

NEED FOR PREPARATION

All of us seem to realize the need for preparation in our lives. Before we leave for work or school we freshen up, comb our hair, put on clean, pressed clothing. After a hearty breakfast we leave ready to face the day's activities. Preparation pays off!

When we are well prepared, our lives are happy and smooth running. We've all learned that facing a test in school without study, getting to work or to some appointment late, or serving guests after a long delay rattles us. We've learned the value of preparation!

Don't you feel that our classes and assemblies could be quite different if we made adequate preparation for them? May I offer just a few suggestions along this line.

First, come in prepared physical state. If we get up a little late, hurry the family around, shout at the children to speed up, and roll in at the last minute, we are obviously going to be emotionally rattled. What a difference it makes when we arrive at the building early, greet friends, and begin focusing our attention on the privileges and joys of assembling together.

Second, come with a prepared seeking heart. Attending the assembly should not be approached as a matter of habit or burden of duty. It's an opportunity to get completely away from the world and into contact with God and our fellow Christians in a deep satisfying relationship.

Third, come with a prepared attitude. Come prepared to give of yourself. If we come only to get, we will in the end get nothing. The success of the assembly depends on people who are prepared to give of themselves.

Assembling is not just a matter of getting some people together. It's a matter of getting hearts, minds, and needs together. Preparation will usually make the difference.

-Selected

WE INVITE YOU . . . TO STUDY AND WORSHIP WITH US

SUNDAY
Bible Classes 9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.
Evening Worship 6:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY
Bible Study 7:00 p.m.

THURSDAY
Keenager Program 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Church of Christ
R R 5, Box 13
LaGrange, Ind. 46761

Elders

Dean Hoggatt
463 3318
Norm Herron
463 3077

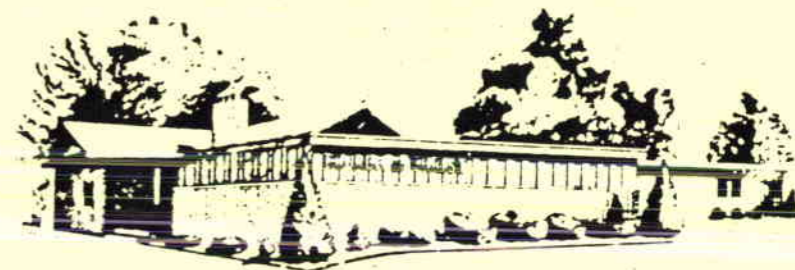
Evangelists

Ed McGuiggan
463 2997
Norm Herron
463 3077

Deacons

Joe Hughes
Perry Miller
Fred Oakley
Joe Oakley

LaGrange CHURCH OF CHRIST



R.R. 5 • Box 13 • LaGrange, Indiana 46761

January 4, 1987

A GREAT NEW YEAR!

We are looking forward to A GREAT NEW YEAR! There are many exciting plans and prospects for this church. The elders are honestly and openly looking for ways to lead us in the glory and service of God. We no longer are content with a "business as usual" approach to the work.

Many "grass roots" movements of evangelism and service are developing among our people. Several have asked, "What is there that I can do to help the cause of Christ?" That's encouraging!

This year truly can be great if you and I, with the help of God, determine to grow together in Christ. The three keys to growth are commitment, communication, and co-operation.

Commitment: The Lord tells us, "But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness..." (Matt.6:33). The Lord must be number one in our lives. Our new life in Christ must be centered on Him.

Communication: Without good communication any project or relationship is doomed to failure. The tower of Babel was stopped due to a lack of it. We are admonished, "Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs" (Eph.4:29).

(Continued on inside)

THE LIVING WORD



FOR A DYING WORLD

(Continued from front)

Co-operation: We must work together for the glory and service of God. "We have many members in one body and all the members do not have the same function...And since we have gifts that differ...let us exercise them accordingly (Rom. 12:4-6). If each of us will commit ourself to using our individual gifts in the service of Christ and the building up of His church, we can have A GREAT YEAR at LaGrange!

-Adapted

NEW YEARS PARTY: There was a good turn out for the Annual New Years Party. The food and fellowship prior to the evening service couldn't have been better.

The regular Bible classes were replace by a devotional service of the entire church. Our devotion stressed the need to first look within ourself so that we can more effectively serve others in the body.

Afterwards, a time of table games and visiting was followed by an evening of bowling. Some of the young people showed their skill by rolling some of the higher games. The annual roll-off between the old and young men went to the "oldies" this year.

THANKS TO ALL: Eddie and Margaret express their thanks to the LaGrange church for the going away party and money tree last Sunday. Their new house has been delivered and set on the foundation. Final preparations are being made and the house will soon be ready for occupancy. We wish them God's speed in their new work.

NURSING HOMES: Sunday afternoon we have another opportunity to be of service to others. We will be singing at Millers at 4:30 p.m. and LaGrange at 5:15 p.m. This is an opportunity to do good for others as we minister for Christ.

KEENAGERS: The Keenager meetings will resume again after a two week lay off for the holidays. The winter months tend to cut down the attendance but there still is a good turn out of from 30 to 40 each week.

CONGRATULATIONS: We are happy to announce the engagement of Gary Pieratt to Lori Logan of Colorado. Lori has returned to Harding University for 2 more years of schooling.

SPECIAL DATES FOR JANUARY:

Happy Birthday-

Midge Hughes	9th	Steve Miller	18th
Mike Pepito	13th	Mary Campbell	27th
Merilyn Herron	15th		

Happy Anniversary- David & Bonnie Sowles 19th (2nd)

FOR THE RECORD:

	12/21/86	12/28/86
Sunday Bible Classes	87	71
Morning Worship	103	99
Evening Worship	91	101
Wednesday Bible Study	59	74
Contribution	1001.50	900.00
Weekly Budget	1200.00	1200.00

AN INCREDIBLE STORY

In an incredible story back in the winter, a brother and sister who feuded for years didn't know their 80-year-old mother had died until they asked each other where she was and then went to her home.

Neighbors thought the woman, who often ran visitors off with her broom, had gone away to live with her daughter or in a nursing home. There had not been any activity at the house for a couple of years.

When the brother and sister, both of who live in the area, got together to settle the estate of an uncle, they discovered that each thought the other was caring for the mother. They went to their mother's home where they found her body in the living room. An autopsy revealed she had been dead over a year.

That story strikes me not only as incredible but as terribly sad. How could people let their family relationships deteriorate to the point that such a thing could happen? Maybe it's just a tragic example of everybody thinking somebody else is doing whatever needs to be done.

Before we finish shaking our heads, however, maybe we should ask if the same thing doesn't happen in God's family - - the church. Is it possible that people could die spiritually and no one notice? Is it possible that people could slip away and be gone for weeks-- maybe even a year -- before anyone noticed? Could it be that we would notice people having problems or notice we haven't seen them in a while but assume someone has already checked on them?

As I've been writing this, someone has come to mind that I haven't seen in a while at services. Someone may have checked on this person already. I'm going to make sure.

