

lost that which seemed irreplaceable? Does your grief appear inconsolable? Look again at who you are, and at your relation to God. The apparent tragedy can become one of the greatest blessings you will ever know - if you let it.

-Tony Ash

* * * * *

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES:

9	Midge Hughes	27	Mary Campbell
10	Jil Deisler		<u>Anniversary</u>
13	Mike Pepito		
18	Steve Miller	19	David & Bonnie Sowles

My appologies to those having birthdays in December for not getting them in the bulletin - Hollie, Kathy H., Zella, Fred O., Nick, Dianne H., Jerrod, Alison and Jane. Sorry! I hope you all had a great birthday!

* * * * *

SECRET SISTERS:

The Secret Sisters revealing will take place on Saturday, January 16, 1988 at the Golden Corral in Sturgis, Michigan, beginning at 7:00 p.m.

Come prepared to guess who your secret sister was and to enjoy the fellowship of the evening.

Any interested in becoming a part of the Secret Sister program, please feel free to come too.

* * * * *

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)

January 3, 1988

Well, here we are again at the start of another calendar year. This is the time when the world stops for a moment and recalls what the past year held in the way of events. Our radio stations play all the most popular tunes of the past year, or those leading up to and including it. The most popular magazines run huge pictorials on tragedies as well as events worthy of celebration that took place in 1987. Some of our T.V. stations and broadcasting networks run documentaries and specials on the same, as well as some of the more exciting political happenings. Isn't it amazing how soon the world forgets something that one moment is apparently so important? I mean, Oliver North is a thing of the past in most people's minds!

It is at this time of the year that many people sit down and make certain resolutions and goals. Some are met, most are not. It is often difficult to make goals and stick with them. The discipline that is required to do that and carry it out is not always there when we dig down deep in personal inventory looking for it. Even the apostle Paul struggled with living a life controlled by the Spirit, but he realized that in Christ he could do all things! (Phil. 4:13; Rom. 7:18-25; Gal. 5:13-25)

Another thing that Satan tempts us with that we easily fall victim to in setting or making resolutions is to live and thrive on the past and the good things done then. The Jews had this problem, and Jesus had to deal with them concerning it. (John 8:31-41) The Jews held a lot of pride in the fact that they were the descendants of Abraham, and the fact that he was a man of such great faith. Jesus told them, however, that they didn't live and act like Abraham,

but just the opposite! They were putting their pride and confidence in a good thing of the past.

It is often easy for us to feel great pride and comfort in how much the Church used to do for people in LaGrange; about how close the Body used to be to one another; about all of the things we used to do for the Lord; about how a certain class or program that used to exist helped us to grow in our knowledge of the Word; about how prayerful we used to be; etc., etc.,.....

Brothers and sisters...we cannot put our confidence and pride in things of the past, regardless of how great they may have been. Paul said to the Philippians in his letter to them that he had every reason to be excited about how "perfect" he had been as a Jew and a Pharisee, and in Paul's mind he had been pleasing to God in his past, until his relationship with Christ proved him wrong! He then said in Phil. 3:12-14 that he knew he must put the past behind him and "press on".

As we begin a new year together, let me encourage each of us to be able to look at the past in a way that will teach us lessons, and then to go into the future with great goals for the growth of the Kingdom here. May we all make it a goal to seek God and to grow closer together, and to share our faith with those around us in the world enabling them to see the Christ that has changed our lives!

And may we always give the glory, praise, honor and credit for all good things to Him!

-Roy

* * * * *

WHAT I LEARNED FROM THE NEW YORK MARATHON

In 1985 I entered the New York Marathon. It seemed exciting, and since I had already completed several marathons, I felt confident I would finish. I went through the time-consuming and grueling training regimen a marathon demands. I spent a fair amount of money on the trip. And I managed, without seeming too boastful, to let all my students know that an "older person" like myself was going to run 26.2 miles.

The experience was as exciting as the TV coverage suggests. Running with 20,000 runners, before a crowd of two million, was exhilarating. But, by the time I had run three miles, I knew I couldn't finish. By the halfway mark I was walking. Finally, just past the 17 mile marker I quit, walked to the Manhattan Church of Christ, and attended their afternoon service, thoroughly disheartened. How could I return home and admit failure? This anxiety probably made me go further in the race than I would have otherwise.

When I returned home I tried to make the best of it. I even preached a sermon on the spiritual lessons learned from the experience. But I also made some resolutions. First, in the next four months I ran two

other marathons, to prove to myself that I could. Second, I resolved to go to New York the next year.

Consequently I began a more rigorous training schedule. For six months I followed a rigid mileage pattern, forcing myself to run when it seemed impossible. Several friends determined to run New York also, and much of our time was spent running together, discussing progress and running strategies.

As the time drew near we were interviewed by both our school paper and the local newspaper. In the latter case we were featured in a front page article, with a full color picture showing us in our running togs. When I was asked if I would finish this time, I was so sure my training was adequate that I said I would.

Since our wives went, and we stayed longer, the trip was even more expensive than the preceding year. But the excitement made it worth it, not to mention the anticipation of succeeding where previously I had failed.

On the day of the marathon we began well. But by the eighth mile it became obvious that I was having trouble. Despite attempts to deal with the difficulties, by the time I got almost to the 19 mile mark, I was unable to go any further. Thoroughly discouraged, I walked several miles back to the hotel (a process not helped by becoming lost in Central Park) in a miserable chilling wind. Everyone else in our party finished the race.

It was a painful experience, not made any better by the dozens of interested people who asked, upon our return, how I had done. To say I didn't finish once was bad enough, but to have to repeat it over and over was agonizing. The wound would just begin to heal when it was re-opened.

Had I finished, there would have been a brief time of glory, and then it would have been over. But since I didn't, the experience has stayed with me, and has, oddly enough, been of great benefit.

For one thing I have learned something very personal about failure. To be human is to fail. To be born again we must admit failure, and turn our flawed lives over to God. I have failed before, many times, and I will fail again. So I must quit pretending I am above such things. I should cheerfully admit my inadequacy, allow myself to be vulnerable, and go on living. So what if I did not run 26.2 miles? Whatever I lost I have not lost the thing that matters most. God still loves me. I doubt that what I do in a marathon is of interest to God, except as the experience can bring me closer to Him.

Consequently I have re-examined my values and re-affirmed my relation to God. If that remains intact, I have what matters most, and in that strength I can deal with anything else.

Humiliation is a healthy thing. It brings us to the truth, while pride deceives us. Humiliation provokes introspection. It shows us how much we need grace, and how marvelous it is that God gives it.

Where are your failed marathons? What have you striven for? In what have you invested much of yourself, only to be disappointed? Have you

THE 23rd PSALM

- ¹The Visa card is my master
I shall not be left short of cash.
- ²He makes me lie down between satin sheets,
he leads me to my water bed,
³my back is restored.
- He guides me to live
beyond my means,
For his profit sake.
- ⁴Even though I drive my Mercedes
through the valley of the Shadow
of our over-extended budget,
I will fear no loss of buying power,
for Thou art with me;
Your high credit limit and low minimum payments,
they comfort me.
- ⁵You prepare a table at the best restaurants
in the presence of my jealous neighbors.
You anoint my head with Vidal Sassoon;
my cup overflows with Perrier.
- ⁶Surely comfort and love will follow me
all the days of my life
And I will dwell in
an upper middle class house forever.

-Donmoyer Digest

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The TRANSFORMER

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

January 10, 1988

"AND IF A HOUSE BE DIVIDED AGAINST ITSELF, THAT HOUSE CANNOT STAND." - Mark 3:25

The last few days I have been observing the marvelous potential of snow. It is said that snowflakes are as fingerprints in that no two are exactly alike. As one observes these delicate wonders of nature slowly waft through the air landing gently upon the window pane, it is difficult to imagine the potential of this solitary flake. It certainly appears harmless enough. One warm breath would cause it to vanish. Not much of a threat is posed by the single, solitary snowflake. But then comes another. And another. And let those snowflakes come down with a sense of urgency, and their non-threatening quality disappears. Man has developed the technical capabilities for destroying himself in nuclear holocaust. He can change the course of great rivers and mechanically remove mountains. But in the face of millions of these delicate flakes of snow moving rapidly in their mission, man is helpless. He simply sits down to wait out the storm.

There is a lesson in this for all of us. We often wonder to ourselves, what can we as individual Christians do to effect change in this wicked old world? Surely we are helpless against the forces that seem to be ruling in this material sphere. But just as there is devastating potential in a snowflake, there is potential for effecting change that lies within each Christian. This potential is realized when Christians are united in their purpose to effect a change among man-kind and go about their mission with fervent urgency.

Satan's greatest victory has been to rob Christians of realizing their potential by sowing disunity among them

through indifference, false teaching, jealousy and strife, and numerous other methods. What a great pity that Christians allow this to happen. Christ prayed for a united discipleship so that the world might believe that God has sent Him (John 17:21). The apostles' exhortation was for the disciples to all speak the same thing and be joined together in mind and judgment (I Cor. 1:10). May the day hasten when God's children lay aside the fetters that hinder unity based upon God's will and, like the gentle snowflake, band together and take the world by storm.

-Chuck Barrington

* * * * *

WHAT CAUSES A CHURCH TO GROW?

