



July 20, 2025
Bulletin #29

Our Lady of Lebanon Maronite Catholic Church

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Monsignor Bakhos Chidiac, Pastor

Mary Lee Porter, Ed.D. Organist



Saint Sharbel

- ***Weekend Masses:** Saturdays: Mass at 4:00 p.m. and Sundays: Mass at 10:30 a.m.
 - ***Weekday Masses:** Mondays and Wednesdays and Fridays: No Mass. Pastor's office work.
Tuesdays and Thursdays Mass at 12:00 Noon
 - ***Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament:** Every 1st Saturday and Sunday of the month after Mass.
 - ***Confession:** Saturday: 3:00 p.m. to 3:45 p.m. or any other time by appointment.
 - ***Baptism:** Please call the Pastor as soon as baby is born; at least one Godparent must be Catholic.
 - ***Weddings:** Please make arrangements at least six months in advance before any other plans are made.
 - ***Sick Calls & Anointing of the Sick:** Please notify the Pastor at 304-233-1688
 - ***Parish Council:** Lou Khourey, Susan (John) Burns, Mark McLaughlin, Liz Murad, Gary Weisner.
 - ***Choir Members:** Lou Khourey, Robert Harris, Joe Simon, Shelly Hancher, Holly Stahl.
 - ***Bulletin Coordinator:** Thomasina Geimer
 - ***Altar Servers:** Joe Roxby and Christopher AlKhouri
 - ***Cedar Club:** Linda Duffy, President
 - ***Women's Society:** Jeannette Wakim, President
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- ***Bulletin Announcements:**
Submit all Bulletin Information to Msgr. Bakhos by Noon on Tuesday every week.
 - ***New Parishioners:**
We welcome you with great joy & invite you to officially register as one of our parishioners.
 - ***Remember the Church in your Last Will & Testament:** Her prayers will accompany you to heaven.

Saint Sharbel

Readings: Rom 8:28-39 and Mt 13:36-43

[The saints kept God first in their lives]

Saint Sharbel's Phenomenon In Russia

By Anatoli B. Bayukanski

Russian writer and Editor of "The Folk Physician"

Translated from Russian into English by Natalia Sotnikova.

This article embodies first hand testimonies on the miracles that occurred in Russia at the intercession of Saint Sharbel. The bimonthly newspaper "Lekar" (The Folk Physician) which is published in Lipetsk, Russia, was the first to introduce Saint Sharbel to the Russian readers. Subscribers of this publication reported hundreds cures and healings obtained through Saint Sharbel.

I. INTRODUCTION

Together with my wife and son, I have been editing and publishing an all- Russia medical newspaper entitled "Lekar" (The Folk Physician) since 1996. The newspaper is published once a fortnight in the city of Lipetsk (500 km southeast of Moscow) and is distributed in 75 of the 89 regions of Russia with a population of about 100 million people. The newspaper has a modest circulation due to the unusual character of its contents which deal with unconventional methods of medical treatment. As editorial staff of "The Folk Physician" we boast of being the first to have introduced the phenomenon of Saint Sharbel to the Russian people.

Saint Sharbel has been healing and curing people for one hundred years or so. Through prayers and belief one could be granted health with Saint Sharbel's intercession. Hundreds of thousands of people have received grace through this Maronite Lebanese Saint. We at the "The Folk Physician" wanted to make known to the Russian people this "means" of getting well.

In 1997, we printed a photo of Saint Sharbel with information about his live and sainthood. We asked our readers to share information in case the Saint helped them get rid of their ailments. Frankly speaking, there was hardly any belief in this miraculous power of healing, especially that the Russian people have become alien to such belief due to the years of religious oppression. However, we were in for a surprise, soon letters started pouring in from all corners of Russia, from Voronezh, Tambov, Penza, Moscow, Ekaterinburg, Kamchatka, Perm, Yakutia, Tatarstan, Bashkortostan, Tomsk, Novosibirsk, Mahachkala, Kaliningrad, and Tula to name only a few even from the city of Vladivostok which is 12,000 km from the city of Lipetsk. The newspaper received thousands of letters with a request for a picture of Saint Sharbel. In response to this outpouring of demand, Saint Sharbel's portrait was produced five times in the newspaper and three times in a booklet with either five or seven pictures. The booklet contained excerpted translations from letters received by the editorial staff.

