

# Put God's Love in Your Relationships

☒ Everywhere we go we are in relationship with other people—at home, at work, at church. Being involved in good relationships is one of the things that makes our lives enjoyable. But in order to experience the fullest potential they have to offer, we must build them on a strong foundation.

I have discovered that the strongest foundation for good relations is love. Jesus said, “By this shall all [men] know that you are My disciples, if you love one another [if you keep on showing love among yourselves]” (John 13:35, AMP).

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## Are You a Proton Believer?

Are you a *proton* believer?

Are you a part of a *proton*

company of believers? Are you a part of a *proton* church?

*Proton* is the Greek word for “first” mentioned in 1

Corinthians 12:28. It means “firstly in time, place, order, or importance.”

God desires a *proton* people.

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# Trials Have a Purpose

☒ Everybody is either in a trial now or between trials.

You have either just had one, you are going to have one, or you are having one. But why call it a “fiery” trial as Peter does? This is because by its light the fire reveals precisely what we are spiritually.

It is apparent, of course, that this only appeals to those who have a desire to be godly.

For example, our endurance can be tested during a trial by how we respond to it. If we begin complaining and murmuring, we will acknowledge later that we did not stand up to the trial very well for we did not display a godly nature. Thus trials will test our ability to manifest all the fruit of the Spirit. They test our work whether we have been walking in the light, and they expose how spiritual we really are, which is the sum of all that has gone on before.

What makes a trial a trial is that God, as it were, leaves us, and we feel deserted and betrayed. We say, “God, I don’t believe this; why would You do this to me? Why desert me at a moment when I needed You the most?” Is that not the way you have felt? That’s why it is called a “fiery” trial; God leaves you to test you, to see what is there. And so, this is the thing about the trial by fire: it exposes how spiritual we really are—which is the sum total of all our Christian living so far. We are forced to see ourselves, and we can find out how Christlike we truly are.

Excerpted from *When God Says “Well Done!”* (Christian Focus Publications Ltd., 1993).

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## Pearls in the Media Muck

I used to get paid to watch movies. And sit in front of a TV. And listen to music. And play video games. In fact, if I were still at my previous workplace, my job would now include hanging out on Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and the like. Yep, I once earned a paycheck by consuming media all week long.

Sounds like a sweet gig, doesn't it? Trust me, it wasn't always. Don't get me wrong: I loved the people I worked with and the organization that hired me to help parents of teenagers navigate the waters of pop culture. And for a season, it wasn't just fun to review the latest movies, TV shows, CDs or video games; I knew I was part of an invaluable ministry for parents. I was a gatekeeper, helping them know what their teens were into—the good, bad and very ugly—so they didn't have to wade through the muck while searching for pearls in the entertainment world.

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## How Little Tubes Fill Big Wells

Every 15 seconds a child dies from a water-related  sickness. The Passion movement is doing something about that. In April, the ministry will host its second Do Something Now event of 2011 in Fort Worth, Texas, with one goal: to marry worship and justice.

Passion conferences draw thousands of young people every year

to pray, worship, and give time and money to causes such as funding wells in India or clothing the homeless. To illustrate the amount of wells being built in India, students are encouraged to pour water into tubes to represent what they give monetarily. At Passion's January event in Atlanta, students gave more than \$75,000 to purchase 24 wells. Overall, the conference brought in more than \$1.1 million for charities. Passion leaders are hoping to provide even more wells next month.

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## Both Sides of the Coin

**"It seems to me** that if the primary view of sanctification  comes through simplicity, poverty, suffering, [then] if you don't get those things it's almost like when God blesses it's hard to be sanctified because you don't know what to do with it. What if God wants to sanctify you through not poverty but generosity, not suffering but blessing; and what if it's not through simplicity but complexity?"

–**Mark Driscoll**, who questioned Francis Chan's decision to leave his megachurch and give away everything last year. Driscoll, pastor of Mars Hill Church, suggested Chan might be following the "theology of poverty," a belief that he says is just as detrimental as the prosperity gospel.

**"I believe it's** motivated by love and a desire to be  Christ-like; I don't want to suffer needlessly or just to

suffer. To me, the core issue here has to be love. I think in times of prosperity, for me, I look at Scripture and go: 'Wow, this is awesome. Look at this great-selling book, all this money. What do I want to do? I want to give it to the people who need it.' I get excited about that."

