

Charisma Online March 2011

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The Great facebook Debate

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Charisma Here's a question we often wrestle with in the office: Should we report on "problems" affecting the body of Christ (e.g., divorce, financial misappropriations, etc.)? Our *Charisma* Facebook friends gave us their thoughts. Do you agree with their comments? Do you have something to add? Join us at [http://www.facebook.com/charismaonline](#).

D.F. Absolutely. The Bible does not conceal the sins of God's people. They are listed, some in stunning detail, for all to see. Not saying anything gives a false impression that all is well; and it is not. We are sick and need healing. A problem needs to be identified and diagnosed before healing can begin.

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S.Q. True believers live in transparency and allow others to

grow from it. We need accountability. God will lead you to what is building up and what would be tearing down. Great example: the January issue cover story. Wow, what a great story of overcoming!

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D.B. You should leave the exposing to God. Christians may not admit it, but they like gossip just as much as sinners. If something that isn't kosher happens in your family, would you sell the story to the media so the whole world can judge your loved ones? No, so why do it to our church family?

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A.P. I'd like to read it from a Christian source first in order to be prepared, rather than from the [secular] news media. From a Christian magazine, it's handled with sympathy for that person caught in a trial. We can't point a finger, as we all have sinned. It's a hard question and I would imagine either way will bring criticism.

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N.M. Yes, just start and end with hope, grace, love—not elder-brother judgments. We need honesty, but in the context of love.

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is loaded with news, videos, commentary, photo galleries and other resources to help you radically change your world. You won't find another site that offers you the same experience with "all things" Christ and charismatic. Don't miss out.

He Stilled the Storm to a Whisper

Storms have always been highly symbolic to me. I never understood why until I rediscovered a verse in Psalms that reads, "He stilled the storm to a whisper; the waves of the sea were hushed" (107:29, NIV).

Are You Trapped in Bad Company?

 Do not be misled: "Bad company corrupts good character." -1 Corinthians 15:33

Spanish novelist Miguel de Cervantes Saavedra wrote in his masterpiece, *Don Quixote de la Mancha*, "Tell me thy company, and I will tell thee what thou art." There is some truth to that statement. We are known by the company we keep.

We often believe that this concept applies only in our interaction with unbelievers; however, this can be applied to our relationship within the body of Christ, also.

Some years ago I was in a situation where I found myself unwittingly in the grip of someone who I could see was not good for me. The person was a professing Christian, but I found myself in his grip, and I was leaning on him. I realized that this was wrong, and God delivered me from the situation. I was so thankful.

Am I advising you to avoid altogether unbelievers or certain members within the body of Christ? Most certainly not. However, ask the Lord to shine His light on the various relationships in your life.

Could it be that at this moment you are in this snare? You are trapped with bad company, and they are doing you no good. Maybe, however, you have rationalized the situation and made up excuses, concluding that you can be an exception. You wouldn't recommend anybody else to do what you are doing.

The worst thing that you can do, however, is to begin to think that you are the exception to the rule. For the devil will come alongside and say that you are different, that you can associate with wrong company. Then, before you know it, you are in a trap.

It is a wonderful thing to realize that God delivers us from bad company.

Maybe you are in a situation where you are being wrongly influenced, and as a consequence you have lost the sense of inner peace. Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is

liberty. But bad company causes you to lose the peace that God wants you to have. I ask you, are you in the grip of bad company?

Excerpted from *Higher Ground* (Christian Focus Publications Ltd., 1995).

News by the Numbers

20 – Pastor Rick Warren’s rank on the list of most influential Twitter celebrities. With around 220,000 Twitter followers, the *Purpose Driven Life* author was among the likes of the Dalai Lama, Lady Gaga and Justin Beiber, who led the *Forbes* list.

5 % of those who made New Year’s resolutions for 2011 resolved to improve their connection with God, according to a survey from the Barna Group.

56% of the new, 112th Congress identify themselves as Protestant, according to a recent Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life analysis.

