BE A WITNESS FOR CHRIST

Introduction: In these verses Paul exhorts the aged men and women. He tells them how to live. He tells them to teach the young women and men. He tells them to teach the servants or slaves how to live. When the Lord saved you, He expected you to live a changed life. You are different now. You are spiritually alive and you are to live like it. He wants you to live a changed life to bear witness of His saving power. The Lord wants you to reach out to your family and friends and share the good news.

I. BE A WITNESS OF HIS CHANGING POWER.
   A. Jesus can change your life.
      1. When you repent of sin and trust Jesus you are saved, born again, and made new creatures in Christ, II Corinthians 5:17.
      2. The New Birth experience hits at the heart of the sinner’s problem. The Lord gives us a new spiritual nature.
      3. Some lives are drastically changed. A thief, drunkard, and criminal are changed. They aren’t the same anymore.
      4. Many are changed inside, but may show little change on the outside. They may be trying to live right and then they get saved.

   B. Jesus can change your language.
      1. This world uses a filthy, profane, vulgar language. They use God’s name in vain.
      2. If you are saved the Lord wants to clean up your mouth. Listen to Paul in Ephesians 4:29.
      3. After salvation we have something else to talk about and someone else to magnify.
      4. Times of anger, fear, trouble, discouragement, causes us to speak unbecoming words. Paul exhorts us to speak sound words they cannot say evil about.

   C. Jesus can change your love.

      1. This old world is filled with lust and sex and evil desires and it says it is love.
      2. People love to drink, do drugs, and steal because of a sinful nature.
      3. The Lord wants His people to love Him, His word, His churches, and His people.
      4. The Lord can give you a new meaning of love and a new way to express it.

II. BE A WITNESS OF HIS CALMING PEACE.
   A. Peace of mind.
      1. The Lord gives us a peace that can keep the heart and mind, Philippians 4:7.
      2. We are to let the peace of God rule in our hearts, Colossians 3:15.
      3. The Lord can keep us in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on Him, Isaiah 26:3.
      4. He can calm you when you are sick, sorrowing, sad, stressed, and sinful.
      5. We experience peace of mind as we think on the things of the Lord, Philippians 4:8.

   B. Peace with the Master.
      1. We can maintain a right relationship with the Lord when we walk in the light, I John 1:6,7.
      2. Prayer and Bible study will help us daily.
      3. Daily confession of sin will help us stay right.
      4. Having peace with the Lord will help us to have peace of mind and with mankind.

   C. Peace with mankind.
      1. We are to live peaceably with all men, Romans 12:8.
      2. Jesus is the Prince of peace. He gives us peace and He wants us to be at peace with our fellow man.
3. He leaves us instruction as to how to be reconciled to our brothers and sisters in Matthew 18:15-18.
4. The storms of life are raging, but the Lord of peace can give you peace.

III. BE A WITNESS OF HIS CHEERFUL PROVISION

A. Provision for salvation.
   1. Jesus died for everyone and everyone can be saved, Hebrews 12:2.
   2. Romans 10:13 tells us of a whosoever will salvation.
   3. The salvation of the Lord is a wonderful blessing because it reached to even me.
   4. Any person can be saved at any time they are convicted of sin at any place they are willing to repent and believe.

B. Provision for sin.
   1. We sin after we are saved. We are saved sinners. In I John 2:1,2 this truth is verified.
   2. We can cover up, deny, excuse, justify, hide, ignore sin, but it is still a reality.
   3. Thank God He has made provisions when we sin. I John 1:9 is a wonderful blessing to read and believe.

C. Provision for solutions.
   1. Life is full of problems, Job 14:1. The problems are with people, within, and with the devil.
   2. Listen to Paul’s solution to his problem in II Corinthians 12:9.
   3. Read and study Philippians 4:13,19.
   4. Thank the Lord we can go to Him in prayer and talk with Him about our problems.

IV. BE A WITNESS OF HIS CONSTANT POSSESSIONS.

A. An eternal salvation.
   2. Mankind and most of the religious world cannot accept the Bible teaching of eternal life for believers.
   3. No one can take my salvation from me. The devil, man, and self cannot take it from me.

B. An eternal sanctuary.
   1. This life will very soon be over. Life is so very brief.
   2. There is a place reserved for me that I will call home forever.
   3. It is that place of the soul, John described in Revelation 21:22.
   4. I am going home one day to stay eternally. I will be with all of my saved loved ones and friends.

