

# Wellspring

February 2007 – March 2007 Isaiah 58.6

*All things are possible with God*

[A publication of Broken Yoke Ministries, Inc.]



## The Demonstration of Love

By Bill Windel  
(Nov 1988)

*As part of celebrating our 20th anniversary, I'm including this article written by the founder of Broken Yoke Ministries, Bill Windel, in the first edition of this newsletter. I hope you will be blessed by it.*

God has done so much in the lives of so many. We serve an AWESOME God! This is a fact that bears repeating. Our God is an awesome God. I'm reminded of the Scripture in Exodus 34:6 that reads "And the Lord passed before him (Moses), and proclaimed, 'the Lord, the Lord God, merciful and gracious, long-suffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, and that will by no means clear the guilty; visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children, and upon the children's children, on to the third and fourth generation.'"

God is God! Hardly a fact many of us need reminded of. Yet if we think about it, we will admit that many within and without the church either have not keyed in to what that bold statement means, or they have not taken time to inquire into the character of this awesome God we serve. The Scripture in Exodus portrays to us the balanced character of God. He is awesomely balanced between his merciful goodness and his perfect justice.

Some people tell me that I am less merciful than I should be. I am also told that I tend to lean toward having a heart that will condemn rather than love and affirm people where they are at. Well, that may or may not be true. I do know that I have been forgiven much. It stands to reason, therefore, that I should love much. But love whom? The Scripture tells us that we are first to love God with all that we are! We are then commanded to love others as ourselves. Jesus promises us that, if we can do this, we will have done all that is contained in the law and the prophets.

My deepest desire is to love God with all I have in me. How short I fall. Secondly, my desire is to love, with a perfect love, my brother as myself. It is important though, that we do not forfeit our love for God in order to love one another. Love is not love that only affirms. Love is love that will confront whenever necessary. If I say that I love God and I'm not faithful to express his true heart to you, and I do not love him. If I say that I love you and do not demonstrate what is God's revealed will and purpose for you, then I have deceived you have not truly loved you.

There is a crisis in the church. Sin is not dealt with in many churches today. It appears that we have adopted the humanistic "I'm okay--you're okay" philosophy seen in this

generation. Yet God continues to be God, speaking to his church pleadingly to love as he loves, to love with a great mercy and goodness. We all need that demonstration of God's unfailing mercy. But more, to love with a love that is willing to roll up its shirt sleeves and work with a struggling brother or sister to bring them to a place of victory in overcoming his or her sin. Love is an action, not a tolerance! It is not rejection to encourage another to love God with all his heart. It is obedience and the greatest demonstration of love.

In Matthew 18, Jesus gives us instruction in the way to handle church discipline. It's a Scripture passage I have frequently been pointed to by other loving, concerned believers. I wrestled with the whole area of church discipline until I realized one day that Jesus taught that particular lesson immediately after telling the parable of the man who had a hundred sheep and left ninety nine to look for the one that was lost. Immediately before Jesus begins his teaching on discipline, he says "Even so it is not the will of your father which is in heaven, that one of these little ones should perish." This is the heart of God--that's not one should perish. Love is love that keeps the salvation of a brother or sister as priority in relationship. Love is not love that affirms our brother or sister in sin.

Homosexuality is sin. The Scriptures assure us that homosexual offenders will not see God. To say I love the homosexual person and yet do not encourage the individual to repent of his or her sin and to turn to God for his forgiveness and healing, than I have not loved at all. It is commanded by God that we love the homosexual and at the same time, that we loathe his sin. This can only be done if we are able to distinguish between the sinner and his sin; between the orientation and the behavior. We are commanded to love through sin--never around it.

I know that this appears to be a tough message for our first newsletter. But this is my burden and the vision of this ministry. The homosexual sinner, as all of us sinners, needs the church to be "a pillar of truth." The last thing they need is another double minded, polluted message that God accepts them and affirms them in their sin. God has the greatest right to be who he is--perfect in all his ways. Let the message of the church be pure and undefiled, proclaiming forgiveness and deliverance to those who are oppressed. It is not our father's will that one should perish.

"May the Lord to make your loved increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else, just as ours does for you." (I Thessalonians 3:12) ■

## REAL VICTORY IN JESUS

MARK E

1988

God has incredible power to transform lives. In November, 1987, I was totally immersed in the homosexual lifestyle. Now, only one year later, I am proclaiming the life-changing gospel of Jesus Christ--the good news that Jesus can save anyone, no matter what his circumstances.

The first time I knew the calling of the Holy Spirit on my life was when I was 10 years old. Being a stubborn, self-willed person however, I rejected Christ. About two weeks later, after sitting through it terrifyingly graphic film about communist taking over the United States, in a state of real fear, I went forward to get "saved." My motives were, of course, all wrong. I didn't get saved and I knew it. For the next 15 years of my life, I was anything but Christian, although I was able to fool everyone at home into believing that I was.