A church growth consultant once released some revealing facts about church growth. In surveying Christians and pagans alike for two years, the following are some of what he came up with:

I. FACTORS THAT ATTRACT UNSAVED PEOPLE

- A. The joy of the Christians at assembly, work, home, and every area of their lives.
- B. The love of the people for each other.
- C. The strength they manifest in the face of trials and tragedies.
- D. The assurance of their personal relationship with Christ.
- E. The reality of their lives and assemblies. (genuine)

II. FACTORS THAT REPEL LOST PEOPLE

- A. Extravagance....spending too much money on non-essential things.
- B. Exclusiveness and egotism....the "we are better than you" attitude.
- C. Members of the Church that are not real and genuine....full of fakery and falsehood....pretend to be someone or something on certain days of the week that they aren't at other times.
- D. Lack of love...for the lost, for God, or each other.
- E. Poor reputation of the church....one of disgruntled members and deadness.

-from the May 17 LaGrange church of Christ bulletin

LAYING THE FOUNDATION

Josephus, the Jewish historian, said that when a Jewish child was five years old, he started to read the Bible. At the age of ten, he learned the Mishna. At thirteen he was bound to the commandments. At fifteen he was to study the Talmud. When the child was fifteen years old, he had memorized the book of Deuteronomy, so the law of God was engraved upon his mind. When the child was but a baby, parents, teachers and instructors taught him to recognize God as his Father and the Maker of the earth. Josephus said, "From the earliest consciousness, they learned the laws so as to have them written upon their souls."

What a foundation to lay! It is not easy to raise children in today's helter-skelter society. So many unwelcomed intrusions seek to erode any proper foundation. Young minds are bombarded with too much sex, at too young an age. America's materialistic emphasis has created a lax spirit, with creativity and energy sorely lacking. I'm concerned that we're not planting enough GOOD seed in precious little hearts.

I still believe, the best repository for the Bible is a warm, glowing, grateful mind. "Teach me, O Lord, the way of thy statutes, and I shall keep it unto the end" (Ps. 119:33). Other books are given for information, but the Bible is given for transformation. If we want the young people of America to grow up with the proper foundation, it must include a learning of the Scriptures, with an example of its application in our own lives.

Kerry Knight, Houston, TX

* * * * *

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

CARE GROUP 2 - Will be having a Pot Luck at Mike & Pat Hall's home today after morning services.

CARE GROUP 4 - Are having a meeting at Roy and Barbara Noble's on Saturday, January 23, at 5:00 P.M.

SECRET SISTERS - Revealing dinner at the Golden Corral in Sturgis on Saturday, January 16 at 7:00 P.M.

PRAYERS - Remember Andrew Oakley, they find out the results of the tests Tuesday when they see the specialist.

Remember any other of our number who are sick at this time.

MAY, Kevin, Sally, David, Will (616)651-8619 514 Maplecrest, Sturgis, MI 49091
MILLER, Enos & Norma 367-2257 Box 58, Mongo, IN 46771
MILLER, Perry, Hazel, Jenell, Steve 463-3979 R.R. 5, Box 311, Lagrange, IN 46761
MORRIS, Thelma 463-7369 215 W. South St., #28, laGrange, IN 46761

NOBLE, Roy, Barbara, Jerrod, & Jordan 463-4100 R.R. 5, Box 13A, LaGrange, IN 46761

OAKLEY, Bill 463-3316 507 Hawpatch St., LaGrange, IN 46761
OAKLEY, Fred, Penny, Freddie, Lisa, Andrew 463-7298 R.R. 2, LaGrange, IN 46761
OAKLEY, Joe, Lois, Katie, Donna 463-3743 R.R. 3, LaGrange, IN 46761
OAKLEY, Luella 463-3316 507 Hawpatch St., LaGrange, IN 46761

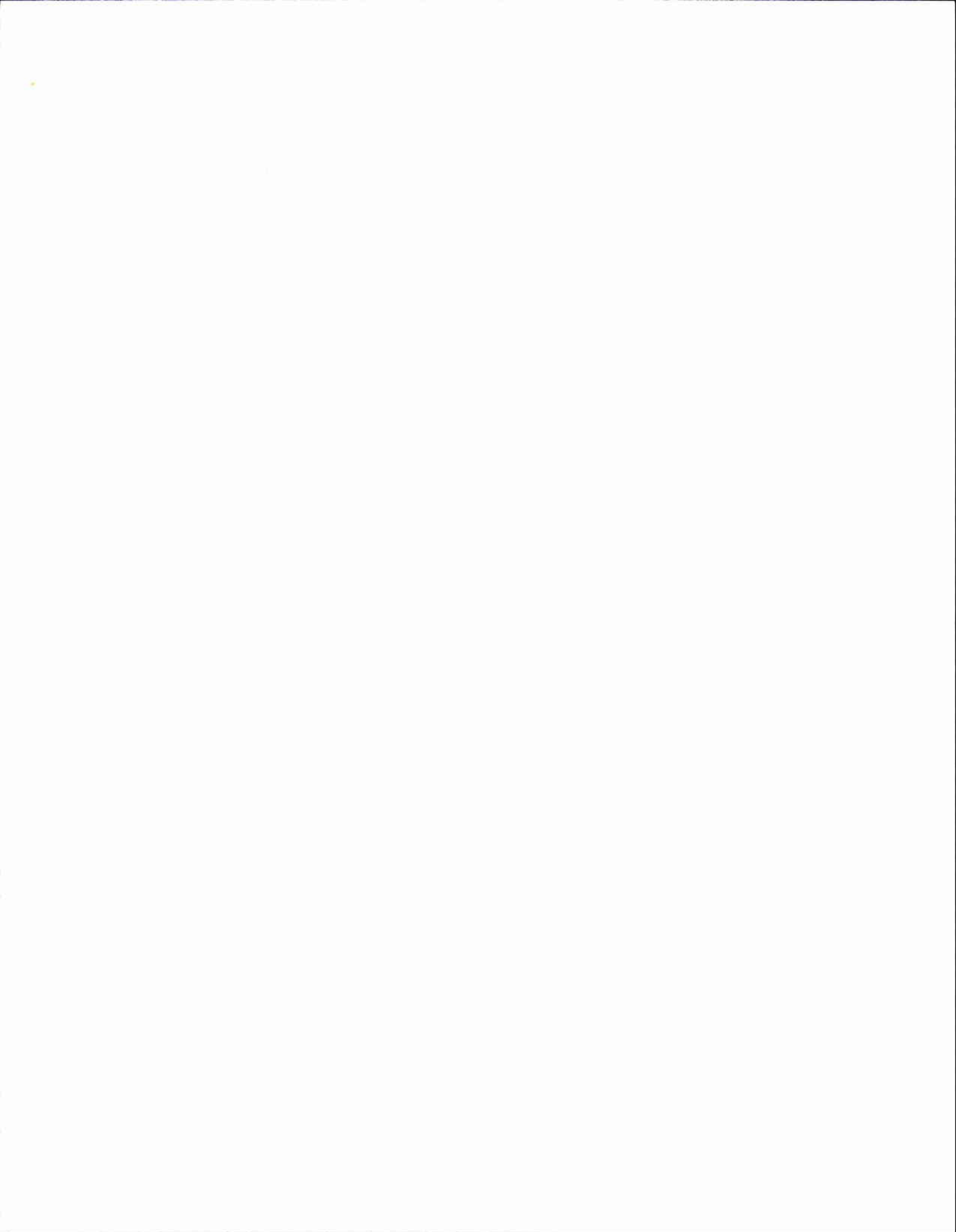
PEPITO, Bill, Sharon, Mike, Nick, Cara (616)651-1250 26130 Helen, Sturgis, MI 49091
PIERATT, Jim, Sharon, Susan, Jean, Jill, Gary 463-2700 R.R. 2, Box 450, LaGrange, IN 46761
POWELL, Vada 463-3601 R.R. 5, Box 213D, LaGrange, IN 46761
PULLEY, Goldie 463-2172 Miller's Merry Manor, Central West Wing, #52, P.O. Box 89, LaGrange, IN 46761

RAY, Gay 463-7316 215 W. South St., #31, LaGrange, IN 46761

SHATTO, Pam, Chad Stahl 463-7585 408 N. Detroit St., LaGrange, IN 46761
SIMPSON, Sharon 562-2870 R.R. 2, Howe, IN 46746
SOWLES, Bob, Kathy, Robert, Kimberly, Rebecca 463-4148 205 E. Michigan St., LaGrange, IN 46761
SOWLES, Dave, Bonnie, Amber Budzyk No Phone R.R. 2, Box 50, Howe, IN 46746
SPRINGER, Francis 463-2205 215 W. South St., #24, LaGrange, IN 46761

TUCKER, Ted & Margaret 463-3168 R.R. 5, LaGrange, IN 46761
TURPIN, Eulalah (616)483-9213 70922 Servison, White Pigeon, MI 49099

WADE, Mary Ann 463-3599 Miller's Merry Manor, Central North Wing, #2, P.O. Box 89, LaGrange, IN 46761



THE "I COULDN'T CARE LESS WHICH PSALM IT IS" PSALM

Complacency is my master,
I shall never ask questions.
He makes me to lie down satisfied,
he leads me to smugness, for
I have nothing which needs
to be restored.
He guides me to a boring life
for the devil's sake.
Even though I am daily exposed
to others who search, seek, and
wonder "why",
I will fear no chance of learning or
changing my mind, for Satan is with me;
His temptation of having "reached it",
and realizing that I now "know it all"....
that comforts me!
You prepare a negative lifestyle for me
in the presence of my brothers and sisters.
You anoint my head with grey hairs of jealousy because
blessings of knowledge are overflowing from the
lives of others around me.
Surely self-satisfaction and confusion will follow me
all the days of my life,
And I will dwell in the house of ignorance forever!

