

The Bugle

Calling everyone to the service of Christ

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Welcome to The Bugle

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Subscription Information:

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The Bugle

Is a ministry of the Parishville Christian Church.

The magazine is managed mostly by the Martin family: Luke and Rachel. Our children are: Daniel & Mendy, Ellen & Mike Atnip, Timothy & Barbara, Emily & Rob Hall, Dawn & Luke Rosenbarker, Joy & Charles Thonus, Melvin and Clarissa, Lurray and Britany, Nathaniel, Larisa & Tom Whitehead, Jonathan (in heaven) and 26 grandchildren.

The editors are: Luke and Rachel. We publish as the Lord provides the means.

We live in the country and manage a number of projects such as: organic produce, honey, maple syrup, orchard, farming

and logging with horses, sawmill, fryer-oil for diesel fuel, a farm and garden supply store, printing, always something to keep us busy! Our children were homeschooled.

The Boy's Bugle was started in 2001 by Melvin to help fill the need for a Christian boys' magazine. In 2011 we changed the name to The Bugle. The boys have gone on to other projects.

Any comments, suggestions, submissions, or ideas you send us are greatly appreciated.

If you are ever in the area, we would be delighted for you to stop in for a visit or to worship with us.

On the Cover: Making hay with a hay loader.



Editor's Desk



Dear Readers,

Greetings from the North Country. We're sorry its been so long coming again. Its been another busy year. We have been doing some remodeling on our house. Last Fall was extra busy with a huge bumper crop of fruit to harvest, process, store, and sell. And then, as time moves on, we find we don't have the energy to work like we used to.

Also next door, Luray's are building their house.. The temporary house they are in now will then become a shop as planned.

Melvin's wife, Clarissa had an appendectomy yesterday and is now recovering at home. More family news is on pages 10—13.

I've been reading some history this winter. I have noticed that often in war that the kings and/or generals from both sides will pray to God before a battle for the victory and encourage their troops to do the same. I have also noticed that religious Christian dominations have been the main persecutors of Christians who believe different than themselves, both sides praying for the victory in the name of Jesus. Very

often those who were persecuted will persecute others in like manner. This continues to this day. It isn't always with torture and martyrdom, sometimes it is simply mocking and ostracizing and character assassination. Now consider that the definition of a Christian is a disciple of Jesus Christ who taught that you should love your enemies, to bless (to wish to prosper) those that curse you, to esteem others more highly than yourself, to love your brethren, to pray for all men.

Thank you to all who contributed.
Wishing you God's blessings.

Sincerely,
Luke and Rachel Martin

A Plea

If Zion's children bicker
With words of hate unfurled—
Oh children, Zion's children—
Who shall light the world?

*Taken from "Mists and Rainbows"
A collection of inspirational poems
By Anna Putt
1347 Keener Road, Bainbridge, PA 17502
Used by permission.*



From our Readers:



I wonder if you might consider a theme on how to better communicate thoughts and feelings with others, especially in a marriage—how to respect each other and not insult each other.

I really enjoy the Bugle. Thank you so much for your work on it.

~ a reader from Potsdam, NY.

What do you think? It is an important subject. If you have any ideas, please send them to us.

The Goodness of God

“How can a good God allow evil?” This is one of the most troubling questions in human experience. We can understand when wicked people suffer for their sins, but we run into confusion when good people suffer for no reason, or when innocent children must pay huge prices for the sins of adults who know better.

We don’t have to defend God, of course. He has demonstrated His goodness in astounding ways, and He is good whether people believe it or not. And at the same time, when we see and experience the goodness of God, we feel compelled to declare it. With a heart of gratitude, then, I wish to make three points about the goodness of God.

1. *God is good.* The scriptures offer abundant declarations of God’s incredible goodness, and not only from the lips of those who were kept from trouble, but also from those who came through it. “I had fainted,” David says, “unless I had believed to see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living” (Psalm 27:13).

When we say that God is good, we mean that He is goodhearted. He watches over His creation (and especially humans) with a kind and benevolent heart. He delights in seeing us happy and cared for. He sorrows over our miseries, our troubles, and our heartaches (even counting them as His own).

