

January 31, 2016  
Bulletin #5

## *Our Lady of Lebanon Maronite Catholic Church*

2216 Eoff Street, Wheeling, WV 26003

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Msgr. Bakhos Chidiac, Pastor

Evelyn Ghaphery, Organist



### *Sunday of the Faithful Departed*

- \***Weekend Masses:** Saturday evening at 4:00 p.m. [Rosary & Litany start 20 minutes before Mass]  
Sunday morning at 10:30 a.m. [Rosary & Litany start 20 minutes before Mass]
- \***Weekday Masses:** Tuesday to Friday at 12:05 p.m. [Rosary & Litany start 20 minutes before Mass]  
Monday No Mass
- \***Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament:** First Saturday of the month at 3:30 p.m.  
First Sunday of the month after 10:30 a.m. 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, Carol Dougherty, Mike Linton, Rita Strawn, P.J. Lenz, Mary Stees
- \***Choir Members:** Earl Duffy, George Thomas, Lou Khourey, Robert Harris, Shelly Hancher, Ted Olinski
- \***Bulletin Coordinator:** Thomasina Geimer
- \***Altar Server:** Mike Linton
- \***Altar Boys:** Dalton Haas, Shaun Hancher & Luke Lenz
- \***Cedar Club:** Linda Duffy, President 304-242-6853
- \***Women's Society:** Sandra Dusick, President 304-232-7395



- \***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
- \***Cedar Hall Rental Fees:** Call the Church Office at 304-233-1688 or 304-639-1372
- \***Parking:** Saturday & Sunday parishioners may park in both lots; Monday-Friday park ONLY in the 3 Alley spaces
- \***Remember the Church in your Last Will & Testament:** Her prayers will accompany you to heaven

## *Gospel Reflection: Sunday of the Faithful Departed*

Readings: 1Thess 5:1-11 and Lk 16:15-31

The “seesaw” world of the first century is epitomized in the two men in this Sunday’s Gospel. One, dressed in the finest of clothes, with more than enough to eat, stands in contrast to the other, homeless, hungry, and ill. Which of the two men will the reader envy? In the beginning of the story, certainly it is the rich man. Lazarus, sitting outside the gate of the good life, is an unappealing figure.

The turning point is death. At death, Lazarus becomes the one to envy. He is now at “*the bosom of Abraham*”, the place of honor and security. The rich man ignored Lazarus when he was alive. Now the rich man turns to him for help, but Lazarus has no obligation to help him. In life, Lazarus was not aided by this rich man; in death the rich man cannot be aided by Lazarus. The rich man failed to use his wealth to create a bond with the poor. The rich man’s suffering is all the more poignant by its permanence. No one can ever help him. Neither Lazarus nor Abraham can reach across the divide that separates them from him.

This seems like the logical conclusion of the story, but there is still another point to be made. The rich man wants to be a messenger of sorts; he wants to let his family know just what it is like after death so that they don’t suffer the same fate. This suggestion is rejected by Abraham, since the family knows already what to expect: “*They have Moses and the prophets.*” God has already revealed that care of the poor is necessary. The rich man presses further, suggesting his return from the dead will do the trick. Abraham sternly replies that if Moses and the prophets didn’t affect them, neither would someone’s resurrection.

The message in the second part of the story is complex. First, the tradition of Moses and the prophets is upheld. Someone who follows this tradition will be welcomed by God. Second, if this tradition is not held to, not even a resurrection will convince anyone to change. Christianity is in continuity with the faith of the past, with Moses and the prophets. The rich man and his family had all they needed to guide their lives yet refused to do so. Neither will the resurrection convince them. The Christians of Luke’s community are left with a choice. Whom will they be like?

## *Divine Liturgy Schedule*

### **This Weekend and the following Weekdays, January 30-February 5: Masses for the Faithful Departed**

Before Great Lent, the church urges parishioners to remember their parents and beloved ones in the offering of the Mass which is the pleasing to God; it is the offering of love of the Son of God on the Cross.