--David Craig

BIBLE READING: You can read the entire Bible in a year by just reading three chapters a day. (2 in O.T. & 1 in N.T.) Lets read our Bibles through in 1987. Reading for Jan. 1-7: Gen. 1-14 & Matt. 1-7.

BUDGET TIME AGAIN!

Budgets are a pain! They make us to exercise self-discipline. We long for the "times" when workers spent what they made and churches spent what they collected without having to worry about "cash flow", monthly bills, or long-term debts. Those simple times are gone. Almost everything is purchased or paid on some kind of time payment plan. We finance our houses and church buildings for years. Utilities and insurance must be paid on a regular basis. This kind of living requires budgeting. Churches and individuals who don't learn to budget get in serious trouble.

Church budgets are especially sticky. We are supposed to be "about the Lord's business"! But most of our expenses are fixed. Mortgage payments, utilities, insurances, salaries and similar bills come due monthly. Church contributions on the other hand are static. Contributions depend entirely upon the ability and attitude of members. Unfortunately, when we fail to meet our budget, fixed expenses stay fixed and flexible expenses get cut. Things like evangelism, mission work, benevolence, get hurt. This can be avoided only by establishing a REALISTIC budget that will be GENEROUSLY supported out of LOVE and FAITH by the whole church.

The elders really want to know how we feel about what this church ought to be involved in and how much we are willing to contribute, both of our money and ourselves in the support of these efforts. In a very real sense, the members of this church, set its budget and determine its work. Elders can only offer spiritual leadership. We, the members, in the final analysis set the budget and do the work! Support that work! Give your share and do your share! Encourage others to do the same. Together we can do it!

-Selected

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THURSDAY

Keenager Program	10 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
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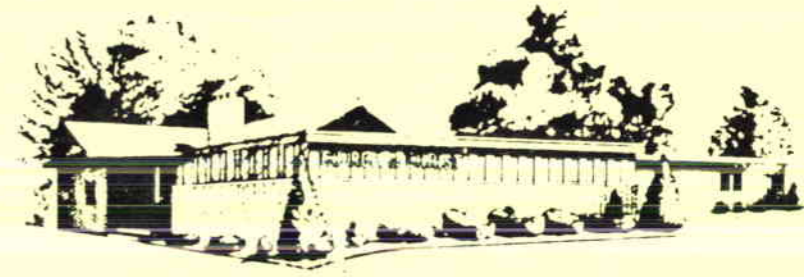
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January 11, 1987

"REDEEMING THE TIME, BECAUSE THE DAYS ARE EVIL."
Ephesians 5:16

1987 has arrived, a brand new year with hopes and possibilities. At the stroke of midnight: on the first of January, we began the count of the next 8,760 hours that will bring us to the close of this year. By the time you receive this paper, as much as 240 hours will already have elapsed. Time, as it always has, is fleeting by us.

As we move into this year, the question we should consider is: How will we redeem the time that has been given us? How will you spend this next 8,760 hours?

Approximately one-third, or 2,920 hours will be spent sleeping (literally). Another one-third, more or less, will be spent in work-related activities. Approximately 730 hours will be spent consuming food (assuming consumption at a moderate rate). If we allow an hour per day for the purposes of personal grooming (a minimum requirement for most of us), then another 365 hours will be gone. An equivalent amount of hours will probably be spent in pure recreation, which all need. 208 hours will be spent in Bible study and worship services by those who attend all the scheduled services. These activities total 7,508 hours for which there is little flexibility.

But we are still left with 1,252 hours to spend in the new year.

(Continued inside)

THE LIVING WORD



FOR A DYING WORLD

(Continued from front)

That amounts to a little more than 52 days - 14.24658% of the entire year! What will we do with that time? That is time for service, for study, for teaching and learning. It is time for sharing and caring and involvement in moments that can have an effect for eternity. Fifty-two days that can be wasted and squandered and lost. Or fifty-two days that can make a difference for a lifetime. The choice is ours. But we had better hurry. Time is flying by.

-Chuck Barrington

MEN'S MEETING: The monthly meeting of the men will be this Sunday at 5:00 P.M. This is an important meeting as we begin to make plans for the coming year. The presence and input of all the men is vital to the growth of this church. Please call the elders if for some reason you won't be able to attend.

WEDNESDAY TEENAGERS CLASSES: The Wednesday night teenagers Bible classes were divided into the girls and boys. The Junior and Senior High girls are being taught by Kizzie May in room #12. They are discussing a number of areas that will be helpful to this particular age. The Junior and Senior High boys are being taught by Dean Hoggatt. The boys will be going through a training series to help prepare them for service in the church.

IN SORROW: Marilyn's aunt, sister Robbie Jetton who was 90 years old passed away Wednesday. She had been staying in a nursing home due to poor health and had suffered a few minor strokes. The Herrons were away in Livonia, Michigan for the funeral on Saturday and to be with family.

NEWS & NOTES:

Patti Copeland and the girls had bad coughes and colds last week but are improving.

Ted and Margaret Tucker returned from a nice flight and visit with her daughter Anita and family in Denver, Colorado.

Bill and Sharon Pepito and children returned from visiting with Bill's family in California. Bill reports that his mother's health has greatly improved.

Kizzie May's older brother, Guthrie Phelps, had a stroke and is in the hospital in Alabama.

The McGuiggans house in Millersburg is almost ready. They hope to be moved in the next couple of weeks.

BUILDING UP ONE ANOTHER

A talented accompanist always makes the principal artist appear at his best. To accompany a soloist or even a group of performers is to provide the most favorable background for their talents.

Christians have so many opportunities to "accompany" one another. We can make each other appear at our best. We can provide the most favorable background for the gifts of God to be fruitful in one another's lives.

For a quick overview of this quality of our friendship, use your concordance and glance over the "one another" passages of your New Testament. Love one another, for give, exhort, honor and pray for one another--these are some ways in which we build up each other, or "accompany" one another in Christian fellowship.

A young lady was questioned about her choice of a husband. She said, "When I was with Bill, I thought he was the most wonderful person in the world." Her friend asked, "Why did you not marry Bill?" She replied, "When I was with Jim, I felt like I was the most wonderful person in the world."

In our formal and informal meetings, we have choice opportunities to bring happiness to each other, to build up one another, to make each other appear at our best.

-Wes Jones

<u>FOR THE RECORD:</u>	1/4/87		
Sunday Bible Classes	67	Wednesday Bible Study	67
Morning Worship	102	Weeks Contribution	\$1153.26
Evening Worship	92		

"MAY everything we do be FIRST CLASS"

The following is an excerpt from a prayer given to a group of U.S. Postal Service employees:

May everything we do be FIRST CLASS. Imprint your own loving ZIP CODE upon our hearts so that we may never go astray. Provide in your gracious providence SPECIAL HANDLING for those of us who are FRAGILE and keep us in one piece. We have been SIGNED, SEALED, STAMPED, and DELIVERED in your image and likeness and we beg you to keep us in your care as we go about our APPOINTED ROUNDS. And when our days draw to a close, and we are marked RETURN TO SENDER be there to greet us at heaven's door so that nobody may ever say UNKNOWN AT THIS ADDRESS.

