# Behind the <br> Scenes 

## August 2023

Better Life Broadcasting Network
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BLBN.org 541-474-3089

## Expectations

By Charlie Oliver

I like processes and results. You do this, and that happens. It's the logic and clarity of math, a discipline that rewards effort and consistency. Every problem has a solution, and every choice has a consequence. I wish life was always so straightforward.

Last year, we adopted a new dog, filling the space left when we lost Cora earlier that year. Our son Wesley found Tilly at an animal shelter near Walla Walla. One thing led to another, and Wesley brought her home with him last Thanksgiving. Being a chocolate lab, like Cora, we thought we knew what to expect. We were so wrong!

Tilly likes her people, but loves Riley, our other dog. If Riley is around, Tilly is happy. This is a very good thing, and why we decided we should have two dogs. What we didn't know or understand was how much Tilly needs to be with her people. She doesn't like being left home alone, even if Riley is still there with her.

We found this out the hard way after kenneling Tilly outside with Riley while we were away at work one day, receiving a phone call from the neighbors that Tilly was over for a visit. This began a long series of events where Tilly would escape, and I'd try to secure the kennel further just to see her escape again the next day. Wash, rinse, repeat. And when I finally did succeed in securing the kennel, she was so traumatized by anxiety that we had to figure something else out entirely. This continues to be a journey.

Sometimes I feel like my Christian walk is similar. I have certain expectations of how God should work in my life, but then I face unexpected challenges or disappointments. It can be difficult to share the gospel with others when I struggle with my own issues or sins.

## Important August Dates

August 5 is National
"Work Like A Dog Day" My dog mostly sleeps, he has his meals prepared and delivered every day. This could be a very good day... but it's really all about appreciating people who work hard and are very productive. Maybe there should be a let sleeping dogs lie day then, maybe, we could get some sleep.

August 16 is National "Tell A Joke Day" - You’ve got to be kidding. Need we say more.


## Inspirational Musings

By Jeanette Stark

Have you ever known anyone to move away, say to the South, where they have that southern drawl? Then, you don't talk to them for a while, and when you finally do, you notice they have a slight "accent." Where did that come from?

According to a 2010 study by a research group at the University of California, Riverside, people subconsciously mimic other accents due to a phenomenon called "the chameleon effect". The chameleon effect describes our human instinct to "empathize and affiliate" with other people.

It goes beyond just speech; we mimic what we see.
"Mimicry...serves an important social function. Recent experimental research has shown that people unconsciously mimic more when they have a goal to affiliate with others. Thus, if they want another person to like them, they start to mimic the other person more." (Source: psychology.iresearchnet. com)

It goes beyond just speech and sight; we mimic other people's emotions!
"Through biological programming, we imitate other people's emotional displays-facial expressions, bodily gestures-and in doing so, we come to adopt their internal feelings. The biological mechanism is the mirror neuron system in the human brain. Our brain practices doing actions we merely observe in others, as if we were doing them ourselves." (Source: psychologytoday.com)

Did you catch that?!
Our brain practices doing actions we merely observe in others, as if we were doing them ourselves, even the bad stuff. Usually, the bad stuff. That is powerful, my friend.

The Bible puts it another way.
Do not be misled: 'Bad company corrupts good character.'
1 Corinthians 15:33 ESV
The moral of the story is to be careful of the company you keep.

## Odds \& Ends: Viewer Submission

Written by our reader, Marcia Mollenkopf

A walk in the woods where a fire had been Not that many months ago, Left me to wonder how long it would be Before anything there would grow.


Then through the branches, so blackened and bare,
Where the ground began to slope, I saw the start of a tiny green tree

Bringing a message of hope.

When trials, like fire, come into my life
And I see my dreams fall apart That tiny green tree, a reminder to me, Gives courage to make a new start.

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## Reaching the World

Emails, Letters \& Phone Calls

A lot has changed since Jesus walked this earth, but the mission has not; He wants us to share the gospel with everyone. We have methods of sharing that He didn't have available: television signals, streaming services, and the internet. Better Life is reaching farther than we could have ever imagined.