#### **6 Masses Days of Masses will be offered for the following Faithful Departed:**

- ✠ Frances Linton (9<sup>th</sup> Anniversary) by sons Steve & Mike
- ✠ Deceased of the Khourey & Howard Families by Lou, Charlotte, Emmalena & Louie
- ✠ Rosella Saseen, parents Nancepe & Helen, grandparents Shikrey & Helen by her Will
- ✠ Deceased of the Saad & Joseph Families
- ✠ Deceased of the Thomas, Splatt & Nutter Families by John & Kathy Thomas (MN)
- ✠ Deceased of the Chidiac, Linton & Albaugh Families
- ✠ Deceased of the Bine & Gaudio & Paesani Families by Shirley Bine
- ✠ Deceased of the Habdo & Dougherty Families by Bill & Carol Dougherty
- ✠ Catherine Arthur by her daughter Carol Burkhart
- ✠ Suzanne Linton by her husband Mike
- ✠ Frances & Joseph Linton by sons Steve & Mike
- ✠ Adib & Sadie Chidiac (parents), Nadim (brother) & Mona (sister) by Steve & Mike Linton
- ✠ Deceased of our parish by Steve & Mike Linton
- ✠ Deceased of the Yost & Garvey Families by Kay Garvey
- ✠ Deceased of Zaid & Abdo Ferris Families by Mary Zaid Stees & Libby G. Magnone
- ✠ Deceased of Giovanna & Nicola Magnone by Mary Zaid Stees & Libby G. Magnone
- ✠ Tom Schlog by Bob & Fran Saseen
- ✠ Deceased of the Thomas & Frenn families by Dr. Adel, Diane, Andreah & Justin Frenn

- † Deceased of the Condelli and Long families by Sylvia Long
- † John, Sally, Jake, Marie & Fuzzy Jacobs by Sandra Dusick
- † John, Don, Patty John Jr. Dusick by Sandra Dusick
- † Deceased family of Thomasina Geimer
- † Matt, Margaret and Marion Simonetti by Richard & Mary Ryncarz
- † Thomas and Stella Ryncarz by Richard & Mary Ryncarz
- † Grandparents of the George & Porchiran Families by Kathleen George & sons & grandsons
- † Tom George by Kathleen, Jeff & Christopher & families
- † Eddie & Betty George by Kathleen, Jeff & Christopher & families
- † Rudy & Virginia Porchiran by Kathleen, Jeff & Christopher & families
- † Mary & George Popovich by Nikki & Joe Popovich
- † Mr. Frank Sharkey by Nikki & Joe Popovich
- † Helen Fielding & Augie Montalbano by Nikki & Joe Popovich
- † The Keegan Family by the Louis John Family
- † The Joseph John Family by the Louis John Family
- † Deceased of the Duffy & Fadoul Families by Mickey & Linda Duffy
- † Thomas Jochum by his wife Sue
- † Tim & Ginny Shia & Emily Vince by the Family
- † William & Amelia Fitzgerald & the Family of Mary Ann Khoury by Rosemary F. Coury

<b>This Weekend, February 6-7: Cana Sunday. Entrance to Great Lent</b>
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**Saturday, February 6, at 4:00 p.m.:**

- † Steve & Margaret Schlog (Birthday) by Bob & Fran Saseen
- † Emilia & Peter Misko by the Hostage Family

**Sunday, February 7, at 10:30 a.m.:**

- † Living & Deceased members of the Nicholas & Nimnoom Ghaphery Family & the David Abraham Ghaphery Family
- † Josephine Ferris (Anniversary) by Mary Zaid Stees & Libby G. Magnone

