



AN OUTREACH MINISTRY OF  
SMITH GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH  
<http://www.smithgrove.org>

Sunday School 10:00 AM  
Morning Worship 11:00 AM  
Evening Worship 6:00 PM  
Wednesday Service 7:00 PM  
- NURSERY PROVIDED -  
Radio Ministry  
Saturday 8:00 AM  
WPET Radio (950 AM)

2707 Sandy Ridge Road  
Colfax, NC 27235

**Dr. Charles (Chuck) Peters, Pastor**  
Home: (336) 996-8563  
Cell: (336) 812-1169  
**Rev. Bruce Freeman, Youth Director**  
Home: (336) 996-1501

### PROVERBS 25:13

As the cold of snow in the time of harvest, so is a faithful messenger to them that send him, for he refresheth the soul of his masters . . .

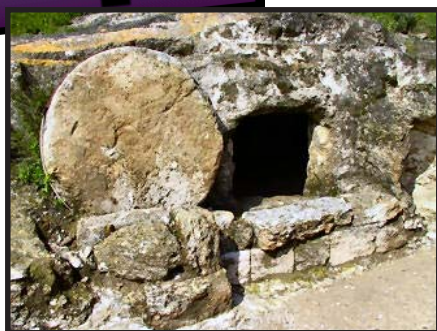
VOLUME 25

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**HE IS RISEN!**



*The Messenger*



*March*

### “DO WE BELIEVE THE ENVIROMENTALISTS OR GOD?”

The environmentalist “prophets of doom,” are telling us that the climate is changing and the ecosystems are disappearing. We need to soon arrange a trip to the Antarctica and see the polar bears before the ice cap melts and the polar bear becomes extinct! They are suggesting that the whole human enterprise is becoming unsustainable and heading for disaster. This Earth will soon be unable to sustain human life if we don’t better regulate our use of its resources. They would have us to believe that our only hope is that we quickly build enough space stations to accommodate Earth’s population!

I’ve got good news and it’s even better than switching to Geico! That good news is found in the Word of God. The Lord Jesus Christ is the Creator and Sustainer of this World. Notice what the Bible says:

**Hebrews 1: 1:** “God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, **2:** Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he **made the worlds;**  
**3:** Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and **upholding all things by the word of his power**, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;”  
**Colossians 1: 17:** “And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.”; **Psalm 104: 5** “Who laid the foundations of the earth, that it should not be removed for ever.”; **Isaiah 40: 12** “ Who hath measured the waters in the hollow of his hand, and meted out heaven with the span, and comprehended the dust of the earth in a measure, and weighed the mountains in scales, and the hills in a balance?”

I tend to believe that the One who created this Earth, sustains it. He upholds, and literally “holds together” all things. The Colossians 1:17 passage, as quoted above, indicates to us that the Divine Creator manages His creation. All things, including this Earth, are kept in its present state. Its existence, order, and arrangement are sustained by His power.

The Bible doesn’t support, “global warming” but it sure does support, “global watch care” on the part of its Creator! The most important aspect of His creation is that of the salvation of the sinner. **II Corinthians 5: 17:** “Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new **creature**: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.” Those who have trusted Christ for salvation can also know that He will sustain and uphold them! He actually invested more in the salvation of the sinner than He did in all of material creation put together. Hallelujah, what a Saviour!

*Pastor Chuck Peters*

## March Birthdays.....

02 Dana McCormick	10 Karri Koebel	Kent Stainback
04 Melissa Vanderburg	11 Shirley Crouch	Linda Stainback
06 Ronda Dudley	12 Ashley Hutton	Marilyn Donnell
06 Melanie Crump	13 Johnny Clark	Michelle Loftis
08 Michaela Hayes	16 Kaylee Smith	Pauline Shields
08 Marvin Pitts	20 Violet Rose Sealey	Todd Stephens
08 Gary Smith	24 Glenda Foust	Wade Smith
09 C. H. Holt	28 Ruth Holt	
10 Kristi Wilkey		

