

FOR THE YOUTH: There will be a Youth Rally in Logansport on October 10 from 9:00 A.M. - 2:30 P.M. For more information see Chris Deisler.

CARE GROUPS:

Care Groups 3 & 4 will be having a Costume Party and Hayride on October 17 at 3:00P.M. They will be meeting at Joe Hughes home.

OOPS! - My appologies to Fred & Penny Oakley for overlooking their anniversary. It will be October 12. Sorry!

MEN'S MEETING: There will be a Men's Meeting on October 11 following evening services. Plan to stay for this meeting.

FOOT-IN-MOUTH DEPARTMENT

While a lady church member was visiting at the preacher's home, the preacher's "cute" little son looked her over and remarked, "Boy, you sure are ugly!"

Horrified, his mother exclaimed, "Why, Johnny! Whatever do you mean by saying a thing like that?"

"I only meant it for a joke, Mother," Johnny stammered.

"Well," purred his mother unwittingly, "just think how much better joke it would have been if you had said to Mrs. Smith, 'You sure are pretty!'"

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

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

Sunday

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

Wednesday

Bible Class 7:00 p.m.

Evangelist :

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

-WE LOVE YOU-
THANK YOU FOR VISITING TODAY !

The TRANSFORMER

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

October 4, 1987

I am very excited about the upcoming direction of our Sunday night lessons! I want to also challenge you to be excited and encouraged by this series of lessons which I hope will help us grow in the direction of becoming a disciple-making congregation. If you did not get a copy this past Sunday of the schedule for this series of lessons, please pick one up in the lobby or see me for a copy.

If you notice the title of the first lesson as being "Germinal and Terminal Christianity", please don't let the title confuse you. To give you a hint of the direction we are going with this, consider the definition Webster's gives for these words: Germinal: "...in the first stage of growth and development." (Germinate: "...to start growing or developing...") and Terminal: "...a terminating part, end, limit. Occuring at the end..." (Terminate: "...to bring to an end, finish, conclude.")

You see, we are striving to grow and mature in Him, not to face dead-end goals. Jesus intended for the church He established to be a germinal church, and to multiply.

I want to thank all of you for the constant encouragement that you give to me and my family. It is my prayer that we may all grow and mature together in Him as we come to know each other closer. May we always lift up Him and focus our eyes on the Cross.

-Roy

The following is from the first two chapters of God Came Near, a book by Max Lucado. The book is available from Gospel Advocate, published by Multnomah Press, and written in easy-to-read style. I would strongly urge you to pay the \$6.95 necessary to buy this book. -Roy

God had entered the world as a baby.

Yet, were someone to chance upon the sheep stable on the outskirts of Bethlehem that morning, what a peculiar scene they would behold.

The stable stinks like all stables do. The stench of urine, dung, and sheep reeks pungently in the air. The ground is hard, the hay scarce. Cobwebs cling to the ceiling and a mouse scurries across the dirt floor.

A more lowly place of birth could not exist.

Off to one side sit a group of shepherds. They sit silently on the floor, perhaps perplexed, perhaps in awe, no doubt in amazement. Their night watch had been interrupted by an explosion of light from heaven and a symphony of angels. God goes to those who have time to hear Him—so on this cloudless night He went to simple shepherds.

Near the young mother sits the weary father. If anyone is dozing, he is. He can't remember the last time he sat down. And now that the excitement has subsided a bit, now that Mary and the baby are comfortable, he leans against the wall of the stable and feels his eyes grow heavy. He still hasn't figured it all out. The mystery of the event puzzles him. But he hasn't the energy to wrestle with the questions. What's important is that the baby is fine and that Mary is safe. As sleep comes he remembers the name the angel told him to use...Jesus. "We will call him Jesus."

Meanwhile, the city hums. The merchants are unaware that God has visited their planet. The innkeeper would never believe that he had just sent God into the cold. And the people would scoff at anyone who told them the Messiah lay in the arms of a teenager on the outskirts of their village. They were all too busy to consider the possibility.

Those who missed His Majesty's arrival that night missed it not because of evil acts or malice; no, they missed it because they simply weren't looking.

Little has changed in the last two thousand years, has it?

God as a fetus. Holiness sleeping in a womb. The creator of life being created.

God was given eyebrows, elbows, two kidneys, and a spleen. He stretched against the walls and floated in the amniotic fluids of his mother.

God had come near.

He came, not as a flash of light or as an unapproachable conquerer, but as one whose first cries were heard by a peasant girl and a sleepy carpenter. The hands that first held Him were unmanicured, calloused, and dirty.

No silk. No ivory. No hype. No party. No hoopla.

Were it not for the shepherds, there would have been no reception. And were it not for a group of stargazers, there would have been no gifts.

Angels watched as Mary changed God's diaper. The universe watched with wonder as The Almighty learned to walk. Children played in the street with Him. And had the synagogue leader in Nazareth known who was listening to his sermons...

Jesus may have had pimples. He may have been tone-deaf. Perhaps a girl down the street had a crush on Him or vice-versa. It could be that His knees were bony. One thing's for sure: He was, while completely divine, completely human.

For thirty-three years He would feel everything you and I have ever felt. He felt weak. He grew weary. He was afraid of failure. He was susceptible to wooing women. He got colds, burped, and had body odor. His feelings got hurt. His feet got tired. And His head ached.

To think of Jesus in such a light is well; it seems almost irreverent, doesn't it? It's not something we like to do; it's uncomfortable. It is much easier to keep the humanity out of the incarnation. Clean the manure from around the manger. Wipe the sweat out of His eyes. Pretend He never snored or blew His nose or hit His thumb with a hammer.

He's easier to stomach that way. There is something about keeping Him divine that keeps Him distant, packaged, predictable.

But don't do it. For heaven's sake, don't. Let Him be as human as He intended to be. Let Him into the mire and muck of our world. For only if we let Him in can He pull us out.

Listen to Him.

"Love your neighbor" was spoken by a man whose neighbors tried to kill him.

The challenge to leave family for the gospel was issued by one who kissed His mother goodbye in the doorway.

"Pray for those who persecute you" came from the lips that would soon be begging God to forgive His murderers.

"I am with you always" are the words of a God who in one instant did the impossible to make it all possible for you and me.

It all happened in a moment. In one moment...a most remarkable moment. The Word became flesh.

WHY CHURCHES GROW

2A01
Linnatta McRibbon

1. The churches which grow are churches which want to grow.
2. The churches which grow are churches whose members are not timid about telling others about that which has changed their lives.
 - a. The focus is beyond the number who are attending.....It is on those who are not attending.
 - b. They are highly respected in the community for their firm convictions and values which their lives indicate they truly believe in.
3. The churches which grow are churches whose members keep telling the people of the community "you are always welcome in my home, at our church bldg., etc."
 - a. People have a peculiar sensitivity about being outsiders. They are not apt to go where they feel they are outsiders. The church tends to lean toward the insider. Churches that grow are ones that can convey to the outsider some sense of interest and warmth that make him feel like he isn't an outsider.
4. Churches that grow are churches which have established some patterns about their teaching programs which are apt to include the following:
 - a. Teaching and learning are not just to give and impart knowledge. The purpose of the knowledge as life-changing is a major point of emphasis.
 - b. Classes are constantly changing. This is particularly true of children's classes.
5. Churches which grow are churches which are rooted in the Bible. However, Biblical conservatism is not the single key. There are many churches which are Biblically conservative which are not growing.
6. Churches which grow are churches which are starting new churches.

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Co. Dallen
phone
773-7926

616 651 8619
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3600

The TRANSFORMER

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October 11, 1987

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It's just as relevant today as it was then for our young people and adults.

ALL TOO FREQUENTLY we are not reaching our teen-agers because we are talking in "Geritol" terms and they are of the "Come Alive with Pepsi" generation.

