

## THE MESSENGER

Smith Grove Baptist Church  
P.O. Box 57  
Colfax, NC 27235

VOLUME 38  
January 2021  
ISSUE 442

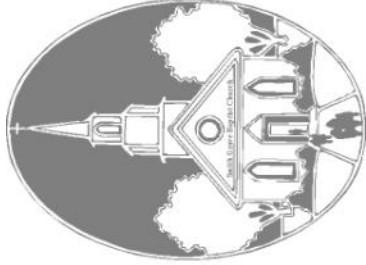
Sunday School	10:00 AM
Morning Worship	11:00 AM
Children's Church	11:15 AM
Evening Worship	6:00 PM
Wednesday Service	7:00 PM
Bible Clubs	7:00 PM
Thursday Visitation	7:00 PM

~ NURSERY PROVIDED ~  
2707 Sandy Ridge Road  
Colfax, NC 27235

**Dr. Charles (Chuck) Peters, Pastor**  
Home: (336) 996-8563  
Cell: (336) 812-1169

### 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 . . .



[www.smithgrove.org](http://www.smithgrove.org)

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# The Messenger



## January 2021



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Home: (336) 996-8563; Cell: (336) 812-1169  
**Rev. Bruce Freeman, Associate Pastor**  
H (336) 996-1501 C (336) 816-2473

Sunday School	10:00 AM
Morning Worship	11:00 AM
Children's Church	11:15 AM
Evening Worship	6:00 PM
Wednesday Service	7:00 PM
Bible Clubs	6:45-8:15 PM

**Streaming Live:** Facebook  
<https://www.facebook.com/mySGBC/>  
YouTube  
[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCj39\\_zpMzkkCXdfYy1NKndQ](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCj39_zpMzkkCXdfYy1NKndQ)

**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 . . .*



# Welcome 2021

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Until we are given a different directive, the church will remain open for services as follows: **Sundays, 11:00 a.m. worship service**, and on **Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. for Prayer Meeting** in the sanctuary. **Remember, this schedule is subject to change ~ changes will be announced by Pastor Chuck or Pastor Bruce.** (BEAMS is always the 3rd Sunday of each month.)

**Thank you for continuing to wear masks** as you enter the sanctuary, having a temperature check upon entry, using hand sanitizer and maintaining safe distancing. (Facilities & hymnals are sanitized after each service.) Thank you for your cooperation with all of these safety measures – they are in place so that we can worship together safely and minimize any chance of possible exposure to Covid-19.

### Statement of Faith:

We are an Independent Baptist Church (*established in 1921*) preaching the old time Gospel and still believing that the King James Version of the Bible constitutes the preserved, inerrant, and inspired Word of God for the English speaking people of the earth.

# REMEMBER IN PRAYER

**SHUT-INS:** Iris Farrington      David & Carolyn McBrayer  
                  Neva Long                Willard & Barbara Tucker

**Assisted Living/Nursing Home:** Rose Matthews

## IN THE SERVICE OF THEIR COUNTRY

**PVT Adam Brittain**, Army, Fort Benning, GA (Sam Crater's nephew)

**CW4 Jonathan Harless** (Raleigh)                                } (Hal & Martha  
**LTC Robert Harless** (Fort Campbell, KY)                        } Harless' sons)

**E3 Noah Johnson**, US Coast Guard Station Port Canaveral, Cape Canaveral, FL (Henry & Geraldine Johnson's grandson)

**CCWO5 Michael Maine**, US Army; Ft. Riley, KS (Nephew of Clarence Redmon)

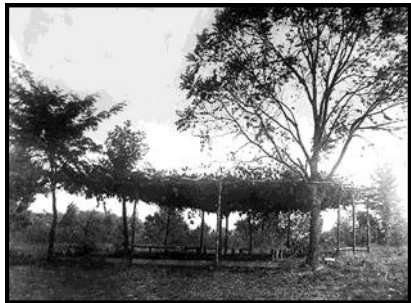
**LT Katie Moore**, US Navy; USS Independence (LCS-2)  
(Dreama & Darris Moore's Granddaughter)

