

Christ

Life

MINISTRIES

REPORT

SUMMER / FALL 2008

Getting Past the Past!

Leaving Where You Have Been to Get Where You Want to Go

An Englishman visited a friend in Africa. His African friend was an avid sportsman and prevailed on him to go lion hunting. After spending a sleepless night in the jungle, they were up early the next morning to begin the big hunt. Stumbling upon the fresh tracks of a full grown lion, the sportsman was anxious to track down the lion. The terrified Englishman said, "You go ahead and see where he *went*, and I'll go back and see where he *came from!*"

Let's talk about going forward . . . about getting beyond the former things. Two things are necessary to get past the past: first, the previous must be forgotten; and second, the future must be pursued. *Forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forth to those things which are before.* To embrace Christ, Paul had to forsake his Hebrew heritage and Pharisaical pedigree. To pursue his destiny, Paul relinquished his external virtue and trusted Christ for true righteousness that only comes by faith. He understood that He needed to forget his self-righteousness, but many of us need to forget our unrighteousness!

Forgetting the Past

To *forget* means to purposely neglect, or to put out of mind. You and I can choose to neglect the past. Don't **linger** in the past. Don't **languish** over the past. Don't **live**

in the past. We must **learn** from the past and the only way to learn from the past is to **leave** it!

You can't change the past, but you can get over it. You can neglect those things which are behind. Stop looking in the rear view mirror and get your eyes on the road. Quit looking over your shoulder. Never mind where you have been; concentrate on where you want to go. You can't change the past, but you can get beyond it. God has made a way out of the guilt, grief, and garbage.

Guilt. There is not a person in the Faith Hall of Fame who did everything right! Check out some of the blunders these faith champions committed:

- Adam Desecrated the image of God.
- Moses was Distraught over Israel's sin.
- Abraham Deceived the king in the matter concerning his wife.
- Noah got Drunk.
- Jacob Deceived his father.
- Rahab was Degraded through whoredom.
- Peter Denied the Lord.
- Thomas Doubted Christ's word.
- John Mark Deserted on his missionary journey.
- Paul contributed to the Death of Stephen.

- David was Defiled by adultery and murder.
- Elijah became Depressed to the point of wishing for death.

All these committed glaring sins and mistakes, but they got up and moved on. Everyone falls in one way or another, but great men get back up! To stumble is human, but to stand up afterwards is a mark of greatness.

Even the Apostle Paul had to put some things behind him. Holding the coats of the men who murdered Stephen and his fierce persecution of early Christians were issues for which he found forgiveness for in the blood of Jesus.

Guilt is not a mental or emotional problem; it is a spiritual problem which requires a spiritual solution.

Just because you messed up doesn't mean you have to stay messed up.

Just because you messed up once doesn't mean you have to mess up again.

Just because you messed up does not mean you have to mourn the rest of your life because of your mistakes and failures. Grace can recover what sin has destroyed!

Grief. People get depressed because they have lost something. Maybe you have suffered the loss of a relative, relationship, riches, or reputation. Scores are blind to the future because they are bound by a

continued...



Personal Word

To some degree, your environment exists with your permission. Some things will never change without your consent. Most of the Israelites got so acclimated to the wilderness that they never got out of it! If you can content yourself with where you are, you will not move on to a better location. One of the key factors in improvement is dissatisfaction with the way things are.

This is especially true when it comes to one's mental outlook or attitude. You have to get over the past before you can enjoy the present and pursue your destiny. Yesterday makes a poor place to live.

God has given us the power and principles to get beyond our history and write some new chapters instead of rereading the ones already written. You have to "get over" what has happened before you can "get to" the new exploits God has in store for you. I trust this article will greatly help and benefit you.

EDITOR
HAROLD VAUGHAN

COPY EDITOR
T. P. JOHNSTON, JR.

The Christ Life Report is the official publication of Christ Life Ministries, Inc. CLM is a 501-c-3 non-profit organization. It exists exclusively for furthering revival and evangelism in local churches.

