

TOO FANTASTIC

A little boy went to Sunday school for the first time and his teacher taught about the bondage of the Israelites in Moses' day. When the little lad returned home his mother asked him what his teacher taught him.

He very dramatically described the lesson: "She told us about a bunch of good people and the bad people. Them Egyptians and Moses and a lot of others. Well, them Egyptians wuz chasin' the good ones and Moses just up and built a pontoon bridge across the Red Sea and the good ones ran over it to the other side. Then Moses got in his dive bomber and blew up the bridge and drowned all the bad ones."

The mother thought a minute, then asked, "Do you mean your teacher really taught you that?"

The little boy paused a moment, for he saw that his mother wasn't exactly pleased with his story, then he said, "Well, mother, she didn't teach it exactly like that, but if I told you what she really said you wouldn't believe it anyway!"



THE LESSON

"Now, children," said the Sunday school teacher, "I have told you the story of Jonah and the whale. Willie, you may tell me what the story teaches."

"Yes'm," said Willie, the bright-eyed son of the preacher. "It teaches that you can't keep a good man down."

LaGrange Church of Christ

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Sunday
Bible Class 9:30 a.m.
Assembly 10:30 a.m.
Assembly 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday
Bible Class 7:00 p.m.

Deacons: Joe Hughes

Joe Hughes - 562-3017
Perry Miller - 463-3979
Fred Oakley - 463-7298
Joe Oakley - 463-3743

Evangelist :

Roy Noble - 463-4100 (hm.)
463-3571 (off.)

- WE LOVE YOU -
THANK YOU FOR VISITING TODAY !

LaGrange CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

"...we want to see Jesus." - John 12:21

7/05/87

Dear family,

We are grateful to God for blessing us with a family such as you. You, the Church in LaGrange, are indeed a very unique group of people, and we praise God for you!

Our thanks go to all of you for the non-stop work which went into getting our house ready, and yes, continues still as Dean puts my bookshelves together while I am writing this ! Your love has been evident in the way you have responded to our needs, even unloading the truck. Our house is almost in order, with only a few minor adjustments to be made.

Please feel free to call on us for whatever your needs may be, whether day or night. Our home phone is (219)463-4100. If you should ever wish to write one of us about anything privately, our home mailing address is R.R. 5, Box 13-A, LaGrange,

Please forgive us if we have neglected or appeared to have ignored any of you in the past few days. Things have been hectic while moving in, and it will take awhile to remember everyone's name. Please be assured of our love and concern for each one of you and your needs.

Our prayers go to God for the work that Norm and his family will be involved in while in Hastings, Michigan. It will never be our intentions to fill their shoes, but simply to carry on the work of service here and to bring back those that are seperated from God.

We see many challenges ahead of us. The work will not always be easy, but we can do it together, and the rewards are great! Remember, we are ALL ministers(II Cor. 5:11-ff.) We thank God for giving us the chance to serve Him with you in LaGrange. May He bless us with many years together!

We love you all,
Roy, Barbara, Jerrod, and Jordan Noble

SPEAKING OF FAMILIES

I remember the event as if it were yesterday. I was still in elementary school. It was an otherwise normal afternoon, except that I was playing inside the house instead of out. I had a habit of going from point A to point B as fast as possible throughout most of my childhood, a trait that my son Jerrod has inherited. On this particular day my mother had given me plain instructions to not run in the house. I did not choose to hear this command.

On my next flight through the living room, I failed to see the glass of iced tea my mother had on the table. We did not have carpet at the time, only hardwood floors. When boy, glass, and wood collide at somewhere around 90 mph, the results are ugly! As the glass shattered, a large piece divided my big toe almost in half, thereby making me the first kid on the block with six toes on my left foot! Nothing she tried would stop the bleeding, so off to the doctor we went. The stitches hurt. When my dad came home and saw blood all over the house (plus my mom did not think to leave him a note) and no one home, he was more than concerned, he was plain scared! My toe eventually healed, and left an ugly scar which is there to this day, and I slowed down somewhat.

Brothers and sisters.....we live at such a rapid pace. We run to do almost everything. Moms and dads, if you are not striving to bring up your children in the Lord, then you disobey God. Children, if you do not obey your parents, you disobey God. Adults, when we are not pleasing to God for whatever the reason may be, we disobey God. Not only do we get hurt, but we hurt and scare those close to us. God will forgive us, but the scars remain.

These scars can mature us, and teach us to slow down and "wait on the Lord." (Psalms 37:7) Some of you hurt from family problems, or there is just a thorn in your flesh that you can't seem to get rid of. These concerns hurt. Look at Philipppians 3: 13-14. Paul was able to put behind him the sin of persecuting the Church (v.6) and then press on for the Lord! No amount of problems any of us encounter will ever be more serious than that. Let's all begin now to "Cast all of our anxieties on Him for He cares for us." (I Peter 5:7)

I Love You - Roy

KEENAGERS - This past Thursday was the first week for Roy to direct the program here at LaGrange. The good folks at Miller's Merry Manor will now be bringing a bus each Thursday. Beginning in the very near future they will begin a study of the gospel of John, along with their other activities. If you know of an elderly friend who has never attended, please let them know. The time is 10:00am-12:00pm each Thursday here at the building.

PRAYERS - The Herron family, moving and beginning new ministry; Dave and Bonnie Sowles, need a permanent job; Dave Weaver, recuperating from accident; Virginia Howard(Kathy Hughes' mom), ill; Elizabeth Swartzenbruber(Mary Ann Johnston's mom), recovering from surgery.

ETC.

- Zone 3 has an upcoming outing at the home of Joe and Jane Gensik on 7/11/87 at 4:00pm. Please bring a side dish.
- There will be a men's meeting for all men of the congregation on Sunday, 7/12/87 at 5:00pm at the building.
- The new director for the Secret Sister program for the next 6 months will be Mary Ann Johnston. Congratulations, Mary Ann!
- Brother Darrell O'Rourke visited with us last week from Rhinelander, Wisconsin concerning the Fishers of Men program. He left some material on the table in the lobby which may be of interest to you. (By the way, do you know the difference between fishing for fish and fishing for men?....When you catch fish they are alive and they die.....when you fish for men, they are dead and are brought back to life!)
- Men, Fred has completed the July service schedule. It is posted in the lobby.
- Norm has stated that they will need volunteers to help them do some loading on Friday, 7/10/87. Check with him this week for times and details.
- Remember, the mowing list is posted in the lobby, and there are still quite a few empty blanks on it just waiting for your name!



LaGrange CHURCH OF CHRIST

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"...we want to see Jesus." - John 12:21

July 12, 1987

PULPIT PERIL

One Saturday night some mischievous boys broke into a country church and glued the pages of the next day's Bible lesson together.

The next morning the preacher read to his congregation:

"When Noah was 120 years old, he took unto himself a wife who was [turning the page] 140 cubits long, 40 cubits wide, built of gopher wood inside and out."

Naturally the preacher was puzzled. He read the passage again to verify it, then said to the congregation, "My friends, this is the first time I ever saw this in the Bible, but I accept it as evidence of the assertion that we are a fearfully and wonderfully made people."



Deacon Hornblower says: "Some of my brethren are inconsistent: they say you should not eat in the church building, that this would make a dining-room out of it; then they sleep during the worship, and make a bed-room out of the same building."

HAVE A GREAT WEEK !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

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THE TWELVE STEPS

I don't know how many of you are familiar with Alcoholics Anonymous, but there is a division of this organization known as "Al-Anon" which deals with the rehabilitation aspects of this work. They have twelve steps which I guess you could safely say they call their "code of ethics". I was amazed at the parallels between these twelve steps and the process a person goes through in coming to know the Lord. Notice the parallels I have drawn at the end of each of these twelve steps:

1. We admitted we were powerless over alcohol-- that our lives had become unmanageable. (We were powerless over sin until we found Christ. See Rom 7:21-ff.)
2. We came to believe that a Power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity. (We came to believe the same thing, since being enslaved to sin is insane!)
3. We made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God as we understood Him. (Hopefully we did the same!)
4. We made a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves. (We must do this daily!)
5. We admitted to God, ourselves, and other human beings the exact nature of our wrongs. (It's called "confession" - James 5:16)
6. We were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character. (He does this at the point of baptism. The original Greek in Acts 2:38 says "...be baptized ...so that your sins may be forgiven.")

(cont.)