People are quite right in saying that facts are more eloquent than pretty words. The following is a translation of selected letters written by Russians describing their own testimonies of cures obtained through the intercession of Saint Sharbel. The Folk Physician received over 5000 letters concerning Saint Sharbel and have documented 100 cures until the end of 1999. Even those few which you will include in this article present ample proof that Saint Sharbel is capable of relieving any disease.

II. TESTIMONIES OF MIRACLES IN RUSSIA

The file cabinet has a file labeled "They to whom Sharbel has Rendered Assistance." In this file there are thousands of letters from Russia, the Ukraine and Belarus. Probably, we could compile a thrilling book of letters written by the newspaper's readers and telling about miraculous healings through Saint Sharbel of Lebanon. The geographical origins of the letters to the editorial office from thousands of miles away is very impressive. The writers live in places as far away as the shores of the Pacific Ocean and the icy Barents Sea, the Peninsula of Kamchatka and the Caucasus Mountains. It is very likely that the saint monk really was enchanted by God because he was endowed with such a sacred power to heal people irrespective of their place of residence, nationality, or religious convictions. The following testimonies are picked randomly.

"I'm a retired teacher. I'm eager to tell you in what way Saint Sharbel helps me and my family. The saint monk has become a kind of relative of ours. His image is of particular help in relieving pains, and when applied to an aching pancreas, the pains disappear in a matter of a few minutes. Recently, I happened to hurt my hand and a blue swollen mark appeared. I applied the image, prayed, and it was gone in a few minutes. It was a pure

miracle. The portrait of Saint Sharbel is also of use with my neurosis. Sometimes I contemplate his image for some time, murmur the Lord's Prayer, appeal to Saint Sharbel for help, beg Jesus to forgive my sins and then thank God and Saint Sharbel for the deliverance from pain." Mrs. V .V. Antoniak, Lipetsk.

"... Recently, the doctors began considering amputation of my leg which is highly undesirable because of my advanced age. As a long standing subscriber to 'The Folk Physician', I have decided to submit myself to the reviving power of the Lebanese saint. It was with profound faith in a successful outcome that I applied his picture to my sore leg at length, patiently pleading with God and Saint Sharbel to spare me from surgery. Believe me, the non-healing [open] wounds began skinning over [scabbing]. There's no talk of amputation any more. This is why I'm making it public to 'The Folk Physician' that Saint Sharbel whose body is to be found so far from Russia is relieving the sufferings of the Russian people at such a long distance." Ivan G. Pokrovsky, a World War II veteran, retired secondary school director, and chairman of the local branch of the disabled persons' organization association gave a public testimony about his miraculous recovery.

"I'm so very grateful to you for the Lebanese saint's image. Thanks to it, I've got rid of nutritional allergy." Tatiana Taganova, City of Tambov, Karbyshev.

"I, Vasina Liubov Petrovna, write this letter on behalf of the inhabitants of our block of flats. I have a daughter twenty years old, who was suffering with severe headaches and I suggested that she should apply the image of the saint which was published in the newspaper 'The Folk Physician'. At first my daughter refused point blank to do so, because she believed neither Tchumak, nor Kashpirovsky who are popular Russian mass media psychotherapists, and she was quite right in doing so. But then she agreed since the headaches became intolerable. Soon she informed me: 'Mummy, I'm feeling warmth in the back of my head as if some evaporation has started'. A half an hour later, the headaches disappeared.

Later, the bottom of my belly ached. I also applied the picture of the saint to the spot and prayed, pleading with God for help by means of Saint Sharbel. The pain lessened and went away. My husband was always mocking me but recently he was experiencing pains in his knee cap. I suggested that he apply the image of Saint Sharbel. Soon the pain subsided. I also would like to add that with the blessed help of the saint, I succeeded in bringing my elevated blood pressure down to normal. On the very day I intended to post this letter to you, my daughter started to feel pain in her left side. You may believe it or not, but our saint helped. I was told that it is not recommended to pass the image of Saint Sharbel on to other sick persons for it is likely to loose its power because diseases heap up, one upon another [sic]. Nonetheless, once I lent this 'medicine' to my neighbor Mrs. Yakovleva. And it did help her as well." The letter above is signed by A. Yakovleva, S. Diakonova, O. Gorbunova, T. Pyatich, Town of Tchapyghin, Lipetsk region.