**SSgt Kyle Norman**, 2602 Westridge Ave W #L304,  
Tacoma, WA 98466 (Sandy Westmoreland's son)

**PFC Trevor Westmoreland**, PO Box 10197,  
Ft. Irwin, CA 92310 (Allen & Sandy Westmoreland's son)



*2021 ~ Smith Grove begins its 100th year.*



Our Beginnings . . .  
In 1921, the  
Rev. Nealis Smith of  
Kernersville, NC, held a  
meeting under a brush  
arbor located near the  
present church building.  
From this meeting, a  
church was organized.

With the pastor and most of the charter members being Smiths,  
"Smith Grove Baptist Church" was born.  
*(Check back each month for more Smith Grove History!)*



## BEAMS' Report for December 2020

# of Pledges: 12; # of Contributions: 4;  
Total Contributors: 16  
Total Contributed: \$ 642.00 =  
80 Bibles in December (plus some postage)

*Many thanks to the Adult Fellowship Bible Class for their ongoing BEAMS' ministry which added \$ 250.00 for postage this month!*

You can also get the BEAMS' report online at our website:  
[http://www.smithgrove.org/beams\\_ministry.htm](http://www.smithgrove.org/beams_ministry.htm)

Pastor Chuck will be streaming Live every Wednesday at 7 p.m. & Sunday at 11 a.m. on [Facebook](#) & [YouTube](#) — (You do not need a



facebook account to watch the video on fb!)



<https://www.facebook.com/mySGBC/>

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCj39\\_zpMzkkCXdFYy1NKndQ](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCj39_zpMzkkCXdFYy1NKndQ)

To listen & download mp3:

Audio Sermons Online ~ <http://audio.smithgrove.org/>



## Men's & Ladies' Fellowship

Quarterly Mtgs.: (3rd Tuesdays - 7 p.m.)

Meetings will resume when the Covid-19 threat allows.

## *The Road to Everlasting Life*

**Romans 3:23** "For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God."

**Romans 5:12** "Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned."

**Romans 5:8** "But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."

**Romans 6:23** "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."

**Romans 10:9-10** "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation."

**Romans 10:13** "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."



**Smith Grove's ministry to our widows and widowers**

*"Honour widows that are widows indeed."  
(1 Timothy 5:3)*

This is a continuing churchwide ministry to remember widows and widowers of the church in a meaningful way. Each month, we highlight our special "Honour Roll Gang Members" who are having birthdays. Listed below are *January and February* 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.

**Casandra Mann**

800 Quail Meadow  
Colfax, NC 27235  
336-993-4327 (Home)  
336-317-3483 (Cell) ~ January 2

**Dolly Westmoreland**

520 Lakedale Rd  
Colfax, NC 27235  
336-993-2093 ~ January 27

**Kathy Flynt**

896 Flynt Rd.  
High Point, NC 27265  
336-668-2500 (Home)  
336-880-3352 (Cell)  
~ January 7

**Jean Rumsey**


8730 Bame Road  
Colfax, NC 27235  
336-668-2080 ~ February 01

**Joy Overcast**

441 Mountain View Dr, Apt. 110  
Kernersville, NC 27284  
336-996-7563 ~ February 12



*No Anniversaries in January.*




*Congratulations* **90**

**to Mrs. Irene Shields**  
90 years old on Nov. 30, 2020

"Congratulations on the celebration of your 90th birthday! May your days be filled with the warmth of God's love and the sweet companionship of friends and family. May each day bring forth a precious memory of the past as well as the chance to create another amazing memory tomorrow. Praying that you will have a joyous 2021!"

*A lovely flower arrangement was sent to Irene by the church in recognition of this birthday milestone.*




**From The Messenger Crew**

It is with thankful hearts we enter the 38th year of *The Messenger*. Year after year, issue after issue, we are obsessed with gathering inspirational material, meeting deadlines, and sharing the Good News. It is truly a labor of love, and one of true blessing.