7. We humbly asked Him to remove our shortcomings. (He promised that He would forgive them, not remove them from our lives. Acts 2:38; Rom. 3:23)
8. We made a list of all the persons we had harmed, and became willing to make amends to all of them. (Not required for God's forgiveness, but certainly a good thing to do.)
9. Made direct amends to such people whenever possible, except when to do so would injure them or others.
10. We continued to take personal inventory and when we were wrong properly admitted it. (Can you see Jesus living any other way?)
11. We sought through prayer and meditation to improve our conscience contact with God as we understand Him, praying only for knowledge of His will for us and the power to carry that out. (see Phil. 4:6-7; Ps1. 1:1-2; I Thess. 5:17, NIV)
12. Having had a spiritual awakening as a result of these steps, we tried to carry this message to others, and to practice these principles in all of our affairs. (see Matt. 28:19-20; Mk. 16:15-16; Matt. 5:13-16; the entire book of Acts)

- Roy

The question listed below was asked of Tom Cox, a Psychological Examiner at Professional Counseling Associates located in Little Rock, Arkansas. Tom is a faithful Christian, and his educational background is too long to list. I wanted to share his answer with you. - Roy

Question: Is there a basic biblical principle that you stress in counseling that you feel is important for emotional well-being?

Answer: One of the problems that is most emotionally destructive and that is prevalent in clients who have strong religious backgrounds, is guilt. I am not saying that we should not all experience guilt, if it is deserved, but to use it as a motivating factor often times causes emotional problems. We as Christians often times do things because we feel we "should" or because we "have to." What this does is set up an external focus of control. We feel someone is making us do something. A basic human reaction to "being forced" is to rebel, and this reaction is never stronger than when we are young, from ages 16 to 30. When you add the contingency of "if you don't do it you can't get into heaven," you create internal conflict. What we do in therapy is to try and turn the focus of control internal. If you begin with the basic premise that we

all want to go to heaven, not "have to," go to heaven, then you don't sin because you don't want to do anything that will prohibit you from getting what you want. Terms like "have to," "gotta," "should," and "must," denote that we are doing something that we don't necessarily want to do. I look at the approach that the Lord took in spreading His word. He did not force anyone to listen or obey His words, rather, people freely came to Him. So we don't obey the Lord's word because we "have to," because in the long run, no one ever said we "have to" go to heaven. In using this approach, you run the risk of people justifying clearly sinful actions, so I preface this approach with Galatians 4:13 and Romans 14:13-23. Ultimately, we as individuals, will be answerable to the Lord for our own actions. If what you are doing causes guilt then it is your responsibility to stop. In applying this to young people it is important to create an internal focus of control, because there is going to come a time when they will need to make decisions and they are not going to have an external force such as parents, teachers, or preachers to tell them what to do. If the goal is to reach heaven, the decision is made easier.

PRAYERS - Cyndia Simpson, sick; David Weaver, still recovering; Virginia Howard (Kathy Hughes mom), still very weak; All of the Indogan campers this summer that they may grow spiritually.

YOUTH - There will be a fellowship complete with fun and serious Bible study and sharing time here at the building on Sat., July 18, 3:00-9:00 pm, ages 12 and up. PLEASE INVITE A FRIEND ! For questions or more details contact Chris Deisler.

- Also remember to start planning to go to Indogan if you are going to, because the sessions begin July 12. This may be an excellent chance to make some new friends. Applications are on the table in the lobby.

MEN - Don't forget the meeting this afternoon at 5:00 pm here at the building.

- We still need some mowing volunteers. The list is in the lobby on the wall.

*-EVERYONE... BULLETIN CONTRIBUTIONS DUE IN BY THURSDAY NIGHTS TO ROY. -Thanks

There are now mail files in a box on the desk just inside the office on your right. In the future there will be one for every member of the body here. Please develop a habit of checking yours every time you are in the building. It is a great communication aid, and good place to exchange mail, cards and notes with someone who is absent during a particular service, etc.

ETC. - Please remember that Roy and Barbara have an answering machine on their phone, so if you need either of them and they are not home, please leave a message. It will be answered and returned soon.

Remember also that there are copies of the minutes and attendance of the men's meeting from last Sunday on the table in the lobby.

A man met a friend who looked very sad. He asked him what was wrong. He replied, "My wife and I had words this morning. I had some, but I never got to use mine."



A fellow fell out of a ten-story building. Immediately a crowd gathered around. Someone asked him what happened. He replied, "I don't know, I just got here."

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537
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LaGrange CHURCH OF CHRIST

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"...we want to see Jesus." - John 12:21

July 19, 1987

5/4/87
5/9/87

BALANCING TRADITION AND DOCTRINE

There has been much discussion on the subject of tradition. In our quest to become "free in Christ" we have almost made tradition a derogatory term. First we must realize that tradition is not bad. Someone in the past who was just as intelligent as we are (perhaps even more so) decided that it was expedient to do things in a certain way. Through the years, this particular practice was continued and became a part of our "traditions."

Some of our more common traditions include Sunday school programs, two Sunday worship services, and Wednesday evening Bible study. Traditions are not necessarily found in the Scriptures, but at the same time they are never to contradict the Scriptures. Human traditions are simply man-made practices handed down from one generation to the next. If a practice is man-made it can just as easily be abolished by man. This is the nature of a tradition. Doctrine, on the other hand, is that body of truth found in the Scriptures which cannot be changed by men. If something is commanded by God it must be followed. To abolish doctrine is to compromise God's truth. To abolish a tradition in no way com-

promises God's truth.

The problem too often experienced is not with any particular tradition but with the *binding* of that tradition. Because certain traditions have often been around for generations, many assume that such traditions cannot be changed. When we bind ourselves or others to a tradition, for the sake of that tradition, we are actually creating a forced *human* doctrine. To bind someone to a forced human doctrine is the same as practicing false doctrine.

When brethren make a tradition into a doctrine they have "added to" the Scriptures and are practicing false doctrine. Many good brethren have been accused of teaching "false doctrine" when in reality all they are doing is simply freeing themselves from tradition. To free oneself from a tradition is not wrong, but to bind someone to a tradition is wrong.

If a congregation decided to eliminate midweek Bible study would they be guilty of practicing "false doctrine"? If a congregation only meets *one* time on Sunday for worship are they promoting "false doctrine"? A midweek Bible study or two Sunday services may be helpful traditions, but they are simply traditions developed by humans. There is no command that says we're to meet on Wednes-

day or have two Sunday services. Even though these are good traditions, they are expedient human practices, and it is wrong to bind them on someone else.

In some areas, midweek Bible study has become such a tradition that to cancel it would be tantamount to being in "error." Most churches have a Sunday evening worship service. Would it be scripturally wrong to cancel such a service? Many Christians may feel that a church doing so is in error and not being true to the Bible. Once again, a second service is simply another tradition handed down to us from past generations. Even though both of these practices are good traditions, they are of human origin, and it is wrong to bind them on someone else.

Our Restoration leaders recognized these truths and put them in writing. In the Declaration and Address, article five, they wrote, "Nothing ought to be received into the faith or worship of the Church, or be made a term of communion among Christians, that is not as old as the New Testament." Is a Wednesday evening Bible study or two worship services as old as the New Testament? Obviously, these practices are of human origin.

These two practices are used here as illustrations simply because they are probably our most common and well-known traditions. Announce to your congregation that you're going to cancel Wednesday evening Bible study or Sunday evening worship and you'll see just how deeply rooted these traditions really are.

I know a good Christian sister who became upset because a vase of flowers was set upon the "Lord's Table." To her, the only thing to be placed on the "Lord's Table" was the Lord's Supper. This is simply an example of a tradition gone astray. Somehow, this "table" had become a part of a doctrine and ceased to be an instrument of expediency. The only reason we have a table is for the convenience of holding the communion implements. There is nothing doctrinally significant about a table, but our traditions can turn any expedient matter into a matter of doctrinal faith.

Our list of traditions and expedient practices is probably more extensive than we realize. However, new expedient practices (which could become binding traditions in the future) are always being developed. Just like the multiple cups or the Sunday School, some of these new practices are immediately labeled as "suspect" or "false doctrine." It's amazing how many times something "different" is labeled as "false" simply because it's different. Many churches are playing tapes of acapella music before their services begin. I've seen this labeled as "suspect," not because the Bible condemns it, but because that's not the way we've always done it. I've seen evangelistic home Bible studies become "suspect" for exactly the same reason. Just because we haven't done these things in the past is no reason to start accusing them as being false doctrine.

Brethren, we need to carefully, prayerfully, and openly explore the Scriptures before we label anything as "false." An open Bible and an open mind have always been the goal of undenominational Christianity, and there's no reason for it to stop now

Christianity can only happen when people are willing to be free from the shackles of human tradition and bound to the truth of God's Word.

One of our great problems seems to be balance. As humans, we have a tendency to go too far in one direction or another. Many churches which are breaking away from human traditions could just as easily begin new ones. Those churches that might play a tape regularly before services could actually begin a binding tradition. In the future, someone may well say, "We've always done it like that and it can't be changed."

