

March 2005

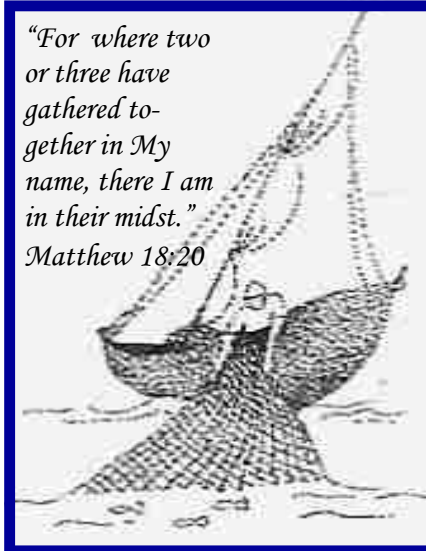
# *The Gathering Net - 2005*

## *Pastor Carmen's Word for the Month*

Dear Saints,

Let's read and muse over a couple of scriptures that fundamentally describe us as created beings of God. Genesis 1:26 and 27 says, **"Then God said, Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness;...." And God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him: male and female He created them.**" Genesis 5:3 states, **"When Adam had lived one hundred and thirty years, he became the father of a son in his own likeness, according to his image, and named him Seth."** Isn't it amazing that there is a part of us that is so like God and another part that is so unlike Him (sinful nature). As we read in Genesis, Adam produced a child very much like himself. We now know that that has a lot to do with genes and chromosomes, e.g. (x and y, etc.) As I, and many others have observed, what we inherit can be very specific; not only appearances such as facial features, eyes, hair, body structure, but also mannerisms, traits and attitudes. I have observed or been told that, for instance, my posture and the way I eat, walk and sit are almost identical to others to whom I am related. This pertains not only to children and their parents, but to cousins, aunts and uncles, nieces and nephews. I know of one nephew that looks more like his uncle than his dad. My son, C.J. has physical similarities to his Uncle Mike. Rachelle, my daughter, definitely looks and acts in so many ways like my sister, Therese Anne. Now I know some of you might say that most of this is due to observed and learned behavior, but I also can attest to nieces and nephews who do things identical to aunts and uncles who live hundreds of miles away. They aren't even aware that their actions are the same until someone points it out to them. Simple things like the way they cut a sandwich in half,

*"For where two or three have gathered together in My name, there I am in their midst."*  
Matthew 18:20



the way they eat, the way they hold their glass or the way they hold a napkin might be identical. By the way, sometimes this can be very amusing.

Recently, my son, C.J. and I were engrossed in a football game together when Nikki, his wife, called to Elaine in the next room and said, "Look, oh my gosh, they are in the identical posture!" Also, when playing canasta with Elaine and her mom, I looked up and saw they were both contemplating the next play with their index finger on their lips. Since they both favor one another so much I thought I was seeing in "stereo." (chuckle)

In all seriousness there are two major results from all this "passing it on." The first is **negative** known as **generational curses** as in Exodus 34:6-7

**"The Lord, the Lord God,, compassionate, and gracious , slow to anger, and abounding in loving kindness and truth, who keeps loving kindness for thousands, who forgives iniquity, transgression and sin; yet He will by no means leave the guilty unpunished, visiting the iniquity of fathers on the children and on the grandchildren to the third and fourth generations.**

Over the last 30 to 35 years I have observed in myself and my own family, and in many counseling sessions, the sins that have been passed down to the next generation. It is so pervasive and evidenced in such things as ad-

dictions of all kinds, divorce, violence, incest, intellectual pride, immorality; I could go on and on. This includes ethnicity. You know, the comments people make like, "Boy, he's sure a chip off the old block." or "It's in their blood; the whole family was like that." That can be so negative and frankly sometimes self-fulfilling. It leaves one feeling hopeless and believing that they can never change.

Thank God there is a **positive side** to all this. It is

*(Continued on page 2)*

called **spiritual inheritance** and a new DNA. Let me explain. When God created us, we were created with three parts: body, soul, and spirit.

- \* Our **soul part**, which encompasses the mind, will, and emotion is the seat of our personality and is manifested through the principal of individuality.
- \* Our **spirit** is that part which is the **connector to God**. It is the place where we become “born again.” When we were unbelievers our spirits were “dead to God” but alive to the world and the demonic. ie. ‘sons of the devil’ supported by Jesus’ words in John 8:44, **“You whose father is the devil.”** In our spirit we had what the Word says is the old man and Oswald Chambers refers to it as our “mainspring.” When we believed and received Jesus as Lord and Savior we are justified and our “mainspring” was exchanged from the “old man” (the enemy’s children and DNA) to our new one. We now experience the old DNA versus our new DNA.