"My dear Folk Physician: Thanks to your assistance, I provided four families with pictures of Saint Sharbel and they proved to be very helpful in treatment of different ailments. Here's just an example: "My child was running high temperature. A doctor was not available. I applied Saint Sharbel's portrait and, believe me, in some fifteen minutes the temperature was down. If it is possible, send us one and a half dozens of images of Saint Sharbel from Lebanon." Nina Plotnikova, Matyrsky Settlement, Lipetsk region.

"My mother is 72 years old but she finds help and solace only in the image of Saint Sharbel. The great Sharbel has become her irreplaceable doctor." Mrs.Valentina P. Pisareva, Voronezh.

"The photo of Saint Sharbel has assisted me in recovering from a medium degree brain concussion. It helps relieve heart pain and colds. I have a profound belief in the saint's power." Lykova Raissa Semyonovna, Kirovsk region.

"Last year my daughter-in-law started bleeding. Her hands and feet grew cold. I knelt beside her bed and began praying. Then I placed an image of the saint from Lebanon upon her breast. In half an hour the young woman grew warm. The next morning, she told me that Sharbel's image radiated a powerful stream of warmth..." Tyrina Valentina Michailovna, Matyrsky Settlement, Lipetsk region.

From time to time to come across letters which tell about unusual cases of recovery by virtue of the saint's image. Here's a letter written by Anna Kiseleva from the ancient Russian town of Elets. She had a kid who died. Her husband told her to leave the body laying until tomorrow morning when he will bury it. The woman stayed next to the body and prayed over it and finally placed Saint Sharbel's image upon it and went to bed. In the morning the kid ran up to her bed and woke her up.

"Saint Sharbel rendered assistance to my father who was going to be operated on to remove a malignant tumor. Now he is still with us although his condition seemed hopeless. My daughter suffered from inflammation of the lymph nodes. After applying Saint Sharbel's image, she recovered completely. But I would like to tell in what way the Lebanese saint saved even our tomcat. It was dying. The veterinarian said that there was no sense in treating it. But I laid the cat upon the Saint's image, covered it with another image and sat down beside it while praying for about three hours. The breathing of the animal became regular. That night, our pet ran and climbed up into my bed. The tomcat is still alive. Thank God, Saint Sharbel and you, the employees of the newspaper, which introduced this phenomenon to us, the Russians. God bless you!" Mrs. Natalia Kudiaeva, The Settlement of "Vesyoly", the Rostov region.

Recently, when I was staying at the hospital, I came across the image of Saint Sharbel in a newspaper. The nurses showed it to us. We became convinced in the healing power of this photo in which Saint Sharbel looked as if he were sleeping. I am writing about what I witnessed. An acquaintance of mine who was very nearsighted (she was not able to read at all without glasses) applied the photo her eyes and, after returning home, she was able to read without her glasses.

Another friend of mine developed a lump from an injection that accidentally struck the bones. She applied the photo to the lump that, in the course of two days, had disappeared.

Another friend, who was having acute pains in the arm above the elbow and was not able to raise her arm, hired two girls to put wallpaper on the walls of her room. However, the night before she applied the photo of Saint Sharbel to her arm. The next morning she was surprised to have been healed and she able to work herself.

Another friend could not practically see anything from one of his eyes. It was as if a mist covered it. After having applied the photo of the Saint, she can now look out and see with her defective eye. I burst out crying on hearing this from her." Evgenia Nickolaevna Vachrushina, Bashkortostan.

"I intended to take some holy water from the springs in our park, but slipped, fell on my arm and could not get up. The pain was so intense and I became frightened that I might have broken my arm. It took great effort to get home. I was given injections for a few days, the painful area was massaged and ointments were applied. Unfortunately, the pain did not subside. Then a strange feeling came over me, as if someone prodded my memory of the newspaper at home with Saint Sharbel's picture in it. I applied the picture to the painful spot a few times and I definitely felt better. Soon the pain disappeared completely." Mrs. Tchovzhik Irina Petrovna, Shevtchenko, Lipetsk.