2. *Circumstances in an evil world can obscure the truth of God’s goodness.* Here we are again, at the difficulty reconciling the truth of a good God with the reality of an evil world. This is not a trivial question. It

has troubled theologians, and it is one of the favorite arguments of skeptics and cynics. But it is not with skeptics and cynics that we have our major concern here. We are concerned with Christians who are struggling.

And we must not quickly condemn a Christian who is confused about the goodness of God, even one who is angry. Very holy people have struggled here. This was Job’s greatest conflict. He did not know how to fit his horrific experiences into his conception of God. In his anguished struggle, his honest thoughts and feelings were not always wise, as he later lamented.

But the truth is that doubts about God’s goodness are based on false assumptions. When we are struggling with things God has allowed in our lives, we may assume any or all of the following:

- a. That a good God ought not to allow evil things to happen to His children.
- b. That when He does so, He has betrayed them.
- c. That when He allows evil to happen to innocent people, He is responsible for it (because He could have prevented it).
- d. That the evil I am experiencing is the whole story. That is, we fix our eyes on the catastrophe we are going through and assume that since God hasn’t done what we think He should do, He will do nothing more. Needless to say, we must be very careful about drawing con-

clusions about God in the middle of the story.

These assumptions seem so logical. They are how it really does seem to be in the minds of suffering people, especially when they are suffering for no sin of their own.

3. *The goodness of God in a world of evil is most clearly revealed in redemption.* This is a truth with huge implications. What we must come to accept is that God's greatest answer to evil is not prevention but redemption. Thankfully, God can and does prevent evil. He intervenes. He protects. He delivers from. And it is all right for us to pray, in Jesus' words, "deliver us from evil." But this is not all God does, and if we look honestly at His record, it is not the greatest thing He does, nor is it the greatest revelation of His goodness.

When we find ourselves embracing the false assumptions mentioned above, we must replace them with truth.

- a. Any evil we experience does not (and never can) alter the goodness of God.
- b. God is fully able to turn every sorrow into joy.
- c. Any trouble we face as God's children is an opportunity to learn how incredibly goodhearted God really is.
- d. When we are tempted to be angry at God or to doubt his goodness, it is a matter of wrong perspective. Always. God is never removed from our sorrows except by our own unbelief. This is a God who weeps with us. This is a God who sent his own son into suffering to assure us that he cares and understands human sorrow.

Where is God when I suffer? He is right there with me. And He is assuring me He can use the experiences I am going through to equip me to be more holy, more compassionate, wiser, more like His own son. He can redeem my sorrows—purchase them for eternal use. He can turn damage into usefulness, scars into radiant beauty, victimized innocence into wisdom. God specializes in making a mockery of evil, as it were, in totally reversing its effect on my life.

But there is a condition. We must trust Him. We must believe—sometimes against all apparent evidence otherwise—that God is good, that He knows exactly what we are going through, that it grieves His heart, and that He is able to turn evil circumstances into our eternal good.

When we trust God in the midst of not understanding Him, we release Him to do tremendous things in our own lives (as Joseph, David, Daniel, Job, and many others have testified). We also set ourselves on the way to seeing new horizons in the goodness of God. At the end of the story, after the final chapter is written, if we have trusted Him, we will shout with all our being that God truly is good! And He was all along.

"O taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the man that trusteth in him" (Psalm 34:8).



By John Coblenz, Sr.

*Reprinted by permission from
Deeper Life Ministries Newsletter,
June, 2005*

**...but we glory in tribulations
also: knowing that tribulation
worketh patience...**
Rom 5:3 .

A Clarification on Forgiveness

“Why can’t we just forgive each other and go on?”

I wonder how many times I have heard this question, in one form or another, from the lips of people who are struggling in the aftermath of relational sin. The old saying tells us, “Forgive and forget.” Indeed, the same thought is often preached and implied from many pulpits. Once sin is confessed, and forgiveness is sought, we are told, we should be able to go on with no more ado about the matter.

Forgiveness in this light is seen as a door that closes on the past. It is now forever behind us. Buried. Woe be to anyone who brings up the subject again.

There is both truth and error in this view of forgiveness. True forgiveness can and does release offenders for wrongs they have committed. This means that the blame/guilt relationship between the offended and the offender is changed: the offended lays down the accusing finger, the offender experiences a clearing of conscience. Furthermore, to go back, after forgiveness, to a blame/guilt way of relating means the forgiveness has not been real.

