

# The Bugle

Calling everyone to the service of Christ

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# Welcome to The Bugle

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Send to:

The Bugle

156 Newton Rd.

Potsdam, N.Y. 13676

(315) 265-0026

Email: [thebugle@martins4u.com](mailto:thebugle@martins4u.com)

[www.thebugle.martins4u.com](http://www.thebugle.martins4u.com)

## The Bugle

Is a ministry of the Parishville Christian Church.

The magazine is edited by various members of the Luke & Rachel Martin family. The Boy's Bugle was started in 2001 by Melvin to help fill the need for a Christian boys' magazine. In 2011 we changed the name to The Bugle.

We publish as we have the time and satisfactory material.

Any comments, suggestions, submissions, or ideas you send us are greatly appreciated.

If you are ever in the area, we would be delighted for you to stop in for a visit or to worship with us.

**On the front cover:** Picture drawn by Phoebe Martin (age 6) for the Bugle. Do you have a drawing that we could use for the Bugle that shows an attribute of God?



# Editor's Desk



The only thing that will matter after we pass from this life will be what Jesus says and the only thing that really matters now is the words of God.

The Holy Scriptures have so much teaching in them that will help us in our struggles in life. They let us know the certainty of truth. We need not grope around in unsurety.

So why would we pass up the opportunity to read the Bible? I think if people would realize what a blessing the Scriptures can be to their life, they would have a strong desire to read them. The Bible can cause faith in us towards Christ. Christ is eternal life. That is what I call true value.

I think Scripture reading is important for young people as they

grow up. It gives them a good foundation on which to process the many things life throws at them.

Now that I am middle-age, I need them just as much— not only for my own sake but also for the little ones coming after me.

Most importantly the Bible tells us of Jesus Christ, our Creator, Lord and Savior. If our Bible reading does not result in faith and obedience to Christ, we've missed the point and the result is tragedy.

So read, have faith, live in obedience to Jesus and you will be blessed. Keep on reading. Heed the little bits of wisdom you gain as you read. Every word of God is a blessing.

*Nathaniel J. Martin*

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**And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.**

**All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:**

**That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.**

*2 Timothy 3:15-17*

\*\*\*\*\*

**Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.**

*John 5:39*

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# *Draw Near To God*

*Marvin Weber*

We regularly drive to the city of Halifax to sell meat and produce from our small farm. Halifax is about an hour and twenty minutes from where we live in the Annapolis Valley.

When Hurricane Fiona was to land in our province on a Friday night in September 2022, the managers of our farmers' market decided to cancel the market. We had a customer who really seemed to want her rather large order, and it seemed she was expecting us to come to the city. After some discussion on Friday, we decided we would make the trip the next morning, but later than normal to give the storm a chance to die down a little. We notified the customers with orders that we would meet them at 12 noon in the market parking lot.

The remnants of the hurricane brought our valley some wind and rain, but because we live in the western end of the province the storm didn't hit us very badly. Although many neighbors were without electricity, our lights were only out for a few minutes and came back on again. The wind and rain continued all night; but by morning light the rain had stopped and even the wind was starting to die down.

We packed up the few orders and loaded them into our little car. We normally take the big van but there was no need for that gas-guzzling vehicle this time. I hadn't gone very far when I got a call from the customer who had hoped we would come to Halifax. She said she was without power so she couldn't take her order anyway. "That's ironic!" I thought. But I decided to continue the trip for the sake of the other customers who I had promised to meet.

As I continued driving towards the city, I realized the low gas indicator was on. My daughter usually used this car, and I hadn't checked the fuel level before I started off. I decided to fill up at Windsor, which was about 20 minutes ahead. I hoped the gas station wouldn't be closed when I got there... I would have had a can of gas at home, I thought, but by that time I had gone too far to turn back.

By the time I reached Windsor, the gas indicator was blinking. I was glad the car was still running as I pulled up to the gas pump. But—alas! The gas pump screen said all Petro-Canada pumps across Canada were out of service, because their card processing system was down.

I decided to drive under the highway overpass to the other gas station. As I drove in, I noticed there was no light in that building either. Hopefully the

pumps would still work. Then I noticed a paper sign on the pumps saying they were out of service due to power outage.