## *Calendar of Parish Events at a Glimpse*

<b>Cedar Club Meeting</b>	<i>Monday, February 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. in the Cedar Hall</i>
<b>Tuesday, February 9</b>	<b><i>Msgr. Bakhos' Birthday</i></b>
<b><u>Soup &amp; Hoagie Sale</u></b>	<i>– sponsored by the Women's Society</i>
<b>Monday, February 8<sup>th</sup> → →</b>	<b><u>Order &amp; Payment Due</u></b>
Mon. & Tue, February 15, 16 →	<b>Work Day for Soup &amp; Hoagie Sale – starting at 9 a.m.</b>
Wednesday, February 17 → →	<i>11:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. <b><u>Pick Up Day</u></b> for Soup &amp; Hoagies in the Cedar Hall</i>
Thursday, February 18 → →	<i>11:30 a.m.-<b><u>3:00 p.m.</u></b> <b><u>Pick Up Day</u></b> for soup &amp; Hoagies in the Cedar Hall</i>
<b><u>St. Maron Dinner</u></b>	<i>[more information in future bulletins]</i>
Week of March 7 → → → →	<b>Work Days for St. Maron Dinner – starting at 9 a.m.</b>
Sunday, March 13 → → → →	St. Maron Dinner served – <i>11:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.</i>
<b><u>Palm Sunday, March 20</u></b>	<b>The Passion of the Lord</b>
<b><u>Easter Sunday, March 27</u></b>	<b>The Resurrection of the Lord</b>
<b>Hall Rental</b>	<i>Saturday, April 16, 2016</i>
<b>Hall Rental</b>	<i>Saturday, October 8, 2016</i>
<b>Mahrajan (Festival)</b>	<i>Sunday, August 14 (Mass at 10:30 a.m. and booths open at noon)</i>

## ***Birthday of Msgr. Bakhos Chidiac***

The Cedar Club is sponsoring cake to celebrate Msgr. Bakhos' birthday following Mass on Sunday, February 7<sup>th</sup>. Please plan to come and offer Msgr. Bakhos birthday greetings.

## ***Cedar Club Meeting*** (Monday, February 8<sup>th</sup>, at 6:00 p.m. in the Cedar Hall)

The Cedar Club Meeting will be held on Monday, February 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. in the Cedar Hall. Hosting the evening will be Rita Strawn and Thomasina Geimer

## ***Ash Monday*** (Monday, February 8, & Wednesday, February 10)

### ***Remember, You Are Dust and Unto Dust You Shall Return***

Dust and ashes are signature symbols of Lent, the 40-day liturgical season of prayer, reflection and discipline intended to open us more fully to God's redeeming and healing presence.

On Ash Monday –the first day of Lent in the Maronite Catholic Church– blessed ashes are spread on our foreheads in the form of a cross –signifying the penitential nature of Lent. Those ashes, which come from the burning of palm branches used on the previous Passion Sunday, are spread by the priest as he says the somber words of Genesis 3:19, “**Remember that you are dust and unto dust you shall return,**” or the clear admonition of Mark 1:15, “**Turn from sin and be faithful to the Gospel.**”

Ashes denote traditional Lenten goals that we are encouraged to strive for in our relationship with God and with others –for repentance and sorrow for sin and spiritual sloth; for humility in the face of God's greatness; for awareness of our human weakness, fragility and mortality: for “good grief” and appropriate mourning for all the inevitable losses in our lives. To show that he was at the end of his rope and could do nothing else but throw himself on the mercy of God, Job sat on the *ash heap* and spread *ashes* over his head (Job 42:6; 30:19). The psalmist even declares, “*I eat ashes like bread . . .*” (Psalm 102:10). Jesus cited the need “**to repent in sackcloth and ashes**” (Mt. 11:21).

We may be tempted to shy away from the Lenten symbolism of dust and ashes because it seems too negative. Instead, we would be wise to open our minds and hearts to what the Church offers us each year as a healthy dose of realism about God and God's mercy, and about ourselves and human life.

On Ash Monday, February 8<sup>th</sup>, we will have two Masses and blessing with Ashes at Noon and 5:30 p.m. Ashes will also be distributed during Wednesday, February 10<sup>th</sup>, at Noon Mass and 5:30 p.m. Mass for those who missed it on Monday.

#### **Ash Monday Schedule:**

**12:05 p.m.: Mass & Blessing with Ash**

**5:30 p.m.: Mass & Blessing with Ash**

#### **Ash Wednesday Schedule:**

**12:05 p.m.: Mass & Blessing with Ash**

**5:30 p.m.: Mass & Blessing with Ash**

## ***Stations of the Cross & Light Dinner*** (Starts Fri., February 12 after 5:30 p.m. Mass)

Every Friday during Lent, we celebrate the Mass at 5:30 p.m. and Stations of the Cross at 6:00 p.m., followed by Benediction of the Cross. The “*Stations of the Cross*” is a devotion which consists of following the Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ by recalling the fourteen prominent events that took place from the time of the trial under Pontius Pilate until His death and burial on Mount Calvary.