-Roy

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The
TRANSFORMER

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

January 17, 1988

DO WE REALLY CARE?

This is perhaps one of the most frightening questions that we can be asked. When someone asks us this question, it is impossible to turn and ignore it without taking personal inventory for a few minutes. We react in one of two ways, by either saying to ourselves, "Oh, I wish they wouldn't ask me questions like that....what's it to them anyway?".. or..."You know, they're right....I really don't act as if I care!".

Brethren, there have been many people turned off to Christ simply because in their state of being a babe in Christ, or perhaps being burdened with many troubles and cares, those of us who have pretended and professed to be living as Christians have largely ignored them as if we really didn't care at all.

One of the most disturbing things to realize is how Satan affects us in this way. I strongly feel that there are many of us who have been caught up in the rat-race of 20th century American life, complete with the corporate headaches and responsibilities, as well as the pressure to compete and live as well as our neighbors down the street. (Somehow, somewhere along the line someone has taught a false concept that in John 10:10 Jesus meant 'financial abundance'!)

Many of us had the zeal for the lost and desire to build relationships with the rest of the Body of Christ immediately following our conversion to Him, however, as time went by we slid back into our own little world. We began to feel that we were getting better at our jobs, we were becoming more physically fit, some of the bills were being paid off, we

got a raise.....Who needed God?!....We had it under control ourselves! Or perhaps soon after becoming a Christian we noticed that it didn't matter whether you were rich, poor, or somewhere in between; as long as you "came to church" for all the services and participated in all of "the programs of the church" you had it made. Why should I try to build a relationship with the other members of this church anyway? After all, we're all going to heaven anyway, so it would just be one more thing to add to my busy schedule.

But then a strange thing happened. All of a sudden, one of our kids became very, very sick, or a relative died. Or, perhaps, in a more subtle way, a monkey wrench fell right into the middle of our daily routine. You know, one of those inconveniences that make life rough for a couple of days. Like when the car falls apart, or perhaps you had a fender-bender in the car at the shopping center, or your child brings home his or her first "F" on the report card, and everyone in the family feels like failures for a couple of days. Or someone called you fat, ugly, or dumb at school. (Are you seeing any of your family's life, or yours?) Perhaps it was the most serious of difficulties to get over, like a divorce, and we noticed that few people stopped by to pray, or just talk. When we stopped to think about it, people did give me money when things happened, and apparently cared right then, but a few weeks later, everyone was back in their world again, and the love and care that was there during the height of your problem seems to have disappeared.

Brothers and sisters, it is time that we all make commitments to free ourselves from Satan's rat-race and distractions and get down to the business of building some strong relationships within the LaGrange church!

There is absolutely no excuse for a man who has been a member of this congregation for many years to come and tell me that he can count on one hand the number of members who have invited his family into their home within the last five years!! And do you know what, the hard part comes after making the decision to change this....the hard part is disciplining yourself to DO WHAT IT TAKES to get the job done!! If the major deterrent to our having the time is your job, get another job! (Weigh the alternatives: loss of your children, wife, own soul, or all three! Not to mention what it does for your spiritual life and ability to arrange priorities.) If the deterrent is a problem with a brother or sister, or just a bad attitude toward that person, go work it out NOW! (Don't procrastinate it!) If you realize that a certain person feels that you have simply been ignoring them as if they didn't exist, go to that person, apologize, and get it over with! Swallow that little bit of pride and embarrassment for the sake of your relationship in Christ.

Our Care Groups (Zones) for 1988 present us with a BIG challenge. It is one worthy of our attention. These zones were originally developed with the purpose in mind to develop intimate relationships within the congregation. It is much easier to build relationships with a dozen people at a time than to feel responsible for getting to know the entire

congregation at the same time. This wisdom was used in the development of these groups. They can function and reach their goal only if everyone does his/her part. You are an important part, and you are needed. Perhaps you know someone who feels, "I'm not fixing to go to another one of those meetings until _____ apologizes to me for hurting my feelings!" Fine, let me encourage you to go to that person and do just that. Whatever it takes, it must be done if we are to reach the unity of purpose and faith that God intended. Then we will be able to see ourselves developing into the army that God wanted, equipped to do battle and win!!

May God bless us in 1988 with the strength and wisdom to do mighty things in His Kingdom. I love each and every one of you, and constantly thank God for you and blessing our family by coming to know you.

-Roy

* * * * *

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

FOR THE YOUTH - Meet at Joe & Lois Oakleys after services for a Pot Luck.
- Youth are going to meet every 3rd Sunday in different homes. Chris has a sign up sheet for members who would like to have the youth in their home for a meeting.

TEACHERS - There will be a meeting immediately following this morning's services in classroom 13 for all teachers.
- There is a Teachers Meeting planned for January 31 at 4:30 p.m. at the building. We would appreciate the attendance of all teachers to this meeting.

Education Committee

AREA-WIDE SINGING - will be hosted by the Goshen Church of Christ on Sunday, Jan. 17th, 3:00. This is a wonderful opportunity to meet with Christians from different areas and sing praises to God.

EVERYONE - Please be sure to check your files in the south foyer.

PRAYERS - Remember Joe Gensic as he is traveling this week; Margaret Tucker as she is recovering from eye surgery; and those who have or are recovering from the flu or other illnesses at this time. Let's also remember to thank God for answered prayers.

A PARENTAL PRESCRIPTION

Socrates could have been speaking to parents when he advised/"Know thyself".

There are hidden emotional dynamics that must be understood. Why am I insensitive to my children? Why do I lack commitment to their needs? Why is there antagonism between my son or daughter and me? Why do I go to pieces under pressure? These are jarring questions that demand an answer.

What causes emotional instability in parents? Firstly, we are prompted by our wounded past. We react to our children as our parents reacted to us. Family violence tends to reproduce itself. The result is battered children, physically and emotionally. One woman pined, "Yelling at my kids - I hate it. I don't really believe that's the way to handle a situation, but it was the way Mom did it at home". Life is an echo - what it gets, it gives. Parents need to share experiences of their own youth with one another.

Secondly, unmet personal needs often triggers undesirable responses. We all have our bag full of unfulfilled ambitions in sports, music, vocation, wealth or fame. Our children often become our extension through whom we live out our unfulfilled dreams. Thus, there is that "Babe Ruth" father who shouts at his son on the ball diamond or embarrasses his daughter in front of her friends because she didn't do as well scholastically as her sister. The effective parent will always honor the individuality of his children and encourage them to be the best of whatever they are.

Thirdly, a sense of failure often produces a negative response. Parents with low self-esteem often over-react when the kids are not turning out as they had hoped. Overstrictness and overprotection are control reactions of parents fearful of failure.

Fourthly, stress has a way of worsening the husband-wife; child-parent relationships. Stress-producing situations that occur in the family often boomerang on the children. Such traumas as job loss, accidents, illness, alcoholism, divorce or death tend to break down communications, induce depression and fear and foster self-pity and anger. Such stress often becomes distress and abnormal behavior ensues.

So, Mom and Dads - What's going on in your life may explain what's going on in your relationship with your children. Cement a close family. Family closeness fortifies children with an inner resistance to the toxins of life.

-Harold Taylor
Christian Family Magazine

ANNOUNCEMENTS (cont'd)

- Youth - There will be a meeting for the youth & their parents on Thursday, January 28 at 7:00 p.m. at the building.
- New Member - Doshie Everidge wants to be identified as a member here at LaGrange. It will be a while till she's active as she will be attending in Coldwater with some family for a couple weeks.
- Thanks - To Austin Copeland for donating some frames to the tray favor program.
- Singing - Everyone start preparing to attend the 1st Sunday Singing at the Nursing Homes. We're going to *MAKE THIS MORE ORGANIZED AND MEANINGFUL*, and need the attendance of all.
- Ladies - There will be a Ladies Bible Class on Tuesday mornings starting the 26th, from 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. at Sharon Simpson's. Any questions contact Sharon at 562-2870. She lives east on 700 N. off of St. Rd. 9. Her trailer is on the North side between 50 & 100 E.
- Prayers - Patti Copeland would appreciate our prayers on behalf of her father. He will be having minor surgery on his throat on Wednesday morning at Luthern Hospital.
- Directory - If anyone would like an extra copy of the directory (new), they are available on the table in the foyer.

* * *

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

Bible Church
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January 24, 1988

ARE YOU HUNGRY?

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

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

This sounds ridiculous but it isn't much different from what many Christians do.

They quit studying the Bible unless it is on Saturday to prepare for a class that they "must" teach; they quit coming to zone meetings and other chances to fellowship with the Saints (after all, the only thing the Bible says I "have to" attend is services, isn't it?....); they quit bearing any fruit in their lives at all; for all practical purposes they have quit life! Satan has "experimented" with them to see if they could gradually go without spiritual food, finally reaching the point where they wouldn't need it at all! The only problem is, after doing this for a little while, they "died". Their owner wasn't embarrassed, but was indeed very sad. God remarked, "They died when they began to get accustomed to sin" (my paraphrase) John 8:24; Romans 6:20-21.

Are you hungry? I hope so! (Read Amos 8:11) PLEASE DON'T STARVE YOURSELF ANY LONGER!! Read Revelation 3:1-3 with an open mind, holding on to no pride as you read it. If it applies, do what verse 3 says. If it does not apply, praise God!

-Roy

ALTAR YOUR DIRECTION

SISTER TO SISTER

(The following will be a regular in our bulletin each week beginning with this issue.)

"The wise man built his house upon the rock....." These words may be familiar to many of you that have taught our dear little ones. Now, perhaps it is time to see how this simple little phrase, which is also a song, can apply to us as wives, mothers and Christian women.

