



"Just when the caterpillar
thought the world was over....
it became a butterfly!"
(old saying)



"Until Christ is fully formed
within you."



A friend of mine once asked me,
"I feel like an orange trying to act like a banana.
Is there something wrong with me?"

I hope this little butterfly book
can help answer that question.

I know that Christianity isn't about faking it,
but the wonder of New Life.

Caterpillars came from eggs laid by butterflies. They have been born into the family, they just have not matured yet.

Every Christian should understand their purpose to mature into a "butterfly!" Eventually outward growth without inward change should become unacceptable (exemplified in molting). At that time deep will begin to cry unto deep for true inward change. That change will only happen when Christ Himself is formed in us. To allow Christ to be formed in us requires putting off the old that we might become clothed with the New.

The Apostle Paul labored much of his life for the Church to understand their need to grow in this way. If the change from our image to His has not yet come in areas, then we must understand that hope lies just ahead! Rather than ignoring the inward signs that we are yet unchanged, we must determine to press into the Lord Himself and pass through this process until Christ comes forth in newness of Life.

We do not add Christ to our old life, but allow Christ to bring us into the conformity of His Life. As we deeply embrace the reality of His Cross we will experience the impact of His death that has put away the old and the resurrection power of His life that makes all things New!

Jesus living through us frees us from bondage to our own selfishness and earthly entanglements. He transforms us from the inside – out, and we experience the glorious liberty known by all those who allow Jesus to be wonderfully alive in them!

*You don't have to crawl!
Let Jesus give you His wings!!*



Spiritual Application!

As Christians, we know that the New Life deep inside of us is Jesus Himself! If we are in Christ, we already are New Creatures! It is only the great manifestation of what God has already made us in Himself that we describe as "change". It is as His Life forms in us that we begin to manifest the beauty of the Life we have already received. This process of change is a very important and necessary part of our Christian growth called "transformation" or "metamorphosis". The Apostle Paul called it, "Christ being formed in you". Rather than being conformed to this world we begin to give outward expression to His indwelling Word by Life (Rom. 12:2). This inward growth of Christ as our Life becomes so great that it transforms us outwardly and causes us to walk in the newness of His Life.

The end of this intense process called "metamorphosis" is a transformation. Transformation simply means that what is deep inside is given outward expression. His nature formed in us will govern our outward actions.

Many of us have already received Jesus into our hearts, but how many of us truly realize that He is wanting to grow so big in each one of us that we will become changed into His glorious image.

As Christ is formed in us we will begin to be carried by His Life. Jesus' nature in us and through us becomes like wings that carry us in the overcoming Life of Another! He takes us places that we could never go without Him formed in us! Through Him we can love our enemies and bless those who curse us.

This booklet is dedicated to all those who feel overwhelmed, defeated, and like there is no hope for them.

Greater than you ever dreamed... there is hope for you. One day you will spread your wings and fly far above all that holds you down now. Jesus' Life in you will carry you where you could never go. Where there is hate, He will lift you up in His love. Where there is unforgiveness, He will fill you with mercy and compassion. Our old selfish nature has left us crippled and captive. But the nature of Christ formed in us will give us wings.

From my heart to yours,

Kelly

Scriptures to Chew On!

Romans 12:2 says, "And be not conformed to this world; but let yourselves be transformed by a renewing of your minds" (Beck).

Romans 8:2 says, "For the victory of ascendant life in Christ Jesus has released me from being taken captive to a crawling lifestyle" (KJS).

Galatians 6:15 says, "For neither is circumcision nor the omission of it anything; but a new nature is everything" (TCNT).

Colossians 3:5+10 says, "So treat as dead your lower earthly nature... and clothe yourselves with that new self, put on that new nature" (Gspd, Wms, TCNT, Mof).

Ephesians 4:22-24 says, "You must lay aside the old nature which belonged to your former course of life, and the very spirit of your minds must be constantly renewed" (Mof, TCNT).

Galatians 4:19 says, "My children, you for whom I am again, as it were, undergoing the pains of childbirth until Christ is fully formed within you" (Mof).