C. An eternal Saviour.
   1. Jesus is the precious Son of God who left heaven to live and die for us.

2. After His purpose was fulfilled on earth, He went back to His Father.
3. We will live eternally with our Saviour, Revelation 22.

V. BE A WITNESS OF HIS CONSECRATING PRESENCE.

A. Consecration to Christ.
   1. Paul was not ashamed of Jesus Christ, Romans 1:16.
   2. May we be like Paul in Philippians 1:21.
   3. We are to present our bodies a living sacrifice to the Lord, Romans 12:1.

B. Consecration to the church.
   1. The church was given the commission to do the Lord’s work, Matthew 28:19,20.
   2. We are to give glory to the Lord in one of His churches, Ephesians 3:21.
   3. We are to attend and worship at church regularly, Hebrews 10:25.

C. Consecration to the commandments.
   1. The Bible is an inspired book of God’s truth, John 17:17 and II Timothy 3:16.
   2. The Bible is profitable for doctrine, reproof, correction, and instruction in righteousness.
   3. The Bible is the law of the Lord for His people.
   4. We can cleanse our ways by taking heed to it, Psalm 119:9-11.
   5. The Bible helps us to understand life and gives us wisdom to live it, Proverbs 9:10.

Note: This is one of the sermons or lessons in my book HOW TO MAKE A GOOD CHURCH MEMBER. This is a 47 page outline book that has 15 lessons in it on how to make a good church member. Order yours today!

Subject: EXPOSITION OF GALATIANS 5:12-21.
Focus: WE HAVE BEEN CALLED INTO LIBERTY.
Introduction: To know where you stand with God is a position of the greatest and most blessed experience that one can encounter. To be free from Satan’s power, sin’s penalty, and selfish pursuits and preoccupied with God’s plan for your life is a most liberated position.

I. LIBERTY DISCERNED Vs 12-15.

A. The RECOGNITION of its value. Galatians 5:12 "I would they were even cut off which trouble you."
1. The TROUBLERS - the Judaizers whose message would enslave - enslaved emotionally and intellectually.  
2. The TROUBLE - the Galatians were filled with unrest which is in itself enslavement.

B. The RESTRAINT in its exercise. Galatians 5:13, "For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty: only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another."
1. The CALL - called unto liberty.  
2. The CAUTION - just because one is free does not mean that they can do just anything - fleshly enticements and motivations can imprison us if we're not careful.

C. The RESPONSIBILITY in its possession. Galatians 5:13b, "Only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh: but by love serve one another."
1. We have been set free so that we can serve.  
2. This service is to be done in love.

D. The REGARD involved in this service. Galatians 5:14, "For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this: thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself."
1. We actually fulfill the law when we manifest the love of God.  
2. Notice the two great commandments in connection with the Ten Commandments.

E. The RESPECT in its outlook. Galatians 5:15, "But if ye bite and devour one another, take heed that ye be not consumed one of another."
1. The attitude and action of hurting others will ultimately hurt you.  
2. Feel sorry for those who have a retaliating spirit.

II. LIBERTY DEMONSTRATED Galatians 5:16-18.
A. The BEHAVIOR that needs to be EXEMPLIFIED. Galatians 5:16, "This I say, walk in the spirit and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh."
1. Walk in the Spirit.  
2. This means to be controlled by the Spirit.  
   b. Depend on the Spirit to help you to become a doer of the Word.  
   c. Discern that you can with HIS HELP.  
   d. Discern that this is humility which is healthy.  
3. Pre-occupation with the Lord weans us away from the lust of the flesh.

B. The BATTLE that is EVIDENT. Galatians 5:17, "For the flesh lusteth against the spirit, and the spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would."
1. Individually - the new nature opposes the old Adamic nature. The one you feed the most will be the winner.  
2. Collectively - there will always be a conflict between the spiritually motivated believer and the selfish (fleshy) motivated believer.

C. The BELIEF that is ENVISIONED. Galatians 5:18, "But if ye be led of the spirit, ye are not under the law.
1. The Spirit used God's demands to convict us.  
2. The Spirit brings us to Christ and in the process of repentance and reception of Christ as Saviour we are converted.  
3. Have you been led by the Spirit?

III. LIBERTY DISTORTED, Galatians 5:19-21.
A. Repulsive behavior of the liberated. Galatians 5:19-21a, "Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness. V20 idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, V21 Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like;"
B. Destructive ramifications of such behavior. Galatians 5:21b, "Of which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God."

THE INDWELLING CHRIST

Text: Galatians 2:20; Colossians 1:27.

