Your NAWE Companion

'N AWE The Power of God Jonathan Nason, *Covington, TN*

"Batteries NOT Included."

It was not too long ago that these three words would strike terror in my heart as a parent on the night before Christmas. We always tried to have plenty of different shapes and sizes of batteries on hand, but it only takes one expensive midnight trip (to the only convenience store open on Christmas Eve) to decide batteries are one of the most important supplies to keep on hand this time of year.

It seems our whole world runs on batteries. We have battery powered automobiles, phones, computers, tools... Speaking of tools, a couple of summers ago my wife brought home a Ryobi battery powered string trimmer. When I realized it did a pretty good job and that the same rechargeable battery fit "50+ tools," I was hooked. The weed whacker was soon followed by a leaf blower, then a battery powered chainsaw, and later a cordless drill and flashlight. The number of available Ryobi cordless tools rose to "70+ tools," prompting the acquisition of a circular saw, impact wrench, nut driver, oscillating tool, lantern, vacuum cleaner, fan, air compressor, and several additional batteries and chargers. When my new hammer drill arrived last week, I noticed the number of tools using the same 18 volt battery now stands at "100+ tools." At this rate, there is no way I can keep this up!

One thing I discovered with all these battery powered devices is they are useless if the battery is dead. There is really no difference between a drill, a saw, or a vacuum cleaner if they have no power. A tool with a dead battery is simply "in the way." The only way for a tool to become useable and fulfill its purpose is to have the power from the battery.

The apostle Paul writes in Romans 1:16, "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek" (NKJV).

Paul also states in 1 Corinthians 1:18, "For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God" (NKJV).

Think about this; the "gospel of Christ" and "the message of the cross" are "the power of God." When we embrace and proclaim the gospel message, we become useable and useful tools for God. The power of God in us allows us to achieve our true purpose. As we are in the middle of the Christmas season, let us not forget the entire message of Christmas. Keep in mind the whole gospel, not only the birth of our Lord and Savior, but also His life, death and resurrection, and share this Good News with those you may encounter this season.

And...be sure to keep plenty of batteries on hand.

December—January 2018

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Praise & Prayer

Let's be thankful for the amazing and wonderful truth that "the Word became flesh and dwelt among us".

Be praying for churches having special services, ministries, and outreaches in connection with the Christmas season.

Continue to pray for revival in us, in our churches, in our nation, and across the world.

Pray for guidance for churches and their leadership as they make plans and move forward into a new year.

NAWE News Our 2018 Ministers' & Wives' Retreat

Our annual retreat will be April 3-5, 2018. The event will be held at **Amicalola Falls State Park** in North Georgia (near Dawsonville). It's a beautiful location - home to the tallest cascading waterfall east of the Mississippi River.





View from the lodge

Amicalola Falls

Our speaker for the retreat will be **Dr. John T. Hucks**, Academic Dean at Southern Methodist College.

Be making your plans to attend this wonderful opportunity for a time of physical and spiritual refreshing, along with the great fellowship we always enjoy. More details will be sent out after the first of the year.



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April 3-5, 2018: Ministers' & Wives' Retreat at Amicalola State Park in Dawsonville, GA

July 10-12, 2018: Annual Meeting at Highland Manor & Conference Center in Townsend, TN