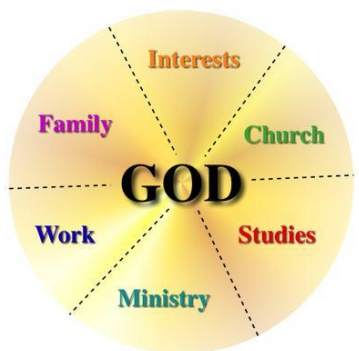




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Evelyn Waite and Kathy Webber are collaborating on this project in an effort to encourage our Christian sisters and possibly to inspire other women to participate in this effort.



Treasures Among Us

Featuring Wilma Willy

Wilma Willy was born near Norman, Oklahoma, and was one of three children. When she was six years old, her mom died. Two years later her dad also died, so she was raised by her aunt and uncle. They had five children of their own, so the newly blended family numbered eight children. She moved to Rolla when she was eight years old.

She had ten children; one was stillborn and one had Downs Syndrome. In addition to her own children by birth, Wilma was a foster mom to ten children over a period of 10 years. Some were with her for just a few days or a couple of weeks, but some were with her for more than a year. One of her own children was still at home at the time she was fostering other children.

All in all, Wilma has buried three husbands and six of her children, yet she says, "You know, I feel very blessed. I've had a wonderful life even with tragedy. It has made me a stronger person." She goes on to say, "Your burdens get lighter when you turn them over to the Lord." She is very proud of her four remaining children.

Wilma always went to church but was uncertain about things, and her children were nearly all grown when she was baptized in 1980. She says even though she wasn't a Christian until later, she always taught her children right and wrong and to be respectful.

It's hard for her to say what her favorite memory is, but she waxes nostalgic when telling of her family's Christmas tradition. On Christmas Eve when all the kids

Dear Lord,

We pray that you will always be the hub of our lives.

We pray that the Holy Spirit dwells in our hearts and guides us.

Sharpen our senses so that we do not miss the opportunities—

The opportunity to serve You.

The opportunity to share You.

The opportunity to abide in and with You forever.

Kathy Webber © 2014



were in their PJ's, she would turn out all the lights leaving the only light sources as candles and the lights on the Christmas tree. They sang Christmas songs together while enjoying the darkened room and the glow of the Christmas tree lights. She always read, "The Night Before Christmas," to them, then finished off the evening by reading from the Bible the story of Jesus' birth.

Another fond memory also revolves around Christmas. Wilma was aware of a family that she knew could not provide gifts for their children. She and her daughters gathered items they could repurpose for the unfortunate family's children. Her daughters made doll clothes for one of the dolls and a blanket for the baby doll. Just before Christmas, she took all the gifts and gave them to the lady that ran the store. She requested that they just tell the kids the gifts were from Santa Claus and not to tell them they were from her family. A few days after Christmas, she was in the store and saw the girls. The youngest one came to show her the baby doll Santa had brought her. The little girl said, "I just love this baby!"

Wilma and her daughters were so thrilled that what they had given brought so much joy to that family. Sadly, just a few months later, three of Wilma's daughters were killed in a car accident about a mile from their house. Wilma has known tragedy and heartache in her life. In addition to losing those three daughters, another daughter, Debbie, suffered from Friedrich's Ataxia, a nerve disorder. She passed away in 1989.

*But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.* This passage from Isaiah 40:31 is especially meaningful to her, and she says she has gained a lot of comfort from it over the last several years.

Wilma was primarily a stay-at-home mom and says she lived her life for her kids and family. At one point in her life, she wanted to be an artist and took drawing lessons for a couple of years. Her intent was to draw for newspapers, but she quit taking the lessons and doing her drawings before that occurred. She drew portraits for several friends and family members during the time she studied art.

When asked what her favorite place is, she said, "visiting my kids." She took a trip to South Dakota a few years ago. While there she got to see Mount Rushmore and go through the Eye of the Needle on the Needles Highway. She also got to visit the Lakota School for Indian children.

Military service was important in her family. All three of her husbands served in combat. During World War II, her family was touched as were most families. Her brother and three of her cousins all served during the war. Her brother fought in some of the same places his father had fought during World War I. He spent time in England, France and Germany and fought in the Battle of the Bulge. He and some other guys in his outfit got separated from their unit but were successful in eluding the Germans. All four of her family's men survived the war, but their family missed them a lot. The family received news about the war primarily from the radio since they had no television. She said, "The world was a lot further away back then than it is now." Later, her sons Steve and John also served in the military.

