WASTED TIME

Oh, the years of useless living, Blown about like drifting sand. Laid no treasures up in heaven And no treasures in this land.

Wishing, hoping, longing, trusting, But no fruit grew on my vine. Useless, weak and letting others, That's the life that has been mine.

Standing back and letting others, Do the things that I should do. Helpless, wondering and waiting For the things to do for you.

Why am I afraid to venture
Pushing out into the deep?
Why, Lord, am I idly living
Just as though I were asleep?

Am I selfish, weak, afraid, Lord?
What is it that holds me so?
Open up my eyes and help me.
What, Lord, must. I do, where go?

- GAY RAY

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.) 463-357! (off.)

-WE LOVE YOUTHANK YOU FOR VISITING TODAY !



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

April 3, 1988

I look out on the snow covered lawn and wish my soul could look and be so pure. Then the snow begins to melt away, and the black beneath shows through, growing ever blacker and wider. But soon the dirt and soot will give way to the green of spring and the purity of the snow was but for a season.

So my life, the snow of innocence and youth fades so soon away and the blackness of sin spreads like the spots on the lawn. But with Christ, the green of spring begins again. As without the warmth of spring, no life can begin even in the purity of the snow. So without Christ no soul can regenerate even with the purity of innocence. As the green of spring spreads and blooms into the beauty of summer, so must my life bloom and spread love wherever I chance to be. May the summer of my life be as beautiful as the snow of my youth.

-Sue Morgan

SISTER - to - SISTER

"...to be busy at home, to be kind, and to be subject to their husbands..." Titus 2:5b.

What do you mean be busy at home?! If I have anything else to do, another hour will have to be added to the day! When I look at the woman of Proverbs 31, I have thought at times, get real! Who is she. super woman?

I see the key to her success as the "Keeper at home" (which is the original wording) is not wringing herself through a wringer but keeping her eyes set on a goal. Verse 27 of that chapter shows us that she watches over the affairs of her household which means she does not have time to be idle.

Today, women seek careers that put them and their needs before their families, some women result in lazy care takers of their TV's and flighty whims. The fact is, in living to please God, I Thess. 4:11 pushes us on to "Make it your ambition to lead a quiet life, to mind your own business and to work with your hands..."

Maybe you think, being a keeper at home isn't important. The woman in Proverbs 31 was a keeper and it resulted in her husband having confidence in her, seeing her true value, praise from her children and her community stood in awe of her dedication.

And what is Gods view? "Many women do noble things, but you surpass them all." Proverbs 31:29

Being kind could be included in a number of areas. Kindness is a trait that we extend to others and Galatians 6:9-10 expresses the importance of not growing weary in showing kindness. The key, though, of why we should strive to show kindness is found in Gal. 5:16, 18, 22 - so I say, live by the Spirit...if you are led by the Spirit...the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness...."

"... to be subject to their husbands...". Even in olden times King Xerxes realized that Queen Vashti's unwillingness to fulfill a request would cause the Persian and Median women to respond to their husbands in the same way. In fact, because of her disobedience, he saw the magnitude of the problem spreading and said in Esther 1:18b "There will be no end of disrespect and discord." The importance of older women training younger women in this area is strong. Just like Vashti, others see our relationship with our husbands and it can have a domino effect. The scriptures are clear on we as wives being commanded to submit to our husbands as the church submits to Christ. Soak yourself in Ephesians 5:22-33.

Well, where has all this older women teaching and training the God."

younger led? Titus 2:5b "...so that no one will malign the word of

She has been supporting Michigan Christian College since it's begining nearly 30 years ago. She is now a widow living on a fixed income and accepting goarders to help pay living costs.

However, she carefully plans her finances each year so she will be able to buy a ticket to MCC's annual Partnership Dinner. So many people over the years have sacrificed and given to this great cause of Christian education.

It's impressive what we can learn from someone who has never preached a sermon. Seeing that others can donate makes us believe that we can too.