Our young people are not buying the idea that Christ is satisfied with a comfortable middle-class spectator religion which puts more of the budget on the building than anything else. They are "turned off" when they see how hard the preacher has to work just to get the members in the pew to donate three or four percent of their income. They see the way many of their peers are willing to sacrifice to serve in some secular service program to help those less fortunate. They compare this with the challenge to give four percent of an abundant income. They realize that their elders don't really expect them to make such sacrifices even if they become a part of the less than one percent of the members who give "full time to the ministry". (This is certainly not meant to detract from the sacrifices which so many of this one percent are making.)

These young people are not interested in sitting down and being quiet in the hope that the ills and sins of the world will go away. They are not excited by a young people's meeting which consists of dull exhortations to "be good" in merely a negative way. They want the challenge of following Christ into the hard places. They are more likely to turn out for a program to help a widow in San Felipe or to help school drop-outs in Watts than for a Sunday school picnic. They are more challenged by an Otis Gatewood who dares them

to learn a difficult language and go to Yugoslavia to preach Christ than they are to attend a class party to play games and drink punch.

They want action. Jesus appeals to most of them but not if presented as a garbed pastor standing in the soft lights of stained glass windows who is mostly concerned about meeting the meager budget.

Another way of putting it is this: Generally the older generation is seeking security. They want peace and quiet while the younger people are seeking a cause that is real enough to demand their time, their talents, their money, and even their lives.

Our Actions Speak Out

The Christ of the New Testament clearly speaks to both generations, but too frequently we do not let him speak through us. We say by our actions if not by our words: "Don't get too excited about Christ. Don't get involved with sharing his love and his grace with those of different social levels or different races or nationalities. Stay cool and in a few years you will be a successful Christian. You will be respected by your neighbors because you have become like them. You will have a nice big house and plenty of insurance and retirement plans. By then the new church building will be paid off and you can either plan an addition or reduce your giving. Leave the study of Christ to your minister. He is a professional who really understands what God wants and he isn't too excited about the lack of commitment of the members. The important thing is for you to avoid a few sins of the flesh and to attend 'church' three times a week. Your responsibility to your unsaved neighbors is met by an annual gospel meeting in which your elders bring in the best speaker available to tell the few who come what to do to be saved. Your duty is to attend at least fifty percent of the time and bring at least one friend once or twice. If you get too stirred up, the elders or preacher may consider you 'radical'. There is plenty of time to tell the unsaved about the love of God in Christ. Settle down and let the older generation take care of such matters. It is better to have a respectable program which brings commendation from our religious neighbors rather than to risk their criticism by visiting those in prison or bringing anyone into the assembly who has not met our minimum standards of respectability."

Our young people who are holding to the faith in the midst of strong peer pressures take Christ so seriously that they abhor the materialism and hypocrisy they see so often in our culture. They listen when Jesus says: "I was hungry and you gave me meat; I was thirsty and you gave me drink; I was a stranger and you took me in; naked and you clothed me; I was sick and you visited me; I was in prison and you came unto me: (Matthew 25:35-36).

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Young People Seek Real Answers

Do not misunderstand me. I am not implying that all of the older generation are smug and satisfied with a "Geritol" religion. Nor am I condoning any excesses among our youth, but I am saying that God has given us wonderful young people who are asking searching questions and seeking real answers. The gospel of Christ is relevant to them as to all generations, but we must expose them to Christ not just to our traditions or our practice of his way for we are so human and fall so far short. But the older and younger generations need His grace. This "Pepsi" generation is ready to be challenged as the rich ruler was challenged by Jesus and many of them will not turn away from a life of total commitment!

They are ready to put into practice many things which we have only preached. So many nominal church members would be shocked if they saw a contemporary acting as Paul or Stephen or Jesus would act. Let us point our young people to the vital and authentic young man of Galilee who is the Son of God and encourage them to follow Him in a more daring way than most of us have ever done. Jesus is the most "real" fact in our universe. Thank God for the multitude of our young people who choose to find the "real" thing in Him!

