



The ENCOURAGER

FEBRUARY 2022

NEWSLETTER OF THE CHRISTIAN FAMILY FELLOWSHIP MINISTRY
1575 W. STATE ROUTE 571 • TIPP CITY, OH 45371 • 937-669-3090 • CFFM.ORG

Keeping the Flow of the Spirit

Pressing Ahead in the Streams of God's Direction

Dear Family,

Life has many components — from our spiritual health to emotional and physical health. I have found that it's important to **keep the flow of the Holy Spirit in our life moving** and not allow it to be blocked or impeded by things we are going through. There are definitely stones in the brook that make it sing, and then there are boulders that seem impassible. My walk with the Lord went to a deeper level when I realized that he needed to address things with me beyond encouragement and feel-good statements. Life has an ebb and flow, and where we set our mind will direct how our life is impacted.

We are well into the new-year and by the time you read this, I will have undergone a partial right knee replacement. I was ministered to many times throughout the past ten years for the knee difficulties, but it was very clear when I heard, "It is time to get this done. It will be a little rough, but you will be OK." I have heard it in the past regarding other situations, and I don't know about you,

but I don't like surprises unless it's a gift in the form of a wrapped package!

That kind of direction isn't always what I want to hear but I know I've grown, because I'm not losing sleep over why I wasn't healed or what I may've missed. God knows our frame and the temperature of our faith. Just yesterday he said, "There's going to be some crying." I knew he meant during my recovery and therapy. As I was processing that, Pastor Carol Furman called and said, "I need to talk to you about what to expect with therapy." I'm so thankful that she called, because what she shared was the opposite of what and how I'd been trained as a nurse since it would involve "discomfort on purpose." The Lord is faithful to provide if we are listening. When we make a mistake or disregard godly communication, we say, "Lord I missed it. Thank you for your forgiveness. Now what do I need to do?"

Between the Father and our Lord Jesus, I know they have me in their hands and are working all things for good like it says in Romans 8:28.

I thought I would share some things that have helped me this past year **to keep the flow of the Holy Spirit** moving in my life even when I felt down and out. It seemed like I would overcome emotional attacks to be faced with physical ones, like not being able to walk well, or spiritual ones like receiving news about the struggles or tragedies that many of you were facing.

Psalm 86:5 (AMP-Classic)

For You, O Lord, are good, and ready to forgive [our trespasses, sending them away, letting them go completely and forever]; and You are abundant in mercy *and* lovingkindness to all those who call upon You.

Be honest with our Father God and let him know what is piling up on you. I bring it before the Lord Jesus too because he has been through the worst of the worst. With them there is never rejection — only love and kindness. Jesus understands. When he faced crucifixion, he asked the Father if there might be another way. Jesus **kept his relationship**

(continued on page 2)

... I have written to you briefly, *encouraging* you and testifying that this is the true grace of God. Stand fast in it. 1 Peter 5:12 (NIV)

flowing with the Father even though the way was set. He didn't ignore what was ahead or wait for a miracle to deliver him out of it. He chose to walk in faith, trusting that his Father had him covered. And his decisive "Yes!" changed the course of history for everyone, even for us 2,000 years later.

When I go into the throne room in my heart and mind, I know I'm in the presence of God and his Son along with the holy angels that are being sent out on our behalf as fellow laborers. When someone really loves you well, there will be times when you "need a talking to," especially if you trust them and want their help in times of trouble. Parents, friends and important people in your life should tell you what you *need* to hear, not what you *want* to hear. Are we also willing to receive truth from the Father, the Lord Jesus and the angels even if it may not be what we would prefer to hear?

Hebrews 4:16 (ESV)

Let us with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Forgiveness toward others and ourselves is easy to stay on top of when we run it through our hearts. We get it off our chest verbally and out in the atmosphere. It opens the door to receive it easier when we voice it out loud.

Unworthiness can also creep into our thoughts. It leads to unbelief and doubt in areas that we have worked to be strong in. That's why we talk a lot about "looking to Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith."

1 Samuel 30:6a (ESV)
And David was greatly distressed ...

1 Samuel 30:6b (ESV)
... But David strengthened himself in the LORD his God.

Listen to the Holy Spirit. Part of listening is being still and quiet. Listen to what you hear. It will often sound like you talking to you. When you step out on something genuine, you will realize its origin was from God's kingdom, and you will build trust and experience in walking by the Spirit.

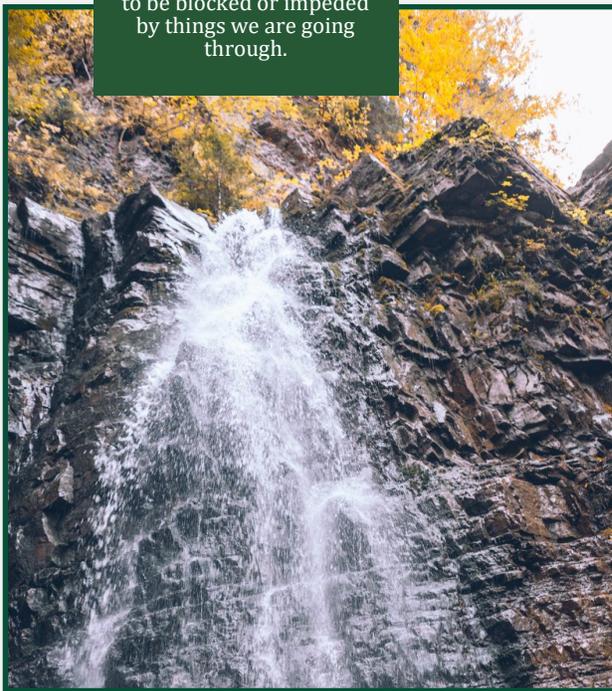
Psalms is good for comfort if we're distressed or oppressed. Sing it, confess it, write it down and live it out!

The more we can visualize ourselves in the scriptures, the closer we are to the an-

swers we need. When peace starts to infiltrate our hearts and minds, stress is backed off; then answers can break through and be realized by way of the written word and direct revelation. We mustn't allow other people's fear to get on us and affect us.

Write down the response and direction you receive. EXPECT with anticipation that you are the first in the line to be taken care of. You are important and top priority.

It's important to *keep the flow of the Holy Spirit in our life moving* and not allow it to be blocked or impeded by things we are going through.



