



June 2012

Year 1, Volume 5

“...to equip, encourage, and restore!”

Polished Arrow Christian Endeavors  
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## Christian Endeavors

### PACE Update

Greetings in the Precious Name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. I hope this finds you well and prosperous ... growing in Him.

A large announcement will be coming forth next week concerning future plans for PACE. We have a meeting Tuesday evening, June 5, with several individuals whom we are calling together to speak into our lives and into the life of this ministry. Some will be physically present while others will be meeting through Skype. We are excited about what God has in store for us. We believe that we have most of the vision intact, but we are awaiting confirmation and further direction; this will take place in that gathering.

One of the things we have discovered in life is that you only want select people truly speaking into your life. These should be trusted and proven men and women. These are the ones who impart wisdom, encouragement, discipline, direction, and God's Word into your lives.

Please be in prayer for us during this time. We will worship together, share the vision that God has given us, and then sit back and hear from God through these individuals. And we are taking very seriously what He speaks through each of them.

We had another one of those God-connections last month as we had lunch with an old friend, Roz Heyns. Roz leads a ministry in the nation of Malawi to the elderly and to a couple of orphanages. One funny thing was that I (Jim) had done some computer database work for Roz back in the late 1990s. And she knew we were in Chicago, so stopped as she was passing through so that we could have lunch together. We had a great time as she encouraged us to step on out in those things which we had been sensing in our spirits. She also opened the doors of her Malawi ministry to us. So we have now established contacts in Africa, Asia, and North and South America. We are really excited about where God is using us and where He is opening up doors. By the way, Roz tells us that there is revival taking place among the elderly of Malawi as they are now beginning to recognize their place and their authority in Christ.

### Missions News from around the World

#### Human Trafficking in Brazil

Compassion International is now reporting of a resurgence of human trafficking in the nation of Brazil and they feel that the 2014 World Cup and the 2016 Olympics will make things so much worse. As further reported by Compassion, "Although Brazil can look at this and say, 'It's wonderful for our country and it's wonderful for our economy,' when the poor people and the community workers in these poor areas heard about getting the World Cup and the Olympics in Brazil, they said this was one of the worst things that could happen." The poor are the most vulnerable to trafficking ... The best things that Christians can do, Number One, is sponsor a child through Compassion International. The other thing is to be aware and to pray. This is an issue that is growing in leaps and bounds all over the world. The more we try to deny that it happens, we're really kidding ourselves."

#### Growing Afghan Christians

A growing number of Afghans, including politicians, are embracing Christianity and meet in house churches despite death threats and attacks by Islamic terrorists. A Christian news agency, on May 4, quoted informed Afghan authorities as saying that Christianity has obtained a special place "among youth and other layers in society." The officials said house churches are growing tremendously. An advocacy group assisting Christians living in difficult areas, explained that it learned from an independent Shi'ite website that an Afghan official concluded, "There is evidence of widespread Christian propaganda in Afghanistan." The unidentified official was quoted as saying it had been proven "more than 10 churches operate secretly in residential houses." (Bosnews) **Pray for a continued move of the Gospel in Afghanistan and for the courage and protection of God's people there.**

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## The Hardest Thing

I don't really know why but forgiveness is the hardest thing for me to do. Oh, I know that, in part, it is because it is a fight with that human, soulish part of me that wants to see them hurt the way I hurt ... I want to see them pay ... I want revenge for all the tears and all of the pain. I'm just keeping it real here folks.

Then I remember how much pain and hurt I have caused Jesus by my sin and my rejection ... and how much grace and mercy and love and forgiveness He has so lavishly poured out to me. I remember ... yet, forgiving is still really hard.

Oh, I remember the Word that says, "In prayer there is a connection between what God does and what you do. You can't get forgiveness from God, for instance, without also forgiving others. If you refuse to do your part, you cut yourself off from God's part" (Matthew 6:14-14 MSG). It is still really hard! But I don't want to cut myself off from God and His forgiveness! So, I pursue forgiveness ...