## April Birthdays.....

01 Joseph Barham	12 Lawrence Jones	Jo Beeson
02 Steve Holt	12 Beverly Sechler	Charles Cook
02 Carol Nuckles	12 Wesley Smith	Beelinn Damazio
03 Wanda Holt	16 Myles Pitts	Moises Damazio
03 Lisa Pitts	19 Shelby Crump	Torrey Donnell
05 Marilyn Payne	24 Charlene Tester	Lynn Holland
06 Bud McCurdy	26 Chase Ramey	Austin McCormick
07 Pat George	28 Juleen J. Hayes	Erin Mros
07 Larry Tucker	28 Donise Tucker	Dustin Shields
08 Walter Tate	29 Erma Lee Nuckles	
11 Brandy Ramer	29 Inez Alley	
	30 Ashley Sechler	



## March Anniversaries

John & Ann Baker	Sam & Sherrill Crater
Robert & Jo Cisom	Bud & Mary McCurdy
Don & Violet Sealey	

*Please remember to pray for those who are currently in harm's way, or who may be facing imminent deployment.*

## In the Service of our Country



A1C William Holt, US Air Force  
 Sheppard AFB, TX  
 Chief Warrant Officer 2 Michael Maine, US Army  
 [stationed in Georgia]  
 Corporal Mel Wright, US Marines, California  
 (Nephews of Clarence Redmon)

# Ladies' Fellowship

The Ladies Fellowship met on February 5 with 10 ladies present. We passed out 260 tracts in December and January – our grand total is now 376! Darla Freeman provided Bible question for this month: “The Hebrew children spent 40 years traveling a distance that should have taken them how long?”

Chasity Ramey brought a wonderful lesson on “Becoming a Stronger Christian” and gave us some tips on how to get motivated:

1. Remember — We have victory in Jesus – I Corinthians 15:57
2. Abound in the work of the Lord – I Corinthians 15:58
3. Put Jesus on daily – Romans 13:14
4. Nourish yourself in God's Word daily – II Timothy 2:15
5. Pray daily – Psalm 55:17; I Thessalonians 5:17
6. Worship Him continually – Psalm 96:2-4; Psalms 122:1
7. Memorize Scripture – Psalms 119:11
8. Clear out the spiritual junk food – I Corinthians 10:31; Psalm 101:3-4
9. Do not give up! – Psalm 51:12

After devotions, we enjoyed healthy snacks Chasity also provided!

### **SPECIAL INVITATION TO ALL LADIES IN THE CHURCH:**

At our March meeting (March 4 at 7:00 at Fellowship Hall), we plan to pair up and visit some of our shut-ins. Even if you're not a regular member of Ladies Fellowship, we'd love to have you join us as we visit some of our dear saints who are no longer able to worship with us on a regular basis. We'd love to see you there!

*The mission of the Smith Grove Ladies Fellowship is to promote spiritual growth of the ladies in our church family, proclaim the love of Christ in every activity in which we participate, and provide benevolent support to our church family and surrounding community.*

# REMEMBER IN PRAYER

## Smith Grove Seniors

Inez Alley	Pat George	Raynelle Shields
Louise Byrd	Rev. M. W. Laramore	Louise Smith
Wilma Farrington	Bud McCurdy	Clarence Tucker
June Freeman	Mary McCurdy	Hettie Mae Westmoreland
Ernest Fulk	J. D. Shields	

## Others in Need of Prayer

*(In alphabetical order)*

Marilyn Alston	Daniel Idol	Jamie Shell
Merl Blake	Glenn Johnson	Irene Shields
Roy Boody	Lawrence Jones	Aileen Smith
John Carter	Bessie Kendrick	Eddie Thomason
Bonnie Clark	Leighann Kincade	Barbara Tucker*
Aaron Cole	Napha Klepper	Hazel Tuggle*
Lib Cooper	Rose Matthews	Kenneth Westmoreland
Louise Davenport*	Richie McCormick	Gordon Wilkey*
Iris Farrington	Mark Midkiff	Arry Wilson
Clyde Gray, Sr.	John & Dolly Miller	Charles Wolfe
Lillie Gray*	Pam Neal	Jessi Wright
Debbie Harden	Miranda Petkis	New converts
Tyler Hodgins*	Norma Pilchett*	The Unsaved
Raleigh Hunt	Claude Royal	<b>*Special Needs</b>