I have made a habit personally and in helping people to work through situations to clear out confusion (that runs with fear), to identify choices, then to make deliberate decisions. That helps keep our minds settled and allows peace to reign. And find someone who can help you talk it (and walk it) through.

Don't forget to "call upon him." Sometimes we have to give up the right to understand in order to receive peace. I don't have to figure everything out. As we cast our troubles on the Lord, then "God you've got a problem!" is a good place to leave your thoughts and burdens at the end of the day.

Are our desires in agreement with the word of God and his revelation to us? Our minds can hold either disappointment or the promise of God. When I heard through my Holy Spirit what I needed to do about my knees, I had to process that, and the end result was that Jesus paid it all and he has me covered. Don't quit. Press in for more. Fear will come. You feel it but you can

ignore it. Keep going. Be determined.

We can't wait until life is *not hard* before we can be happy. We feed our hearts on what God is doing. We don't let our minds get sidetracked by what we feel God hasn't done or what doesn't seem to be happening. Sometimes there seems to be no kingdom communication and we're in waiting mode.

Asking is a big deal. What do you ask for? Everything. He will give you what you need. He might be in the process of arranging ten things to make your one request work.

When I pray, I don't pray in generalities; I get to it with detail. I check back in and ask how it's going. If there are no quick results, then I keep moving in faith. Pass the baton off to Jesus — he knows how to run the race. Agree and decree with the word of God and the promises he has revealed. No matter what happens, those are ours — signed, sealed, and delivered!

Psalms 31:19 (AMPC)

Oh, how great is Your goodness, which You have laid up for those who fear, revere, *and* worship You, goodness which You have wrought for those who trust *and* take refuge in You before the sons of men!

Psalms 42:5-6 (AMPC)

Why are you cast down, O my inner self? And why should you moan over me *and* be disquieted within me? Hope in God *and* wait expectantly for Him, for I shall yet praise Him, my Help and my God... therefore will I remember You...

This verse calls us out and then gives us details about how to make it through.

**Hope in God.
Wait expectantly for Him.
Praise Him.
Remember Him.**

The Father had Jesus on assignment, and he came through for all of us. Not only has he brought us grace and truth, but he is our **kingdom key**. We aren't waiting for him; he is here, alive and building his church. We are arm-in-arm with him, supported on all sides by his angelic forces. How proud our Father God must be to see us asking, believing and receiving... while knowing that he has much more for us than we could ask or think!

Tonia Shroyer

Senior Pastor
CFFM
Tipp City, Ohio



CALENDAR

www.cffm.org

We encourage all of God's people to get together freely and often to minister God's love and truth to each other, to cultivate spiritual maturity and to develop a meaningful faith-community.

What Can We Do for You Today?

Join our live or archived Sunday Morning Service by Live Streaming at cffm.org/live-streaming

Also enjoy past teachings on our website, podcast or YouTube channel



As Announced	TEEN FELLOWSHIP (12-18 yrs. old) <i>Hosts: Casey & Katrina MacPherson</i> <i>If interested, contact Casey at youth@cffm.org</i>	CFFM Tipp City, OH
As Announced	YOUNG ADULT FELLOWSHIP (18-35 yrs. old) <i>Hosts: Joey & Courtney Salvo</i>	CFFM Tipp City, OH
As Announced	MEN'S FELLOWSHIP <i>Hosts: Jeff Shroyer & Mark Harbert</i>	CFFM Tipp City, OH
3/25-27/22	MEN'S DISCOVERY WEEKEND <i>Guest Speaker: Jeff Jones, Oceanside, CA</i>	CFFM Tipp City, OH
4/9/22	ACTIVATE TRAINING: Love & Prophecy <i>Robert & Eva Williamson, Speakers</i> <i>\$25 per person/ \$30 with the book (Live Streaming)</i>	CFFM Tipp City, OH
4/17/22	Easter/Resurrection Sunday <i>He is Risen!</i>	Across the Body of Christ
5/13-15/22	WOMEN'S CONFERENCE CALLED TO PROPHECY <i>Instructed~Encouraged~Strengthened</i> <i>Guest Speakers: Pastors Carol Furman, Gayelee Reynolds & Julie Schaecher</i>	CFFM Tipp City, OH
7/26-31/22	YOUTH EXCELLING SPIRITUALLY YES! Camp 2022 · Our 25th annual youth camp!	CFFM Tipp City, OH
8/11-14/22	Suttle Lake Conference 2022 <i>Guest Speakers: Kevin & Sara Guigou, Ed & Jacque Horney</i> <i>Hosts: Ed & Sharon Brockman</i>	Sisters, Oregon
9/25	Open Fellowship <i>CFF Guest Speakers: Kevin & Sara Guigou</i> <i>Hosts: Houk & Sheila Hitchcock</i>	Sugarland, Texas
11/4-6/22	KINGDOM RELATIONSHIPS CONFERENCE for Married Couples & Singles! <i>Guest Speakers: Romano & Rebecca Richter-Reinhardt from Germany</i>	CFFM Tipp City, OH

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ACTIVATE TRAINING: Love & Prophecy

APRIL 9, 2022
CFFM / Tipp City, OH

Guest Speakers:

Rob & Eva Williamson

\$25 per person/ \$30 with the book (Live Streaming)

Come join the fun!

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GUEST SPEAKER—PASTOR JEFF JONES



Jeff is a pastor at The Movement Church in San Marcos, California. He also serves in several capacities, including Adult Ministries teacher and LifeGroup Leader, and he is a member of the Elder Board. Jeff is a prophetic voice for multiple ministries within San Diego County. He has been married to his wife, Gayle, for 25 years. They have six children and four grandchildren.