THE VALUE OF VISITING

The ten largest and fastest growing churches in the United States have outstanding visitation programs. The secret to their tremendous growth is VISITATION! Each has a planned, organized, regular and church-wide visitation program!

When anyone mentions visitation, almost always someone will ask, "Just how much good does visitation do?" Many become discouraged when they visit with no visible results, and thus begin to question its value and effectiveness. May I share with you the following statistics to renew your desire and dedication to make that visit you have been intending to make?

According to a poll conducted by a church directory service, people originally chose their place of worship for various reasons.

- (1) 9% chose a particular congregation because of the architectural beauty of the building.
- (2) 3% made their choice because the minister came to visit them.
- (3) 18% chose on the basis of their prior denominational ties.
- (4) 22% were influenced to attend because they knew and respected certain members.
- (5) 34% attended because they were invited by a friend or neighbor.

These results suggest the importance of visitation and outreach by all members of the church. Remember the powerful influence YOU have - 50% of those polled attend worship and chose a church home because they knew a member who was interested in them, or were invited to attend by a friend or neighbor!

-Selected

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LaGrange CHURCH OF CHRIST



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January 18, 1987

REACH OUT TO SOMEONE- A FEW SIMPLE RULES



A face tells the story of your feelings. Let your smile say, "I like you, and I want to know you better. You and I can be good friends." Faces of love are all we need to tell someone we care.

Put it there! The friendly clasp of a hand communicates volumes. It can warm a heart, break down a barrier and open the door for new relationships. Keep your hands free for touching and holding those you meet.



Listen carefully. An open ear is a strange thing in our society. One who listens will find many with messages of pain, sorrow, hurt, joy, need, sin and penance. Hear the messages of those you meet.

Give them a ring. Follow up on every person you meet who is a visitor from the community. Ring their phone and tell them you are glad you met them. Ring their door bell with a cake or a pie. Offer your life to them with a ring.



THE LIVING WORD



FOR A DYING WORLD

CAMP INDOGAN: Camp Cans are available to all those who would like to donate their change for the next 2½ months. Each of the 25 camp board directors have been contacting area congregations on behalf of the camp. This has helped to promote a greater interest in the camp. In the last two years approximately \$1500.00 has been donated each year towards improvements at the camp.

This year's special project calls for the complete renovation and addition to the bathhouse. The proposed work will double the size of the present bathhouse. This is a much needed improvement in the plans to up-grade the camp for greater use by our youth.

Dean has several cans to be assigned to anyone who wishes to help this year. Just see him and ask for one. Help make his day!

SUNDAY BIBLE CLASSES: The recent attempt to appoint more elders pointed up the need for developing more leadership in the church. A number of changes are in effect that will help this need. Another way that would help in this area is through the use of the teenage and adult Bible classes.

A plan was proposed and favorable received by the men that would alternate the teachers each month for the next six months. The idea is to rotate 12 teachers among the four classes so that each class will have a new teacher every month. This will also relieve Norm from having to teach Sunday morning in addition to his preaching schedule and at the same time provide an opportunity for some of the men to develop their teaching skills.

Admittedly, under this arrangement not always the "best" teacher would be teaching the class but hopefully each teacher would be teaching "his best". Our cooperation and helpfulness would be a great encouragement to these teachers as we all participate in this effort to develop our men in this area of leadership.

TEACHER TRAINING: There will be a special teacher's training class on Monday, January 26 at 7-9:00 P.M. for all those interested in teaching. The class will review the use of various study helps and aids that will assist the teacher in class preparation and presentation.

ANNUAL REPORT: The Annual Report Meeting will be Sunday, Feb. 1 following the evening service. We will meet in the fellowship room for the report and a brief period of fellowship. Every member should be present for the consideration of the various programs and ministries of this church for the coming year.

CONGRATULATIONS: We are happy to congratulate April Mauney upon her graduation on Thursday, Jan. 15th from Lakeland High School.

PRAYERS: Kizzie May requests our prayers for Bob as he undergoes intensive training and testing in order to qualify for his new work in Alabama.

FOR THE RECORD:

1/11/87

Sunday

Bible Classes 86

Morning Worship 107

Evening Worship 87

Contribution \$1239.65

Wednesday Bible Study 63

Thursday "Keenagers" 46

"Whether a person goes to church regularly or not does not depend on how far he lives from church, but rather how far he lives from God".

SECRET SISTERS: The "Secret Sisters" will be having a Salad and Desert Buffet on January 23rd at 6:30 p.m. at the church building. Each sister is asked to bring either a main dish salad or dessert and the recipe to share. A sign up sheet is in the foyer. Please give Sharon Pepito 50¢ per person to cover other costs. We will be revealing ourselves to our "Secret Sisters" with a card or gift and then drawing for our new "sister" for the next 6 months. If anyone is interested in taking over for this next time please contact Sharon Pepito.

IN THE NEW YEAR ARE YOU WILLING...

To close your book of complaints and to open the book of praise?

To ignore what life owes you and to think about what you owe life?

To stop looking for friendship and to start being friendly?

To be content with such things as you have and to stop whining for the things you have not?

To enjoy the simple blessings of life and to cease striving for the artificial pleasures of the day?

To forget what you have accomplished and to meditate on what others have done for you?

To cease looking for someone to help you and to devote yourself to helping others?

To consecrate your life to the service of an imperfect church and to remember that Christ chose twelve imperfect followers to be His disciples.

EXPRESSION OF THANKS

Dear Servants of Christ,

Thank you's are easily said at times. The Thank you that is expressed from the staff and children of Shults-Lewis is deep and true. God bless your hard work in wrapping hundreds of presents at the Concord Mall this past Christmas season. The work and sacrifice will not go unrewarded. God sees our efforts in His name and rewards us in kind. We were recipients of more than \$3,000.00 from your efforts. How tired some of you must have been after Delores Zimmerman called you again and again. Now how do you feel? As our youth say it, "I feel like a warm and fuzzy". That expresses our thanks to you!

May the God of peace be with you all is our prayer.

In Christ's Service,
Gerald Frump

WORD FOR TEENS- One of the tremendous lessons that can be learned by a young person is "Patience." You can't wait to get your drivers license, can you? Then you can't wait to finish high school. Next you can't wait to attend college. Then you can't wait wait to find the person you want to spend the rest of your life with. Then you can't wait to graduate from college. On and on it goes. I'm sure you get the point. Take time to read the poem below. Allow God to work through you as you patiently anticipate you future. Take time to smell the roses.

I Forgot to Live!

First I was dying to finish high school and start college.
And then, I was dying to finish college and start working.
And then, I was dying to marry and have children.
And then, I was dying for my children to grow old enough for school, so
I could return to work.
And then, I was dying to retire.
And now, I am dying...And suddenly, I forgot to live.