Think about what we are teaching as we respond to Dean regarding Partnership Dinner West II scheduled for Friday, May 13, 1988.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Please welcome to the family Tim Wise. Tim is in NEW CHRISTIAN charge of maintenance at the LaGrange Nursing Home, and lives on Lafayette St. here in LaGrange. He lives in apartment #2 directly above Frontier Restaurant downtown. He currently has no phone, so please stop and see him soon. He works days and is usually available in the evenings. Tim was baptized on Monday, March 28. His mailing address is: Tim Wise

> 103 W. Lafayette St. Apt. #2 LaGrange, IN 46761

SPRING RALLIES - Senior Rally: April 29-30 Intermediate Rally: May 6-7 Junior Rally: May 13-14

ROLLER SKATING - The Reed Road Church of Christ is sponsoring a skating party on Monday, April 4, from 6:30 - 9:00 Admission is \$1.75.

PSALMS & PROVERBS IN SONG! - A 60 minute tape for children with a 56 page hard bound follow along and coloring book. The tape and book set is \$6.00 each. If you are interested in buying either set or both sets see Lois Oakley. You have until April 15 to purchase these.

- Please return your questionaires concerning home QUESTIONAIRES Bible studies to Roy by Sunday evening April 3.

- Those planning on attending the Camp Indogan Banquet CAMP INDOGAN please let Dean know today!

- Meet at Mike and Pat Halls for Mexican Pot Luck Apr.17 CARE GROUP 2

-Rarbara

"We're trying to get students to think beyond things they can see and touch and hear," he said.

(Isn't it interesting that God's been trying to tell us this for centuries!)

(NOTE: Sister-to-Sister will continue next week.)

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

MEN

- Remember the men's meeting tonight after assembly.

MEMBERSHIP - John & Virginia Garrison wish to be identified with the congregation here in LaGrange. Please welcome them to the family here. There address is: 423 N. Superior They have no phone at this time. Angola, IN 46703

PSALMS & PROVERBS IN SONG - A 60 minute tape for children with a 56 page hard bound follow along and coloring book. The tape and book set is \$6.00 each. If you are interested in buying either set or both sets see Lois Dakley. You have until April 15 to purchase these.

ZONE 4

- A Pot Luck at the building following morning assembly today!

SPRING CAMP RALLIES - Senior Rally: April 29-30 Intermediate Rally: May 6-7 Junior Rally: May 13-14

PRAYERS

- Eulalah Turpin her brother & sister-in-law were killed in a house fire this past week.
- for those who have been ill Nick Pepito, Ruth Engle, Gay Ray, Francis Springer, Tina (friend of Patti C.) her baby is in Ft. Wayne hospital, and any others who have been ill recently.

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

Sunday

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

Wednesday

Bible Class 7:00 p.m. Evangelist:

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)

April 10, 1988

UNDERSTANDING LONELINESS

The Cause

There are several causes of loneliness. One cause is societal. We live in a time in which people live rootless lives. Very few preple have real friendships.

Think for a moment - how many people do you know on your street or in your apartment? Twenty percent of the American population move each year. So mobility is a contributing factor to loneliness.

There is also a problem with the competitiveness of life. Everyone is trying hard to succeed in life. Everyone is looking out for number one. The result is that we forget about other people, their needs and hurts.

Fear also contributes to loneliness. Today, in most big cities, it is dangerous to walk down the street after dark. Most public parks are unsafe after dark. Elderly people triple lock their doors and are afraid to answer the phone. People do not feel comfortable speaking to strangers today.

The mobility of life, the competitiveness of life and fear all combine to produce a very impersonal society. People are no longer known by their name, but rather they are known by a number. Our faces and names are not nearly as important as the driver's license number on our check or our credit card number and corresponding expiration date.

In addition to these social causes, there are also psychological causes to loneliness. Many people carry unhealed inner wounds of rejection from childhood or a bad marriage or maybe friendship betrayal.