Those churches that are involved in evangelistic home Bible studies could easily begin a binding, human tradition. When someone is made to feel guilty or ashamed for not attending one of these evangelistic Bible

studies then that person is the victim of a forced human tradition. Admittedly, tradition is a tough matter to balance and keep in perspective. As soon as a church does something "new" and breaks out of the mold of tradition, it must be careful that the new thing never becomes a binding tradition itself.

As undenominational Christians, we are under obligation to examine the Scriptures daily and find that proper balance. Do not condemn something if the Bible doesn't condemn it. Do not bind something if the Bible does not bind it. Do not add something if it contradicts sound biblical teaching. We can have our traditions and our freedoms, and we can still be faithful and true to the Bible. All it takes is a little balance.

/Alan R. Watson—Bradenton, FL.
IMAGE

* This article appeared in Image magazine, September 1, 1986. Alan Watson serves the Lord in Bradenton, Florida.

PRAYERS - Hazel Miller's mother (Mrs. Ritchie) is in the hospital.
- Please pray for the growth of the Church here, both in numbers and in grace and knowledge.
- Let's remember Craig Hostetler in his plans to help evangelise the city of St. Louis. Let's also pray for a couple of his acquaintances; they are (1) Amos and Edna Eicher. Edna was admitted to the hospital in Kendallville Thursday to have a tumor removed, and (2) Kim Graefnitz. Kim is a local high school student who Craig met through the Campus Life program. Her grandfather (mother's side) passed away this past week, and the funeral was Friday.

MEN - There are still forms to be filled out and returned to Roy as soon as possible. They are in your mail files in the office.

(cont.)

The Twenty Third Channel

(Dedicated to all T.V. fanatics)
Read I John 5:21

"The T.V. is my shepherd, my spiritual life it doth want.
It maketh me to sit down and do nothing.
It leadeth me beside men of little or no faith.
It restoreth my desire for worldly pleasures.
It requireth all my spare time, and keepeth me from doing the will of
God, because it presenteth so much foolishness which I must see.
It increaseth my knowledge of nonsense and keepeth me from the study
of God's Word.
Yea, though I live to be a hundred, yet the viewing of my T.V. shall have
first place in my life as long as it doth operate, for it is my closest companion.
It's sounds and it's pictures, they comfort me.
It presents foolishness and folly continually before me, and keepeth
me from surrendering my whole life to God.
It feedeth my mind with seeds of corruption, and filleth my head with
vanity, which profiteth me nothing; my cup remaineth empty.
Surely no good thing will come of my life, because I am devoted to my
T.V., which leaveth me no time to serve God acceptably; thus I will
dwell in the house of confusion forever."

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July 26, 1987

The following is the introduction from a book entitled The Man Nobody Knows. It is available from the Bobbs-Merrill Publishing Company in Indianapolis. I will be sharing more with you from this book as time goes by. It is a refreshing book about the life of our Savior.

THE little boy sat bolt upright and still in the rough wooden chair, but his mind was very busy.

This was his weekly hour of revolt.

The kindly lady who could never seem to find her glasses would have been terribly shocked if she had known what was going on inside the little boy's mind.

"You must love Jesus," she said every Sunday, "and God."

The little boy did not say anything. He was afraid to say anything; he was almost afraid that something would happen to him because of the things he thought.

Love God! Who was always picking on people for having a good time and sending little boys to hell because they couldn't do better in a world which He had made so hard! Why didn't God pick on someone His own size?

Love Jesus! The little boy looked up at the picture which hung on the Sunday-school wall. It showed a pale young man with no muscle and a sad expression. The young man had red whiskers.

Then the little boy looked across to the other wall. There was Daniel, good old Daniel, standing off the lions. The little boy liked Daniel. He liked David, too, with the trusty sling that landed a stone square on the forehead of Goliath. And Moses, with his rod and his big brass snake. They were fighters—those three. He wondered if David could whip the champ. Samson could! That would have been a fight!

But Jesus! Jesus was the "Lamb of God." The little boy did not know what that meant, but it sounded like Mary's little

lamb, something for girls—sissified. Jesus was also “meek and lowly,” a “man of sorrows and acquainted with grief.” He went around for three years telling people not to do things.

Sunday was Jesus’ day; it was wrong to feel comfortable or laugh on Sunday.

The little boy was glad when the superintendent rang the bell and announced, “We will now sing the closing hymn.” One more bad hour was over. For one more week the little boy had left Jesus behind.

Years went by and the boy grew up.

He began to wonder about Jesus.

He said to himself: “Only strong men inspire greatly and build greatly. Yet Jesus has inspired millions; what he founded changed the world. It is extraordinary.”

The more sermons the man heard and the more books he read the more mystified he became.

One day he decided to wipe his mind clean of books and sermons.

He said, “I will read what the men who knew Jesus personally said about Him. I will read about Him as though He were a character in history, new to me, about whom I had never heard anything at all.”

The man was amazed.

A physical weakling!? Where did they get that idea? Jesus pushed a plane and swung an adz; He was a good carpenter. He slept outdoors and spent His days walking around His favorite lake. His muscles were so strong that when He drove the moneychangers out, nobody dared to oppose Him!

A kill-joy!? He was the most popular dinner guest in Jerusalem! The criticism which proper people made was that He spent too much time with publicans and sinners (very good fellows, on the whole, the man thought) and enjoyed society too much. They called Him a “wine bibber and a gluttonous man.”

A failure!? He picked up twelve humble men and created an organization that won the world.

When the man had finished his reading, he exclaimed, “This is a man nobody knows!

“Someday,” said he, “someone will write a book about Jesus. He will describe the same discovery I have made about Him, that many other people are waiting to make.” For, as the man’s little-boy notions and prejudices vanished, he saw the day-to-day life of Him who lived the greatest life and was alive and knowable beyond the mists of tradition.

So the man waited for someone to write the book, but no one did. Instead, more books were published that showed the vital Christ as one who was weak and unhappy, passive and resigned.

The man became impatient. One day he said, “I believe I will try to write that book myself.”

And he did.

- Bruce Barton

PRAYERS - Craig Hostetler, leaving soon for St. Louis, MO to do mission work in the inner city.

- Mary Ann Wade is going home from Miller's Merry Manor and a lady by the name of Betty Reade from Sturgis, MI will be staying with her. Pray for strength during this adjustment period and for thanks for her being able to leave the nursing home.

- Irene Balyeat (Keenager) went into the hospital this week for surgery.

ETC. - The "Morning Star" singing trio (Sharon Pepito, Jane Gensic, Mary Ann Johnston) have expressed a desire to make their singing talents more of a ministry than just recreation. If you ever encounter a need that they can meet in this way please let them know. Praise God for you ladies and your desire !!

In an effort to aid in our desire to know more about Jesus, the Sunday AM sermons for the remainder of the year will deal with the life of Christ. Please attend and TAKE NOTES !(You heard right.... ..you'll be surprised at the difference it makes in your growth spiritually to take notes, even though it may have been years !)

about Jesus, then--and only then--will that one begin to have something about Him to share. The mouth speaks from the abundance of the heart. If the heart is filled with controversy, that is what will be preached. If the heart is filled with debate, that is what is coming up in Sunday's sermon. If the heart is filled with Christ, it is He who will be declared.

Once this shift is made in the pulpit, the change will have it's effect in the pew. Let me challenge you to change your attitudes by changing what you've been determined to know. Instead of complaining about the deadness of people, fill hearts with Jesus Christ. People will never tell the world about Jesus if their hearts aren't filled with Him. They will then speak **from the abundance** of their hearts.

- Terry Rush; Tulsa, OK

One day while living in Anderson I walked into the house and noticed Barbara staring out of the window at something. I asked her what it was and she pointed to one of our neighbor's yards. In the yard was a man, approximately 35 years old, and he was attempting to teach a boy of approximately 10-12 years of age how to mow the lawn. Perhaps you've seen it before....the father walking along behind or beside the boy like a drill sergeant, making sure that not a single blade of grass is missed. The difference in this case, however, was the attitude the man possessed. Foul language made up 50% of his instructions(while shouting it above the mower for all the neighborhood to hear), and a big lack of patience was the order of the day. Any spot missed was cause for instant persecution(and most of this was being caused by a dull blade!) I also found out from Barbara that the little boy had been over on his bicycle one day while I was not there, and in the course of talking with her had informed her that his parents were divorced, and that his dad saw him only on weekends.

In Eph. 6:4 (NIV) Paul says, "Fathers, do not exasperate your children, but instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord". The word he uses here for exasperate(NIV) or to "provoke to wrath"(KJV) literally means "to make someone angry".

