

November 2000

**"LAZARUS COME FORTH!"**

by Mark Legendre

In John 11, we read about the death of a man by the name of Lazarus, who was a close friend of Jesus; a man that Jesus loved. Jesus could have prevented his death had he been in Bethany before Lazarus died. But Jesus waited until Lazarus died so that He might have the opportunity to raise him from the dead and thereby give glory to God. By the time Jesus arrived in Bethany, Lazarus had been in the grave for four days. It did not matter; Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life ...". He then proceeded to raise Lazarus from the dead, thus demonstrating clearly His power over death. Jesus said "Lazarus, come forth." And when he spoke, Lazarus came walking out of the tomb. What a glorious demonstration of the power of God.

In John 5:28-29, we read that when Jesus returns at the last day that "...all that are in the graves shall hear His voice, and come forth...", just as Lazarus did on this occasion. And those who are saved shall be given "eternal Life in Heaven" in the very presence of Jesus, who is indeed "the resurrection and the life." And what a glorious day that will be!

ARE YOU READY FOR THAT DAY TO COME? I hope that you are. If not, then maybe it's time to get ready!

**WHO CAN FIND A VIRTUOUS WOMAN?**

By Mark Legendre

In Proverbs 31:10, Solomon ask the question, "Who can find a VIRTUOUS woman? For her price is far above rubies. "Lena Chesser wa just such a woman. She was born on September 16, 1904 and died October 25, 2000 at the age of 96. She was a godly, sweet, sincere child of God who diligently served the Lord for more years than many people even live. Our heartfelt sympathies go out to Louis Chesser, her husband of almost 75 years, and to all of Lena's children as well. Bill Beard, a long time friend and member of the North Main Church of Christ, wrote a beautiful tribute in honor of sister Chesser. I would like to list that tribute here.

**"A BRIGHT LIGHT TO MANY LIVES"**

By Bill Beard

Lena Chesser was a lady small of stature but large, very large, in heart and character. "Mom," as she was affectionately known for about half of her 96 years, had room in her heart for family, friends, neighbors, those she worshipped

Almighty God with, strangers in the grocery store, the whole state of Texas, you name it.

The true Apple of "Mom's" eye while here on earth, however, was "Pop." and rightly so. Pop is Louis Chesser. Mom and Pop were wed on Christmas Day in 1925, almost 75 years ago. Pop's loss is crushing, but the good life, the faithful life he and Mom shared together sustains and anchors his will.

Coffee at Mom's was a way of life for a circle of neighbors and friends for years, almost on a daily basis. If someone wanted a Coke or a Big Orange though, Pop would jump on his golf cart and dash over to the quick stop. And always, a fun time was had by all.

Even though Mom has been gone only hours, little children, High school kids, young adults, middle-agers, and peers are eulogizing her with fond accounts of her touching their lives. Mom and Pop were fixtures in Pew Three, Left, at the North Main Church of Christ in Vidor from "day one". As they entered the building on the Lord's Day, everyone they got close to got a warm, happy hug. One 14-years old recalls Mom observing, "...how many inches you have grown since last week!" A 40-year old honestly felt that Mom transcended time. Loved ones and friends who came by to comfort Pop have been of one mind: "Where Mom is now is where I want to be ... IN ETERNITY!"

Perhaps a paradox within this memorial is that Pop is mentioned almost as many times as Mom. Is Pop still alive? You bet; and kicking! The fact of the matter is that for decades Mom and Pop were seldom thought of, or mentioned individually. They were inseparable, and few would have it any other way. So it is in these trying times.

Good-bye Mom. You are a wonderful, indelible part of our fond memories. Our having known you and being caressed by your love is a treasured blessing. Thank God that these memories are blessings that were bequeathed unto many of us. Love....

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Even though I only knew Lena Chesser for about 5 years, I too was touched by her gentleness, kindness, and love. At her funeral four different men who knew her at different stages of her life all spoke about the kind of woman that she was when they each knew her. And in each case, the testimony about her life was the same. This speaks volumes about the consistency of her character throughout life. Lena was a devoted servant of God who will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved her. Let us all be thankful to God for the wonderful example of commitment to God and love of her fellow-man that she left behind for all of us to follow. I pray God's richest blessings will be on Louis and his family as they work through this time of grief. May you find comfort in the treasured memories of the beautiful life she lived while upon this earth.

Mark