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Tom Shanklin Ministries

June 2007

Do you have a victim mentality?

There is an answer for a victim mentality in Christ Jesus. The Gospel has the power to transform you from a victim to a victor. The choice is yours. . .

Do you have a victim mentality? Do you see yourself as the underdog in life?

It may be because of the circumstances of life, race, or family background, but many people are carrying a defeatist attitude. As a result they never seem to rise up above the problems and negative factors of life. Their inward vision is clouded by a negative evaluation, or perhaps even by what happened to their ancestors in generations past. Every time something negative takes place, it opens old wounds and contributes to the inward belief that "nothing ever works out for me."

There is an answer for a victim mentality in Christ Jesus. The Gospel has the power to transform you from a victim to a victor. The choice is yours. You will have to take control of your mind, but Jesus gives us new life and the power to overcome. Jesus said, "If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." John 8:31, 32, KJV.

Jesus has lifted us from the pit of despair and into a position of authority and victory.

When a Christian is carrying a victim mentality, he is not continuing in the word. He is not abiding in the truth. The truth is that through His cross and resurrection, Jesus has lifted us from the pit of despair and into a position of authority and victory.

The scripture says, "Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up." James 4:10, KJV. The Lord is in the "lifting" business. Man may malign, oppress, persecute and aim to crush you, but I know Someone who has power to lift you up and make you somebody in Him. The key is to "humble yourself"—that is, to recognize your need for the Lord, to realize you cannot live victoriously without Him, and to allow Him to teach you how to live life as "more than a conqueror."

The Apostle Paul said, "Now thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ, and maketh

manifest the savour of his knowledge by us in every place."

2 Corinthians 2:14, KJV. No matter what we face, what we suffer, or what is our background, education, race or culture, God is "always" causing us to triumph.

When God created man, He created him to have dominion in the earth. That was His plan and it has not changed.

When Adam committed high treason and sold out to the devil, he lost his dominion and gave place to an evil spirit. Adam opened the door to the sinful nature which plagues all of humanity today. What God did through Calvary was to crush the power of that sinful nature and restore our dominion. In Christ we are new creatures. Instead of being under the curse, through Jesus Christ, we are now blessed and highly favored.

This is because when we receive Christ, we become children of God. We are no longer under the curse of Adam, or our previous generations. What happened to our family, or our ancestors, or even to us in our earlier life, is no longer relevant. We do not need to search historical documents, or look into our forgotten childhood events to find out the genesis of our problems. We already know the source of our problems—sin in the human race. The answer is Jesus, through whom we receive forgiveness, a new life, and a grand inheritance.

May you enjoy everything which has been given to you through the grace of God, the gift of His Son, and the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.



Our Schedule

Sunday, June 3, 10 a.m., For His Glory Church, Log Cabin, City Park, Spring Grove, Minnesota. 507-725-2984.

Friday-Saturday, 7 p.m., Sunday 10:30 a.m., June 8-10, Mt. Calvary Full Gospel Church, Ponsford, MN (White Earth Reservation) 218-573-3699

Sunday, June 10, 10 a.m., Susan speaking at Gaylord Assembly of God, Gaylord, Minnesota. 507-237-5341.

Sunday, June 10, 6 p.m., Frontline New Testament Church, 1609 Industrial Ave., Park Rapids, Minnesota. 218-252-1550.

Saturday, June 23, 6 p.m., Tom Shanklin Ministries Prayer and Partnership Dinner, Gaylord Assembly of God Fellowship Hall, Gaylord, Minnesota.

Sunday, June 24, 8:30 a.m., Cannonville Community Church, Waterville, Minn. 507-351-6870

Sunday, July 1, 10 a.m., For His Glory Church, Log Cabin, City Park, Spring Grove, Minnesota. 507-725-2984.

Friday-Sunday, July 13-15, Norman County Area Wide Multi-church Crusade. 218-356-8604.

Our Mission

Tom Shanklin Ministries is uniting with the Body of Christ to fulfill the Great Commission to "Go into all the world and preach the Gospel" by reaching the lost, encouraging believers and strengthening churches.

Our Partners

GoPreach.net and all the outreaches of Tom Shanklin Ministries are made possible by the prayers and financial support of our faithful partners.

Tom Shanklin Ministries

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On the Reservations

In May, we ministered at two churches on Indian Reservations in Minnesota and South Dakota. Approximately seventeen precious people made commitments to the Lord. Some were first time decisions.

The photo at the bottom is of members of Northern Lights Tabernacle, Richwood, MN., who united with us to minister at a children's rally at Elbow Lake Lutheran Church on the White Earth Indian Reservation in Northern Minnesota.

The rest of the photos were taken at Christian Life Fellowship on the Rosebud Reservation in central South Dakota. Seated at his desk is the exuberant Pastor Jack Moore. The church has a Christian School, a Bible School, and has been training ministers and doing missionary work on the reservation for over 20 years.

This visionary church is located in the third poorest county in the United States. The needs are great, but the Lord is giving hope and victory on the reservations.



Free DVD Gift

During the month of June we are offering a free DVD video of our recent trip to India. "India '07" includes insight into the life, sights and sounds of this unusual nation. Over 1.1 billion precious souls live in this land, many of whom have not heard a clear presentation of the Gospel.

