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Great Is Thy Faithfulness

Elaine Hawk *By Linda Mawby*

This I recall to my mind, therefore have I hope. It is of the LORD's mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is Thy faithfulness. - Lamentations 3:21-26

Elaine Louise Bowen has seen a lifetime full of disparities and extremes. She was born in Boston, Massachusetts on July 5, 1922 to Dr. and Mrs. Gilbert Bowen, and grew up in the nearby peninsula town of

Winthrop. Steeped in a history of Puritan saints, the town, and her immediate and extended family were strong in faith and pious in their application of it. Her father was a deacon and Bible study teacher, her uncle a Methodist minister. Multiple days a week were spent at church and whenever possible she attended Christian schools - a Baptist grade school and a Nazarene College her last year of high school. She fondly remembers responding to an altar call at a Nazarene camp meeting the summer she turned 8 years old. "I felt wonderfully alive! Even the stars shone brighter that night." Drinking, smoking, movies, even jewelry and make-up, were signs of worldliness and strongly discouraged. She respectfully, but humorously, remembers passing comments from her uncle on two return visits as an adult: "You're a fine looking woman, but the earrings have to go ..." and "Your lipstick is that of a circus queen!"

Safety and Ease

Early life could be described as idyllic - attending church, going to school, spending summers "living" in her bathing suit by the water with her inseparable 2-year younger sister Peggy, both in Winthrop along the Atlantic coast and in Magog, Quebec, Canada at their summer home next to Lake Memphremagog. Much of their time was spent as "wild Indians" running through fields and swimming in the lake near their 17-acre farm. Though



Elaine Hawk with children, Nancy and Jim Jr., Circa 1950

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their mother worked long days keeping home and preparing meals, their young lives were carefree and secure. Her father, a dentist who in his early years scraped money together for education and equipment during difficult financial times, was able to later care for, not only his own family, but his extended family during its sickness and hardship, as well.

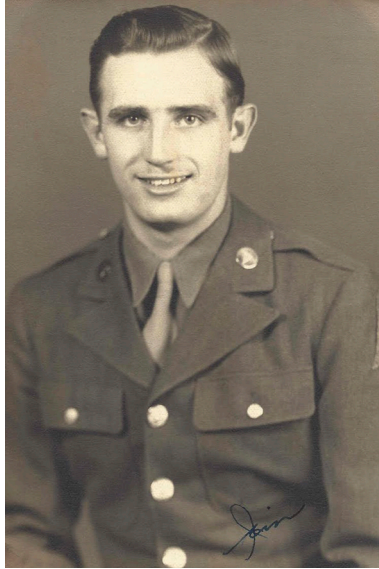
Following high school graduation in 1940, Elaine and her family moved to Sherbrooke, Quebec. Accomplished at both piano and violin and performing in the orchestra at the Nazarene college, she now took a one-year commercial office course at Notre Dame Business College

and applied these skills at Canada Bank of Commerce. Little did she realize how well her education and experiences would later serve her.

James Corliss was sister Peggy's boyfriend's best friend, and Elaine would go on double-dates with them. Jim was a kind soul, as well as handsome, athletic, and talented in music and theater. He too grew up in a Christian home and had begun seminary training at Bob Jones University. She recalls his beautiful "preacher's voice" and how she admired his calling to the ministry – traits she felt would lead to an idyllic marriage and family life.

Tragedy of War

World War II had begun, and Elaine joined the Royal Canadian Air Force and was assigned as a Radio Operator in Nova Scotia. Jim had already joined the U.S. Army and was training in Louisiana. Saying "yes" to a proposal for marriage at the age of 21, Elaine took advantage of a weekend leave, and married Jim at his hometown in Newport, Vermont in November 1943. Becoming pregnant the same weekend, she was soon discharged from the Air Force and lived with his parents so Jim Jr. could be born in the U.S. She then returned to Canada and the security of her parent's home until the summer of 1945. Global security came with the close of WW II, but security for Elaine would soon become elusive – first when reuniting with Jim, for a time, in Boston where he attempted to finish college and where second child, Nancy, was born in 1946 – then later in California.



Jim Corliss, WWII

A decorated medic who heroically served at the infamous Battle of the Bulge, Jim came home a changed man. Suffering from black out spells and horrific nightmares, he was given electric shock treatments, with little or no lasting relief. In college, further mental and emotional instability manifested so he left school. Elaine returned to her parents' home in Sherbrooke to await news of where they would settle. Little did she know that a "settled life" would never be found as Mrs. Jim Corliss.