I knew I didn't have time to go all the way back home to get the can of gas, so my only good option was to keep going and hope I could make it to Mount Uniacke and fill up there. But what if their power was off too?

I started trying to be more careful to drive efficiently, letting the car gradually slow down as I crested the hills, and then trying to get back up to a good speed to make the next hill. Maybe that would save just that little bit extra to get me to Mount Uniacke!

As I got off the highway and turned toward the Mount Uniacke gas station, I thought it would almost be a surprise if this gas station was actually open. But I could still hope...

My fears were confirmed when I saw those paper signs taped to the pumps again.

Now what? I turned off the car at the side of the road and asked God for His guidance. I realized that, as is always the case, I was totally dependent on Him. Nothing could go wrong when He was with me.

I knew the customers would soon be waiting for me in Halifax, so I started the car up and got back on the road. I decided to stay on the old highway that runs parallel to the freeway, and see if I could find a gas station that was open.

I passed through the villages, on the lookout for fuel. One gas station after the next was closed. I was getting into the outskirts of the city. If I could make it up Magazine Hill, I could roll all the way down into Dartmouth. We normally drive through the city of Dartmouth on our way to Halifax which lies on the other side of the harbour. Surely there would be at least one gas station open somewhere in Dartmouth.

But if I got up the hill, it would have to be a miracle! This car can't go more than 20 minutes after the second indicator starts blinking. I had already been driving about 40 minutes since it began its final warning near Windsor, and the car was still running!

I got up that hill and rolled down the 3-kilometre slope on the other side. By this time I wasn't really surprised anymore to see the gas stations closed... all through Dartmouth. All the traffic lights were off, so every intersection was a four-way stop. That meant more stopping and starting, more time used—and more fuel consumption.

Maybe it had been foolish to keep going. I could have called home and had somebody bring the gas can when I was in Windsor. The violent gusts of the storm were still rocking my little car. I probably shouldn't have ven-

tured out at all in a hurricane.

I drove towards the first of the two large bridges that cross the Halifax Harbour. This bridge stands at the scene of one of the largest man-made explosions of all time, which happened just over a century ago here in the “Narrows” of the harbour, when a ship carrying explosives for WW1 was hit by another ship. But I wasn’t thinking about that as I drew near to the bridge this time. I just wanted to get over there where my customers were waiting.

When I got to the exit ramp leading to the bridge, it was blocked off, with a sign saying the bridge was closed due to the high wind.

I decided to try the other bridge. When I had finally made my way to the next bridge, it was also blocked off! The casual bridge patrol officer with an African accent told me the bridges might eventually open, but he didn’t know how long it would be.

I paused again in a parking lot to pray for guidance—making sure to turn off the engine. But why even bother turning it off, I wondered? By this time it was no question that God was supplying the fuel. Surely His supplies are unlimited!

I also called home and talked with my daughter Rebecca. I asked her to keep in contact with the customers, who by that time were calling and texting me, asking where I was. Several of them had decided they couldn’t take their orders because of the power outage, but there were others who were already waiting for me on the other side of the harbour.

After a few minutes I decided my only way across the water was to make the drive all the way around the Halifax Harbour and the adjoining Bedford Basin. This would normally take a good half hour with minimal traffic, but because of today’s detours and traffic jams I knew it would take a lot longer. However, I really didn’t know of another option.

So I started off, realizing that God was providing. Some roads were blocked because of fallen trees and downed power lines. As I navigated the detours and backtracked almost to the far bridge again to catch a different street, it was amazing to think that I was experiencing a supernatural act of God.

Why was He doing this? There had just been a hurricane. Many people across the Maritime provinces were without electricity; power lines were down; trees had been uprooted all over the city; and in the main path of the storm, homes had been lost. People needed food and didn’t have the means for cooking. Why did God choose to do this miracle on my behalf when I wasn’t even being a help to those in need? Rebecca told me one customer

decided to go home again since I wasn't getting there. By this time many of the customers were realizing they didn't really want to deal with frozen meat and raw eggs and vegetables, since they had no idea how long their electricity would be off.

I made the long drive around the beautiful Bedford Basin, which I would usually enjoy. However, this time I was busy with many thoughts, and always distracted with the jammed traffic horde. It was a tense drive because of the extra watchfulness that was required to get through every intersection with no guiding traffic lights.

