

CHURCH NEWS

The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord. And He delights in his way. (Psa. 37:23)

Look! It's SUPER-MAN

By Lady Debra R. Smith
Greater Evergreen Baptist Church



LADY DEBRA R. SMITH

Wow! What a beautiful sight that is. Oh Oh! There's another one over there! Listen to the sound they're creating. Don't panic Las Vegas! It's not the invasion of UFO's. No, it's not even beautiful hot air balloons piercing the sky.

The beautiful sight to behold is that of FATHERS spending quality time with their children. The sound we hear is the clap of audible laughter and giggles coming from happy, protected and most of all, loved boys and girls everywhere. We might see them taking their children to school, riding bikes in the evening or just being pushed through WalMart in the buggy. But when we see them, there's no question about it — that's daddy!!

Now we know the role of mommies and the unbreakable bond between mother and child; but saints blow the trumpet in Zion — the REAL SUPER-MEN OF GOD are taking their rightful place in the lives of our children! (Hallelujah) For too long, our fathers have not been given the 'shout out' they deserve for a job well done!

Sisters, do you know a brother who is more than just 'breath and bitches'? You know, the one who works hard to provide for his wife and little ones. This kind will also come home from work and help with homework or dinner — because he loves his family! (Somebody oughta be shouting right there) There is another kind among us that not only answers the 'financial call' (that's child support ya'll) but he also is there as a shonuff father. He recognizes that his children need more than 'money to make it'. So we're not surprised to see him at parent/teacher conferences, baseball games and daddy/daughter dances. Why? Because these are God's real SUPER-MEN!! (oh yeah). Before Sis. Debra starts praising right here, let's take a praise break and remember another kind. This giant of a gentleman, might not even have his name on the Birth Certificate; but he couldn't love your children any more, if they had been his very own. Some folks call them 'step' dads. I call them SUPER-MEN sent and designed by God. Make no mistake about it, he's not a 'step'! He's a 'step up'! (Glory to God) He stepped up to the clarion call to be a Father — no matter what. This Superman seizes opportunity and responsibility, when needed, to love and support our

sound cute and wonderful but it is not biblical nor is it accurate. All children have a father, no matter what kind he may be! We are Mothers and Women of God (Hallelujah)

Father's Day is June 18th. The third Sunday in June; every year at the same time. What's interesting is that dad's really don't ask for much. So what shall we give them? I know!

1. Let them sleep in before giving cards and neckties
2. Give them the remote control for the day and their beverage of choice (un huh)
3. Repeat #2

Super-Men of God Everywhere: WE SALUTE YOU AND WE PRAISE GOD FOR YOUR LIFE! MAY THE LORD'S STRENGTH AND FAVOR REST UPON YOUR HEAD!

And Now, Let the Church Roll On! I am.

children!

To my beautiful, capable and accountable single mothers everywhere: You are not the Father! Although you carry the load (and yes, you do it well), sisters, we do not replace the role of father. It may



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Outreach

(Continued from Page 6)

beyond measure for the simplest of items within their shoe boxes. It was amazing to feel the power behind the shoe box gifts first-hand. Operation Christmas Child shoe box gifts become incredibly valuable tools to help build God's church and further His Kingdom." She adds, "To receive a thank you hug from a shoe box gift recipient is one of the best experiences of her life!"

What is great about this project is it can be organized by any leader within a church or organization. One of the things that makes Operation Christmas Child so special is that it a wonderful hands-on family project with an emphasis on kids helping kids. It provides a simple, tangible way for local children and teenagers, to join adults in sharing the joy of giving and the love of Jesus to children around the world.

To learn more about Operation Christmas Child or to request free support materials, please visit

www.samaritanspurse.org/occ. The local Operation Christmas Child Year-Round Volunteer Team is also available to answer your questions, supply resources, and for speaking engagements and may be reached at lasvegasocc@aol.com. The local Operation Christmas Child team would like to thank those who have participated in the project in the past and invite new individuals, families, churches, and groups to give Christmas away by joining the world's largest Christmas ministry, Operation Christmas Child!

