

The Exchanger

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THE NEWSLETTER

OF

FELLOWSHIP
BIBLE CHURCH
WHITE ROCK

The Mission of
FBCWR:

*Connecting People to
God's Life-Changing
Power*

*We've Got
Connections!*

You have not yet
resisted
to the point
of shedding blood
in your striving
against sin.

Hebrews 12:4

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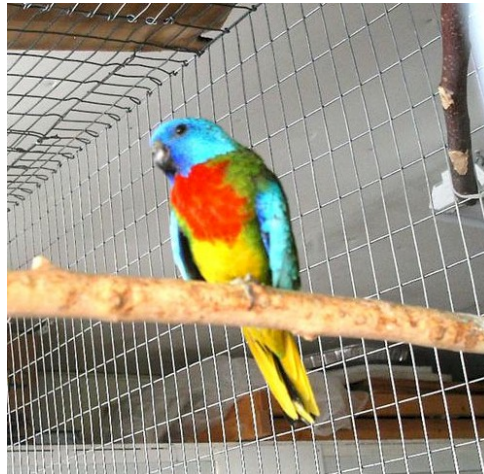
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Now That's Hard

There is a story which 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"

There is 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 faith to serve you and persevere under our "trials".

-Joe Fornear