When I was a sophomore in high school, I had my first homosexual experience. The individual with whom this happened temporarily filled a need in my life for love and affection but he could not fill the void in my life that only Jesus could fill.

For the next ten years I try to fill this void with a parade of people, places, things and ideas. While some of these things lasted a few weeks or even a few years, homosexuality was the one thing in my life that remained constant.

In college, I joined a fraternity where I drown myself in alcohol and marijuana. In my junior year I even had an affair with a woman to whom I proposed marriage. Several months after the termination of this relationship, I concluded that if I accepted my homosexuality, I would be happy. I soon found myself having sex with multiple partners and began cruising the gay bar circuit. Soon, I found that all of this left me feeling very empty. To combat the emptiness, I had sex more and more frequently.

This cycle of sex and emptiness repeated itself for the next several years of my life. I eventually tried developing a monogamous relationship with a man. This, too, only left me dissatisfied and unfulfilled.

Next I tried to devote myself to developing my career as a professional musician. I quickly found myself trying to cope in my first experience as a music director. I wasn't coping very well, living on alcohol, marijuana, cigarettes and caffeine. Naturally all of us took a great toll in my health and I was soon combating all the symptoms of an ulcer.

My last ditch effort to fill the void I had in my life was the New Age movement. A friend had recommended several books on the subject that told me how to meditate and relax while thinking of all the material and spiritual things I wanted in life. This too lasted only a very short time, and I found myself once again lonely and depressed. Many times, I thought I was going to lose my mind.

December 1987 rolled around and I was soon to be going home for the holidays. How I dreaded that! Every time I thought about going home, I would feel sick to my stomach.

Christmas came and on Sunday, December 27, 1987, I awoke very sick and I just knew I would never make it through the church service that morning. The pastor's wife

usually liked for me to play the organ when I was home and that particular Sunday, I didn't think I could last through the pro you'd let alone the whole service. That particular service, however, proved to be the most important I played for.

I was accompanying the choir as they sang "Victory in Jesus" when I began to cry. I began to look back over my life like looking through the pages of a book. I could see what a mess I had made as I tried to lead my own life. I began to see my life through the eyes of another--through God's eyes. I knew that I was under the conviction of the Holy Spirit and yet I resisted his call. It was during the next choral selection that I heard the Lord tell me that I was at a fork in the road of my life. I could choose life or I could choose death. I had chosen death long enough. It was time for life.

In the middle of the song, the choir had to go a cappella because I stopped playing and ran to my pastor and said, "I need to get saved!" The two weeks that followed were the greatest of my life. I knew the love of God and felt no sexual temptation whatever.

When my vacation ended, I returned to Madison and began to change some things. First, I told my lover about the wonderful thing had happened to me. Then I told many of my gay friends. One by one, I watched as my friends walked away from me and my new found faith. But the Lord brought new people into my life, Christian friends who had been praying for me for many months. It was through these friends that I learned about Broken Yoke.

Through the support of Broken Yoke, I have learned about some of the reasons I became a homosexual and I have found the love and support and counsel and need to change. Had it not been for Broken Yoke Ministries, I know I would not have come as far in my healing process.

It is now my prayer that I may serve the Lord in reaching out to hurting men and women who are in bondage to the homosexual lifestyle. The souls of many individuals are hanging in the balance. Can I sit back and do nothing?

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**Broken Yoke Ministries is a nonprofit 501 (c) (3) corporation and operates solely on the contributions of people such as you. All donations to this ministry are tax deductible and will be recognized. While there is no charge for this newsletter, it can only be published if there are funds available to make that possible. Send your donations to:**

**Broken Yoke Ministries, Inc**

**PO Box 361**

**Waukesha, WI 53187-0361**

**PS A substantial number of our readers are incarcerated and unable to offer financial support. Please consider a donation on their behalf. Indicate "Inmates" on the memo line of your check if you'd like to help in this way.**



**Help Us Celebrate  
20 years of service!  
Anniversary Barbeque Picnic  
June 23, 2007  
(Details in future editions)**

## CREATE IN ME

BOB  
1988

"Create in me a clean heart, O God, let me be like you in all my ways. Give me your strength, teach me your song, shelter me in the shadow of your wings."

I cannot begin to count the number of times my soul prayed in such a manner. I was different, the odd one (although a few really new--I just thought everyone did), and despised in my own mind. Lonely. I can't believe how lonely even in crowded rooms. Lots of strangers, though, and each one as alone as I.