MAKE PLANS NOW TO JOIN US FOR THE

MEN'S DISCOVERY WEEKEND

FRIDAY, MARCH 25-SUNDAY, MARCH 27, 2022

LOCATION: Christian Family Fellowship Ministry, 1571 W. State Route 571, Tipp City, OH

WEEKEND SCHEDULE

FRI., MARCH 25	6:30 PM	Doors open
	7:00 PM	Refreshments and casual fellowship
SAT., MARCH 26	9:00 AM	Doors open
	9:30 AM	Morning session
	12 noon	Lunch on your own
	2:00 PM	Afternoon session
	6:30 PM	Dinner at Troy Country Club (casually nice)
SUN., MARCH 27	10:00 AM	Doors open
	10:30 AM	Concludes with Sunday Morning Fellowship

HOTEL INFORMATION

Holiday Inn Express — Tipp City
(937) 667-5161 (ask for CFF rate)

LaQuinta Inn — Tipp City
(937) 667-1574

Residence Inn — Troy
(937) 440-9303

Hampton Inn — Troy
(937) 339-7801

Fairfield Inn — Troy
(937) 332-1446

- \$45 per person (includes Saturday dinner)
- Live streaming: \$49 per location

REGISTRATION FORM FOR "Men's Discovery Weekend 2022" (Please print clearly and register by **March 1, 2022**)

NAME: _____ Phone _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email Address: _____ # of people: _____ x \$45/per person = Total Amount _____

Live Streaming registration: _____ X (1) location=Total Amount _____

Email Address to receive live streaming link

Total Amount Submitted with Registration Form \$ _____

Register online at www.cffm.org/events or by mail with check payable to CFFM and registration form sent to: Christian Family Fellowship Ministry, 1575 W. State Route 571, Tipp City, OH 45371 by the registration deadline, **March 1, 2022**. For more information, contact Sarah Mullens at sarah@cffm.org; phone (937)669-3090.

There is an interesting command in Philippians 4:4, “Rejoice in the Lord always and again I say rejoice.” These are the ninth and tenth uses of “rejoice” in Philippians. Although it says, “again I say, rejoice,” the word “say” is in the future tense. Many translations read “I will say again.” That’s how it reads in the Greek. “Rejoice in the Lord, and I will say again, rejoice.” That’s emphatic. Rejoice, and I’m going to say it again, rejoice! That establishes it. So, do it.

For Paul, joy was bound up with salvation and the relationship he enjoyed with God. It wasn’t based upon how things were going in his life and ministry because if that was the case, in the latter part of his ministry he would have never been joyful. He was in prison. He had blown it. He had made mistakes, but he still had tremendous joy because God still worked with him. He still had opportunities

Later it was used of anybody who fixed things like a savior or a deliverer, and over time it became used of the song extolling that savior or deliverer. E. W. Bullinger says that it was used of any solemn song of triumph. He continues to say, “so that the figure consists of a calling on others to rejoice over something instead of merely stating the thing as a matter of fact, thus emphasizing and calling attention to it.” He just doesn’t say, “Okay, I said it four or five times now, but I’m going to say it again—rejoice.” He’s calling on others to rejoice.

That “something” is what he has just mentioned. What’s he rejoicing about? What’s the big deal here? Well, he just said our names were written in the Book of Life. That’s what we can rejoice about. That’s what we have the right to sing about. It’s also rejoicing in the gladiatorial battle that’s been won... how the true yokefellow will help Euodias and Syntyche to get it together again. These were not just songs of triumph. They were war cries or battle songs. They were sung before and after the victory.



“Aquila & Priscilla Clapp”... willing to move from CFF in Ohio, to Texas, to Florida, to Colorado to Oklahoma to fulfill their callings.



to move the Word. He still had fellow laborers. God still opened doors of utterance for him, and he was able to do it, but his joy was bound up with his salvation, the relationship he enjoyed with God, and exercising his ministry.

In verses 4-7, Paul really keys on stress-free living. Everybody’s going to have pressure. We can have pressure, but we don’t have to have stress. When pressure has a negative effect on us, it becomes stress. Pressure can be a good thing. Pressure can make us better. Pressure can make us focus. Pressure can bring out the best in us. It’s that way in sports and the performing arts. The first key to stress-free living is to rejoice in the Lord.

Philippians 4:4 is an example of the figure of speech *pæanismos*. It’s from the Greek *pæan* which means “physician,” and *nismos* which is a chant. The chanting of the *pæan* is what is originally meant, and the *pæan* was first applied to the physician. Later it was broadened to any savior or deliverer. And then it was used of a song of deliverance — a triumph after victory. *Pæan* was originally used of a physician because he was the one who helped fix things.

also songs before the battle. They were war cries or battle songs. They were sung before going out.

We usually sing Philippians 4:4 as a round. We ought to also do it as a battle cry, a war song. As such, it should be sung before and after the victory. It’s a song of rejoicing, and I believe it’s in celebration of the gladiatorial contest he just talked about — how he’s rejoicing in the fact that, “*Hey, Clement and Euodias and Syntyche were with me. We fought the good fight in the arena. We had each other’s back. Yokefellow, get in there and fix this problem that they have. Hey! Our names are written in the Book of Life,*” and then he breaks into this chorus, “*Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice.*”

How unique that we sing that as a song! In my mind, it’s just so cool because that’s what it is. It’s a war cry. It’s a battle song, and it could be sung going into battle, and it can be sung after the battle is over, in rejoicing. So that’s what God had planned here. “*Rejoice in the Lord always: and again we will say...*” We could sing it in rounds. We should not stop singing it. We can just go over and over again. We can take different parts. That’s what a battle song is. Let’s sing it together in victory.

Wayne & Ferne are ambassadors on the move again. This time, they have moved to the Tulsa, OK area near their second daughter, Marlene, and her children, two of which have given them two great-grand babies. It’ll be exiting to hear about what new doors God is opening for them!

Sid is an entrepreneur who started his plumbing and mechanical contracting business over thirty years ago. He and his wife Heidi employ over thirty people in Kalamazoo, Michigan and are now devoting more of their time to ministering where the spirit directs. Sid was ordained by CFFM in 2018, during which he and Heidi received a special blessing of prosperity and have since witnessed it coming to pass in all areas of their lives.

The fruit of living in the promised land of God's provision is understanding that your desires are within your reach. It's having a sense of freedom and confidence that God in Christ in you can do anything! This way of thinking may seem unachievable at times, especially when someone has only known lack or has lived too long in "the land of just enough." Maybe this negative mindset has been engrained by parents and grandparents. Maybe this mind has never been taught that "above all things," God's absolute burning desire for his children is "to prosper and be in health."