Unforgiveness can actually make us sick and keep us from physical healing. I recently read an article in a local newspaper about this very topic. Dr. Michael Barry, a physician with Cancer Treatment Centers of America, is considered a forgiveness expert who has conducted clinical research on the link between negative, stressful emotions and cancer recovery and has found that unforgiveness actually hinders the healing process. He states that the disease of unforgiveness and the stress that goes along with it can impact every organ and is an emotional disorder that can be prevented, treated, and cured. God knows all of this because He created us and He has provided the perfect example of living a life of forgiveness ... and it is still hard.

I have learned lots in this very difficult process. We have found ourselves walking out this very difficult road of forgiveness over the past few months. As we have trudged through the process I have learned that forgiveness is a choice. And I must choose it every day, every time the person or offense comes to mind. I find that when I think of the person or offense, I must stop and say, "I forgive that person. I forgive that offense. I pray blessing on that person." As I keep choosing, day after day after day after day ... eventually the forgiveness will be real and complete ... But it is really hard.

I have also learned that I must control my thoughts in regards to the person and the offense. I must "take every thought captive to make it obedient to Christ" (2 Corinthians 10:5 NIV). Obedient to love ... obedient to forgive ... obedient to bless. Did I say it is not easy? ... it is really hard.

Another thing I have learned is that God is my defender but if I start defending myself then I've stepped in and taken God's job away from Him. If I AM BEING my defender then He CAN'T BE my defender. He is a much better defender than I am! "O my Strength, I will watch and give heed to You and sing praises; for God is my Defense [my Protector and High Tower] (Psalm 59:9 AMP). ... Letting God be my Defense! And that is hard too.

He is also my Avenger. "Dear friends, never take revenge. Leave that to the righteous anger of God. For the Scriptures say, "I will take revenge; I will pay them back," says the LORD" (Romans 12:19 NLT). I can't be consumed with revenge ... with seeing them pay for what they did. Revenge is not my job. I need to do my part in this whole forgiveness thing

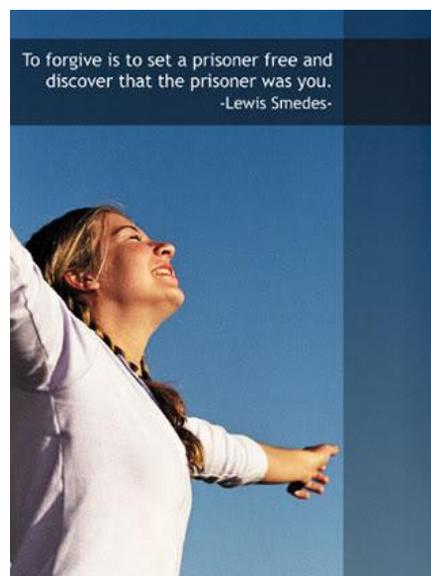


and let God do His part. Yeah, that is hard!

I think the biggest thing I have learned in this whole forgiveness thing is that it is all dependent on trust ... Trusting God. Do I really trust that God has my best at heart in and through every situation? Do I trust that He really is working all things ... the good, the bad and the ugly ... together for my good? Do I trust Him to be my Defender? Do I trust Him with the whole revenge thing? Do I trust Him with the person whom I struggling to forgive? Trust is a choice I must make every day. "I choose today to trust the Lord with all my heart. I choose not to lean on my own understanding and insight. I choose in all my ways and in every circumstance to know Him and acknowledge Him. As I trust Him He will show me what path to take" (Proverbs 3:5-6 Cheri's Version). I've got to trust Him ... and sometimes that is hard.

And I have learned that the very best thing for me when offense and pain come is to forgive. It is the best for me physically: for my health ... mentally: less stress, and spiritually: keeps me connected to my God and forgiven by Him. The very best thing I can do for me ... and for the other person ... is to forgive.