**Many thanks** to everyone who has a part . . . Pastor Chuck, our cogitative author who keeps his keyboard busy; Darla, who writes so beautifully of all the learning and fun that takes place with our Be Strong Bible Club; Glen and Ann, who compile our BEAMS information, Glen (and Pam), who make our Postage Account deposits, and Doris (Toots), who provides missionary letters to share with all of us. And thank you to everyone who has shared a story or testimony!

Please pray for our church and all its ministries, and include *The Messenger* when you pray! **May God bless you all in 2021!**

**The Crew** ...Sherrill, Becky, Glenda, Sam & Clarence



**Quotes for The New Year**

"Approach the new year with resolve to find the opportunities hidden in each new day." —Michael Josephson

"Climb the mountain so you can see the world, not so the world can see you." —David McCullough Jr.

"As the year comes to a close, it is a time for reflection – a time to release old thoughts and beliefs and forgive old hurts. Whatever has happened in the past year, the New Year brings fresh beginnings. Exciting new experiences and relationships await. Let us be thankful for the blessings of the past and the promise of the future." —Peggy Toney Horton

"When life is sweet, say thank you and celebrate. When life is bitter, say thank you and grow." —Shauna Niequist

"You are never too old to set another goal or to dream a new dream." — C.S. Lewis

"Be at war with your vices, at peace with your neighbors, and let every new year find you a better man." —Benjamin Franklin

"The beginning is the most important part of the work." —Plato

"Good resolutions are simply checks that men draw on a bank where they have no account." —Oscar Wilde

"The secret of change is to focus all of your energy, not on fighting the old, but on building the new." —Socrates

"If you don't like something, change it. If you can't change it, change your attitude." —Maya Angelou

## John & Yvete Boff ~ Missionaries to Brazil

Porto Alegre, RS-BRAZIL

We're thankful to God for your help with our ministry!

News about my wife YVETE: She has gone through many problems, was hospitalized several times, doing dialysis three times a week four hours each time. In August she was in the hospital for 14 days and in one day she had 3 surgeries! A pacemaker was placed in her chest as her heart rate was very low. Then the catheter in her chest was removed and placed in her leg; two separate surgeries and very painful! Also, because of the dialysis she lost a lot of calcium resulting in a problem with her teeth. Implants had to be removed and she will have a bone implant later in order to recover! It has been very difficult for her but she keeps on trusting God! She is having problems with paratireoides [parathyroid glands] and so, will have surgery to remove them. After that, if possible she will be put on the list for a kidney transplant, the Lord willing. Also, my wife found through a blood test which was done in the hospital where she does dialysis, that she had had Covid-19 and was already cured! She suffered no symptoms other than a loss of taste and now was immune to it. Again, she is cured of covid-19! Amen!

In February of 2020 we suffered a great loss in our family as our son Daniel went out into eternity. He had respiratory-heart problems and because of the pandemic the official report of his death has not been given until now! He was a teacher of young people in our church and a professor in our Bible Institute – a great loss!!! However, we know that he is with Jesus Christ! Amen!

Because of covid-19 we had many restrictions in regard to the services and meetings in our churches and in fact had to close them and not have services for three months. We have already started having services on Sundays and Wednesdays. We had to stay six feet from each other and use gel hand sanitizers along with masks. We couldn't have classes for the children because of covid-19 but we didn't stop evangelism and giving out tracts! Amen! It was difficult for the mothers who had babies or very small children so we suggested to them that on one Sunday the father attends the services and on the next Sunday the mother would attend. That way neither one would be out of church for very long and wouldn't lose interest in the church. I'm sure that you understand the difficulty here in Brazil. Sometimes the people get discouraged!

Also, some member of our church had covid-19 but thanks to God, they recovered and are back in church! God is good! Amen! We were thrilled to see them after months of staying in homes and they are happy and joyful to be back in church! This made us very happy!

