



by Dawn Reed
Eastern Ky. Columnist

Having Power But No Electricity

Winter storm Uri invaded our territory last week. My beloved and I sat in the dark for a few days due to power outages in our area. No TV, no internet, no electricity. Our time off the grid was much shorter than those in other counties, but it was eye-opening, nonetheless.

As we huddled around the fireplace, my beloved checked on our sheep. Countless church members reported their electricity was also off and would likely stay off for a while.

At first, I found myself saying to others, "We don't have any power." It would have been more accurate to say, "We don't have electricity," because we certainly had the power of Christ beating in our hearts and pulsing through our veins!

The year 2020 stunk and 2021

hasn't looked much better so far, but we STILL have a real, living God on His throne in heaven Who is still in control! Shew and ptL! He is still good even when the lights are off! No matter what happened, we knew He would help us and that this would eventually pass.

Romans 8:28 reminds us that God will use all things for good for those who love Him. He might use a calamity to help us remember how blessed we really are or help put things in perspective. There's nothing like a good crisis to make you more appreciative. Before it went off, I took electricity-and all that depends on it-for granted. My husband worked for American Electric Power years ago, yet I couldn't tell you the last time I prayed for a lineman or service man.

I don't know if utility workers have ever been prayed for quite as much as they have in the last 14 days. For their safety and for wisdom. It was a LOT for them to figure out! As time passed, more people were praying-and more fervently.

Because of Uri, I now get excited when I see power company vehicles. I passed a beautiful line of out-of-state trucks yesterday. They had come across hill and dale to aid our family, friends, and neighbors. I waved and blew my

horn like they'd just won the Super Bowl. Their presence brought tears to my eyes.

During the outages, friends out of the area asked how we were. Without reservation, I told them, "Blessed!" and meant it. We WERE blessed even if we were in the dark! Things could have been so much worse! I know children-by name-who live in the Kawangware slum in Nairobi, Kenya. They sleep on the floor in tin huts the size of bathrooms. They have never had electricity or clean water. I wonder every day if they have enough food to eat.

A couple of days huddled around a fire with the human I love most in this world was a piece of cake. We had power, just no electricity.

Last night at midnight, our doorbell rang loudly, signaling it was off again. I am reading and typing by candlelight this morning.

Key lessons/reminders from Winter Storm Uri:

- Pray for utility workers-especially during a winter storm,
- Know how to make coffee without electricity,
- Keep your phone and laptop charged at all times,
- Jesus is the True Light (John 8:12). It's more important than ever to share Him with this dark world.

BIBLE WORD SEARCH

by Elie's Spiritual Treasures

Romans 8:31-32

What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?

NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION

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T	I	E	Q	D	A	V	A	O	O
M	L	L	A	H	S	G	I	R	C
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Find the **bolded/underlined** words in the diagram. They run in all directions — forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

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Bible Word Search Answer on Page 12

6, 52, 100, 1,000
4. From Acts 17, at what church was Paul accused of turning the world upside down? Antioch, Smyrna, Thessalonica, Galatia

5. In Genesis 3:15, the snake is supposed to strike at (bruise) what part of man? Throat, Hand, Heel, Eyes

6. From Revelation 12, what angel fights against Satan? Gabriel, Angel of the Lord, Cherubim, Michael

Answers on bottom of Page 12

"Test Your Bible knowledge," with 1,206 multiple-choice questions by columnist Wilson Casey, is available in bookstores and online.

1. Is the book of Jude in the Old or New Testament or neither?

2. In Acts 9, to what city was Saul traveling when suddenly there shined around about him a light from heaven? Jerusalem, Damascus, Anab, Ekron

3. How many days did it take Nehemiah to get the wall around Jerusalem completed?

Requirements Needed To Follow The Lord

by **BOB CASEY, preacher**
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In the **Gospel of Luke, 9:57-62**, is found the stories of three would-be followers of Jesus. The **First Man** said unto the Lord, "I will follow thee whithersoever thou goest." So, the first thing we notice is that this man volunteered himself to this service. To me, this is the one thing that is very commendable to any follower of Jesus, for he wants men to do that very thing. When we also read from **Matthew 11:28-30**, here we see our Lord sending out the invitation unto anyone concerning the hardships of a sinful lifestyle, saying if you are burdened with difficulties of this life, "I will give you rest." Also, be bound unto me and learn of me; so "ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." Does the Lord mean here that a Christian will never have any difficulties? **Of course not!** But, that he will make the hard things easier to bear. "Do ye not know that they which minister about holy things live of the things of the temple? and they which wait at the altar are partakers with the altar?" **1 Corinthians 9:13** Now, we do not know what spurred this man to make this decision, but I suspect that he was moved because of what the Lord preached in Luke 6:17-35. But, notice that even in his zeal to follow the Lord in a personal ministry, the Lord forewarned him of the manner of life that he desired to be a part of, saying, "Foxes have holes (home in a certain den), and birds of the air have nests (homes unto which they return each evening); but the Son of man hath not where to lay his head." **Matthew 9:28** So, the Lord is asking him, "Are you willing to live this way?" **In a fact of knowledge**, I have personally met several brother preachers that have uprooted families, jobs, good housing, etc., to travel to less acquainted places just to preach the Gospel to places that needed it very badly.