When singing this song we think of the influence we are having on our children's lives. They'll know that if they are living lives pleasing to God they will be standing upon that rock, and the rains and floods of sin, despair, and everyday distractions will not wash them away. And the same applies to us!

But let's take one step back and look at the verse that precedes the scripture that we've put to song. Matthew 7:24 says, "Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock."

Sisters, we cannot be "pre-fab" housing. We cannot just plop ourselves down on the rock and say, "Here I am Lord...now protect me. After all, my house is with and in you, I go to all the zone meetings, assemble at all the services of the Church and send my secret sister good tidings each week!"

In verse 24, Jesus said, (my paraphrase) "Sisters in LaGrange, Howe, Sturgis, Topeka, Albion, Angola and Kendallville.....you've got to BUILD your house first. Build it by nailing yourself to my teachings, loving your enemies, giving to the needy, praying regularly, ridding yourself of worry, asking, seeking, knocking, etc....."

When we continue daily in the building of our houses, our God becomes our mighty fortress! And we too will be as those who actually heard our Lord speak these things and were amazed at His teachings (Matt. 7:28). The winds will blow and the rains will fall, yet our house will stand solid on the Rock!

-Barbara Noble

A newly commissioned navy captain took great pride in his first assignment to be in command of a battleship. One stormy night the captain saw a light moving steadily in their direction. He ordered the signalman to send the following message: "Change your course ten degrees to the south." The reply came back: "Change your course ten degrees to the north."

The captain was determined not to give way to another vessel, and so he sent a counter message. "Alter your direction ten degrees. I am the captain." The answer flashed back promptly: "Alter your direction. I am the lighthouse."

There are times when all of us have to identify with the captain; times when we allow self-will to set us off on a collision course.

"I have my rights," we say, determined to have our own way. But God, whose Word is like a lighthouse with a penetrating and unchangeable beacon, reveals a rocky shore ahead, and finally we do as the captain surely did. We obey.

Our prayer for ourselves, and for the Church should be as Jesus prayed, "Not my will, but thine be done."

- Guidepost

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

4th Sunday Fellowship - There will be a Fourth Sunday Fellowship & Discussion Time following evening services. Care Group 1 will be in charge of clean-up.

Care Groups - Group 2 will meet at Joe & Lois Oakley's on the 30th at 5:00 for a Baked Potato Bar.

- Groups 1 & 2 will meet together on Sunday Feb. 14 following morning services for a Pot Luck.

5th Sunday - There will be a Song Service on the evening of Jan. 31.

YOUTH - Will be meeting this Sunday following morning services at Joe & Lois Oakley's for a Spagetti Pot Luck.
- The teens from Reed Rd. invite you to join them for an afternoocn of fun, fellowship and sharing. They will provide the place, activities, refreshments and speaker Art Williams of Detroit area. This takes place Sunday, Jan.31 from 1:30 - 4:00.

- 3 Problem with God
 1. Our God can't see very well
 2. Can't understand our language **THE 23rd SMOKE**
 3. Can't do anything

- Fantasy God
 1. We've got to have a God that is spirit
 2. " " " " who we really fear
 3. " " " " that we love
 4. " " " " we trust

The cigarette is my master,
 I shall never breath freely again.
 He makes me feel temporarily satisfied, then
 leads me back to the pack, my
 nicotine fit is restored.
 He guides me to convenience stores and vending machines
 for their profits sake.
 Even though I cough and hack through
 the valley of emphysema and lung cancer,
 I will feel no loss of friends, family, or my own soul,
 for the Marlboro man is with me;
 His macho image and apparent good health which equals my own,
 that will show them!
 You prepare a table for me as long as "Smoking areas"
 still remain;
 my ashtray overflows.
 Surely "good taste" and the surgeon general will
 be with me all the days of my life,
 And I will dwell in a house with a respirator forever!

-Roy Noble

* * * * *

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS:

Ross Deisler	1	Gay Ray	17	Thelma Hoggatt	26
Patty Hughes	2	Bobbie Sowles	19	Sharon Pieratt	27
Gary Pieratt	16	Tammi Johnston	24	Annie Green	28

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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)

January 31, 1988

THE TREASURES OF THE SNOW

Did you know that the Bible talks about snow? Yes, it does. Twenty-five times God uses the snow to bring us a lesson or truth of some sort. Job asked the question in his book, "Hast thou entered into the treasures of the snow?"

A snowflake is an insignificant thing. We crush it between our finger and thumb, and reduce it to a drop of water. We lightly brush the flakes from our clothing when they fall lightly upon us. But, when a multitude of these little flakes get together, they can halt traffic, stop the conduct of business, topple barns and other buildings, and generally bring us to a standstill as far as our daily routines are concerned.

There are many lessons in God's Word about snow, but I would mention just three of them briefly. First, snow is the symbol of the impossibility of man to cleanse himself from sin. In Job 9:30-31 we are told that even snow water cannot make us clean, no matter how much we might wash with it. Snow water is good for washing some things, but as the song writer asks, "What can wash away my sin? Nothing but the blood of Jesus!" Next, snow is the symbol of the believer who has been cleansed by the blood of Christ. Isaiah said that though our sins were as scarlet, they would be as white as snow. A fresh snow is often dazzling white, but not as white as the sins of a believer cleansed by Christ's blood. The third thing I would mention is that snow is a symbol of the power and fruitfulness of the Word of God. Isaiah said that as the snow comes down from heaven and watereth the earth, it makes it to bring forth and bud, thus giving seed to the

sower and bread to the eater, so is the Word of God. This Word shall not return void, but it shall accomplish God's purposes, and prosper in the thing for which it was sent.

The next time you see snow, think of the many wonderful lessons that God has given to us, and let these lessons be a blessing to your life.

-Irving D. Larson

* * * * *

YOU NEVER
KNOW WHEN
SOMETHING
WILL COME
ALONG AND
SHAKE YOUR
TREE.



SISTER - TO - SISTER

"You never know when something will come along and shake your tree".

I thought it quite ironic when I found in my mail today that statement printed on a piece of advertisement for a life insurance company. Especially today, of all days, since we just found out that we were going to have to take Jerrod back to Fort Wayne for more tests. Believe me, when your child's health isn't just right, it shakes your tree!

I'm reminded of someone else who's tree was shaken. Job faced the slaying of his servants, stolen herds and the death of all his children. Yet, in the bleakest of times Job continued to praise God and trust in His wisdom and power (Job 9:4). He saw blessings in his trials because God was his mainstay.

In the same way, we too must praise God and trust in Him no matter what lies ahead of us. We may be surprised by the blessings that He creates in our lives. If I were to ask you if the good Lord has blessed you this week, you may say "yes" (perhaps your children behaved or you received the smallest bill ever from NIPSCO). These are good

blessings, but believe it or not there are other events which God can translate into blessings. For example:

- A. Have you been made aware of sin in your life, been able to remove pride, confess it and apologize to someone this month? You will be exalted! (Matt. 23:12; I John 1:9)
- B. Have you recognized a weakness in your life that you are struggling to overcome? Great! Paul says that when you are weak, then you are strong.....in the Lord! (II Cor. 12:10)
- C. Have you given freely of your money to a cause that is Biblical in nature? If you gave generously, your brothers and sisters will praise God for your obedience that accompanies your confession of the Gospel. (II Cor. 9:13)

Now, let me ask again.....have you experienced any blessings this week? I certainly have! I claim the blessing of the Holy Spirit. "...the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express." (Romans 8:26)

-Barbara Noble

* * * * *

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- TEACHERS MEETING - Sunday, January 31 at 4:30 p.m. Room 13. Bring your Bible.
- CAMP CANS - Camp Indogan Coin Cans are available for anyone wishing to help out. See Dean Hoggatt.
- SINGING - There will be a 5th Sunday Song Service this evening.
- TEENS - There will be a Skating Party on Feb. 2 from 6:30 - 9:00 at the Roller Dome in Fort Wayne. Admission \$1.75.
- CARE GROUPS - Groups 1 & 2 will meet together at the building on February 14 for a Valentine Pot Luck immediately following morning services.
- PRAYERS - Jerrod Noble - prayers for his blood platelet count to get to normal.
- Rene Walker (Gay Ray's sister-in-law).
- Craig Hostetler, for him and his work in St. Louis.
* He also needs financial help- \$100 per month for the next 6 months. His address is posted in lobby.
- Patti Copeland's dad. He's recovering at home from throat surgery.

THE 23rd CALORIE

The refrigerator is my master,
 I shall not go hungry.
 He makes me to lie down feeling full and content,
 he leads me to my local grocer,
 my palate is restored.
 He guides me to diets, gyms, and weight-loss
 clinics for their profits sake.
 Even though I waddle and bounce through the
 valley of indigestion and heartburn,
 I will fear no embarrassment or heart failure,
 for over-size clothing and modern medicine,
 they are with me;
 Their ability to hide fat and extend the length
 of my un-disciplined life.....
 that comforts me!
 You over-fill my table before me and in the
 amazement of my guests.
 You fill my stomach with delicacies,
 my cup definitely overflows!
 Surely "spare tires" and bath scales will be with
 me all the days of my life,
 And I will dwell in a house with large doorways forever!

-Roy Noble

* * * * *

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

February 7, 1988

WHAT A LITTLE CAN DO

Dan Genung once told of ordering 8 tons of sand for a nursery school sand box. A mistake was made, however, and the drivers hastily dumped it in the alley instead of waiting for Dan to unlock the gates. Thus he had the 8 tons of sand in the wrong place. How were they to move it with no shovel or wheelbarrow?