Security to Insecurity

Receiving the call in 1947 to leave the bitter cold of New England and be with Jim in sunny California was tremendously exciting! Concern over difficulties or challenges did not cross her mind or get in the way of her goals. Even today, at the age of 92, you still see a strong, adventurous spirit underlying an outgoing confidence and faithful determination. California at the close of WWII offered nothing but promise. Yet her hope for a stable home waned as Jim continued to suffer emotional stress. He was a changed man who walked away from his faith in God. The lure of the world eventually led them to Hollywood where he used his good looks and talent in theater to try and become a movie star. Unseemly friendships exacerbated his waywardness.



Elaine Hawk, age 20

Desperate to keep her family "together", Elaine succeeded, but at no small cost. Jim's varied and sporadic employment, drinking, and carousing continued. He held numerous short-term jobs, from milkman to salesman to entrepreneurial business front man. They moved uncounted times. Her life was an enigmatic paradox, being included, on the one hand, in the Los Angeles Blue Book – a who's who registry of high society – yet many times facing uncertainty of food,

shelter, or whether her husband would come home, again. In spite of the chaos, she learned to survive on what love and support Jim did bring. Daughter Pat was added to the fold in 1952. When finances were low she found a job to help support them, when higher she was a stay-at-home mother. Her own faith was crushed in worldliness, and life vacillated from the heights of posh indulgence by extravagant friends to the depths of virtual homelessness.

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Faithless to Faithful

Life took a dramatic turn when her father died in 1953. Elaine came to realize that, though far away, her father had been a large part of her strength. Knowing he was no longer “there” hit hard, and after 7 years of turmoil, this strong-hearted woman was finally broken and sought solace in the arms of the Lord and His church. She still remembers the hymn her mother sent that brought her to her knees ~

*Pressed under sorrow, near to despair,
troubles your soul pursue;
Go to your Father, tell Him your care,
Pray till the light breaks through.*

God’s light did break through! She turned to the Lord for His wisdom and strength. Her heart’s desire was to stay home with Pat, now 2, but she also needed financial stability, and living in Corona, was able to work nearby at the Norco Naval Hospital as a medical records transcriber. Jim returned to his traveling sales job after a season of bartending, and he was gone for days and sometimes weeks, He continued to remain committed to rejecting God’s ways.

Elaine, with her hopeful cheerfulness, determination, and opposition to divorce – blended with embarrassment and pride - made the best of her circumstances. She turned to God for strength and compassion, experiencing his mercies anew every morning. While working years later at the California Institute for Women, she assisted with inmate group therapy sessions and found she could empathize with every circumstance that had led them to incarceration. These sessions not only enabled her to minister to them, but also strengthened her own healing.

In 1960, they moved to Upland. Jim Jr. was in the 11th grade, Nancy in 9th, and Pat in 3rd. Elaine and the children continued to grow in their faith and church fellowship, and Jim remained disconnected. On a tragic day in 1964, just before her 18th birthday, their middle child, Nancy, was killed in an automobile accident. It was a devastating blow to everyone in the family, yet life had to go on ... and although the family had found financial stability, emotional stability continued to elude them as a result of the loss and Jim’s continued aberrant and unfaithful life style.

Tumult to Tranquility

On a summer day in 1968, Jim happened upon an old army buddy, Charles Hawk, at a nearby park. Charles, and his wife Winifred, lived nearby, and the two couples became fast friends; but within the year, Winifred had succumbed to cancer. At Jim’s encouragement, Elaine spent time supporting

and caring for Charles. It was an amicable parting when Elaine and Jim divorced after 25 years of marriage. They had stayed together for the sake of the children, but Elaine was aching to find a God-honoring marriage. Jim knew she deserved more than he was able to give her, and Charles was one who could do it. In 1971 Elaine and Charles were married, and together they established the home she lives in today - 43 years later.

In stark contrast to her first husband, Charles was a quiet, unassuming, devoted husband, and an astute businessman in housing and real estate. Elaine was finally blessed to attend church as a family, and they even had the time and means to play golf and travel. Although dementia plagued Charles during the last 10 years of his life, they enjoyed a stable, peaceful marriage for 30 years until his death in 2001.

