

# THE CHANNEL

flowing from . . .



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## THINGS CUT OFF, THINGS CUT BACK

From the Pen of Lady Joyce M. Jones

"So [you] will produce even more." John 15:2 NLT

Jesus said the vine dresser 'cuts off every branch....that doesn't produce fruit, and he prunes [cuts back] the branches that do bear fruit so they....produce even more.'" Notice two things:

- (1) **GOD CUTS SOME THINGS OFF.** "What kind of things?" Things you're comfortable with but that stand in the way of your progress. Things He hasn't chosen for you. Things that will bring you trouble. Things that refuse to change. Things that have served their purpose.
- (2) **GOD CUTS SOME THINGS BACK.** A fruit tree that's just been pruned certainly doesn't look its best. And when God starts cutting back certain things in your life in order to redirect your energies, for a while you may not look so good either. Sometimes this means letting go of things you thought would always be there, or reprioritizing your life, or making do with less for a while, or not being able to explain to your loved ones why you're going through the pruning process.

But life-giving sap flowing into a barren branch with no potential for fruitfulness is a waste! And so is time, attention, and energy taken from first things and given to second and third things. Understand this: God knows what needs to be cut OFF in your life, and He knows what needs to be cut BACK. And although you may not understand what he's doing pray: "Send whoever You will and take away whoever You will. I'll praise You when they come and I'll praise You when they go, because Your approval is my reward and Your purpose is my reason to live."

This lesson taken from the book entitled The Word For You Today.

My Thoughts:

If you are like me, one of my first "thoughts" was this particular lesson is directed to only those that really want to GROW in the things of God.

If our desire is to GROW in God, and to be in His **PERFECT WILL**, it **WILL COST** you and I. Years ago....many years ago, there was a well-known song sung by Rev James Cleveland. The title of the song was "TO BE USED BY GOD." We were the "young folks" when that song first came out. Oh, how wonderful were those words and the melody has not been forgotten,,,,,but, many of us did not understand the COST to be used by God.

For each one of us there will come TIMES for us to be pruned. Pruning is not a one-time event or happening. God is not angry with us because of what's happening. No, HE is getting us ready to be of more service, and He realizes far more than we do, that HE cannot use us with a lot of heavy and even some dead branches yet hanging off of us. In many of our churches we had or yet have "testimony service." I remember listening to them and one thing that they did was express times of "going through." But before one would take their seat they would ask the saints to "PRAY FOR ME THAT I ENDURE." What we now know is that person or persons were being PRUNED.

Just like in the natural a tree or a plant has to undergo a cutting away, so also in our spiritual life. Once we accept Jesus into our lives, we then should become **FRUITFUL**. Yes, it's a process; it doesn't happen overnight, but if you want to be USED by God, then buckle up because pruning times will come.

Some time ago I mention in a lesson about a lovely, and beautiful crab apple tree that we had. It was simply beautiful and it was because of that tree

that I fell in love with the property. It bore the most gorgeous flowers in the early spring, and when the flowers would fall to the ground they would coat the green grass. What an awesome sight. But after a few years we began to notice that the tree wasn't producing as much and even the leaves started to fall much too early. My husband told me that he was going to prune it. I just thought that he was only going to cut a few branches and then be finished. I came home one day after work and my poor tree looked like it could have starred in an Alfred Hitchcock movie. I was truly upset but he assured me that he hadn't killed my tree, but that what he had done was very necessary. The next spring it STARTED to look better, but it took another spring for the harvest to come forth. Likewise for each one of us. God is the MASTER PRUNER. He understands the need to SEPARATE, CLEAR OUT, CUT OFF, AND BURN AWAY things in our lives. The question is, are you willing to GO THROUGH THE PROCESS?

There is a cost, dear ones.

## Perfect Peace

By Rev. Julia Schwert

Millionaires cannot buy it. Yet, the poor can have it. God's provisions cannot be bought with finances. Praise God! Sounds like the provisions that God longs for each of us to have are free. In one sense they are, because they are free from a financial fee; however, God's provisions come at a great personal price. Each of us must make a personal decision to follow God completely if we desire to partake of His benefit and provisions.

The personal price we must pay does not have a monetary value attached to it. This personal price is simply relinquishing our desires, our wants, our ways, our wishes and allow God to have His way in our life. Paul knew this when he penned, "*I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me.*"—Galatians 2:20 Sounds easy to do. . . just relinquish our desires, our wants; however, it is **not** easy. We want things "our way." I **don't** care who you are there are times in your life when you aren't willing to give in to someone else let alone give in to God, who you cannot see and often don't understand.

God freely offers His benefits and provisions to anyone who will follow Him. But Jesus said, "*If any*

*man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.*"—Luke 9:23

This personal price that we pay is not paid one day and the account is marked paid in full. This personal price is a price that must be **paid daily**. That is why some people can walk in God's peace in their life one day and not the next. We can even walk in God's peace one minute and not the next. Once we experience God's peace, **we must guard** that peace by continuing our walk God's way.

We have a choice – God's peace, God's way **OR** No peace, Our way.