Wilma describes her life as "dull." She is anything but dull. She has battled cancer at least twice and is currently undergoing more chemo. She has a strong, yet gentle, spirit. She is an amazingly positive person, especially considering all the heartache and tragedies she has endured. Wilma Willy truly is a Treasure Among Us.

**NOTE:** *This is the third in a series highlighting noble Christian women in our congregation. We truly have many "treasures among us" in the women who exemplify Christianity in all its facets and have much to teach us all.*

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### **TEN THINGS YOU DID THIS WEEK THAT YOU WILL NOT DO IN HEAVEN!**

1. You drove to or past a cemetery. There is no death in heaven - Rev. 21:4
  2. You turned on a light switch. God is the light in heaven - Rev. 21:23
  3. You were tempted to do something wrong. Satan will have no influence in heaven - Rev. 20:10
  4. You visited or contacted a sick friend or their spouse by email. There will be no sickness in heaven - Rev. 21:4
  5. You locked your doors. There will be no crime or evil in heaven - Rev. 21:27
  6. You aged a little, grew older, lost some hair or got more gray hair. Aging will cease in heaven - Rev. 21:4
  7. You silently shed a tear for someone. There will be no tears in heaven - Rev. 21:4
  8. You took heart, headache or back pain medication. There will be no pain in heaven - Rev. 21:4
  9. You worked to earn a living. You will rest from your labor in heaven - Rev. 14:13
  10. You said a prayer. In Heaven you will speak directly with God and Christ face to face. Rev 21:4
- Think about the changes - WON'T HEAVEN BE A WONDERFUL PLACE!

Adapted from Voice of Truth  
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## What Steals Our Joy

Recently, I giggled at a holiday photo of three small children, each holding a large white letter which collectively spelled out “joy.” Unfortunately, all three children were crying their little hearts out. It was certainly a darling picture, but obviously their joy had been stolen. It made me wonder – what steals our joy and how do we cope when that happens.

We see in newspaper and magazine articles the struggle it is for many people to just make it through the holidays. It is a serious issue, and many take their own lives during this time. Loss of joy is not limited to holidays. People despair at all times of the year and for many different reasons. Some have lost loved ones and find facing holidays, birthdays, and anniversaries almost too much to bear. Others struggle with health issues, lost jobs, or money problems. Children run amuck; bosses are overbearing; spouses grow cold. Any of those things can rob us of our joy.

James tells us to talk to God about the issue. *“Count it all joy, my brethren, when you meet various trials, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing. If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives to all men generously and without reproaching, and it will be given him. But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind. For that person must not suppose that a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways, will receive anything from the Lord.”* James 1:2-7 (RSV)

After praying sincerely with a believing heart, we must be sure we are keeping God’s commandments. Jesus tells us when those are in place we can be full of joy. *“If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father’s commandments, and abide in his love. These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full.”* John 15:10-11 (KJV)

Philippians 2:1-3 says, *“So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves.”* ESV

When we love one another, we will respect the rights of others. We will be kind and courteous. We will not try to take advantage of one another. We will have no need to fear one another. We can have peace and joy in our day-to-day living.

In Romans 12:9-15 we read, *“Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. Love one*

*another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep.”* ESV

We need to be busy doing the Lord’s work. When we are busy there is very little time to be sad or worried. As we work we will see the results of our efforts and that will produce joy. Invite a college student far from home to dinner and/or an outing. Volunteer to help at a homeless shelter. Give a child sincere praise for a job well done. Hug a widow or widower. Those may seem like small things, but they can and do bring great joy not only to the person receiving, but to you as well.

There is a time to weep, but we should not allow it to be all consuming. There are steps to grieving for the loss of a loved one and for other major losses in our lives, but if we keep busy doing good those steps become easier. We have the promise of a heavenly home with Jesus and the Father. That thought needs to stay uppermost in our minds, and it should dictate our actions and our emotions as we go through life. We will have an eternity of joy if we persevere.

When we are doing all we can to love one another and help one another to be good Christians, there are certain consequences to be enjoyed here and now as well. Galatians 5:22-23 *“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.”*

When we teach our friends and our children about this source of joy, like John, we can say, *“I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth.”* 3 John 1:4 Bringing them joy gives us joy as well.