The major emphasis of this ministry are four-fold: crusades, publications, Prayer Advances, and The Report. Evangelist Harold Vaughan is the founder of CLM.

Christ Life Ministries is a faith ministry. All contributions are tax-deductible.

Getting Past the Past! continued from Page 1.

discouraging past.

When someone or something dies there is a time for mourning. Israel had a designated period for grieving when Moses passed on, but when those days were ended, God told them to get up and go forward. David wept, fasted, and prayed for his sick child. But after his child died he washed his face, ate some food, and turned his attention back to his duties.

There comes a point when you must let the dead be dead, or you cannot live. You have to stop medicating your wounds. Once the season for grieving is over, you must get going to the next thing.

For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power . . . and of a sound (disciplined) mind (2 Tim. 1:7). You have power to dissolve doubts and move ahead. You don't have to walk down those hurtful highways in memory lane! Incredible resources are at your disposal to bring renegade thoughts captive to Christ. The Lord Jesus came to heal the brokenhearted and He can heal yours. Grief is painful, but it does not have to be permanent. By faith you received forgiveness. By faith you can take victory.

Garbage. God never consults your past to determine your potential. David committed enormous sins, yet God forgave him and used him. Think about the patriarchs who made some gigantic mistakes and still God spoke positively about them.

Have you made some colossal errors? Aren't you glad not many people know about your "whoppers?" You may not be able to change the past, but you can get over it.

You can take your garbage and dump it at Calvary, because that is exactly what God did with it. God has put your past behind Him, so you can put it behind you. You can't erase unwanted memories, but you can choose to neglect them. You have power to focus on the positive and reject the negative.

By the way, you will not change what you are unwilling to confront. Joseph

had numerous injustices done to him. But when he was down to nothing, he believed that God was up to something! He got beyond his painful past into a fruitful future. Sure he had a rough "go of it," but he got up and moved on. Instead of opting out as a career victim, he realized God was bigger than the people who wronged him. As often is the case, adversity led to tremendous achievement. Joseph got past his past and rose to realize his God-given dream.

Everyone has had unfortunate events, heartbreaks, losses, failures, and sins. Stop focusing on what you have *been through*, and start focusing on what you are *going to*.

The answer to garbage and guilt is the blood of Jesus. So potent is that blood that Christ Himself arose from the dead by its power. Think of it, He had more sin on Him than you will ever have on you. The Father took all the sin of all men of all time and placed it on His Son. He bore our sins in his own body on the tree. His sacrifice paid mankind's sin debt to the full satisfaction of God. On the third day Jesus rose again. That same powerful blood sets you free from the guilt and garbage of the past.

The solution to your grief is God's grace which is far greater than your misery. Jesus came to heal the brokenhearted. Your loss may have been excruciating, but it does not have to be enduring. The sun can shine again.

That blood has never lost its power! Your victory will not come through resolution, but by the realization and reception of God's amazing grace. The power of a disciplined mind is yours for the taking. You can neglect those things which are behind.

Pursuing the Future

You can't gain any momentum moving toward tomorrow if you are dragging yesterday behind you. God says, *Forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forth to those things which are before.* The forward look is essential. Don't waste your time analyzing those who have wronged you.

Use your energy to create new roads ahead instead of trying to patch up the old roads behind you.

You were put on this planet to solve someone's problem. By giving your time and energy to your God-given Assignment, you will not squander your resources on things that have ceased to live. After a plane crashed on a snow-covered mountainside, the passengers thought they were going to die. Fearful of death, they started cannibalizing the corpses of their fellow passengers. On the other side of the mountain there was a ski resort in full swing. Not one of the survivors bothered to walk the short distance around the crest of the hill. They stayed where they crashed, consuming those dead bodies.

If you don't move beyond your crisis, you will hunker down at the crash site criticizing and consuming the people who hurt you. Vultures feed on dead things, but you shouldn't! Stop feeding on the carnage. Someone said, "Criticism is the death gargle of a non-achiever."