11 Cor. 5:17 says, "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new" (KJV).



Now Me-me was a flyer! He was so happy to be living above the earth with God that the joy of the Lord kept bubbling up in his heart and causing him to laugh all the time! Before too long all the other insects starting calling him "He-He" instead of "Me-me".

He-He used to tightly hold everything close to himself and be afraid of losing anything. Now he loved to open up his wings

and let the wind carry him. He loved to share the joy of this wonderful life with the flowers and the other butterflies too. Many times "He-He" would land near other caterpillars just to bring them the love and hope of living in a whole new way. He hoped the other caterpillars would realize, just like he did, that there was new Life waiting to blossom inside of them! He knew their time to change would come just like his did. He told them no matter how they felt or what they looked like now, they were born to fly!

THE END!

Winged Creatures



Otherwise Known As Butterflies

Preface

"All creation is yearning, longing, gazing eagerly with outstretched neck and on tiptoe to see the manifestation of the sons of God. For the creature was subject to the bondage of crawling not by choice but because of God's glorious hope, and the hope is that the creature itself will be rescued from it's slavery to corruption into the glorious liberty known by those who allow Christ to manifest his overcoming life through them!"

For we know that the whole creation is groaning together, and suffering the pangs of labor, awaiting the manifestation the Life of the Son within" (Rom. 8:19-22).

If you are Born Again, then you have the Life and Nature of the Son in you.

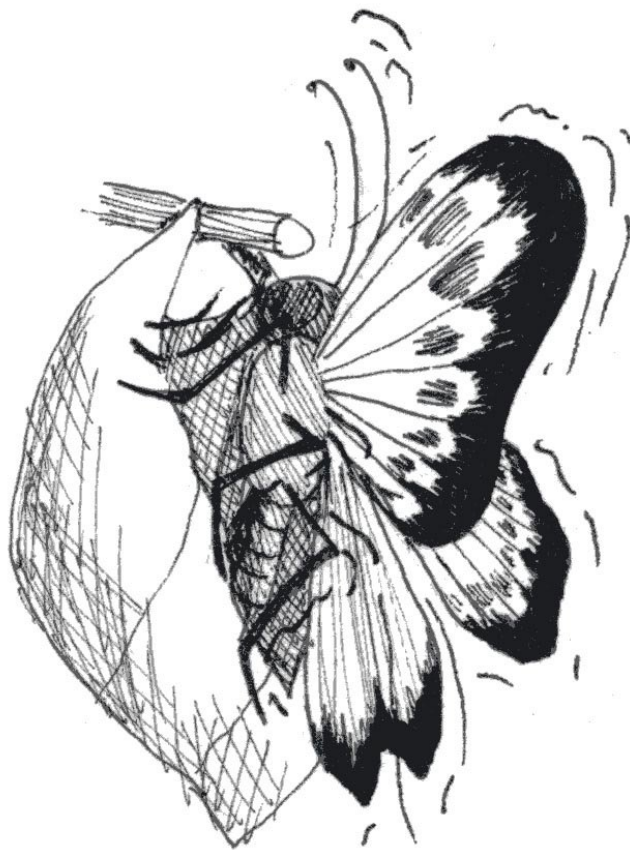
And all creation is waiting for that beauty to manifest.

And then it actually happened! Me-me out-grew his cocoon and began to wiggle himself free from it's skin. Huge and wonderful wings slowly opened like blossoming flowers. Me-me had to let the blood that was in his body fill his wings as he hung upside down. His new wings were also wet and so Me-me had to give them time to dry in the sun so that he could use them. When his wings were strong enough, Me-me began to use them to reach up with all his heart. As he was reaching up the wind started to fill his wings, lifting him higher and higher above the earth, carrying him places he could never go before!



And then, in a glorious instant, Me-me realized that he was flying!