I won’t bother you with the scientific name for the DNA, but it is the blueprint, or fingerprint, of our physical, psychological and, I believe, our spiritual genes, chromosomes, acids, etc. As I explained in the beginning of the newsletter, we inherit our traits, mannerisms and others things from our relatives. In fact let me insert something right here. The Bible says in Acts 17:26 we, (all mankind) are of **“one blood.”** Boy, is that a shock to some people who are racist or prejudice. We (all races, ethnicity) come from **one blood**. i. e. Adam, Noah and his sons, etc. Even the scientific community recognizes this as a common gene in all humans and they ironically call it the “Eve Gene.” How about that! But what I love about our body and soul is that God has created us with our own specific “DNA” which allows us to be like our family but also different; again the principal of individuality and personality. The Lord loves diversity with harmony and unity.

Now, back to the “spirit “ man. Being a new creature in Christ ( II Cor. 5:17 ) we no longer have the devil’s DNA; but we now have the DNA of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Just this morning while awakening from my sleep, the Holy Spirit gave me a new acrostic for DNA. It is Divine Nature Acquisition. II Peter 1:4b states it this way. We, who are the sons of the living God **“are partakers of His Divine nature.”** WOW! Now within me and you is the Divine power that created the universe, heals the sick, and above all allows us the incredible opportunity to be like the One whose DNA we have now inherited. ( **“conformed to His Image”**- Roman 8:29 ) This is something that is difficult to grasp, but I believe it by faith because He said it.

You might be asking then, “How is it that I still sin?” Because even though my spirit DNA is perfect and sealed: Justified; my body and soul are still in the process of being made Holy: Sanctified (I Thess. 5:23). This month we celebrate the foundation of our faith; that is the **crucifixion**, and **resurrection** of our **Re-deemer**. You see at the cross the Lord put to death the old DNA for us and on Sunday morning “birthed” for us and in us our new DNA. WOW, what a gift! Because you belong to Him, within your DNA is all the fruit of the Spirit, all the power, all the hope, and all you will ever need, to be a victorious overcomer. You and I belong to a new family with a great spiritual inheritance and DNA. I want to encourage you to start experiencing your DNA in a fresh and continual way. Enjoy the Resurrection season all year long.

Grateful that you and I have His DNA,

*Carmen*



**HE IS RISEN, ALLELUIA!**



## REPORT FROM GREENVILLE CAPLN EVENT

Since most of you were unable to be with us for Carmen's teaching in Greenville last week for the Central AL Prayer Leaders' Network, I (the editor) want to share a little of his outline with you...

### Discerning the Strategies of the Enemy

#### Who is our enemy? What is his name?

- \* Satan—meaning adversary; particularly in opposition to God.
- \* Devil—accuser, slanderer, maligner; also known as serpent, dragon, hairy one (goat)
- \* Note: There is only one devil. There are many demons who form his forces of wickedness around the world, but the devil can only be in one place at any given time.

#### What is his character?

- \* Evil personified—root of pride and independence (Is. 14:12-17, Ez. 28:1-19)
- \* Originator of sin
- \* Encourages three forms of evil (Ps. 32:51, Ps. 103, Is. 53:4-9)
  - sin**—departure from God's love, missing the mark
  - transgression**—crossing the line/law
  - iniquity**—excessive wickedness, having one's own way!
- \* The Holy Spirit identifies him as shrewd, crafty, cunning, wise and a schemer.

#### What are his mission and purpose?

- \* To usurp God's authority
- \* To control and attack us
  - He distorts & perverts Gen. 3:1-5
  - He blinds & hardens 2 Cor. 4:4
  - He deceives, seduces, disguises thru ignorance and weakness of our flesh causing doubt and suspicion of God Gen.3:1-5
  - He accuses, condemns our identity, character and performance Rev. 12:10-11
  - He divides thru our relationships with God and others, using unforgiveness, bitterness and excess sorrow as tools.

#### How do he and his tactics affect us?

- \* He infects our minds with lies and vain imaginings.
- \* He afflicts our bodies with sickness. (Not all sickness is from the devil.)
- \* He instigates wrong attitudes in our hearts, such as a religious spirit which is characterized by comparing, competing, compromising, being condescending and critical.

