



# HOMECARE HERALD MARCH

CHRISTIAN  
COMMUNITY  
HOMECARE

Life is all about choices. We wake up each day and make the choice to get out of bed (or not!). From there on, the rest of each day is spent making decisions and choices about what to eat, what to wear, what to do. **We can also make choices on what to think.** Here are some choices to live by, taken from my favorite little book, Grace for the Moment.

**I Choose Love...**No occasion warrants bitterness. I choose love. Today I will love God and what God loves.

**I Choose Joy...**I will invite my God to be the God of circumstance. I will refuse the temptation to be cynical...the tool of the lazy thinker. I will refuse to see people as anything less than human beings, created by God. I will refuse to see any problem as anything less than an opportunity to see God.

**I Choose Peace...**I will live forgiven. I will forgive so that I may live!

Peace to all of you-

Chris and Christian Community Homecare



## WHO WAS ST. PATRICK?

St. Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland, is one of Christianity's most widely known figures. But for all his celebrity, his life remains somewhat of a mystery. Many of the stories traditionally associated with St. Patrick, including the famous account of his banishing all the snakes from Ireland, are false, the products of hundreds of years of exaggerated storytelling.

**Taken Prisoner By Irish Raiders**-It is known that St. Patrick was born in Britain to wealthy parents near the end of the fourth century. He is believed to have died on March 17, around 460 A.D. Although his father was a Christian deacon, it has been suggested that he probably took on the role because of tax incentives and there is no evidence that Patrick came from a particularly religious family. At the age of sixteen, Patrick was taken prisoner by a group of Irish raiders who were attacking his family's estate. They transported him to Ireland where he spent six years in captivity. (There is some dispute over where this captivity took place. Although many believe he was taken to live in Mount Slemish in County Antrim, it is more likely that he was held in County Mayo near Killala.) During this time, he worked as a shepherd, outdoors and away from people. Lonely and afraid, he turned to his religion for solace, becoming a devout Christian. (It is also believed that Patrick first began to dream of converting the Irish people to Christianity during his captivity.)

**Guided By Visions**—After more than six years as a prisoner, Patrick escaped.

According to his writing, a voice—which he believed to be God's—spoke to him in a dream, telling him it was time to leave Ireland. To do so, Patrick walked nearly 200 miles from County Mayo, where it is believed he was held, to the Irish coast. After escaping to Britain, Patrick reported that he experienced a second revelation—an angel in a dream tells him to return to Ireland as a missionary. Soon after, Patrick began religious training, a course of study that lasted more than fifteen years. After his ordination as a priest, he was sent to Ireland with a dual mission—to minister to Christians already living in Ireland and to begin to convert the Irish. Familiar with the Irish language and culture, Patrick chose to incorporate traditional ritual into his lessons of Christianity instead of attempting to eradicate native Irish beliefs. For instance, he used bonfires to celebrate Easter since the Irish were used to honoring their gods with fire. He also superimposed a sun, a powerful Irish symbol, onto the Christian cross to create what is now called a Celtic cross, so that veneration of the symbol would seem more natural to the Irish.

For more information, visit ([www.history.com/content/stpatricksday](http://www.history.com/content/stpatricksday))

**BIRTHDAY WISHES**



**Happy Birthday to:**

**Charlotte Melton-March 12**

**Carrie Brockhaus-March 15**

**Debra Tucker-March 30**

*Blessings on your special day!*



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## TODAY'S CLEAN LAUGH

### [\\*2 Requests\\*](#)

An elderly woman decided to prepare her will and told her preacher she had two final requests. First, she wanted to be cremated, and second, she wanted her ashes scattered over Wal-Mart.

"Wal-Mart?" the preacher exclaimed. "Why Wal-Mart?"

The woman replied, "Then I'll be sure my daughters visit me twice a week."

\*Thanks to Pastor Tim for this joke!\*

<http://www.cybersalt.org/cleanlaugh>