Elaine Louise Hawk enjoys close friendships with her children. Jim Jr., now 70, lives with her, and Pat, now 62, who lives in Washington State and is making plans to live nearby. Elaine is blessed to have them here, as they, too, are blessed to have her! A truly idyllic life can only be found in heaven, but Elaine is again living a life of security ~ with her strong, adventurous spirit underlying an outgoing confidence and faithful determination ~ but now with the peace and joy of the Lord ruling her life.



Elaine Hawk, 1987

Admonition~

Elaine will now contrast her old life with Galatians 2:20...

I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me. ---

and admonishes others to:

“Get your directions from God’s Word, and commit yourself to them. Turn your whole life over to Him, not just a part, or you’ll find yourself making your own choices rather than following His wisdom. Bible study, knowledge, and church service are not enough. Spend time with Him in prayer and fellowship, and don’t let a day go by without it. Be willing to be crucified for and with Him, because He is the love of your life.”



...believers are
“living stones” that
are being built up as a
“spiritual house”

Indwelled Together

By Pastor Vincent Nicotra

Believers have been blessed in many ways through the various ministries of the Holy Spirit. The New Testament describes many of these blessings in a variety of amazing and colorful metaphors. Consider, that we have been regenerated to new life, baptized into the body of Christ, gifted with various gifts of the Spirit, set apart by Him unto holiness, and indwelled by Him. Of all the ministries that the Spirit does for, and to believers, indwelling gets perhaps the least amount of “air time.” In particular, the biblical teaching on “corporate” indwelling is almost never discussed in the church in America. Unfortunately, the lack of instruction on this important subject deprives believers of the knowledge of the value of the local church, and the importance of maintaining its unity.

In discussing this topic, it is important to recognize on the front side that corporate indwelling does not negate the fact of one’s individual indwelling. It is a glorious and wonderful truth that the Holy Spirit takes up residence in every believer, and I would not want to minimize that incredible reality (Rom. 8:9). However, the greater emphasis of the New Testament is placed upon the fact that the Holy Spirit resides in believers as a group, or

a corporate body. This truth is illustrated throughout the New Testament. However, because of space constraints this article will only evaluate a few of the places where it is discussed, and explain the metaphors that are used in those places.

The Apostle Paul picks up on the motif of a “household,” or a “temple,” in the latter half of Ephesians chapter two. In particular, verses 20-22 describe the apostles and prophets as the “foundation” of the building, Jesus as the “cornerstone” of it, and the believers as those who comprise the remainder of the building. The “whole building” is then described as being “fitted together,” and as being “built together” into a “dwelling of God in the Spirit.” In other words, the believers are together being formed into a building in which the Spirit dwells. Importantly, the pronouns “you” in these verses are plural (*humeis*) in the Greek language, meaning that it is not addressed to any one individual in particular. So Paul is speaking to the group collectively, and saying that together they comprise the dwelling place of the Holy Spirit. In fact, the apostle Peter picks up on this same language in his epistle (1 Pet. 2:4-8). There, he reiterates that believers are “living stones” that are being built up as a “spiritual house” (v. 4). Notice, that the stones are plural, while

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the house is singular. So, while the individual stones are being added for growth, it does not mean that each and every one of them is an individual “spiritual house” (Zemek, *Metaphorical Continuities*, 31). Based on these passages, it appears then, that the Holy Spirit has changed His primary place of residence from being a stone temple in Jerusalem, to the local assemblies of believers themselves (See also 1 Cor. 6:19-20 where the same “temple” language is used, in conjunction with the plural pronouns “you”).

The New Testament also uses the metaphor of a “body” to describe corporate indwelling. In 1 Corinthians 12:13 the apostle Paul says that believers have been “baptized” by one and the same Spirit into one body of Christ. Following this baptism, believers are said to be “in Him” (See also Eph. 4:1-16 for the same language). So, rather than thinking in terms of someone being placed in believers (namely, the Spirit), believers, by virtue of their spiritual baptism, have been placed into something, or more accurately, someone (Christ, or His body). This same reality is seen in the Book of Acts where new believers are described as being “added” to something that already existed (Acts 2:41, 47). This language is, in essence, descriptive of our union with Christ. In other words, you are a body part, which is connected to a lot of other body parts, which all together make up a person, with Christ as the head of that person, and the Spirit as its living soul. It is Christ’s body, of which you are a part. One author says it this way, “God’s goal is the incorporation of all believers into one Body wherein the Holy Spirit may be conceived of as the Soul of that whole spiritual organism (Best, *One Body in Christ*, 73).

So how should these truths impact us as believers?