-M. Norvell Young

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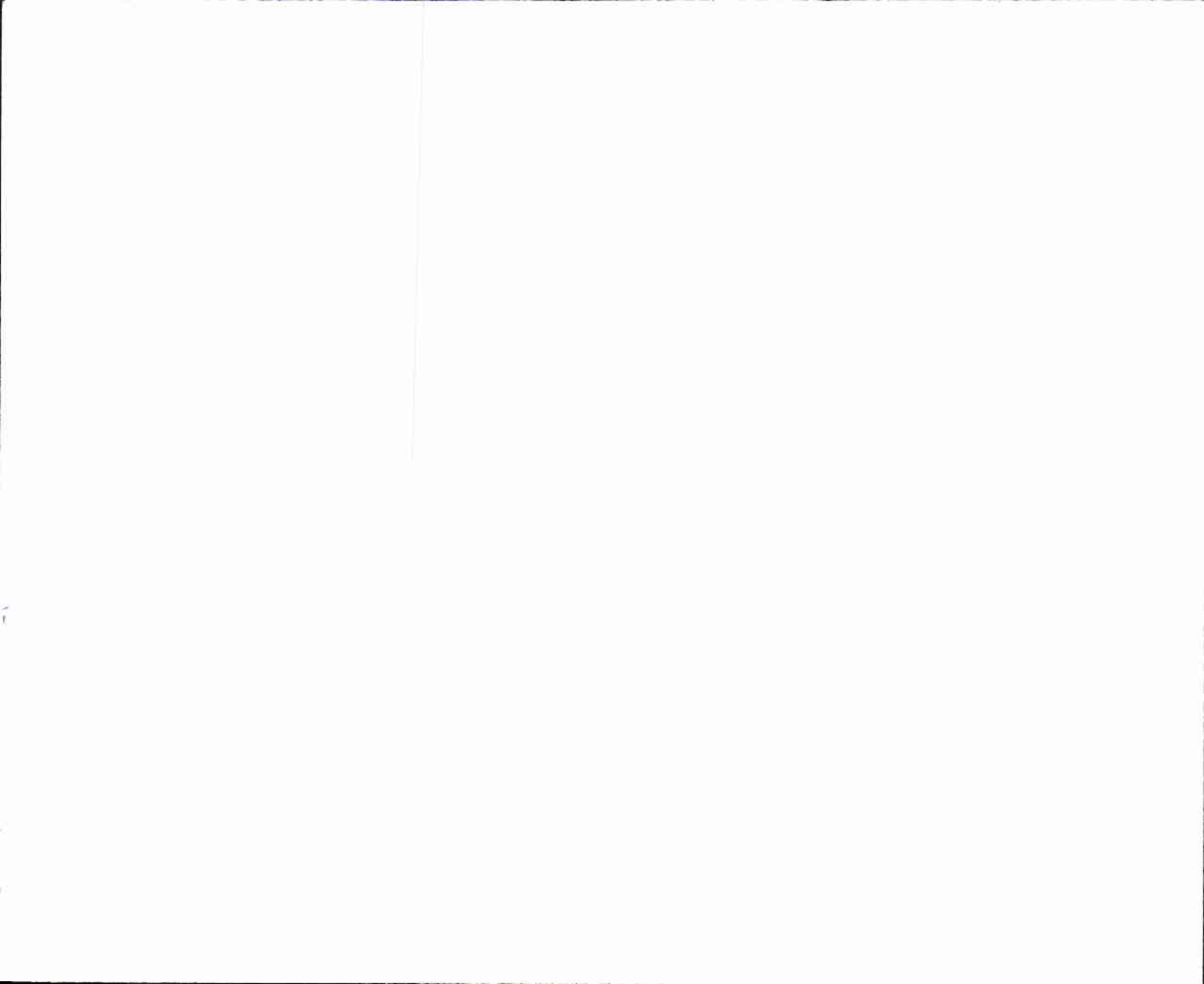
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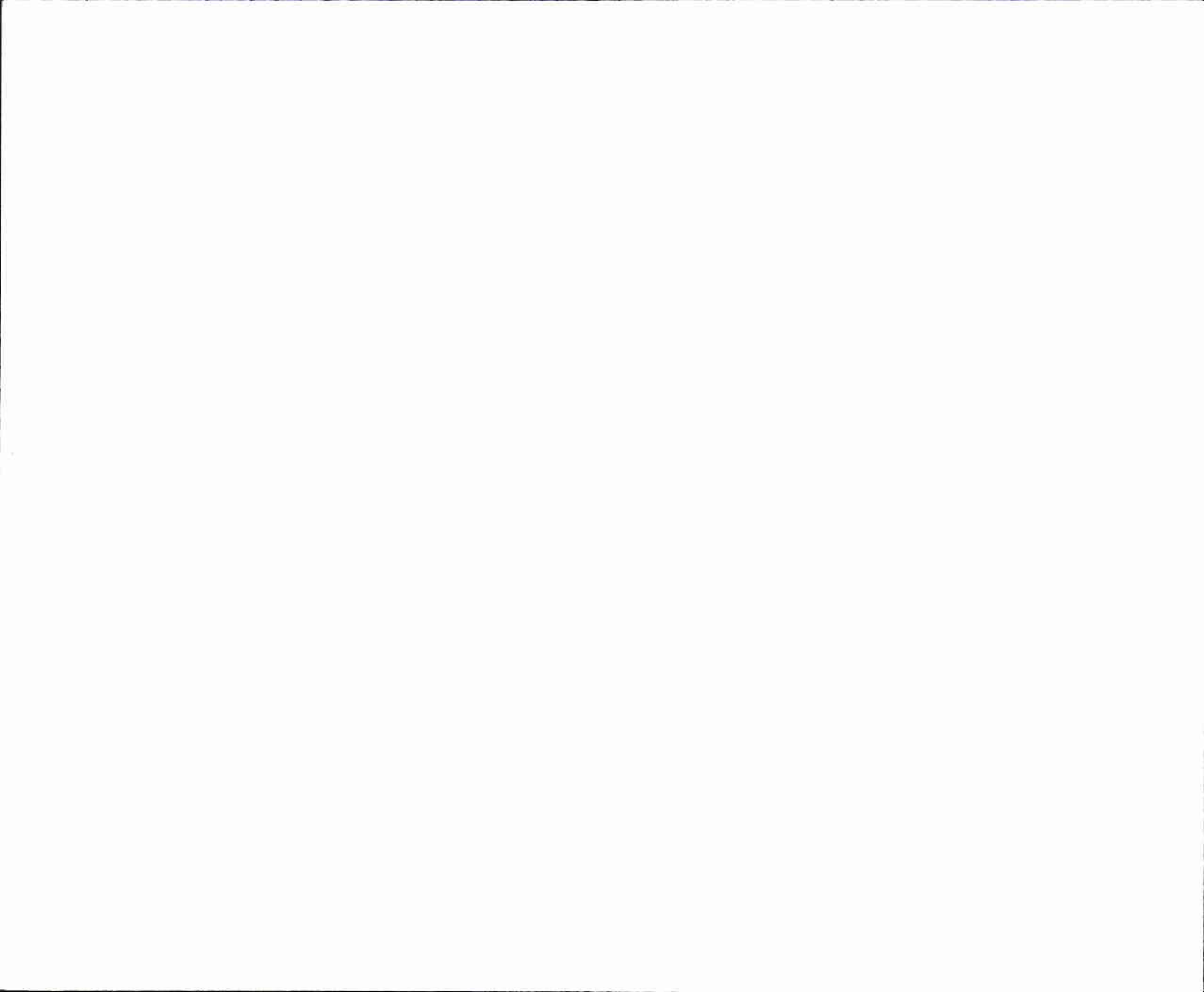
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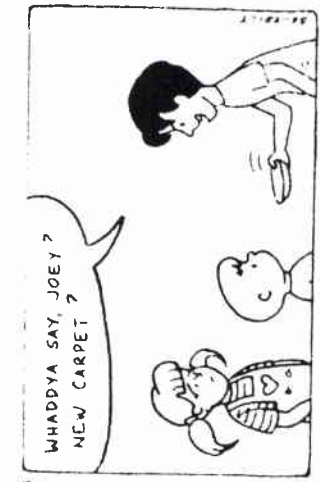
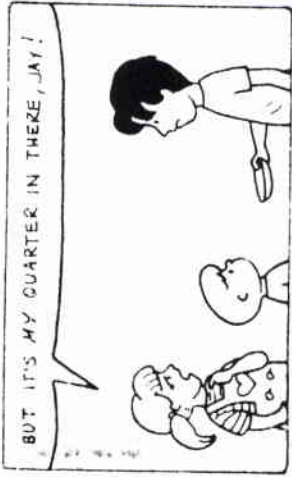
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CHILD'S PLAY

BY BENEDICT



141
130 x 140
12
114
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158
1650

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October 18, 1987

The following appeared in Image magazine, October, 1987. It is entitled "IS THERE TIME TO BE A CHRISTIAN?" What a relevant question for our lifestyles today! Read it very closely.

* * *

"Is there time to be a Christian?" I suppose that seems like a strange question to come Christians. There is a natural inclination to say, "Of course there is!" Or "That's a dumb question." However, before answering too quickly, let's examine a day in the life of a typical Christian.

Is there time to be a Christian? "Well, I do have to sleep eight hours a day." That leaves sixteen hours to be a Christian. "I do work eight hours a day." That leaves eight hours to be a Christian. "I do take about an hour for each meal I eat in a day." That leaves five hours to be a Christian. "It takes me an hour to drive to and from work each day." That leaves four hours to be a Christian. "I need a couple hours for reading, watching television, and generally unwinding." That leaves two hours to be a Christian. "It does take me about thirty minutes to get ready in the morning." That leaves ninety minutes to be a Christian. I do need to spend about an hour a day with my children." That leaves thirty minutes to be a Christian. "I do try to spend at least thirty minutes a day with my spouse." That leaves no time to be a Christian. Add to all these things the house maintenance, lawn care, hobbies, transportation of children, grocery shopping, PTA, Little League, Open houses, car maintenance, laundry, homework, paying bills, second jobs, overtime, taking care of aging parents, shopping, dental appointments, illness, etc., etc.,

ad infinitum, ad nauseum. Is it still easy to answer the question, "Is there time to be a Christian?"

Those who are quick thinkers are saying, "Wait a minute." "Christianity can't be compartmentalized like that. Christianity is not a task to be performed or checked off, it is a lifestyle." And that is correct.

To live the words of Paul in Galatians 2:20, one must let Christ breathe in every dimension of his or her life. When at work, Christ must be there. When at play, Christ must be there. When driving down the road, Christ must be there. When playing with children, Christ must be there. This is Paul's meaning in Phillipians 2:13 when he says God is at work in us to will and to act according to his good purpose. Paul could even suggest that one offers himself or herself as a living sacrifice and thus offers spiritual worship to God (Rom. 12:1-2).

Christianity is not something to be done on Sunday morning, evening, and Wednesday evening and then shelved for the rest of the week. No, Christianity is not even daily devotionals. Christianity is a dynamic lifechanging relationship with God that is so intimate that he is said to live inside of the Christian (I Cor. 3:16; Acts 2:38; Rom. 8:9; Gal. 3:27, etc.).

However, to understand all the above still leaves one with questions in regard to his or her relationships with fellow Christians? What responsibilities do Christians have to each other?

First, one needs to realize that Christians gathered together are the church. Although the building where Christians meet is sometimes identified as the church by association, the true church consists of Christians gathered for service.

The church is the body of Christ on earth (Eph. 1:23; Col. 1:18). It is thus the living incarnation - God in the flesh. Christ died for the church (Eph. 5:25). The church is the "bride of Christ" (Eph.5:26-27). God has given Christians gifts to make the church function (I Cor. 12:14ff). Every Christian is charged to use his gifts to build up the church (I Cor. 14:12).

Therefore, the Christian cannot deny being wrapped up in the church. This is not talking about attendance but of service. The church is here to serve. When Jesus talked about leaders, he differentiated them from the world's concept of domineering dictators who took pleasure in controlling people. Instead he challenged the Christian to be a leader by serving (Matt. 20:25-28).