Thanks to God for His immeasurable love! We continue on preaching and we have received new people in our church in the city of Canoas. We have seen God working in a special way in the lives of people; people rededicating their lives to Christ Jesus and others being saved. We continue on evangelizing, visiting and preaching the Gospel. Amen! Pray for us and for our ministry here in Brazil.

We love you all! *John & Yvete Boff*

## What is Life's Purpose?

This question, if answered rightly and applied to daily living, will impact our life as to whether it is approached with the idea of mere empty existence or realization of Divine purpose. James asked, "...for what is your life...? He then reminds us that the physical aspect of life is extremely brief – "vapor" (Reference James 4:14)

We could ask, what is life so far as definition? If life is defined and lived as mere existence, it is hollow, without substance, and hopeless. For the righteous, the purpose of life is to bring glory to God our creator and enjoy him forever through Jesus Christ. "The LORD hath made all things for himself: yea, even the wicked for the day of evil." – Pro.16:4

I believe that to properly understand the meaning of life, we need to first embrace the miracle of life which is the new birth experience through the Creator and Saviour. "All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made." – John 1:3. Knowing Him is the key that unlocks the knowledge and purpose of life and gives the answer to the questions, why am I here and what am I to do?

Why are we here and what is our purpose? "Even every one that is called by my name: for I have created him for my glory, I have formed him; yea, I have made him." – Isa.43:7 "The greatest threat to life is not failing but succeeding in a cause that means nothing to God."- (Anonymous) Sir James Simpson, the man who discovered chloroform, was asked by a reporter, "Sir, what was your greatest discovery?" He replied, "When I found that I was a sinner in the sight of God and when I found that Jesus died for sinners like me."

Jesus is the answer to the purpose of life because salvation through Him results in not only life but abundant life! "The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly." – John 10:10

Bill Gaither wrote: "So long, I searched for life's meaning — Enslaved by the world and my greed Then the door of my prison was opened by love For the ransom was paid I was free I'm free from the fear of tomorrow I'm free from the guilt of my past I've traded my shackles for a glorious song I'm free Praise the Lord, free at last!"

.....*Pastor Chuck Peters*



## Be Strong Bible Club & Teens

These last weeks of 2020 have flown! As our young people gather for zoom meetings, it seems we meet for “Together Tuesday,” turn around, and it’s suddenly Tuesday again. In the midst of this stressful year, though, our weekly visits are a welcome lift to our spirits.

In honor of the shoebox gifts we packed for Operation Christmas Child, we celebrated “Favorite Toy Night,” bringing something dearly loved from our childhoods. On “Jungle Night,” everyone shared their tigers, snakes, and monkeys. While some wore their explorer hats, ready for adventure, Marshall came as Indiana Jones.

For “Gratitude Night,” we discussed the many blessings for which we’re thankful... family, health, home, and salvation. Reflecting on Habakkuk 3, Bruce reminded us that it’s not always easy to be grateful, but God’s Word advises us to rejoice... even in difficulty. *“Yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will joy in the God of my salvation.”* In spite of our circumstances, having an attitude of thankfulness gives us a stable foundation and makes us stronger in adversity.

As the Christmas season approached, our meetings took a festive turn, kicking off the fun with “Flannel Night.” Through our screens, we saw the familiar patterns of cozy flannel shirts and pajamas. We asked the question, “What’s your favorite Christmas special or movie?” We fondly recalled Charlie Brown, Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer, the Grinch Who Stole Christmas, Buddy the Elf, Santa from “The Polar Express,” Ralphie from “A Christmas Story,” and George Bailey from “It’s a Wonderful Life.” Such characters define the warmth of childhood holiday memories, but Bruce asked us, “Can you name a scripture that makes you *feel warm*?” Among many responses, he shared John 15:13... *“Greater love hath no man than this, that a Man lay down His life for His friends.”* Entering December, our hearts seemed focused on how different Christmas will be this year, but we still have so much to thank Jesus for, as we remember His birthday and honor Him for coming to “lay down His life” for us!