The children saw no problem at all. Armed with their tiny shovels and tiny tin beach pails, they set to work. Marching back and forth in single file, each child carried a pail full of sand. By lunchtime they had moved half of the truckload, and after lunch they had the work completed.

If little children could do that much work in a day for the fun of it, consider what could be done by adults when we set our minds to it! History is full of stories telling of the great feats men have accomplished when they worked together with all their might.

Joshua and his band of 300 men set the enemy to flight simply because every man among that 300 was a fighter and the Bible tells us, "Each man stood in his own place around the camp..." (Joshua 7:21)

Today, the church faces a fantastic challenge that can't be easily met by only a few people, but if everyone went to the work like those children - if every Christian would pick up his own pail and go to work doing just his part, then the problems would soon begin to melt away.

If every Christian would win just one soul...IF he would personally commit his life to the Savior...IF he would work, pray and give as if he were the only one to do the

work, what a difference could be made in this dark world!

So, whether it be sandpiles or mountains, wonders can be worked--
sometimes, one shovel-full at a time!

-David Lusk

* * * * *

SISTER- TO - SISTER

Relationships in our lives are very important. We begin life having relationships with our parents, brothers or sisters, friends, and eventually maybe even a spouse. These relationships help us in developing physical and social skills, and maturing our emotions. The relationship we build with God and His children enhances our life with qualities and characteristics that only He can give. How could we ever, of our own selves, possess goodness, knowledge, self-control, perseverance, godliness, brotherly kindness or love?.....We cannot!! It is by the relationship we build with Him that His promise of II Peter 1:3 is given, "His divine power has given us everything that we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and goodness."

As sisters in Him, we now need to realize that something He has given to us which we need for life is each other! No wonder He calls us a family! As humans, He knows that our faith needs encouragement from tangible sources when our sight of Him grows weak, thus the birth of new relationships. I thank God for His wisdom in knowing our needs. Just look how important He views our need for each other:

Two are better than one,
because they have a good
return for their work:
If one falls down,
his friend can help him up.
But pity the man who falls
and has no one to help him up!
Also, if two lie down together
they will keep warm.
But how can one keep warm alone?
Though one may be overpowered,
two can defend themselves.
A cord of three strands is not
quickly broken.

-Eccl. 4:9-12

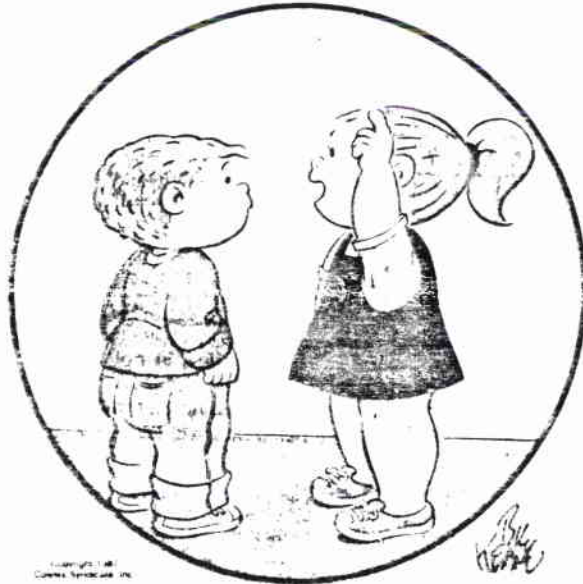
Sisters, don't try to stand alone. You have God, who supplies your needs. Be aware of each other and develop good relationships so that God can use you to build one another up.

-Barbara Noble

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- "ZONE NEWS" - Be sure to get your copy on the table in the lobby. This will be printed once a month.
- CARE GROUPS 1 & 2 - Will be meeting at the building for a pot luck on February 14 after morning services. Bring your favorite Sweetheart.
- CARE GROUP 1 - will be meeting on February 27 at the Pepito's for a Pot Luck and Sledding Party, beginning at 1:00 p.m.
- SINGING - We will be singing at the nursing homes today at 4:30 at Miller's. All who are going to participate, please meet immediately after services this morning in room 13.
- PARENTS OF KINDERGARTEN AND PRESCHOOL CHILDREN: You and your children in these two classes are invited to a Valentines Party, February 13 at the building from 1:00 p.m. - 3:00p.m. Please bring 1 doz. cookies and approximately 15 valentines to exchange.
- THANK YOU - To all the teachers that came to the meeting Sunday, it was a real encouragement to the Education Committee.
- PRAYERS - Chris Deisler is traveling in Florida visiting his father. He will be returning today.
- Craig Hostetler - he also needs financial help of \$100/mo. for the next 6 months, his address is in the lobby.
- BENEFIT - The Shipshewana Lions Club is putting on a Chili Supper Benefit on behalf of Earl Vaughn, Patti Copeland's father, to help with his hospital expenses. It will be held on February 27 from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. at Millers Restaurant located at the junction of 5 & 20.
- MEMBERS - Remember to check your files in the lobby.

FAMILY CIRCUS



"We can talk to God anytime we want to
'cause he has a toll-free number"

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The TRANSFORMER

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February 14, 1988

GETTING ACCUSTOMED TO AN EASY LIFE

One spring, a wild duck and his mates were flying northward across Europe. Growing weary on the flight, he descended into a barnyard in Denmark where there were tame ducks. He stayed, enjoying their corn, first for an hour, then for a day, then for a week, then for a month. Finally, because he liked the fare, the safety of the barnyard, and the companionship, he stayed all summer.

The following autumn, his wild mates were winging their way southward, and they paused over the barnyard. When the indulgent duck heard their familiar cries overhead, he was stirred with a strange thrill of joy and delight. Flapping his wings, he tried to lift himself into the air to join his old comrades in their flight to the land of summer. But, alas, he found that his good fare had made him so soft and heavy that he could rise no higher than the eaves of the barn.

What a parable this is of how the soul can forget its high ideals and standards and be content with earthly things.

See if you can find the application to us in the following passages: Eccl. 2 (entire chapter); 12:13; Matt. 6:19-21.

May God bless each of us with a heart that constantly strives to be a worker in the Kingdom, and never become apathetic or complacent.

-Roy

SISTER - TO - SISTER

Isn't Valentines Day fun! We receive gifts from our secret sister, cards and candy from our husbands and children and all the red hearts, What a fan fare to wake us up to know spring is just around the corner. And all of this is in the name of LOVE!

For some, this may be only one of the few times we hear "I love you" or read from a card sent to us that says "You're Special". As wives we get so busy at our jobs, with children, or become so complacent in "life" that saying those few words to those around us becomes lost in the shuffle. And maybe for those who live alone, or are shut-in, there just aren't many that you are in contact with to share those expressions.

Hey, this is getting depressing! We all want to be loved and hear it daily. And who else could be more loved than you - who are in Christ! You have a Savior that defined the word "LOVE" when He thought of you:

"This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers." (I John 3:16)

Not only did He define LOVE, He gave us each other to make LOVE more complete and satisfying :

"No one has ever seen God; but if we love each other, God lives in us and His love is made complete in us." (I John 3:12) We are sent to one another as His personal Valentine.

I John 3:16 says, "God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in him."

I don't know about you, but I think that is the most precious Valentine ever sent, and just think, it's sent to us every day of our lives. HAPPY VALENTINES DAY!

-Barbara Noble

* * * * *

POLAR BEAR HAIR - A THERMAL DIODE

There are many adaptations and designs for cold seen in polar areas of the world. One of the most incredible of these is the hair of the polar bear. Polar bears have totally transparent hairs. These hairs are hollow and have a rough inner surface which reflects light, making them appear to be white.

The thing that is incredible about the hairs is that they have been designed to trap ultraviolet light. The hair behaves like an optical fiber which has an index of refraction for ultraviolet light that will not let the light out of the hair once it gets in. The result is that

the hair acts like a thermal diode, conducting heat to the skin of the bear.

Recent studies have shown that in the summer, this system provides nearly 25% of the bear's energy needs. Since ultraviolet light is of higher energy than normal light, the bears have the absolute best system possible for living as they do in a cold and inhospitable environment. One might wonder why arctic foxes and other polar animals do not have this design feature, but the fact that polar bears do not eat steadily year around may be at least part of the answer.

The complexity of this system of optical fiber and thermal conversion is a beautiful example of the wisdom and planning that is all around us, speaking eloquently of God's role in creation.

* * * * * - John Clayton

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- MEN - There will be a Men's Meeting this evening following services. Come prepared to attend.
- CARE GROUPS- Groups 1 & 2 are meeting at the building this noon immediately following morning services for a Pot Luck and get together.
- PRAYERS: - Judy Boyle - has pneumonia and a cut finger.
- Jerrod Noble - that his platelet count gets normal.
- Sharon Simpson's father, Elmer Miller, is ill in Florida. Sharon will be traveling down there to be with him.
- Tammy Duzan, Deb's sister-in-law, had a baby boy Wednesday.
- CAMP CANS - There are still Change Cans for Camp Indogan available in the lobby. See Dean
- REMINDER - The Sunday sermons are being taped. If anyone would like a copy see Roy.

JEWELS

Our Jesus said our first command,
Love God above all others.
The second is that we should love
Our sisters and our brothers.

A cup of water in God's name
Is jewels up in heaven.
It is the love down in the heart
That caused it to be given.

If love is living in the heart,
It keeps all hate from growing,
Then kindly deeds are but the seeds
Of love that we've been sowing.

If given care, the kindly deeds
Will grow and multiplying
Will form a crown, awaiting us,
The jewels we've been buying.