I realize that Jesus did not come to lay heavy burdens on his people (Matt.11:28-30). However, when Christians find themselves too busy to serve better, too busy to attend Bible classes, too busy to talk to others about Christ, too busy to help those in need, then they are too busy to be a Christian.

It is time for each of us to analyze our lifestyle. Are we living for Jesus or a house and car payment? Are we living for Jesus or to make a name for ourselves? Are we living for Jesus or the good life?

Many Christians have been sucked into a lifestyle that is moving at an incredible pace. Husbands and wives are both working outside the home, trying to raise their children, take care of the house, and maintain their standard of living. They really have nothing left to give. Honestly, they are finding it difficult just to find time for one another, let alone be able to give themselves to anyone else.

Unless there are ways found to free up the average Christian family, the church will become little more than a place to fulfill religious duties. Radical changes must take place. Simpler lifestyles must be sought. Alternatives must be found to the buy, buy, buy syndrome that forces both parents into the workplace and causes them to accept overtime and second jobs just to keep up. Use of credit cards and borrowing at high interest rates that enslave Christians must be curtailed or ceased.

The issues are obvious. The answers within grasp. They may not be easy, and they demand honesty. However, the Christian has two things going for him: (1) God lives within the Christian and (2) Christians gathered together form the greatest support group on earth.

-George Snyder

* * * * *

ANNOUNCEMENTS: There is a need for volunteers for the activity period of the Keenager Program for 1988. This just means planning something for a 30 minute period on a Thursday morning that you choose to help. You need not be present to do this, just make sure anything needed is there (ex. film & projector) or that a speaker is lined up, etc. See Roy soon to choose your Thursday to help with this program.

* * *

PRAYER REQUESTS: Bill Pepito's mother, Amparo Pepito, had two surgeries this week, Monday & Tuesday. The family request prayers on her behalf.

Bill Pepito will also be traveling to Canada this week. Remember him and his family while he is away.

* * *

MEN'S MEETINGS: There will be a men's meeting on November 8 for regular business only following evening services.

On November 15 there will be a men's meeting for making plans for 1988 only following evening worship.

FOR THE LADIES: Don't forget the Ladies Fellowship on Oct. 19 at Janet DePriest's home.

CARE GROUPS 1 & 2: Invited to a Costume Party & Hay Ride at Mary Ann Johnston's on October 31 at 4:00 p.m. Come join the fun and fellowship!

After consultation, the doctors opted for a radical procedure: they killed the patient! Temporarily, of course. They chilled his body temperature from its normal 98.6 degrees to about 62 degrees and arrested heart and brain activity. For ten minutes or so, Bruce Cummins lay legally dead on the operating table. The aneurysm was snipped off, doctors jump-started his heart and he is alive and well today.

I think this provides a vivid picture of what Paul is talking about in Romans 6 concerning the symbol of baptism. You and I have a sin problem of which the evident headaches are only symptoms. The aspirin of religion provides a little relief, but no cure. We really have only one option; to cease our struggles, lie beside Jesus in the tomb, and be declared dead. Only when we lie passive does the blood of Jesus become active and raise us to a new life. The symptoms of sin may linger awhile, but the source has been removed, "for he who has died has been freed from sin" (Rom. 6:7).

Rest in peace.....

-Doug Parsons

* * * * *

A new reporter sent in his first story. The editor called him in and told him it was too long and hereafter he should boil his reports down.

His next report read, "John Doe looked up an elevator shaft to see if the elevator was coming. It was. Age 39."

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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)

October 25, 1987

The following is from the book entitled No Wonder They Call Him the Savior by Max Lucado. It is relevant for us as we are often tempted by Satan to become proud of our "religion".

* * * * *

They are coming as friends - secret friends - but friends nonetheless. "You can take him down now, soldier. I'll take care of him."

The afternoon sun is high as they stand silently on the hill. It is much quieter than it was earlier. Most of the crowd has left. The two thieves gasp and groan as they hang near death. A soldier leans a ladder against the center tree, ascends it and removes the stake that holds the beam to the upright part of the cross. Two of the other soldiers, glad that the day's work is nearing completion, assist with the heavy chore of laying the cypress crosspiece and body on the ground.

"Careful now," says Joseph.

The five-inch nails are wrenched from the hard wood, freeing the limp hands. The body that encased a Savior is lifted and laid on a large rock.

"He's yours," says the sentry. The cross is set aside, soon to be carried into the supply room until it is needed again.

The two are not accustomed to this type of work. Yet their hands move quickly to their tasks.

Joseph of Arimathea kneels behind the head of Jesus and tenderly wipes the wounded face. With a soft, wet cloth he cleans the blood that came in the garden, that came from the

lashings and from the crown of thorns. With this done, he closes the eyes tight.

Nicodemus unrolls some linen sheeting that Joseph brought and places it on the rock beside the body. The two Jewish leaders lift the lifeless body of Jesus and set it on the linen. Parts of the body are now anointed with perfumed spices. As Nicodemus touches the cheeks of the Master with aloe, the emotion he has been containing escapes. His own tear falls on the face of the crucified King. He pauses to brush another away. The middle-aged Jew looks longingly at the young Galilean.

It's a bit ironic that the burial of Jesus should be conducted, not by those who had boasted they would never leave, but by two members of the Sanhedrin - two representatives of the religious group that killed the Messiah.

But then again, of all who were indebted to this broken body, none were as much as those two. Many had been freed from the deep pits of slavery and sickness. Many had been found in the darkest of tunnels, tunnels of perversion and death. But no tunnel was ever darker than the tunnel from which these two had been rescued.

The tunnel of religion.

They don't come any darker. Its caverns are many and its pitfalls are deep. Its subterranean stench reeks with the spirit of good intentions. Its endless maze of channels are cluttered with the disoriented. Its paths are covered with cracked wineskins and spilt wine.

You wouldn't want to carry a young faith into this tunnel. Young minds probing with questions quickly stale in the numbing darkness. Fresh insights are squelched in order to protect fragile traditions. Originality is discouraged. Curiosity is stifled. Priorities are re-shuffled.

Christ had nothing but stinging words of rebuke for those who dwell in the caverns. "Hypocrites," he called them. Godless actors. Fence builders. Inflexible judges. Unauthorized hedge trimmers. Hair splitters. "Blind guides." "White-washed tombs." "Snakes." "Vipers." Bang! Bang! Bang! Jesus had no room for those who specialized in making religion a warlord, and faith a footrace. No room at all.

Joseph and Nicodemus were tired of it, too. They had seen it for themselves. They had seen the list of rules and regulations. They had watched the people tremble under unbearable burdens. They had heard the hours of senseless wrangling over legalistic details. They had worn the robes and sat at the places of honor and seen the word of God be made void. They had seen religion become the crutch that cripples.

And they wanted out.

It was a sizable risk. The high society of Jerusalem wasn't going to look too kindly on two of their religious leaders burying a revolutionist. But for Joseph and Nicodemus the choice was obvious. The stories this young preacher from Nazareth told rang with the truth that they had never heard in the cavern. And, besides, they'd much rather

save their souls than their skin.

So they lifted the body slowly and carried it to the unused tomb. In so doing, they lit a candle in the cavern.

* * * * *

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS:

7	Patti Copeland	28	Lisa Oakley
12	Diane Kimpel	28	Mike Hall
21	Michelle Hall	29	David Kimpel
25	Joe Oakley	30	Donna Oakley

CARE GROUPS 1 & 2: Costume Party & Hay ride at Mary Ann Johnstons.

Dress warm and bring hot dogs for your family and a dish to share. Hot cider and coffee will be furnished.

ACTIVITIES NEEDED: Don't forget to get with Roy if you're willing to plan a half hour activity period for the Keenager Program in 1988.

FREE: If anyone would like some Canna Bulbs or Strawberry plants (June bearers) please see Mary Ann Johnston.

4TH SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP: Starting this Sunday evening there will be a dialogue session included with our 4th Sunday Fellowship period. You will have a chance to ask Roy questions and get his ideas for our work here.