Every now and then a stranger lasted a little longer in my life than just a passing encounter. The strangers had names, of course, and some are people I had known for years but still strangers held at arm's length. But it didn't take long to realize that those with whom I shared my secrets, my gayness, were really using me in the same ways I used them. We drained each other in search of the missing parts of our lives until there was no more left to drain. So we parted each with the hope that the other would not betray us outside of our private world.

"Create in me a clean heart, O God, let me be like you in ALL my ways. Give me YOUR strength, teach me YOUR song, shelter me in the shadow of YOUR wings."

Focus. It changes. God enters as we allow him to enter. But with new eyes, the world does look different in the shadows are places to avoid. With God there are no shadows because he fills every crevice within us. The cross consumes and heals and fills with a paradoxical blend of the deepest sorrow and inexplicable joy. The invitation of hope, no, of promise seems to the human mind too good to be true, but it is. God changes us. Jesus loves us.

The Holy Spirit bonds us. Man and woman, he created them. No confusion in his design. It's all so simple--just to be as we are created to be and in the process come to know the one who loves us beyond imagination. Easy? Not always, because we are creatures of self-made habit.

Worth it? Can anyone who has stepped in to light and seeing beauty ever again prefer darkness, loneliness, and confusion?

"Create IN me a CLEAN heart, O God, LET me be like YOU in all my ways. Give me your STRENGTH, teach me your SONG, shelter me in the shadow of your WINGS."

*I sent the above thoughts to Bill Windel in a letter while I was in prison. Bill graciously wrote to me and eventually encouraged me to a more active involvement with Broken Yoke Ministries. I am very grateful to God for putting Bill in my life and pray that he is being blessed.*



## Our Prayer Corner

*Because we care about one another, we pray . . .*

- For all those who struggle with same-gender attractions, that they accept the identity God had in mind for them from the beginning.
- For all those who are just beginning to believe change is possible, that they will see the example of men and women who have stepped away from homosexual/lesbian behavior and find hope and strength.
- For those in prisons around the country, that they believe in the identity God created for them in their lives.
- For the board of directors of Broken Yoke Ministries, that they continue to be open to God's design for this ministry.
- For those suffering with HIV or AIDS, that they find themselves surrounded by people willing to be Christ's body here on earth.
- For men and women searching for help, that find the strength to stand against the flow of a public, pro-gay opinion.
- For churches, that they come to recognize that healing is not making someone happy in their sins but in bringing those who seek change to God's love and design in their lives.
- For Bob, that his daily walk reflects God's loving and healing strength in his ministry and in his personal life.
- For Broken Yoke Ministries, that its ongoing financial needs will be met through the generosity and prayer support of the readers of this newsletter.

## Wisconsin Ministry Locations

### Broken Yoke

P.O. Box 361  
Waukesha, WI 53187-0361  
262-896-0841 (answering machine)  
Bob@brokenyoke.org

### **Meetings:**

**Support Group** (weekly)  
Tuesday, 7:00PM

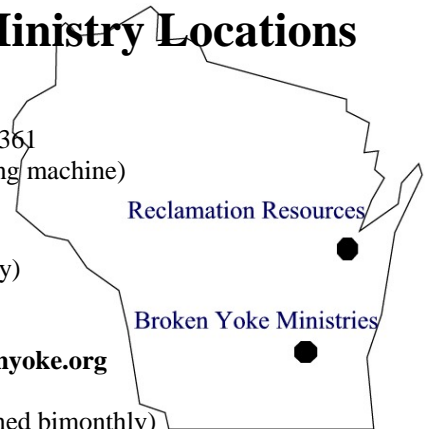
### **Website:**

<http://www.brokenyoke.org>

### **Newsletter:**

**Wellspring** (published bimonthly)

*Note: This newsletter and some back issues are available in pdf format on our website. If you don't have Adobe Acrobat Reader, there are links that allow you to download that program free.*



### Redeemed Ministries

A support system for women  
Support Group (bi-weekly)  
2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday, 7:00PM  
Call 414-607-1935 for info

### Reclamation Resources

P.O. Box 1062  
Oshkosh, WI 54902  
920-303-1041  
<http://www.reclamationrc.org>

**Broken Yoke Ministries, Inc.**  
**P.O. Box 361**  
**Waukesha, WI 53187-0361**

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**Dated Material**

### ***A Little Humor***

A redneck walked into a hardware store and asked for a chainsaw that would cut six trees in one hour. The salesman recommended the top-of-the-line model. Suitably impressed, the redneck reached into his wallet and paid for the chainsaw.

The next day he brought the chainsaw back and said, "This chainsaw is defective. It would only cut down one tree and it took all day!"

The salesman took the chainsaw from the redneck and pulled the cord to start the chainsaw motor. With a surprised look on his face, the redneck asked, "What's that noise?"

