

The Exchanger

Volume 00, Issue 2

February, 2000

THE NEWSLETTER
OF
FELLOWSHIP
BIBLE CHURCH
WHITE ROCK

*The
Mission
of
FBCWR:
To present the Lord Jesus
Christ: His work
on the
cross
and
His in-
dwelling
power
to meet
man's
needs.*

*Jesus stood and cried
out, saying, "If anyone is
thirsty, let him come to
Me and drink.*

*"He who believes in Me, as
the Scripture said, 'From
his innermost being will
flow rivers of
living water.'"
John 7:37-38*

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Prime the Pump *How to Keep the Living Waters Flowing*

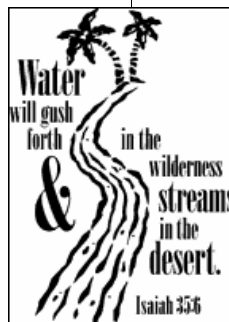
Why do my insides sometimes feel more like the Sahara than the Amazon? Jesus told both the crowds at a Jewish feast and the Samaritan woman that He would place a "spring of living water" into those who believe in Him. He said the water would quench a deep thirst for love and satisfaction for which we all long. In the case of the woman, she had been attempting to fill up this dryness and emptiness through relationships with men. The spiritual power and satisfaction that Jesus promised is given to every Christian. The living water is there inside of us but it needs to be tapped. Why do we fail to take advantage of the fountain?

1) Our straw is in the wrong drink. If we drink from the world's well of sin, escape and amusement, no wonder we remain thirsty. As God told Jonah, "*Those who cling to worthless idols, forfeit the grace that could be theirs* (Jonah 2:8)."

2) We bite the Hand that's serving the drink. If we are angry and disillusioned with God, we don't experience His joy and the flow of His Spirit. We may be angry, as Proverbs 13:12 says, because we have placed our hope in something and we are bitterly disappointed: "*Hope deferred makes the heart sick, But desire fulfilled is a tree of life*". Maybe our job doesn't pay enough, the children are out of control, things around the house keep

busting, a relationship has gone south, so we get frustrated that God doesn't fix our situation according to our timetable.

We must remember God is our loving Father who has already given us the best possible provision when He gave us His Son. So we can trust His motives and His goodness in what He allows into our lives. Throughout the scriptures, in so many words, God is saying that He allows us to suffer to make us better, not bitter. So don't bite His outstretched hand.



3) We're moving too fast to drink. Picture a runner who is trying to grab cups of water from people lining the course during a race and because he won't slow down enough, he keeps knocking the cups to the ground. Or if he does grab a cup, very little of the water actually makes it into his mouth. Result: he stays thirsty. Evidently, to him, running the race is more important than staying fresh for the race. Counterproductive, huh? Our lives can be a huge, flurry of activity. I have learned God is not impressed with how much I do, because He can accomplish far more *through* me than I can accomplish *for* Him. So let's slow down and take daily drinks from God's deep well of satisfying spiritual water. Psalm 46:10, "*Cease striving and know that I am God*". Get under the spout where the Glory comes out.