Here are a couple of notes we have recently received of people who are enjoying the programming from afar.
"Praise God we can view you in Maryland! May God continue to Bless your outstanding work!"
-PH, Maryland

This woman found Women in the Word on YouTube. "This is the first video l've seen... I truly enjoyed this. I love the story of Joseph. Thank you ladies for sharing."
-AF, Caribbean
Share with your family and friends that they can stream our channel at BetterLIfeTV.tv or watch individual programs on YouTube.

Thank you for your prayers and donations to help Better Life reach into more homes and bring the Good News to the world.

Why doesn't God protect me from this? Protect His people from bad things? There is just one thing to do: rely on His Word and His promises.

Jesus said in John 16:33 that we will have trouble in this world, but He has overcome the world. He also said in Matthew 5:45 that God causes the sun to rise and the rain to fall on both the righteous and the wicked. The difference? With Jesus we are never alone. He is with us now, amid our troubles, and He gives us the hope of eternity.

Revelation 21:4 describes this hope beautifully:
He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.

This is why we can share our testimony with others, even when things feel broken. It is not about us, but about Him. It is not about what happens to us, it is about how He is with us throughout. -CO


2 Corinthians 6:14 warns us to not be yoked together with unbelievers. And the question is then asked,

> For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness?

2 Corinthians 6:14 NIV

We need to keep our eyes on Jesus. We need to behold Him day by day, hour by hour, minute by minute.

> And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.
> 2 Corinthians 3:18 ESV

By beholding the glory of the Lord, we become changed into the same image we are looking at.

A study published in the March 2006 issue of "Personality and Individual Differences" had twenty-two people, divided equally between male and female, judge the looks, personalities, and ages of 160 married couples.

The participants viewed photographs of men and women separately and were not told who was married to whom. The subjects consistently judged people who were married as being similar in appearance and personality. The researchers also found that couples who had been together longer appeared more similar.

If a man will come to look like his bride by staring at her over the years, how much more will the bride of Christ come to look like Christ by beholding Him. It's a beautiful thought.

## In Memoriam

Dave \& Arlean Bechtel
Ron Bechtel, son
Gene \& Gladys Burrill
Ron Bechtel
Marta Davis
Ron Davis, husband
Charles Cabral
Richard \& Carol Rogers
Don Derby
Mary Derby, wife
Charles Dubay
Kenneth \& Scharlotte
Dubay, parents
Ron Dubay
Kenneth \& Scharlotte
Dubay, parents
Glen Erps
Vern \& Patty Hyland

## Wanda Florea

Kimber Florea, daughter
Lynn Hafer
Joan Hafer, wife
Marcella Harrom
Charleen Gerlic, daughter
Anita Heisler
Bob Heisler, husband
Magnolia Hilligoss
Dallas Hilligoss, husband
Jim Hitchcock
Lois Bookout, wife
Viola Ingram
Brad \& Donna Rafuse, daughter
Henry Martin
Robin Martin, wife Jim McHan

Donald Erb
Olen Nations
Mary Nations, wife
Don Oltman
Jeanne Oltman, wife

## Kenneth Smith

LolaMay Smith, wife
Art Spenst
Charlene Spenst, wife
Alfred \& Virginia Spino
Donna \& Melvin Griffith, daughter
Dominic Michael Springer
Andie Springer, mother
Edgar (Ed) Thompson
Vida Thompson, wife
David Tompson, son
Oral \& Pearl Tucker
Ron Bechtel
Bob Varney
Marianne Varney, wife
Delmer Wagner
Evelyn Wagner, wife Charles Cabral
Melvin \& Alma Johnson

## Ken Ward

Donald Erb
Dustin Weidman
Kimber Florea, mother
Vern \& Virginia Wells
Pam \& Steve King, daughter
Hans Calvin Wiggers
Robin Martin,
grandmother

## CHANNEL GUIDE

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> Better Life
> PO Box 766
> Grants Pass, OR 97528

Phone: (541) 474-3089
Note: It may take up to 2 months fo names to appear in the newsletter.
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for more info.


[^0]:    Thanks for taking the time to read what's on our mind, but we want to know what's on yours? Do you have a miracle to share? Possibly a poem, photo or family recipe? Would you like to give someone a pat on the back or share an inspiring story? We cannot guarantee all submissions will be printed, but we'll try. Our mailing address is:

    PO Box 766, Grants Pass, OR 97528,
    or email us at newsletter@betterlifetv.tv