**Note:** *If there are names that you know could be removed from the prayer list, please let someone on the newsletter committee know. Also, let us know if you have someone you wish to add to the prayer list.*

## Special Prayer Requests

- Those on our Youth Prayer List
- Pastor Chuck Peters
- Wade and Nora Smith (Virginia Beach, VA)
- All the missions & missionaries we support.
- Rev. Bruce Freeman, Youth Director & Church Administrative Officer
- Preachers, teachers, singers, & workers of our church & Discovery Clubs.
- The Radio broadcast & all visitation programs.
- Our sincere sympathies to the families of Carolyn Atkins, and Carl Mullins and William Mullins (Ann Rayle's brothers).



## Services Each Week

Sunday School	10:00 a.m.
<i>Teen Church in the Fellowship Bldg.</i>	10:00 a.m.
Sunday Morning Service	11:00 a.m.
<i>Children's Church</i>	11:00 a.m.
Sunday Evening Service	6:00 p.m.
<b>Wednesday Services:</b>	
Discovery Bible Clubs	7:00 p.m.
Prayer Service	7:00 p.m.
Thursday Visitation	7:00 p.m.
Saturday Morning Broadcast [WPET - 950 AM]	8:00 a.m.



March  
2008

**Sat., March 1, 5:30 p.m. Winston-Salem Rescue Mission**

**Sun., March 2, 11:00 a.m. "Special Service In Honor Of Rev. Ward Laramore" ~ Pastor of Smith Grove Baptist Church from 1969 to 1998.** A covered dish luncheon will follow in the Fellowship Building.

**Tues., March 4, 7:00 p.m. Ladies' and Men's Fellowship Meetings** in the Fellowship Building.

**Sunday, March 23**

**Easter Sunday**



I Cor. 7:22-24



## Gary & Melissa Memorial Outreach Ministry

Greetings to all of our readers, our church family, and those who read our newsletter on the web. Wow ~ our church newsletter, going all over the world on the world-wide web!

Well, March is here, and some important dates along with it! The 8<sup>th</sup> is my birthday, daylight savings time begins on the 9<sup>th</sup>, spring begins on the 20<sup>th</sup>, and Easter Sunday is March 23<sup>rd</sup>. It is also the anniversary of mine and Melissa's wedding date. Hmm... I wonder what else happens in March? I know! My granddaughter Kaylee turns four on the sixteenth! Thank God for a great little girl like her. And don't forget church – every Sunday and Wednesday in March – and every other month!

It's good to report on a new helper with our work in the senior homes. Andrea, Mrs. Farrington's granddaughter, is helping me with singing for some of the services. Thank you, Andrea! If you want to help, or if you have a calling from God, yet don't see that immediate open door for ministry, please contact me. There is a wonderful opportunity to conduct weekly services in a senior home church. The Lord would be pleased to have you spreading His Word in these senior homes. My email address is: [trustgodgary@bellsouth.net](mailto:trustgodgary@bellsouth.net) and my cell phone number is (336) 707-3367.

In Christ and happy there,  
Gary Smith ~ I Peter 5:7



### “Our Honour Roll”

Smith Grove's ministry to our widows and widowers  
“Honour widows that are widows indeed.”

Listed below are March and April Honour Roll Gang members. Please take a moment to send a card, make a telephone call, or do something extra special for our special saints.