When a person experiences serious rejection from another, it is difficult to get close to people for fear of another

rejection. The result - loneliness.

way as to create great amounts of guilt, it will be very difficult to get close to others for fear of being discovered. Guilt can also produce loneliness. If a person has lived in such a

loneliness for amny people. Insecurity, a failure to know yourself or trust others, creates

Confused people have a hard time developing friendships because they are never sure where they are going or why they are here.

because they were lonely. Loneliness leads to: revealed that 80% of the psychiatric patients in hospitals sought help they were lonely and depressed before their heart attack. One study A recent survey among heart patients revealed that 50% admitted that

- nervousness
- heavy drinking

insomnia

overeating

suicide (both adult & teen)

Loneliness Defined

that feeling of isolation even when you are with people. It is a feeling of being unwanted and unneeded. The lonely person feels that there's the person lives or dies. nothing in life worth living for and that nobody really cares whether it than to define it. Perhaps the best definition for loneliness is Loneliness is somewhat like love in that it is easier to experience

Loneliness is different from solitude. Solitude is physical isolation. It is also different from temporary feelings of being lonesome. cause I desire to be with my loved ones again. But I know this feeldue to a speaking engagement. I have times when I feel lonesome befeeling of lobeliness is deeper and has no real hope of ending. ing will soon pass. Being lonesome is different from loneliness. The At this writing, I have been separated from my family for several days

A person may also feel forlorn which is the feeling of being lone-some accompanied with feelings of grief and sadness. This may occur at the death of a loved one.

uncared for; a feeling that if you died, no one would really grieve. lorn. Loneliness is a feeling of being unwanted, unneeded, unloved, Loneliness is different from solitude, being lonesome or being for-

sorry for themselves. out for number one. They usually live in self-pity and often feel Of course, selfish people are lonely because they are always looking

Spiritually impoverished individuals have no real basis for developing himself and with others. The result is that loneliness is dispelled. right relationship with God, the person is also able to be right with church) are the most important ones in life. When a person is in a ual reasons for loneliness. Spiritual relationships (with God and the relationships except on superficial levels. When the externals are In addition to social and psychological causes, there are also spirit-

> removed, the relationship fails - friendships are lost, marriages falter and loneliness develops.

avoid the problems that produce the terrible feelings of isolation and Identifying and understanding these causes should help all of us

Christian Family 1985

(This article was recently seen in an Anderson, IN newspaper.) SCIENTISTS FIND VALUE IN SPIRITUAL HEALTH

portant as exercising and eating properly. health scientists are now recognizing spiritual health is at least as im-MUNCIE - Staying healthy may take more than just staying in shape, and

at four Indiana universities teach about spiritual health. science professor who recently conducted a study of how health instructors healthy," said Dale Hahn, a Ball State University physiology and health "If we figure out why we're here, we're happier and more able to stay

which is based on the holistic concept of health. Hahn is co-author of a college health textbook "Understanding Your Health,"

task, Hahn said. tual health, and spiritual wellness makes maintaining the body an easier and wrong. Staying healthy physically makes it easier to maintain spiribe embodied in a person's religion or simply in his feelings about right He defines the "spiritual" as one's search for meaning in life. It may

blems come up. spiritual dimension of health, Hahn said. More and more, they are finding that science is not everything in life - that it isn't enough when pro-People are developing a growing awareness of the importance of the

them," Hahn said. "People get to a crisis and have to decide what 'spiritual' means to

dimention of health is important but don't really do much about teaching it. In his study, Hahn found that most instructors think the spiritual

were interested in the subject. spiritual side of health themselves, how much time they spent on the subject in their classrooms, if they planned to spend more time teaching about the spiritual aspect of health in the future, and if they thought students Instructors were asked if they had received any training about the

any complaints about teaching the spiritual aspect of health. were mildly to moderately interested in the subject, and few had received about the spiritual dimention in the future. All reported their students course teaching about it, and most thought they might teach a little more side of health. They spend anywhere from five minutes to two hours per Most of the instructors had received little training in the spiritual

ANNOUNCEMENTS CONTINUED:

FOR SALE

- Margaret Tucker has a refrigerator for sale for \$400.00. If interested see her about this.