Introduction: Apart from the indwelling Saviour one is--
A. Dead and dying in sin! Ephesians 2:1; John 8:24.
B. Deceived by Satan and sin.
C. Living in Satan's darkness, II Corinthians 4:3,4; John 8:19.
D. Living a defeated life, Matthew 16:25,26.
E. Unless such a one REPENTS OF SINS TO GOD AND RECEIVES JESUS CHRIST INTO HIS HEART BY FAITH HE/SHE IS HEADED FOR ETERNAL DAMNATION AND DESTRUCTION FROM THE PRESENCE OF GOD, II Thessalonians 1:7-9.

To avoid this and enjoy the CHRIST IN YOU RELATIONSHIP one must--
I. RECEIVE JESUS PERSONALLY Whom to receive is--

B. Light—John 1:4, 5, 8.

C. Liberty.
   1. Jesus said, "The spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to PREACH THE GOSPEL to the poor; he hath sent me to HEAL THE BROKENHEARTED, to PREACH DELIVERANCE TO THE CAPTIVES, and RECOVERING OF SIGHT TO THE BLIND, to SET AT LIBERTY them that are bruised." Luke 4:18.
   2. Again Jesus said, "Ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." John 8:32.
   3. Yet again, "If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed." 

II. RECOGNITION OF HIS POSITION IN OUR LIVES.

A. Lord and Master.
   1. Jesus refers to Himself as such, John 13:14.
   2. Philip owned Him as LORD, John 14:5, 8.
   3. Peter owned Him as LORD, John 6:68.
   5. Mary owned Him as MASTER, John 20:16. (The highest title of honour in the Jewish schools, Harper) (Title of honour and reverence, Thayer).
   6. Paul gave HIS LORD credit for his call to the ministry, I Timothy 1:12.
   7. The Bible teaches us to SERVE AS TO OUR LORD, Colossians 3:22, 24.

B. Leader.
   2. David’s testimony, Psalm 23:3.
   3. A timely prayer, Psalm 27:11.
   4. Ezra is a good example of ONE SEEKING THE LEADERSHIP OF THE LORD, Ezra 8:21.

C. Light for the christian pilgrimage.
   1. The presence of the Lord dispels darkness, John 8:12.
   2. The Bible speaks of Jesus as the DAY STAR IN YOUR HEARTS, II Peter 1:19.
   3. To John on the Isle of Patmos, Jesus said, "I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and offspring of David, and the BRIGHT AND MORNING STAR." Revelation 22:16.

GET ACQUAINTED WITH JESUS

By Gordan Shaffer

Text: II Timothy 1:12.

Introduction:

A. Acquainted - become familiar with - synonyms are companionship and association experience.

B. Most people have heard about Jesus, believe about Jesus, but have never had an experience of really getting acquainted, or knowing Him.

C. Most people of the world have heard about Richard Nixon, but how many are personally acquainted with Him.

I. GET ACQUAINTED WITH JESUS AS SAVIOUR.

A. This is one need of every individual.
   1. This bars no one. All have sinned. Romans 5:12.
   2. Who can claim righteousness in self?
3. There is none righteous. Romans 3:10.

**B. Many methods have been tried.**
1. The heathen sacrificed their babes to appease gods.
2. Men have abused bodies doing penance because of sin.
3. Men have tried: REFORMATION, but it has happened unto them according to the true proverb, the dog is turned unto his vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire, II Peter 2:22. WORKS, but man is not saved by works, Titus 3:5.

**C. The answer is get acquainted with Jesus.**
2. You are not redeemed with corruptible things, I Peter 1:18,19.
3. We are made clean through His blood, I John 1:9.
4. Trust your case to Jesus. Get acquainted with Him.

**II. GET ACQUAINTED WITH HIM AS LORD.**

**A. Lord means Master of your soul.**
1. A master is one who has authority over another, Matthew 8:19.
2. Isn’t it strange many people neglect the Master.
3. Some people are more afraid of their boss on the job than they are of the Master of all.

**B. The Master calls for dedication.**
1. He that putteth his hand to the plow and looketh back is not fit for the kingdom of God, Luke 9:62.
2. What profit is made if a man gain the whole world and lose his own soul, Matthew 16:26.

**C. The Master calls for workers and harvest time is here.**
1. We are created unto, for, good works, I Thessalonians 2:10.
2. Laborers are few, Matthew 9:29.
3. Work while it is still day.