We give thanks to the Cedar Club members who will sponsor the first Lenten Meal on Friday, February 12, and on Good Friday, March 25, following the Friday prayers. Also we offer thanks to the generous families who will sponsor the light meals during the other Fridays of Lent.

<b>Date:</b>	<b>Volunteers:</b>
1 <sup>st</sup> Friday, February 12	Meal Sponsor: The Cedar Club & Parishioners
2 <sup>nd</sup> Friday, February 19	Meal Sponsor: MaryAnn Cater, & Nini Miller
3 <sup>rd</sup> Friday, February 26	Meal Sponsors: The Fadoul & Duffy Families
4 <sup>th</sup> Friday, March 4	Meal Sponsor: Thomasina Geimer, Kim Gibbons, Charlotte Khourey, Shirley Bine

Date:	Volunteers:
5 <sup>th</sup> Friday, March 11	Meal Sponsor: Carol Dougherty, Mike Linton & Msgr. Bakhos
6 <sup>th</sup> Friday, March 18	Meal Family Sponsor: Chris & Jeannette Wakim
Good Friday, March 25	Meal Sponsor: The Cedar Club & Parishioners

## ***Easter Lillies***

Easter Lillies to decorate the church and the tomb of Christ are sponsored by the following generous parishioners:

☼ Gladys Howard & Louise N. & Louise H. Kourey, Sr., by Lou & Charlotte Kourey & Family

## ***Soup & Hoagie Sale*** (Orders Due: Mon., Feb. 8; Pick-up Days: Wed. & Thur., Feb. 17 & 18)

The Women's Society of Our Lady of Lebanon Church has scheduled its Soup & Hoagie Sale.

Quarts of **Homemade Soups** Include: *Chicken Noodle Soup, Chicken & Rice Soup, Chili, Ham & Bean Soup, Lentil Soup, Potato Soup, Vegetable Beef Soup, Meatless Vegetable Soup* available for \$6.50 per quart and *Stuffed Pepper Soup* available for \$8.00 per quart.

**Three Hoagies will be available:** Ham & Swiss, Italian or Turkey & Cheese. Cost is: \$7.00 each.

**Deadline for Order Form & Payment: Monday, February 8<sup>th</sup>.** (Be sure to mark the day and time you wish to pick up your order on the form). Orders and payment may be mailed to the church or placed in the weekly offering basket.

**Pick-Up-Days: Wednesday, February 17<sup>th</sup>, from 11:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.;** OR  
**Thursday, February 18<sup>th</sup>, from 11:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**

To make this event a success we need several volunteers Tuesday and Wednesday, February 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>. We need helpers to assemble, label and package the Hoagies and to packing the orders for pick up. We also need several volunteers to make and donate desserts. In the past items such as: *Pies, Texas Sheet Cake or other cakes, brownies, any flavor fudge, Lebanese treats (such as twist cookies, coconut cake, pizzelles), sugar free or nut free items, etc.* If you can offer a few hours, call Charlotte at 304-639-1372 or 304-277-3230 & leave a message.

You should receive order forms in the mail soon; additional order forms will be available soon at the church entrance. Order early – quantities are limited; Take Out Only.

Thanks to all individuals who have already volunteered to make and donate soup, to make and donate desserts, to give of your time and talent for our sale, or to make a Cash Donation which help defray expenses.

Note: **Thanks to Kathleen George who volunteered to coordinate Chili and to Shirley Bine & Rita Strawn for volunteering to coordinate the Vegetable Beef Soup.**

If you can help peel & chop the vegetables for the Vegetable Beef Soup on Monday, February 15<sup>th</sup>, in the Cedar Hall please contact Charlotte (304-639-1372) or Shirley Bine. The Cedar Hall Kitchen will be used by Rita Strawn on Tuesday, February 16, to prepare the Chicken Noodle Soup. And the Stuffed Pepper soup will be prepared in the Cedar Hall on Saturday & Sunday, February 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup>. Anyone else wanting to schedule a day to prepare their soup in the church kitchen is asked to coordinate the day by calling Charlotte.