"I would like to tell about the miracle associated with Saint Sharbel's picture which happened to me. All of a sudden I literally lost the power to use my legs. Namely my left leg was encased in a plaster cast following the surgery performed for transverse platypodia on my big toe. My right foot was sutured after the removal of part of a needle and this foot supported me with the aid of crutches. The sutured area of my right foot became inflamed, swelled, grew red, and started to ooze fluid. It was painful to touch and even more painful when I walked on it. I could only be patient and continue treating it. I covered the suture area with ointment and a piece of paper and then tied the Saint's image to that spot. I fell asleep and awoke at daytime, a couple hours later. I removed the newspaper with the Saint's picture and the paper wrapping from my foot. I was stunned to see that there were no redness, no swelling, and no discharge. I had not felt any pain as well. I thanked God and Saint Sharbel with all my heart. From that moment on, I have never parted with Saint Sharbel's image."

Mrs. Ivanova, Moskovskaya, Lipetsk.

We debated whether to publish this letter or not. It seemed to improbable to us, however we decided to make it public on the basis that if an adult person, especially a professional nurse, had wished to share it with us, what right have we to reject? The following is the content of that letter:

"I have been working as a nurse for many years and have seen a lot in my professional life. I have always believed only in conventional medicine, particularly in surgery. Forgive me, but I have never believed in cures by saints, and even believed less in cures by their images. Nevertheless, I am a believer and I often attend church. Quite by chance, a fibroid nodule was detected in my breast. I was sent urgently to the oncologist. Perhaps you understand how one feels when facing such a news and challenge. By accident — an probably not by accident because nothing in our lives happen by chance — I came across Saint Sharbel's portrait published

in a booklet written by A. Bayukansky. I read it and decided that there was nothing to lose and no harm in trying this remedy. I started placing the picture on the nodule and prayed zealously. For a month, I kept Saint Sharbel's image near as I slept. I pleaded with God and appealed to the Saint for help. Believe me or not, a genuine miracle took place. I could hardly believe it myself when I was medically reexamined by ultrasound and various analysis. I heard the doctors exchanging opinions in an agitated way. The senior doctor said: "We are unable to understand what has happened. There is no tumor any more, it has resolved itself." I said nothing to the doctors. But on my return home, I thanked God and Saint Sharbel with all my heart. It is obvious that not everyone is likely to believe me, but this has happened. Maybe the tumor was affected by psychotherapy, but most probably it was removed by the monk Sharbel whose power I now trust infinitely." Ms. Natalia Lependina of Voronezh.

"Thank you very much indeed for bringing to our knowledge the phenomenon of Saint Sharbel, for your sympathy with humanity. I have already written telling you how helpful the Saint's portrait is to me, but I have to add something. I had been undergoing treatment for my eyes — I was suffering from an opaque lens. Upon completion of the treatment, I visited the doctor. During the examination, I learned that vision in the left eye had improved and the cataract had disappeared. The doctor was at his wits' end. He said: "I really don't know to what I should ascribe this spectacular improvement. You have not got a cataract at all, you are just myopic!" I said nothing to the doctor about the portrait of the Saint which had initiated this miracle." Ivalentina Ivanovna, Tambov.

"Saint Sharbel helped me immensely. I was suffering with acute pains in the foot. I did not know in what way to mitigate the pain when quite by chance I came across a picture of Saint Sharbel. The Pain subsided after a single application of the picture on the painful area. I felt better. Consequently, I have applied the picture to my foot for long periods with that the swelling lessened and the pain disappeared. It do not know how explain it but I am thankful with all my heart to Saint Sharbel. His dead body no only sweats but perceives the plight of the sick as well. Accept my gratitude for publishing the photo of hermit who after his death is still doing good for people. God bless you for this act of kindness?"

"I am a retired colonel of the space forces. When I was still in the military service, I took part in the creation of the "Soyuz-Apollo" space systems and the spaceship "Buran." Now, I carry out a treatment of numerous diseases by means of Saint Sharbel's image. I even managed to develop my own techniques to treatment. First I concentrate upon one disease, pray to God and plead with him to aid me through Saint Sharbel. Then I proceed with another disease. It is the only way for me because neither medicine nor doctors proved to be any use. I have deep gratitude for this Lebanese monk who is still aiding people after his death." A. N. Besedin, Town of Tchaplygyn.

III. CONCLUSION

Three lessons we have learned through this wonderful experience. One is that people will not reveal their ailments openly, however when it is healed, the joy and blessedness urge them to share their miracles with friends and even with strangers.