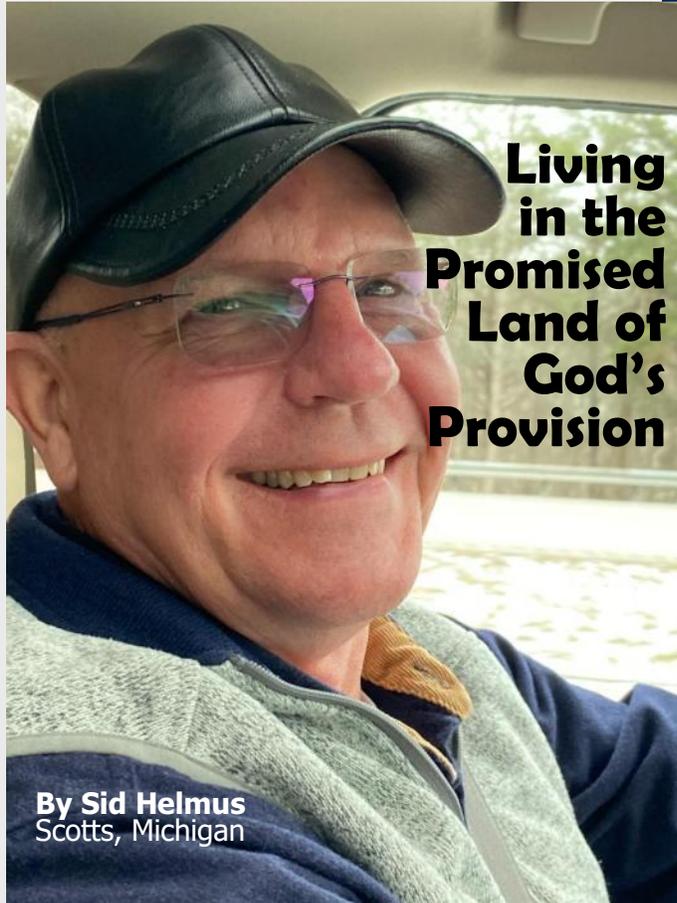
Romans 15:4 (KJV)
For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.

The greatest metaphorical road map of leaving the land of lack and entering the "land flowing with milk and honey" is Israel's Exodus from 400 years of slavery in Egypt. Much of that time, they lived hand-to-mouth in the wilderness, finally deciding to receive God's abundance. Many today need to overcome similar mindsets that Israel overcame. In it all, God's loving patience shines.

Our adversary knows our personal definition of "just enough" through generational observation and the words that flow from our mind. It's a calculated and measured amount that allows our personal fears to prevent us from rebelling against meager portions and seeking abundance. It's just enough to prevent us from risking the known amount we have rather than trusting the Holy Spirit. Too many people today live enslaved or travel through the wilderness. Do you?

How do God's children move into this "Promised Land"? **First**, we make the profound decision to exit the "Land of Lack." Those who diligently seek, vocally making their desires known to God, will find. **Second**, we meditate, pray, and receive a vision of living in God's kingdom of abundance. **Third**, we listen for his voice of knowledge and wisdom. **Fourth**, we act fearlessly and give great regard to his loving patience. Buckle up and enjoy the ride. God has a perfect path prepared for each of us, with our mess-ups included!

Consider the different fearful and task-motivated mindsets Israel went through from being a slave in a foreign land to living free. Israel left Egypt and entered the wilderness, between oppression and deliverance, after witnessing some of the most powerful manifestations of God's blessings ever displayed for mankind. Yet Israel was still "stiff-necked;" meaning that it was difficult for them to change their way of thinking. But aren't we all at times? One question we've all asked ourselves is, "Who am I to believe God would bestow upon me **great** favor?" What's our cur-



Living in the Promised Land of God's Provision

By Sid Helmus
Scotts, Michigan

rent answer? What's our personal vision of God's provision?

Proverbs 29:18 states, "Where there is no vision, the people perish."

Israel murmured, complained, and rebelled against God many times instead of going to him with the problem. Moses, however, went to God in prayer as a friend talks with a friend... as a child goes to a loving parent. God gave Moses specific instructions of what to do in each situation to receive, and he will do for us, too.

Even after Israel reached Canaan and witnessed firsthand the abundance of the land's fruit, they still refused to feel worthy. But hadn't God proven to Israel that he chose them above all the people on earth? And hasn't he proven himself to us, too, and called us children of the most high God?

God provided Israel with daily manna, as he figuratively does for many today. But his real desire was and is to give each individual the desires of their heart. God understood the joy a farmer would realize in planting and harvesting. God desires the understanding his people receive as they share back from their abundance rather than living hand-to-mouth. Above all things, God wanted each person in Israel to bear their own individual fruit within the kingdom. He saw the love a miller infused into the grain that fed his kingdom; the joy of the weaver being woven into the cloth that clothed his people; and the strength and godly pride the builder built into the homes that sheltered his people.

We seek to live in the land of God's provision. Complaining about current conditions doesn't help; it sabotages the journey. Let's make Caleb's words our own!

Numbers 13:30 (KJV)

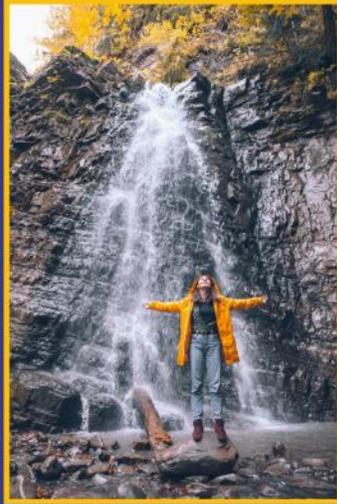
And Caleb stilled the people before Moses, and said, Let us go up at once, and possess it; for we are well able to overcome it.

Move out of "the land of just enough" and receive the promises of our loving heavenly Father. Through fearless diligence and kingdom fellowship, it won't take forty years.