An hour later, I finally arrived in the parking lot of the Halifax Forum where we usually have our market on Saturdays. I had been in contact with a customer who was waiting for me. I parked the car close to his, turned off the engine with a sense of wonder, and got his eggs.

He said he actually lived on the other side of the harbour and he had crossed the bridge about 45 minutes before. So the bridge must have opened just 15 minutes after I left. If I had waited there I would have saved that hour's drive!

After he left, I began calling customers to tell them I had arrived. As the few remaining people trickled by to pick up their meat or eggs, I told everybody about the miracle God had done to get me here without gas. Most just laughed it off nervously, not knowing how to deal with such a claim. A Christian friend came to get her eggs and vegetables. She was excited to hear about the miracle, and was the first to join me in giving God credit and glory for it.

She told me she had heard there was a gas station open on the other side of the city, and she was heading over there to see if she could fill up her car. She offered to let me know if it was true that it was open, and even bring me gas from there if she could.

Another friend told me over the phone that he would not be able to take their order. He hadn't received my emails about our special delivery run since their internet was down. He told me there was a gas station close by that looked like it was open when he had passed by just before. He said there was a lineup and it looked very busy.

After I had finished looking after the customers, I drove around the corner to drop off a final order. This couple's telephone service wasn't working so I hadn't been able to contact them. When I showed up at the door, the sweet lady thankfully accepted my delivery, surprised to see me on such a day. Their street was still littered with large fallen trees that had been pushed or dragged aside. Her husband was helping the neighbors deal

with the mess and discuss a plan of action.

After this I headed down the street and around the corner in the direction of the gas station which our friend had said might be open. Right after I turned the corner there was a long line of cars the length of this quarter-mile-long block. I stayed in line with the car running most of the time, since the line kept creeping ahead every half minute or so.

As I sat in line I kept pondering on God's providence. I enjoyed fellowship with Him there in the car, knowing He was keeping the car running just for my benefit.

The line crept along very slowly until finally, after about an hour, I was close to the other end. That was when I saw the cars in the line-up were all turning in at Tim Horton's! Here I had been inching along in the waiting line all this time and they were all going to the fast food restaurant! The way was open to drive right in to the gas station next to it.

The gas station was very crowded but after five minutes of waiting and helping an old couple with their credit card, I was able to drive right up to the gas pump and fill the tank. By this time I wasn't sure how necessary it really was to fill up, since God could keep it running indefinitely! But I knew He wants us to take responsibility for what we're able to do.

So there I was, all filled up and starting back home. After more than two and a half hours of running on completely empty, I was driving with a full tank again. As I drove, I considered the absurdities of the day.

First, the person I was making the trip for cancelled her order.

The bridge opened up just after I decided to drive around the Basin.

Then other customers cancelled their orders. And it seemed the rest were just coming to get their orders because I had made the trip in for them, not because they really wanted this food—which was just a storage liability for them.

Finally, I waited in line for gas when I could have passed the whole row in the center lane and saved that hour of idling!

But I didn't regret it.

Through all that time I was beginning to realize the reason why the Lord was allowing this experience. He was gently showing me that He wanted me to learn to simply release everything into His hands and be close to Him—to be aware of His presence and enjoy fellowship with Him.

He does care for the poor and needy, including those that suffer from hurricanes and other disasters—very deeply. But God works through people's needs to turn them to Him. And He was using this situation to get me to rely on Him also, to more clearly see my dependence on Him, and to



thankfully rest in His care and fellowship.

We were created for fellowship with God. I assume Adam and Eve probably walked and talked with God in the garden before the fall. But they hid themselves on that awful day which separated them from His close fellowship. Sin separates us from our holy, righteous God because good and evil cannot exist in harmony with each other.

Throughout the time of the patriarchs, kings and prophets, God continued to pursue fellowship with mankind, the crowning glory of His creation.

At Mount Sinai, after giving them the law, He patiently explained to the Israelites that if they would keep His commands, He would make His dwelling among them and walk with them and they would be His people. (*Leviticus 26:3-12*)

Finally, the grand plan of the ages came to fulfillment as God established the ultimate King that would rule forever in David's house. Jesus the Messiah came to accomplish what wasn't happening otherwise. His mission was to restore the fellowship between us and our loving Father.