## ***Please Pray for Those on Our Prayer List***

### **Please Remember Those Hospitalized Recently in Your Prayers**

Rizzo Palotay, Sharon Bryan Glanzer, Dorothy Kupchak, Kay Garvey, Gene Howard (brother of Charlotte Kourey)

### **Also Please Pray for Those Who Asked Us to Pray for Them**

Dolores Oser, Jonas George, Josephine Weidman, Lucille Gibbons, Nick Bedway, Paige McCoy (niece of Millet, Gina & Linda), Peggy Justice, Clara J. Morris, Shirley & Jim George, Mary Margaret Blum, Jim Thomas (father of Diane Frenn), Carrie Jane (Powell) Parodi (daughter of Eva Lee Powell), Barb Sobota,

## *Happy Birthday*

February 9: Msgr. Bakhos Chidiac  
 February 10: Sandra DeMuth, Betty Shia  
 February 11: Charlotte Khourey  
 February 14: Diane Frenn  
 February 15: Nettie Seidler  
 February 16: Dave Sengewalt  
 February 17: Rebecca DiFabrizio  
 February 18: Barb McLaughlin  
 February 21: Louie Khourey  
 February 27: MaryAnn Carl

### *Your Church Support Last Week*

\$1,216.00	Sunday Collection
256.00	2 <sup>nd</sup> Collection
554.00	Soup & Hoagie Sale
30.00	Donation to Poor Families
1,000.00	Donation toward the Renovation of the Basement hall
120.00	Parking
<b>\$3,176.00</b>	<b>Total Deposits:</b> <i>May God reward you abundantly for supporting your spiritual home!</i>

### *What's New?*

#### *Parish Condolences: Kay Garvey*

The pastor and the parishioners of Our Lady of Lebanon Church, offer their heartfelt sympathy to the Garvey family on the loss of their beloved Kay who passed away in Wheeling, last Wednesday, January 27. Msgr. Bakhos celebrated the funeral Mass on Saturday, January 30<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 a.m. May the Blessed Mother intercede for her and lead her to the light of Christ. We extend the parish's condolences to her daughter Sue and her husband Mike and to her sister Mary Margaret Blum and her daughters in their time of sorrow.

#### *To Kay with love: The Day God Called You Home*

God looked around His garden, and found an empty space.  
 Then He looked down upon the earth, and saw your tired face.  
 He put His arms around you, lifted you to rest.  
 God's garden must be beautiful, for He only takes the best.  
 He knew that you were suffering, He knew you were in pain.  
 He saw the road was getting rough, and the hills were hard to climb.  
 So He closed your weary eyes, and whispered peace be thine.  
 It broke our hearts to lose you, but you did not go alone.  
 For part of us went with you, the day God called you home.

### *Around Us*

#### *Saint Maron Dinner in Pittsburgh* (Saturday, February 6, 2016)

Where: Le Mount restaurant, Pittsburgh  
 When: Saturday, February 6, 2016, starting at 6:00 p.m.  
 Dinner and live Lebanese music  
 Cost: Adults: \$70; students: \$50-- Reservation: 412-278-0841

***Fish Fry*** (*Fridays during Lent*)

Where: Our Lady of Seven Dolors Catholic Church, Chapel Hill Road, Triadelphia

When: All Fridays during Lent starting February 12<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 a.m. until 5:30 p.m.

Information: 304-547-5342

## ***Reflections: Memo from God***

### MEMO FROM GOD

Effective immediately, please be aware that there are changes you need to make in your life. These changes need to be completed in order that I may fulfill my promises to you – to grant you peace, joy and happiness in this life. I know, I already gave you the 10 Commandments. Keep them. But follow these guidelines, also.