Gary Smith  
8644 Adkins Road  
Colfax, NC 27235  
668-9089 ~ March 08

Patricia George  
8415 Endicott Rd.  
Colfax, NC 27235  
996-1606 ~ April 07

Ruth Holt  
3210 Sandy Ridge Rd.  
Colfax, NC 27235  
993-3109 ~ March 28

Inez Alley  
9000 Foxlair Drive  
Kernersville, NC 27284  
993-8296 ~ April 29

## JESUS' ETERNAL SACRIFICE

God almighty, our holy one  
Conquering, victorious and risen son  
Saviour, redeemer, Lord of light  
You saved me, freed me, and gave me life  
Is there a way that I can repay  
What it cost you my Lord that fateful day?  
When you gave your life upon the cross  
For all mankind eternally lost  
For I know I could never pay the price  
The cost of your eternal sacrifice  
For salvation is a gift that you freely gave  
When you died and arose from the grave  
The hope that came from your sacrifice  
Is the hope we have of eternal life

© By M.S.Lowndes ~ 2002 (Revised)

## LAUGHTER . . . THE BEST MEDICINE!

### What is a 710?

A few days ago I was having some work done at my local garage. A lady came in and asked for a seven-hundred-ten. We all looked at each other and another customer asked, “What is a seven-hundred-ten?”

She replied, “You know, the little piece in the middle of the engine, I have lost it and need a new one.” She replied that she did not know exactly what it was, but this piece had always been there. The mechanic gave her a piece of paper and a pen and asked her to draw what the piece looked like.

She drew a circle and in the middle of it wrote 710. He then took her over to another car which had its hood up and asked, “Is there a 710 on this car?” She pointed and said, “Of course; it's right there.”



## *The Smiths... Missionaries to our Military*

1140 Birnam Woods Dr, Virginia Beach, VA 23464

The Apostle Peter, inspired by the Holy Spirit, penned these words in I Peter 1:3, "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead." I can say along with the Apostle Paul in his letter to Timothy, "But I obtained mercy"! One of Webster's definitions for mercy is, "A blessing that is an act of divine favor or compassion." We continue to praise the Lord for his ever present "abundant mercy."

It is a blessing to be a part of the lives of the men and women who serve our country not only while they are stationed here but also many times even after they move on to other places. Just before Christmas, we had the mother of one of our former Navy guys call from Oklahoma just needing to talk to Mrs. Nora requesting she help her pray about some needs in her life. Last night, our cell phone rang before we got home from church and it was one of our former Navy guys calling from Florida with a prayer request. Yesterday, we received an e-mail from a former Navy wife, who now lives in Rhode Island requesting prayer for specific needs. On a lighter side, this past Saturday we received a call from another one of our former Navy guys. He and his family are now living in Tennessee. They were out shopping in one of the local grocery stores and did not know where to find Hoisin Sauce. Instead of asking one of the store clerks, they called and asked Mrs. Nora where to find it. It is truly a blessing to know that even though some are hundreds of miles away from us, they know that they can visit, call, e-mail or write to us anytime they want to.

Care packages were sent to four of our Navy guys stationed on board the USS Harry S Truman. They deployed in November for their seven-month deployment. The following is an e-mail from one of them (George). He is from Africa so you might detect a little problem with his English. "Oh thanks for the big package u sent me, I first want to thank God for this, I thanks little creek Baptist church for rememberin me and caring about me, I want to thank u personally and everybody else in the church. For me is not about the importance what is in that package but it is about how you care about me, it gave me a comfort and I am very glad I got people taking care of me. God bless pocket from which money came from, God bless all hands that contribute, bless Little Creek church and God bless u personally. Out here everything is ok, we pull in on holiday to get some fresh air, It was cool. Keep praying for us so that we will do our jobs and come back home safely THANKS FOR ALL U ARE DOING FOR US. George."

Please pray for George's wife, she is still in Africa and wants to come to the states when he returns from his deployment.

Sometimes both husband and wife are in the Navy. This is the case with Nathan, a young man who just got stationed in Norfolk. His wife is still stationed at Patuxent River, Maryland which is about three hours away from us. He has been called to preach and comes to us from a good fundamental independent Baptist church in which he was actively involved. Many week-ends will find him traveling back home to be with his wife and young son so we may only get to see him for the Wednesday night service. We continue to praise the Lord for this another one He has given us the opportunity to serve along the way. We thank our Heavenly Father for your many kindnesses you showered us with during the year 2007. **God Bless You!**

## Discovery Clubs

The young people have had an exciting month! On February 2nd, the teens headed to Pilot Mountain to scatter their "Witness Boxes." Along the trail, we hid 3 plastic boxes full of tracts, wooden crosses, evangecubes, salvation bracelets, and testimony cards. We think we hiked about 4.5 miles on slopes and rocks! Many of us were moving mighty slowly the next day, and we learned that they really mean it when a trail is marked "strenuous!" Whew! In a few weeks, we plan to return and see if anyone has signed our registry notebooks! Join our teens in praying for the hikers who might come across these boxes. Someone just may discover something that changes his life!