But now a clarification: *Forgiveness does not cancel all consequences of one’s sin.*

In relational sins, particularly, there are often ongoing consequences that, although the offended one no longer blames the offender and the offender has a cleared conscience, they both must grapple with.

When a man molests a young girl, for example, he may seek and find forgiveness from her and from her parents, but that will not erase the damage

to that girl’s concepts about intimacy, which may take years to heal.

Or when a man is unfaithful to his wife, he may seek and experience her forgiveness, but forgiveness does not automatically cancel her feelings of being betrayed or her intense feelings of inadequacy. Nor does his repentance automatically mean he is secure against repeating his sin. In truth, his involvement has made him more susceptible to sexual sin, and will require that he needs more safeguards than he needed before his fall.

The mistaken belief that forgiveness should cancel all consequences results in much misunderstanding and hurt, both on the part of the offended one, and on the part of the offender. The offended one may feel guilty for not being able to “lay down” the problem. By trying to bury the consequences along with the offense, however, the offended one is turning forgiveness into denial. This only delays actual healing.

By not distinguishing between the offense and the consequences, the offender may become touchy and defensive. He may think that any further reference to the problem means he is being blamed again. He may thus avoid a significant role he might play in helping the offended one to find healing. His defenses, in other words, may keep him from being understanding and caring. Instead of helping to restore the one he offended, he adds emotional pain.

True forgiveness should close the door to past patterns of blame and guilt, but it cannot close the door to all consequences. For some relational sins, the consequences mean distinct limita-

tions need to be set in relating between the individuals involved. Some consequences are costly, requiring a change of jobs, for example, or time and money spent in getting help for those who have been hurt.

In the Biblical account of David's sin with Bathsheba, we find that David sought and received forgiveness from God. But in God's message of forgiveness to David were also specific consequences that God said would follow.

Was David forgiven? Absolutely. But the consequences still followed.

True forgiveness, then, allows people to face the problem squarely and honestly, releasing from blame and guilt, but responding wisely and responsibly to the ongoing consequences.

By John Coblentz, Sr.

*Reprinted by permission from
Deeper Life Ministries Newsletter,
April 1997*

**An admission of error is a sign of strength
rather than a sign of weakness.**

Is not God unreasonable to ask me to give myself 100% to Him?

No servant can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon. (Luke 16:13 KJV)

When you are in trouble, can God help you 100% if he only has part of you? Can He help you at all?

Can you keep for yourself the pleasures of sin without reaping the consequences of sin?

Can you go in two different directions at once?

If your heart needs fixing, you don't keep playing your game and expect the surgeon to get the job done. You go to him and hold very still.

The deep sea diver doesn't discover the wonders of the depths with one foot on shore.

The eagle doesn't soar in the heavens with one foot on the ground or in its nest.

We do have troubles. Our hearts do need to be fixed.

There are heavens for us to soar in. There are wonders in the depths for us to discover.

O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out! (Rom 11:33 KJV)

... choose you this day whom ye will serve... (Joshua 24:15 KJV)

The difference between stumbling blocks and stepping stones is the way a man uses them.

Putting Up Loose Hay

by Nathaniel Martin

In the past we put our hay up in small square bales. We thought it might be better to put it up loose. 1. We would have less compaction on the fields because the machinery is lighter. 2. We could utilize our horses more because we would not need the pto. 3. We could put up our hay with higher moisture content. 4. We'd have no need for baler twine and diesel fuel, resulting in less off farm inputs.

In one of our two barns there already was a hay track. So we bought a hay loader, a hay rope, and a hay grapples. We had a set of harpoons already but they do not work as well.

After a few years of making some loose hay and improving our system we now hook the team direct to the wagon, without a forecart. We have a rack on the wagon so we can make a big load.

In the barn we drive in to the center and there is a hay mow on both sides. There is a star above the wagon which locks the trolley above the wagon while lifting a wad of hay; it also releases the grapples above the wagon so they can come down. The hay rope is attached to the trolley. It goes from the trolley through the pulley which the grapples is fast to, back through the trolley, down to the end of the barn and goes through two more pulleys to a winch. The winch is run by a DC electric motor; the motor is controlled by a corded remote control box that I take up with me on the wagon.