Is it hard? ... it is ... It is a process ... but forgiveness is possible. It is a choice.



So just know that I am choosing to forgive one day at a time ... and it is hard ... But I will forgive so that I don't cut myself off from receiving God's forgiveness.

In the process!

Cheri

## The Hem of His Garment

This is a rather lengthy blog, but I think the information contained in here is vital for most Christians in this 21<sup>st</sup> century. I am going to focus on a practical application of the power that raised Jesus from the dead: His ability to raise us from our infirmities and difficulties. And the way I want to do that is through a story found in Mark 5.

Mk 5:25-34- "A woman who had had a hemorrhage for twelve years, and had endured much at the hands of many physicians, and had spent all that she had and was not helped at all, but rather had grown worse — after hearing about Jesus, she came up in the crowd behind Him and touched His cloak. For she thought, "If I just touch His garments, I will get well." Immediately the flow of her blood was dried up; and she felt in her body that she was healed of her affliction. Immediately Jesus, perceiving in Himself that the power proceeding from Him had gone forth, turned around in the crowd and said, "Who touched My garments?" And His disciples said to Him, "You see the crowd pressing in on You, and You say, 'Who touched Me?'" And He looked around to see the woman who had done this. But the woman fearing and trembling, aware of what had happened to her, came and fell down before Him and told Him the whole truth. And He said to her, "Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace and be healed of your affliction." (NASU)

In this passage, we find a description of a woman with an issue of blood. Grammatically, this story is what is called an *inclusio*. It actually invades and sits in the middle of another story: the story of the daughter of Jairus.

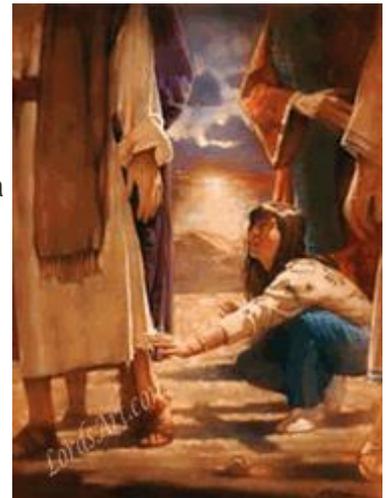
In Jairus' story, Jairus was an official of the Temple in Jerusalem. And he had a daughter who was 12 years old. (All of this important because there is an issue that is being made ... as we will see later.) As Jesus was going to the home of Jairus, He is confronted by large crowd of people. The Bible describes this crowd as "pressing in" on Him. And there, in the midst of the crowd, was this woman with an issue of blood. By Jewish law, this woman **should not have been there** because she was "unclean."

Leviticus 15:25-26- "Now if a woman has a discharge of her blood many days, not at the period of her menstrual impurity, or if she has a discharge beyond that period, all the days of her impure discharge she shall continue as though in her menstrual impurity; she is unclean." (NASU)

She was possibly around 24 years of age because

she had dealt with this issue of blood for about 12 years. Implications are that this "issue of blood" was some part of a normal menstrual cycle, though her illness was certainly not NORMAL. Also, notice an interesting concept arising if you accept her age as being 24. For sure, her story fits in the middle of a story of a 12-year-old girl. 12 years of age was the normal age for a young lady to begin her cycle of womanhood. In fact, the differentiation between children and adults in the Bible was recognized between the ages of 12 and 13. Even today, Jews celebrate the Bar/Bat Mitzvah when children cross that bridge between childhood and adulthood. They become, literally, sons/daughters of the covenant.

But, back to our story, this woman came with a distinct purpose of touching Jesus in order to be healed. She knew she was unclean: she had had the issue of blood for 12 years and had spent all that she



had (to fix it) and was was unclean.not helped at all. She also knew she was not supposed to be there in the midst of that crowd: she

In other words, this was a woman who knew the Law of the Lord. Some have suggested that this woman was a Gentile, but evidence speaks clearly (in my mind) for the case of her being an understanding, believing, practicing, law-abiding ... but desperate ... Jew.

