

The Days of Wine and Roses, an autobiography in 12 parts ..

I graduated from collage in 1972 and decided it was time to see the world and so I believed a gentleman who said he would take me away from it all. By a long circuitous route (including a lot of heartache) I found myself in Winnemucca, Nevada serving cocktails, tending bar and dealing 21. Somehow it is not how I pictured my life to be. Yet, in some way it all worked together for good. If you ask me now, I would say it was the best training for being a minister anyone could have hoped for! Working the bar scene required long nights on very high heels and wearing very short skirts. One time my parents came to visit and my mother told my boss that she was afraid I had left half of my clothing back at the house and offer to go and get it for me. Thanks, Mom!

It was during those years that I was sure I didn't need God—I had the good life, after all. I moved from Winnemucca after several years to Reno. Yes, I was there the night Bertha the elephant opened the doors of the new casino, Circus-Circus! Bertha was a pro at creating a scene. She frequently gave Liberace a ride on her trunk to make his grand debut on to the stage. I worked at Circus-Circus and Boomtown. It was the hey-day of the casino boom and jobs were plentiful but boring. One day I saw a job in the newspaper for a swing shift worker in data processing at Nevada National Bank. My former roommate in college had told me she had done such a job and liked it. What the heck, if she could do it, I could do it. It wasn't long before I found that I had an aptitude for balancing transactions and working with computers. Soon I was a supervisor, then a project manager responsible for installing a new computer system in the bank.

But by this time in my life, although the outer world was good, I was lonely inside. Longing for something I couldn't put my finger on, something deep. Then one day a friend invited me to his church, an Assembly of God. It was a charismatic church filled with speaking in tongues and prophecy. I had *never* seen anything like that before!

To be continued

Spiritual Tools for Daily Living

JESUS,
THE WAY-SHOWER



UNITY CHURCH OF CHRISTIANITY

REV. MARY ANNE HARRIS

APRIL 6, 2008

OUR SPIRITUAL TOOLS

LOVE

*THE ABILITY TO GIVE AND RECEIVE
THE GREAT ATTRACTING FORCE OF THE UNIVERSE
THAT BINDS US ALL TOGETHER*

DISCIPLE: JOHN, SON OF ZEBEDEE

COLOR: PINK

MONTH: FEBRUARY

1. We are spiritual beings in human form
Unity is practical application
Tools for daily living
2. 12 is the number of perfect spiritual completion
Our gifts are to be used in tandem
Jesus is our way shower & elder brother
The one who showed us how to live our divine nature
3. In the beginning
In the beginning was the Word and the Word was
with God and the Word was God. John 1:1
And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us.
John 1:14
The great incarnational mystery—God became flesh
4. The power of love
Not a feeling or emotion
Ability to give and receive
The great attracting principle that binds us all together
5. Loving from a source of power
Love your neighbor as yourself Matthew 5:43
Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute
you... If you love those who love you, what reward do
you get? Matthew 5:44,46

EXERCISES WEEK TWO

Warm up exercises

Develop a heart of gratitude
Be willing to be changed at depth

Get Committed

What issue are you willing to focus on over these
next 12 weeks as a way to learn how to use these
12 spiritual tools?

Questions to ponder

- Have you ever thought of yourself as the living
Word of God in flesh?
- How do you love your neighbor?
- How do you pray for those who persecute
(irritate, don't agree with) you?
- Where might the power of love make the rough
places smooth in your life?
- Reflect upon gravity and how it pulls all things
to the center—how is it like God's love?

Exercises

- Practice being a gracious receiver this week.
- Recite: Love is the great attracting principle of
the universe. That which I give out returns to
me. I am a loving presence in the world.
- Repeat each exercise several times a day.

Suggested reading:

Your God Given Potential

Winifred Wilkinson Hausmann