CALLED TO PROPHECY

Instructed • Encouraged • Strengthened



*A Women's Weekend with
Carol Furman
Gayelee Reynolds
Julie Schaecher*

Friday, May 13 – Sunday, May 15, 2022

LOCATION: Christian Family Fellowship Ministry, 1575 W. State Route 571, Tipp City, OH 45371

WEEKEND SCHEDULE

FRI., MAY 13	6:30 PM	Doors open
	7:00 PM	Evening session
SAT., MAY 14	9:00 AM	Doors open
	9:30 AM	Morning session
	12:30 PM	Catered lunch downstairs
	2:00 PM	Afternoon session
SUN., MAY 15	10:00 AM	Doors open
	10:30 AM	Concludes with Sunday Morning Fellowship

CHILDCARE IS NOT PROVIDED

HOTEL INFORMATION

Holiday Inn Express -Tipp City
(937) 667-5161 (ask for CFF rate)

LaQuinta Inn - Tipp City
(937) 667-1574

Residence Inn -Troy
(937) 440-9303

Hampton Inn - Troy
(937) 339-7801

Fairfield Inn - Troy
(937) 332-1446

EVENT REGISTRATION: \$45 per person (includes Saturday lunch) ■ Live streaming: \$49 per location

REGISTRATION FORM FOR "WALK IN KINGDOM AUTHORITY" CONFERENCE (Please register by April 22, 2022)

NAME: _____ Phone _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email Address: _____ # of people _____ x \$45/per person = Total Amount _____

Live Streaming registration: _____ X (1) location=Total Amount _____

Email Address to receive live streaming link _____

Total Amount Submitted with Registration Form \$ _____

Register online at www.cffm.org/events or by mail with check payable to CFFM and registration form sent to:
Christian Family Fellowship Ministry, 1575 W. State Route 571, Tipp City, OH 45371 by the registration deadline, **April 22, 2022**.
For more information, contact Sarah Mullens at sarah@cffm.org; phone (937)669-3090.

So often in life, I have found myself involved with what I call “redcoat thinking.” In movies and history books about the Revolutionary War, you see the British Army in their uniforms with bright red coats lined up in strict military formation for battle—two or more rows of soldiers. The first row kneels, aims, and waits for orders to fire their muskets; then the second row moves to the front. The second row repeats the process and fires their muskets and so forth.

In contrast, the patriots of the American Revolution rarely stood in the open field but used cover by hiding behind trees and rocks. Some carried multiple muskets, so they did not have to wait as long between shots to deliver a second round while the British were waiting for orders to fire. The patriots were using what I like to call

“out-of-the-box thinking.” They did not stand in the open to be shot. They were not in a rigid formation. They were not a “target-rich” environment by being next to each other.

In the Old Testament, in the book of Judges, we read about Samson and how he lived his life. He was an “out-of-the-box thinker.” His parents were told he would be a Nazarite from birth. They were given instructions on how to raise him. His mother was told not to drink any wine or strong drink. In the book of Judges chapter 13:3–5, we read the instructions given Samson’s mother. The rules for a Nazarite are written in Numbers chapter six.

When Samson was of age, he decided to marry a Philistine woman. God’s Word tells us that his parents “knew not that it *was* of the LORD, that he sought an occasion against the Philistines: for at that time the Philistines had dominion over Israel.” Many commentaries miss the “of the Lord” part of this section of God’s Word and think Samson

was wrong for doing this, but God’s Word says just the opposite. Samson wanted to find a way to attack the Philistines, who had the rule over Israel. When reading the record of Samson, we see he violated every rule of a Nazarite as defined in Numbers 6. But each time he violated a rule, God energized him.

We know the adversary quoted or misquoted God’s Word to Jesus Christ, so this writer is confident that the adversary was aware of the rules of a Nazarite. The adversary attacked Samson each time he broke the rules (guidelines), and yet God strengthened Samson each time except once. The one time was when Samson shared his heart with an unbeliever who was trying to bring him into captivity. There’s a lesson there for us. Share the word but don’t be “unequally yoked.”



Both ordained into Christian ministry, Dennis and Susan serve on the CFF Pastoral Care Team. Married for 34 years, they have three children—Rebecca, Micah and Abigail, each of whom are past participants at YES! Camp in Tipp City, OH. The Furr’s live in historic Manassas, Virginia

Out of the Box... Into God’s Will

By Dennis Furr/Manassas, Virginia

In another record in God’s Word, Daniel chapter two, we read about King Nebuchadnezzar and his dreams. “Nebuchadnezzar dreamed dreams, wherewith his spirit was troubled, and his sleep brake from him.” Nebuchadnezzar decided to be an “out-of-the-box thinker” by telling “the magicians, and the astrologers, and the sorcerers, and the Chaldeans, for to shew the king his dream.” None of this “help me after I tell you the dream” stuff for Nebuchadnezzar. He was going to make sure that the men were authentic in their actions. The penalty if they couldn’t? They were to be cut in pieces.

Daniel entered the scene and, with his believing, received from God the dream and the meaning. Daniel saved the day for the royal crew. Nebuchadnezzar’s out-of-the-box question and method for getting what seemed like an impossible answer of peace was answered by God through Daniel.

Getting out of our boxes may require prayer, thought, effort and trusting in God to show us the actions we need to take to see success. We have nine manifestations of the Holy Spirit to utilize. We can leave the status quo and move into new ground at any time. Getting out of the box could be as simple as traveling a different route on a certain day. Maybe ask God to show us a different way to accomplish a routine task. Let’s get OUT OF THE BOX and out of our comfort zones into a deeper walk with him.

Last week I taught the moms at Bible study about Abraham, Sarah and Hagar, and to my surprise there was *another* woman who had six sons fathered by Abraham after Sarah's death. I got excited since I could not remember hearing about Keturah and her sons, nor her marriage to Abraham (Genesis 25:1-4). It left me wanting to read more about faithful Abraham.

God told Abram (when he was 75 years old) to leave his country and get away from his family. He was to leave his father's house (leave his **comfort zone**). He was to go to a land that God would show him. And then God promised Abram, "I will make of thee a great nation, I will bless thee, and make thy name great, and thou shalt be a blessing, unto thy seed will I give this land."

Even though he was 75 when God spoke to him and promised offspring, Abraham had not yet produced any (Romans 4:19). However, his grandfather, Nahor, fathered Abraham's dad, Terah, when Nahor was 29. And Terah fathered Abraham when he was 75. This was unusual for our world but not for Abram.

God made this promise to Abram when he was 75 and Sarai was about 66. Clearly there was some infertility issues with the couple.

My Bible study ladies are single moms with toddlers, newborn and/or pregnant

Beyond Comfort Zones

By Susan Furr/Manassas, Virginia

and all under 25 years of age. Quite the opposite for Sarai. It's hard to imagine this woman at 66 ever being able to get pregnant the natural way.