Our teens are also faithfully joining us in "Teen Church" on Sunday mornings in the fellowship hall. We've been meeting for a month now, beginning a PowerPoint study of the life of Christ, based on the book of John. If you know a young person who would benefit from this ministry, send them our way at 10:00 each Sunday, and we will join you in the 11:00 service after our lesson! We're enjoying the fellowship, the discussion, and the pondering our time together brings. We appreciate your prayers for this new dimension of the youth program!

Our Discovery Bible Clubs have also been busy! Fifteen youngsters turned out for our trip to the Ringling Brothers' Barnum and Bailey Circus on February 8! We were thrilled to have many parents and grandparents join us for this action-packed outing! The children were wide-eyed as they watched lumbering elephants, snarling tigers, clever clowns, and daring motorcyclists! Afterward, back at the fellowship hall, Bruce led us in a devotional about Elisha, and how only the Lord can calm our fears and bring comfort even in scary times. We had a midnight Valentine party then, and exchanged Valentines. As soon as we were settled in our pajamas in front of the big screen, we watched the original "Herbie the Love Bug," a fitting "flick" for our Valentine celebration! Most eyes were closed by 2:30 am, and breakfast was served at 7:30! We're so proud of our Bible Clubs for earning this special evening with 2000 points, achieved by their attendance, bringing Bibles, and memorizing verses!

In March, we celebrate the birthdays of Melanie Crump and Ashley Hutton. And we are glad to welcome a new face – sixth-grader Chase Miles has become a member of the Champion club! *Welcome, Chase; we're happy to have you!* In the month ahead, we continue our study of the early church, backing up to focus on "Adventures With Jesus" as well.

Our March memory verse is from Luke 2:30, "For mine eyes have seen thy salvation." As Easter approaches, please pray that young hearts will see their need for Christ as their Savior. Church family, our leaders deeply desire your prayers as we try to guide young lives. What an uncertain day we live in, with so many disturbances, rebellions, and heartbreak. Pray for God's wisdom and guidance as our young people choose their paths.

## **“Brain Dead, Brain Washed, and Blinded to History”** *Judges 10:6*

Israel committed evil again in spite of history. The people literally closed its mind to truth and chose its idols over God. It furthermore ignored history's lesson that God would never tolerate idolatry.

The sin cycle in the book of Judges reminds us of the history of America. During times of comfort and the enjoyment of blessings, our Nation has been the most vulnerable to the sin of greed and self sufficiency. Comfortable living is usually no friend to character! Many Americans are unmindful of our rich history. The “pursuit of happiness” has long taken precedence over the pursuit of character. This pursuit has permeated our culture to such a degree that character is now almost looked at as being some kind of “pre historic animal” that is totally irrelevant and outside the context of our contemporary society. It is no longer a big deal that an American President can have an affair on the side and then lie under oath! Henry Ward Beecher has said that “Happiness is not the end of life, character is.”

The sacrifice of character on the part of our Nation is now jettisoning us down the path that can only lead to the judgment of God. Our Country has dethroned God and placed an idol on the throne. The idol is “self”! We appear to be brain dead, brain washed, and blinded to history.

The people of Israel had enjoyed 45 years of peace and security under the leadership of two Judges by the names of Tola and Jair. It almost appears that they were waiting for the good Judges to die in order for them to repeat their sin cycle. It was apparent that they were not students of history for they would have remembered the past dealings of God. They would have remembered that “righteousness” does indeed exalt a Nation! They would have remembered that their past idolatrous activity had led to defeat at the hands of surrounding heathen Nations.