A fellow workman once asked me, "You are one

who claims to be a preacher, aren't you?" I answered him in the affirmative that, "I tried to be." Then, he said, "Well, our preacher made the announcement this past Sunday that he was leaving us to go to a place we had never even heard of. Plus, he didn't have a promised salary." Here he said, "We pay him a generous salary, give him a brick house to live in, paid vacation, health insurance; even pay a retirement in a fund." Then, he asked, "What in the world is wrong with this man?" Then he also replied to say, "**I think he is crazy!**" Then, I asked him, "Why do you think he did it." He replied, "**I do not know.**" Many might be prone to ask the same question. Since I personally never met this man, I can only guess at his reasons. But maybe, like the man in the text, he wanted to become more personally engaged in the Lord's work.

Now, to the **Second Man**. This time our Lord compelled him to follow him, **but he had, what he thought**, were more pressing issues. "Lord, suffer me first to go and bury my father." **Luke 9:60** My question is, "How many people do you suppose that claim to be followers of Jesus that have put church attendance aside, just because a family member has died?" I ask again, "How serious is our Lord about his business of saving souls?" Also, there are many other things that confessed Christians do that delegate personal service so that they may keep other commitments? This caused our Lord to say, "**Let the dead bury their dead:** (tell those who are dead in trespasses and sins to do this job of burying the deceased) **but go thou and preach the kingdom of God.**" I have known of other preachers putting the preaching of the Gospel even before funerals.

Now, to the **Third Man**. Here is another volunteer with a plan of his own, saying, "**let me first go bid them farewell, which are at home at my house.**" Causing our Lord to say, "**No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.**" **Matthew 9:59-60** So, we conclude this, to follow the Lord, we must be willing to forsake any personal attachments to this world and put our Lord's service first in our lives. So, **consistency is required** of all followers of our Lord.

Many have personal stories along this line that they do not relate to others.

Call anytime, 1-859-369-4165
Sincerely, Bob Casey



No matter where you travel - from the darkest jungle to the highest mountain - you will find some type of music. It could be rap or rock and roll, hip hop or jazz, rhythm and blues or opera, music for a marching band, the painful music of the pagan, the Middle Eastern style that seems to be so irritating or the majesty of hymns or worship music. It all makes a statement about the one who is making it and the ones who are listening.

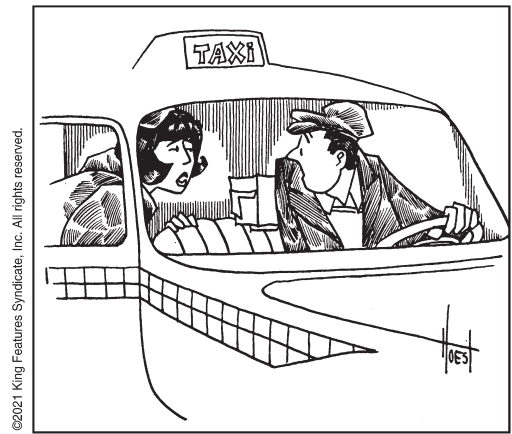
Sometimes the music sounds sad and sorrowful or joyful and uplifting. Then again it might be the music of marches that stirs up our patriotism on the Fourth of July. Music can bring tears to our eyes or a smile to our face when it reminds us of a loved

one. When we sit quietly in church or lift our arms to God it can elevate our hearts to His presence or excite our senses when we hear music that proclaims the glory of God's goodness and grace, love and salvation. But is there more?

A Psalmist once wrote of the music that should always fill the heart of a Christian: "Praise the Lord, O my soul, all my inmost being, praise His holy Name!"

Praise, in the life of the believer, is personal. If we remind ourselves of the work of Jesus while on this earth, we remember that He did His greatest works with individuals. Even when He was dying on the cross for our sins He ministered to the one next to Him: "Lord," he cried, "remember me!" And Jesus said, "This day you will be with me in heaven!" Even as our prayer for pardon is personal, so should our praise to our God be personal.

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"Quick, Hopkins Maternity Hospital, and don't worry... I'm a _____ there."

SCRAMBLERS

Unscramble the letters within each rectangle to form four ordinary words. Then rearrange the boxed letters to form the mystery word, which will complete the gag!

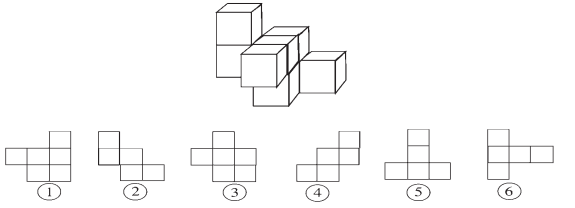
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TODAY'S WORD

Stickeler's Puzzle



Below is a stack of eight cubes. Below that are six views of the faces of the cubes, one of which is incorrect. Which one is it?



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Stickeler's Answer on Page 12