* * * * *

DYING TO LOVE

Ever been so sick that you thought you'd have to get better to die? Bruce Cummins of Bullhead City, Arizona, had just the opposite problem; he had to die in order to get better.

When Bruce checked into the hospital complaining of a severe headache, doctors discovered a cherry-sized aneurysm near the base of his brain. (That is sort of a bubble in an artery.) Eventually that bubble ruptures. In Bruce's case, because the circulatory time-bomb was so large and so close to the think-tank, it's grenade-like effect would have meant instant death.

(cont.)

KEENAGER VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!!

As the year 1988 approaches so fast (!), please remember one area to add to your plans, if you have not already done so. That is the Keenager program which this congregation has chosen to sponsor.

A hearty praise goes to all those who have given of their time in 1987 to help this ministry continue! You are true servants, and the love of our Lord shows in your desire to help in a sacrificial way. However, as I began to look at the new calendar I notice many unfilled dates for 1988, and we need your help. We must see this ministry as a ministry of the LaGrange Church as a whole if it is to ever succeed.

The void you can fill is easy, and the job simple! We are asking that you pick at least two Thursdays (or more if you can) during the year 1988. You will then need to find an activity which the Keenagers can be involved in which will last thirty (30) minutes in length (or approx. 20-30 minutes). Some examples of past favorites have been renting films from the library (which are free); selecting a game to play; organizing and planning for a certain speaker to be here, or perhaps a musician; putting on some type of talent show yourself; etc., etc. Remember, all you are being asked to do is the PLANNING of this event. In many events of the past, the one who had organized the event was never there on Thursday at all. Sounds easy enough, doesn't it?

Once you have selected an event (be as creative as you desire), all you need to do is present your idea to Roy at least by Monday of the week it is to be done. The event will take place on the Thursday you have selected between the times 11:00-11:30 am. It is important to remember that each Thursday we operate on a time schedule, so all activities will need to be planned to begin promptly at 11:00 am and stop in time to be finished and any equipment, projectors, outside speakers, etc. be outside of the room by 11:30am. This is necessary in order to start our Bible study by 11:30. (Since people arrive at 12:00 noon sharp to pick up the Keenagers, this allows us only 30 minutes of Bible study, and we wish to take advantage of as much of this time for that as possible.)

May God bless you as you prepare to take part in this ministry. Please remember that it's main goal is not that of a social event, but to lead people to Christ. May God bless that as being the end result!

-Roy

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-WE LOVE YOU-
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he **TRANSFORMER**

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

November 1, 1987

The following appeared in March, 1985 issue of Christian Bible Teacher. It would do us tremendous good to adopt this principle here in LaGrange.

* * *

All survivors of mandatory public education remember with fear the announcement to "clear your desks and take out a clean sheet of paper." When one of our old teachers used those or similarly terrifying words, we knew that we were in for a test, and in for trouble if we had not kept up with our studies. Even now, years after most of us have put away our books for good, the mere mention of pop quizzes, exams, or finals still give us a shudder.

Students in our Bible classes often do more than just shudder when their teachers arrive armed with tests. When the old test heebie-jeebies set in, the class will typically turn stone-tense, groans and "ughs" will be uttered, and several creative excuses will be made. Some students will fume and fuss, and argue that tests have no place in Bible study. Others might even take a test paper, but silently refuse to answer any of the questions. Only a few students will cheerfully accept the challenge of a test over Bible or Bible-related material as another opportunity to "study to show themselves approved unto God, rightly dividing the word of truth" (2 Timothy 2:15).

Test paralysis is part of our school-day memories because tests are a necessary part of education. Experiments in which classes with tests have been compared to classes where no tests were administered have shown that students do better when tests are given. So history teachers legitimately use tests and grades to motivate their students,

and biology teachers should test their classes to monitor achievement. But tests are not only for grading, and not only for "3-R" education. In Bible classes, too, there are many reasonable uses for tests that benefit both students and teachers.

Tests can be used to motivate students. Bible teachers can craftily take advantage of test anxiety simply by giving tests. Students tend to approach biblical studies more seriously, reading ahead with understanding and reviewing information gleaned from class, when they know that tests are a regular part of class. Teachers will not want to increase anxiety by making a big deal out of grades or by using tests as some sort of punishment, but simply use that old desire to pass tests that lives in every one of our students. High scores on well-thought-out tests work better than vitamins for an anemic class.

Tests can give clear direction to classroom activities. Many Bible classes are muddled messes because teachers do not work toward clear and accessible objectives. We have all cringed through classes in which the story of an epistle has been ignored in favor of "war stories" or classes in which the practical applications of a passage have been passed over in favor of incomprehensible technical "data." By preparing and teaching with challenging, passable test questions in mind, teachers will find that their classes are more coherent and that their students are learning much, much more.

Students, too, get a message about class direction from tests. Serious questions (avoid "trick" questions or questions about obscure facts) highlight the main points that a teacher is trying to get across. Students can then concentrate their out-of-class efforts on what is truly important and be rewarded when their preparation allows them to "ace" a fair test.

Tests can be used as reviews. Someone has said that "repetition is education". That is true, but repetition can also be boring. Instead of teachers rehashing through another lecture, why not let the students rethink the material as they answer comprehensive questions? Then, after the test has been completed and the correct answers are discussed, the class has had two reviews for the price of one. Questions answered correctly are a part of the student, and missed questions are etched in the memory. Many students will never forget the correct answers to the few questions they miss.

Tests give feedback to students. Students can dutifully show up in Bible classes for years without ever getting a pat on the back or having any sense of accomplishment. Occasional tests (do not overuse them, as tests can become dull, too) add variety and encouragement to this routine.

Scores on tests give students a clear measure of their Bible study achievement. And when the challenge of a test is successfully met, self-satisfaction soars. Compliments tossed in by teachers like "See how much we're learning" and "We really know a lot more about Ephesians than we used to" keep enthusiasm high. Tests also show pew-sitters

how much ground they have to make up.

Tests give feedback to teachers. Conscientious teachers are always scratching their heads and wondering, "Did I get my point across? Are my students learning the material? Are they satisfied with the class? Is my favorite teaching method effective?" Results from tests can provide some answers.

Giving a test is not the easiest way for a teacher to burn an hour of class time. Preparing unambiguous questions that give needed emphasis to all elements of the subject matter takes time, as does grading essay questions. Developing plausible distracting options for multiple-choice questions is surprisingly difficult. But carefully engineered tests are worth the investment of time because they provide teachers with so much information. Tossing in questions like "On a scale of 1 to 10, how helpful have the study guides been?" provides responses to specific questions.

Since tests were part of our original class plans, my students are not surprised when I begin handing out tests. After an adequate amount of time, we grade our own test, discussing the questions and correct answers. The instant grading give students feedback while they are still interested in the test.

For a twist, we sometimes take the test as a group, with different students arguing on behalf of different answers. At other times, students are asked to come up with their own questions at home, and we quiz each other in class.

Reactions to my tests have been mixed, but are becoming more positive. The students who stubbornly refuse to think and study do poorly, if they do at all. And I have experienced all the negative reactions mentioned earlier. But I am hearing fewer "ughs" as the students adjust to tests in Bible class and realize their educational value. And when tests are returned with high scores, I know someone is learning - and that is enough of a reward to make me want to teach up a storm.

-Dan Prather

* * * * *

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- We regret that Paul(Buck) Everidge...passed away Friday morning at the hospital in Coldwater, MI following a long battle with cancer. The funeral is being directed by Weicht Funeral home in Angola, with visitation on Sunday, 11-1-87 at the hours of 2-4 pm and 7-9 pm. The funeral service will be at the funeral home Monday, 11-1-87, at 1:00 pm.(tentative) Burial will be at the Circle Hill cemetery just outside Angola.
- The dialogue session with Roy during the October 25th Sunday night fellowship was a success, but we need a bigger turn-out for this on Nov. 22, so that more of your input can be heard. Thanks!
- Care Group 3 - Joe & Jane Gensic 5:00 p.m. Thanksgiving Dinner Nov. 14th

GOD'S CREATION

Have you ever wondered why the Canadian geese fly only in the "V" formation? For years specialists in aerodynamics wondered the same thing.

