

Words of Life

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From Shechem to Bethel



Quietly, in many places and largely unseen, God is raising up a vessel which is truly His house. It consists not of single outstanding individuals, whether great in preaching or revival or anything else, but in humble men and women who have been welded into one by the cross. Shechem must become Bethel. God must deliver us from the whole principle of individualism. He must save us from wanting to be outstanding individual Christians, and somehow make us one in His house. For it is the house of God that is His witness in the earth. Everyone knows how difficult it is for Christians to live together! When by the grace of God it happens, and continues to happen, even hell takes notice.

But let us be careful. Is God's house a principle to be followed, or a life to be lived? Is it something to copy, or something to be? It would be easy, having seen the value of life together, to determine at all costs to apply the principles by which it should work. But this would not achieve the result. We must have the life of the Body, the shared life of Christ that

comes from Him as Head, before we can abide by its principles. They cannot just be learned.

Then how is this shared life attained? Our tent must be pitched, as we have seen already, between Ai and Bethel, between the heap and the house. On the one hand there is the house of God, the testimony to God's authority and rule in the Earth. On the other hand there is the heap of ruins, the ruin of our hopes and our ambitions, our expectations and our self-esteem. Only if our back is to this are we facing that. This is both a geographical and a spiritual fact. Only if we have accepted God's judgement upon the old creation as final are we facing toward what is represented by Bethel. When our flesh, our natural strength, has been dealt with, then, and only then, do we fit into God's house naturally and without effort. We are as living stones, just the right size and shape for the place He has for us. Otherwise, however much we try to fit ourselves in, we just belong on the heap.

Marie

Marie Kolasinski



Piecemakers News

100th Birthday Celebration for Marie's cousin, Viola Smith



November 29, 2012, Viola Smith, Marie's cousin from Mount Calvary, Wisconsin, celebrated her 100th birthday. Friends and family gathered at Piecemakers to surprise her — and the big surprise was that she was surprised! A drum cake was waiting for Vi, as well as Piecemakers Singers' tribute with the music of her era. She received a phone call from Craigie Zildjian, the CEO of Avedis Zildjian Company along with several Zildjian T-shirts and a copy of a photo of her that has been on the company's Hall of Fame since 1948. The Ludwig Drum Company sent a letter that referred to Viola as the Matron Saint of Ludwig Drumming and a figurehead of their company's legacy. Vi opened a door for a whole century of women in the world of music, particularly jazz. She played an instrument reserved only for men, and played it better than most. She was known as the "female Gene Krupa".

A little history: In the 1920's through the 40's, Vi and her seven sisters became the Smith Sisters Orchestra. They traveled the Midwest, added more members and became "The Coquettes". When The Coquettes disbanded she joined the Phil Spitalny "Hour of Charm" Orchestra for fourteen years. Seven years were spent doing weekly radio and television shows (including five appearances on Ed Sullivan). She appeared in two movies: "Here Come the Coeds" with Abbott and Costello, and "When Johnny Comes Marching Home" with Allan Jones, Jane Frazee, Donald O'Connor and Peggy Ryan. Vi spent three years on Broadway as part of the Kit Kat Band in "Cabaret" with Joel Grey and Jill Haworth. The Kit Kat Band also made several TV appearances including Liza Minnelli's special, "Liza with a Z". Sweet Vi, we are happy to celebrate this 100th year milestone with you!



"Material Girls" Produce Quilts for Wounded Warrior Project

This dedicated group of nine quilters meet at Piecemakers regularly on Mondays and Fridays from 9:00 to 4:30 in one of our classrooms. They are a talented group of friendly, informative, and enthusiastic women who have been making quilts for the nationwide Wounded Warrior Quilt Project, an organization which insures that veterans recovering from wounds in Iraq and Afghanistan receive quilts made from the heart to show the nation's appreciation and support for their risking their lives.