Fathers, we can never have too much patience with our children. Let us remember that they are learning and growing, looking to us for models to follow, and they are not perfect. If we will

use perseverance and love in disciplining our children, we will notice that even though it may be rough at times, that eventually God's promise will come true....."Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old, he will not depart from it." (Prov. 22:6)

- Roy

MEN - There will be a meeting of all men of the congregation on Sunday, August 9 immediately after evening assembly. Please bring a sack supper and plan to stay. This should give everyone time to arrange rides for your wives and children, and bringing your supper will avoid us having to rush to get home for supper. Remember to get any input from your wives if they have any.

ETC. - The LaGrange County Welfare Dept. has asked us to take note of a meeting on Monday, August 3 at their office here from 5-7pm. This will be open-house, come-and-go style and they invite any of you interested in foster parenting to attend.

- Please remember the singing at the local nursing homes this afternoon. We will begin at Miller's Merry Manor at 4:30 and then go to LaGrange Nursing Home after that.
- Please remember that Mary Ann Johnston is now doing the typing, lay-out and copying of the bulletin, so please make sure she has your announcements or input by Thursday night of each week. (Please do not call Roy with this information. In the event that you cannot reach her with information, please contact someone close to her, or hold the information and call her back. Thank you.)
- All Sunday sermons are now taped for the benefit of those absent or wanting a copy to keep for themselves. Each tape will cost \$ 1.00 .
- Please change Ted and Margaret Tucker's address on your directory sheet to read Route 1, not Route 5. (Route 5 is his brother's address!)

of heaven. And whoever receives one little child like this in my name receives me. But whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were drowned in the sea.

We need to be aware of our children. We need to be better examples to our children in our congregations. Let's be more aware of our actions and reactions to what goes on in our assemblies. And remember, children act out what they perceive to be the way things are. Let's be the proper examples to our children. They are the future church of our Lord.

-Britt Farmer - Dover, TN

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED - There is still a need for volunteers to help plan activities for the Keenager activity period. This happens for 30 min. each Thursday morning. A list of what they would like to do is available and all you would have to do is follow-up on the idea you're given to plan the activity. Without your help, there will be no activities for many of the upcoming Thursdays. If we want to keep the Keenager Program going as a ministry of this church, we need your help! Please contact Roy if you can assist. Thank you.

CHANGE - There is a change concerning our Wed. evening assembly. In the future we will meet in the auditorium for prayer and a song, then dismiss directly to class. This will give us more meaningful classes with more time for discussion without being rushed. This began Wed., Aug. 12.

MINUTES AVAILABLE - Copies of the minutes of the men's meeting last week are available on table in lobby.

- H A V E A S U P E R W E E K ! -

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-WE LOVE YOU-
THANK YOU FOR VISITING TODAY !

the TRANSFORMER

"...be transformed by the renewing of your mind." (Rom. 12:2)

August 16, 1987

"DEAD MEN TELL NO TALES"

I'm not sure where the above phrase originated, but it holds a lot of truth. It is true in regards to two different types of death, actually. In regards to spiritual life and death, one who is "dead" in their sins (Eph. 2:1-2) has no tale to tell which can benefit mankind. They don't know of the wonderful story of Jesus (by "know" I mean believe it), therefore they have no wonderful tale to tell. In regards to physical life and death, this same individual, if they were able to return following life on this earth and tell a tale to mankind, would not have anything pleasant to tell, only a warning for others to believe in Jesus (Luke 16:27-ff.)

There is a much-read passage in Matthew's gospel that I have interpreted wrong for a number of years, Matthew 16:13-20. In verse 16 Simon Peter makes the greatest confession of all time, that Jesus was "...the Christ, the Son of the living God." Following this confession, Jesus says that based upon it (the confession), He would build His Church. The Greek language uses a word for "rock" in this verse which describes that upon which Christ will build His Church.

In the last part of verse 18, Jesus then says that once His Church is established, that the "gates of Hades" will not overcome it, or prevail against it. The King James (and others) translation does an injustice to the Word here by using the term "Hell", for the original language uses a word which means the "realm of the dead", referring to the physical dead awaiting judgement. The

term for "Hell" is "gehenna", and is not used in this passage.

For some time I have heard this passage explained to mean that the Church would be so strong that nothing of an evil nature, which obviously would have to come from the devil (hence the equality with the term "Hell"), could "prevail against it". I have heard (and believed) these "evil" things explained to include denominations, false teachers, false movements, the influence of humanistic behavior in the community, etc. I firmly believe this teaching to be wrong.

When Jesus says that "Hades" (death) shall not overcome (prevail against) the Church, He is saying that DEATH shall never have power over those who have believed and obeyed His Gospel. These obedient ones make up the Church.

Thanks be to God for His grace! Thanks be to Christ for bruising the head of Satan! Thanks to Jesus for conquering death, so that in Him we may have eternal life, and never again worry about death! (1 Cor. 15; Rom. 6:1-14; any gospel account of the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ.)

May we continue to study His Word in an effort to be transformed into His likeness.

-Roy

LET'S PLAY CHURCH

"I'm tired of this game."
"Me too!"
"Let's play another game."
"Okay, let's play church."
"Yeah, that's a good game to play."

"I'm the preacher," said Ben. "I want to be the song leader," Karen shouted. "No," said Ben, "girls can't be song leaders. They have to watch the babies and scrape their fingernails on those board things. But, you can pinch the kids that act up in church." "Okay," answered Karen.

"Then I want to be the song leader," stated Jim. "You can't be the song leader Jim, you sing

too fast. Don't you know you're not supposed to sing fast in church?" Karen exclaimed, "Joe, why don't you be the man who falls asleep when the preacher starts preaching?" Joe said, "Okay, but I'm just going to rest my eyes, I'm not really going to sleep."

Lucy said she had to go home but was coming back. So the children said she could be the Sunday school teacher because Sunday school teachers were always late. As they began to start, Jim said, "Hey, we need a clock in the back of the room so that after the preacher starts everybody can look back and see what time it is." They all agreed

that this would have to be done since that is the way church was.

"We need to have the Lord's Supper," said Joe. "I can do the prayers, I've got them memorized." Then Ben had an idea, "Hey, we need to have somebody get baptized." "Why?" asked Karen. "It has been years since anybody got baptized at our church." "Yeah," said Joe. "Nobody does that anymore. The preacher always tells us about the people who are baptized over in some other country. He said that was just like we did it. I guess he means we don't have to baptize anymore around here." "I guess so," Ben answered.

"I don't like the way this game is going," shouted Jim. "I don't ever get to do anything in this church game." "Well, do what everybody at our church does when they get mad-quit going," stated Karen. "That is what my mother says happened to all who have quit coming to our church. They got mad and quit."

The game was finally called off because it started raining. Ben said that they couldn't play church because he didn't go to church when it rained. They all agreed and went home. That was the way the church game was played.

Does this sound familiar? My own children have asked questions about such situations. Having only been out of school a short time, I don't even have all the questions, much less the answers. However, the children in the story seem to be seeing things as they really are in the Lord's church.

Many times children act out

their feelings by playing games. These children only reacted to what they perceived. They acted out in game fashion the things they saw in church and thought that was the way things were supposed to be. Children don't always see what we want them to see. They tend to see reality as it is portrayed. Am I wrong? I don't think so.

Children have the uncanny knack of being extremely truthful when acting out what they have seen. Apparently, someone had given these children a reality which they carried out in game form. They knew what to do, when to do it, and how it was to be done. The same holds true in home life. Tammy Wynette had a song out in the 70's that had these words, "I don't want to play house. It makes my mommy cry. 'Cause when she played house, my daddy said goodbye."

We may doubt the reality of what these children understood. However, one must observe that these are somewhat true-to-life happenings in our congregations. We must all come to acknowledge and understand that this is what many of our children see and believe is true about church. Brethren, we need to be aware of this.

Each congregation needs to spend more time in striving to set before children the proper examples for them to follow. We need to be to them what the New Testament writers were for us. Proper examples!

Let us remember the words of Jesus as He spoke in Matthew 18:3-6, ... assuredly, I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven. Therefore, whoever humbles himself as a little child is the greatest in the kingdom

and not living it is just as bad! Every young person in the Bible who served God had credit to give to God-fearing parents. Some examples are Samuel (I Sam. 1:27-28), Jesus (Matt. 1:18-19; Lk. 2:41-52), and Timothy (Acts 16:1-2; II Tim. 1:3-5, 3:15). Even the prodigal son was convicted due to his father's righteousness (Luke 15:11-ff) -- Parents, please let your children see your devotion to God, and watch out, because when they do, the improvement of your family life will blow your socks off!!

