



# Your NAWE Companion

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## Ever Ready

Lance Snipes, Carrollton, GA

*"For the Word of God is living and active, sharper than any double-edged sword . . ."*

*Hebrews 4:12a*

"Sharpen your arrows!" the cry went out to the soldiers. "For God and king, sharpen your arrows before we enter into battle. The enemy is prepared, powerful, and pitiless! To defeat him, we must shoot straight with sharp arrows. We must aim for the heart." Regrettably, when the battle was engaged, the general realized his men had not followed his orders. Their dull arrows bounced off the layered armor of the adversaries. Helpless, the general's army was quickly defeated.

Like those soldiers, we often fail to sharpen our arrows before we step onto the spiritual battlefield. Nonetheless, who is the loser? While the Word is sharper than any double-edged sword, it is not designed to kill and destroy but to give life and build a new world. The arrows we fire should penetrate all that is wrapped around the hearts of those who are currently dead in their sins. The cutting edge of the Word of our God and King should transform the souls of anyone trapped in the dungeon of separation from our Savior.

Typically, we blame the lack of transformation we see in others on their hardheartedness. However, isn't it more likely that we have failed to sharpen our arrows? Without the Word of God, our arrows are dull. They cannot pierce through the maximum-security walls of sin. Such arrows cannot permeate and transform the trapped hearts and souls of those who fail to realize they are on the losing side.

When we choose to disobey our General by not sharpening our arrows in His Word as He commands, everyone loses, including us. Thankfully, it is not too late. The living, active, and penetrating Word of God is likely somewhere near us right now. Thus, we can ready ourselves to fight for souls! We can study the Scriptures and first allow it to pierce our own hearts and transform our own souls. The Word of God is our boot camp where we learn how to use spiritual weapons and train ourselves to fight the enemy—Satan who captures and imprisons souls in sin.

With the Word of God alive and active in us, our General can use us like sharpened, flaming arrows to pierce through Satan's layered walls of guilt, oppression, fear, affluence, greed, worthlessness, doubt, anxiety, dread, hatred, sadness, and pain—just to name a few—that incarcerate so many souls. We cannot accomplish this task on our own. We must be equipped, with arrows sharpened, and shoot straight for the heart because, indeed, Satan is prepared, powerful, and pitiless. Be that as it may, the hot-headed hound of Hell is no match for the ever ready, all mighty, and eternally compassionate God whom we meet through His Word!

Is your quiver full of sharpened arrows?

August—September 2018



### Praise & Prayer

Praise the Lord for an inspiring and encouraging Annual Meeting.

Thankful for several new ministers received into the association. Pray for them and their ministries.

Thankful for good reports from summer ministries and campmeetings.

Pray for Dr. Stephen Flick and his family upon the recent death of his wife, Beth, in a car accident.

Pray for teachers and students returning to school.

## Association News

### Our 2018 Annual Meeting

Cheryl Elder, Conyers, GA

I always look forward to attending the NAWE Annual Meeting and this year even more so having missed the Ministers' and Wives' Retreat in April due to the passing of my dad. I appreciate such opportunities to get away from the "normal routine" of home and work life, yet what I enjoy most is seeing old friends and meeting new ones as we gather to worship, pray, sing, dine, and fellowship with one another. There is such a sweet spirit of unity and Christian love – I think it gives us a glimpse of what heaven will truly be like one day.

The meeting this year was held at Highland Manor in Townsend, TN – a great location close to Pigeon Forge, Gatlinburg, and Cades Cove. In the evening services, we were blessed to have the Garretts (Jim, Shelley, and Hannah) lead us in praise and special music with the blending of their beautiful voices. We were also honored to have Hubert Harriman, former president of WGM, share with us from his heart and God's word on the "wind" and the filling of the Holy Spirit. God's presence was definitely felt among all in attendance. After the services, it was wonderful to see everyone fellowshiping together – even the children were busy making new friends (our granddaughter, Julianne Smith and Kate Nason).



There was one unexpected incident during the meeting where I was "called to duty" along with another nurse (Mitzi Morgan) to check on one of the wives from our group (Angie Nason) who was not feeling well. Upon evaluation, appendicitis was suspected and the next day, an appendectomy was performed. The surgery went smoothly and soon "our patient" was discharged and doing much better. Thank the Lord for His divine intervention!

Well, that is just some of the highlights from this year's meeting. If you missed it, you missed a blessing and I hope you'll plan to join us next year. God has a special blessing just for you, however you must be present to receive it!



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## Calendar

### Upcoming Opportunities:

**August 21-23, 23-25:** Hemlock Inn Retreat in Bryson City, NC

**September 19-21:** New Room Conference in Brentwood, TN

**October 12-13:** National Conference on Apologetics in Charlotte, NC