Two engineers calibrated in a wind tunnel what happens in such "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 then, depends upon the other to get to its destination.

Something else...when a goose begins to lag behind, the others "honk" him back into place.

We can learn much from God's animal creation! The church needs to fly in a spiritual "V" formation, "honking" one another into steadfastness. And it must be at least 71% easier to live the faithful Christian life "flying with the flock" as opposed to going it alone.

--copied from the FLAT ROCK (MI) VISITOR

* * * * *

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

CARE GROUP 3 will be having a Thanksgiving Dinner on November 14th at Joe and Jane Gensic's home starting at 5:00 p.m.

LADIES FELLOWSHIP will meet Tuesday morning at the building at 10:00 a.m. We will be learning to quilt, so if you have anything to work on, bring it along.

- "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)

November 8, 1987

Many of you ladies have expressed the desire for more teaching on the role of the woman in the Lord's Body. I hope to soon begin a regular section of this bulletin just for that. In the meantime, I am going to provide you with some borrowed material that I feel is very relevant for the woman in God's Kingdom.

-Roy

* * * * *

HUMILITY AND FORGIVENESS - KEYS TO LOVING

Do Not Judge

All of us are "judges". We pass judgment every day on our likes and dislikes: food, colors, the weather and people. How can we help but form judgments of the attitudes and actions of those around us? In fact, we are commanded to "judge those inside the church" (I Corinthians 5:12-6:4), and Jesus, our example, bluntly pointed out the hypocrisy of the Pharisees. So what can He mean?

There is a vast difference between correcting or rebuking someone for their benefit (which, of course, involves making a judgment or an assessment) and doing it in order to pull someone down or to harm them. As women, we have a universal tendency to be fault-finding and critical. Frequently our worst victims are those closest to us: our husbands, our family, and the sisters with whom we are working. Along with other demons of our old nature, this critical spirit needs to be crucified daily. By examining its cause and effect, we can learn how to crucify not only the symptoms but also the root of this sin.

What makes us critical of others? The real root is the root of sin: pride. It may be hiding behind insecurity, subtly disguised as prejudice, or blatantly parading as competitiveness. I have struggled with each of these at different times. Overly concerned with what others thought of me, I have "gotten even" by mental fault-finding. At times, I have sinned against individuals by clinging to unfair stereotypes. For example, one of my stereotypes was that women were not capable of speaking publicly as well as men. Consequently, I listened to women speakers (who often had the unfair disadvantage of having fewer opportunities) with a much more critical ear than I would listen to men. I have been guilty, during periods of mediocrity, of the lowest form of competitiveness: being critical of those who are working the hardest, or of those who are weaker and younger in the faith than me, in order to ease my own conscience. How different this is from the attitude of Jesus: "A bruised reed He will not break, and a smoldering wick He will not snuff out" (Matthew 12:20). By always putting the spiritual needs of others ahead of His own, Jesus demonstrated the "uncritical corrector", who seeks to build up, not to destroy.

Or You Will Be Judged

The effects of a critical spirit on a discipling relationship bring about an early judgment. In marriage, it earns you that ignoble title of naq, or as Proverbs puts it, a "dripping faucet". Between sisters, as well as spouses, it creates walls, stifles growth, and fosters mutual resentment. If you can't see how your own actions may have affected others this way, ask yourself: "How do I feel when someone is constantly criticizing (or correcting) me?" There is nothing more demoralizing than thinking that someone you respect has little, if any, confidence in you. I can remember one relationship like this. Being around this person actually seemed to bring out the negative qualities he had pointed out in me. It was frustrating, but I gained insight into Ephesians 6:4: "Fathers, do not exasperate your children." Disciples (and husbands) get exasperated when they are faced with constant correction and little encouragement.

First Take the Plank Out of Your Own Eye

If pride keeps rearing its ugly head in our relationships, how are we to kill it? First, we need to see the relationship between humility and forgiveness. A forgiving (or uncritical) spirit will flow out of a sober estimate of ourselves. As we see our own sin more plainly, we'll be slower to take offense at the sins of others. Remembering "He who is without sin, let him be the first one to throw a stone" (John 8:7), will help develop compassion and patience in us when others irritate or offend. Remember, too, that Jesus defined forgiveness not as a "favor" but as a duty to others - out of appreciation for God's infinite patience with us.

A close friend is growing visibly in her humility by praying daily to have her secret sins uncovered and laid bare as she studies the

scriptures. She is constantly seeking input from other sisters, in order to see herself more realistically. Although she is always confident of God's grace in her life, she is never self-satisfied, and can always identify the areas of her life that she is striving to change. As her humility grows, so does her gentleness and patience, as they naturally should.

And Then You See Clearly to Remove the Speck From Your Brother's Eye

Jesus' plank and speck illustration teaches an important truth: as we start to deal with our own sin (of pride), our ability to wisely correct and admonish others increases radically. We can now see, and we can discern the differences between sin, weakness, cultural differences, and personal taste. With a clearer perspective, we know when to correct, when to rebuke and when to remain silent. "To the pure, all things are pure." With a clear eye and a pure heart, we can be confident that our words are benefiting others and bringing glory to God.

-Marilyn Kriete

* * * * *

IF YOU HAVE NO INFLUENCE ON FAMILY/FRIENDS -- WHAT QUALIFIES YOU TO PICK ON STRANGERS??

Turn to Matt., Mark, Luke, and John! Look first at Jesus. Nearly all His disciples in an intimate way were relatives or community friends. Perhaps only Judas was a total outsider! John the Baptist was a cousin, Salome, Zebedie, James and John were near kinsmen. Some think Matthew and James the younger were brothers and cousins of Jesus. Andrew found Peter his brother, Philip found Nathaniel his brother. In Acts Barnabas was kin to John Mark. Many congregations were "house churches." Cornelius had his family and friends ready to hear Peter.

What is this saying? There is more to evangelism than "right answers to selected questions". There is more to evangelism than one pattern to fit all. We have confused evangelism with methods. We seek the right computer button to push. None exist. Evangelism is people. People loving, caring, serving, teaching people. People who cannot build relationships should not be sent out to "proselyte". This is what it amounts to. We proselyte to ourselves, teaching them only what we wish them to know. Fellowship is little or none -- it is not considered a factor in evangelism. Consequently the mortality rate is high. When you artificially "get them" you have to artificially "keep them". Evangelism comes out of life, family, and friendship. Read the Bible.

-Charles Hodge

FUN WITH YOUR CALCULATOR

Take a pocket calculator and complete the following.....

- 1. How many books are there in the Bible? _____
- 2. How many of the New Testament letters did Paul write? + _____
- 3. How many churches were there in Asia? (Rev. 1:4) + _____
- 4. How many persons are in the Godhead? (Matt. 28:19) x _____
- 5. How many tribes in Israel? (Ex. 28:21) x _____
- 6. How many apostles? (Matt. 10:2) x _____
- 7. What is the number of the beast? (Rev. 13:18) + _____

Now turn the calculator upside down and read how this answer will tell you of something to pay attention to = _____

- WHEN JESUS IS STUDIED . . . ACTS IS THE RESULTS -

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

November 15, 1987

JESUS

- Jesus is:
- "The author and perfecter of our faith" (Heb. 12:2)
 - "The bread of life" (John 6:35)
 - "The light of the world" (John 8:12)
 - "The gate to salvation" (John 10:9)
 - "The Good Shepherd that laid down his life for the sheep" (John 10:11)
 - "The resurrection" (John 11:25; John 14:6)
 - "The way" (John 14:6)
 - "The truth" (John 14:6)
 - "The life" (John 14:6)

The Bible declares Jesus to be "our righteousness, holiness, and redemption" (I Cor. 1:30). In scripture, He is called "wonderful counselor", "mediator", "deliverer", "The Great High Priest", "The Captain of our Salvation", "Our Advocate", "The Holy One of God", "Only Begotten Son", "Mighty God", "Lord", "Lord of All", "Lord of Lords", "King of Kings", "Prince of Life", "Prince of Peace", "Immanuel", "Root and Offspring of David", "The Bright and Morning Star", "The second Adam", "The Lamb of God", "The Lion of the Tribe of Judah", "The Alpha and Omega", "The First and the Last", "The beginning of the Creation of God", "the Son of Man", "the Son of God", "God", and "The Amen".