–**Francis Chan**, who says he did not needlessly give away his money or step down from his church but was striving to be like Christ

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## Inspiration From the Twittersphere

☒ **Rick Warren** If a ministry is God-anointed, it doesn't matter who criticizes it. If it's not anointed, it doesn't matter who praises it.

☒ **Joyce Meyer** The Word is like medicine, but it is most effective when applied properly. If I have a headache, I don't put a Band-Aid on my head.

☒ **Brian Houston** Serving sacrifices self, because self doesn't want to serve. LIVE to serve. DIE to self!

☒ **Cindy Trimm** Did you know that procrastination is a sign of fear?

☒ **Robert Morris** A little faith will bring our soul to heaven. Great faith will bring heaven to our soul.

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## News By Numbers

3% of teenagers from age 13 to 17 say that Jesus Christ is their role model

*Barna Group*

49% of Americans say the lack of civility in American politics is a

“very serious problem”

*PRRI/RNS Religion News Survey*

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## **Extreme Makeover: Missionary Edition**


**Joe Hurston and** his family know about giving. Hurston has  given his life to missionary work in Haiti since 1978, living in the poorest conditions. But this year the tables turned and the longtime missionary family is learning how to receive.

Last year, while the family was away on a missions trip, a plumbing problem caused pipes to burst and flood their Florida home. For almost a year, Hurston and his wife, Cindy, and their three youngest children—Joliet, 17, Peter, 12, and Dieunika, 4—lived in an RV camper.

Hurston was recently working on his mission plane at Tico Airport in Titusville, Fla., when another small aircraft landed on the runway. Inside was Ty Pennington, designer and host of ABC's *Extreme Makeover: Home Edition*, who gave him the news that his family had been selected to receive a new home.

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# Las Vegas Liberator

For 16 years, Annie Lobért was known at various times as a  prostitute, high-class escort and stripper. At the age of 18, Lobért willingly entered the sex industry as a rebellious and curious teenager, only to be sex-trafficked later into a life of coercion and threats—and utter misery.

“Ninety percent of prostitutes are sex-trafficked,” says Lobért, who finally broke free from the industry, became a Christian and now lives to help others who want to get out.

She says people don’t understand that although many women enter the industry on their own free will, they eventually lose control of their lives: “In the end, you’re trafficked.”

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## Feedback March 2011

### Choosing Radical Forgiveness

I loved the January edition of *Charisma* magazine. I am a victim of severe sexual abuse that occurred in my childhood over a period of years. The pain was so deep that I completely suppressed it, even denied it. Even after years of Christian ministry and church planting, I had not dealt with it until the Lord began to put His finger on it. The first thing He showed me and walked me through was forgiving my abusers with all of my heart. Today I am a totally free man with a healed heart, and I have been able to lead many people into forgiving others. Thank you for bringing such great spiritual truths to your readers.

*Reinhard Hirtler,*

*Wilkesboro, N.C.*

Thank you for the excellent articles in the January 2011 issue of *Charisma* focusing on forgiveness and the need to be in the Word. We need to make personal connection with our Father and to engage in fellowship with Him. The need for teaching on forgiveness is great in the body of Christ. I also appreciated your candor in your article "Building Houses of Belief" (by Marcus Yoars). We truly need to grow in faith and firm reliance on God's Word and promises, applying and standing on the truth so we will not be tossed about with opinions or judgments of others or by the storms of life. We need to ask the Holy Spirit to reveal God's truth to us as we read so we will have understanding.

*M. Elaine Beachy,  
via e-mail*

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## **A MESSAGE OF HOPE**

The entire December issue was exceptionally powerful. I dog-eared article after article for others to read and cut out some to mail. I also passed on some articles via your website to others in ministry around the world. It so impressed me that you highlighted various proven ministries and mission outreaches and committed to conveying 100 percent of all contributions to any of them. God bless you for being a Spirit-filled lightning rod between God and His people, infecting us all with His own passionate end-time dreams for this world.

*Chris Jorgensen,  
Fort Myers, Fla.*