-Roy

"TERMINOLOGY"

How many times have you heard someone say, "Say what you mean, and mean what you say"? Well, there's a lot of merit in that statement. Consider the fact that quite often those in the world are looking very closely at us as the Lord's Body to see if what we say harmonizes with the Bible. Another point worth considering is that what we say seriously affects the way we think within the body of Christ. Our children, (and some adults) for example, can hear "let's go to church" only so long before they soon start to think that the term "church" only has one meaning.

That is the real issue in a nutshell....THE WAY WE THINK ! Paul uses scripture to show that we must be constantly striving to THINK and mature in Christ. (Rom. 12:2, Eph. 4:23) Peter also mentions the same line of reasoning. (I Pet.1:13, 4:7; II Pet. 3:1) To continue using non-Biblical or denominational expressions of speech after having seen the error in them does not represent the mind of a Christian that is being transformed.

For a lot of people the attitude toward terminology is one of "it is such a little thing to worry about; it really isn't all that important." These same individuals are usually those who justify by saying, "Yes, but you know what I meant". Brothers and sisters, what I know is not what's important concerning your speech. The important thing is, if you knew what you really meant, why didn't you use terminology to support it?

Some examples of non-Biblical terms often used:

1. "The Lord's table..." - I know that Jesus was a carpenter while on this earth, but God does not own any tables. The term "Lord's table" in I Cor.10:21 is a word which literally denotes all that is provided for believers in Christ based on His death. This would express something much more comprehensive than the Lord's Supper.

2. "We will no partake of the communion...." - When the actual bread and the actual fruit of the vine are considered to be the "communion" one partakes of, then it literally becomes same thing as the Catholic celebration of the Eucharist. The "communion" that we are to partake of is the "Koinonia" (I Cor. 10:16), the "fellowship" of "partaking" or "communing" with brothers and sisters to remember the death of Jesus.
3. "I would like for you to meet our new minister...his name is _____". To those within the Body it should be "I'd like for you to meet one of our new ministers...his name (or her name) is _____". (II Cor. 5:17-19)
4. "The parsonage" - Webster's (as well as the denominational world) defines this term as, "The dwelling provided by a church for use by it's minister (singular) or parson". The same book defines "parson" as..."A clergyman in charge of a parish". The definition alone shows the use of these terms within the Body to be erroneous.

These are written in a spirit of love to challenge your thinking. It would be great if everything we wrote about or studied surrounded Jesus, and it is toward that end that we certainly strive, however, to obtain a BALANCED maturity, we must occasionally make light of certain concepts that we may be mistaken about in an honest, loving effort to change our thinking. May God bless us as we attempt to know Him and become more like His Son.

-Roy

Dear Brothers & Sisters,

I thought it might be of interest to the church to know that since November 2, 1986 that \$891.00 has been collected from those that have been giving to the benevolent fund. To this date \$891.00 has been given out to help those in and out of the church. 14 different families have been helped by those that have given. I think we are blessed with people who care.

In Christs's love,
Joe Oakley

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

- 1 - Tim Hughes
- 2 - Amber B.
- 2 - Meghann Hostetler
- 3 - Penny Oakley
- 11 - Dean Hoggatt
- 15 - Becky Sowles

- 27 - Dave Sowles
- 29 - Hazel Miller

AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

- 5 - Harold & Janet DePriest
- 12 - Bob & Kathy Sowles
- 20 - Dale & Mary Ann Johnston

ANNOUNCEMENTS: After school starts, office will be locked. See Roy at the house if you need in.

Visitation meeting this Sunday (23rd) at 5:00 P.M. at the building.

Craig Hostetler's new address is:
2107 S. Grand Apt. #605
St. Louis, MO 63104

Mrs. Ritchie (Hazel Miller's mother) is in the Lutheran Hospital in Ft. Wayne. Let's remember her in our prayers and any others that are sick of our number.

There are still 2 or 3 dates left to fill in the Keenager activity period. If you could be of help in this way, please see Roy as soon as possible. It would be much appreciated.

Any ladies that are going to the Ladies Retreat on Sept. 18-19 that would be interested in going out to eat Friday evening (18) at 6:30, please see Mary Ann today.

CARE GROUPS:

Group 1 - will be going to Franke Park on August 29. Meet at the building at 9:00 A.M.

Group 2 - will be going to the Botanical Gardens on September 6 following morning worship and a stop for lunch on the way.

Group 3 - will be meeting September 12 at Joe & Lois Oakley's for a pot luck at 4:00 P.M. Drinks will be provided.

Group 4 - are meeting at Dave & Diane Kimpel's August 29 at 3:00 P.M. Bring a side dish and chicken.

"WHEN JESUS IS STUDIED, ACTS IS THE RESULT"

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Roy Noble - 463-4100 (hm.)
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-WE LOVE YOU-
THANK YOU FOR VISITING TODAY !

The TRANSFORMER

"...be transformed by the renewing of your mind." (Rom. 12:2)

August 23, 1987

An ambulance was heard coming down the street. No big deal, everyone thought, we hear it every day... but this time they turned down our street! Everyone rushed to the windows and saw them stop at our neighbor's house. As people rushed over to see if they could help, everyone noticed the man (in his 50's) lying there on the ground under the backyard swing. The ground around him was covered with empty beer cans. The temperature approached 90 degrees. (He had a reputation for mistaking the stuff for water when it got hot.) His mistake this time was taking two aspirins with it. The paramedics could barely get him to moan. When asked to accompany him to the hospital, his wife declined (in an apathetic way) before giving in (!), stating that they didn't need her! How pathetic, I thought!

You know, drugs and related topics have been in the headlines a lot lately. The "popular slogan" of the day is "say no", however some of the most recent statistics prove more people misuse drugs than ever before. The sheer quantity taken in recent raids prove the demand for these drugs. Most of the victims of these raids are young people. But when you look at the examples (such as the one above) that older people have given the youth of today, it's no wonder that adult's behavior becomes a justification for youth to do the same. This sort of thing isn't new to our society. In Gal. 5:20, Paul mentions "witchcraft" (NIV) and uses a word which literally means "bad drugs". It is "pharmakeia" in Greek, the word we get "pharmacy" from!

Parents, never forget that how you live says more to your child about your character and beliefs than anything that you (or I) could ever say. They don't have to see you drink. Just claiming to be a Christian (slave of Christ)

CARE GROUPS:

Group 2 - are planning a trip to the Botanical Gardens in Ft. Wayne on September 6 following morning services. We will be stopping for lunch on the way.

Group 3 - will meet on September 12 at Joe & Lois Oakley's for a pot luck at 4:00 P.M. Drinks will be provided.

PRAYERS:

Remember the Gensic family as they will be traveling to Bloomington for the funeral of Jane's step-father, George Wampler, this weekend. Remember Virginia Wampler in your prayers too.

Hazel Miller's mother, Mrs. Ritchie, came home from the hospital on Friday and is doing good. She thanks all for the cards, flowers and prayers on her behalf.

ENDURANCE

Life has many ups and downs,
The bitter and the sweet.
Each day is filled with problems
Which tend to make us weak.

But through your faith and Jesus' love,
You will endure the trials,
And you'll find your burdens lightened
As you walk another mile.

-Helen Parker

- "WHEN JESUS IS STUDIED, ACTS IS THE RESULT" -

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"...be transformed by the renewing of your mind." (Rom. 12:2)

August 30, 1987

Recently there has been much discussion in LaGrange as how we may deal with a large number who have become lukewarm. The following article by a brother in Christ is worth our attention.

There are several things that we as a church can do to help and redirect those who have become lukewarm. They are:

1. Convert the heart, not just the mind.

Intellectually, someone can see his need to be totally committed to God by reading the Scriptures, but his heart may not understand it, or be into it. Outwardly he says yes, but inwardly he would not die for Jesus. Discipling begins before baptism, and we must form peoples' attitudes and love for God in the beginning. The more hard-line we are in converting the person's heart, the sooner we'll see disciples being baptized, not religious intellectuals.

2. Have vision for your young disciple.

A pew warmer may not have started out all that badly. In fact, some of them could have been good hearted. But due to a fellow Christian's lack of vision for them, they have grown cynical towards the ministry and cannot see themselves ever amounting to much. Someone lost vision for them and did not expect the most out of them. Because the older Christian did not have vision for the younger one, the younger one lost vision for himself. As the saying goes, "You expect alot, you get alot, you expect a little, you get a little." Let's have high expectations for our brothers and sisters and keep them excited about their purpose in glorifying God.