**D. One is your Master, even Christ, Matthew 23:10.**

**III. GET ACQUAINTED WITH HIM AS KING.**

**A. A king is a ruler of a kingdom.**
1. Every saved person is a child of God, a subject in his kingdom (a child of the King). We are ambassadors, II Corinthians 5:20.
2. We represent His kingdom on earth.
3. We are subjects to our King.

**B. Our King has left us instructions.**
1. These instructions are in the Bible.
2. They are to be given through His church.
   a. By the preacher.
   b. By the teacher.

**C. Our King will return."The King is Coming."**
1. Our Lord is as a man on a long journey.
2. He has left us a job to do.
3. He will return and reckon with us.

**Conclusion:**
A. Seeing all these things are true yield yourself today.
B. Get acquainted with Jesus in salvation, as Lord, and as King.
C. Acquaint thyself with Jesus today.

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**TAKE MY YOKE UPON YOU**  
**By Danny Chappell**

*Text: Matthew 11:28-30.*

**Introduction:**
A. Jesus used two great symbols for Christian commitment.
1. The cross - Seen on steeples of churches, worn around the necks of some people. Seen everywhere.
2. The yoke - Never seen on steeples nor worn around anyone's neck. Yet it, as much as the cross, is a symbol of commitment to Jesus Christ.

B. Jesus spoke of the cross when he said, "Whosoever will come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me." Mark 8:34.

C. Jesus spoke of the yoke when He said, "Take My yoke upon you, and learn of Me." Matthew 11:29.

D. The cross is an instrument of death; the yoke is an implement of toil. The cross is a symbol of sacrifice; the yoke is a symbol of service. The cross suggests blood; the yoke suggests sweat.

E. Put them together and you get an idea of what commitment is all about. Ready to die on the cross and ready to pull on the yoke.

F. Three things involved in taking His yoke upon us.

**DECISION**
A. The first step to commitment is to come to Jesus Christ and make Him our Savior.
B. "Come" is one of the Lord's favorite words. Mark 1:17; 10:14; Revelation 22:17.
C. The invitation is to come to Jesus personally.
D. The invitation includes all and excludes none.
E. The invitation is to accept Him for who He claimed to be.
1. He is not just a part of God nor, just sent from God, nor just related to God. He was and is God!!
2. He is the end of our search for God.

F. Coming to Christ is a personal and decisive act.
II. DISCIPLESHIP.
A. Jesus not only invites us to come to Him, but He also tells us to take His yoke upon us so that we may learn of Him.
B. These two acts, coming to Him and taking His yoke on us, describe two separate stages of commitment which every believer needs to take. By taking His yoke upon us, we become His disciples.
C. The Yoke - harness made of wood by which two animals are tied together to pull a load.
D. Submission to Christ's yoke is never easy. Submission is contrary to our fleshly nature. Isaiah 53:6.
E. True commitment is not measured by our activity in church but by our obedience to Christ.

III. DELIVERANCE.
A. Christ promises to deliver us, if we depend on Him, from the weariness and frustration of empty lives.
B. His yoke is easy and His burden is light. Matthew 11:30.
C. He didn’t say, "Follow Me and I will help you lay your burden down." Instead He said, "Take my yoke upon you...and you will find rest." To those who were already wearied by the toils of life He offered the world's greatest symbol of toil.
1. Real peace comes from commitment to a cause.
2. We are created to do His will.
3. When we follow Him in obedience it brings renewal to our minds. Romans 12:1,2.
D. His yoke is well fitted. It will not chafe.
E. His commandments are not grievous. I John 5:3.
F. The rest that He offers is spiritual not physical. "Rest unto your souls."

THE INGREDIENTS OF A GREAT CHURCH

By J.D. Self


Introduction:
A. This church at Antioch was a church with all the right ingredients.
1. They practiced the things taught in the Scriptures.
2. Antioch was a scriptural New Testament Church. It was the first gentle church. The Holy Spirit was with them. They obeyed the Holy Spirit.
B. Here the first time the Word christian is mentioned.
1. Three times you find the word christian in the Scriptures. Acts 11:26, 28; I Peter 4:16.
2. They had all the right ingredients of a great church.
   a. If your wife was baking - Bread, or a cake and left out an ingredient. "Taste strange wouldn't it?"
3. There are certain ingredients that make a New Testament Church.
   a. It must be blood bought.
C. God placed the church in the world for the expressed purpose to receive GLORY FROM IT, Ephesians 3:21.