Abram didn't have an issue with childbearing. Sarai grew impatient and offered her slave, Hagar, to be with her husband Abram. The latter two had a son, Ishmael. This idea backfired on Sarai (Abram believed "Happy Wife, Happy Life.") God didn't give up on them just because they got off track.

"Covenant": A usually formal, solemn and binding agreement; a sacred agreement between God and his children. God sets specific conditions and promises to bless us as we obey these conditions.

"Our covenants guide the choices we make, and help us resist temptation."

About thirteen years after these things, God spoke with Abram (Genesis 15:1, 6). Abram was around 86 when Ishmael was born, but that was not God's promise.

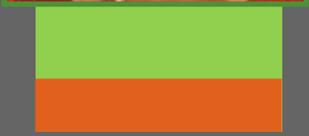
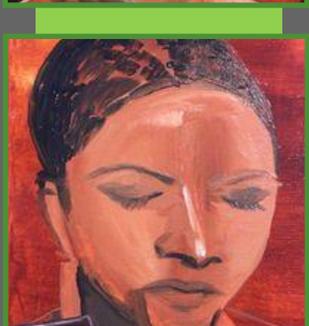
Abram was a very wealthy man traveling as a nomad with God's protection and blessing on his life. Abram was human, and he made some mistakes. He tried to walk that fine line. When he stepped off the correct path, he got right back on course. In life, like Abram, we must keep moving forward to pursue our passions and goals in life. Let's allow God to lead us instead of walking by our five senses.

When God puts a promise in us, he is faithful to bring it to pass. After not pursuing the dream that God put into my heart that I would be an artist after almost 40 years of not doing any art, I am now living that promise and working at doing art full time. God inspired a man to speak into my life, telling me to draw everyday which I've been doing for five years.

I was afraid to paint, so God worked in me to take a free watercolor class in my local library. I struggled through that class and realized that watercolor was not my medium. I enjoyed painting and still draw daily. I dabbled my way into acrylic, chalk pastels and then in oil paints. I was like a kid learning to walk. I knew I wanted to do more, bigger and better, so I would set challenges for myself.

I targeted 30 faces in 30 days, and 100 flowers in 100 days, but kept doing faces or portraits to improve my skills. When I could not figure out how to do something, I would ask God to show me and teach me. He would lead me in the direction to figure out how to get things done. At times, he would have me draw the same picture repeatedly or paint something repeatedly. I have seen my work go from amateur to professional and for every artist, that is different.

There is nothing we cannot do when we surrender to God. Of myself, I can do nothing. Abraham had learned to surrender to God when he was 75 years old, and God told him to leave home. Abraham had to learn to wait for Isaac's arrival. His journey was long and trying. He experienced grief and blessings. We mustn't allow fear to keep us in our **comfort zone**. There is no comfort in not fulfilling what God has called us to accomplish in life. We may not see the full picture of what lies ahead of us, but like Abraham, we trust God, since he sees what's ahead.



When asked to share what God has been doing in my life, I was a little surprised and honored. Sometimes I forget that people still value what I have to share. For a long time, my heart has been to give others a chance to be in his presence. Since I moved, that has not changed. In fact, I would

Jesus would act, listeners often want to hear even more.

My point is that I have seen God move in such amazing ways these past months from those getting healed of COVID-19 to simple things like getting a gift I had wanted for my birthday which happened to be rather expensive. The love of God oozes when we get close to him and rest in him. It has such potential to be a force that can change lives when we submit to it.

For example, a coworker of mine had a problem with the college she was attending. She was being required to take part in an overseas program in France in order to graduate, but the program was on hold. She thought she might not even be able to graduate because of the messy situation. I asked her if I could pray for her. She said it was fine but would rather not be involved. So I prayed on my own, asking God to bring justice to her situation. Three months

asked God to allow me to better learn guitar under a skilled instructor who also knew the importance of worship. Then after moving to New York, I discovered that the church I attend has a guitarist who is so masterful that a friend describes her as one of the most skilled guitarists they've ever performed with! I've been impressed by her ability. I'll have to admit, there have been times when I've stopped playing, sometimes by accident, simply because she has done something on the instrument that's so amazing. In my dad's words, "She plays the guitar for God with a skill level of Eric Clapton in his early days of Cream." She makes the guitar sing with a full emotion. I have a lot to learn, but I'm so thankful to have her as a teacher. My Ohio prayer was answered!

It's so cool to see God move to help us and show us that he is with us. All we have to do is go to him and act accordingly. When I moved back to New York, I had no clue how I was going to pay for college and then, I found out my work has a tuition program. The program will be paying a major portion, if not all, of my schooling. God is so good! He truly does take care of us. It's funny because I did not think I would have the time to pursue God in the church and go to college. But here I am. Sometimes we settle into a poor mental habit, thinking that what we want is too big or too good. But that's God's specialty—providing, giving, and loving us until all we can do is rest in his glory. He is always providing more. He's always calling us closer, and he's always wanting us to give our desires to him so he can come through.

For anyone reading this... I pray, Lord, that they are filled with hope to move ahead as you move, Father, and that they would be inspired to expect their prayers to be answered. I pray that your love flows out of them. Let them seek more of this great adventure and discover more of you and your ways. In Jesus' name, amen. Let's expect MORE!

later, the program is back on! She's just waiting for the college and French authorities to approve her to go.

What amazed me the most was that even though she was not a professing Christian, God was graciously at work. What a loving Father we have! He answers prayer and cares so much for everyone, often moving mountains for their benefit. Our God truly is a loving Father.

When I lived in Ohio, I repeatedly

say it has only grown. The more I discover God goodness, the more I see his glory and love. He never gets disgruntled when we mess up, and he never gets upset when we miss the mark but rather is happy that we've taken a shot at it.

He loves in a way that can't be matched in this world. And when we as his children reflect it to others, it affects their persona. They often go from being harsh and full of criticism to being open and happy that we're talking with them. As we try to act as

In December of 2020, I moved to Syracuse, NY to study with a church and go to college. I have since found a guitar teacher, Kathy Blackwell, started learning music theory from a retired music professor, and have been growing in a prophetic lifestyle under Charity Gustke, the head pastor of New Heart Ministries, Baldwinsville, NY.