Just before He died, Jesus said this to His disciples: "If anyone loves me, he will keep my word; and My Father will love him and We will make our abode with him." (John 14:23)

After He had risen and ascended to heaven, Jesus appeared to John with a similar message. Jesus lovingly pleaded with the lukewarm church to be zealous and repent. He wanted them to know that He was still knocking at their door—He hadn't forsaken them yet, for all their indifference. Then He said, "If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him, and will dine with him, and he with me." (Rev. 3:20)

Through my own experience, God was patiently setting things up to make it easy for me to acknowledge Him. He wanted me to draw near to Him—and He was right there, ready to draw near to me in response. (*James 4:8*)

He was working to "perfect, confirm, strengthen and establish" me. (*1 Peter 5:10*)

I don't want God's grace to go to waste. The best I can do is to always be mindful of His love and His desire to have more of me, and to enjoy the close contact with Him which is made possible for me through Jesus' sacrifice.

Will this account motivate you to do the same?



# Why God Made Male and Female

By Nathaniel Martin

Marriage is a picture of God Himself. God is a God of relationship. He is three in One. God said let us make man in our image. (*Gen. 1:26,27*) The Father and the Son are one. (*John 10:30*) The Father loves the Son. (*John 5:20*) It is a picture of Christ and His relationship to the Church, His people, His body. (*Eph. 5:30-32*) Christ did not live without the Father. We cannot live without Christ.

Godly jealousy is good; there is one God, there is one church. (*Eph. 4:4-6*) A man should have only one wife. A woman should have only one husband. Two, it was said, shall be one flesh – not just one, not three, but two. (*Gen.2:24, Eph. 5:31*) Husbands and wives must not engage in sexual activity other than with their spouse. To engage in such activity outside of marriage is actually not about relationship, it is really about selfishness. The end of those involvements is death, not relationship. Extra-marital indulgence that is not repented of go with a person unto judgement. It also goes with a person in to marriage. When one enters marriage with unrepented sin, that is bringing unfaithfulness in to the marriage. Sin must be repented of, confessed and forsaken, even if it happened before marriage. Sinning while single is damaging to a future marriage.

The Jews of old went a whoring from God. They worshipped other gods; they were not faithful to their husband Jehovah. That adultery was a matter of worship, a matter of the heart. So, I believe that a couple

should have their hearts turned one to the other. And unfaithfulness in marriage goes beyond just the “physical”.

Marriage is not just about receiving, it is about giving. The husband and wife should always think of the good of the other. Marriage is not to be selfish; it is about relationship.

God made our bodies for relationship. To self induce what is meant for marriage is not good. Marriage is two bodies becoming one, not one body by itself. Marriage cannot be done by one’s self, neither can the Christian life.

When a person marries, they became one with their spouse. When one goes into a harlot, they become one with her. (*1 Cor. 6:16*) When a man and woman come together there is a connection made that is deeper and longer-lasting than the physical connection for the moment. That coming together is not just physical—it is mental, emotional and spiritual. The physical act cannot be separated from the mental, emotional and spiritual aspects. When done in holy matrimony, there is a healthy bonding. If done outside of holy matrimony, there will be ill effects in our mind, emotions and spirit.

In Romans 1:26-27 it speaks of “the natural use”. While we understand that this passage is speaking specifically of homosexuality, any sexual involvement other than man with woman is “leaving the natural use”.

To walk in connection to God and

not by ourselves or with other gods  
is the heart of the matter. Christ in  
us, the hope of glory. (Col 1:27)  
Christ gave His life for us and we  
give our lives to Him. A man should

give himself for his wife and the  
wife should give herself to her hus-  
band. We were made for relation-  
ship.



**P**urity is with singleness and wholeheartedness

**U**nderstanding the depth of Christ's love,

**R**ealizing and finding in Jesus your completeness.

**I**n Jesus atonement, by blood on the cross, this is sure,

**T**hough you have chosen evil thoughts, words, and actions,

**Y**our conscience denied, and adulterated your heart—you can be pure!

*Micah Rosenbarker*

*It is not worth the thrill  
To step out of God's will  
Despite all the glitter  
It will not fulfill.*

*Your emotions will grill,  
While your spine has a chill.  
It will constantly feel  
Like you're going uphill.*

*When you walk in God's ways  
You'll step out of the haze  
And with confident strides  
You'll abandon the maze.*