Second lesson concerns a bit of hype on behalf of some Orthodox Christians in Russia who were disturbed about promoting a Catholic Saint while the Orthodox Church has plenty of its own. The lesson was that God's gifts of healing are for everyone and that we need to pray and work for the unity of the Church. Maybe Saint Sharbel is uniting the Church in his own way.

Third lesson is that Saint Sharbel emanates power and healing energy and that with faith and prayer one could be healed though his intercession.

Next Weekend, Sat-Sun. July 19-20: Saint Sharbel

Saturday, July 19 Mass at 4:00 p.m.:

✠ Judy Ghaphery by Mrs. Jean Weisner

✠ Bill & Louanne Blazier by George & Patty Fahey

✠ Deceased Members of the Roxby Family by Joe Roxby

Sunday, July 20 Mass at 10:30 a.m.:

✠ LaVerne Thomas (Anniversary) by Dr Adel, Diane & Justin Frenn and Andreah & Zack & Christian Riedel

✠ Mary Zaid Stees, Elizabeth A. Magnone, Tom Ferris by Libby G. Magnone
 ✠ Judy Ghaphery by Mrs. Jean Weisner

Weekdays Mass Schedule

Monday, July 21: No Mass. Pastor's day off.

Tuesday, July 22, Mass at Noon:

- ✠ Margaret Emmerth (Anniversary) by her sister Helen Benline
- ✠ Rosella Saseen, parents Nancepe & Helen, grandparents Shikrey & Helen Saseen by her last Will
- ✠ Janis & George Thomas (Ohio) by their last will

Wednesday, July 23: No Mass. Office works.

Thursday, July 24, Mass at Noon:

- ✠ Noel Foreman by his wife Anne and Family
- ✠ Bill & Louanne Blazier by George & Patty Fahey
- ✠ Sylvia Long, her husband Arthur, & her son Mark by her last will

Friday, July 25: No Mass.

Next Weekend, Sat-Sun. July 26-27: 6th Sunday of Pentecost

Saturday, July 26 Mass at 4:00 p.m.:

- ✠ William F. Shutler (Anniversary) by his sister Janet Shutler
- ✠ George Alan Weisner (Anniversary) by Jean Weisner and Family
- ✠ Noel Foreman by his wife Anne and Family

Sunday, July 27 Mass at 10:30 a.m.:

- ✠ Kenny Joseph by Carol Dougherty (OK)
- ✠ Noel Foreman by his wife Anne and Family
- ✠ Deceased Members of the Roxby Family by Joe Roxby

Coming Parish Events

Women Society meeting	Sunday, July 13 after 10:30 am Mass
Food Handling Classes	Thursday, July 17 at 5:30 pm at our Cedar Hall. (Please call Jeannette 304-551-3934 for information)
Pre-Sale Holy Land Mercandise	We have ordered beautiful NEW merchandise directly from the Holy Land for the Lebanese Festival. We are giving our parishioners an opportunity to be the first to see, choose, and purchase the unique items before the festival. We will have pre-sale on Saturday, 07/19/25 after 4:00 pm mass and Sunday, 07/20/25 after 10:30 am mass. Please join us as we unveil the new Holy Land items.
Cedar Club meeting	Sunday, July 20 after 10:30 am Mass
Kibbee baking for the festival	TUESDAY, JULY 29 th
Fall Bake Sale	???????

Festival (Mahrajan) News (Sunday, August 10 from 11 to 6pm)

--**Outdoor Mass** at Oglebay at 10:00 a.m. Booths open after Mass. No Mass at the church on August 10th.

--**Table Reservations** (ready to be reserved):

Open-air = \$65. One (1) wooden picnic table in open-air (under the trees).

Please call Msgr. Bakhos at 304-233-1688 to reserve a table.

--**50/50 RAFFLE Tickets \$10,000 Prize** (Ready for sale):

...The festival 50/50 Raffle tickets are now ready for sale for \$20 per ticket! We have only printed 1,000 tickets. If all tickets are sold, there is an opportunity to win \$10,000 Cash! Tickets can be purchased from

Monsignor Bakhos at 304-233-1688. Once received, Monsignor will fill-out the raffle ticket and mail the stub to the buyer. **THANK YOU** for helping us defraying the expenses of the Festival.

--**Youth Dance Troupe:** We are calling all parish youth interested in the OLOL Dance Troup practices for the Festival will begin on Sunday, June 1, immediately following 10:30 a.m, Mass. Please contact Mariana Alkhoury at 304-231-6234. If you are interested. Yalla!