Jesus was the obsession of the early church. The first public sermon preached by a disciple of Christ was "Jesus centered" - "men of Israel, listen to this: Jesus of Nazareth..." (Acts 2:22), "God raised Him from the dead" (2:24), "God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of the fact" (2:32), "Therefore let all Israel be assured of this:

God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ" (2:36). As the number of believers in Jesus increased, the Jews were "greatly disturbed because the Apostles were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection of the dead" (Acts 4:2).

The theme of the apostolic preaching was Jesus! Jesus! Jesus! "Day after day, in the temple courts and from house to house, they never stopped teaching, proclaiming the good news that Jesus is the Christ" (Acts 5:42).

When the church was disbursed from Jerusalem, "Philip went down to a city in Samaria and proclaimed the Christ there" (Acts 8:5). When God called Philip out of Samaria and joined him with an Ethiopian, "Then Philip began with that very passage of scripture and told him the good news about Jesus (Acts 8:35).

The Corinthian church was plagued with problems - division, immaturity, immorality, brothers taking brothers to court, marital conflicts, pride, arguing over preacher pay, drunkenness and gluttony, abuse of spiritual gifts and denial of the resurrection. How would an inspired apostle deal with all of these problems? "For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified" (I Cor. 2:2).

Jesus is the one solution to every problem that man faces. No wonder the Holy Spirit declared, "he who has the Son has life, he who does not have the Son of God does not have Life" (I John 5:12).

-Jim Woodell
Little Rock, Arkansas

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FOR THE LADIES

"If I had it to do over again, there are a lot of things I would do differently! "Have you ever heard a mother of teens or young adults make this comment?

There are some things I would change in the way I raised my children if I had another chance, because my perspective on things is much different than it was when my girls were younger. For one thing, I felt like I would have little ones underfoot forever - that I would never have a moment to myself again. I felt like my tables would always have little fingerprints on them, and my floors would always be messy with spilled juice. But do you know what? I was wrong!! My little girls are big girls now - and they are not underfoot. In fact, there are many times that I wish I saw them more than I do! That stage in my life is over, and it didn't last forever. In fact, it went much too quickly, and I find that the next stage in my life that I am facing is the "empty nest". And I find myself wondering where the years

went so quickly.

Don't misunderstand me - I am very proud of my girls and the fact that they are maturing into beautiful young women. I am saying this to encourage you if you are a mother of young children - hang in there! The days will fly by, and one day you'll be wondering how time passed so quickly. Just make the most of every moment with your little one - let the dishes stack up if you have to choose between them and time with your child. Take every opportunity to teach them about the love of God, and show them how much you love God. "Martha, Martha," the Lord answered, "you are worried and upset about many things, but only one thing is needed. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her."

If I had it to do over again, I would take advantage of every teachable moment to instill in my children the desire to love God with all their heart, soul, strength and mind. I pray that to some degree I have accomplished that, and that someday our family will be together forever with God.

-Pat Hallsell
Little Rock, Arkansas

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ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Teens will be going to the Pepito's Sunday following morning services for a Pizza Party. Bring \$2.00 per person and come join the fun!
- There will be a Singing at the Kendallville congregation on the 21st of November beginning at 7:00 P.M. The Chansonaires Quartet will be there providing inspiration through song.
- On Sunday evening November 22, the young men of our congregation will be bringing us the lesson. Plan to be there to encourage them in this endeavor.
- Care Group 3 will be hosting the Fourth Sunday Fellowship on November 22. Don't forget the Dialogue session with Roy on this evening!
- PRAYER REQUESTS: For Doris Ritchie, Hazel Miller's sister-in-law, will be going into the hospital on Monday for throat surgery. Patti Copeland's father, Earl Vaughn, will be going in for his 3rd knee replacement surgery on November 20th. Let's remember these and any others in our daily prayers!

OBVIOUSLY

A Sunday school teacher was giving a talk on behavior and explaining what had to be done to get to heaven. When she finished she asked one of the pupils, "Horace, what must we do before we expect forgiveness of sin?"

Horace squirmed and finally replied, "We gotta sin."

* * *

THE PREACHER AND THE FARMER

A farmer objected to his preacher getting \$60 per week for preaching twice on Sunday. The farmer said, "That is \$30 per hour."

The next week the farmer brought a load of wheat to the mill. The preacher happened to be there and watched him unload, then go in the office and get a check for \$250 for the wheat. "See here," said the preacher, "you objected to me getting \$30 per hour and you make almost ten times that."

"Oh, no," said the farmer, "I just came to the mill to unload."

"And so do I just go to the pulpit to unload," said the preacher.

"I see your point," said the farmer, "and I am going to pay more toward your salary. But hereafter, preacher, please don't take so long to unload."

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

Sunday

Bible Class 9:30 a.m.
Assembly 10:30 a.m.
Assembly 6.00 p.m.

Wednesday

Bible Class 7:00 p.m.

Evangelist :

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

-WE LOVE YOU-
THANK YOU FOR VISITING TODAY !


TRANSFORMER

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

December 6, 1987

December will mark the sixth month that our family has been with you here in LaGrange, Yes, that's right, six months! It seems like only yesterday that we were unloading the U-Haul. Now we look forward to having a wonderful holiday with you as God's family here in LaGrange.

While it is true that we all have so much to be thankful for, Barbara, myself, and the boys have been richly blessed probably more than most. We feel blessed to have you all as a family. We want to take this opportunity to thank you for being as loving and caring as you have toward us, and as sacrificial as you have with your time, money, and talents. Whether it has been your response to a need we may have had, or your openness toward the Word of God, we want you to know how much we appreciate you, and thank God for you.

As the new year approaches, we need to all take inventory of ourselves. While it is true that as Christians we must do this every day, it is good to have a point at which we openly talk about our goals.

Do you have a vision for yourself? Do you have a vision for your brothers or sisters, or someone close to you? Do you have a vision for the church? You know, one of the best ways to help each other to grow is to have a vision for someone else, and let them know what you feel that they have the capacity to do for God and His Kingdom.

We must have goals that are reachable, both for ourselves and for the entire Body here. I personally have a vision for the church here to grow and mature into a multiplying church. I feel that this is not a farfetched idea or goal,

if we set our minds to doing it. We currently have some growing to reach that point, but it is by no means unattainable!

Please keep the entire Body here in your prayers as we strive to be the New Testament church here in LaGrange. May we approach the new year with enthusiasm and excitement about what can be done to please the Lord! (II Cor. 5:9)

-Roy

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SUBMISSION

In our day of "do your own thing" and "stand up for your rights," the idea of submission is objectionable to many people. It goes against the grain of man's self-centered pridefulness. But submission is demanded of anyone who intends to live with God in eternity. It is optional for no person who wears the name of Christ.

Much of Paul's letter to the Ephesians exhorted them to practice submissiveness in various areas. In Ephesians 5:21, Christians were commanded to submit to one another. Our equality in Christ would be one reason for this mutual submission (Ephesians 3:27-28; James 1:9-11). Christ's example would be another reason (John 13). The very nature of servanthood and cross-bearing are other reasons. No one is fit to lead who cannot follow with a submissive spirit.

In Ephesians 5:22-25, wives are taught to be submissive to husbands. This admonition was not based on a current cultural distinction, but on the nature of God's creative order itself (I Timothy 2:8-13). The head of the woman is man (I Corinthians 11:3). This truth does not suggest in any way that woman is inferior to man as a person. It does mean that she is in a secondary position with regard to leadership.