33% of people who attend church weekly and have three to five “church friends” say they are “extremely satisfied” with life. This compares with only 19 percent of people who attend church but don’t have close church friends, reports a study released in the *American Sociological Review*.

A Pink Cross For Jesus

Former stripper and porn star Shelley Lubben found herself making X-rated films in the multibillion-dollar sex industry by the time she turned 24.

Known then as “Roxy,” Lubben starred in more than 30 films, her success fueled by the rage she built up from being abused as a child and teenager.

“‘You’re dead to me,’” Lubben recalls her father telling her when he kicked her out after high school. “When he said those words to me, the demonic spirits entered me, and I was never the same.”

From Bouncer To Preacher


Stovall Weems, a pastor who once fully embraced the partying lifestyle, now lives to reach the lost and help people passionately pursue God

Stovall Weems, the pastor of Celebration Church in Jacksonville, Fla., is demonstrating his passion for Christ in word and deed. As a result, he’s fueling the fire of not only his congregation but also of those around the world.

Though Weems was not raised in the church, today he and his

wife, Kerri, are seeing the church they founded become one of the largest and fastest-growing in America. Weems says he is driven by his passion for the local church and reaching people.

Giving others a chance to dream

We've all heard the saying, "Every little bit helps."  Because of Kiva, an online lending network, more than 468,000 entrepreneurs in developing countries worldwide can now attest that the saying is true.

Started in 2005 by Matt and Jessica Flannery, Kiva allows individuals to loan money—from \$25 and up—to entrepreneurs in countries such as Cambodia and Colombia. The end goal: to end poverty.

Feedback February 2011

No Darkness Left Behind

I have been praying about what we can do to get involved in helping young women trapped in the global sex trade ("Leaving No Darkness Behind" by Nicole Partridge, December). Many children come out of orphanages at age 18 with no one to care for them. With little life skills and no family support, they are easily lured by evil traffickers. Reading about A21 lets

me know that others are also concerned about this issue and a net is being drawn by the people of God to bring this evil to a standstill.

*Glenda Kuhn,
via e-mail*

Be Charismatic (but not crazy)

I have to tell you how blessed I was by the encouraging words in "How to Be Charismatic Without Being Crazy" (by Greg Surratt, November). The term "born again" has become a laughingstock to today's world because of how we portray ourselves. The author re-energized my faith by reminding me that there are people standing on firm ground for God. Our faith needs to be real to others.

*Melanie Marcial,
Long Island, N.Y.*

What Happened Next?

Charisma reported the miraculous healing of pastor Delia Knox at the Mobile, Ala., revival as she was raised from her wheelchair after 22 years (Inform, November). The short article ended by stating she exited in her wheelchair, which leaves the impression that she was not actually healed. Knox has experienced a progressive healing and has returned to the revival to testify to the world, via God TV, that she now is able to walk normally and can do so in high heels. It is unprofessional for *Charisma* not to follow up this miracle with an updated report to its readers.

*Leland L. Harms,
Raymore, Mo.*

Editor's note: *Actually, we have given updates on Delia Knox's healing on our website, . Check out these follow-up reports online, as well as other "progressive" healings, revivals and more. We even have new video of Knox leading worship. Due to the timeliness of developing situations such as this one, it's far more effective for us to update readers through the Web than with printed reports.*

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We Can't Read Your Mind, So Give Us Your Thoughts

Trust us, they're worth way more than a penny! We want to hear your opinions on how we're doing with our magazine and website—what you like, dislike and want more of. We're also interested in getting to know you better so we can customize *Charisma* more to your liking. Mail in the brief survey on page 67 or go online at . Your answers shape what we do!

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The Evidence of Things not Seen

I was in my car at an intersection, waiting for the light to change. Through the window of the car to my right, I saw a woman standing on the curb. It was the view of her upper body that caught my eye. She was grinning from ear to ear and highly animated, with hands pointing to the traffic light, while she talked and talked-to herself! Poor thing!