To unload a load of hay I lower the grapples and I stab the grapples in to the hay. I then go to the side of the wagon and turn the winch on. A bunch of hay is lifted up to the track. The pul-

ley that the grapples are fastened to hits the trolley, the pulley is locked fast to the trolley and the trolley released from the track. The trolley goes along the track into the hay mow. The man in the mow (Dad) pulls the rope that releases the hay when it is over the spot where he wants it. I then reverse the winch, the trolley returns to the center of the barn. The trolley is pulled back by a weight at the end of the barn through a rope and pulley system. The trolley hits the star and the grapples come down. The cycle is repeated until the load is unloaded.

In the beginning we used the horses to pull the rope instead of the winch and dragged the trolley back by hand, which was harder for us and the horses.

Has loose hay worked out as we thought? Less compaction? I think so. Utilizes our horses more? Yes. Put up wetter hay? Maybe, but wet loose hay in a barn molds. Save on twine and fuel? Yes. We still put bales in the other barn.

Changing the way we do our work and or getting different tools may be wise. But we cannot get away from work nor would we want to. We may look for change and think the new will make us happy. It may to a certain extent. But without God all is vain. If we look to Christ we will be changed and truly satisfied.

Jesus answered ... Whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again: But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life. John 4:13-14



May is a Vision

May is a vision	February is bare;
Far, far away.	not one green thing.
fresh	cold
soft	brown
gentle breeze,	bare and gray
budding	icy
bursting	ground
blooming trees.	lumps of clay,
smiling	foggy
healing	misty
blooming flowers,	mysteries
eager	bring forth
earthy	yearnings
garden hours.	for rest and ease.

Intimate Shepherd comes along
By my side with whispered song.
Whispered song not learned in May.
Learned in February when May
Was a vision far away.

Those secret songs too soft to hear
When May glories linger near.
Comfort learned in suffering's school
It's a part of the old, old rule...

The sweetest, clearest notes of May
Are sung by those who in February's day
Were willing students bowing low
Content like crocus 'neath the snow...

Content but confident come spring
They yet shall bloom, May glories sing!

*Taken from "Mists and Rainbows" A collection of inspirational poems
By Anna Putt
1347 Keener Road, Bainbridge, PA 17502. Used by permission.*

In loving memory of Rosa Sharon Thonus

January 26, 2014 2 lbs 0.8 oz

Our world took an unexpected spin when I suddenly realized that our unborn 6 month old baby hadn't moved in awhile. After being alert to any movement for a few hours and not feeling any reassuring kicks, I couldn't remain composed when I told my husband. I knew something was very wrong.

Failing to find a heartbeat, we headed to the hospital in Malone in a snow storm. An ultra-sound confirmed that our baby had made her home in heaven. Because of the baby's position, the doctor recommended a C-section. Even though a C-section is not what we wanted, thank God we went ahead with it, because unknown to us I had developed a dangerous condition called DIC

(disseminated intravascular coagulation) which causes excessive bleeding. During the surgery the doctor called for blood to be on hand, but thankfully she didn't need to use it. There was an infection in my uterus which is probably what caused the baby to die and what caused the DIC. The cause of the infection is unknown, but I feel it was from the Hand, Foot and Mouth Disease that I think the girls and I had the month preceding Rosa's death.

I was in the hospital a few days with my dear husband, Charlie, by my side. Kind neighbors and family milked our cows, took care of the girls, and kept the house warm. It blessed our hearts that my sister, Larisa and her husband Tom and their baby girl, came from Pennsylvania and helped us out for a week.

Difficult as it was, we made funeral arrangements for our dear little girl for January 31. Her body would be laid to rest beside her Uncle Jonathan. I'm so glad we held her, took her foot prints and pictures. We will always treasure those memories. I made a tiny white dress for her to wear. Wrapped in a little crocheted hat and afghan, she looked so peaceful. Even though we felt the love and support of many friends and God's grace and peace surrounding us, it tore our hearts to part with our daughter who we dreamed of spending many happy years with. We

still have three little girls, three beautiful flowers, but now one is blooming in heaven.

The following week was very stressful with Charlie getting quite sick with pneumonia.

