

CLEAR VISION

CENTER FOR LIFE ENRICHMENT

“What’s in a name? That which we call a rose by any other name would smell as sweet.”

- William Shakespeare

SOUL FOOD: **FAITHFULNESS** *God’s Loyal Love* By Rich Blue

What’s in a name? As with Romeo and Juliet, a name had the power to obstruct the pursuit of true love. Names carry great significance and in Bible times, names usually foretold something of a person’s nature or character. The name you were given often carried with it a prophetic declaration of who you were to become.

God does not insulate us from all pain and hardship.

Jesus used name changes to underscore momentous times of personal and spiritual transformation. For example, He changed the name of his disciple, Simon, to Peter, meaning rock, and declared it was on this “rock” that He would build His church. *“But what about you?” He asked. “Who do you say I am?” Simon Peter answered, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”* Jesus was so moved by Simon’s faith as evidenced by his understanding of His true identity that he gave Simon a new name and with it made him the first father of the faithful.

My first name for God was “Danny.” I had hounded (pun intended!) my folks to get a dog for years. It was my 12th birthday and my father surprised me with

the greatest gift I ever received. He announced that for my birthday we were going to look at a litter of Golden Retriever puppies and I was going to pick one to be my very own. I was ecstatic. The minute I saw the puppy, I knew he was the one. Instantly, he became

my new best friend and I named him Daniel the

Lionhearted. I would run home after school every day to play with him and knew he would be watching and waiting for me at the top of the hill.

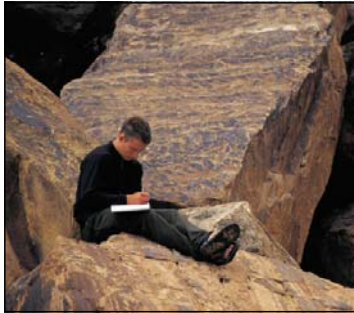
It wasn’t until much later I realized what had eventually moved my father to change his mind and let me have a dog. I knew he wasn’t crazy about animals but what I didn’t know at the time was how much he loved me. My Dad was not the expressive type and kept his feelings to himself. I was much more accustomed to experiencing his disfavor than his tender affection. My dad was one of those people who showed their love through action.

My parents knew I was lonely and hurting and today we would

gather I was battling with depression. Like Peter, my father was a rock and I had found him to be virtually unmovable—and you can imagine how I might have tested his resolve! I now understand the only reason my Dad changed his mind about having a dog was because he knew I needed something he could not give me. Danny was the clearest demonstration of my father’s faithfulness—his loyal love for me.

Danny was not only a demonstration of my father’s love; he was a testament to the faithfulness of God. I now believe that it was through the kindness of my parents I was introduced to the loving care of God. I now understand God does not insulate us from all pain and hardship. Instead, He shows His love through simple everyday kindnesses like a word of encouragement as well as landmark events like getting your very first dog.

As many of you know, dogs are amazing friends. They may be one of the best examples of faithfulness—they are loyal, loving, and forgiving. They are pictures of the Hebrew word, *hesed*, used in the Bible to describe the loyal love



CLE invites you to...

Share Your Journey

We are all on a journey.

At CLE, we believe in co-voyaging together.

We all benefit from the sharing of experiences with others along the way. We believe you will grow from the experience of writing about your personal growth work and also that readers will appreciate and learn from what you share.

You may write about any topic that you choose, preferably related to your own personal growth work. Possible topics include but are not limited to the following:

- What you are learning and how you are growing as a result of your work here at CLE
- How specific experiences or assignments have impacted your life
- Poetry or prose that have come out of your personal growth work

If you would like to coordinate your writing with the main topics of our monthly "Clear Vision" newsletter, they are as follows:

- September: Gentleness
- October: Self Control

Contact Christina at cnorman@center-4-life.com for more information.

FAITHFULNESS *God's Loyal Love* (continued from page 1)

and faithfulness of God. The Bible is replete with stories illustrating the loving kindness of God toward His children. Time and time again, the characters of the Bible would stumble and rebel only to find their heavenly parent drafting a way for them to find their way home.