-- **NEW at the 2025 Lebanese Festival!**

The Lebanese Festival Committee has exciting news to share with you! This year, we have added two new menu items to our festival: **ALMAZA Lebanese Beer** – A pure malt beer imported from Lebanon and **Pistachio & Kataifi Chocolates** – The OLOL church version of the viral Dubai Chocolate bar featuring a pistachio cream and crunchy Kataifi filling covered in milk or dark chocolate. Please be sure to try these two new items! Many thanks to Mark McLaughlin and Emmalena Khourey for bringing these new items to the festival committee!

--**Many Thanks** to Dr. Adel & Diane Frenn for sponsoring one inflatable of \$450.00 for the children to play and enjoy themselves at the Festival. It is highly appreciated. To honor the donors their names will be on the Diamond level in next year Ad Book.

Birthdays Wishes in the Coming Month

July 22:	Grace Klein, Mark Boehm
July 25:	Ma'lia Shia
July 26:	Anna Marie Duymich
July 30:	Dee Shiben, Susan John Burns
August 1:	Anthony Ferrera
August 2:	Rosella C. DeMuth
August 10:	Thomasina Geimer
August 16:	Tara George Musilli
August 17:	Judy Bedway
August 20:	Tricia Committee

Your Church Support Last Week

\$1,201.00	Sunday Collection
30.00	Candles
14.00	Coffee hour
745.00	Mahrajan
461.00	Utilities
\$2,451.00	Total Deposits: May God reward you abundantly for supporting your spiritual home! Finance Committee: Lou Khourey, Susan Burns, Liz Murad, Mark McLaughlin

Please Pray for Those on Our Prayer List

(Note: Please call Msgr. Bakhos if you need your name added to our Prayer List. HIPPA regulations), Earl & Linda Duffy, Julia Schiess (daughter of Leo Bleifus), Mary Ragase, Becky Ferrera, Gavin Hancher, Monroe DeLuca, Sally Sengewalt, Mary Zigler (sister of Lillian Siebieda), Dolores Oser, Anthony Wakim, Fran Saseen, Sandra DeMuth, Justin Frenn, Elia Frenn, Patty Fahey, Patty Olinsky, Fred Schweizer (brother of our organist Mary Lee Porter), Denny Albaugh, Rita Rae Sage,

What's New?

Parish Condolences: Kenny Joseph

The pastor and the parishioners of Our Lady of Lebanon Church, offer their heartfelt sympathy to the Joseph Family on the loss of their beloved Kenny. Msgr. Bakhos celebrated the funeral Mass on Friday, July 18th at our Church. The choir served the Funeral Mass and the Women Society served the Mercy Meal. May the Blessed Mother intercede for him and lead him to the light of Christ. We extend the parish's condolences to his

wife Nancy and her Family in their time of sorrow. Also we extend our sympathy to his sister Jean Weisner and her Family and to all his cousins and relatives. May his Memory be eternal.

Question & Answer (#25)

Question #25: "Are the stories in the Bible true?"

Answer #25: Yes, all stories in the Bible are true, but not all are intended to give us historical truth. The parables of Jesus contain life-changing truths that can lead us to a deeper understanding of God and His message of repentance, love and truth. But that doesn't mean things described in the parables necessarily really happened. We don't have to think there really was a prodigal son, for example. (Although it may very well have happened as it is written.)

On the other hand, when the biblical author intended to say that something really did happen, then it did. The gospel writers intended to say that Jesus Christ really lived, suffered, died and literally rose from the dead. That isn't a parable, and they didn't intend it to be viewed as one.

Whether a given story is history, then, depends on the intent of the author in telling it. How do we know what the writer intended? That requires properly interpreting the Bible, which is mainly the job of bishops and scholars who help them.

Spirituality: Where Jesus belongs

A father wanted to read a magazine but was being bothered by his little girl, Shelby. She wanted to know what the United States looked like. Finally, he tore a sheet out of his new magazine on which was printed a map of the country. Tearing it into small pieces, he gave it to her and said, "Go into the other room and see if you can put this together. This will show you our whole country today."

After a few minutes, Shelby returned and handed him the map, correctly fitted and taped together. The father was surprised and asked how she had finished so quickly. "Oh," she said, "on the other side of the paper was a picture of Jesus. When I got Jesus back to where he belonged, then our country just came together."