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January 25, 1987

IT'S UP TO YOU!

1986 is history! Whatever good or bad you did; whatever you did or left undone; 1986 is over. You cannot go back and change what happened. You cannot rest on 1986's accomplishments and it will do you no good to grieve over 1986's mistakes. 1986 is a closed book, but 1987 stretches before you as a clean slate. You can make 1987 anything you want it to be. You can fill it with whatever you choose. Make wise choices!

Let's all commit to make 1987 a year of greater service and commitment to our Lord, the church and each other. "And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds." (Heb. 10:24). Let's all be even more loving, caring and supporting of each other than we have been in the past, as all of us grow closer to the Lord.

We can start our 1987 year of service off right away! The adult Sunday Bible classes will have different men as teachers each month. We can help encourage them with our attendance and participation each week. The new budget will project a challenging but realistic program of work. We can support it by giving as prospered by the Lord.

Let's all have a great 1987! Walk with the Master! See that we love one another more than before.

-Norm

THE LIVING WORD



FOR A DYING WORLD

COURAGEOUS LEADERSHIP

A congregation may not generally be aware of the courage it takes to be an elder. The purpose of this article is to point out some of the areas where elders have to show a special and spiritual courage in their leadership.

AN ELDER IS A MAN, subject to errors of judgment. Yet he must go ahead with courage to make decisions KNOWING he could be wrong. It is not possible to know 100% of all things before reaching a decision.

AN ELDER IS A HUSBAND, aware of the frailty of the human family. Yet he must proceed with courage in his leadership, KNOWING that his family will, by association, fall heir to some criticism directed at him.

AN ELDER IS A LEADER, enjoying the approval of those he leads. Yet he must have the courage to make decisions based upon his spiritual and intellectual judgment, KNOWING it may cost him favor of the church.

AN ELDER IS A TEACHER, a student of mankind and time. Yet he cannot remain simply a student, but must become a teacher, KNOWING that the ultimate direction of the church and its growth in the future depends upon his reactions today.

AN ELDER IS AN OVERSEER, conscious of the weight of responsibility. Yet he must have the courage to trust others with responsibility, KNOWING they may quit, or they may ignore the assignment.

AN ELDER IS A SHEPHERD, awed by the power of God. Yet his love for the souls of men causes him to accept the office of bishop KNOWING that one day he will stand in God's presence and give account of his own dealings with those he was to lead.

It is likely that no man would accept the challenge of leading as an elder if God had not promised wisdom from above, inner strength of character and His eternal presence.

-Selected

I don't know who wrote the following article about elders but it was written from wisdom, love and respect for elders in the Lord's church. God has given them the task of overseeing, shepherding, teaching, protecting and leading Christians. Let's try to understand how difficult their task is and help them and pray for them.

SICK-

Jane Fensic's sister, Shirley Hiner underwent surgery for removal of a tumor. She is recovering at home.

Patti Copeland's father, Earl Vaughn, has developed a problem of severe bleeding.

Ted and Margaret Tucker are having health problems. Ted is having to wear a heart monitor so the doctor can check his heart. Margaret is suffering from a kidney infection and has to stay home from work for 10 days.

Andrew Oakley fell and injured his arm while at school. It was later determined that he had fractured it.

Steve Miller sprained his ankle while playing basketball last Sunday.

Bonnie Sowles and her daughter April have been suffering from colds and bronchitis the past week.

SORROW-

Sherry Courtney, Pat Hall's sister-in-law, passed away Friday after an 8-9 year bout with cancer. Viewing will be Sunday from 2-4:00 P.M. and 7-9:00 P.M. at the Weicht Funeral home in Angola. Services will be 1:00 P.M. on Monday.

TRAINING CLASS: All prospective and current teachers are invited to a teacher's training class on Monday, Jan. 26 at 7-8:30 P.M. The class will involve the "how to" in using Bible helps and planning the class lesson.

ANNUAL REPORT: The Annual Report Meeting is planned for Sunday, Feb. 1st immediately following the evening service. Make your plans to remain for the report meeting and some fellowship.

SECRET SISTER: The Secret Sister Buffet was cancelled Friday evening due to inclement weather. It is rescheduled for Saturday evening, Jan. 31, same time and place.

FOURTH SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP: The fourth Sunday fellowship will be held this evening following services. Bring fingerfood and plan to attend. Zone 4 has clean-up!

If you are pulling at the oars, you don't have time to rock the boat!

ARE YOU HUNGRY?

"Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord God, that I will send a famine on the land, not a famine of bread nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the Lord." (Amos 8:11)

Sometime ago, I read a story that happened about 700 years ago in Asia. Nasreddin Hoca had a donkey with a big appetite. He wondered if by gradually reducing the animal's food every day it might be possible to condition the animal to get along without any food at all.

This experiment was continued for several weeks, but a few days after all the food had been stopped, the donkey died. His owner was embarrassed and sad. Nasreddin Hoca commented, "What a pity that he should have died just when he was getting accustomed to hunger."

This sounds ridiculous but it isn't much different from what many Christians do. They discontinue regular, daily Bible study. Wednesday night becomes like any other night of the week, a time for recreation and relaxation. The Bible study hour is just too early to get out on Sunday morning. After all, Sunday is the only day some people have to rest.

Finally, they quit attending services altogether. Someone asks, "I wonder what happened to them, all of a sudden?" It really was not a sudden thing. They had been cutting down on their spiritual food for some time.

They died just when it seemed like they were getting accustomed to hunger. Jesus warned the church in Sardis, "I know your deeds; you have a reputation of being alive, but you are dead. Wake up! Strengthen what remains and is about to die." (Rev. 3:1-2)

-via Bulletin Digest

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Evening Worship 6:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY
Bible Study 7:00 p.m.

THURSDAY
Keenager Program 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Church of Christ
R.R. 5, Box 13
LaGrange, Ind. 46761

Elders

Dean Hoggatt
463 3318
Norm Herron
463 3077

Evangelist

Norm Herron
463-3571

Deacons

Joe Hughes
Perry Miller
Fred Oakley
Joe Oakley

LaGrange CHURCH OF CHRIST



R.R. 5 • Box 13 • LaGrange, Indiana 46761

February 22, 1987

CHRISTIANS WHO GROW WEARY

It is difficult not to grow weary sometimes. Physical weariness is easier to deal with than spiritual weariness. We just get a little more rest. Sometimes in our Christian walk we grow tired and deal with it by simply giving up. Paul warns us against giving up. He wrote, "Let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we shall reap if we do not grow weary" (Gal. 6:9).

The reason we want to give up sometimes is that we can't see any good results from our efforts to live a faithful life. Others let us down. Things seem to go from bad to worse in our lives and we feel, "What's the use?"

The most important rewards for the Christian are not to be expected in this life. It is when we want everything in this life to work out to suit us that we are going to become discouraged and want to give up.. That's what Satan wants, too. If he can't get us to sin openly and rebelliously, he settles for discouragement and giving up.