On “Nativity Scene Night,” each zoomer led us down hallways and even outside, to share a manger displayed at their home. Then we discussed our favorite Christmas songs, mentioning such beloved standards as “Oh Holy Night,” “The First Noel,” “Winter Wonderland,” “Joy to the World,” “Away in a Manger,” “Beautiful Star of Bethlehem,” “Holly Jolly Christmas,” “Silent Night,” and “Hark the Herald Angels Sing.” We read from the second chapter of Luke, noticing how both Mary and Joseph were willing to make sacrifices to accomplish the daunting tasks God had for them. In situations that seemed overwhelming, they “made room for Jesus.” In our own uncertain times, we must remember to embrace what the Lord has for us, opening our hearts to His plan in our lives.

(Continued)



For “Christmas Tree Night,” we browsed our living rooms to find the beautiful, glowing trees that are at the center of each home’s décor this season. Everybody shared an ornament that’s special to them. In our festive night of Christmas tree viewing, lots of memories were stirred. We saw “First Christmas” ornaments, homemade ornaments, pictures of pets and family, and old childhood favorites. We pondered the shepherds, who were the first to hear the glorious angelic announcement that our Savior had been born in Bethlehem. After finding the babe in the manger, the *“shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.”* (Luke 2:20) This is **our** mission too, joyously telling others about the gift we’ve found in Jesus! Even through this challenging season, we have such good news to share... “unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, Which is Christ the Lord.” Let’s encourage one another to shine His light this Christmas... and always!

On another edition of December’s Together Tuesdays, we celebrated “Christmas Traditions Night.” In lieu of our annual youth party at church, we had an afternoon porch “drop off,” delivering treats at each home. When 6:30 came around, all of us pulled out our cupcakes and popcorn, then we partied onscreen together! Our youngsters excitedly opened their gift bags to find a “Miracle in the Manger” book, a finger puzzle game, a jingle bell necklace with a cross on it, a stuffed woodland animal in a winter hat, and a headband with blinking lightbulbs. Nobody wasted any time getting the goofy headpieces on their heads, and amidst the laughter, we had fun watching the festivities from afar. Everyone shared one of their family’s favorite Christmas traditions, and we smiled, knowing that, although many things have changed, so many joys stay the same. At the heart of our celebrations, we find Jesus... He brings redemption to fallen mankind, He pours salvation into broken hearts, and He shines the hope of heaven in this weary, desperate world. Whatever we face, our hearts rejoice at His coming!

With Hopeful Prayers for Blessings on All of You in the New Year,  
*Bruce, Darla, and Marshall*

### Tabernacle Children’s Home



#### **Update from Lisa Serafini:**

*Thank you to our loving and giving church for your generous donations to the children at Tabernacle Children’s Home. You gave \$1,385 – and there are 32 children at Tabernacle as of now. That is \$40 for each child, with a remainder of \$105. I told them to use that if any other children should come in before Christmas, and if not, to use it for whatever they need.*

I returned home from the hospital yesterday (Dec. 12), after spending 8 days on a hospital bed, and desire to express words which hopefully will encourage the many who know the drain of physical pain upon these weak human bodies. Our world is not without pain and no human being is an ultimate authority in dealing with the subject. Many will read this and, no doubt, know more about the subject than I do. Life is a schoolhouse of suffering and all are enrolled while wearing dying physical bodies. I, as a minister of the Gospel, seek to not only faithfully preach the truth but also draw from life's experiences in the matter of encouraging and comforting those who suffer. I share these segments of my life not to suggest a martyr status or insinuate that I am the only one going through times of pain and hurt. I am neither bragging nor complaining, I simply would share my story of the precious presence and care of my Lord in my hospital seminar as I also learned things from this Divine Instructor which had to be taught on the flat of my back.

It is not without significance that the word "comfort" is used often in Scripture and, thus, reveals the general need of comfort on the part of a hurting world of people including the servants of God. I cannot get away from the words of Paul who writes in II Corinthians 1:4, "Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God." I quote this verse often and draw from its teaching that we are to let no opportunity pass us by in the matter of carrying to others the comfort that God brings to us. He one day gave to His Disciples food which had multiplied in His loving hands for the distinct purpose of the food being given to the hungry multitudes. We are to attempt to view even the sufferings of life from the backdrop of how our most bitter experiences can help others!

