



Your NAWE Companion

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Striving to Enter In

Tommy Crisp, Conyers, GA

Since January, I have been selling wood products that I make in my shop. I have made bird houses, butterfly houses, coffee tables, Christian crosses, and am currently making an easel for a local artist. This adventure has been very rewarding. I love seeing the smile on people's faces that purchase any of the products.

However, it is not easy to make a decent wage. The only way is to produce my own lumber or find old lumber to repurpose, doing away with the middle man such as Home Depot. This is hard work. Recently my dad had a huge poplar tree drop on his property. We cut it into 9 foot lengths, loaded it in a trailer, and took it to a local saw mill to make lumber. Once it dries, I'll plane it and make something beautiful out of it. I am able to do this hard work because I put all my heart into it.


Our Lord tells us to, **"Strive to enter in at the strait gate: for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able"** (Luke 13:24). This is a struggle, a labor. It can even be agonizing to fervently strive to enter in at the strait gate. And, in many ways, it is our total commitment, along with His power and His help, that enables us to do it.

There are various reasons why many will not be able to enter in. For some, I think it is because they leave their heart out of it. I think it is our heart we hold back the most, because it is our heart that we seem to protect the most. My father described it clearly after my mother died. It is the heart broken by the death of a spouse that is slow to enter into a new relationship, if it ever does at all. They do not want it to be broken again. It's painful; it hurts so much. We protect our heart, but God wants it. He wants all of us.

Are you willing to give everything to Christ, or is there that one thing you refuse to give up, such as your heart? Are we going to be an "Almost Christian" like so many in this world? I beg you brothers and sisters, give Him your all. You are precious to Him. Don't let your vulnerabilities stop you.

*Dear Lord,
You ask us to strive to enter in at the strait gate. Lord, we know You would not ask us to do anything that could not be done; that if we should commit and obey, all of us who want to be true believers in You can do it with Your help. When it's all said and done, when we have breathed our last breath and are standing there, You might remind us that You corrected us, made us strong, helped us succeed and healed our pain. Amen.*

August—Sept. 2016



Praise & Prayer

Praise the Lord for a wonderful Annual Meeting!

We're thankful to be able to welcome the following new members into the NAWE: the Danielsville Evangelical Church, Hunter Hastings, and Brian Kelley.

We rejoice in Jim Garrett's (Douglasville, GA) continued recovery from his accident. Keep praying for full healing.

Let's keep praying for our nation, especially during this election year.

Pray for our newly elected officers and committee members in the NAWE.

Pray for those who are involved in our Course of Study.

Association News

Report on the Annual Meeting

Tony Elder, Conyers, GA

Over fifty people gathered in Mount Juliet, Tennessee on July 12-14 for our Annual Meeting. What a great time of fellowship we enjoyed! I hear from so many of you that the spirit and comradery at our gatherings is one of the most enjoyable aspects of our association. The warm temperature in our first service didn't take away from the warm spiritual atmosphere. But we were thankful for the hotel providing us an additional portable air conditioning unit the next day to help keep us cooler.

We were blessed to have Dr. Phil Speas, President of Kentucky Mountain Bible College, as our preacher for the evening services. His messages challenged us to stay faithful in our service to the Lord and to make sure we are still totally surrendered to Christ as living sacrifices.

We received another new church into our membership, the Danielsville Evangelical Church. They had a nice delegation present for this special occasion.

We enjoyed some free time to experience the sites around the Nashville area. Some of the young people went to a science museum where, among other activities, they got to simulate walking on the moon. Some of the adults visited the Hermitage, the Parthenon, or other attractions. Some just used the opportunity to catch up on some rest.

I believe we came away from our time informed about what is going on in the NAWE, encouraged about future opportunities, inspired by the messages from the Lord, and refreshed by the fellowship.

If you weren't there, you were missed. And I hope you'll make every effort to attend next year's meeting. I believe you will find it to be a blessing.



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Calendar

Upcoming Opportunities:

Sept. 21-23: New Room Conference in Franklin, TN

October 13-15: National Conference on Christian Apologetics in Charlotte, NC

Nov. 11-12: Pastor's Conference at Kentucky Mountain Bible College