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COMMUNITY

Don't Push Me; I'm Close To the Edge

By Co-Pastor Lavona Lewis
Special to The Answer

When one talks of emotional disturbance we often think of someone who has a mental illness. But I challenge you to think outside of your normal thought process and ponder the question: Can a Christian suffer from emotional disturbance? Can you love and serve God yet have your emotional balance altered? In order to properly answer these questions completely, we must first define this disability. Emotional Disturbance, by definition means a condition exhibiting one or more of the following characteristics over a long period of time and to a marked degree that adversely affects one's performance:

(a) An inability to build or maintain satisfactory interpersonal relationships

(b) Inappropriate types of behavior or feelings under normal circumstances.

(c) A general pervasive mood of unhappiness or depression.

(d) A tendency to develop physical symptoms or fears associated with personal problems.

With the world being in the state that it is in; the economy down, storms out of control, wars and rumors of wars, it's no wonder statistics are showing that more and more people are suffering from depression.

We see this disability stopping millions of people every day from reaching their God given potential and achieving the goals the Lord has set before them. Many Christians shy away from this topic because many of us have come into the faith with a false expectation that once we have accepted Christ, that our lives are going to cease from troubling and that we will walk in divine peace. However, the true definition of peace is not the absence of chaos, rather the presence of God in the midst of that chaos. But in order to receive that perfect peace, your mind has to be stayed on Him (Isa. 26:1-3).

The Bible allows us to witness the lives of some of God's most powerful children as they struggle with some emotional disturbances. David records in

Psalm 142:4 Look and see, there is no one at my right hand; no one is concerned for me. I have no refuge; no one cares for my life. David's emotions were clearly disturbed and he was at this time suffering mental anguish having been set up by his enemies and left alone to fend for him. David felt like he didn't have a friend in the world. The author of Psalm 102 writes: "My days disappear like smoke. My



CO-PASTOR LAVONA LEWIS

health is broken and my heart is sick... My food is tasteless... I am reduced to skin and bones because of all my groaning and despair... My life is passing swiftly... I am withered like grass."

Clearly we see in that passage of scripture that the writer is so disturbed by his situation that he is sick and it has rendered him unable to eat. Unfortunately, many of us have

been in that position before. Life has hit you so hard that you feel numb inside and like the psalmist stated "food is tasteless." But we must remember that just as much as there is an enemy that comes to steal our joy, there is a God that comes to bring LIFE and that MORE ABUNDANTLY!

Paul in I Corinthians 10:13 says, "There hath no temptation taken you but such as common to man; but God is faithful who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able..." What are you saying Co-Pastor? I'm glad you asked! What you are going through now is only temporary, but the glory that you are going to get when you come out is everlasting! I challenge you to see your situation as Paul did when speaking to the Philippians. In Philippians 3:13-14 he stated: Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto

those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. To destroy the spirit of depression you must declare that even

though you have suffered loss, depression, failure, and disappointment, you can't, you WON'T, let anything separate you from the love (peace) of God (Rom 8:35-39).



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POETRY CORNER

Reasons

By Johnesha



Have you ever sat and wondered why things happen in your life the way they do?
 Why they don't happen to somebody else but instead they happen to you?
 Ever thought about the lessons you're supposed to learn from every situation,
 Are you in the place in your life that you're even supposed to be in?
 Was it your decisions that caused these incidents to take place?
 If you made better choices could all the bad things have been erased?

Or is your life planned out perfectly to the T,
 No matter what you do, your life is what it's gonna be,
 Isn't every situation supposed to be a lesson learned?
 And applied to your life so your old state of mind wont return,
 Feels more like a setback where your original plan is now too far out of reach,

Maybe that's it; it's not about where you think your life should be,
 There's a plan set out that only God can see,
 But what about the mistakes that changed your life but not for the better,
 Was that part of the plan? Sometimes don't you wish you could just write God a letter?