(continued on pg. 2)

3. Teach them to be hard on themselves.

A pew warmer can also be a spiritual marshmallow: he's soft on himself (he doesn't work hard on his salvation: Phil.2:12, Heb. 3:12). Generally, the person's pride prevents him from changing and being more honed and spiritually sharp. Do you ever get depressed when you are challenged? Or do you see the challenge as a way for you to become better, being thankful for it? Let's help our brothers and sisters by being tougher on ourselves spiritually so we can lead people out of lukewarmness into the heat of spiritual effectiveness!

As more and more come to Christ in our generation, let's constantly take the pulse of our fellow disciples in order to make sure no one becomes a pew warmer. Let's convert the hearts of people, have vision for them and teach them to be hard on themselves. By doing this, more and more hearts will love God deeply and follow Him with an unceasing passion.

-Tom Gurrentz

This appeared in Christian Family magazine. I believe it is relevant considering the way our society currently affects us.

THE LAST DAY
by Robert Oglesby, Jr.

She bowed her head as if to pray,
She knew in her heart this would be the last day.
The last day for anger,
Suffering or Pain.
The last day to cry
Or to see a strong rain.
The last day to know what this worlds all about.

She lifted the gun to her bowed head
And these were the words that she softly said:
"Oh dear Lord who art above,
I guess I'll never get wings like a dove's.
I've thought a lot and I've got the nerve.
Suicidal death is all I deserve.
My spirit won't rest I fully discern
For in hell my soul will eternally burn."

Good-bye everyone! Good-bye to my past.
And she was gone in one short blast.

THE END

This note was written by a sixteen year old girl after an argument with her parents.

Suicide has recently become the lead story in the news. There has been a recurring series of cluster suicides in our public high schools. They could be defined as multiple suicides occurring within a two or three month period. The news media highlights these events which seems to trigger more suicides in the same high school. Everyone asks the same question why?

I have worked with many teens and parents who attempted or seriously thought about taking their own life. There were a variety of problems you could say caused their depression such as: divorce, sexual promiscuity, pressure to succeed, dating problems, and drugs. There seems to be a variety of problems that most people somehow cope with, yet some people can't seem to handle the stress.

If I could use but one word to describe what they need, it would be hope. They seem to feel their situation is hopeless. It won't get better, and it probably is going to get worse. they don't believe that life ends happily ever after. They don't see their lives ever becoming significant in this world. Parents too many times give their kids plenty to live with materially, but they don't give them anything to live for. It's sad to see kids give up on themselves.

I think of David who had his sins exposed to the public. He had good reason to think life was ruined yet he penned these words in Psalm 119:74-76. "May they who fear you rejoice when they see me, for I have put my hope in your word. I know O Lord, that your laws are righteous, and in faithfulness you have afflicted me. May your unfailing love be my comfort, according to your promise to your servant."

I pray you will take the message of hope in Christ to a world that looks for hope.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Sunday September 6 is the day that those who have had their 4th birthday this year will move into the 4,5 and Kindergarten Class. Students in grades 4, 7 and 9 at school this year should move into the class that corresponds with their school grade.

Teachers for September pick up materials in the office today.

There will be a Ladies Day in Battle Creek on September 26. The theme is: "What Shall I Wear". There is a sign-up sheet on the Secret Sister table.

Remember our own Ladies Retreat on Sept. 18-19. Any wishing to come for the evening or morning sessions are more than welcome to attend. There is no charge if you aren't spending the night.

By prevailing standards of victory, Stephen was a loser. He preached one sermon and it resulted in his stoning (Acts 7:54-60).

Then there is Paul. Besides being beaten, shipwrecked, destitute and harassed (2 Cor. 11:24-28), he couldn't even get some of the churches to which he ministered to support him (2 Cor. 11:1-9).

And don't forget that poverty-stricken, persecution-ridden, little church in Smyrna. Some of them were about to be cast into prison. Some were about to be put to death (Rev. 2:8-11). Where was the victory?

If these were victorious in life and not just in death, then it is obvious that victory is something much different than many of the books which promise it claim. Stephen and the Smyrnans would undoubtedly agree with Paul when he wrote: "...for I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am. I know how to get along with humble means, and I also know how to live in prosperity; in every circumstance I have learned the secret of being filled and going hungry, both of having abundance and suffering need" (Phil. 4:11-12). Paul had not discovered "x" number of keys to joyous living. Paul had learned a secret. The heart of that secret is Christ: "I can do all things through Him who strengthens me" (Phil. 4:13). John said the same thing when he wrote that our faith is the victory that overcomes the world.

Victory does not come to those who must change the circumstances in order to have abundant life. Victory comes to those who learn the secret of living by faith.

You may be thinking - as I thought when I pondered these truths: If victory is for all of God's children, why do I sometimes feel so defeated?

The Faith that Wins

The faith that overcomes the world is the faith that keeps our hope fixed on Jesus Christ. Peter took a step of faith when he slid over the side of his boat and began to walk toward the outstretched hand of Jesus. Doublemindedness caused him to sink. When he took his eyes off Jesus and focused on the waves, it was all over. (cont'd on insert)

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The TRANSFORMER

"...be transformed by the renewing of your mind." (Rom. 12:2)

September 13, 1987

FOR THE LADIES.....

God's plan for Christian relationships is a stroke of genius. The Apostle Paul called the church "the fullness of him who fills everything in every way" (Ephesians 1:23). As we put God's commands and principles to work in our interactions with each other as Christians, He provides for the fulfillment of our emotional, spiritual, social, and physical needs.

One type of relationship that is encouraged in the church is one that our society scarcely acknowledges: the older woman and the younger woman. "Likewise, teach the older women to be reverent in the way they live, not to be slanderers or addicted to much wine, but to teach what is good. Then they can train the younger women to love their husbands and children, to be self-controlled and pure, to be busy at home, to be kind, and to be subject to their husbands, so that no one will malign the word of God." (Titus 2:3-5). In just a few lines in one epistle, God inspired one of the most effective and rewarding of all Christian relationships. When it is treasured and practiced with care, this combination corrects the commonly seen tendencies of so many females in the world-impulsiveness, impurity, and self-indulgence among the young, and uselessness, self-pity, and decline of acuity among older women.

Mutual respect and friendship between older and younger women is not naturally easy to achieve. Before her trust

in God was fully developed, Sarah's dealings with her handmaiden, Hagar, were characterized by self-will, exploitation, jealousy, and mistreatment (Genesis 16). Hagar's responses were equally self-centered. The world still suffers the consequences of the resentments between the descendants of those two women, the Arabs and the Jews.

Mature Christian women have the responsibility for setting the tone of dignity and spirituality for the younger ones (Titus 2:3). The character of the older women must be submissive ("reverent in the way they live"), their tongue under control ("not slanderers"), and their appetites and habits disciplined ("not addicted to much wine"), if they are to have anything valid to share with less mature sisters ("to teach what is good"). "THEN they can train the younger women..." (v. 4). Such issues as male/female relationships, parenting, love, self-discipline, purity, care of the home, kindness, and submissiveness of spirit (all in v. 4-5) are essential for young women to be taught verbally and to see in exemplary lives.

At the beginning of this passage, Paul told the evangelist Titus to "teach the older women" their responsibility in this matter. The Greek word translated "teach" has the connotation of sobering someone, awakening them, causing them to become alert. Inherent in Titus 2 is the responsibility of the younger women (in years and in the Lord) to seek and to welcome God's training through godly women, "so that no one will malign the word of God" (v. 5). If the qualities mentioned in these verses are missing from any representative of Christian womanhood, it's the gospel message that loses credibility to the world. How tragic for a lost person to look at any Christian girl or woman and think, "If that's what the Bible produces, thanks but no thanks!"

It is a mistake for a woman in any congregation to think that a few highly visible counselors are the only ones being noticed by the young girls and women. Young eyes see EVERY woman in the church; young minds question why they see (or fail to see) certain things happening; young lives are being influenced positively or negatively by every Christian woman. Such a reality should cause each of us to evaluate our example very soberly.

Mature women (in years and in the Lord), our first responsibility is to make our own relationship to God so vibrant and dynamic that

we overflow with relevant and practical things to share about life as a spiritually-focused woman. Then we need to seek a combination of loving initiative toward younger women and informed guidance from those women who are already skilled at putting Titus 2 into practice. When this kind of involvement is set in motion, there's no such thing as an "empty nest" syndrome! When we share our time, energy, home, and love with future generations of women who will counsel women, God's brilliant plan is perpetuated, and we personally experience the fulfillment of being "clothed with strength and dignity" (Proverbs 31:25).

-Lanelle Waters

The following article is from the December 1985 issue of Image magazine by brother Don Campbell.