#### 1. QUIT WORRYING

Life has dealt you a blow and all you do is sit and worry. Have you forgotten that I am here to take all your burdens and carry them for you? Or do you just enjoy fretting over every little thing that comes your way?

#### 2. PUT IT ON THE LIST

Something needs to be done or taken care of. Put it on the list. No, not YOUR list. Put it on MY to-do list. Let ME be the one to take care of the problem. I can't help you until you turn it over to me. And although my to-do-list is long, I am after all, God. I can take care of anything you put into my hands. In fact, if the truth were ever really known, I take care of a lot of things for you that you never even realize.

#### 3. TRUST ME

Once you've given your burdens to me, quit trying to take them back. Trust in me. Have the faith that I will take care of all your needs, your problems and your trials. Problems with the kids? Put them on my list. Problem with finances? Put it on my list. Problems with your emotional roller coaster? For my sake, put it on my list. I want to help you. All you have to do is ask.

#### 4. LEAVE IT ALONE

Don't wake up one morning and say, "Well, I'm feeling much stronger now, I think I can handle it from here." Why do you think you are feeling stronger now? It's simple. You gave me your burdens and I'm taking care of them. I also renew your strength and cover you in my peace. Don't you know that if I give you these problems back, you will be right back where you started? Leave them with me and forget about them. Just let me do my job.

#### 5. TALK TO ME

I want you to forget a lot of things. Forget what was making you crazy. Forget the worry and the fretting because you know I'm in control. But, there's one thing I pray you never forget. Please don't forget to talk to me... **OFTEN!** I love you. I want to hear your voice. I want you to include me in on the things going on in your life. I want to hear you talk about your friends and family. Prayer is simply you having a conversation with me. I want to be your dearest friend.

#### 6. HAVE FAITH

I see a lot of things from up here that you can't see from where you are. Have faith in me that I know what I'm doing. Trust me, you wouldn't want the view from my eyes. I will continue to care for you, watch over you, and meet your needs. You only have to trust me. Although I have a much bigger task than you, it seems as if you have so much trouble just doing your simple part. How hard can trust be?

#### 7. SHARE

You were taught to share when you were only two years old. When did you forget? That rule still applies. Share with those who are less fortunate than you. Share your joy with those who need encouragement. Share your laughter with those who haven't heard any in such a long time. Share your tears with those who have forgotten how to cry. Share your faith with those who have none.

#### 8. BE PATIENT

I managed to fix it so in just one lifetime you could have so many diverse experiences. You grow from a child to an adult, have children, change jobs many times, learn many trades, travel to so many places, meet

thousands of people, and experience so much. How can you be so impatient then when it takes me a little longer than you expect to handle something on my to-do-list? Trust in my timing, for my timing is perfect. Just because I created the entire universe in only six days, everyone thinks I should always rush, rush, rush.

#### 9. BE KIND

Be kind to others, for I love them just as much as I love you. They may not dress like you, or talk like you, or live the same way you do, but I still love you all. Please try to get along, for my sake. I created each of you different in some way. It would be too boring if you were all identical. Please know I love each of your differences.

#### 10. LOVE YOURSELF

As much as I love you, how can you not love yourself? You were created by me for one reason only –to be loved, and to love in return. I am a God of Love. Love me. Love your neighbors. But also love yourself. It makes my heart ache when I see you so angry with yourself when things go wrong. You are very precious to me. Don't ever forget that!

With all my heart I love you, God

### *Story:*

Some years ago on a hot summer day in south Florida a little boy decided to go for a swim in the old swimming hole behind his house. In a hurry to dive into the cool water, he ran out the back door, leaving behind shoes, socks, and shirt as he went. He flew into the water, not realizing that as he swam toward the middle of the lake, an alligator was swimming toward the shore.

His mother, in the house was looking out the window, saw the two as they got closer and closer together. In utter fear, she ran toward the water, yelling to her son as loudly as she could. Hearing her voice, the little boy became alarmed and made a U-turn to swim to his mother. It was too late. Just as he reached her, the alligator reached him.

From the dock, the mother grabbed her little boy by the arms just as the alligator snatched his legs. That began an incredible tug-of-war between the two. The alligator was much stronger than the mother, but the mother was much too passionate to let go.