As Jeremiah wrote, "The faithful love of the Lord never ends! His mercies never cease. Great is his faithfulness; his mercies begin afresh each morning." (Lam 3:22, 23) This day, open your heart in a new way to recognize and receive the grace-filled gifts of God. As you experience the faithful-

ness of God and others make it a point to share the wealth by passing on blessings to those around you. Pray for the eyes to see the needs of those around you! What act of kindness could you do in the next 30 minutes?



Great is Thy Faithfulness

By Thomas Chisholm 1923

Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father;
 There is no shadow of turning with Thee;
 Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not;
 As Thou hast been, Thou forever will be.

Refrain

Great is Thy faithfulness!

Great is Thy faithfulness!

Morning by morning new mercies I see.

All I have needed Thy hand hath provided;

Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

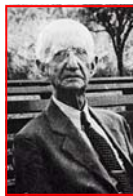
Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
 Sun, moon and stars in their courses above
 Join with all nature in manifold witness
 To Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.

Refrain

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth
 Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
 Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
 Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

About this Hymn:

According to Chisholm, there were no special circumstances which caused its writing - just his experience and Bible truth. The hymn first appeared in *Songs of Salvation and Service*, 1923, compiled by William M. Runyan. It is the unofficial "school hymn" of Moody Bible Institute in Chicago, with which Runyan was associated for a number of years.



Staff Directory:

Richard Blue, M.A., LCPC, NCC
 Clinical Director
 (847) 333-9933

Nancy Rollins, M.S., LCPC, NCC
 (847) 333-9082

Gabriela Caballero Cantú, M.A., LPC
 (847) 333-6401

Matt Eaton, M.A.
 (847) 333-0064

Christina Norman Office Manager
 (847) 272-3684 ext. 10

Jenn Eaton Administrative Assistant
 (847) 272-3684 ext. 10

*"The faithful love of the LORD never ends!
 His mercies never cease.
 Great is his faithfulness;
 his mercies begin afresh
 each morning."*

- Lamentations 3:22-23

GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS © 1923 Hope Publishing Company Used by permission.

Groups

CLE has a variety of groups to choose from. Please contact Christina at (847) 272-3684 ext. 10 if you would like more information about a specific group.

Graduate <i>(4th Wed. of the month)</i>	Assignment <i>(Mon. & Tues.)</i>	Couple's <i>(2nd Fri. of the month)</i>	Career Enhancement <i>(every other Tuesday)</i>	Men's <i>(Friday)</i>
Mom's <i>(Tuesday)</i>	Pastor's <i>(every other Thursday)</i>	Running Club <i>(1st Sat. of the month)</i>	Sage Sister's <i>(3rd Sat. of the month)</i>	

Women of Character Series: *Courageous to Risk*

Who of us can say we are living the kinds of lives we are absolutely proud of? Who of us have not at one time or another played it safe instead of risking it all to do what we feel most passionate about?

This series of workshops is designed to inspire and equip women to live the lives they have always dreamed of. We are gathering women together who want more in their lives and want to make an even greater impact on their families, communities and the world.

The second workshop in this Women of Character series is entitled, "Courageous to Risk." In the first workshop, "Committed to the Core", we examined who our life heroes were and began the process of identifying the core values we want to have exemplify our lives.

With these core values in mind, this next workshop will explore using BHAG's (Big Hairy Audacious Goals) to inspire us to live more dynamic lives. We will join together as a community of women to support and inspire each other to go for what we have only been willing to dream about - to risk the impossible and thus unleash the supportive power of Providence.

"... The moment that one definitely commits one's self then providence moves too."

- Goethe

3-Part Series

**Committed to the Core
(June 16th)**

**Courageous to Risk
(Sept 8th)**

**Challenged to Grow
(TBA)**

When: Saturday, September 8th, 7:30 - 10:30 am Location: 666 Dundee Rd. Ste 503 Cost: \$125.00 (bring a friend for \$50.00)



CENTER FOR LIFE ENRICHMENT



666 Dundee Rd. Ste 503
Northbrook, IL 60062
Phone: (847) 272-3684
www.center-4-life.com

Inside this issue of [CLEar Vision](#)

Soul Food - Faithfulness
Great is Thy Faithfulness
Upcoming Events

"I do not pray for success, I ask for faithfulness."

- Mother Teresa