

Set Free Update

A Monthly
Publication of
**Set Free
Ministries**



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“Not by might, nor by power,
But by my Spirit says the Lord.”
Zechariah 4:6



Spring has sprung in Michigan! The warm breezes are once again blowing and the song birds sweetly sing their melodies. I love the season of spring with all of its new life and natural beauty on full display. Such wonders reflect the glory and majesty of our creator God.

Man's greatest endeavors cannot even compare the beauty and wonder of new life springing forth from the earth during spring time of the year.

Spring is a time for planting. Farmers across this great land will begin to plow up fields and plant sowing seeds in the days to come. These same farmers will then fertilize and water these hidden seeds for many weeks to come. They look forward with anticipation to a bountiful harvest yet many months away. A farmer who knows his Lord will know it was not by his might nor by his power the fruits of the earth came forth. He gives full credit to the Lord for such.



The same is true for those who tend and work in God's vineyard, fulfilling the great commission to go make disciples of all nations. God has called many to share in this work of building His kingdom. God expects us to give our best in such work, but all who work in His vineyard must realize it is by His Spirit that men are drawn to the Lord.



In the past few years of working in God's vineyard here at SFM, we have planted many seeds of God's truth into the hearts of thousands. Today there is a bountiful planting of the Lord for the display of His splendor!

Just one example of God's bountiful harvest is found Rakai, Africa. In September of 2005, SFM team members planted seeds of God's truth at Glory of Christ Church. The Word of God sprung forth and today some 425 orphan children of Rakia come to this church for Christian schooling. They have new hope and new life! These children now dance and sing before the Lord. May all creation sing His praises!

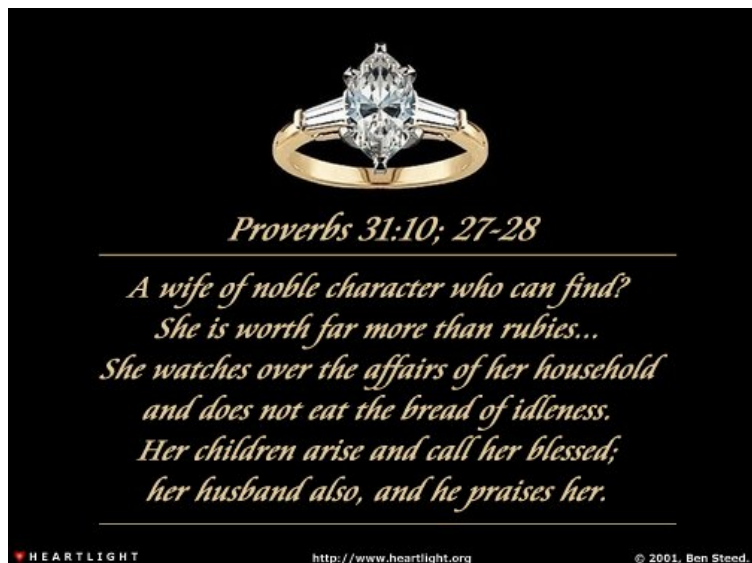
by Dean Vander Mey

GOD'S PRIORITY FOR MARRIAGE

Recently I had the privilege of being the prayer partner for an appointment with a woman who had recently been told by her husband that their marriage was over. The alarming part of her story is that she had been in ministry for many years teaching others about the truths in God's Word, yet her marriage and family were being terribly neglected. Is it possible that we are creating ministry orphans? What does God require of us? Micah 6:8 reads, "He has shown you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you, but to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God (NKJV).

It was a reminder to me that it is so easy for us to fall for the lie from the evil one that ministry should be first in our lives before anything else because it is about God. And isn't God supposed to be first? The verse in I Timothy 3:5 comes to mind, "If anyone does not know how to manage his own family, how can he take care of God's church?"(NIV). The home was the first institution that God established from the beginning of time. But too often we seek to find our fulfillment in activities outside of the home, whether they be social, religious, or work related.

Why did God institute marriage? "And the Lord God said, "It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him...And the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall on Adam, and he slept; and He took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh in its place. Then the rib which the Lord God had taken from man He made into a woman, and He brought her to the man. And Adam said: "This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called woman, because she was taken out of man. Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh" (Gen. 2:18ff, NKJV). God is our Creator, not man.



Neil Anderson, in his book entitled "Ministering the Steps to Freedom in Christ" states: "Christian marriage is a lifelong covenant with binding vows, spoken before God and human witnesses. If the vows are broken, they bring God's judgment. If they are kept, they bring God's rewards." Our families are our first ministry, but we often give them the leftovers. I believe this grieves our Father's heart because it compromises our witness and then our enemy has got what he wants. Satan's plan is to divide and conquer. And he starts at home.

My heart breaks for my sister in Christ and her family. Yet God is still working and will bring good from what satan has intended for evil, because she now sees what she was doing and is letting God search out her life and mold her into what He needs her to be for His Kingdom and His glory. It is my prayer that God would be glorified. He is much more powerful than we are. "Not unto us, O LORD, not unto us, but to Your name give glory..." (Ps 115:1, NIV).

by Terri Jasperse