Brethren, don't grow weary. Don't let discouragement make you gradually slack off in doing good until you finally give up. There are times that we may let each other down, but Jesus never will.

THE LIVING WORD



FOR A DYING WORLD

Handwritten signature: Amy Barron

Handwritten number: 848

4TH SUNDAY: For many of us one of the most enjoyable times of the month is the 4th Sunday fellowship. The fun, food, and fellowship we have together is hard to beat. The only way that we can really get to know and appreciate one another better is to spend time together.

This Sunday's fellowship will be honoring Bob and Kizzie May who are moving to Alabama. Bob has been in Alabama for several weeks for schooling and training so he can get his insurance license. Kizzie will be joining him there the end of this week. In the short time they have been here, they have won a place in everyone's heart. They will be sorely missed in the work here. We bid them God's blessing in their new location and work.

BIBLE SCHOOL: This Sunday brings an end to the first month's rotation of the adult and youth teachers. The response to this new arrangement has been both positive and encouraging. The teachers have worked hard to prepare for each week's class. The comments from those in the classes have been all favorable.

The schedule for next month's classes will be as follows: Junior Adults - Joe Gensic; Senior Adults - Joe Askley; Junior Youth - Gary Pieratt; and Senior Youth - Phil Hostetler. If you are not presently attending one of these classes, why not get started in one now?

CARE GROUPS: A special bulletin board has been set up in the foyer for the Care Groups. There are four columns so that each group can post any news items or make announcements about upcoming activities. Check the board each week to find out the plans for your group.

GUEST SPEAKER: Our speaker for tonight will be brother Kevin May. Let's be sure to be back tonight to encourage Kevin as he tries to feed our souls by sharing with us his insights into God's word.

YOUTH: Be sure to return your information forms to Chris Deilser this Sunday or as soon as possible. These forms will help Chris to plan activities and devotions for future meetings. Also don't forget the upcoming youth rallies in Canton, Ohio on March 20-22, and in Marshall, Michigan on April 18.

ELDERS & DEACONS: The elders and deacons along with their wives will meet together Monday, March 2, at 7:00 PM. at Fred and Penny Oakley house.

BIBLE READERS: One of the suggestions that came out of a recent Men's Meeting was a sign-up sheet for Bible readers. This would allow those who had completed an assigned Bible reading to record their names each week. The Bible readings will be from the Daily Bible Reading in the Gospel Advocate Quarterly used in the Sunday morning classes. This will help us to encourage one another to read God's word and also to prepare for our weekly Bible lessons.

PRAYER REQUESTS: One of the greatest blessings in the Christian life is the privilege of prayer. The assurance of answered prayer in God's word are too numerous to mention. And yet, many times we neglect to pray for others because either we don't know or simply forget those we need to pray for. To help remedy this, a board will be posted at the front of the auditorium for special prayer requests. If you know of any who need our prayers, see Perry Miller before services.

SICK: Sister Vada Powell has been suffering from a sore back. The specialist prescribed rest and no work for two weeks.

Sister Jand Gensic's step father, George Wapler, is in the hospital in Naples Florida. Recent tests have determined that he has meningitis.

Joy Miller, Marilyn's sister, remains in the hospital due to infection. Her husband, Ray and his mother, have been trained to administer her feeding through her veins when she is able to return home.

FOR THE RECORD: 2/22/87

Sunday Bible Classes	77
Morning Worship	116
Evening Worship	90
Contribution	\$783.55
Wednesday Bible Study	74
Thursday "Keenagers"	41

CHRISTIANITY IN THE MARKETPLACE!

One of the common mistakes of Christianity is "compartmentalizing". Life is often viewed as a house, with a number of different rooms. In one room is work, another family, another social life, another church or spiritual life. This approach has done much to keep Christianity from being more of a life-changing force in society. The very essence of Christianity is that individual Christians are temples of God and that together they are the body of Christ on earth.

This presents no greater challenge than in the "marketplace", the workplace or schoolroom. In the Christian walk everyone is a minister of the gospel. Everyone stands as a witness, everyone is called to bring Christ to the environment he or she is in. That includes the workplace.

Does it mean that we are supposed to put the work aside and just talk about the Lord? No, it means that Christians are also to do their work as best they can, out of faithfulness and love to the Lord. They are to be consistent in living out high standards of ethics and morality, and will integrate Christian values into their work. If necessary they will shake the dust off their feet and move on from a company whose principles or products are incompatible with those values. But above all, they will look for opportunities to share the love of Jesus Christ whenever possible. Paul assures us, "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men...It is the Lord Christ you are serving." (Col. 3:23-24).

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LaGrange CHURCH OF CHRIST



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March 1, 1987

THE POWER OF THE BEND KNEE

Have you ever watched a bird sleep on its perch and never falling off? How does it manage to do this?

The secret is the tendons of the bird's legs. They are so constructed that when the leg is bent at the knee, the claws contract and grip like a steel trap. The claws refuse to let go until the knees are unbent again. The bended knee gives the bird the ability to hold on to his perch so tightly.

Is this not also the secret of the holding power of the Christian? Daniel found this to be true. Surrounded by a pagan environment, tempted to compromise with evil, urged to weaken his grip on God, he refused to let go. He held firm when others faltered because he was a man of prayer. He knew the power of the bended knee.

From sleeping birds we can learn the secret of holding things which are most precious to us—honesty, purity, thoughtfulness, honor, character. That secret is the knee bent in prayer, seeking to get a firmer grip on those values which make life worth living. When we hold firmly to God in prayer, we can rest assured He will hold tightly to us.

-Rollin S. Burhans

THE LIVING WORD



FOR A DYING WORLD

BIBLE SCHOOL NEWS: This Sunday begins another set of teachers for the Junior High through Senior Adult classes. This being a 5 Sunday month, the new teachers will be teaching that many Sundays.

The next 3 months our studies will be from the Old Testament, beginning with Joshua. We ask that everyone read the Daily Bible Readings which are given in the adult booklet and also posted on the sign-up sheet in the foyer. These will keep everyone current on the lesson and make for better class discussions. Let's see how many signatures we can get on the sign-up sheet each Sunday.

Thanks to the first round of teachers who did an excellent job during the month of February.

ELDERS & DEACONS: A meeting is scheduled this Monday evening at 7:00P.M. at Fred and Penny Oakley's for the elders, deacons and their wives.

FOR THE RECORD: 2/22

Sunday Bible Classes	?	Contribution	\$1228.66
Morning Worship	102	Wednesday Bible Study	?
Evening Worship	95	Thursday Keenagers	?

TEENS: Tonight after services the teens will meet for 15 minutes to discuss arrangements for the Canton Youth Rally. Please talk to your parents before the meeting.

On March 8th there will be a "Pizza Party" at Deisler's after morning services.