Wisdom: To see others

The man whose heart was hardened by wealth went to Rabbi Eisig. The Rabbi said to him: "Look out of the window, and tell me what you see in the street." "I see people walking up and down." Then he gave him a looking glass: "Look in this and tell me what you see." The man replied: "I see myself." "So, you do not see others anymore? Consider that the window and the mirror are both made of glass; but, since the mirror has a coating of silver, you only see yourself in it, while you can see others through the transparent glass of the window. I am very sorry to have to compare you to these two kinds of glass. When you were poor, you saw others and had compassion on them; but being covered with wealth, you see only yourself. It would be much the best thing for you to scrape off the silver coating so that you can again see other people." (Jan DE MENASCE)

I have not done what God desired of me; that is certain. On the contrary, I have only dreamed of what I wanted from God. (Leon BLOY)

TO SAVE MYSELF

Sunder me from my soul, that I may see

The sins like streaming wounds, the life's brave beat;

'Til I shall save myself, as I would save

A stranger in the street. (G.K.CHESTERTON)

Story

My Mother's father worked as a carpenter. On this particular day, he was building some crates for the clothes his church was sending to orphanages in China.

On his way home, he reached into his shirt pocket to find his glasses, but they were gone. When he mentally replayed his earlier actions, he realized what had happened; the glasses had slipped out of his pocket unnoticed and fallen into one of the crates, which he had nailed shut.

His brandnew glasses were heading for China!

The Great Depression was at its height and Grandpa had six children. He had spent \$20 for those glasses that very morning. He was upset by the thought of having to buy another pair. "It's not fair," he told God as he drove home in frustration. "I've been very faithful in giving of my time and money to your work, and now this."

Months later, the director of the orphanage was on furlough in the United States. He wanted to visit all the churches that supported him in China, so he came to speak one Sunday at my grandfather's small church in Chicago.

The missionary began by thanking the people for their faithfulness in supporting the orphanage. "But most of all," he said, "I must thank you for the glasses you sent last year. You see, the Communists had just swept through the orphanage, destroying everything, including my glasses. I was desperate. Even if I had the money, there was simply no way of replacing those glasses. Along with not being able to see well, I experienced headaches every day, so my coworkers and I were much in prayer about this.

Then your crates arrived. When my staff removed the covers, they found a pair of glasses lying on top. The missionary paused long enough to let his words sink in. Then, still gripped with the wonder of it all, he continued: "Folks, when I tried on the glasses, it was as though they had been custom made just for me! I want to thank you for being a part of that."

The people listened, happy for the miraculous glasses. But the missionary surely must have confused their church with another, they thought. There were no glasses on their list of items to be sent overseas.

But sitting quietly in the back, with tears streaming down his face, an ordinary carpenter realized the Master Carpenter had used him in an extraordinary way. There are times we want to blame God instead of thanking him! Perhaps it is something we ought to try more often, I have to remember this in these times of trial with my own family. May GOD bless your week. Look for the perfect mistakes.

"People are like tea bags- - you have to put them in hot water before you know how strong they are."

Jokes (175)

Angels & Money

An ancient legend has it that when God was creating the world He was approached by four angels. The first one asked: "How are you doing it?" the second: "Why are you doing it?" the third: "Can I be of help?" The fourth: "What is it worth?"

The first was a scientist; the second, a philosopher; the third, an altruist; and the fourth, a real estate agent. A fifth angel watched in wonder and applauded in sheer delight. This one was the mystic.

One of a Kind

Little Johnny was being tried out for a part in the school play. His mother knew that he had set his heart on it but she feared he would not be chosen. On the day the parts were given out, Johnny, back from school, rushed into his mother's arms, bursting with pride and excitement: "Mother," he shouted, "Guess what! I've been chosen to clap and cheer."

News from the Moon

One of the few men to walk on the moon tells how he had to suppress his artistic instincts when he got there. He remembered looking back at Earth and being enraptured by the sight. For a while he stood rooted to the ground, thinking: "My, that's lovely!"

Then he quickly shook the mood off and said to himself: "Stop wasting your time and go collect rocks."

Money! Money! Money!

Andrew Carnegie, one of the richest men in the world was once asked: "You could have stopped any time, couldn't you, because you always had much more than you needed?"