"VICTORY IN JESUS"

Walk through a religious bookstore and glance at the available titles. You will notice many of them promise you the keys, secrets, or easy steps to spiritual success. You will also see a variety of How to Overcome titles which promise victory over sin, self, depression, frustration, fear, worry, and whatever else may have planted itself between you and the victorious life.

Some Christians don't bother with such titles. A few may feel they do not need any help, but most feel these books will not do any good. Such Christians grasp at a long shot for a happy hereafter, but victory in the here and now is too idealistic for them.

The apostle John declares, "For whatever is born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that has overcome the world - our faith" (1 John 5:4 - all quotations from the NASV).

Everyone Is a Winner

Check your waste paper basket and you will probably see the face of a late-night-television personality smiling at you and promising, "I may be handing you three million dollars!" Your chances are probably much less than one in three million of ever claiming that prize.

In Jesus there are no long shots. He intended for everyone to be a winner. Victory is not just for the elite, the chosen few, the super-Christians, the lucky ones. Everyone born of God is promised victory - little children, young men, and fathers are all to expect victory (1 John 2:12-14).

If victory is equated with power, comfort, financial success, and honor, then there were a lot of defeated Christians in the New Testament. Many of those we honor as heroes need to be stripped of their medals.

(cont'd from back page)

When we focus on the agents of defeat instead of Christ, we will sink. This is why Paul exhorts us to let our minds dwell on whatever is true, honorable, right, pure, and lovely (Phil. 4:8). If our minds are set on the dangers, the obstacles, the problems, these will blot out the outstretched hand of Jesus.

Perhaps you are thinking, "I've tried to be positive and optimistic, but it just doesn't work for me." When I find myself in this trap, I almost always discover that I have allowed my faith to become fixed on the wrong object. I have faith in faith or faith in myself, or faith in anything but Jesus. We are better off with a little faith fixed on Jesus than all the faith in the world fixed on something else.

Our faith may be fixed on Christ, but we can still find ourselves defeated. The faith that overcomes is faith centered upon the love of God in Christ (1John 4:16). When we come to know and really believe the love of God in Christ, victory is ours. "He who has the Son has the life" (1John 5:12). And who shall separate us from this love? There is nothing outside of ourselves which can separate us from God's love (Romans 8:35-39).

Don't Call God a Liar

I have actually had people say to me, "Oh, if I could just believe I have eternal life and nothing except my own casting it away can prevent my enjoyment of it!"

Please do not call God a liar. "The one who believes in the Son of God has the witness in himself; the one who does not believe God has made Him a liar, because he has not believed in the witness that God has borne concerning His son. And the witness is this, that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in the Son. He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son does not have the life: (1John 5:10-12).

God said it. That should settle it. We would not think of calling God a liar by saying we have no sin (1 John 1:10), but many of us do not hesitate to call God a liar by denying we have present victory in Christ. Who is worse, the one who denies that Jesus is God's Son, or the one who believes in the Son, but denies the victory which God promised through His Son? We call God a liar either way.

Suppose you are hopelessly and helplessly in debt and I come to you promising I will pay your debt, and you say, "Oh, brother, if I could only believe that!" You are either doubting my ability to pay the debt or you are doubting my sincerity."

Does God have the power to give us victory?

If you answer yes, but still doubt the victory, then you doubt the integrity of God.

Have you come to know and believe the love of God in Christ Jesus? Faith is the victory.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

If anyone would like tickets to the Camp Indogan Appreciation Dinner, Saturday, October 3 at 6:30 P.M., they are \$10.00 apiece. See Roy.

Don't forget the Ladies Retreat next week-end in Shipshewana! You need to pay any balance for your room and dinner to Mary Ann Johnston by Wednesday, September 16. Further information on Secret Sister table or ask Mary Ann Johnston, Jil Deisler or Jane Gensic. We're looking forward to a super time of growth and sharing!

Joe and Jane Gensic want to thank everyone for concern and prayers for the loss of Jane's step-father, George Wempler.

When Christian evangelism begins to slow down or wane, Christian leaders begin scrambling for "new and better ideas." Attempting to help God out in His adaptation to the modern age, religious leaders invest their time and resources in television, radio and newspaper ads with the hopes that greater exposure will bring greater results. However, most of these efforts result in little fruit in the kingdom, not withstanding that one soul is worth more than all the world (Matt.16:26).

The world is separated from God by sin (Is. 59:1-2). It appears to be the simplest thing to "beam" the message over the wall or try to knock it down in one big gigantic effort. However, God's plan is the best. When God wanted to send a "message" to the world, He wrapped it up in a person. God proclaimed that He not only made the light (Gen.1:3), but He was light (I John 1:5). The message (Jesus) that God sent to the world was His exact image (Col. 1:15; Heb. 1:3) and therefore proclaimed that He was the "light of the world" (John 9:5). When men wanted to see God, Jesus was the living demonstration of Him (John 14:9).

Light has the power to affect its environment. It did not take long for those in the presence of "the light of the world" to become lights themselves (Matt. 5:16; Phil. 2:15; I Pet. 2:9). Not only did the Christians acquire the same "glow", but also their new self was in the image of God (Eph. 4:24; Col. 3:10). They had come out of the world (Col. 1:13), but the world could still see them and notice their distinctiveness. When the world came into their presence and saw the difference in conduct, life and love, they declared that "God is really among you" (I Cor. 14:25). Desiring to have the same transformation, they asked what had happened to them to make such changes (I Pet. 3:15)

It is God's plan to win the world through those who have been won (John 13:34-35). The world must be attracted to the "difference" in our lives before they can be introduced to the dynamic of the world. "Better ideas might come from Ford", but we should never seek to improve upon God's eternal plan to save the world.

-Jerry Jones

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Assembly 10:30 a.m.
Assembly 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday

Bible Class 7:00 p.m.

Evangelist :

Roy Noble - 463-4100 (h.m.)
463-3571 (off.)

-WE LOVE YOU-

THANK YOU FOR VISITING TODAY !

the TRANSFORMER

"...be transformed by the renewing of your mind." (Rom. 12:2)

September 20, 1987

"OUR STATE OF MIND"

In the 1960's I can remember the only McDonalds in Little Rock. I remember the "golden arches" being thought of as no more than just another sign for a business, not a world-wide symbol of consistency. But you know, in the 1960's they didn't serve breakfast or have drive-through windows or "happy meals". What happened? Did food change that much? NO!...People changed! If McDonalds ran their business today just as they did in the 60's, they would go broke! And if they don't continue to CHANGE, ADAPT, and ADJUST they'll go broke by the year 2000!

I recently heard someone say that we (speaking of the Body) resist change for two reasons: (1) We are afraid of the complicated, and (2) We forget the simple! You know, that sort of reminds me of Peter, as when Jesus asked him to walk on the water (complicated) because of faith (simple).

As we strive to become like Him in all we do (Eph. 5:1) let us bear in mind that the ministry of Jesus on this earth was largely one of change. One of His main objectives was to change the way man thought about things. When you look at the Master preacher delivering what we call the Sermon on the Mount, notice in Matt. 5:17 that He says He came not to do away with the Old Law, but to CHANGE mans way of thinking about it. It was no longer to be looked at and obeyed AS IT HAD BEEN in the past, but He says that He was adding new meaning to it. He goes so far as to say that if they did not change their

way of thinking about this that they would not see heaven (Matt. 5:20)! More evidence of His desiring a change in their thinking is seen by the use of the word "but" in Matt. 5:22,28,32,34,39,44; 6:3,5,15,17,20,23; 7:14. The use of the word "but" shows Him to be saying, "You have previously been taught to think and do this, BUT I'm telling you this is the way God now wants you to think and do....". Thus we see why Paul would say in Rom.12 that we should be "transformed" in our minds, and why Peter would say in II Pet. 3:1 that he wrote what he wrote to "stimulate us to wholesome thinking".

We must ask ourselves here in LaGrange the crucial question, "Does our current way of thinking equip us to meet the needs of a lost and dying world?" Please notice the following as some areas in which we must do some re-thinking in order to better equip us to answer the above question.

- A. The Nature of the Church - The Church of the New Testament is the Bride of Christ. That is us, the people, the Body of Christ. We are not an institution or building. It is not Biblical to think someone is converted "over to the Church of Christ". Anyone truly converted to Jesus becomes a member of the New Testament church at the point of their baptism, but they were converted to Christ (hopefully) and not the church. (Eph. 5:22-ff., Rom. 6:3, I Cor. 12:27)
- B. Who the "minister(s)" is - We must come to understand the "priesthood" of all believers. We all joined the priesthood when we put on Christ. (I Pet. 2:5,9) When we combine this with an understanding of II Cor. 5:11-ff. we will come to see that the clergy-laity system that our denominational friends started centuries ago has no Biblical basis whatever.
- C. What "worship" is - We must see that the new method of worship which life in Christ involves is an individual sacrifice from and of the heart (Rom. 12:1; John 4:23-24). Worship is not just what takes place when a person assembles in the church building. (Acts 17:24)
- D. "Doing" -vs.- "Being" - We must realize it to be more important what we can become because of Jesus, not just that we always "do" the "right things". (Eph. 5:1; John 5:39-40)
- E. The concept of Sacrifice - We must see New Testament sacrifice as something that involves a loss if it is to be genuine sacrifice. Whether it be sacrificing of ourselves to God in a benevolent way to help someone in

need, or just our worship to God by opening our hearts and confessing to Him our inability to function as Christ on our own, we must not continue to give God the scraps or "leftovers" of our lives.

