

makes you free, you



shall be free indeed.

Voice of Freedom

A Ministry of
Cedar Valley Community Church

Prison Ministry Good News Letter

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Humming for Nectar from Jesus

by Mary Lee



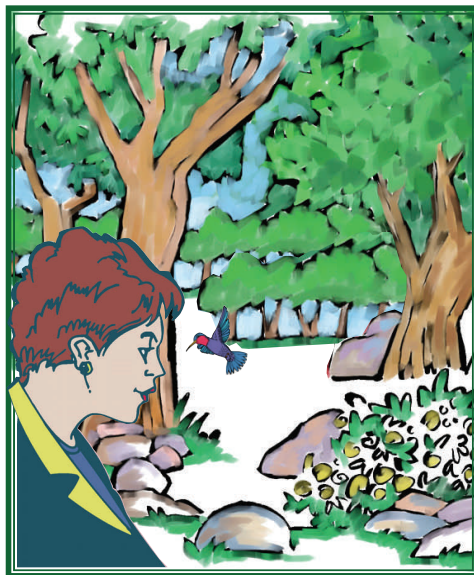
May the grace of God our Father be with you as you seek substance to sustain the energy for walking with our Lord and Savior Christ Jesus. It takes energy-giving food to keep our physical bodies functioning. God knows our need for daily food and will provide. God also wants us to look past human food to the Spiritual food of His life-giving bread of life, His Son Jesus the Christ, who is the living word of the Bible and the Light of the world (**John 1:1-5**). Jesus knows that at times we are more concerned

with hamburgers and fries than God's word. We read in John a large group of men followed Jesus across the Sea of Galilee seeking free food to nourish their physical bodies instead of the Living Bread freely offered by Jesus. ***"Jesus answered them and said, 'truly, truly, I say to you, you seek Me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate of the loaves and were filled. Do not work for food which perishes, but for the food which endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you, for on Him the Father, God, has set HIS seal."***

(**John 6:26-27 NAS**) Each morning, may your prayer be, "Lord Jesus, fill me with Your presence and spiritually sustain me through this day."

Witnessing the wonders of God's creation fills me with His presence and constantly inspires me to discover lessons that God has in store for me that I may also share with others, always giving thanks and glory to God! Whenever I pause for a moment in the woodland surrounding our home, I always discover an adventure. On one especially gorgeous, breezy, sunny day just right for drying laundry, I carried a basket of laundry outside, sat it on the deck and paused to thank God for showing me His creation. The intense fragrance of wild Sweet William and Honey Suckle flowers mingled with thousands of Lilac blooms and sweetened the air, surely all the way to Heaven. A Humming Bird zoomed in and abruptly parked on the Lord's spring breeze a few inches from my face. Delighted, I stood still, hoping the Hummer would sing to me. The hummer floated a moment, twittered to me, flew across the deck to the feeder, chirped, and zipped right back. Balancing on my breath, he twittered as if to say, "The feeder is empty, will you please fill it?" So as not to scare the Hummer away, I whispered, "So, Little Hummer, the wild flower and Lilac blossom nectar isn't the only food you desire." With joy I took the feeder from its hook, carried it inside,

mixed up the sugar and water, refilled the feeder, and quietly returned it to its place near the deck. I patiently stood nearby hoping to see the thirsty Hummer's response. Delighted again, I saw the Hummer return! He noticed how close I was to the feeder, paused, decided to trust me and then sipped sweet nectar from the feeder, in-between twitters of gratefulness. Of course, other Hummers were instantly attracted and whirred around the feeder to share the energizing nectar.