Athletes endure pain as a worthy discipline to win the gold medal. Prisoners of war endure pain to prove that they are really not totally controlled by the enemy. Some respond to pain with the attitude of "just suck it up and bear it, its part of living!" Some respond to pain with, "Why me Lord, what did I do to deserve this?" I believe, in the context of the Christian life, that pain is not absent from gain. I, quite frankly, value my week in the hospital because of Who I found at my bedside! My Great Physician was waiting on me when I arrived in the surgery room! But please let me be clear, I would have been a winner either way! I can say that my feet are still above the ground but I more than likely would have rejoiced far more if my feet would have ended up being above the clouds!

Have you ever heard the expression that it hurts too much to cry? We can get to the place where the body is in so much pain that the emotions of tears can indeed exacerbate the pain! My wife took me to the hospital and the doctor said that emergency surgery was needed, for delay was deadly. She asked me was I afraid. I expressed to her my settled peace and also the fact that nothing short of relief from pain would work, even if it meant "feet above the clouds!" Again, I share this to encourage you with the encouragement that I received.

My church encouraged me with prayer, texts, cards, and calls. I sense a real church family with heartfelt love and support. I am so thankful to have our

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Assistant Pastor keeping our church ministry going! I view this as a gain. I have had preacher friends from several States assuring me of their prayers and support. The simple kindness and ability to empathize with those who hurt is "God given" and these moments always tend to bring out the best of those whose hearts have likewise been warmed by God's salvation and caring spirit. I, of course, have had great support from my family. The "for better or for worse" clause of the marriage vow has especially drawn emphasis on the "for worse" part in the case of my dear wife! Her loving loyalty to include attending my dressings on my open wound and helping me maintain my other little "post surgery attachment" is way beyond the call of duty! You church ladies are well in order when you tell me to especially listen to Carol! All of this is a gain to my pain!

I tend to do a lot of reflecting as I grow older. I associate the good things of life with a testimonial of God's orderliness and control over life. I also tend to become more emotional over the expression of human kindness and simple words from the mouths of people who genuinely speak reassuring words at times when fear can become threatening. Three nurses assisting the Surgeon made sure to tell me that they were with me during the surgery. "We are with you" was their statement. Oh the comfort of those four simple words when facing the surgeon's scalpel! Oh the comfort of never being alone for God is always beside His own! It is great comfort to know that the severity of pain will never diminish the exhibition of God's love, care, and comfort towards His own. It is comforting to know that we can fall back on the truth that God never brings us to any point in life but what He has something in mind for our benefit.

I experienced the gain of pain in the demeanor, professionalism, and personal care of the doctors and nurses attending to my surgery needs. I have never had higher love and respect towards nurses than I do now! They put themselves in danger for the sake of caring for the sick. I reflected upon the well synchronized organization and structure of the hospital and was reminded of the orderliness of God and the Scriptural mandate of things being done decently and in order. I gave praise to the Lord when a nurse told me that other nurses had commented that I was a good patient! I thought, only God! My standard for being a hospital patient is to spend less time complaining and more time praising the wonderful people helping us in recovery!

I count the pain as gain when a nurse reminds me that this ordeal is just another opportunity to better understand and help others when they suffer. She knew of my testimony and ministry and, praise the Lord, knew of the gain!

Again, I share this with you to simply praise the Lord and thank Him for His comfort and to pass these words on that maybe others will find that same comfort as well. God is so good and worthy of praise during all the times, good or bad. Pain will always be a gain when God's care is factored in and the comfort of God is distributed to others through our pain teaching moments. May we always see the big picture and realize that if we stay focused upon encouraging the suffering, we will never lack for an audience but we will also never miss the blessing of the gain of pain. ....Pastor Chuck Peters