He replied: "Yes, that's right, but I could not stop. I had forgotten how to."

Paradise

The old man had lived most of his life on what was considered to be one of the loveliest islands in the world. Now that he had returned to spend his retirement years in the big city someone said to him: "It must have been wonderful to live for so many years on an island that is considered one of the wonders of the world." The old man gave that some thought, then said, "Well, to tell you the truth, if I had known it was so famous, I'd have looked at it."

Creative Painter

In the early 1850's American painter, James McNeill Whistler, spent a brief -and academically unsuccessful— period at West Point, the U.S.Military Academy. The story goes that when he was assigned to draw a bridge he drew a romantic stone one, complete with grassy banks and two small children fishing from it. "Get those children off that bridge" said the instructor. "This is an engineering exercise." Whistler got the kids off the bridge, drew them fishing from the bank of the river and he submitted the drawing. The angry instructor yelled: "I told you to remove those children. Get them completely out of the picture!" But the creative urge was too strong in Whistler. His next version had the children completely out of the picture indeed. They were buried under two small tombstones on the river bank.

Novelists

A group of college students begged novelist Sinclair Lewis to give them a lecture, explaining that all of them were to become writers themselves. Lewis began with: "How many of you really intend to be writers?" All hands were raised. "In that case, there is no point in my talking. My advice to you is: Go home and write, write, write ... With that, he returned his notes to his pocket and left the room.

Famous Quotes (66)

- Don't throw the arrow which will return against you. (Kurdish proverb)
- Do not spoil what you have by desiring what you have not; but remember that what you now have was once among the things only hoped for. (Epicurus)
- It is better to follow even the shadow of the best than to remain content with the worst. And those who would see wonderful things must often be ready to travel alone. (Henry Van Dyke)
- Be contented when you have got all you want. (Holbrook Jackson)
- Be content with your lot; one cannot be first in everything. (Aesop)
- One should either be sad or joyful. Contentment is a warm stay for eaters and sleepers. (Eugene O'Neill)
- I have a simple philosophy. Fill what's empty. Empty what's full. And scratch where it itches.
(Mice Roosevelt Longworth)
- Take as many half minutes as you can get, but never talk more than half a minute without pausing and giving others an opportunity to strike in.
- One of the best rules in conversation is, never to say a thing which any of the company can reasonably wish had been left unsaid. (Jonathan Swift)
- Trumpet in a herd of elephants; crow in the company of cocks; bleat in a flock of goats. (Malayan proverb)
- The time to stop talking is when the other person nods his head affirmatively but says nothing. (H. Haskins)
- Consult your friend on all things, especially on those which respect yourself. His counsel may then be useful when your own self-love might impair your judgment. (Seneca)
- In giving advice, seek to help, not please, your friend.
- Let no man value at a little price a virtuous woman's counsel. (George Chapman)
- The advice of friends must be received with a judicious reserve we must not give ourselves up to it and follow it blindly, whether right or wrong. (Pierre Charron)
- Remember that comment, however judicious, is not advice; and that advice should always tend to something practicable. (Sir Arthur Helps)
- Never take the advice of someone who has not had your kind of trouble. (Sidney J. Harris)
- Never trust the advice of a man in difficulties.
- Do not offer advice which has not been seasoned by your own performance. (Henry S. Haskins)

- If you want a man to resolve upon following your advice, speak to him kindly. (Jean Guibert)
- People who ask our advice almost never take it. Yet we should never refuse to give it, upon request, for it often helps us to see our own way more clearly. (Brendan Francis)
- As to advice, be wary: if it is honest, it is also criticism. (David Grayson)
- Never advise anyone to go to war or to marry. (Spanish proverb)
- Never give advice unless asked. (German proverb)
- Ask advice only of your equals. (Danish proverb)
- Throw your heart over the fence and the rest will follow. (Norman Peale)
- Facing it –always facing it- that’s the way to get through! Face it. (Joseph Conrad)
- One ought never to turn one’s back on a threatened danger and try to run away from it. If you do that, you will double the danger. But if you meet it promptly and without flinching, you will reduce the danger by half. Never run away from anything. Never! (Sir Winston Churchill)
- You cannot run away from a weakness; you must sometimes fight it out or perish. And if that be so, why not now, and where you stand? (Robert Louis Stevenson)