- F. Discipleship - Read what Jesus says in Luke 14:25-ff.
- G. Love for each other - We must understand that true love for each other that will tell the world that we are the disciples of Christ involves much more than being social when we see each other at the church building. It means doing some real "footwashing" throughout the rest of the week. (John 13, whole chapter; Gal. 6:1-5)

Brethren, I am firmly convinced that when we become free thinkers, praying to God for wisdom in doing so, that we will "prepare our minds for action..." (I Pet. 1:13). The only way to think like Jesus is to study the life of Jesus. Remember that God had a plan for man before man was even made (Eph. 1:4), knowing that man was going to need Jesus! Study the Old Testament looking for this theme, and when it brings you to Christ, really concentrate on His methods and His mission.

You may ask, "Well, what will be the outcome?" I'm glad you asked! Because when we decide to think as much like Jesus as possible, we will become a discipling, multiplying, equipped church who will be constantly winning major battles against Satan. We will be accomplishing this only because we see who we are in Him, that every day of our lives is our worship to God, that our humility causes us to feel powerless except for the power we gain by being in Him, that we must give sacrificially of our lives, that our love for each other is so strong that it says something to the world, that we are the Bride eagerly awaiting the Bridegroom, and that we all have a priestly function to perform.

God bless us as we strive for the goal found in Colossians 1:28-29.

-Roy

EVANGELISM: PEOPLE TO PEOPLE

"Day after day, in the temple courts and from house to house, they never stopped teaching and proclaiming the good news that Jesus is the Christ."
Acts 5:42

The advertising world attempts to get us to sing their songs or to repeat their slogans. "Better ideas come from Ford" is a catchy slogan. However, in the spiritual realm, the source for better ideas is the word of God.

Judas the betrayer. Peter the denier. And ten other men who forsook Jesus and fled. Together they comprised the Twelve -- not exactly an "All-star" team for taking the gospel message to a dying world. Or was it?

There is an ancient legend in which Jesus, after His resurrection and ascension, was met at the portals of heaven by an angelic host who inquired of Him, "Lord, where is your army?"

Pointing down to the Mount of Olives from where He had ascended, Jesus replied, "There, do you see them? Those are My army."

Surprised and a bit skeptical, the angels asked, "Those are your army? But Lord, what if they fail You?"

Jesus replied, "If they fail Me, then everything I have done will have been in vain. But they won't fail Me, because I am there with them."

They wrote Acts, Volume 1. We're writing Acts, Volume 20. What part will you write?

-Grant Goodwin

- "WHEN JESUS IS STUDIED, ACTS IS THE RESULT" -

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The TRANSFORMER

"...be transformed by the renewing of your mind." (Rom. 12:2)

September 27, 1987

BUILDING FAITH IN YOUR CHILDREN

"How sweet are your promises to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth! I gain understanding from your precepts; therefore I hate every wrong path. Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path." (Psalms 119:103-105)

One of the most challenging things to parenthood is the quality of learning how to build a solid trust or faith relationship between the parents and the children. How can I develop the type of relationship with my children that will enable them to trust the decisions I make regarding their life? In facing this challenge, I find that being a Christian has some of its most rewarding blessings. The example that God has given to us is meant to train us as we disciple our own children.

One of the most interesting events in all the Bible pertaining to the faith building process is the relationship that God had with Abraham. Joshua 24:2 says of Abraham and his family, "Long ago your forefathers, including Terah the father of Abraham and Nahor, lived beyond the River and they worshipped other gods." From this statement we can conclude that Terah and his sons (Abraham and Nahor) worshipped other gods. Abraham did not even have a relationship with God! It is very possible that Abraham did not even know who Jehovah God was! It is very interesting as we look to the events surrounding the life of Abraham just how God developed a faith in him. In Genesis 12:2-3, 7; 17:6, God makes to Abraham a series of very distinct promises. The most notable that are fulfilled during his

lifetime are: "I will bless you", "I will make your name great," "I will bless those who bless you,...." Even though at the beginning, Abraham did not even believe in God, God started building faith by simply doing what He said He would do. Thus, over time, Abraham recognized that God is someone who always keeps His word (Joshua 23:14- "Every promise has been fulfilled; not one has failed"). Throughout the years of Abraham's life, Abraham developed so much in his trust with God that he is acclaimed in Romans 4 as the "father of the faithful". This was the impact of God, the Father, keeping His promises with His child, Abraham.

FAITH COMES BY HEARING - No one is born with faith. Even Abraham, the "model" of faith, did not develop a faithful walk until he was 75 years old. Faith is developed and grows in a very logical manner. In Romans 10:17, we read: "faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ." Faith in Christ is simply developed by being in communication with Christ through His Word. As the truthfulness of His message is discovered our faith in Him develops. Faith in us as parents is developed in exactly the same way - through our word and our ability to keep our promises. Children must be in tune with *our* voices. They need to trust us as their parents. I often tell others that my child's ability to trust my voice might mean the difference in even saving her life someday. For example, a speeding car is heading her way. A shout of warning is given. Will she know and trust my voice enough to instantly respond? Obeying God's voice as His children is one of the most repetitive themes in all of the Scriptures. It was the basis of the Abrahamic covenant (Genesis 22:18), the Mosaic covenant (Exodus 19:5) and in our relationship with Christ (John 10:15). As children listen to our voices and discern our truthfulness, trust and faith will develop.

STAND ON YOUR PROMISES - Oftentimes it is hard to follow through on certain promises. "Christie, another outburst like that and I'll have to discipline you." A promise was just made, your word given. Parents oftentimes in the "name of building" a relationship will overlook previous promises of discipline and in fact hurt the child's trust in their parent's ability to keep their word. If a promise is made, "We'll go to the park, if you clean your room," make sure you are faithful to your word. To not keep your word, plants seeds of doubts for any future promises given.

A SOLID FAITH - In Genesis 22:2, Abraham's faith in God was severely tested. God had actually instructed Abraham to do something (sacrifice his son) that seemed contradictory to God's previous commands to him (through Isaac your descendants will be named). But by that time in Abraham's life and his experiences with the promises of God, that "Abraham reasoned that God could raise the dead" (Hebrews 11:19). If we are careful to do what we as parents say that we will do, our children, like Abraham, will develop a strong faith in our word.

-Preston Shepherd

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES:

6	April Mauney	26	Margaret Tucker
8	Pat Hall	31	Chase Deisler
16	Hailey Deisler		
16	Kevin May		ANNIVERSARIES
24	Bill Oakley	11	Bill & Sharon Pepito
26	Norma Miller		

YOUTH ACTIVITIES:

- Roller Skating Party at Roller Dome North on September 28th 6:30 - 9:00p.m.
- High School Day 1987 at Ohio Valley College, October 3rd
For more information on this and any other youth activities see Chris Deisler

FOR THE LADIES: There has been expressed a desire to have more fellowship and sharing among the ladies. Therefore we are planning a monthly get together for those who would like to participate. For those not working outside the home during the day - there will be a get together on October 6 at 10:00 a.m. at Barbara Nobles home. Those not able to get together during the day will meet at Janet DePriests home on October 26 at 7:00 P.M.

CANCELLATION: To those involved in the "trial" visitation program started by Roy.... this program has been cancelled. We will reconsider it in the future. To those who have participated, thank you!

BULLETIN NEWS: Please turn in any news items that you wish to have in the bulletin to Mary Ann Johnston by Thursday evening.

THANKS: We wish to thank Barbara for the great lesson she prepared for our Ladies Retreat. And a special thank-you for doing it at the last minute when our guest speaker was unable to come. We really appreciate you for saving the day! You're GREAT and we love you!

To Chris Deisler - Thank-you so much, your help and concern was greatly appreciated!

Mary Ann, Sharon and Jane

SECRET SISTERS: What have you done for your "Secret Sister" this month? If you've been lax in this area why not change this for the remaining couple months? Stop and think - how would you like to be your "Secret Sister"? Just let her know you are thinking of her and praying for her!