An antibiotic was effective in getting him back on his feet. On top of that, the girls had a stomach bug and it was just 1 ½ weeks since I had major surgery. But thanks to the Lord and His loving people we all pulled through and are doing fine.

We still miss our little girl and grieve for our loss but we rest knowing she will never suffer again and is already where we want all our children to end up—in heaven. If you and I look to Jesus to cleanse us from our sins, we can meet Rosa there.

~ Joy Thonus

The Lord gave and the Lord hath taken away, blessed be the name of the Lord. Job 1:21



Rosa Sharon

Just a tiny little rose bud
We thought we'd watch you grow
Dreams of life, of happy baby smiles
Of teaching years of sharing
The wonders of this world below

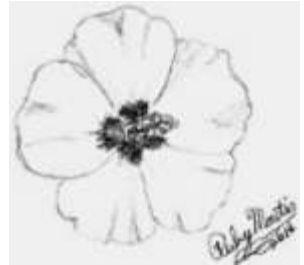


To see the petals of your life unfold
To share our hearts of love and time
We never dreamed your stay would be so short
We didn't even get to say "hello"
Before you left us for a better clime



Just a tiny little, rosebud
With roots entwined about our hearts
You've gone to bloom forever
With Jesus, Rose of Sharon
The one who loved you from the start.

By Dawn Rosenbarker



Rosa Sharon, bloom in our bouquet.

No, I will bloom up here for aye.

Oh, rest your head upon my breast.

On Jesus breast please let me rest.

Shine your eyes right into mine.

My eyes behold a brighter shine.

Around you let us put our arms.

God keeps me safe from all that harms.

Sing for us a baby coo.

I sing a perfect allelu.

Here, let us lead you by your hand.

God leads me 'round a better land.

As you learn and laugh and live...

My life is more than you can give.

Raise your arms. We'll pick you up.

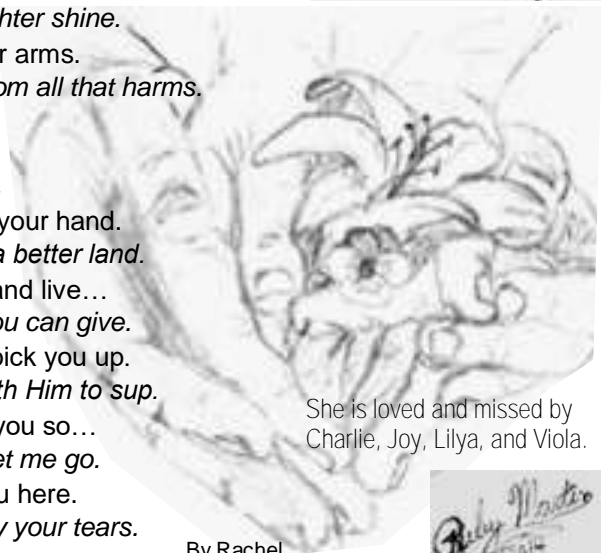
I've risen on wings, with Him to sup.

Oh, Baby dear, we love you so...

Your love for me will let me go.

No, we cannot detain you here.

My God will wipe away your tears.



She is loved and missed by
Charlie, Joy, Lilya, and Viola.

By Rachel



Vanessa Mendy Martin was born to Luray and Britany on February 7, 2014. Her first name means butterfly in Greek.

Brenda Louise Martin was born to Daniel and Mendy on February 23, 2013. She has bright reddish hair like her great aunt Brenda.



Melvin Martin and Clarissa Mydlenski were married on September 30, 2013 at Carpenter Falls near Skaneateles Lake in central New York. They live in an apartment above the print shop, next to their farm supply business and a solar greenhouse where they grow tomatoes and cucumbers.



It was July 22, 2013. Tom and I were happily working in our garden until it was time to leave for a routine check-up. In 8 weeks our baby was due.

The first step was to check the baby's heartbeat. It was half what it should have been. We sprang into action and about one hour later Alicia Rachel Whitehead entered this world! We drove about 25 miles to the hospital in Carlisle, Pennsylvania. I remember hearing the baby's heartbeat go from about 50 to 30. I felt a peace and calm that must have come from God. I was rushed in for an emergency C-section.