-Gay Ray

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TRANSFORMER

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February 21, 1988

WHO HAS CONTROL?

One night when the desert winds blew hard and cold, a camel pushed his nose through the flap of an Arab's tent and said; "Because it's so cold out here would you mind if I just kept my nose in your tent?" The Arab agreed and went back to sleep.

Later in the evening he awoke and discovered the camel had not only his nose, but also his head and shoulders in the tent. When the camel pleaded, the kindly Arab allowed the beast to put his forelegs into the tent, too. Then the camel said, "It's getting colder. Why not let me come entirely into your tent?"

"Certainly," said the easy-going Arab, "come on in." Before dawn the Arab awoke stiff with cold and covered with sand blown by the desert wind. He was outside the tent. The camel was sleeping comfortably inside the tent.

Can we use that story as an illustration of how sin works in our lives? It moves in very subtly. Someone has said that the five steps of sin are: condemn, permit, condone, practice, defend--and then we are hooked.

Friends, the Bible says to "avoid the very appearance of evil" (I Thess. 5:22). Do not allow it to even get its nose into any part of your life. "Resist the devil and he will flee from you" (James 4:7). Do not be left outside God's safety!

-Don Mathis

SISTER - TO - SISTER

(This column will continue as usual next week.)

* * * * *

"LET ME HELP!"

I was a young preacher, just out of school, and it was my first full-time job at preaching. I was doing all the right things.

Sister Cosand, an elderly member of the congregation, was reported home ill, and I went to visit her. We visited together, I read to her from the Psalms, and we had a prayer together. As I readied myself to leave I asked "Is there anything you need?" Expecting to hear the usual, "No, thank you, brother Smith, I'm making it just fine," I was shocked when she replied, "Well, yes, brother Smith, there is. I took sick after lunch Sunday, and never did get to wash my dishes. They are still in the sink." What could I do after that, but take off my suit coat, roll up my white shirt sleeves, and wash her dirty dishes!"

This good sister will never know how she changed my ministry that day. After that when I visited shut-ins, or ill, and asked the question and got the usual answer, I would press them..."Now, I know there is something I can do...." And I would suggest a few possible needs they might have. I ended up taking out garbage to the alley through deep snow; running to the store for milk; paying an over-due bill; shaving a man; and a dozen other kinds of things. When people realized I was serious in my offer to help, they let me.

What I am trying to say is, people have needs, and want your help, but only if you really want to help them. "Let me know if you need me" will not get you involved, you can feel safe saying that. But when you sit down and look someone in the eyes and say, "I'm concerned, I don't know what to do, and you may not want me to become involved, but I care, and I pray you will let me help, if I can!" That will get results!

I could talk about the joy you will receive, the joy you will give the person, or the joy you will give your Father by such service to those in need, but I'd rather remind you, that in this manner you become like your Savior (John 13:1-17).

-Bill E. Smith

* * * * *

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- CARE GROUPS
- Care Group 1 will meet on Saturday, February 27 at the Pepito's for a Pot Luck and sledding or ice skating (weather permitting).
 - Care Group 4 is planning on meeting at the building on February 28 immediately following morning assembly. Bring your Bible, a main dish and a side dish or dessert.
- THANKS
- To all the ladies who were able to attend the Surprise Baby Shower for Jil Deisler - THANKS! She really was surprised!!
- PRAYERS
- Remember Barbara Noble as she had tests done on Friday.
 - Craig Hostetler in his work in St. Louis, and also for financial help.
 - Patty Hughes, Sharon Pepito and any others battling the flu.
 - Sharon Simpson is ill
 - Chris Deisler's uncle, who is recovering from heart bypass surgery.
 - Arva Clay who lost her husband, Nihl, last Monday.
 - Geneva Holm who was discharged from the hospital and is still having some personal problems.
- MEN'S MEETING MINUTES - are on the table in lobby.
- LADIES INSPIRATION DAY - April 30 at Reed Road Church of Christ in Ft. Wayne. Registration will tentatively begin at 9:30 a.m. Bobby Powers of Indianapolis will be speaking on the subject of "A Light Daring Brightly".
- TEACHER'S TRAINING CLASS - scheduled for March 5 here at the building for teachers of Infants through 3rd grade. More details will follow next week.
- PATTERNS
- There are patterns on the table in the lobby from Judy Boyle. Help yourself.
- BENEFIT
- There will be a Chili Supper Benefit for Earl Vaughn (Patti Copeland's father) on Saturday, Feb. 27, beginning at 6:00 p.m. at Millers Country Kitchen (5 & 20) near Shipshewana.

A LITTLE FELLOW FOLLOWS ME

A careful man I want to be,
A little fellow follows me;
I do not dare to go astray,
For fear he'll go the self-same way.

I cannot once escape his eyes,
Whatever he sees me do, he tries;
Like me he says he's going to be,
The little chap who follows me.

He thinks that I am good and fine,
Believes in every word of mine;
The base in me he must not see,
The little chap who follows me.

I must remember as I go,
Through summer's sun and winter's snow,
I am building for the years to be,
That little chap who follows me.

* * * * *

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TRANSFORMER

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March 6, 1988

COMMUNICATION

Lately there has been much on my mind concerning how we communicate (or sometimes don't!) within the congregation here at LaGrange. Many of you have talked openly with me about this, and I appreciate and love you for doing so. Let me encourage you to start attending the discussion periods that we have immediately following every fourth Sunday potluck and fellowship. If you have not been coming to these, you have been missing some vital communication between brothers and sisters, and have missed an important chance for your input to be heard also.

Many times we exist around each other as though many of us were "unapproachable". In other words, if we develop hard feelings about another person, or have had our feelings hurt by that person for whatever reason, we tend to crawl inside of our shells in recluse rather than go directly to that person with the problem. There is an interesting note about Matt. 18:15, and that is that some of the early Greek manuscripts do not have the phrase "...against you (thee) ..." This would indicate that if this is correct, there is an application for us to approach our brother just because we are aware of sin in his/her life and out of our love for them we do not want it to go un-dealt with, because we see what it can do to their lives. But whether that actually is the most accurate meaning of the passage or not, our responsibility is still the same.....to go to each other and COMMUNICATE, whether it is regarding sin or encouragement!

When we fail to communicate, it causes a host of problems. We tend to feel that others don't care about us, and this is usually due to our own mis-conceptions, because rather

than talk to them, we assume certain things, and base our thoughts on those assumptions, when in reality we are really way out in left field! Often the sin of gossip arises, because in our immaturity, we find it easier to tell someone else about the problem we are having with brother so-and-so, than to tell brother so-and-so himself. A lot of times we just haven't developed a thick enough skin. This does not mean that we should become so cold-hearted that we become insensitive to others, rather, that we have learned what it is to wear the "full armor of God.. ..the breastplate of righteousness..." (Eph. 6:10-17). Yes, that's right.....Satan does use us to get to each other!!

I don't know about you, but I find it much more offensive to find out that a brother or sister has talked about me behind my back to someone else, than if that same brother or sister would openly and out of love address me directly to my face. Friends, if we are afraid to go to a brother or sister because we know that they are confident about what the Bible says about a particular matter, whereas we do not, then we need to realize that those fears are unwarranted and developed within our own minds. We need to then go to that brother or sister and make sure that our fears have been true, and that they were not just a false assumption on our part.

Brethren, we will never accomplish Ephesians 4:15-16 until we come to understand Ephesians 4:29-32. May God bless us with the ability to obtain a BALANCE between Romans 15:1-7 and Matthew 18:15.

-Roy

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SISTER - TO - SISTER

Did you know that you've dropped a handkerchief this week? Hopefully it was a white one. As the story goes, a couple who had left from fellowshiping with their brothers and sisters headed for home through back country roads. With spirits high and their hearts full of gratitude towards God they were enjoying their time together riding through Gods nature.

A sign on the side of the road read "APPLES FOR SALE". The couple pulled in to the old farm house. The farmers wife came out, hair uncombed, dirty apron and sweat on her brow. The couple, having a certain glow, befriended the woman and bought a sack full of apples. As they drove off, the farmers wife found the womans crisp, white handkerchief on the ground. She walked in the house carrying the handkerchief and noticed how unkept she looked as she passed a mirror. The crisp white handkerchief reminded her of the woman, in her nice neat appearance and the certain glow of happiness. The farmer's wife fixed her

hair. out on fresh clothes, tidied the house and prepared a hearty dinner for her husband. These were things that did not happen often. And all because the attitude of a Christian womans life, and a handkerchief, crisp and white, gave someone the reminder of a life that had a certain glow.

Titus 2:3 instructs older women to be reverent in the way they live. Each of us are leading lives that are readily seen by the world and those close to us. The way we live does have impact on those who are lost that we are wanting to win to Jesus. Have you thought about the priorities of your life and the effect it has on your sisters, especially those who are younger in the faith.

The life we live in Christ is a light that all can see. Think of where you dropped handkerchiefs last week. Were they white?

-Barbara

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MICHIGAN CHRISTIAN COLLEGE PARTNERSHIP DINNER WEST II, May 13, 1988.

Would you be willing to lend support to the only Christian College in the North Central United States? It is one that has served this area for 30 years and many of our high school graduates have gone on to receive their associates degree at MCC, Rochester, MI. There is to be a Partnership Dinner West II on May 13 at Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo, which is patterned after the one held at Cobo Hall in Detroit each year. Some from here plan to attend and there is room for more. A very enjoyable and worthwhile evening would be in store for anyone who attends. See Dean if you would like to go. P.S. A large picture taken of those from here who attended last year is in the south lobby.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS:

CARE GROUP 4 - will be meeting at Jim & Lois Henson's (Fish Lake) on Sunday, March 13 immediately after morning assembly for a Pot Luck dinner.