*Your fear will be razed,  
And your eyes, they will blaze  
With notable gladness,  
And passionate praise.*

- M. Z. Hurst

Taken from the book *The Contentment Dilemma; Examining Life's Mysteries and Purposes* by Marcus Hurst.. ISBN:979-8-88759-691-4— paperback

# Fruit

By Roman Stefak

When we read the New Testament carefully, we will notice that holiness, righteousness and the Christian life are portrayed as a fruit, in contrast to a work or a result of some labor. (*Matt 7:18*), (*Mark 4:8*), (*John 15*), (*Rom 6:22*), (*Rom 7:4*) For many unbelievers looking from the outside, righteous living and holiness seem like hard work and much restraining in many areas of life. Unfortunately for many believers it is not much different. Christian life for them consists of DOs and DON'Ts and they cannot imagine it being any other way.

The main reason that people hold such views is that their hearts are not changed. In their mind they know God's moral standard and what He requires. But in their heart, they still love their sin and can't even imagine that there is a way to be free from it, to be pure not only in their actions but also in their thoughts, to love what God loves and to hate what He hates. But this is exactly what Christian life is all about. It's a new heart from which proceed all the right actions.

The Old Testament was a covenant, a contract between God and the people of Israel. God gave them the law, which had blessings if they obeyed it and curses if they broke it. God spoke to the people audibly and they heard the voice of God from the Mount Sinai. The people heard it and answered that everything that God says they will do, but before Moses even brought down the tables of stone on which God had written the words He had spoken, the people had already broken that law. They made themselves a calf and worshiped it. The people of Israel could not keep the law, because all that they had to keep it with was their flesh. All that they could keep, was the letter of the law and commandments concerning the purity of the body, but they could not keep the spirit of the law. As apostle Paul writes in the New Testament, the law is spiritual. (*Rom 7:14*) The law must be kept in the heart and not only externally. Jesus taught that a lustful look at a woman is the same as the act of adultery. (*Matt 5:27-28*) In 1 John 3:15 it says that to hate one's brother is to be a murderer. The last of the Ten Commandments deals with desire. The desire is an act of the heart, before any physical action takes place and a sinful desire itself is sin.

Even in the Old Testament God, through prophet Jeremiah, said that He will make a new covenant with the people of Israel, NOT ACCORDING TO THE COVENANT that He made with their fathers. (*Jer 31:31-34*) This new covenant will not be dependent on how well they perform the law, but that the law of God will be in their hearts and that they will know God personally. Similarly in Ezekiel 36:26-27 God says that He will take a stony heart out of them and give them a heart of flesh and will put His Spirit within them and CAUSE THEM TO WALK IN HIS STATUTES AND KEEP HIS JUDGMENTS AND DO THEM. In the Old Testament obedience to the law was required, but in the new covenant the ability is given to

keep the law from the heart. The new heart and the Holy Spirit are given to the believer to live a holy and righteous life. This holy and righteous living comes not as an effort or a result of hard labor, but as a result of walking in the Spirit, as a fruit of walking in fellowship with God.

If we carefully read the epistle to the Galatians, we will notice that apostle Paul makes a clear contrast between being under the law and being under grace. The result of one is that the works of the flesh are manifest (*Gal 5:19*) and the result of the other is the fruit of the Spirit. (*Gal 5:22*) To be under law is to attempt to justify or sanctify ourselves with our own fleshly efforts, by trying to keep the requirements of God's law by our own strength. To be under grace is to receive the grace of God through Christ Jesus and to allow the Holy Spirit to work in our hearts to change us from the inside. It's not enough to do the right actions. Any action to be righteous has to be done from the right motive, from the right heart.

As it says in Galatians 5:16, if we walk in the Spirit, we WILL NOT FULFILL THE LUSTS OF THE FLESH. The way to not fulfill the desires of the flesh is to walk in the Spirit, to abide in Christ, to walk in fellowship with Him, to depend on Him, otherwise if we attempt to live by the strength of the flesh, YOU CANNOT DO THE THINGS THAT YOU WANT. (*Gal 5:17*)

The fact is, the Christian life as Jesus taught, is not possible by any other means. The strictest rules cannot keep a person who loves their sin from sinning; no amount of accountability will solve the problem. But against those who have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts and have the fruit of the Spirit, there is no law. (*Gal 5:22-24, Romans 8:1-2*) The law of God is in their hearts and the Holy Spirit is producing the very character of God in them. Those who have God's character hate sin as God hates it and love righteousness as He does. Do those who hate sin need to be restrained from it?