I recently heard an individual comment that he was going to vote for a Presidential candidate simply because the candidate “inspired him!” He was more driven by inspiration than substance! The substance of any of our elected officials should always highlight our American values. Historically our American values were built upon the Bible and Judeo-Christian foundation.

Americans will be placing into its highest office a new President this Year. Will their vote be based upon merely the candidate's ability to inspire? If so, we will truly get what we deserve! Are we so brainwashed to think that new government handouts constitute good Presidential leadership? If it's only about us, it does! The current selfish philosophy of, “I don't care who he or she is or what he or she is as long as he or she keeps those government checks coming” epitomizes a brainwashing in reference to the purpose of our government.

The tragedy is that our Nation's mindset has been conditioned by the socialistic and humanistic agenda. Our education system is permeated by this poisoned teaching. No wonder our Country wants big government and more social programs. No wonder the city of Berkley wants to kick the Military out of town! No wonder our government will soon be issuing rebate checks! It knows that Americans have been educated to believe that this social “perk” is what governments is supposed to do.

After all, it's all about us, not about the good of our Country! We seem to be oblivious to the fact that we will eventually pay for the rebate checks with our own taxes!

Israel learned that its sinful ways did not go unnoticed by a Holy God. The Nation may have forgotten its history but God would insist that His laws and standards would still be obeyed. We read in Judges Chapter 10 and verse 7 the truth of God's ultimate intervention. If He doesn't excuse sin in the case of Israel, why would He excuse sin in the case of America? “And the anger of the LORD was hot against Israel, and he sold them into the hands of the Philistines, and into the hands of the children of Ammon.”

This Nation will soon pay for its murder of children under the name of abortion. It will soon pay for its abominable sanction of sodomy under the freedom act of gay rights. God has blessed our land and we will not be held guiltless for turning our backs upon Him! Our days of sneering at the Bible and truth are numbered. Our days of mocking those of character and decency will soon end. The cesspools of perversion and abominable activity will be toppled by God's intervention of judgment. Any serious look at the Bible will bring the conclusion that sin will always find individuals and Nations out!

It was not an accident that America was founded and built. America's greatness can be attributed to its God given blessings. Our founders realized that the Nation could not survive without God's hand of direction. Today, unfortunately, His very name is suppressed and those reading the Bible and living according to its standards are viewed as nit wits!

Is it no small thing that we are undermining the blood, sweat, and tears of our founding fathers? America, to them, was worth fighting and dying for. Are we so blinded by greed that personal handouts are more important than defense?

I consider myself to be most richly blessed in being an American. I am extremely indebted to our brave American military heroes. Some are dying on foreign battlefields even while I write this article. I returned home from combat duty in Iraq in 2005. I didn't enjoy at all the extreme heat. I hated the loneliness of being separated from my wife and family. I, like many others, stepped into the face of death and experienced the fear of dying on a foreign soil. I knew, though, that I represented a cause greater than myself. I represented a Country that offered me freedom and a place to raise my family. I thought of my grandkids and knew that they deserved the same blessings that I have enjoyed in being an American. I represented the multitudes of heroes of this and past wars that had died on battlefields that my generation might be free. Above all, I represented my God and Commander in Chief and knew that my mission was for God and country.

9/11, to me, is still a battle cry until those who hate us and seek to destroy us are defeated! We owe it to our founders. We owe it to those who and fought and died for the sake of freedom. We owe it to our children and grandchildren. We owe it to the very sake of profound duty to defend what is right and to do so at any cost. Some things are still worth dying for.

Israel learned the bitter lesson of bondage under the cruel hands of the enemy. They experienced the tyranny of being sold into the hands of the Philistines and other foreign powers. If America doesn't wake up and stand up for what is right, it too could find itself being sold into the hands of foreign invaders. Are we really that brain dead, brainwashed, and blindsided to history?

*By Pastor Chuck Peters*

# *The Unclaimed Gift*

There was a certain Professor of Religion named Dr. Christensen, a studious man who taught at a small college in the western United States. Dr. Christensen taught the required survey course in Christianity at this particular Institution. Every student was required to take this course his freshman year, regardless of his or her major.