Amazed, I felt a special connection with God because of the elegant, beautiful Humming Birds. I thanked Jesus, and then asked the Holy Spirit to teach me God's lesson in this experience. I was reminded of the fragrant flowers and God's delight when we come to Him. ***"Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children; and walk in love, just as Christ also loved you and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma."*** (**Ephesians 5:1 NAS**) I continued to quietly listen and sensed that this entire Hummer experience

meant that I should always be ready to patiently listen for someone's emptiness, someone's search to quench their spiritual thirst. The Hummer had left his daily routine of working wild flowers to pause in search of a different kind of food. I was delighted that the Hummer came to me and asked for food. God delights in us when we come to Him and listen to the still, small voice of His Holy Spirit leading us to Jesus. Jesus said, ***"I am the bread of life; he who comes to Me will not hunger, and he who believes in Me will never thirst."*** (**John 6:35 NAS**) From the depth of our God-created being, may each of us understand that we can trust Jesus, go to His feeder and never be spiritually thirsty again. God's feeder is the Bible, but also Jesus wants us to be vessels to feed others. So, when Jesus leads spiritually thirsty people in my direction, I pray that my actions and the word of God flowing through my lips will bring an understanding of the heart of Jesus. ***"The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance."*** (**2 Peter 3:12 NAS**) ***"The Lord says, 'Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord and whose trust is the Lord.'"*** (**Jeremiah 17:7 NAS**) ***Jesus said, "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses . . ."*** (**Acts 1:8 NAS**)



As a result of feeding on God's word for the purpose of becoming a good witness for Jesus, I must also obey His word and continue trusting Jesus to feed me from His living word just as the Hummers trusted me and continued to sip nectar from my feeder. I seldom step outside our home without thinking about **Romans 1:19-20**, ***"That which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them. For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse."*** (NAS) This scripture teaches me that God makes Himself known through His creation, so we know better than to deny that God created everything. We know better than to turn away from God and worship nature itself. We must choose between God who is the Light and Creator of Life, or Satan who is darkness and destruction of life.

Satan's bad plan would have us stumbling within his eternally dying darkness of the world and believing his counterfeit lies that twist God's truth for the purpose of misleading us into worshiping creation rather than the creator, God. For example, when I admire God's beautiful Hummers, I am not about to follow the ancient example of the Aztec people who worshipped the tiny Humming Bird as the god of warriors, death, and sun. Instead, I worship God, the creator of everything and give thanks to Him.

God's good plan for us is to follow the eternally living Light of the World, Jesus the Christ. In the book of Romans, Paul explains that we are without excuse for not understanding God's truth. It is God's will for us to acknowledge His sovereignty, to trust Him, to accept His teaching, to commit our

entire lives to Him, to walk in His Light, and to give thanks for His blessings.

The Hummers trusted my presence and came in numbers for the blessing of free food from my feeder. I was reminded of a huge blessing, God's Holy Bible, which is His living word. In our country, we are blessed with freedom to read God's word and worship Him in community with others without fear. The Bible is the Living Word and is full of lessons that ultimately lead us to the cross where God's Son,

Jesus the Christ, took our sins upon himself and then died in our place. **John 3:16-17** tells us that ***"God loved the people of this world so much that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who has faith in Him will have eternal life and never perish. God did not send His Son into the world to condemn its people. He sent Jesus so the people might be saved through Him!"*** (CEV/NAS) Then verse 21 says that ***"he who practices the truth comes to the Light . . ."*** What is the Light? **Jesus said, "I am the Light of the world, He who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life."** (John 8:12 NAS)

When we choose to walk in the Light of life, Jesus, He will quench our thirst. Jesus told the woman at the well, ***"whoever drinks of the water that I will give him, shall never thirst, but the water that I will give him will become in him a well of water springing up to eternal life."*** (John 4:14 NAS) ***" . . . true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers. God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in Spirit and truth."*** (John 4:23, 24 NAS)

Just as the Hummers gladly quenched their thirst with free nectar from my feeder, by the grace of God . . . may the Holy Spirit draw you in faith to ask Jesus the Christ, God's Son, for a sip of free nectar from His holy-water feeder, the Holy Bible.
– Mary Lee –

**Wonderful are Your works,
and my soul knows**



ICIW Ladies!
Worship the Lord
with CVCC
Friday
June 26
7 p.m.
in the Sacred Place

MPCF Men!
Worship the Lord
with
Heart Surrender Ministry
Wednesday Evening
June 17
July 15 & 29
6-7 p.m.

If you are not on our mailing list and would like to be, or if for any reason you would like to be taken off, please send a note to *Voice of Freedom*, Cedar Valley Community Church, 3520 Ansbrough Av., Waterloo, IA 50701.

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