Upcoming events -

March 20-22	- Canton Youth Rally
	"Passing Lifes Bigger Tests"
April 4	- MCC High School Days
April 18	- Youth Rally - Marshall, Michigan
	"Where Will I Be Tomorrow"

Please turn in your questionnaire by tonight to Chris.

CARE GROUPS: Care Group 4 met last evening. Illnesses and out of town guests resulted in small attendance. Those who were there had a very nice quiet visit. Thank you to those who were able to attend. The host was not able to attend either - sorry!

Care Group 1 meets next Saturday March 7 at 4:00 P.M. at Fred and Penny Oakley's. They will be having a Potato Bar.

PHONE FOR CHILDREN: The Shults-Lewis Children's Home will kick off their 1987 Phone for Children fund raising drive on Sunday March 8th. Volunteers from area churches will be making phone calls for the next several weeks in order to solicit funds for the home. When you receive your call, please do what you can to help or at least encourage the caller.

SPECIAL DATES FOR MARCH:

Birthdays

Cara Pepito	3
David May	3
Andrew Oakley	8
Jill Pieratt	10
Sally May	11
Alma Dorris	12
Mary Ann Johnston	12
Bonnie Sowles	17

Joe Gensic	17
Sheila Copeland	21
Aaron Simpson	24
Phil Hostetler	28

ANNIVERSARIES

Dean & Thelma Hoggatt	12
Dave & Diane Kimpel	20
Beulah Morr	20
Enos & Norma Miller	31

JUMPING TO CONCLUSIONS

A lady invited friends to a mushroom and steak dinner. When the mushrooms were opened, a slight scum was on top. Since the guests were expected shortly, the lady suggested to the maid, "Give the dog a little and if he eats it, it is probably alright."

The dog liked it and begged for more, so the dinner was completed and then served to the guests. After the main course, the maid hurriedly whispered to the mistress, "Ma'am, the dog is dead." There was no time to lose. There was only one thing to do. Some time later the guests were reclining after the use of the stomach pump. The lady asked the maid, "Where is the dog now?"

"Out on the front steps, ma'am, where he fell when the car hit him."

Moral: Do you not think it would be a good idea to investigate rumors and statements before jumping to conclusions that may be false?

-The World Evangelist

NURSING HOME VISIT: This evening at 4:30, please meet at the Miller's Merry Manor Nursing Home. We'll sing and visit until 5:00 p.m. at which time the gang will go to the LaGrange Nursing Home for another half hour. The residents really appreciate our coming. Come join us this time!

Let's all remember Beulah Gray's birthday on March 6th. She is at Miller's Merry Manor and the mother of Sharon Pieratt and Lois Hensen.

A HURRIED TRIP: Norm and Marilyn were scheduled to appear on the Michigan Christian College Christian Ministries Workshop at Dayton, Ohio on Friday evening and Saturday. We're glad for their experience and willingness to share in such good works.

WHY DON'T WE?

In my first days of retirement (I had been the registrar for Homer L. Ferguson High School) I went into a state of depression. I lost all feelings of selfworth. Nothing seemed to lift me out of the deep, black pit.

Then one dismal Sunday afternoon I happened to be looking at a copy of our church's membership roll, noting the names of women who had recently become widows.

Haven't seen them at church lately, I told myself.

Why don't you visit them? said a small voice from within.

I wrote their names and addresses on a card, put on my coat and headed out. At the first house I found a woman alone, confused and in need of medical attention. I helped her - and from that moment on I knew I was following God's guidance.

Since then, visiting the widows is something I do regularly. Many are in good health; sometimes they're just lonely, longing to know that somebody cares. Often I get a small group together and we dine at a fancy restaurant.

So my depression disappeared, simply because I did what the Bible tells us to do: "Visit the...widows in their affliction" (James 1:27).

Can you think of anything you could do to be a more active servant in the Lord's church? Maybe, this would cure many of the ills we suffer because of our selfish lifestyles. Joe Hughes is looking for volunteers to help him in this ministry.

-Selected

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March 15, 1987

BIBLE IGNORANCE

Recently, I received a letter with this statement, "Twenty-four years in the first grade, that is how long it would take to pass if public schools met only as often as Sunday Bible school and if no classes were missed."

Certainly, this is a challenging statement. Suppose you came to Bible school only half the time. That would be the equivalent of forty-eight years in the first grade. At this rate you can see why we have so much Bible ignorance in the world today. There was a time when members of the Lord's church were known as people who really knew the Book, but we feel that day is passed for many. We need to re-emphasize the importance of reading. A few years ago, I read that if a person spent twenty minutes a day on a given subject for a period of twenty years, he could be an authority in that field. If that is true, then think what twenty minutes a day over twenty years would mean in Bible knowledge.

We live in an age of education. Even retired people return to college and many of the younger ones are still in school at age 30. With all the emphasis on education, we need to emphasize Bible knowledge. We spend a great portion of our lives preparing for a profession or vocation in this world, which at best will be less than one century, and spend so little time in preparing to live for eternity.

-Selected

THE LIVING WORD



FOR A DYING WORLD

SKATING PARTY: The first of two remaining skating parties for this year will be this month, March 30, at the Roller Dome in Ft. Wayne. See Chris Deisler for scheduling of rides.

GUEST SPEAKER: Next Sunday, March 22, brother Norm and his family will be worshipping with the E. Main congregation in Kalamazoo, Michigan, where Norm will be speaking at both morning and evening services. We have scheduled in Norms place that Sunday a young man, Ronald Ledford, to speak both morning and evening services here. He is presently an assistant minister for the Redford congregation in Detroit, and is looking for full time work with an active congregation. So, next Sunday, let's welcome bro. Ledford and his wife as the first of several prospective preachers that may "try out" for the work here at LaGrange.

CARE CORNER: Care Group 3 met Saturday to have a fun time doing some much needed cleaning and work around the church building. There were 19 adults and youngsters who had a good time working together in the morning. This was followed by a devotion and pot luck dinner together. The jobs accomplished were:

Auditorium

Baptistry curtains cleaned
Flowers washed & arraigned
Light fixtures cleaned
Song book rack repaired
Song books mended

Building and Classrooms

Poster room cleaned
Furnace room shelves reorganized
Light fixtures cleaned
Ladies restroom doors painted
Tables & chairs cleaned

Scheduled Meetings:

- Group 2 Meets Friday, March 20, 6:00 P.M. at Perry & Hazel Miller's house for a carry-in dinner
- Group 4 Meets Saturday, March 28 at Mike & Pat Hall's house for fellowship
- Group 3 Meets Saturday, April 11, 2:00 P.M. at Joe & Lois Oakley's house - Bring your favorite Potato topping

ELDERS & DEACONS: The regular meeting of elders and deacons will be this Sunday, 5:00 P.M. at the church building.

VISITATION: Plans are underway to reorganize the visitation program. Joe Hughes will be needing volunteers to make assigned calls during the week. More to follow about this effort.