**What do we do about this?** See next column...



### Our strategy for victory!

- \* Focus on intimacy with Jesus, humility, His presence and simplicity. 2 Cor. 11:3
- \* Know the tools to overcome him are the Blood of Christ, our testimony and our life. Rev. 12:10-11
- \* Use the three R's:
  - Repent**: at the Cross. Sin gives access to demonic activity.
  - Rebuke**—never attack, just stand. 2 Peter 2, James 4:7, Eph. 6:10-17.
  - Rest**—embrace the circumstances, God's in control. Ex. 2 Cor. 12:7-10, Rom. 16:19-20

## What's Going On This Month?

**March 1** Tues. 12:00 Noon  
Reconciliation Meeting First Baptist  
1:30 Downtown Prayer Walk TV 45 Taping (TBN)

**March 2** Wed. 10:00-11:00  
Mayor's Prayer Meeting His Vessel Ministry

**March 7-10** Mon.-Wed. City Reacher's Workshop  
George Otis Jr. Tampa, FL.

**March 7-28** Elaine in Arkansas with her Mom.

**March 16** Wed 10:30--11:30  
Servant Leadership Meeting Frazer  
11:30-1:30  
John 17 Pastor's Luncheon Frazer

**March 23** Wed. 8:00-11:15  
Teaching at Bible College  
Canaan Land Ministries Autaugaville, AL.

**March 24** Thurs 12:00-1:00  
Beasley-Allen Bible Study Downtown

**March 25** Friday 1:30-3:30  
Lou Engle "Silent Siege" Prayer  
Alabama Supreme Court

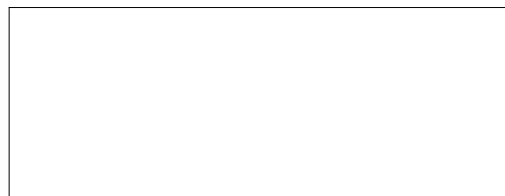
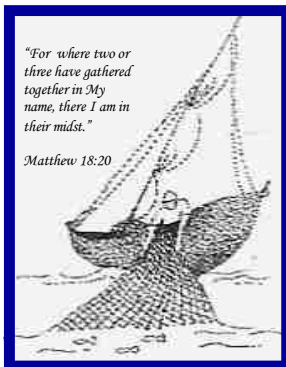
**March 26** Sat 12:00-2:30  
Lou Engle and "The Cause"  
Montgomery Justice, Noah Webster Campus

**THE GATHERING IS A MINISTRY OF UNITY AND RECONCILIATION OF THE BODY OF CHRIST!**

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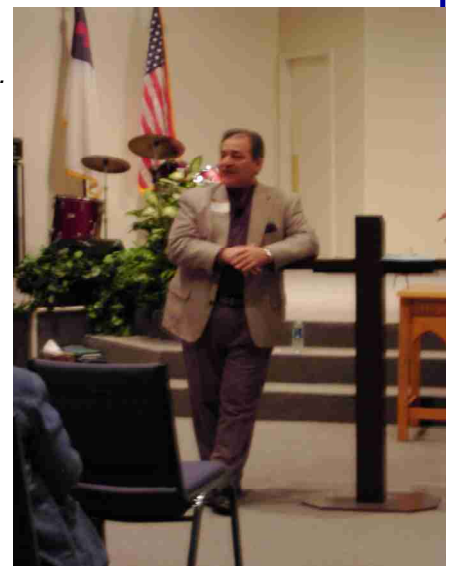
**the prayer closet - "We are ever giving thanks to God for all of you, continually mentioning [you when engaged] in our prayers, recalling unceasingly before our God and Father your work energized by faith and service motivated by love, and unwavering hope in (the return of) our Lord Jesus Christ, the Messiah." 1 Thess. 1:2-3**

### **Praise God**

*For the sweet spirit that was evident at the CAPLN event in Greenville last month.  
For God bringing Christians together in that area to unite them in purpose in reaching their community for Christ.  
For God's provision of prayer and financial resources for this ministry.*

### **Beseech the Father, Papa God**

*To give special care for Carmen and Elaine while they are apart this month, her caring for her Mom in Arkansas and Carmen with a full schedule of travel and ministry.  
To use the prayer efforts of Lou Engle and his ministry to accomplish His purposes as Lou visits Alabama March 19—27. For more info on his schedule visit his website at [www.elijahrevolution.com](http://www.elijahrevolution.com). Carmen will be participating in these efforts in Montgomery on the 25th and 26th of March.  
For His anointing and strength for the pastors in our area as they prepare to proclaim the message of Calvary and Easter! Use them mightily, Lord and give them boldness and clarity as they proclaim Your truth.  
To prepare the hearts of all His people in our area to come in one accord to bring Him honor and glory as we are reminded this Easter season of the awesome gift of our salvation through His crucifixion and resurrection!  
To use us to draw the lost to Him and His Kingdom!*



Carmen at Call to Life Worship Center in Greenville, AL for CAPLN Quarterly Training on February 26, 2005.