After spending quite a long while in his special place of change, Me-me felt he like was about to burst. He had outgrown the skin of his hiding place and was ready to leave his cocoon. It was time to stop thinking about his new life and start experiencing it! It was time for Me-me to rise up and fly! Me-me felt different on the inside and like he was going to burst on the outside! He no longer felt safe and at home in his cocoon. It had become too small to hold all of his new changes! He now felt that the only place that could ever feel like home to him again was the sky. He knew he was made to dwell above the earth. He knew he was made to fly.



Introduction

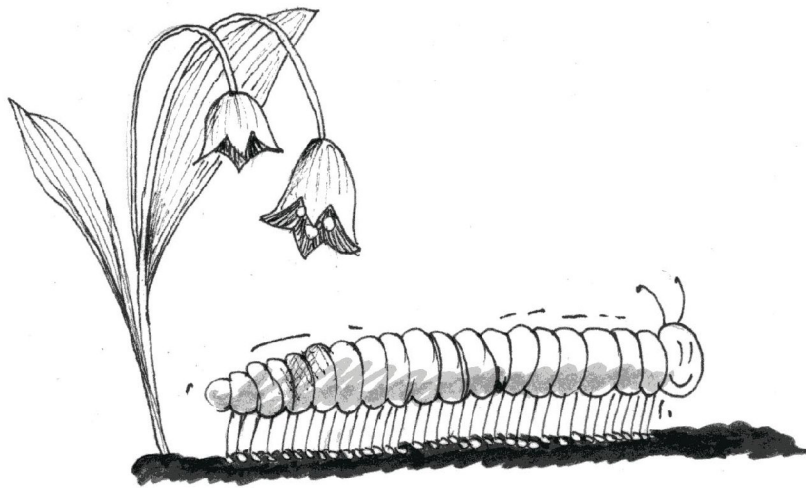
Butterflies are creatures that have gone through a very special process that has allowed what is inside of them to change their outsides. Butterflies used to be worm-like creatures called caterpillars that had to crawl on the ground to move around. But at a certain time all caterpillars are meant to go through a process that will allow them to fully express and manifest in maturity the life that is in them.



What happens when a caterpillar turns into a butterfly can help us to better understand how we, as Christians, can give outward expression to the beautiful Life of Jesus that God has put in us.

All caterpillars are born from eggs that were laid by butterflies. These crawling creatures have been born into the butterfly family, they just have not yet discovered the mystery of the life that is in them.

The little worms eat their way out of their eggs and start crawling around. They do not yet know that they were born to fly! As time goes on, caterpillar life can become depressing, especially if they do not know that they are supposed to change into butterflies one day!



There are many times while the caterpillar is growing that it gets too big for its skin. When that happens it sheds the old skin to find a new and bigger coat underneath. (This is called molting.) This will happen several times in a caterpillar's life. But the day will come for every caterpillar when getting bigger and shedding skin is not enough. It must form a cocoon so that it can transform and be changed in a greater way than it has ever experienced before.

Me-me really treasured his time in the cocoon. Instead of sleeping all the time he kept his heart awake so he could concentrate on the New Life that was growing. As his heart kept stretching towards God he could feel his new arms growing and stretching up too!!! He was growing, changing, and manifesting what God had made him to be! This little caterpillar knew that Jesus was alive and growing in him!





The whole time Me-me was in his cocoon all he could do was think about the beauty of butterfly life. He felt as if he was exchanging his old life for a brand new one! He knew that God had put something wonderful in his heart that was now beginning to blossom! Even though no one could see it, Me-me knew something really incredible was happening inside of him. For the first time in his life, Me-me could not think about the dirt but only about the beauty of living from above. He thought about the hope that Jesus left us when He promised that He would live in us.

When it comes time for this big change the caterpillar will form a cocoon. In this dark hiding place the caterpillar experiences the mystery of true inward change. He uses his energy and time during this season to help the new growth. Rather than continuing to crawl around in the dirt he is choosing to put off his caterpillar form. Rather than trying to improve himself or imitate butterflies, the caterpillar simply allows the new life inside to grow and manifest. In that cocoon, all things are coming forth wings!