Primarily, this strikes a huge blow to our rugged, western individualism. It means that you are a part of something much bigger than yourself, and as a result, you have responsibilities toward others in the corporate body of believers. In reality, you are not as independent as you

*...this strikes
a huge blow to our rugged,
western individualism*

might have once thought. In fact, we, as a group, have been made interdependent through the indwelling ministry of the Spirit. We are part of one another, because the Holy Spirit indwells us corporately, thus all the New Testament admonitions about the importance of maintaining the unity of the church.

Practically speaking, our growth as believers takes place in connection with the whole body. We need one another, in order to mature, because of our interdependence. So our spiritual gifts, which have been given by the Holy Spirit, are to be used for the edification of the whole body. Conversely, when we sin, or withhold ourselves from the body, it can have tragic effects upon the whole as well (1 Cor. 10:1-13). We can either fracture the unity of the Spirit through self-will and strife, or we can strengthen it through mutual edification. The bottom line is this: because we are indwelt together by the Spirit, we either grow as a body together, or we suffer as a body together.



The bottom line is this: because we are indwelt together by the Spirit, we either grow as a body together, or we suffer as a body together. Picture by Art Nakamura

Farmer's Home



Standing, starting on the left are Henny, Deborah, Vicki, Debbie, Betsy, Arsie, Lisa, Gina. Sitting, starting from the left, are Jeffrey, Brian and Michael.

Ministering the Gospel to Those with Special Needs:

The Farmer's Home Ministry

By Donald Carlson Jr.

About two year ago Arsenio (Arsie) Montoya, expressed a desire to start a small Bible study for those with special needs. Through God's providence, Arsie was taken off of work in order to recover from carpal tunnel, which allowed him time to step out in faith to start this ministry. Since he takes the ACCESS bus home from work, over the years he has cataloged many of the Group Homes in the area and God has been growing his desire to reach out to them. While on temporary leave he stepped out in faith and went to one of the homes just a few blocks from his house and knocked on their door. He expressed his desire to share with them "little stories from the Bible." Initially he was disappointed when they informed him that he had to speak with someone from Salem Christian Homes in order to get permission to start. Through his relationship with Cid Behnke, he was able to get ahold of Tina, who is in charge of the regional facilities for Salem. After taking the bus down to see Tina and sharing with her his vision to reach out to those in the area with special needs, he was excited to receive permission to start a small Bible study.

"Starting out I had nothing. No felt board, white

board or study materials!" Arsie had seen many of his friends lead Bible studies and he knew that he needed help in learning how to do it. Through the help of Vicki Best, he has attended the disability ministries at local churches in order to see how they run their lessons. He is especially inspired by the life and ministry of Joni Eareckson Tada and the conferences put on by Joni and Friends. Over time, God has also provided musical instruments and a wonderful book called The Big Picture Story Bible. "It's perfect for them," he says.

On a typical Friday night someone comes and picks him up at about 6:20pm from his house and takes him to the Farmer's Home. There they are greeted with hugs and much excitement, especially from Betsy, a young, witty, and joyful woman who lives there. When everyone is quietly gathered around the table, the lesson starts with an audio recording of the lesson. As the lesson plays, Arsie and his helpers pass around the Bible with the big pictures for his friends to look at. Recently they are learning about God's gift of wisdom to Solomon. After they hear the short story, they all work together to answer some questions Arsie prepared about the story. Although not all of them can speak, he attempts to engage each of them in the lesson and help them understand what the story is about.

After the lesson they break out the "boom box" and sing together some children's songs and praise songs. Betsy likes 10,000 Reasons, while Debby B. likes Jesus Loves Me, even though she doesn't sing it very well. Debby U. likes to go along with whatever is sung, while Henie (one of the care-takers) likes the praise songs. Surprisingly, Michael (who can't speak) is the most animated "singer" and acts out all of the animals in "If I Were a Butterfly..."

It is hard work singing, so there is a time of coloring and snacks to rest and calm them down before the end of the night. Then they spend some time sharing prayer requests from everyone, include John (a care-taker) who has a family

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From Left to right: Michael, Arsenio Montoya, Betsy

New Member

Farmer's House continued from page 7



Michael and Henny

The Farmer's Home has even made some bracelets for Promise and hope to send them to her soon!