Don’t let someone or something else steal your joy. Keep your eyes on Jesus and His holy promises and follow Paul’s advice. *“Rejoice evermore.”* 1 Thessalonians 5:16; and, *“Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, rejoice.”* Philippians 4:4

By Wilburta Arrowood, Napoleonville, Louisiana

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***Weeping may tarry for the night,  
but joy comes with the morning.***

Psalm 30:5b

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## My Claim To Fame

I’ve never rushed onto a field to a stadium full of fans screaming my name. I’ve never sung a hit song over the screams of thousands of adoring fans jammed in a coliseum. No one has ever recognized me on the street and sought me out for an autograph. Barbara Walters

has never approached me for an interview for a segment on the “10 Most Interesting People of the Year”. I’ve never been featured as a magazine cover story. No author is interested in writing my biography. I don’t rub elbows or run with the rich and famous.

I do have one claim to fame. It has nothing to do with what I’ve done or accomplished. My claim to fame is that I know a man that most have heard of and many still speak about. This man did so much for everyone. My claim to fame is that I know Jesus. I don’t mean that I’ve heard of Jesus. I mean I literally know him. I speak to him and listen to him every day.

I know Jesus so well that I even try to be like him. I try hard to pattern my life after his. I strive to mimic the way he treated others. I try to implement certain characteristics of his into my daily life. I work hard to love like he does. I want to forgive like he does. Knowing Jesus has totally changed my life.

You may know an all-star athlete or a famous singer or award winning actor, but I know Jesus. If I never meet Peyton Manning or Phil Mickelson, I’m okay with that because I know Jesus. You see, people have been talking about Jesus for a couple thousand years. Knowing Jesus is my claim to fame. Do you really know Jesus? “We know that we have come to know him if we obey his commands.” (1 John 2:3)

By Chuck Ball, Cabot, Arkansas  
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### Judas Horse

I was watching a movie the other day and heard a phrase that was unfamiliar. The scene showed horse thieves illegally rounding up mustangs in the western US. One of the characters said he was going to turn his “Judas horse” loose and wait for the wild horses. Curious, I went to the computer and researched the term to find out what it meant.

The words “Judas Horse” are not in the dictionary, but Webster’s definition for the word “Judas” is: “Someone who betrays someone else” (taken from the name of the apostle who betrayed Jesus). A Judas horse is trained to mingle with a wild herd, then lead them into a pre-established series of traps – therefore betraying the group. Once the herd has been captured, the Judas

horse is led back to his home. Let’s see if we can find parallels in the Bible.

In 1 Kings 13, we read of a prophet that God sent to Bethel to deliver a prophecy. He had been warned of the Lord not to linger, eat or drink in Bethel, but to come straight back home—using a different route.

An old prophet heard of his words and rode out to meet him. In verse 15, he invites him home with him to eat bread. The other man replied that he could not, because God had instructed him to come straight back home.

The older prophet then lied and told him that an angel had spoken to him and said it would be okay for the younger man to stay and refresh himself. Believing the lie, he stayed.

On the way home, he was met by a lion and killed. The old prophet turned out to be a “Judas horse” that led the younger into a trap. He had to bear the consequences of his actions—even though he was a victim of another’s dishonesty.

A New Testament example is the story of the prodigal son. As long as his money held out, all of his “so-called friends” stayed with him. When he became destitute, however, they all left him alone to suffer the consequences of his actions. Fortunately, this story had a happier ending. The young man realized his foolishness and went back home, begging forgiveness.

The apostle Judas didn’t just betray Jesus behind His back. He went up to Him and kissed Him like a real friend. No wonder his name has become synonymous with hypocrites and betrayal, as well as those pretending to be friends while causing others to fall into the snares of the devil.

We have all known “Judas horses” in the past – whether leading us (or someone we know) into sin. Our young people are particularly vulnerable to these traitors. Just a few of the “traps” they can be led into are:

1. Drugs (“hey, it will make you feel great,” – or – “you can make some money selling”)
2. Sex (“you don’t want to be the only virgin in school, do you?”)
3. Stealing (“hey, it’s only a small thing to take. Besides, the store has insurance for it.”)

The list goes on as far as the imagination can reach. Ephesians 6:11 says, “Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles (tricks) of the devil.” Also, 2 Corinthians 11:14 reads, “...For Satan...transforms himself into an angel of light.” He is the original “Judas horse.”

Jeanetta Watkins, Adamsville, AL  
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