I. IT WAS A PREACHING CHURCH.
A. "Go" preach the gospel. Mark 16:15; Acts 14:25.
   2. Emphasis is placed on preaching. I Corinthians 1:21.
   3. God's Word teaches preaching is the way to get people saved.
   5. Preach the Word, II Timothy 4:3. Not confined to the pastor.
B. There are other things that go hand in hand with preaching.
   1. Singing, Psalm 66:1,2; Ephesians 5:19.
   2. Building both material and spiritually.
   3. Discipline, I Cor. 5.

II. IT WAS A SOUL WINNING CHURCH.
A. Soul saving is the primary purpose of the church.
   1. It not only had a preacher that was a soul winner - But...
   2. Some say I don't see any point...
      a. Suppose...Noah, Moses, Jesus had said,
   3. Some say I don't have any talent.
      a. Talent doesn't have anything to do with it.
      b. These are too lazy to - Study & Go.
   4. Are we bothered when there is none saved? a. There are some who only want to criticize, Matthew 7:1-6.

III. IT WAS A TEACHING CHURCH.
   1. To be able to teach requires much study.
   2. Rightly dividing the Word, II Peter 1:20; II Timothy 2:15.
   3. To love God more than the world.
   4. World does not know God or the things of God, I Cor. 2:14.
B. To be able.
   1. To identify false witnesses.
   2. Identify false churches.
   3. PREACHERS - the Bible says -- Reprove - rebuke - with all longsuffering... II Tim. 4:2,3; I Tim. 4:6,7.
CHRISTIAN VITAL SIGNS

**Text:** Revelation 3:1,2.

**Introduction:** Our "Home Medical Encyclopedia" defines "vital signs" thusly, "An indication that a person is still alive. Vital signs include chest movement caused by breathing, the presence of pulse (which indicates that the heart is beating) at the neck or wrist, and the constriction of the pupil of the eye when it is exposed to a bright light." "Additional test, such as measurement of brain activity, may also be required in certain circumstances."

Let's do a little checking for evidence of life this morning. Check your heart, is your chest moving? Check your pulse. Look your neighbor in the eye. We will omit the brain test. Now let's check our spiritual vital signs. Place your hand on your Bible. Is there any feeling that indicates spiritual life? Physically, there are three basic indicators regarding the strength or existence of life. Let's examine Christian Vital Signs:

**I. SOME INDICATORS OF SPIRITUAL LIFE**

A. The new birth experience.
   1. Prior to this there is no spiritual life.
   2. The only way of life is by birth, "Ye must be born again."
   3. Be born again by faith. "I am the way, the truth, and the life."

B. A desire to be obedient to the Giver of life.
   I John 2:3,4.
   1. When you see one being obedient in faithful service you can be confident they have a healthy spiritual life.
   2. Lack of obedience leaves a question mark regarding spiritual life.


D. A love for each other, I John 3:14.

**II. SOME INDICATORS OF A WEAKENED SPIRITUAL CONDITION.**

A. When our physical condition deteriorates, there are always indicators: Weakness, shortness of breath, lack of energy, pain.

B. When our spiritual condition deteriorates, there will be indicators.
   1. Lack of interest in spiritual matters.
   2. Lack of concern for the lost.
   3. Lack of prayer and Bible study and worship.
   4. Lose the joy of salvation.
   5. Become critical, grumpy, and faultfinders.
   6. Will soon be like the Christians at Sardis, "Hast a name that thou livest, and are dead."

**III. SOME REMEDIES FOR A WEAKENED SPIRITUAL CONDITION.**

A. A good shot of repentance will make a tremendous difference. The Lord said to Sardis, 'Repent.'

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a. Acts 20:28, FEED THE CHURCH OF GOD.
   c. Jesus never put the hay so high that the lambs couldn't reach it.

4. You can even fool hogs to a certain point. You can bang the bucket on the trough, they will come running, finding nothing there they will look at you and look around as to say you lied. You can't do this many times. They will not come.

**IV. THIS WAS A GIVING CHURCH Acts 11:29.**

A. We are to give ourselves. II Cor. 8:5.
   2. A living sacrifice. Romans 12:1, 2.
   3. As a man purposeth in his heart. II Cor. 9:6.

B. God gave His best...His only begotten Son.
   1. Caved Jesus.
   2. Gave us His Word. Promise.
   3. Gave us ETERNAL LIFE.