CARE GROUP 1 - will be meeting at Joe and Kathy Hughes on Saturday, March 12 at 3:00 p.m. for an Italian Pot Luck.

- There will be no more "Zone News" printed at the end of each month, therefore we will not be needing information given to Roy concerning this as originally planned.

NEW PHONE # - Dan & Connie Davison's new phone # is 665-7543

REMINDER - Everyone check your file in the lobby.

ANNOUNCEMENTS CONTINUED:

- PRAYERS - for Ben Smith, Hazel's uncle, who has a blood clot on his brain. He's in Lexington, Kentucky Hospital.
- MEN'S MEETING - Tonight following evening services.
- NOTICE - We have new pew Bibles. Please leave them in the church building and not take them home. Please return them to the racks when finished using them.
- Watch the zone events on bulletin board.
- Remember to check your file.

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The Education Committee would like to thank all those who participated in last Saturday's workshop; Sue Morgan, Thelma Hoggatt, Barbara Noble, Patti Copeland, Lou Oakley, Pat Hall, Jil Deisler, Jane Gensic, Diane Kimpel, and Lois Oakley. Thanks for supporting our first training session and we look forward to more growth and learning together.

Sharon Pepito

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- WHEN JESUS IS STUDIED, ACTS IS THE RESULTS -

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

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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 (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)

March 13, 1988

In the past few weeks I have made several attempts to communicate more with many of you and to improve our relationships together. In the majority of these cases, the results have been extremely good. I want to praise you as a congregation of the Lord's people here in LaGrange for being as open and receptive as you have concerning new ideas and suggestions to benefit the Kingdom. You know, when it comes right down to it, the bottom line on our acceptance or rejection of an idea has got to be whether or not it is based on the Word of God. If we can't find it in the Bible either by command or example, or at least find some wisdom and/or benefit to it based on Biblical principles, we must leave it alone. By the same token, we must never reject it solely on the basis of tradition that says otherwise, or just some sort of vague, empty reason like, "I don't know, I just don't like it".

One idea which is deserving of much praise is that of our new Education Committee to purchase new Bibles for the pews in the auditorium. I thank God for the wisdom they used in selecting a translation that is easily read and understood by today's society, yet at the same time being an un-biased, "committee translation" (one translated by scholars from many different faiths and backgrounds as opposed to one man or group of men with the same religious views). I want to encourage you to help the Oakley's and the Pepito's in their efforts involving this work, and to build them up whenever possible. I would also ask that you communicate with them, both those of you that are teachers, as well as you parents. A note to you parents; what your child studies in class is important, and this committee needs your feedback and input

regularly in order to know your feelings about curriculum, your views on classes, and especially just your opinion on how they are carrying out their duties. Believe me, they welcome your comments, and it is a major frustration when they have to do things based only on assumptions of your feelings.

There is another thought which has been on my mind alot lately, and that is the area of our evangelism as a whole. I want to encourage us to see the Biblical design of strength in numbers that we can have. One idea that came up in our men's meeting last month will also be the topic for discussion during our assembly tonight, and that is the idea of beginning a structured system of assemblies within some of our homes on various nights of the week, with the exception of Sunday, Wednesday, and Saturday. By our "strength in numbers" I am not referring to seeing how many we can pack into the church building, but to realize that in order to win LaGrange County for Jesus we must all have a common unity and purpose, and be headed in the same direction with the same goals in mind. The community must never talk to any two of us without getting the same, identical views on what process is necessary for one's salvation, what we stand for as a Body of Christ's people, what our creed is, etc. We must see that how each of us lives affects the success or demise of the evangelism of every one of us.

May God bless us as we continually strive to "grow up into Him who is the Head, that is, Christ." (Eph. 4:15)

-Roy

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SISTER - TO - SISTER

Last week we looked at the first segment of Titus 2:3 for direction of our lives as Christian women. Today let's take the conclusion of verse 3.

First of all, remember, we must be working on living a reverent life (3a) and "...not to be slanderers or addicted to much wine, but to teach what is good." (3b) (NIV)

How easy is it for us to casually comment to a sister a negative thought or even something you've heard about another sister? Too many times, without regard to the statements we blurt out, we tear down each other and put bad thoughts into others minds. James 4:11-12 submits that God will deal with us if slandering, gossiping or just plain speaking about others in ways that are not for building up our brothers and sisters.

It is interesting that in Titus 2:3, Paul follows "slanderers" with "those addicted to much wine." Most of us are not tempted with alcoholism,

but Paul wants us to understand that he is speaking of our self-control. He is approaching the lack of self-control in the use of drinking with our enslavement to the things that do take over in our life. When are you out of control? What enslaves you or your time? Talking about others, money, eating, T.V. - the list is endless of ways Satan causes us to not have self-control.

Satan's techniques to mesmerize us can be fought against when we observe the truth from Gal. 5:16-23,

1. Live by the Spirit: And you won't crave what is contrary to God's way of life.
2. Be led by the Spirit: Allow Gods fruit (v.22) to reign in our lives so we won't be caught up in "do's" and "don'ts". We are free from legalistic laws when we seek His way for our life.
3. Keep in Step with the Spirit: Never turn our eyes from the goal of living to please our Father. (II Cor. 5:9)

And finally, "... to teach what is good: (Titus 2:3b) The context of the word "teach" from the Greek is to teach "by their life"; "at home". It looks as if the point we need to get here is to 1) develop a Godly life at home and to be examples of Christ's life to our families, and 2) the world, in that order.

This one verse is packed with wise advice for Christian women. Looks like we all have some shipshaping to do. Let's examine our lives this week to see if we conduct reverent, Godly lives that give a message to others. Don't forget to check your tongue - is it and those other temptations out of control?

Next week we'll see why we have to repent and change our ways if our life isn't following the course God has laid out for us. He has plans for you!

-Barbara

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ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- CARE GROUP 4 - to meet at Jim & Lois Henson's today immediately after morning assembly for a Pot Luck.
- LADIES RETREAT - March 18 - 19. Make sure you're all signed up!
- BIRTHDAYS - I've received notice of two more March birthdays. Scarlet Morgan on March 3 and Billie Sanderson on March 6. Hope you gals had a happy day!
- PRAYERS - Remember Sandy Stauffer whose son passed away recently. - Ron Shonacker, friend of the Morgans and Davisons asks for prayers for his uncle and family. His uncle has cancer.

ANNOUNCEMENTS CONT'D:

- CARE GROUP 1 - to meet immediately following morning services. The men will be treating the ladies by fixing the meal. This will also be a mini-work day so men need to bring hammers, nails, etc.
- CARE GROUP 4 - Are meeting April 1 at 5:30 for a Mexican Pot Luck at Fred & Penny Oakley's.
- COMMODITIES - The commodity we have been assigned this time is toothpaste, for the Shults-Lewis Commodity Program. They will be picking them up on April 10.
- PATTERNS - This will be the last weekend for the patterns to remain on the table in the lobby. If you are interested in any of them, please help yourself.
- BUDGET - We are not meeting the budget. The men of the congregation ask me to inform the congregation that we are \$1713.17 behind as of 3-1-88. (This is for January - February)
- REMINDER - The new Bibles in the auditorium are to remain there after services.

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- WHEN JESUS IS STUDIED, ACTS IS THE RESULTS -

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 Assembly 6:00 p.m.

Evangelist :

Wednesday

Bible Class 7:00 p.m.

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

-WE LOVE YOU-
 THANK YOU FOR VISITING TODAY !



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

March 20, 1988

NO EASY WAY OUT

"Lord, they came to you in their distress, when you disciplined them, they could barely whisper a prayer." Isaiah 26:16

I have struggled to the point that I could barely whisper a prayer. There have been times when I wanted to give up. The criticisms, challenges, and failures in my Christian life have always been the cause of these moments. Do you ever get tired of being told that you're wrong, you need to work harder, or you need to love God more? Do you ever feel like Elijah did as he sat under the broom tree and prayed for death (I Kings 19:3-4)? Struggle is a part of your life whether you are a Christian or not. Christian struggle leads to growth in character and eternal life. There is no easy way out; you must choose to struggle as a Christian and accept the corresponding blessings. These faith-fighting secrets will see you through if you really want to make it!

No Pain. In the movie, "Rocky", the hero was always being punched in the head. The manager in "Rocky IV" coined a phrase: "No pain". As a Christian, you must have that mental attitude. God allows Satan to cause you pain because He is testing your faith and dependence on Him. Adversity often makes you want to quit. You must resist this discouragement by having the attitude that there is no pain you will not endure for spiritual victory. No pain!

Double or Nothing. It is time to put your hope and trust in God. When you struggle, there is a tendency to trust in yourself which always leads to defeat. Decide that no matter what happens, you will live by faith in God. It will always be His will; it doesn't matter how you feel. It's challenging!

It's frightening! It's double or nothing!

When the Going Gets Tough. As you make advances in your Christian growth, Satan will get tougher. It is at this time that you must remember that a faith which cannot be tested cannot be trusted. You must set your heart and mind on God and the destiny He has mapped out for you (Colossians 3:1-2). In the face of struggle, become more determined, not discouraged. Put on the armour of God and set your sights and swords devilward. When you resist Satan, he will flee from you.