Again, it my belief that this is further magnified by the fact that this story occurs in the midst of a story about Jesus going to the home of a man who was an official of the temple in Jerusalem. That, and there is the allusion to the number 12, which IS used as a Biblical connotation to the people of God (the 12 tribes of Israel, the 12 Disciples, the 12 gates in the book of Revelation, etc.)

**So here is my theory, not only did this woman know what she was doing, but she also knew what she was going to do in order to procure her healing.**

So, let's look carefully at the Biblical description of the mode of her healing:

Mark 5:43-48- "And a woman who had a hemorrhage for twelve years, and could not be healed by anyone, came up behind Him and touched the fringe (*tou kraspedou*) of His cloak (*tou himatiou*), and immediately her hemorrhage stopped. And Jesus said, "Who is the one who touched Me?" And while they were all denying it, Peter said, "Master, the people are crowding and pressing in on You." But Jesus said, "Someone did touch Me, for I was aware that power had gone out of Me." When the woman saw that she had not escaped notice, she came trembling and fell down before Him, and declared in the presence of all the people the reason why she had touched Him, and how she had been immediately healed. And He said to her, "Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace."

The Messianic Renewed Covenant (Bible) says,

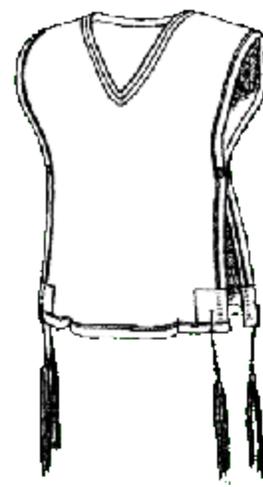
"Luke 8:44- "She came up behind him, and touched the *tzit-tzit* of His garment; and immediately her flow of blood stood."



Allow me to take a moment to give a description of the covering Jesus wore. Certainly, He wore some type of garment.

This garment probably had fringes and tassels attached to the bottom perimeter ... but we'll get to that shortly. Contrary to pictures that we often see, it is my belief that Jesus' garment did not include the prayer shawl (*tallit*) as we know it. The modern prayer shawl is worn in the synagogue and in the home by Jewish males (and some females) as a covering. To Christians today, it is a reminder of the clothing Jesus wore.

**In fact, the Bible does not command wearing of the tallit. Instead, it simply takes the garments that people already were wearing to cover themselves and instructs them to add fringes (*tzit-tzit*) to the four corners of these. There are some Jews today who wear an undergarment that openly shows these four tassels. This garment is called a *tallit katan*.**



Today, because Jewish people wear Western clothes instead of Eastern clothes, they keep this Biblical law by wearing a four-cornered garment as an undershirt. The little tassels are coming out of

the four corners about the beltline, hanging down in front of and beside them. This fulfilled/fulfills the command regarding the *tzit-tzit*.

Numbers 15:37-41- "Then the Lord said to Moses, "Give the following instructions to the people of Israel: Throughout the generations to come you must make tassels for the hems of your clothing and attach them with a blue cord. When you see the tassels, you will remember and obey all the commands of the Lord instead of following your own desires and defiling yourselves, as you are prone to do. The tassels will help you remember that you must obey all my commands and be holy to your God. I am the Lord your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt that I might be your God. I am the Lord your God!"<sup>[1]</sup>

See also [Deuteronomy](#) 22:12.



**It is my summary that the *tallit*, the prayer shawl, then, serves not only as a fulfillment of the Torah, but also serves as a living reminder of God Himself.**

So I want to give you a few details concerning the tallit; hopefully that will explain my summary ... and hopefully, it will bring a renewed sense of healing, deliverance, and hope to you.