As we examine ourselves, our own life, our heart, our actions, if there are works of the flesh manifest, it means that we are under law and in the flesh. The only way to bring forth fruit is to be a branch and to abide in the True Vine (*John 15:1,5*), to be under grace and to walk after the Spirit, receiving grace to live the Christian life. The state of our heart (and actions that proceed from the heart) is simply the result of our abiding—a fruit.



## Scripture Verse Song CD

46 songs sung by Ben Shell  
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## Trimming the Cow's Hoof

My working cow went lame in her front foot. She had a crack in her hoof and she had swelling right above her hair line. I fed her supplements and treated her foot topically. The treatments I gave helped some, but she still had problems. My Dad suggested that I trim her hooves. At first I did not heed his advice; I did not think it would help. But her hooves were too long and I changed my mind.

Cattle, unlike horses, are not good at picking their feet up, especially their back ones. If I remember correctly, I did trim her front hooves some while she was standing but she did not like it. I thought about buying a sling to hold her up while I worked on her feet. "More money spent and another thing to have to store..." I was unsure and I held off from buying the sling.

Then one day I saw her lying down and it occurred to me that I could trim the hooves that she had sticking out. Working on her feet did not bother her very much. It would have been easier and I could have done a better job if I had a proper hoof-trimming chute. But it worked and it did not cost me much in time or money. I was glad I waited. She did not have lameness in that foot and the crack in her hoof grew out.

This fall I realized that the cow's hooves needed more trimming. As I thought on it, I remembered how I had trimmed them before without spending money, but the idea crossed my mind that this time it wouldn't be that way and it would be easier to just buy the "needed" equipment. Later in the morning I went to the barn to give hay and bedding, no longer thinking about trimming hooves. I stepped into their pen and there she was lying with her back feet sticking out. I grabbed the nippers and hoof knife and trimmed her feet. It was not a perfect job, but better than they had been.

Once again, I could have quickly ordered some equipment I did not need that would mostly just set around (if I had a lot of cows, it would be a different story). But I waited a little and the need was taken care of without more "stuff". How much simpler our lives would be if we had more patience and contentment! This is a lesson from the Lord to me—not just in farming, but in all areas of life—to be patient and content, and also ready for action. If we wait on the Lord, He will supply our need in the proper time and way.

*By Nathaniel Martin*

**Be still, and know that I *am* God: I will be exalted among the heathen,  
I will be exalted in the earth.**

*Psalms 46:10*

# Kettle Contentment

For years I'd been eyeing those handy popcorn kettles, thinking it would make my life better. We considered purchasing a stainless steel one, but Nathaniel's experience told him there would eventually be gears to replace. So, he created a nifty rig that was practically indestructible and worked well. The only problem was, I felt clumsy and unsafe when using it.

We were aware that others use a regular pan to pop corn on a wood cook stove, but we both assumed the stove would need to be blazing hot for it to work right. When a friend

told me she thought the easiest way to make popcorn was on a wood cook stove, I decided to try it.

I got the stove going as hot as I normally would for cooking anything else. I put 1 tablespoon of oil in a 2-quart flat, heavy-bottomed sauce pan and added ¼ cup of popcorn kernels. I put on the glass lid and waited. When the corn began to pop, I shook the pan every now and then until the kernels were finished popping.

I dumped the popcorn into a bowl, marveling at how uncomplicated and inexpensive it can be to make perfect popcorn on a wood cook stove. The pan's glass lid allowed us to view the miniature "explosions", adding a whole new dimension to making popcorn! It felt like a gift from God and was a reminder that I can be content with simple things.

"But godliness with contentment is great gain." (1Timothy 6:6)

*By Savannah Martin*



Harmony G. Martin was born on August 25, 2024 to Nathaniel & Savannah Martin. She weighed 6 lbs. 10 oz. and was 20" long.



**Now available!**

***A New Song For My Lord***  
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**.....Today if  
ye will hear  
His voice,  
harden not  
your hearts.**

***Hebrews 4:7b***