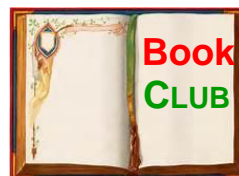


## YOUTH FUND RAISER



Have you seen our pop bottle? The children are having a **DIME Fund Raiser**. Our youth are raising money for their summer activities. You may place larger coins and dollars into our pop bottle if you desire.

**Friday, August 11**, field trip to visit the **Newport Aquarium** in **Newport, Kentucky**. We will be renting a van; therefore, if you would like to attend please see Rev. Betty Jones to see if there are any seats available. **Adult tickets are \$19**. Youth tickets are \$13. Breakfast is provided – be here at 7:30 a.m. to eat. We will leave at 8 a.m. **Bring a sack lunch or money for the noon meal**. **Supper is Golden Coral – Adults \$6**. We will be returning between 9-10 p.m.



**SUNDAY,**  
**AUGUST 16**  
**4:30 P.M.**

If you desire to bring something to share, feel free to do so. We will be in the book, The Battle Plan for Prayer, beginning with chapter 13.

We will have this book club meeting at Bishop & Pastor Joyce's home, 3020 Hayes Ave.

## REGULAR SERVICE TIMES

### Sunday

10 a.m. – Morning Worship

### Wednesday

11 a.m. – Breaking Point

6:30 p.m. – Bible Foundation

6:30 p.m. – Youth Services

### Thursday

6 – 7:30 p.m. – Recovery Outreach Ministry led by Rev. David Tucker. Need help to overcome an addiction? Come to these sessions. Our desire is to help you achieve and experience an abundant life in God.

### Saturday

4:30 – 5:30 p.m. – Prayer



Feed **your** Soul  
every week.

supplies will be passed out to our youth.

There are **two sign-up sheets**.

**Set-up People** – plan to bring things from church and set up beginning at 9 a.m.

**Tear-down People** – plan to clean-up and return things to church beginning at 1:30 p.m.

Plan now to attend and invite your family and friends for a time of fun and fellowship. Remember to bring extra food for your invited guests.

## BROTHERS IN CHRIST

Our men will be setting up a booth at the **Farmers' Market** in downtown Fremont on **Sat., Aug 5, and Sat., Aug. 19** beginning at 9 a.m.

Water donations are appreciated since they will be passing out water to those who are in attendance.

Sat., Aug. 19, will be the Dignity & Respect Festival in downtown Fremont.



## Friendly Reminder:

We honor our Bishop and Pastor Joyce Jones by allowing them to have Monday as their day of rest. If you have an emergency, do not hesitate to contact them. However, if at all possible, please allow them this one personal day for themselves.

## Annual Church Picnic

**Sunday, August 20**  
**at Connor Park**  
**2300 Morrison Road**

All food and hot grills

must be ready by 10 a.m.

We will begin eating at 11 a.m.

Church will provide: hot dogs, buns, drinks, and table service. Games are being planned for the youth. **School**

**NOTE:** Thank you for giving all **Sunday Morning Announcements** to Sister Charmaine Smith by Saturday evening. She gladly accepts texts with information. If you need her number, feel free to contact her.

Please give all announcements for the **September Channel** to Rev. Julia Schwert or Rev. Natalie Perkins by **August 25** so we can get the September Channel published by the first Sunday. Your help is greatly appreciated. With your timely information, the publication goes smoothly.

**Fall Bar-B-Que dates:**

**Friday - September 15**  
**Saturday – September 16**

## Affordable Health Insurance Options

Are you covered?

- Are you uninsured?
- Recently lose your coverage or will you be losing coverage soon?

**FREE** local, unbiased help from certified Navigators is available. We can help you enroll in Medicaid year-round! Evening and weekend appointments are available. Schedule your convenient appointment today. Call Marnie Arndt at 419-349-1778 or [marnie@nwocarenet.org](mailto:marnie@nwocarenet.org)

Right now there are a lot of unknowns regarding the Affordable Care Act with the new administration—but what we do know, is that having health coverage is currently still the law and Ohio's uninsured rate is 6%.

**Open Enrollment 5 (OE5)** through the Affordable Care Act will be **November 1, 2017 – December 15, 2017**; however, Navigators continue to be available for those with a qualifying event who need health care coverage. There are many “qualifying events” but the most common are

- Aging off a parent's plan
- Getting divorced/married
- Losing employer sponsored coverage
- Being over income for Medicaid.

Enrollment assistance by a Navigator for both Marketplace and Medicaid coverage allows for individualized health coverage education and exploration of options. When approximately 55% of Ohioans have employer sponsored health coverage which leaves an estimated 5,130,000 to obtain coverage through other means.

Your local Healthcare Navigator for Ottawa, Sandusky, Huron, and Erie counties is Marnie Arndt. If you have health insurance questions, or are not sure if you qualify with Medicaid, speaking with a navigator may be very helpful. If you are interested in meeting with a navigator or just have questions, please contact Marnie Arndt. Appointments may also be scheduled by calling 1-800-648-1176 or by visiting the website at <https://www.getcoveredamerica.org/get-covered-connector-national/>.