PRAYER LIST

- Margaret McGuiggan had surgery Thursday to remove a lump on her back.
- Ashley Duzan has a foot injury.
- Tim Wise
- Margaret Tucker and Eulalah Turpin in their loss.
- Craig Hostetler in his work in St. Louis.
- Francis Springer, Wanda Forrester, Gay Ray

Remember these in your daily prayers and also any others that have a need at this time.

* * * * * * *

We all would agree that the life we live can be a powerful example of Christianity to others around us. Participation in MCC's Partnership Dinner West also makes a positive impact on our world.

Some who are not members of the church participate in the annual dinner at Cobo Hall in Detroit. They enjoy seeing Christians gathering in a unified way to support something in which they believe.

Lives can be touched by efforts such as MCC's Partnershi Dinner West Campaign. Involve yourself in something that can attract non-believers. Pledge to Partnership Dinner West II. See Dean Hoggatt for details.

* * * * * *

- WHEN JESUS IS STUDIED, ACTS IS THE RESULTS -

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 YOUTHANK YOU FOR VISITING TODAY !



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

April 17, 1988

"HITTING BELOW THE BELT"

Each of us has "points of vulnerability", tender and sensitive spots on our psyches that can rarely survive a direct hit. It may be a son who has gone astray or a past indiscretion. Perhaps it is a failed business venture, a hurting marriage, or just bad judgment. Whatever your tender spot, it is your Achilles heel, your glass jaw.

In the course of time, we learn to know each other's vulnerabilities. With such knowledge, however, comes a grave responsibility. "Knowledge is power" someone has said, and certainly that is true in conflict. Having mapped out a brother's hurts, we have the capacity to deliver a knock-out blow. Just one punch, just one verbal uppercut, and we can reduce an opponent to impotence no matter what the real issue.

One of us witnessed an occasion when two men were arguing over the teen-age curriculum in an education committee meeting. One of the men had experienced real difficulties in the raising of his daughter. The girl had come out right in the end, but not until after years of heartache and pain. As the disagreement between these two men became more heated, the other finally stated something like, "With as much trouble as you had with your daughter, how can you know what is best for our teenagers?"

Guess who won this battle? It didn't matter that the man may have learned some valuable lessons from his experience. Nor did it matter that the other gentleman was too young to have raised teenage children of his own. All that mattered was that a knock-out blow had been delivered, a point of vulnerability exploited, and a brother reduced to embarrassed and angry silence.

Hitting below the belt is never a fair tactic. The end

never justifies resorting to this means. No matter what the issue, there are some things which are so sensitive, so hurtful, that to use them is simply unsportsman-like conduct. We must not destroy in our eagerness to defend.

More of us need to cry, "Foul" when such a blow is delivered. Christians are not to be held eternally guilty for having hurts in their past. True guilt falls on the one who would take advantage of those hurts simply to win an argument. It is the act of hitting below the belt which is reprehensible, not the fact that our brothers have something below the belt to be hit!

Paul states: "Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice" (Eph. 4:31, NIV).

Hitting someone where they hurt is operating from bitterness and rage. It is "brawling" in the truest sense - a complete disregard for fair fighting and the acceptance of an "I'll-do-whatever-it-takes-to-win" mentality. It is malice in its impurest form. Hitting below the belt is the win/lose philosophy at its destructive worst.

And where does it leave you when the fight is over? We may forgive someone who has opened old wounds, but we'll never trust him again. We may worship with him, but we'll have difficulty relating to him. He may still be a brother, but how can we ever call him "friend"?

If we are to survive conflict with the hope of deeper fellowship, we must protect each other from blows which can cripple and maim.

- This is one of many rules for "Living in Harmony", a series aimed at building relationships in the local church written by Tim Woodruff and James Hinkle.

* * * * * * *

SISTER - TO - SISTER

Father, why do I strain my frail wrists When you offer your mighty arm?

How I'm reminded of the mighty arm God does have in our lives when we least expect it, and sometimes doubt it!