The best way to get something out of your mind is to get it out of your mouth. Refuse to rehearse that painful episode. Stop meditating and talking about it. Every time you speak you are programming yourself and the people around you. Quit rehashing those details and advertising your pain. Stop talking about your experiences and start talking about your expectations. Refuse to review your failures and begin to envision your future. The important thing is not where you have been; the important thing is where you are going. You can be pitiful or powerful, but you can't be both at the same time. Only you can make the choice to move to the other side of the mountain where there is life.

Don't let the pain of the past poison your future. Bitterness will wipe the smile off your face. Bitterness will zap the river of blessing from your soul. Bitterness will paralyze your effectiveness in prayer. Bitterness will contaminate the people around you. If you don't conquer bitterness, it will conquer you. Getting past the past is not something you SHOULD do; it is something you MUST do!

No matter how low you get, you are still on top of the devil. The next time Satan brings up your past, just remind him of his future! One of his most successful strategies is to trap the saints in the quagmire of the

past. If you are reminded of your sins after you have confessed them, it is not God convicting you; it is the devil attempting to condemn you. You can't erase unwanted memories, but you can choose to neglect them. The healing of your memories does not eliminate your ability to recall the past, but in time it will give you the ability to replay the past without the accompanying pain. More importantly, the power of a disciplined mind enables you to neglect those recollections and focus on productive pursuits.

Your memory *replays* the past, but imagination *pre-plays* your destiny. Allow your future to be the object of your obsession. Your life will always move in the direction of your most dominant thoughts. Reject fatalistic tendencies. Refuse to over-analyze. Realize your words are a signpost which signals to others the direction your life is moving. Get out of the pit of logic and move up to the palace of faith. Begin to think and speak about a

preferable future.

We must master that verse found in Philippians 4:8, *Whatsoever things are true... honest...just... pure...lovely...of good report...virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.* Our thinking, speaking, and dreaming will determine what we accomplish in this life. We must master our innermost thoughts. This is mandatory. Shake off the spirit of slumber! Rise up in your heart and lay hold on God's power. God wants to take your disappointments and turn them into reappointments. Everything that pertains to life and godliness has been given to us, including the power of a disciplined mind.

Your future is as bright as the promises of God. By neglecting the things which are behind and reaching forth to the things up front, you can get past the past, pounce on the present, and forge into your future!

- Harold Vaughan

Testimonies

This was our first time attending and we only had six ladies attend. I have been saved 26 years and thought I had a pretty good prayer and bible study time. Well....at least compared to others (problem- I know). But after attending this Advance the Lord did a work in my heart and life that is unexplainable. I can honestly say this was the next best thing to my salvation experience. I spoke with the sister that led the early morning prayer time at great length about starting an Afterglow group upon returning. I did not want this to ever "die" down. We did, and continue to meet every week. We have lost one, but have gained three others. It is such a blessing and thrill to see this. Not only this, but our church has once again begun seeing folks saved, baptized and added to the church. We have visitors every service. I can't help but believe this is related to a group of ladies who pray fervently for their pastor and church. And in my personal life, I have seen answers to years of praying. What a blessing!!!!

The Prayer Advance was an "indescribable" blessing to my life. God used His Word to impact me in the areas of unbelief like never before. The Men's Prayer Advance is a must for me and all the men in my church for years to come! I praise God for Christ Life Ministries and the extreme blessing they have been to me and my family. - Virginia

I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart for all the work that went into the most recent Men's Prayer Advance. What a success! What a thrill! What a joy to be a part of this magnificent thing. I believe God was in it from start to finish and no doubt fruit is being produced as I write. The selection of the preachers, the majestic singing, the testimonies and the structure of the prayer times were all used to bless my soul beyond measure. Thank you, brother, for allowing yourself to be used by God in such a way to encourage a simple preacher of the gospel such as myself. Harold, I love you in Christ and am grateful that I had the opportunity to be there with you and the other 700 men. Keep up what you are doing! This is definitely one of those conferences that each person needs to experience at least once in their life. - Florida

Men's Advance: Off the Charts!