The church is subject to Christ in everything (Ephesians 5:24). He is the Head; we are the body. Our approach to Him is not based on democracy but on theocracy. He is the King and we are the subjects. He is the Master and we are the slaves. We are called to obey unconditionally, whether obedience is easy or difficult. We obey when we understand all of the reasons for such obedience or when we understand virtually nothing of the purposes involved.

Paul further commands children to be submissive to parents in all things (Ephesians 6:1-4; Colossians 3:20). Disobedience to parents ranked right beside obviously heinous sins in Romans 1:29-31. In Ephesians 6:5-9, servants are admonished to submit to masters. Even if the masters were harsh and unfair, no excuse is found for disobedience (I Peter 2:18-23). Surely some application of the principle would fit within the framework of an employer/employee relationship.

In Romans 13, the Christian is taught to submit to government, for such authorities were authorized by God. Speaking evil of these authorities is clearly condemned (Titus 3:1-2). True respect for officials will always result in obedience to the laws of the land in both letter and spirit (I Peter 2:13-17).

Once submission is seen in all of these relationships, we are in a better position to understand submission to church leaders. In Hebrews 13:17, we read: "Obey your leaders and submit to their authority." Regarding those who devote themselves to the ministry, Paul writes: "I urge you, brothers, to submit to such as these and to everyone who joins in the work and labors at it" (I Corinthians 16:15-16).

The authority of leaders in the church is based on responsibility. Anyone who has a leadership responsibility must have the authority to carry it out. And any of us who are followers of this lead must submit willingly. Thus, in one area a person may be the leader, while in another area he is a follower. This submissive spirit on the part of everyone makes success possible in the spiritual kingdom without a "boss" type of leadership. Jesus said, "you know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. Not so with you. Instead whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave" (Matthew 10:25-27).

The discipling principle means that leaders must model humility, not simply demand it of their disciples. Submission in the kingdom is based on love for God, love for the Word, and love for each other. We nail our selfish ambitions to the cross in order to advance the Cause. Mutual submission is the one ingredient that makes us stand out in sharp contrast to the world. The principle of love demands a submissive spirit of us whether we are leading or following in a given task. Once we have submitted to the cross, all other submission comes easily.

-Gordon Ferguson,
Evangelist for the Mission Church of Christ in San Diego, California

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ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- ANNUAL NEW YEARS EVE BOWLING - We will be having a Pot Luck at the building at 5:30, and bowling from 7 - 9:30. After our bowling we will return to the building for games and snacks to bring in the new year.
- This being the first Sunday, we will be singing at the nursing homes. Miller's Merry Manor at 4:30 and LaGrange at 5:10. Come join in this service.
- CONGRATULATIONS to the Deisler family on the birth of a bouncing baby boy last Sunday evening! Drew Keith weighed in at 8 lbs. 2 oz. God bless!!

Ask yourselves these questions to check-up on your family. Perhaps there will be need of change or improvement. I hope these will cause us to think about our most precious possession. Let's all make our family the best it can be!

1. Is my mate closer to God or further from God because of me?
2. Can my family see that going to heaven is really the most important priority in my life?
3. Does our family take a few minutes each day to read and discuss God's word?
4. Do all the family members take the time to pray together once a day besides mealtime?
5. Is our family ministering to others who are needy, lonely, struggling, or are we isolated from others?
6. Does our family talk to one another in loving tones as though we appreciated and valued each other?
7. Does our family have time set aside to do enjoyable recreational activities together?
8. Does each member of the family know that they are valued and loved? Has it been openly expressed?
9. Are our children growing up to have self-esteem and confidence in who they are?
10. As time goes by, is our family growing closer to God or is it fragmenting?

How important is the family? God established it first among all institutions; Blessed the world through them (Gen.12 "seed" of Abraham); uses this relationship to describe the church. If our family is not united, how can the church, which is made up of families, be united?

-Derek Pfiiefer

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The TRANSFORMER

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

December 20, 1987

A haunting story takes place in the life of Christ. Mark records it for us in Mark 9:17-29. There we see a man whose son was ill. We see his concern for his son, and love for him, yet it is haunting because the story reveals our humanity, as we have often seen it in this man and the disciples.

Sometimes we see our unbelief in this man. Often we see our inability to reach certain goals and accomplish certain things due to our lack of prayer, which we see in the disciples (v. 28-29). Both are often scary realities, and attest to the power Satan has on our lives.

As I sit here in Lutheran Hospital writing this and thinking of the last couple of days, I've noticed many things Barb and I have been made aware of or reminded of - the brevity of life, the fragility of life, the elements of un-belief that occasionally come out in our lives. Our weakness in the area of prayer so many times. The love and concern of brothers and sisters in Christ. The power of Satan! Oh, how that last one seems to really stand out! We also notice how trivial some things we think are so important, really aren't.

While thinking of how close our oldest child could have been to a terminal illness, I think of how many children have not been so fortunate. Perhaps they lived in the past when medicine was more primitive in development. Perhaps they were the victim of any number of other circumstances out of their control. While thinking about these things, and hearing a child in pain scream as I walk past their room, my mind is flooded with mixed emotions and thoughts.

The reaction for many adults has been that if there

was a God, He would never allow such suffering to occur. "Where was God when my child died?" many have asked. "The same place He was when His own Son died!" is the reply. As I think about innocent children suffering, though, thoughts such as these never enter my mind. I am more obsessed with anger. That's right, anger towards the cause of it all: Satan. (Even though it's grammatically correct to capitalize his name, it's hard to do since he deserves no dignity!) This is why we see Jesus show "righteous indignation" (anger) towards sin, because He hated it's maker! So often we are told it's a sin to be angry! Well, here's your chance to vent your feelings! There is one being we can be just as angry toward as we please, and not worry the least about God being displeased with us about it! In fact, God's right there at ringside in the cheering section, behind us in those feelings 100%! So, if you need to vent some anger, listen to Jesus in Mark 9:25.

I can confidently say that during these 2 days, never once did I doubt God's ability to bring Jerrod back to health. And as for praying, we probably haven't prayed so hard for a long time. And in that, lies the problem; my consistency. I have been reminded of the importance of that same level of prayer needed at all times, not just when an innocent child's health is in danger. We praise God for all of you who were praying in Jerrod's behalf. God was truly at work before you ever said the first word! (Mark 11:24) A special thanks for your visits, cards, gifts, etc. You are really a very special and unique group of people! We are privileged to have you as a family!

If you have children, thank God for them right now. Don't ever say, "It can't happen to my child". And especially thank God that we live in a day when we have the modern medicine that we do. It is surely a blessing from Him. It can't cure one deadly illness, sin....but the Great Physician can!

-Roy

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ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Budget presentation this evening. Everyone please bring pen and paper along tonight.
- Bowling - Don't forget our New Years Eve Annual Bowl-off. There will be a Pot Luck at the building at 5:30 and then the bowling from 7 - 9:30 p.m. Following this we will return to the building for some fun and fellowship.
- PRAYERS - Remember those of our number who are ill or traveling during this week, and let's not forget to thank God for our answered prayers too.

THE PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE

There is the present and the past
And the time to be.
How much of it is there left
For you and for me?

Now we know the past is gone
Nothing we can do
That will change or make it be
As we'd like it to.

But we might remember things
That will help the now.
Things that we could not do then
But we now know how.

Or, perhaps there was a wrong,
One that we regret.
God said to confess it and
He'll forgive, forget.

If there's hatred in our hearts,
God can change to love,
If we truly do repent,
And ask Him above.

If with true repentance, we
Ask God to forgive,
Then it's ended, over, and
We can truly live.

Live what's in the present and
In the time to be,
Then with God's help we can make
Me a better me.

Live and love and try to serve
Everyone we may.
Then for us as well as them
It's a better day.

Put all envy, jealous hate
And all other sin,
Ail behind in Jesus name
And He'll help you win.

Then tomorrow comes along.
Start it with a prayer.
Ask for wisdom, courage, love
And you'll find it there.

*NOTE: This was printed last week, and I failed to give credit to Gay Ray. Please forgive me Gay. I simply overlooked it.

-Roy

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