A farmer happened to drive by, heard her screams, raced from his truck, took aim and shot the alligator. Remarkably, after weeks and weeks in the hospital, the little boy survived. His legs were extremely scarred by the vicious attack of the animal. And, on his arms, were deep scratches where his mother's fingernails dug into his flesh in her effort to hang on to the son she loved. The newspaper reporter who interviewed the boy after the trauma, asked if he would show him his scars. The boy lifted his pant legs. And then, with obvious pride, he said to the reporter, *"But look at my arms. I have great scars on my arms, too.*

*I have them because my mom wouldn't let go."*

You and I can identify with that little boy. We have scars, too. No, not from an alligator, or anything quite so dramatic. But, the scars of a painful past. Some of those scars are unsightly and have caused us deep regret. But, some wounds, my friend, are because God has refused to let go. In the midst of your struggle, He's been there holding on to you. The Scripture teaches that God loves you. If you have Christ in your life, you have become a child of God. He wants to protect you and provide for you in every way. But sometimes we foolishly wade into dangerous situations. The swimming hole of life is filled with peril – and we forget that the enemy is waiting to attack. That's when the tug-o-war begins, and if you have the scars of His love on your arms be very, very grateful. He did not – and will not – let you go!

### *A Time to Laugh (282)*

#### *Heaven Is When You Have*

An American Salary

A British Home

A Lebanese Food

A Swiss Economy

An Italian Body  
 A Japanese Technology  
 An African Tool  
 And an Indian Wife

## *Hell Is When You Have*

A British Body  
 A Chinese Tool  
 A Swiss Food  
 An Italian Technology  
 A Japanese Home  
 An African Economy  
 And an Indian Salary

## *Gotta Love Drunk People*

A man and his wife are awakened at 3 o'clock in the morning by a loud pounding on the door. The man gets up and goes to the door where a drunken stranger, standing in the pouring rain, is asking for a push. "Not a chance," says the husband, "it is three o'clock in the morning!"

He slams the door and returns to bed. "Who was that?" asked his wife.

"Just some drunk guy asking for a push," he answers. "Did you help him?"

She asks. "No, I did not, it is three in the morning and it is pouring out!" "Well, you have a short memory," says his wife. "Can't you remember about three months ago when we broke down and those two guys helped us?" "I think you should help him, and should be ashamed of yourself!" The man does as he is told, gets dressed, and goes out into the pounding rain.

He calls out into the dark, "Hello, are you still there?" "Yes," comes back the answer. "Do you still need a push?" calls out the husband. "Yes, please!" Comes the reply from the dark. "Where are you?" asks the husband. "Over here on the swing!" replies the drunk.

## *More laughters*

-- Just before the funeral services, the undertaker came up to the very elderly widow and asked, 'How old was your husband?' '98,' she replied. 'Two years older than me' 'So you're 96,' the undertaker commented. She responded, 'Hardly worth going home, is it?'

--Reporters interviewing a 104-year-old woman: 'And what do you think is the best thing about being 104?' the reporter asked. She simply replied, '**No peer pressure.**'

--I've sure gotten old! I've had two bypass surgeries, a hip replacement, New knees, fought prostate cancer and diabetes I'm half blind, Can't hear anything quieter than a jet engine, Take 40 different medications that Make me dizzy, winded, and subject to blackouts. Have bouts with dementia .. Have poor circulation; Hardly feel my hands and feet anymore. Can't remember if I'm 85 or 92. Have lost all my friends. But, thank God, I still have my driver's license.

-- I feel like my body has gotten totally out of shape, So I got my doctor's permission to Join a fitness club and start exercising. I decided to take an aerobics class for seniors. I bent, twisted, gyrated, jumped up and down, and perspired for an hour. But, by the time I got my leotards on, The class was over.

-- My memory's not as sharp as it used to be. Also, my memory's not as sharp as it used to be.

-- Know how to prevent sagging? Just eat till the wrinkles fill out.

--It's scary when you start making the same noises As your coffee maker.

-- These days about half the stuff In my shopping cart says, ' For fast relief.'