UPCOMING AREA EVENTS:

- Mar.8-31 Schults-Lewis Phone-for-Children Campaign. This years goal \$70,000.00. Please help when called
- 20-22 Canton Youth Rally. Youth leave Friday and return Sunday evening.
- 26-28 12th Annual Tulsa Soul Winning Workshop at the Expo Center - Emphasis on various works of the church
- April 11 Ladies Day, East Allen Co. church. Theme: Beauty of the Christian Woman
- 14 Camp Indogan Development Dinner, 6:30 P.M. Tickets \$30 per couple, \$20 single or \$10 single. See Dean for details
- May 1 Michigan Christian College Partnership Dinner West at Kalamazoo, Michigan. Tickets \$50 adults, \$25 students,

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK:

Thelma Morris was released from the hospital on Saturday. She is suffering from fluids around her heart.

George Wampler, Jane Gensick's step father, is recovering slowly from recent surgery in Naples, Florida.

Joy Miller, Marilyn's sister, is recovering from recent stroke. She is scheduled to return home Monday. Marilyn will be staying with her next week. (Joy's address: 32629 Ann Arbor Tr. Westland, MI 48185)

TEENS: We have volunteers to take a car load to the MCC High School Days on April 4th & the Marshall Youth Rally April 18th. Let me know if you're interested, ride arrangements will be given on a first come first serve basis.

Canton Youth Rally March 20-22

- We will meet at the church building at 3:30 Friday - BE THERE
- We will return Sunday early evening
- Bring sleeping bags
- Dress modestly & sensibly
- You will need to have \$15.00 with you for gas, tolls and meals along the way.
- We will meet Wednesday evening after services to discuss any questions - please plan to attend.
- Parents, if you have any requests or quistions please see Chris Deisler

Pizza Party was a success thanks to all who participated. Thanks to Joe & Kathy Hughes for having February's Youth Meeting.

SIX INGREDIENTS FOR A STRONG FAMILY

1. The members of the family like each other and express their appreciation! They give each other very positive feelings of self worth, and this makes them feel happy and united. The most powerful force in keeping families together is mutual affirmation.
2. The family does a lot of things together. They keep in close touch with each other as much as they possibly can, in work and play, so they get to know each other well.
3. All the family members are deeply committed to each other. They stand together and devote themselves to helping and supporting each other. After Christ, the family has first claim on their loyalty.
4. The family members communicate very well with each other. They talk together a lot, and their talk is open and honest. They listen well too, so they keep in close touch. They have disagreements, but these are faced out in the open until solutions are found.
5. Religion plays a vital part in the lives of the family. They go to church, but they also live their faith at home. They draw strength and security from their shared spiritual values. This makes them loving, kind, and forgiving toward each other.
6. They are able to cope with crises. They suffer hard times, but they try to be positive about their hardships and they stand firmly together until the troubles are overcome. They believe that every cloud has a silver lining. Their strength is in the Lord and in each other.

-Michael D. Stone

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LaGrange CHURCH OF CHRIST



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March 22, 1987

I'M GLAD THIS CHURCH NEEDS MONEY!

I'm glad this church needs money. That statement may sound a little strange at first, but I believe there's good reason for it. Let me give you a few.

IF IT DIDN'T, it would mean it wasn't supporting the preaching of the gospel here and in other places. No evangelistic zeal.

IF IT DIDN'T, it would mean it wasn't doing anything to support the homeless and needy. No compassion.

IF IT DIDN'T, it would mean it wasn't interested in teaching children in those impressionable, formative years. No future.

IF IT DIDN'T, it would mean it had "topped out" and wasn't interested in expanding into other areas of needed service. No vision.

Yes, sir, I'm glad this church needs money! The fact that it does means it has not lost its zeal, compassion, vision, and future. This church needs my gifts and I'm glad of it. I wouldn't want to be a member of any other kind.

-Selected

THE LIVING WORD



FOR A DYING WORLD

VISITING SPEAKER: Today we welcome Ron and Sharon Ledford from the Redford congregation in Detroit. For the past 3 years brother Ron has served as a full time Youth Minister for the church there and desires to go into full time evangelistic work with an active congregation. Today he is teaching the combined adult classes as well as preaching both morning and evening services. With such a full schedule today along with the regular 4th Sunday evening fellowship that follows the evening services, we hope to get to know the Ledfords quite well. We are happy to have them as candidates for the work here.

HERRON'S AGENDA: Bro. Norm met Marilyn yesterday, (she has been staying the past week at her sister's, Joy Miller) and they traveled on to Kalamazoo where Norm will be speaking at both services at the E. Main congregation. Then Monday, Marilyn will be returning to her sister's for another week before returning home. Our prayers go with them during their absence.

FIFTH SUNDAY EVENING: Next Sunday evening the entire service will be led by the young men (the junior and high school age group) of the congregation. You will be happy to see their development as speakers, song leaders, etc.

YOUTH ACTIVITIES: Several of our youth, along with Chris and Jill Deisler, attended the Canton, Ohio youth rally and plan to return late this afternoon (hopefully before evening services). We appreciate Chris and Jill's work with the youth. Other events that are coming up for our youth are:

- March 30 Skating party at Ft. Wayne Roller Dome
- April 4 MCC High School Day
- April 18 Marshall, Michigan Youth Rally

Chris is making arrangements for travel for those desiring to go. See him.

OUR SICK: Sister Thelma Morris is home recuperating, still very weak, but gaining.

Sister Vada Powell is feeling much better and hopes to be to services today.

Ryan Kimpel was admitted to the hospital for an ear infection and a slight case of pneumonia. He is better with some hopes of being released soon.

A call from Marilyn reported that Joy Miller, her sister, had suffered a mild stroke and is in a semi-coma. Marilyn will be staying with her as needed this coming week.

FOR THE RECORD: (Week of March 15)

Sunday Bible Classes	74
Morning Worship	97
Evening Worship	100+
Contribution	\$800.00
Wednesday Bible Study	?
Thursday Keenagers	41

SHULTS-LEWIS PHONATHON: A call from Shults-Lewis' director, brother Doyle Davis indicates a favorable response, about $\frac{1}{2}$ of the \$70,000 goal was raised in the early stage of the phonathon. Caring Christians are sensitive to the needs of the less fortunate. It is a work of God, and we are privileged to be a part of it.

TEMPORARY TENANTS: It was decided that the vacant preachers house would be rented until it is needed by the coming of a new preacher. The new tenants are: Shawn and Beverly Morgan and their 8 year old son, Joshua. Hopefully this family will be attending our services after they move here from Shipshewana.

DAILY BIBLE READING: Don't forget to sign your name on the daily Bible Reading sheet in the south foyer. Your participation in doing this is an encouragement and reminder to all of our daily study needs.