I woke up in terrible pain, crying and wondering if our baby was OK. It was comforting to have Tom and a few friends there after the surgery.

She weighed about 4 lbs. and was soon transported to Hershey Hospital. I got to see her for a few seconds before they transported her and that made everything seem OK.

Two days later I joined her there in the NICU where I finally got to hold her for the first time. Alicia's heart rate was slow for a few days but then her heart tested fine.

It was difficult to walk away every night and leave my baby in the care of a stranger. The love, support, and prayers of many people helped to carry us through.

She spent 3 ½ weeks in the hospital. She came home with a feeding tube and a heart and breathing monitor. How restful, sweet and joyful it was to finally be together as a family. We are so thankful to God for our sweet bundle of joy. Alicia is such a sunbeam in our lives. Thank you God!

~ Larisa



She is doing well now!

Out of the Mouth of Babes

My grandson, Isaiah and his parents walked over to our place one Sunday afternoon. He came in all excited. "I saw a monkey in a tree out there!" "Really! I want to see this." He took me out and pointed but of course we didn't see anything but the tree. We came in and I asked his Papa about it. He said, "It was a chipmunk."

Our grandsons were eating here. Joshua wanted a piece of mince pie. He mentioned that he likes the crust. Grandpa gave him some and said, "the crust of the pie and the neck of the chicken." (part of a saying of his) Joshua looked at his plate a while, then said that he doesn't want it. So Grandpa took it but left a piece of the crust on his plate. Joshua asked, "Why did you leave some crust?" "Because you said you like it." Joshua replied, "Not if it has chicken necks in it."

~ Rachel

One time the Birdsfoot Community gave us some soup. The

children wouldn't touch it. They didn't want to eat Birdsfoot soup.

~ Mendy

Once while eating a meal together, Daddy said that baby Viola was cute. Three year-old Lilya piped up, "I'm not cute. I'm a farmer dog." Daddy had before teased her that she is a dog farmer.

While I beheaded beans, Lilya (3 yrs) inquired what I was doing. "Taking the heads off," I replied. "Take the feet off, too," Lilya instructed.

Lilya assumed that because her cousin, Alicia, was in an incubator, that she was going to hatch!

~ Joy

Heidi was a toddler when Aunt Barbara got married and moved far away. But she often heard them talk about Aunt Barbara. One day she saw an ant crawling on the wall. "Look," she exclaimed, "there goes Barbara!"

Pumpkin Whipped Cream
1 cup cream
1 cup squash or pumpkin, well drained
1/4 tsp. salt
1 tsp. vanilla or 3/4 tsp. pumpkin spice

2-4 Tbls. Honey or other sweetener

Put all in blender and whip. This is good spread on cake or for dip.

Optional: add a blob of peanut butter

An open mind leaves a chance for someone to drop a worthwhile thought in it.

The Children's Challenge

To Charity and Cheerfulness

The Dangerous Swing

A little girl named Rachel was playing in the barn with her brothers and sisters. They were in the upper level where there were two doors and the doors were open. There was a rail across the middle of the opening. They stood looking far down to the ground level into the concreted barnyard.

Rachel thought it would be so much fun to swing hanging on the rail with her hands. The others said, **"No, we are not allowed to do that."** Oh, but she really wanted to and she couldn't see why not.

Just then they heard the call, **"Suppers ready."** Everyone ran for the house except Rachel. **"It won't matter. I can take one swing before I go in,"** she thought.

The next thing she knew Daddy was carrying her from the barnyard to the house where he laid her on the couch.

She must have been unconscious for a short while.

Thankfully she wasn't hurt more.

In the Bible God tells children to obey their parents. She could have gotten hurt badly because she did not obey.

If you have younger brothers or sisters, help to watch them closely. Like Rachel, they often do not see the danger of things that could hurt them. ✠

For the Children

From sweat and grime

To be set free

Jump into shower;

Scrub vigorously.

With soap and water

For a treat—

You soon will feel

Refreshed and neat.

But please remember,

Oh my dears—

The jobs not done

'Till you scrub your ears!

Taken from "Mists and Rainbows"

A collection of inspirational poems

By Anna Putt

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It is good for me that I
have been afflicted;
that I might learn thy
statutes.

(Psa 119:71 KJV)