No Easy Way Out. Face the fact that the "free lunch" doesn't exist. Satan uses pain, struggle and failure to destroy your self-esteem and confidence in God. In order to gain victory, you must decide to pay the price, live by faith, and respond to each obstacle with greater determination. Too many of us think that everything will end happily ever after. God will work through us insuring that things end happily.

Finally, don't allow yourself to have a negative attitude toward God. He is using struggles, pain and suffering in your life to make you into someone great. If you were in the world, those obstacles to comfortable living would primarily make you uncomfortable. The comfort that you have as a Christian is knowing that God is writing a book about your life and that He is the kind of author who always has a happy ending. Allow God to do the writing, while you fight by faith the battles of this world. When you struggle to the point that you can barely whisper - whisper a prayer.

-Russ Ewell

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SISTER - TO - SISTER

In our look at Titus 2:3, God's wisdom for our lives as Christian women has laid out a direction for us. We've seen that we must be living holy, dedicated lives and to keep our tongue in check so as not to speak ill of anyone. The word has also instructed us to keep away from anything that takes priority in our lives over our relationship with God. With this in mind, the scripture places us in the position to teach what is good.

I mentioned last week that we must work on getting these truths under our belt because our Father has plans for us. Now that we've seen the direction we must be going, let's see where He is leading us.

"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 2:4-5 (NIV)

Maybe you've been thinking all this time as a "Christian", "...they won't get me in a classroom to teach." Maybe not, but God is using your very life to teach and train other women. What is your relationship to your husband and children like? Are you loving and respecting your husband the way the church loves and places Christ as head over all things. Ephesians 5:22 commands that we submit to him as to the Lord. (Also see I Cor. 11:3,7-12) Do we love our children enough to "bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord" (Eph.6:4)? We are not only to be doing these things to be pleasing to God but to train the younger women to do the same.

I praise God for the women in my past and those of you here who have taught and shown me the way of the Lord in your lives. I think we can conclude that God's way for us to share our lives with one another has much value.

"She speaks with wisdom, and faithful instruction is on her tongue". (Proverbs 31:26)

-Barbara

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Guest Speaker this Evening

Bro. & Sis. Milton Fletcher will be with us this evening and he will be speaking at the evening services.

Brother Fletcher has been involved in Christian education for many years having served as a business administrator at Michigan Christian College (years 1961 - 1972) and Abilene Christian University (years 1972 - 1980). He returned to the MCC campus and has served as president since 1980.

We appreciate the experience and dedication of brother Milton and his wife, Evelyn, and for their guidance they have given the college over the years. After having many of our high school students attend Michigan Christian college, we count it a privilege to have the Fletchers with us this evening.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS:

CAMP INDOGAN BANQUET - to be held April 9 at the Reed Road congregation in Ft. Wayne.

MCC PARTNERSHIP DINNER WEST II - on May 13 at Kalamazoo. See brother Dean for tickets and transportation to these events.

YOUTH - You will be meeting at the Deisler's today following morning services for a Mexican Pot luck. Bring the Mexican dish you like with you.

but to live a holy life. Therefore, he who rejects this instruction does not reject man but God, who gives you his Holy Spirit." I Thess. 4:7-8. I don't know about you, but I'm persuaded!

Many times don't we say "Yeah, yeah, be pure, be good, keep unspotted...". Hey, Paul says not only be pure, but live a holy life!

I'm seeing there's a direction Paul's leading us in our look at Titus 2:3-5. How about you?

-Barbara

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ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Fellowship - Remember our 4th Sunday fellowship and discussion time this evening following services. Care group 3 is in charge of clean-up.
- Care Group 4 - Mexican Pot Luck at Fred & Penny Oakley's on April 1 at 5:30.
- Commodities - Remember to bring in "toothpaste" for the Shults Lewis Commodity Program before April 10.
- Jr. High Class - Collecting money for Craig Hostetler.
- Prayers - Ted Tucker is in the hospital with heart problems.
- Alice Scoville, Chris Deisler's Grandma, is to be placed in a foster home.
- Francis Springer is having problems with pneumonia.
- Wanda Forrester, Glova Spears sister, is in the hospital in room 105, recovering from surgery.
- Craig Hostetler in his work in St. Louis
- Remember all these in your daily prayers this week.

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the TRANSFORMER

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

March 27, 1988

Herodius (names have been changed to protect the guilty) walked in from a hard day at work and plopped down on the couch, grabbed the remote control and flipped on the television. "What a day", he said to himself. "I sure am glad it's Friday". With those remarks he began to look for what he could do with his time, since he had the weekend off. "I think I'll go rent a movie", he thought. After all, Anytown was absolutely one of the most boring places on earth that a person could live, so what else was there to do? Upon arriving at the video store, thoughts began to go through his mind as to which movies he had already seen, and what new releases there might be. After a search of the aisles, and having scanned the covers of all of the boxes which he never intended to rent anyway, he made a selection. Massacre at the Skating Rink was the title. "Man", he thought, "I thought this movie was going to stay at the theatre forever!" Then Herodius' conscience began to work on him ever so slightly. As his conscience was asking him about the rating, he was telling himself, "I fell good renting this show.... ..after all, the "R" is only for violence, not sex!"

Lydia loved to shop. After all, her husband made good money, and they had no real heavy bills to burden them down, so why not have some of the better things life has to offer. Her husband had worked hard ever since their marriage, and they had been extremely frugal so that they could one day enjoy life a little more. They deserved it! She deserved it! "Only the 'best' for my kids", she thought. And it showed. Any spare time they had as a family, or that she could find by herself was spent at the mall or local shopping center. "Shop 'till you drop" was her motto!

Brutus was a good kid. For a teenager, he seemed to take

life pretty easy. After all, Anytown was an easy-going sort of place to grow up, but man, was it boring! All of the excitement took place in the larger towns, all of which required driving a while to get to, however, Brutus had that all worked out. He had possessed a talent for making money since he was able to throw his first newspaper at age 10. Having just the right car to cruise in was not a real problem. When just the right concert came to that nearby town, he was able to go, and was one of the most popular ones among his peers, or at least he wanted to think so. I mean, after all, you're crazy if you think he's going to let anyone think that he is a nurd!

Leon was finally starting to see himself rise a couple of rungs up the business ladder. Oh, don't get the wrong impression. He had never really thought that he would be at this point, but things just happened to turn out this way. He was one of these guys who did dream occasionally, but for the most part was just dependable. He had stuck with the company, and he now saw the opportunity for an advancement. Sure, it was going to require a lot of extra time at work, but in the near future it would be worth it. He knew that he would be able to acquire money for his children to go to the college of their choice. Finally, he would be able to give more money to his church. This made him feel good, and was his main justification. As his time at home became smaller and smaller, and his family's need for his time grew more intense, he knew deep in the bottom of his heart that God would put those needs "on hold" until he could reach his financial goals. Besides, he was in too deep. He couldn't quit now. "If I don't provide for my family, I'll be worse than an infidel", he told himself. That's what the Bible says!

Franklin felt comfortable in life. He was getting on up in years, and had done alright for himself and his family financially. He felt that he had finally gotten a grip on most of the religious questions in life also. After all, he was a member of the only church that was "right" with the Bible, and that church practiced the same things that the last three generations had done. I mean, let's face it, that kind of consistency in one's traditions has got to speak well for something, right? Well, Franklin felt so, and he was proud to be a part of it. "A new idea? You've got to be kidding! If it's anything we don't need, it's something to cause people to stare at our church and wonder what on earth we're doing", he thought.

There's one thing that Herodius, Lydia, Brutus, Leon and Franklin have in common.....they are all members of the Anytown church. Which church? The one you read about in the New Testament.

Oh, I almost forgot, there is one other fellow who was a member of the same church. His name was John. One day something powerful came over him, and he felt like he had to sit down and write something. Once he got started, it seemed that he couldn't stop. He wrote "Do

not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For everything in the world--the cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes and the boasting of what he has and does--comes not from the Father, but from the world. The world and it's desires pass away, but the man who does the will of God lives forever." He then thought, "What am I going to call this?" Since he decided to write more than just one volume, and his name was John, he thought, "I might as well call it First John."

You know, I think that he should have called it "The Big Mirror", because it sure reminds me of the mirror on my dresser. I mean, I think I've seen myself there at some time in my life. Have you?

Do you see yourself in that mirror now? Are you any different than those you know in the world?

-Roy

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SISTER - TO - SISTER

Those of you who had the pleasure to attend the Ladies Retreat last weekend I know came away a changed woman for God. I sure did.

Not only in the seminar Henrietta presented, but also during our free time, eating ~~together and while~~ sharing sleeping quarters, I saw the scriptures we've been looking at in this article, come to life.

Sisters sharing instruction on loving our children, supporting our husbands, encouraging those who are struggling with sin in their lives, and just plain old teaching what is good went on among 20 women for nearly 20 hours. What power God has to work in our lives!

"...to be self-controlled and pure,..." (Titus 2:5a) is what we'll look at today. If you notice, I Timothy 3:2 includes self-control in it's list of traits for an elder; Titus 2:2 instructs older men to be self-controlled, and in our text for this writing tells the older women to teach it to the younger women. In the verse following is an encouragement for the young men to be self-controlled.

Having self-control is a very important aspect in our growth as Christian women. We were called to be free but that does not mean we can use that freedom to justify our indulgence in sin. Self-control in the face of whatever tempts us is a fruit of the Spirit at work within us "...and against such things there is no law." (Gal. 5:22) Now we can see the power of God's grace when we accept it for our lives. Titus 2:12 states, "It (grace) teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age..."

I found a verse in my study of being pure that was quite strong and it hit me between the eyes. "For God did not call us to be impure,