

The Exchanger

Volume 00, Issue 7

July, 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.*

*Therefore be careful
how you walk, not as
unwise men, but as
wise, making the most
of your time, because
the days are evil. So
then do not be foolish,
but understand what
the will of the Lord is.*

Ephesians 5:15-17

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Now That's Hard

There was a story that first appeared in a newspaper in Galveston, Texas about a woman and her parakeet named "Chippie." One day Chippie was flying happily around his cage, until his owner got the bright idea to clean his cage with a vacuum. You know what's coming - the phone rang, she left the vacuum nozzle wedged into the cage and "ffwhompp", Chippie took the ride of his life. His owner quickly dug him out of the dust bag. He was blanketed with dust, so she thrust him under running water for a while. When he started shivering, he experienced the high heat setting of the hair dryer. Anyone surprised that since the ordeal, his owner reports, "Chippie doesn't sing much anymore. He just sits and stares"?

Have you recently had a series of trials yourself? Lost your whistle? Got a case of the blank stares? Don't know what hit you? Satan would have you believe that you have been singled out for hardship. Why me, Lord? But God wants us to fight off the despair of isolation and self-pity. He says through Peter, "*But resist him (Satan), firm in your faith, knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being accomplished by your brethren who are in the world.* (1 Peter 5:9)

Define "Suffering"

I recently discovered a provocative book by the Christian rock band, dc Talk, and the organization "The Voice of the Martyrs", called Jesus Freaks. The book

is an eye-opener regarding the sufferings our brethren have been experiencing around the world. Christians in Sudan have been raped, pillaged and get this, over 2 million, yes, **2 million** have been **killed** for their faith. In light of these revelations, would you permit me to paraphrase 1 Peter 5:9 for - c'mon, let's face it - us spoiled Christians in America - "Stand firm and quit moaning, because compared to many Christians in the world, our lives are a total breeze."

Compare Your Attitude

The news from Sudan includes the humbling report that the favorite verse of many of the persecuted Christians is 2 Corinthians 4:17-18 - *For momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison, while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal.*

"Light" afflictions?!

Oh Lord, deliver us from self-absorption and give us fire to serve you and persevere under our "trials".

Joe Fornear