There are 613 tassels on every prayer shawl. By the way, do you know how many laws the Rabbis tell us there are in the Bible? 613. These tassels are, in fact, reminders of the 613 laws of God. In other words, when the people of Israel see these, they are reminded of their responsibility to obey the Law, and of their calling to be a holy people unto the Lord.

Additionally, there are also four *tzit-tzits* (large tassels) on the tallit: one on each corner. These represent the four-letter name of God, יהוה (usually understood as Yahweh.) This is often called the tetragrammaton, a word of Greek derivative meaning "word with four letters." Also, the Hebrew word for "name" is "shem". It literally means, "name, reputation, renown." In other words, one's name also declared his/her reputation. To speak one's name was

to state one's reputation. So, to see a visible statement (such as the *tzit-tzit*) was to be reminded of the name ... and therefore, the reputation of the Lord.

Again, besides reminding the wearer of the name of God, the *tzit-tzit*, too, are fulfillments of the law of the Lord. The Torah commands us to wear *tzit-tzit* (fringes) at the corners of our garments. "You shall make for yourselves twisted threads on the four corners of your garment with which you cover yourself." Deuteronomy 22:12

Some ancient Jewish traditions hold that the threads of the tassels were white to symbolize righteousness ... but there was also a conspicuous blue thread among the tassels to symbolize the heavenly origin of the commandments. And Jews would wrap these *tzit-tzit* around their fingers to remind them of the power of God. (This is probably where we get the idea of tying a string around our finger as a reminder ... so as not to forget things.) In addition, in some Jewish traditions, there are 39 windings in each of the *tzit-tzit*. This equals the numerical value of the Hebrew words "the Lord is One."

Now, let me bring the story to full-circle: *When the woman with the issue of blood touched the fringes of Jesus' garment, the tzit-tzit, she touched His personal outward, physical symbol and reminder of God's righteousness and power. Because she believed this manifestation on her part of touching the tassel on the hem of His garment would heal her, it did. This was an outward act of an inner faith.*

*So, let this serve as a reminder to you today: The same power that raised Jesus from the dead, the same power that healed the woman with the issue of blood, the same power that we are reminded of in the tallit (prayer shawl) is available to you and me today. The power was not and is not in the cloth fringe; it was in the "being reminded of" that the woman with the issue of blood was healed. It is in this same sense of "being reminded of" that we are healed and that we are made overcomers today.*

*Be reminded ... Be an Overcomer ... in HIM.*

<sup>[1]</sup>Tyndale House Publishers, *Holy Bible : New Living Translation*, "Text Edition"--Spine., 2nd ed. (Wheaton, Ill.: Tyndale House Publishers, 2004), Nu 15:37-41.

## Thank You ... and Requests Made

This is the fifth newsletter of Polished Arrow Christian Endeavors. The primary targets of PACE are: the encouragement and training of pastors, leaders, and other Christians, the teaching of God's Word to equip all the saints, the liberation of women who are held in the bondage of their own minds and homes, the preparation and dissemination of written materials that edify the body of Christ, the instruction of Christian leaders in academic settings, and the restoration of ministers who have grown weary in well-doing. At this point in our lives, our areas of focus include the US, the Caribbean, Colombia, China, and Israel, and now, Malawi ... although we are constantly attuned to His Spirit for other leadings as well.

We have two requests of you today: **1)** Will you pray for us on a regular basis, at least weekly? We understand that all things are possible with God, but we also realize that, often, we have not because we ask not; We are asking. **2)** Will you support us financially? At this point, this ministry is the soul vehicle through which God provides our income . It is a tax-deductible investment. Make checks out to PACE and use the following address:

**PACE, 19401 Tramore Lane, Mokena, IL 60448.**

Otherwise, you can go to our website ([www.garrettministries.org](http://www.garrettministries.org)) and look about half-way down the page and donate via **PayPal**. We are appreciative for whatever prayers you can offer and whatever gifts you can afford. Through these things, God is using you to reach the nations of the world.



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