This lively group of a half dozen special people also likes to get out and see a movie every once in a while. On a few occasions they have come to our house to watch *The Cat in the Hat* or to see a really special guest. One time, Elvis impersonator, John Fisher, showed up and sang to them. Betsy (who uses a walker) was so excited when she saw Elvis that she jumped up and attempted to "mob" him. This brought much laughter to all those present. Those from FBC involved in the Farmer's Home ministry have also been able to reach out during birthdays and holidays, like Christmas, in order to build relationships and pray with these friends, and not only them, but also with those who take care of them.

The biweekly meetings are the highlight of the month for those that live there. Often Arsie (who sometimes gets to ride home on the bus with some of those in the group home) hears questions from Betsy, who excitedly asks him about the lesson and when he will show up next. The bus driver says that Betsy can't wait for the Bible study on Fridays. Apparently, she likes it so much she can't keep quiet about it!

"I know that someday I will need to move on from Crossroads and I would like to have a Sunday school class at our church for those who have a disability. I have seen how other churches do their disability ministry and I think that we should serve those in our community by inviting them to church so that they can hear the Gospel and know Jesus. I want to reach out to those in our community because they are hidden and they don't know the Gospel." We need servants like Vicki Best, Rebecca Allison, Rhonda Risser and others who have an open heart to serve those with special needs and not only them but their families. Pray that God will raise up workers and a teacher with a heart of love for those with special needs.

in Africa. Sometimes they have special guest missionaries who come and share with them about what they do on the mission field. Jim Wine, Matt Bugbee and Promise Vaughan's parents have all come and shared with them the gospel and what life is like in other countries.



Deborah and Vicki Best



New Member, Nanette Adkison. Photo by Ann Inlow

Nanette Adkison

by Fallis Lee

Nanette has lived in California all her life and was privileged to be raised in a home influenced by both Dad and Mom being strong Christians. How she values that wonderful upbringing. Through the many experiences and challenges of life, she has learned that only in keeping her focus on Him does she keep her balance and weather the storms that come.

She is presently the office manager of an insurance agency dealing with many facets of that industry. It keeps her challenged and is far from boring.

Nanette has three grown children, all out of college; two sons and one daughter, who have been a delight to her. She homeschooled two of them through middle school and high school, a challenge which paid off in their ability to do well in college.

She has attended Foothill Bible Church for two years, and has participated in the Small Group meeting at the home of Mark and Vicki Best. In addition, she attends the Tuesday evening Women's Bible Study at church. As a result, she is thriving in going deeper in His Word and developing wonderful new friendships.

The Bible verse that she especially treasures is Romans 8:28. She knows that through all the distractions of life, her Heavenly Father always brings her back into sweet fellowship with Him. The Scripture that most fascinates her is the book of Isaiah because there is so much history and prophecy.

Nanette has so enjoyed being ministered to and looks forward to reaching out in ministry to others.

Weddings & Birthdays

Wedding Anniversaries

December

- 7 Wayne & Susanna Burrow
- 12 Gordon & Eileen Crowl
- 16 Doug & Debbie Mayclin
- 17 Bernhard & Dale Wassink
- 18 Matt & Tracy Watson
- 20 Niko & Zara Plakakis
- 30 Richard & Wanda Johnson
- 30 Mark & Vicki Best
- 30 Tom & Pauline Daum

January

- 2 Leif & Kathy Jensen
- 7 Jason & Christine Pince
- 8 Aaron & Krista Wine
- 29 Chris & Roxanna Harris
- 30 Scott & Lenora Marker

February

- 2 Tom & Miriam Hsieh
- 3 Tom & Brenda Hudspeth
- 14 John & Linda Bonin
- 20 Alvin & Lisa Luna

Birthdays: 80+ years

Claude Marshall
December 7, 1920
94 years

Pauline Daum
December 20, 1924
90 years

Jack Maurer
December 24, 1927
87 years

Verda Tarbell
January 4, 1932
83 years

Rose Helmick
January 15, 1930
85 years



FBC Connection

The purpose of the FBC Connection newsletter is to inform and inspire the FBC body of what God is doing in the life of its members. Please note that the testimonies and articles are written by volunteers and do not necessarily reflect the sentiments or endorsements of the elder board. The apostle Paul explains in I Corinthians 12 that the local church is one body made up of many members and gifts. FBC Connection recognizes this diversity in the FBC body and seeks to promote community through this form of communication. On behalf of the elder board of FBC, we invite you to proclaim the excellencies of Christ who called us out of darkness into His marvelous light.

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Pictures by Linda Arroyo unless otherwise noted.