Hearts overflowed with faith, hope, and encouragement at the Men's Advance in January. A record attendance was on hand to hear our featured speakers; Attorney David Gibbs and Pastor Craig Scott. Miraculous events have followed in the wake of the Advance. Two Men's Advances are scheduled next year: January 29-31 and April 23-25. Go to our website to:

- View a new professional 8 minute clip of the 2008 Advance!
- Read Advance Afterglow Testimonies
- Listen to new audio sermons
- Order Advance DVD's, CD's, or MP3 messages



Record Crowd at Ladies' Advance

Seeking Higher Ground was the theme for this year's Advance. The messages by Tom Palmer and Carol Trahan were FANTASTIC! God spoke deeply to hearts. One pastor called and reported that the impact on his church was phenomenal. Mark your calendar for the next Ladies' Advance March 12-14, 2009.



Student Prayer Advance

Piedmont Baptist College in Winston Salem, NC will be the site for this year's Student Prayer Advance, July 31- August 2. Separate tracks will be conducted for younger and high school students as well as college age young people. Evangelist Will Galkin and Sammy Frye are the featured speakers. Details may be viewed via our website.



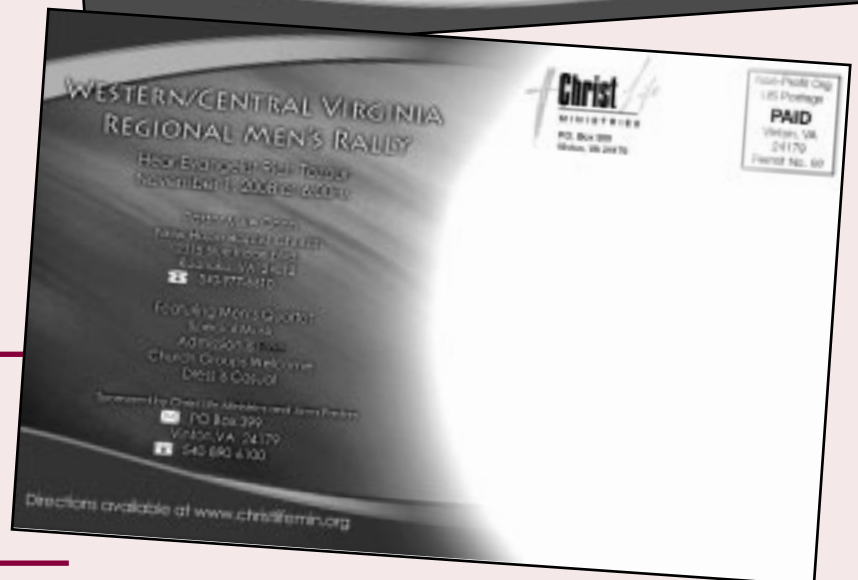
New Tow Vehicle Secured!

Thanks to all who helped with our Tow Vehicle Project. We are grateful for the churches and partners who help keep this ministry going through their support.



Upcoming Area-Wide Men's Rally

Church groups and men near Roanoke, VA are encouraged to attend the Men's Rally, November 1. This Rally features stem-winding preaching, a special men's quartet, and a great night of encouragement. This Rally will take place at 6:00 p.m. at New Hope Baptist Church in Roanoke, VA. Details and directions are available at: www.christlifemin.org



Visit us online at:
www.christlifemin.org

2009

Prayer Advance Schedule

Men's Advances
January 29 - 31
and
April 23 - 25

Ladies' Advance
March 12 - 14

Go Online
to learn more:
www.christlifemin.org

Upcoming Advances

Two Men's Advances are planned in 2009. As usual, Rockbridge Alum Springs in Goshen, VA will be the location January 29-31. Camp Pine Creek in Gore, VA will be the site April 23-25 with Evangelist Tom Farrell. Check out the latest brochure with details on our web site.

Mark your calendar for the Ladies' Advance March 12-14 at Rockbridge Alum Springs. Brochure will be available soon!

Forgiveness Reprint

The ever popular Forgiveness book, by Harold Vaughan and T.P. Johnston, has been revised and expanded. Great quantity discounts are available. Order your copy today for \$9.95 postpaid!