You will witness a pastor's conference, an open air service, baptisms and more. You will take a tour of a typical village in southern India and experience the menagerie of goats, oxen, water buffalo and people that make up the fabric of this exotic land.

Write for your free DVD today!



Photo by Kristin Smith, www.godsaidmansaid.com

Dinner's on Us

Have you ever wondered why ministries do the things they do, or what India is really like? Do you ever wonder if Susan is for real? Well, now is the chance for you to have dinner with us, hear about what this ministry is doing and see a video clip from India, plus Kim Ellison will be leading us in song and worship and prayer for Tom Shanklin Ministries.

If you are a friend, a partner, a pray-er or a person curious about missions in the United States and countries of the world, Tom and I personally invite you to have dinner with us on Saturday, June 23 at 6 p.m. at the Gaylord Assembly of God Church, Gaylord, Minnesota.

Please, don't take this invitation lightly. We really want to get to know you better, laugh together, worship together and pray together. Let us lift the name of Jesus up higher together on June 23 at 6 p.m at Gaylord Assembly of God.

Just so I know how to prepare, could you e-mail us or drop us a note letting me know many will be joining us? Thanks!

Susan

Directions: Gaylord Assembly of God Church is located on the east side of Gaylord just north of the intersection of Highways 5 and 19.

Spring Crop Report

I just asked Tom if it was officially Spring or Summer. The date is May 22, but my tomatoes have blooms on them and my cabbages are the size of dinner plates. It's always good to know what season you're in, right? Is it the planting season, cultivating season, or the harvesting season? There's another season, too—rest. That's one we all forget about sometimes. But hey, that's not what this article is about!

It's the season, for me anyway, to plant. Well, Tom does most of the planting around here. I'm the "tender." When it starts to green up here on our little homestead, Susan is outside. I like to be up and out the door by 8 o'clock to start my chores—first with the broiler chickens, 50 of them in the old brick smoke house. For the first four weeks you limit their feed so their hearts and lungs get big enough to handle the quick weight gain. Kind of reminds me of new believers. They're so hungry for the things of God, they just pig out, and then they



think they know it all and want to do exploits before the spirit man has matured. We more mature ones should be tending to them a little better, I think. We are so happy when they get saved, but we leave them alone too much and don't watch their diet and don't tend to their water like we should. My little broilers drink so much water, but I know the water is more important than the feed.

After I feed my little "pirañas", as I call them, I hear the big boys (steers Peter and John) bellowing from their newly-fenced pasture. I try to walk to the barn quietly so they won't hear me, so I'll have time to dish up their grain before they have their noses over the fence crying, "Susan, hurry up we're starving out here in the lush pasture of clover and grass!" Crazy cows! They remind me of fat pew warmers tired of the sermons on repentance, soul winning and living right. "Please tell us some new revelation or a story or a political movement we can get involved in."

Peter and John, the steers, should be ready for the freezer this fall. At least they will have died happy in the land of clover!

At the other end of the barn are Peter and John's replacements, Abraham, Star and Baby. They are the newest Jerseys calves. We got them in April, pan fed

them milk replacer, then grain and hay. Now, they come and go into a separate barn yard from the big boys and have grain twice a day out of a window box planter hanging on a gate.

Now, these little guys aren't the brightest bulbs in the pack. They look at you with their big brown eyes, long lashes, blink and seem to say, "Susan, what do we do now?"

"Go out and eat grass, drink water, and get some sunshine," Susan says. "Grow up strong and bold and healthy." New beginnings take faith and boldness. Step out knowing the Farmer isn't going to let you fall into a pit.

I backtrack in the barn to the old milk house which Tom converted into a chicken coop for my 10 Gold Star chickens, which most days lay 10 large, brown eggs. I have two doors on my coop, so requested by the "egg lady"—one screen door and one solid door. The girls have to stay inside until they have done their duty. When it's warmer, they are closed in with just the screen door. Of course, the radio is on playing classical music, the hanging feeder is full of oats, and there is a small pan with a little mash and fresh water to boot. I take my egg basket in each morning to retrieve my bounty. "Good job," I tell the girls. Now if it's only 9 eggs, I tell them, "10 would be nice too, though." The Farmer wants top production and always encourages us to do better. He knows our potential. Our blue print is for success. 10 is better than 9.

The next thing I do is check the water tanks for the steers and calves. Dirty water is no good or is lack of water. Water is very important. Nothing is going to grow without water.

As I walk out of the barn I take a mental note of each group of animals—water, grain. . . mash, water, grain. . . water, grain. My thoughts turn towards other things, when Aaron the tom cat meows at the top of his lungs, "Hey, what about me!" Back down into the barn I go to fetch Aaron some "dried sea food." Ha. Everybody is important, even if they are a bit lazy, self absorbed and demanding.

Of course, I can't return to the house without checking out the gardens. I always have to discipline myself to do the animals first or I know I won't be able to resist pulling a weed or just standing still and gazing at God's handiwork.

I will have to save my garden report for later. I think it will be another good year, don't you?

Susan