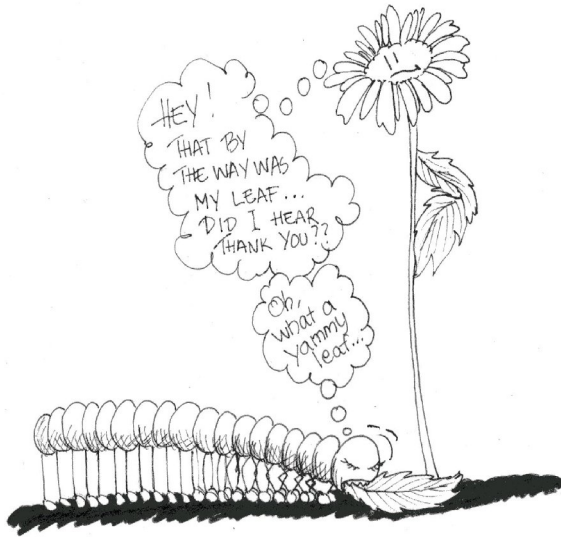
In the cocoon the caterpillar develops new "arms" that will reach up towards heaven to receive the strength of the wind. These wings will no longer hold on to the earth but will open up to be filled with all that is from above. It is in this new way it is able to move.

The process that the caterpillar went through during his time in the cocoon caused it to put off the old caterpillar life and receive the wings of butterfly life. What once was an insect trapped on the earth is now a winged creature that moves above the earth.



Me-me's Story

Me-me the caterpillar liked to hold things close to himself. He liked to grab at the branches of trees with all his many legs and feel like he was in control. He never noticed anyone or anything, only what was in front of his face on the ground.



He never looked up or cared about anything but eating and looking at what was the next step in front of him. His whole life consisted of wandering over a very small area and looking for food. "Me-me" was content with his simple life and didn't really expect for much more.

But what Me-me didn't know was that he was not in FAILURE, Me-me was in PROCESS! As his tears were spilling out he noticed a silky substance was coming out too. It made him stick to the branch he was on so he could hang from it! And then he found himself becoming covered in a cocoon! He realized that this must be the place for his *big change* to happen! Me-me determined he would not come out of this place until he could fly out! He would remain hidden in his cocoon until the day his butterfly life couldn't be hid anymore!

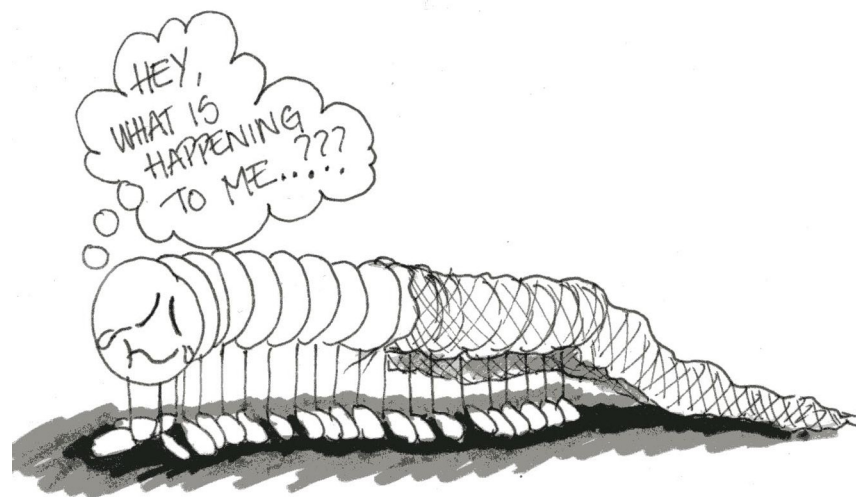


Me-me lost his skin one last time, but this time he found the new skin hardening into a shell to protect all the changes that were going on inside. Me-me didn't know all these things were supposed to happen to him, but as he cried out for butterfly life to manifest they just seemed to happen. Maybe there were even more things that God had put into his heart that he had not yet experienced!