25th ANNUAL
CFFM YOUTH CAMP

YES! CAMP 2022

YOUTH EXCELLING SPIRITUALLY

“YES” stands for *Youth Excelling Spiritually*. Young followers of Jesus want to excel in their spiritual walk of love and power. They want to say “YES!” to God’s invitation for youth to live for him.

TUESDAY, JULY 26—SUNDAY, July 31, 2022

WHO: **12 thru 25 years old**

WHERE: **Christian Family Fellowship
1575 W. State Route 571, Tipp City, Ohio 45371**

COST: **\$295 per attendee**



- ◆ A “what to bring” list & other information will be sent to you
- ◆ Camp Arrival: Tuesday, July 26, 3:00—6:00 PM; dinner provided for campers
- ◆ Camp Ends: Sunday, July 31 after Sunday Morning Fellowship
- ◆ Airport pick-up available at Dayton International Airport only
- ◆ For more information contact: Sarah Mullens 937-669-3090/sarah@cffm.org
- ◆ **REGISTRATION DEADLINE: June 20, 2022**



Registration Form (PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY)

Facilities limit us to 100 applicants

NAME: _____ BIRTHDAY: ____/____/____ AGE AS OF 7/26/22: _____
(As you prefer on name tag)

ADDRESS: _____ (PO Box/Street) _____ (City) _____ (State) _____ (Zip code)

Camper Ph.# _____ Camper E-mail: _____

Camper Preferred Social Media contact info: _____

Parents Name(s): _____ Parents Consenting Signature (required if under 18): _____

Emergency Contact Phone#’s: _____ T-SHIRT SIZE: _____

How & When Arriving: _____ How & When Departing: _____

What are some areas in your walk with God where you are looking for personal growth? _____

(Register online at www.cffm.org/events, or send your above info and check to CFFM, 1575 W. State Route 571, Tipp City, OH 45371)



Christmastime Celebrations!
CFFM
Tipp City, Ohio



the congregation serenading our live-streaming family



Family & Friends

The Public Ordination of **Mark & Juany Harbert**
1/9/22 ~ CFFM
Tipp City, OH



Thanks to the Youmans for introducing us to the Schwartz family!



BRIAN & BETH SCHWARTZ
& daughter Rebecca
Wycliffe Missionaries
in the Philippines
~Testimonial Sharings~
1/30/22 - CFFM
Tipp City, OH



"I'm gonna tell people about Jesus, too!"



KINGDOM KIDS!
CFFM/Tipp City, OH



VETERANS DAY PRAYER GATHERING
Downtown Tipp City, OH



Another challenging year has gone by. The dates on the calendar have changed, marking a new beginning. We usually view this transition from one year to the next with great hope. Somehow turning the page from one year to the next allows us to start over or at least start afresh. Some of us have made decisions, resolutions, that hopefully will impact this new year better than the last.

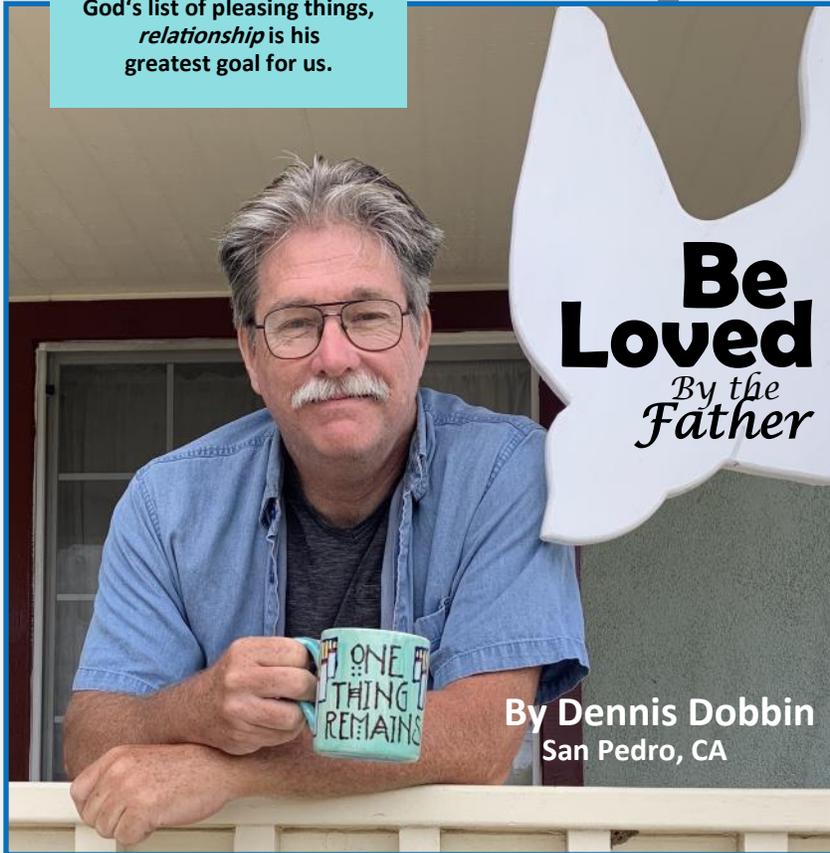
These transitions, these resolutions, that we put faith into to make a change in our lives are usually about us. What can we do to improve our lives?

May I offer some advice that we stop worrying about what we're doing and **be more concerned about who we are being**. There's the old saying, "We are human beings, not human doings." And though I have a long list of "to do's," the first thing I need *to do* is remember that I am God's beloved child in whom he is well pleased. This is our core identity. This truth comes from how God the Father treated Jesus at his baptism. Before Jesus had worked one miracle, before he had even spoken a word, the Father was well pleased with him. As with Jesus, God is well pleased with us because we are his children. The quality of our relationship with the Father first comes from our *sonship* not from our actions.

Imagine if you will a father holding his newborn child in his arms. The father looks upon the child beaming with the greatest joy at this amazing life before him. At this moment of birth, the father begins to imagine all that he will do to provide for this small bundle before him. The father is overwhelmed and tears of joy begin to roll down his

cheeks. The child has done nothing but be born. But some might say, "Wait until that kid grows up. Then we'll see how happy the dad is with the child." Let's consider what the book of Luke says about a father's attitude toward his prodigal son.

