of the Open Door for helping us stock our non-perishable food bank. Please continue to support us through prayer and giving of resources so that we can build the storehouse and help those in need. We faithfully distribute clothes, food, and household items to help those in our community. Most of the people that come to us for help are referred to us by local churches, school social workers, and the community shelter. We would like to thank everyone who has donated items to this outreach. If you are interested in helping with this ministry, please call Aaron Kennedy at 321-6857.

# Christmas Open House



Be our guest on November 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> for our annual Christmas Open House. We will be serving refreshments and coffee in our Ministry Center. Come join us in celebrating the birth of Christ. There will be specials throughout the day at bargain prices and giveaways also. Our store is busting at the seams with exciting gifts for everyone on your Christmas list. Bless them with a gift that speaks of Christ's love.

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Marty Goetz,  
Worship leader, singer, &  
songwriter

**December 13, 2003**  
**7:00 PM**

Free Admission  
(a love offering will be taken)

- Location:**
- Hope of Glory Ministries
  - 4052 Old Tar Rd • Winterville, NC
  - (Formerly Sunshine Garden Center)

Marty has been called a modern day psalmist. His songs are scriptures beautifully set to music, leaving listeners spiritually moved, inspired and educated. He has ministered before congregations such as Jack Hayford's Church on the Way, Coral Gables Presbyterian, Chicago's Moody Church, David Wilkerson's Times Square Church, & the First Baptist Church of Kingston, New York. [His new CD is available at *The Rock*]

We Need Your Support

We ask you to prayerfully consider supporting Hope of Glory Ministries financially. Your prayers and gifts enable us to fulfill the mission God has given us. Thank you very much for your support!

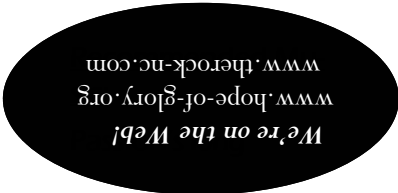
On October 16, we completed the Bible Study, *When Godly People Do Ungodly Things*, by Beth Moore. We had a blessed time together laughing, crying, and rejoicing about what the Lord has done. October 30 began our new Bible Study, *Women With An Attitude, the Beatitudes*. We are studying the Sermon on the Mount and how women of the Bible lived these beatitudes as they allowed the Holy Spirit to lead them. Come join us for the next seven weeks... it's not too late! The Lord has been knitting us together in one accord and we are having a blast in His Name!

We would like to thank all the pastor's wives for participating in our monthly breakfast. It is our honor to serve you. It is a great time of fellowship, encouragement, and blessing. We most recently heard one of our guest speakers say, "Pastor's wives are the Head Minister to the Minister". To all of the Head Ministers of the Ministers, come join us on the last Tuesday of every month at 9:15 AM to 10:30 AM. Call me at 321-6857 to give us your home mailing address so we can send the invitation directly to you.

I am reminded of the scripture in Hebrews 10:24-25, "And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching." Be encouraged and press on for our Lord and Savior is coming back!

Gina Robinson,  
Women's Ministry Outreach

If you are interested in providing food for one of our monthly Pastor's Wives Breakfast, please contact Gina Robinson at 321-6857.



Phone: 252-321-6857  
Fax: 252-756-1416  
Email: prayer@hope-of-glory.org

4052 Old Tar Road  
Winterville, NC 28590



**MISSION STATEMENT**  
To stand in the gap between our community of believers and the church, and between the church and the lost. We will come alongside these three groups to proclaim the glorious gospel of Jesus Christ and minister through Christian resources, evangelism, discipleship and community outreach.

- Needs:**
- Large-capacity Copier for Ministry Center
  - Volunteer to take photos at special events
  - Volunteer marketing assistant (call for details)

**Praise be to God who supplies all our need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus! (Phil. 4:19)**

Clark will be speaking at Pastor Tim Odom's Church in New Bern on November 5th & 19th. Call (252) 638-3168 for more info.

**Prayer Requests:**

- Powerful move of God's Spirit in all ministry services
- To have more churches join us for the next Unity in the Community Service
- More area churches to partner with God's Gracious Gift/ Approval of grant proposals
- God's direction on a Men's Community Bible Study
- God's direction on where to hold next tent crusade

**Upcoming Ministry Events:**

- Worship Service every Thursday @ 7 p.m.
- Monthly Pastor's Appreciation Luncheon (2nd Tuesday of month). Lindell Cooley will speak on Nov. 11th.
- Monthly Pastors Wives Breakfast, (last Tuesday of month)
- Nov. 11 (7PM): Lindell Cooley (Brownsville Revival)
- Nov. 20 (7PM): John & Elaine Lofton, Lofton's Covenant Ministry
- Nov. 21-22 (7PM): Moyewood Tent Crusade/distributing Thanksgiving dinners
- Dec. 13 (7PM): Marty Goetz (A Night of Worship)
- Jan. 16-17: Area Men's Conference w/ Bishop Larry Jackson

**DUE TO THE HOLIDAYS, THERE WILL BE NO SERVICE NOVEMBER 27, DECEMBER 25, & January 1**

**Salvation • Deliverance • Healings • Miracles**  
We invite you to join us every Thursday Night at 7 PM as we celebrate our risen Lord and Savior!  
Each service consists of a time of worship as we lift our voices in praise, followed by the sharing of the Word and a time of prayer, as the Holy Spirit leads.  
*"Oh, magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt His name together"*  
*(Psalm 34:3)*  
[Sermon messages taped weekly and are available at the Ministry Center]