Although Dr. Christensen tried hard to communicate the essence of the gospel in his class, he found that most of his students looked upon the course as nothing but required drudgery. Despite his best efforts, most students refused to take Christianity seriously.

This year, Dr. Christensen had a special student named Steve. Steve was only a freshman, but was studying with the intent of going onto seminary for the ministry. Steve was popular, he was well liked, and he was an imposing physical specimen. He was now the starting center on the school football team, and was the best student in the professor's class.

One day, Dr. Christensen asked Steve to stay after class so he could talk with him. 'How many push-ups can you do?' Steve said, 'I do about 200 every night.'

200? That's pretty good, Steve,' Dr. Christensen said. 'Do you think you could do 300?'

Steve replied, 'I don't know.... I've never done 300 at a time.'

'Do you think you could?' again asked Dr. Christensen.

'Well, I can try,' said Steve.

'Can you do 300 in sets of 10? I have a class project in mind and I need you to do about 300 push-ups in sets of ten for this to work. Can you do it? I need you to tell me you can do it,' said the professor.

Steve said, 'Well... I think I can...yeah, I can do it.'

Dr. Christensen said, 'Good! I need you to do this on Friday. Let me explain what I have in mind.'

Friday came and Steve got to class early and sat in the front of the room.

When class started, the professor pulled out a big box of donuts. No, these weren't the normal kinds of donuts, they were the BIG, extra fancy kind, with cream centers and frosting swirls.

Everyone was pretty excited it was Friday, the last class of the year, and they were going to get an early start on the weekend with a party in Dr. Christensen's class.

Dr. Christensen went to the first girl in the first row and asked, 'Cynthia, do you want to have one of these donuts?' Cynthia said, 'Yes.'

Dr. Christensen then turned to Steve and asked, 'Steve, would you do ten push-ups so that Cynthia can have a donut?' 'Sure.' Steve jumped down from his desk to do a quick ten. Then Steve again sat in his desk. Dr. Christensen put a donut on Cynthia's desk.

Dr. Christensen then went to Joe, the next person, and asked, 'Joe, do you want a donut?'

Joe said, 'Yes.' Dr. Christensen asked, 'Steve would you do ten push-ups so Joe can have a donut?'

Steve did ten push-ups! Joe got a donut. And so it went, down the first aisle, Steve did ten push-ups for every person before they got their donut. Walking down the second aisle, Dr. Christensen came to Scott. Scott was on the basketball team, and in as good condition as Steve. He was very popular and never lacking for female companionship. When the professor asked, 'Scott do you want a donut?' Scott's reply was, 'Well, can I do my own push-ups?' Dr. Christensen said, 'No, Steve has to do them.' Then Scott said 'Well, I don't want one then.'

Dr. Christensen shrugged and then turned to Steve and asked, 'Steve, would you do ten push-ups so Scott can have a donut he doesn't want?' With perfect obedience Steve started to do ten push-ups. Scott said, 'Hey! I said I didn't want one!'

Dr. Christensen said, 'Look! this is my classroom, my class, my desks, and these are my donuts. Just leave it on the desk if you don't want it.' And he put a donut on Scott's desk.

Now by this time, Steve had begun to slow down a little. He just stayed on the floor between sets because it took too much effort to be getting up and down. You could start to see a little perspiration coming out around his brow.

Dr. Christensen started down the third row. Now the students were beginning to get a little angry. Dr. Christensen asked Jenny, 'Jenny, do you want a donut?' Sternly, Jenny said, 'No.' Then Dr. Christensen asked Steve, 'Steve, would you do ten more push-ups so Jenny can have a donut that she doesn't want?' Steve did ten....Jenny got a donut.

By now, a growing sense of uneasiness filled the room. The students were beginning to say 'No' and there were all these uneaten donuts on the desks.

*[Cont. on next page.]*

*[Cont. from previous pg.]*

Steve also had to really put forth a lot of extra effort to get these push-ups done for each donut. There began to be a small pool of sweat on the floor beneath his face, his arms and brow were beginning to get red because of the physical effort involved.