CAMP INDOGAN: One long awaited project that has been given state approval, is the plan to renovate and add onto the bath house at Camp Indogan. It is a must, to meet safety and size requirements. The upcoming development dinner at the campgrounds April 4 is the target date starting the project, which is estimated to cost \$25,000.00 or approx. \$20.00/sq. ft. Each of the 25 directors of camp are asked to raise \$1000.00 toward this. The plan is to sell 1 ft. squares at \$20. each. To date there are 5 squares sold. Included in the \$20.00 donation is the camp dinner on Saturday April 4. The following ticket cost is:

- \$30.00 - Dinner for one couple plus 1 sq. ft.
- \$20.00 - Dinner for one plus 1 sq. ft.
- \$10.00 - One dinner only

In the south lobby is a progress sheet showing 50 blocks, 5 of which are shaded in (meaning 5 blocks sold). The remaining will be shaded in as more squares are sold.

All of the directors are informing Christians about this in the various congregations in the tri-state area. It would be appreciated if the funding could be assured by the camp dinner date, April 4. Help Dean sell his quota!

MAKE IT TOGETHER, OR BE HONKED!

Have you ever wondered why the Canadian Geese fly only in a "V" formation? For years specialists in aerodynamics wondered the same thing. Two engineers calibrated in a wind tunnel what happens in such a "V" formation. Each goose, in flapping his wings creates an upward lift for the goose that follows.

When all the geese do their part in the "V" formation, the whole flock has a 71% greater flying range than if each bird flew alone. Each depends on the others to get to its destination.

Something else - when a goose begins to lag behind, the others "honk" it back into formation! What a great lesson from nature for the Christian family. This same lesson is found over and over again in scripture as well.

In the scriptures we find that every activity given to the Christian family is designed to promote to good of the whole. Each 'together activity' is to provide the 'upward lift' to the one that follows and at the same time provides a 'greater growth' range! When will we learn that we need each other?

Let's MAKE IT TOGETHER, or if not expect to be HONKED!

-Selected

"And we urge you, brothers, warn those who are idle, encourage the timid, help the weak, be patient with everyone." (I Thes. 5:14)

"Therefore, strengthen your feeble arms and weak knees. Make level paths for your feet, so that the lame may not be disabled, but rather healed." (Hebrews 12:12-13)

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March 29, 1987

"You are the salt of the earth...you are the light of the world..." (Matt. 5:13-14)

BE WHAT YOU ARE

What is the world looking for? Perfect people? I doubt it. They realize that no one is perfect. But what gets their attention is imperfect people who have let the grace of God work in their lives.

Psychiatrist John White wrote: "Has it ever dawned on you that the essence of witness is just plain honesty? You are salt - whether you feel like it or not. You are not told to act like salt, but to be what you are. You are a light. God has done a work in your life. Don't try to shine. Let the light that God put there shine out. Now to let your light shine demands no more than honesty before unbelievers. In fact, such honesty is in itself 90% of witnessing. Witnessing is not putting on a Christian front so as to convince prospective customers. Witnessing is being honest, that is, true to what God has made you in your speech and in your day to day behavior."

Every person has influence. You have influence. You are effecting people around you every day at school. God has placed you where you are to be his salt and light. Be honest with yourself, others and God. Our world is winable. If God really is making a difference, then let them see a difference.

-Mark Patterson

THE LIVING WORD



FOR A DYING WORLD

FRIEND'S DAY: What's the best gift we can give a friend? Is it money, clothes, car or house? These are all good and would be greatly appreciated. But the best gift we can give anyone is Jesus Christ. Because next to Him all other things fade into nothing.

Sunday, April 26 has been designated as "Friend Day". This is the Sunday we will especially be inviting our friends to attend church with us.

Here's what each one can do to make this Day successful. First, make sure that YOU are here. Mark your calendar and don't let anything, short of illness or some emergency, keep you from being here on April 26th. Second, start now making a list of friends that you want to invite. Then, start to phone, write or stop by and give them a personal invitation. Remember, most people attend or visit a church because a friend or family member asked them. Third, and most important, pray for this day. Pray that God will open doors and use you in reaching others.

If each one will do the above steps, then we will have a great "Friends Day".

EVENING SERVICE: This Sunday evening the entire service will be conducted by the young men of the congregation. There will be six speakers who will bring a short message along with three different song leaders. For the past several weeks, the young men have been engaged in a training class on Wednesday evening to help prepare them for this night. We are not only fortunate but blessed to have these young men developing and discovering their spiritual gifts for use in building up others in the body of Christ and to God's glory.

IN OUR PRAYERS:

Mary Anne Wade fell at home Monday morning and was taken to LaGrange Hospital. Tests indicated that she may have suffered a light stroke. She will remain in the hospital for further treatment.

Thelma Morris continues to improve while resting at her apartment. She misses everyone and hopes to be back in services shortly.

Joe Hughes went to Ft. Wayne to see about a small lump on his eyelid. The doctor removed it for him.

TWO BIG QUESTIONS: Man says, "God, I've prayed and prayed and prayed. Why don't you answer?"... and God says, "Man, I've answered and answered and answered. Why don't you listen?"

MCC PARTNERSHIP DINNER: The Partnership Dinner Campaign to support MCC is a great evening of fellowship and excitement. The students of MCC receive a blessing as well. One writes:

"The main benefit I obtained from my years at MCC was spiritual growth. This cannot be measured in simple terms. I believe that I continued in service to the Lord because at MCC I became firmly grounded in spiritual truth and met the Christian man I later married."

The church and homes are made stronger by the influence of MCC. Why not join others in supporting Partnership Dinner West on May 2nd.

VISITING SPEAKER: Arrangements have been made with brother Thayer Salisbury to come next Sunday (April 5th) and be considered as an applicant for the work here. He will be bringing his wife, Cheryl, and their 3 children, Joseph 9, Keley 7 and Preston 1. Brother Salisbury will be teaching the combined adult class (using our regular Sunday material) and speaking for both morning and evening services.

Brother Salisbury has attended 3 of our Christian colleges - Michigan Christian College, Oklahoma Christian College and Abilene Christian University - and has been in full time work at Kent, Ohio and St. John, Kansas. They presently reside at Columbia City, where he is in secular employment.

YOUTH NEWS: The Canton Youth Rally was enjoyed by all who attended. I hold no reservations in saying we have a great group of teens. A special 'thank-you' teens for being you.

A key thought throughout the rally was - Leading an imitable life as a Christian, to those in our families, at school and where ever we are, whether it concerns our dress, our attitude, or our actions.

We have another rally in Marshall the 18th. Let me know if you're interested in going this week. We have one car going so seats will be given on a 1st come 1st serve basis.

- Roller skating Monday night - Who's going?
- Good luck young men on this evenings service.

Chris Deisler

YOUR INFLUENCE AS A TEENAGER

Even before his outstanding years as Harding's quarterback, Tom Ed Gooden was noted by the Arkansas gazetteer as being the best high school quarterback in his district. The paper ran a picture of Tom Ed with the caption "Not on Wednesday". It seems that another school had tried to schedule a game with his team, Carlisle, Arkansas, on Wednesday evening. But his coach replied that they couldn't do it. "My quarterback is a member of the Church of Christ," he said, "and he goes to church on Wednesday nights. He won't miss for any reason. And I can't win without him."