While obedience is high on God's list of pleasing things, *relationship is his greatest goal for us.*



By Dennis Dobbin
San Pedro, CA

Luke 15:20-23 (KJV)
And he arose, and came to his father. But when

he was yet a great way off, his father saw him, and had compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him. ²¹And the son said unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in thy sight, and am no more worthy to be called thy son. ²²But the father said to his servants, Bring forth the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet: ²³And bring hither the fatted calf, and kill it; and let us eat, and be merry:

Be more concerned about *who we are being*

We all know the story of the prodigal son who demanded his inheritance and then went and wasted it. Once the money was all gone, he became a servant to a pig herder, which was the lowliest job for anyone, let alone for a Jew. Unthinkable actually. But that's where the young man found himself. Then, in

a moment of clear thought, he realized his father's servants were in better condition than he, so he hatched a plan to go back to his father, apologize for his behavior and say to him, "Make me as one of the hired servants."

He made it home and had a chance to apologize, which was repentance, and then the father interrupted him and called for his servants to bring the best robe and a ring and shoes for his feet. These three elements showed that he was completely reinstated into the family with the authority to transact business. Yes, the son had run away, but he returned. And with one simple statement of repentance, the father fully

reinstated him into the family. Such harsh treatment, NOT!

So where is performance-based relationship seen in this record?

That's correct—it's not there. While obedience is high on God's list of pleasing things, *relationship is his greatest goal for us*. Servants can obey out of duty, yet those who obey out of love are his true children. We love because he first loved us.

What resolutions will you resolve to accomplish this year? What will you endeavor to do or be that will make 2022 better than 2021? May I make a suggestion? *Be loved by the Father*. After all, you are his beloved child in whom he is well pleased.



KINGDOM RELATIONSHIPS CONFERENCE



FOR MARRIED COUPLES & SINGLES

WITH

ROMANO & REBECCA RICHTER-REINHARDT

PASTORS OF KINGDOM MINISTRIES SCHWEINFURT, GERMANY

FRIDAY, NOV. 4 – SUNDAY, NOV. 6, 2022

Christian Family Fellowship Ministry • 1575 W. State Route 571, Tipp City, OH 45371

WEEKEND SCHEDULE

FRI., NOV. 4	6:30 PM	Doors open
	7:00 PM	Evening session
SAT., NOV. 5	9:00 AM	Doors open
	9:30 AM	Morning session
	12 noon	Lunch on your own
	2:00 PM	Afternoon session
	6:30 PM	Dinner at Troy Country Club (casually nice)
SUN., NOV. 6	9:30 AM	Doors open
	10:30 AM	Concludes with Sunday Morning Fellowship

HOTEL INFORMATION

- Holiday Inn Express -Tipp City(937) 667-5161 (ask for CFF rate)
- LaQuinta Inn - Tipp City (937) 667-1574
- Residence Inn -Troy (937) 440-9303
- Hampton Inn - Troy (937) 339-7801
- Fairfield Inn - Troy (937) 332-1446

REGISTRATION: \$45/per person (includes Saturday dinner) • Live streaming: \$49/per location

REGISTRATION FORM FOR "KINGDOM RELATIONSHIPS" CONFERENCE (Please register by October 1, 2022)

NAME: _____ Phone _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email Address: _____ # of people _____ x \$45/per person = Total Amount _____

Live Streaming registration: _____ X (1) location=Total Amount _____

Email Address to receive live streaming link _____

Total Amount Submitted with Registration Form \$ _____

Register online at www.cffm.org/events or by mail with check payable to CFFM and registration form sent to: Christian Family Fellowship Ministry, 1575 W. State Route 571, Tipp City, OH 45371 by the registration deadline, **October 1, 2022.** For more information, contact Sarah Mullens at sarah@cffm.org; phone (937)669-3090.

Hebrews 10:24-25 ESV

And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.



ekklesia (church; assembly)...

spirit-filled followers of Jesus who meet together locally, frequently and intimately—around prayer, the Scriptures, the power of the Spirit and generosity. Gatherings may take many forms, but the Church is an organic, interdependent family of faith. God's children experience a new birth **into** a spiritual household.

Psalms 112 (NIV)

Praise the LORD. Blessed are those who fear the LORD, who find great delight in his commands. 2 **Their children will be mighty in the land**; the generation of the upright will be blessed. 3 **Wealth and riches are in their houses**, and their righteousness endures forever. 4 Even in darkness light dawns for the upright, for those who are gracious and compassionate and righteous. 5 **Good will come to those who are generous and lend freely, who conduct their affairs**

with justice. 6 Surely the righteous will never be shaken; they will be remembered forever. 7 They will have **no fear of bad news**; their hearts are steadfast, trusting in the LORD. 8 Their hearts are secure, they will have no fear; in the end they will look in triumph on their foes. 9 They have freely scattered their gifts to the poor, their righteousness endures forever; **their horn will be lifted high in honor.** 10 The wicked will see and be vexed, they will gnash their teeth and waste away; the longings of the wicked will come to nothing.

Jesus to the World!

Since our beginning in 1996, we've regularly heard from people who want to be actively associated with Christian Family Fellowship Ministry in our emphasis on...

JESUS, our focus
PRAISE, our response
HEALING, our benefit
...all to the glory of God our Father!

Check www.cffm.org to find pastors, contacts and homechurches near you. Feel free to contact any of them or our staff so that we may support you and your local faith community. We want to partner with you in personal growth and in cultivating the life of the Lord Jesus Christ in our world.

I pray that your partnership with us in the faith may be effective in deepening your understanding of every good thing we share for the sake of Christ.
 Philemon 1:6 (NIV)

~ THANK YOU ~

... for your prayers, encouragement and financial support that make all our ministry services possible, cultivating a healthy spiritual family.

How to Offer Financial Support to CFFM

- 1) Through our **website**, www.cffm.org/giving (one-time or recurring gift)
- 2) By **texting** a donation amount to (937)-502-2999 (one-time credit card input)
- 3) By **regular mail** to CFFM, 1575 W. State Route 571, Tipp City, OH 45371 (check/money order)
- 4) By CFFM **donation envelopes** available from our main office



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**Remember
now
thy Creator
in the days
of thy youth**

Ecclesiastes 12:1a