Dr. Christensen asked Robert, who was the most vocal unbeliever in the class to watch Steve do each push up to make sure he did the full ten push-ups in a set because he couldn't bear to watch all of Steve's work for all of those uneaten donuts. He sent Robert over to where Steve was so Robert could count the set and watch Steve closely.

Dr. Christensen started down the fourth row. During his class, however, some students from other classes had wandered in and sat down on the steps along the radiators that ran down the sides of the room. When the professor realized this, he did a quick count and saw that now there were 34 students in the room. He started to worry if Steve would be able to make it.

Dr. Christensen went on to the next person and the next and the next. Near the end of that row, Steve was really having a rough time. He was taking a lot more time to complete each set. Steve asked Dr. Christensen, 'Do I have to make my nose touch on each one?'

Dr. Christensen thought for a moment, 'Well, they're your push-ups. You are in charge now. You can do them any way that you want.' And Dr. Christensen went on.

A few moments later, Jason, a recent transfer student, came to the room and was about to come in when all the students yelled in one voice, 'No! Don't come in! Stay out!'

Jason didn't know what was going on. Steve picked up his head and said, 'No, let him come.' Professor Christensen said, 'You realize that if Jason comes in you will have to do ten push-ups for him?' Steve said, 'Yes, let him come in. Give him a donut.'

Dr. Christensen said, 'Okay, Steve, I'll let you get Jason's out of the way right now. Jason, do you want a donut?' Jason, new to the room, hardly knew what was going on. 'Yes,' he said, 'give me a donut.' Steve, will you do ten push-ups so that Jason can have a donut?' Steve did ten push-ups very slowly and with great effort. Jason, bewildered, was handed a donut and sat down.

Dr. Christensen finished the fourth row, and then started on those visitors seated by the heaters. Steve's arms were now shaking with each push-up in a struggle to lift himself against the force of gravity. By this time sweat was profusely dropping off of his face, there was no sound except his heavy breathing; there was not a dry eye in the room.

The very last two students in the room were two young women, both cheerleaders, and very popular. Dr. Christensen went to Linda, the second to last, and asked, 'Linda, do you want a donut?' Linda said, very sadly, 'No, thank you.' Professor Christensen quietly asked, 'Steve, would you do ten push-ups so that Linda can have a donut she doesn't want?' Grunting from the effort, Steve did ten very slow push-ups for Linda.

Then Dr Christensen turned to the last girl, Susan. 'Susan, do you want a donut?' Susan, with tears flowing down her face, began to cry. 'Dr. Christensen, why can't I help him?'

Dr. Christensen, with tears of his own, said, 'No, Steve has to do it alone. I have given him this task, and he is in charge of seeing that everyone has an opportunity for a donut whether they want it or not. When I decided to have a party this last day of class, I looked at my grade book. Steve here is the only student with a perfect grade. Everyone else has failed a test, skipped class, or offered me inferior work.

Steve told me that in football practice, when a player messes up he must do push-ups. I told Steve that none of you could come to my party unless he paid the price by doing your pushups. He and I made a deal for your sakes.'

'Steve, would you do ten push-ups so Susan can have a donut?' As Steve very slowly finished his last push-up, with the understanding that he had accomplished all that was required of him, having done 350 push-ups, his arms buckled beneath him and he fell to the floor.

Dr. Christensen turned to the room and said. 'And so it was, that our Savior Jesus Christ, on the torture stake, plead to the Father, 'Into Thy hands I commend My spirit.' With the understanding that He had done everything that was required of Him, He yielded up His life. And like some of those in this room, many of us leave the gift on the desk, uneaten.'

Two students helped Steve up off the floor and to a seat, physically exhausted, but wearing a thin smile.

'Well done, good and faithful servant,' said the professor, adding 'Not all sermons are preached in words.' Turning to his class, the professor said, 'My wish is that you might understand and fully comprehend all the riches of grace and mercy that have been given to you through the sacrifice of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. He spared not only His Begotten Son, but gave Him up for us all, for the whole Church, now and forever. Whether or not we choose to accept His gift to us, the price has been paid. Wouldn't you be foolish and ungrateful to leave it lying on the desk?'

