

# Good News

*From Getwell*

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**SCHEDULE OF WEEKLY ACTIVITY**

**SUNDAY**

Bible Study.....9:30 a.m.  
 Worship.....10:20 a.m.  
 Worship.....5:00 p.m.

**WEDNESDAY**

Bible Study.....7:00 p.m.

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## ON THE HOME FRONT

At this writing we are glad to report that our prayer regarding several with Getwell ties with health issues are doing better. Pat Phillips has returned home feeling stronger and able to attend services last Sunday evening. Teresa Searcy is on the road to recovery with Dr. Jim Searcy attending to her needs. A word about Teresa, she is a talented individual with superb computer skills. She maintains, monitors, and improves our websites. The church at Getwell maintains two websites. They are [www.getwellchurchofchrist.org](http://www.getwellchurchofchrist.org) and the Spiritual Sword website, [www.spiritualsword.org](http://www.spiritualsword.org). We are so glad Teresa is doing better and appreciate her hard work and talents regarding our websites.

Also, good to report Roy Sharp, a respected laborer in the church is back in the pulpit. This information comes from impeccable sources; his brother Gary, sisters Elizabeth and Sharon and Michael Wyatt who is kin to him by marriage. Personally, I have known Roy practically all my life. He is an outstanding educator and preacher of the gospel. We pray he continues to get stronger very day.

Russell McCullough, former member at Getwell is currently facing some health issues and would appreciate our prayers. Russell is presently an elder and the minister at the Archdale congregation in Charlotte, North Carolina. Russell, whose nickname is "chainsaw" is a long-time friend and faithful gospel preacher.

Others to keep in your prayers is Linda Beard, Martha Hagstrom, and my aunt Sarah Curtis. All three are faithful sisters in Christ.

Til next week!

Ron Wallace

# ONE ABORTION SERMON - THE TALE OF TWO REACTIONS (Part 2)

By Michael Wyatt

(Please see last week's bulletin for the tale of the first reaction).

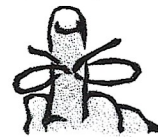
In 1985-86, I was preaching in a college town in a congregation of over 750 members. I say that not to boast, but to emphasize the magnitude of the reactions and the fact that the topic had probably not been addressed, ever, in that congregation. I was not overly graphic in the sermon, just told the truth. The vitriol, hatred and shunning my wife and I received from preaching a sermon on abortion, is matched probably with what you are seeing on your TV news reports everyday since the decision of the Supreme Court to overturn Roe vs. Wade.

**The Second Tale to Tell.** In the congregation there was a wonderful husband and wife who became like step grandparents to our two young children. This couple had four children of their own and the youngest was a junior in high school. They really missed having little ones around and were very fond of our son and daughter, and our children really loved them. They would insist that Susie and I bring them over on a Friday evening and let them babysit while we did something nice for ourselves. We were going on vacation one time to Colorado with some friends, and they insisted that we take their brand new van, literally bringing it to the house and packing it where we could not refuse. As I said, a wonderful couple who loved us and we loved them. We had so many dinners and game nights at their home, truly a home away from home.

After I preached the sermon on abortion, Susie always stands by me in the foyer, and the woman walked past us as we called out to her (looking for a friendly face) and she let me know that she could not even look at me much less speak to me. Susie and I were shocked. When we got home we called the couple's house to try to speak to them and she let me know that she was so angry that I thought that a sermon on abortion was appropriate from the pulpit and that I should be ashamed of myself and that she didn't think that she ever wanted to speak to us again. Susie and I have had many hurts in our lives, but this was a major one. This all happened on that very Sunday of the sermon.

On Monday evening we were surprised to get a call from this couple asking us to come over to the house right away. We were a little, no, down right frightened of what was going to happen. Maybe it would be an intervention of some kind. We reluctantly left the kids with a friend and went to their house. The door opened and we followed the man to the living room. You could tell that something had been going on because the couple showed signs of deep crying. We set down and they began to speak. She began talking about their other son, the second youngest, who had already graduated from high school. He and his girlfriend had attended services the day before and heard the sermon on abortion. One of the reasons she was so upset with me was because her children had to hear a sermon like that. But then she continued. "Our son and his girlfriend heard that sermon yesterday. They came to the house this morning to speak to us. They had an appointment today, because the girlfriend was pregnant, to have an abortion. They thought that was the way to deal with this pregnancy. But after hearing Michael's sermon, they said we can't go through with it. We want to have this baby." I cry just retelling the story. How do you think this couple felt about us right then? From, "that was the worst sermon ever preached," to: "If you had not preached that sermon, we would not have had the chance to have this grandbaby. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts." A precious baby who had the chance to live!

# RON'S REMINDERS



## What Is God Telling Me?

What is God telling me with the problems He permits in my life? The problems we face will either defeat us or develop us, depending on how we respond to them. Unfortunately, most people fail to see how God wants to use problems for good in their lives. They react foolishly and resent their problems rather than pausing to consider what benefit they might bring.

Here are five ways God wants to use the problems in our lives:

1. **God uses problems to direct us.** Sometimes God must light a fire under us to get us moving. Problems often point us in a new direction and motivate us to change our ways (Proverbs 20:30).
2. **God uses problems to inspect us.** People are like tea bags. If you want to know what is inside them, just drop them in hot water! Has God ever tested your faith with a problem? What do problems reveal about you? "My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience" (James 1:2-3).
3. **God uses problems to correct us.** Some lessons we learn only through pain and failure. It is likely that when we were children, our parents told us not to touch a hot stove, but we probably learned by being burned. Sometimes we only learn the value of something like health, money, or a relationship by losing it. "My lips shall utter praise, for You teach me Your statutes. My tongue shall speak of Your word, for all Your commandments are righteousness" (Psalm 119:171-172).
4. **God uses problems to protect us.** A problem can be a blessing in disguise if it prevents us from being harmed by something more serious. Last year a friend was fired for refusing to do something unethical that his boss asked him to do. His unemployment was a problem – but it saved him from being convicted and sent to prison a year later when management's actions were eventually discovered. Joseph said "you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good" (Genesis 50:20).
5. **God uses problems to perfect us.** Problems, when responded to correctly, are character builders. God is far more interested in your character than your comfort. Your relationship to God and your character are the only two things you are going to take with you into eternity. "Not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; and perseverance, character; and character, hope" (Romans 5:3-4).

Here is the point: God is at work in our lives—even when we do not recognize it or understand it. However, it is much easier and profitable when we cooperate with Him.