Asking him to explain every little thing that's happening in your life,
 Like why all the pain and the hurt and the strife,
 Why not happiness, bliss, joy and glee,
 Is it because the mix of them all is too heavenly,
 And without the trials I wouldn't appreciate all the things that life has in store for me,

Like my moments of joy wouldn't feel the same without the pain,
 Just the same as sunshine wouldn't seem so pleasant if it wasn't for the rain,

The meaning of accomplishment wouldn't even be the same,
 If it wasn't for the long journey I went through, the real sense of success might be taken in vain,

Finding that true love would no longer be one of the greatest moments in my life,

If it wasn't for those past relationships that taught me there's no true happiness in pain, hurt and strife,

I guess my reflection is causing me see the bigger picture,
 There's a reason for everything even if I don't understand every part of this long adventure.

So through the trials God is who you should continually seek,
 He has a plan. If you follow him, you will surely end up where you are destined to be,

Continue to pray for his will, and not yours,

Continue to read, allowing his word to be your sword,

When adversity comes your way, you'll be armed with everything you need,

A path has been set out, all you have to do is follow his lead,
 He'll never forsake you; he is one you can undoubtedly trust in,
 Have faith and all your battles you will surely win!

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Veteran Gospel Artist Recovers from heart attack to release CD

Special to The Answer

After a nearly fatal heart attack last year, Shawn McLemore is back with a testimony of God's healing power on his fourth solo CD, "One Percent Miracle" (Blacksmoke Music Worldwide), that hit stores everywhere last month.

Recently, McLemore has become known for joining James Fortune & FIYA and Zacardi Cortez to sing the smash hit "I Believe" that spent 19 weeks at #1 on the Billboard Hot Gospel Songs chart this year.

Over the years, he's done backing vocals for gospel heavyweights Donnie McClurkin and John P. Kee, produced R&B star Regina Belle and written songs for singing evangelists Kim Burrell and Dorinda Clark-Cole. In between gigs, he's also recorded a few solo albums. This is his time to take center stage.

In July 2010, McLemore was rushed to a Houston, Texas-area hospital.

"I suffered a massive heart attack," he recalls. The doctors shocked his heart three times and had given up until one doctor suggested they give McLemore one more defibrillation.

"The hospital was full of praying believers," he continues. "My wife poured oil on her hands and believed God was going to bring me through."



McLemore survived what doctors told his family was a 1 percent chance to recover and was back on the road performing and sharing his miracle convalescence within a matter of weeks.

The Los Angeles native grew up in the church and got his start in the music industry working with choirs or background singing ensembles that recorded with Mattie Moss Clark, Douglas Miller and John P. Kee.

He went on to become a behind-

the-scenes star known for his powerful vocal skills as a background vocalist with a who's who in gospel music. The buzz about his work led to his debut solo CD "Wait On Him" that peaked at #33 on Billboard's Top Gospel Albums chart in 1997.

Kerry Douglas, named Billboard magazine's #1 indie gospel label owner in 2010, then discovered McLemore and took his career to new heights by pairing him with James Fortune & FIYA and Zacardi Cortez on the mega hit "I Believe" that spent 19 weeks at #1 on Billboard's Hot Gospel Songs chart earlier this year.

McLemore says that his soulful new radio ballad, "Any Minute Now" is a continuation of "I Believe."

In the song he sings about bad

medical reports and pink slips as examples of circumstances that God will miraculously show up and bring a solution to the problem.

"This album is special because I was able to even launch it," he says.

"Even through all the situations that happened while I was writing it. It all came together, and it's the right time to produce this album, especially because of where I am in life right now. When people listen to this album, I want them to take away that there's hope in God. There's so much going on right now with the recession, but any minute now God is going to do something. We all should live by faith."

For additional information on McLemore and other Blacksmoke Music Worldwide artists, just log on to their website located at www.MrKerryDouglas.com.



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