Yet Me-me's little heart kept turning away from the earth and stretching towards the heavens. Each day he grew more and more tired of being a crawler. He didn't have the heart for worm life anymore. No matter how big he grew and how many old skins he shed, he remained an earth-bound worm. He knew that deep inside of himself it was still his old caterpillar life. He found himself refusing to molt, unable to eat just to get fatter, and tired of being a worm. His heart was crying out for a real change; he wanted to experience butterfly life. But how, oh how, could it ever happen to him? Me-me began to weep, and even sob as he cried out for his change to come. He felt like such a hopeless failure.



As Me-me ate and ate he grew bigger and bigger. At times he would get too big for his own skin! And so his skin would sometimes fall off and a nice, new outfit would be underneath that fit just perfectly. Me-me always felt like he was really becoming a better and more successful caterpillar with each new skin. He was proud of his growth and wanted everyone to see his brand new skin. But deep in his heart he knew he was still a caterpillar.



After shedding his skin four times, Me-me started to feel depressed. He needed something more than to just keep becoming a bigger and fatter caterpillar. He knew there had to be an even greater change than what he was experiencing. He was sick of being a caterpillar. He was sick of himself. He wanted a new life.

And then one day he saw it, and he knew that he had found what he was searching for.

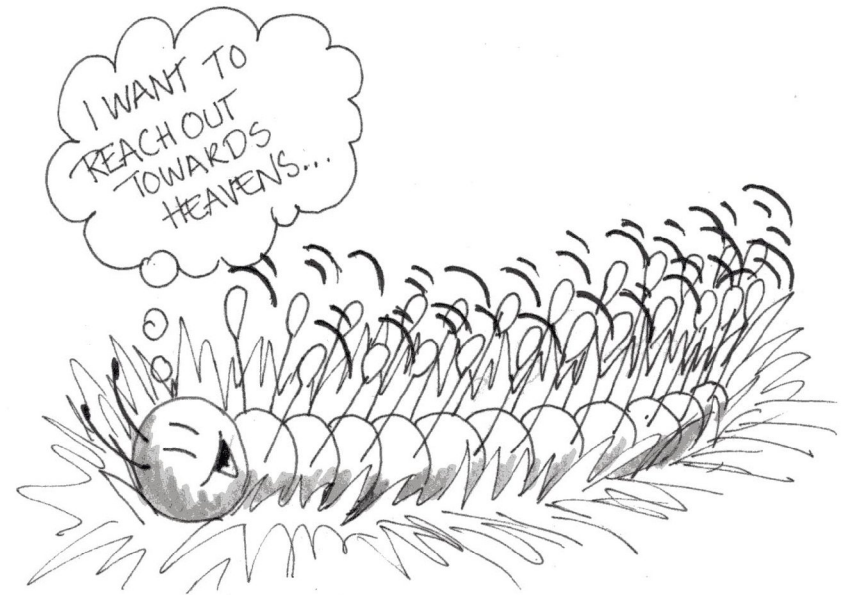
As Me-me was crawling on his little path he bumped his head on a branch. Just as he looked up he saw a caterpillar with wings flying out of a dark, deflated shell. Me-me was in shock. This looked like a caterpillar that had become transformed into a glorious winged creature!



In an instant he realized how much better his life could be. But how could such a thing happen? How could one grow such magnificent arms? How could someone have arms that could move without touching the earth?

This was not a bigger, flashier caterpillar. This was an entirely new critter! This change could not have come just from molting. There must have been some kind of radical transformation!

Me-me thought that possibly it was just a dream and that he should forget about it. Why should he allow himself to believe that he could change that much and actually live above the pull of the earth? That would be just too wonderful! Maybe he shouldn't get his hopes up.



But Me-me could not forget about it. And so he took all of his little legs and tried to reach the sky with them. He even lay on his back and looked up for the first time. But still, it was nothing like that gorgeous creature that he saw soaring up into the sky with arms that moved like poetry. What must he do to bring such a change? How could he make it happen? This was a much greater change than shedding his skin for a new coat. Maybe such wonderful things were not for such a little worm as himself.