**V. THIS WAS A MISSIONARY CHURCH. Acts 1:8.**

   2. Their work was the work of the Holy Spirit.
      a. They didn't go to foreign countries to have a good time.
   3. It was the result of prayer.
   4. These missionaries were responsible to a LOCAL NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH.
      a. Not to an association, Synod, Board member, or Pope.

   1. We are not to go beforehand and broadcast that we are going to pray.
   2. Not like the Pharisees.
   3. We are to pray in secret and church services.
   4. We are to ask God for what we need. God will supply Phil. 4:19.

**VI. IT WAS A PRAYING CHURCH.**

   3. If two of you shall agree. Matthew 18:19.
      a. Must be in harmony.
   4. Ye ask and have not. James 4:3.

   1. We are not to go beforehand and broadcast that we are going to pray.
   2. Not like the Pharisees.
   3. We are to pray in secret and church services.
   4. We are to ask God for what we need. God will supply Phil. 4:19.

**VII. THIS WAS A HARMONIOUS CHURCH.**

A. They worked together.
   1. No jealousy.
   2. No division. I Cor. 1.
   5. They worked to please Jesus.
      a. They were filled with the Holy Spirit. Eph. 5:18.
B. A good dose of renewed commitment will 
revitalize your spiritual life.
1. Going to church regularly will do wonders.
2. Turn your ways around.
C. A regular diet of prayer and Bible study will 
correct many problems. It can cure...
1. A sour attitude.
2. A depressed outlook.
3. An unhappy existence.
D. A regular exercise of faith and hope will 
help put one back into good spiritual health.
1. Faith in God's promises.
2. Hope in the future with God.

Conclusion: There are far too many invalid christians, 
whose spiritual vital signs are almost non-existent. We need 
to declare an emergency, gather our resources, and start 
pumping life back into those who have a name that they 
live and are dead. How are your christian vital signs? Do 
any exist?

THE LORD WILL SEE YOU THROUGH

I accepted the Lord as my Saviour when I was sixteen years 
old. Being a Christian is the most important part of my life. 
I always thought when I was growing up, if anything went 
wrong in my life Mama and Daddy could fix it. I learned 
soon after our baby girl was born that Mama and Daddy 
couldn't fix everything, only God's grace and our faith could 
get us through this pain that was to come into our lives. We 
realized there was a problem for Jena, we just didn't know 
the extent of it. When she was nine months old she was 
diagnosed as microcephalic. The doctors said "Take her 
home and keep her happy, she'll live about a year." The 
doctors were wrong, Jena is still microcephalic, and the only 
thing she can do by herself is blink her eyes, but the Lord 
has blessed us with Jena for 28 years. I know this is God's 
will because with this baby came a stronger faith and richer 
love. A very strong faith that I would also need later that 
only the Lord knew about. When Jena was 6 1/2 years old, 
we were blessed with a little son. A normal, healthy baby 
boy. When Chuck was nine years old, we found out he had 
a brain tumor. The doctors said he would live about a year. 
One year later Chuck passed away. I didn't question the 
Lord's decision when he let us keep Jena so I didn't 
question his decision to take our little son. I did feel that 
He had always held my hand and walked me through life, 
and for a time had let my hand go. That's when I wrote this 
poem. I have learned through the years that nothing in this 
life is forever. I don't have my little son with me for now 
and I seem to watch Jena slip away from me each day that 
passes. But the one thing that I have now and will always 
have is my salvation, and the fact that his salvation is 
forever has helped heal this Mother's broken heart.

My Prayer

Sitting at the lakeside
Tho tears had blurred my eyes
Looking up toward heaven
Thru the clouded skies
I cried, Oh Lord
Oh please be fair
About this child
You have up there
You know my heart
Lord, you can see
Please let him come
To visit me
Tell me Lord
What I must do
Just to have
A glimpse or two
Let me hold him
Just a touch
I love him Lord
You know how much
Let me feel his little face
Or see his little smile
Please, Lord, let me hold him
Just for a little while
Lord, I've tried to understand
I've tried to make a start
I can't get thru these lonely days
With this broken heart
It would mean so much to me
If I could hear him say
'Hear, Mom, It's Chuck, I'm here
I've come to spend the day.'

Hansford and Sue Oldner are members of our church. I am 
thankful for Sue writing this testimony about the things 
that have happened to them. Sue wrote this poem after her 
son died and it was read at his funeral. The love that Sue 
and Hansford have for their daughter would definitely 
convict those who do not love their children and condemn 
those who believe in abortion. Sue writes this testimony to 
remind others that the Lord is our help and hope in very 
difficult times.