Surely a ninety year old woman could not bear a child. Can you see yourself in Sarah's shoes when she hears the news?! "So Sarah laughed to herself as she thought, 'After I'm worn out and my master is old, will I now have this pleasure'?" (Gen. 18:12)

What is your reaction when you've been on the run all day and handled numerous family crisis? What about when various things seem overwhelming in everyday life? What about if you're struggling with guilt?

Do you just laugh when someone says that you need to have faith in God? Do you laugh and think, "God could never help someone with problems like mine!"

Genesis 18:13 records God's response concerning Sarah; "Why did Sarah laugh and say, 'Will I really have a child, now that I'm old?... Is anything too hard for the Lord?'"

Sisters, as God's children abiding in His love, we have His power at work in us through the Holy Spirit. What is it in your life that seems to be impossible to conquer or deal with? Loneliness?...Self-indulgence?....Conflicts at work?...Motherhood?...Lack of enough money for the bills?...Lack of a strong relationship with your husband?...Timidity in sharing the Gospel with others?...A life surrendered to Christ?

Give yourself a break! Quit moaning "Woe is me". Don't make what is so simple appear to be so difficult. Give it all to God! Read I Peter 5:6-7, S-L-O-W-L-Y.

Now to Him who is able
to do immeasurably more than
all we ask or imagine,
according to His power that
is at work within us,
to Him be the glory in the
church and in Christ Jesus
throughout all generations
forever and ever! Amen.

Ephesians 3:20-21

-Barbara

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

TEENS

ATTENTION TEACHERS - Researve June 20 - 24 for Vacation Bible School.

* * * * * * *

LAST SUNDAY - to purchase the childrens Bible tapes. See Lois.

 will meet at Dean & Thelma Hoggatts following morning assembly for a Pot Luck. Meat & potatoes will be furnished, so bring a salad, vegetable, or dessert to pass.

SPECIAL CONTRIBUTION - On Sunday morning, April 24, there will be a special contribution taken for Margaret Tucker to help with funeral expenses. Please put your contribution for this in an envelope marked for this so it can be counted seperate from the regular offering. Please put it in the plate with the regular offering.

REMEMBER VBS

- June 20-24, Time 9:30-11:30. Classes for 3 year olds through 6th grade. Start inviting kids now!

CAMP HELP NEEDED - Dick Hostetler needs two lady counselors and one male teacher for the intermediate session at Camp Indogan - July 17-22. Joe & Lois will be working in this session so if you are willing to help please let them know.

CARE GROUPS

- Group 2 will be having a cook-out at Harold & Janet DePriest's on Saturday, May 21 at 4:30 p.m.

- Group 4 will be having a Picnic at Delt Church Park on Saturday May 28.

PRAYERS

- Jamie Hutto (Don & Becky) was in the hospital because of a bug bite. She was released on Friday.

- Remember Jim Henson, Tim Wise, Bonnie Sowles, Kathy Sowles, Chris Deisler, Melvin Stayner, Kim Huffman, Robbie Huff, Ethel Weber and any others that are ill or in need of prayers at this time.

Nobody knows what a card or a visit means to a sick person till we have been really sick and had it happen. It puts the sunshine in a oloomy day and thankfulness in the heart.

* * * * * *

- WHEN JESUS IS STUDIED, ACTS IS THE RESULTS -

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 !



May 15,1988

"A FAMILY AFFAIR" (FPH, 2:19)

Recently I heard a professor from one of our well known church-sponsored universities make the statement that one of the major problems that we face in the church today is "...not understanding what our purpose is". I would have to give this statement a hearty "amen", however, I feel that there are more specific things facing us here in LaGrange that we do not understand. I firmly believe that until the evidence is there that we understand these specific areas, we will not be able to become the body of people that the Lord would have us be.

One area which comes to mind first is the concept of us being a "Family". We all seem to want the church to grow in numbers, but the size of a family alone doesn't make it what it should be. It is the love and genuine concern for each other within that family that shows whether or not it is a true "family". That brings me to the area of our understanding this as the body of Christ here. Although the size of our "family" has a lot to do with the level of emotion and intensity of our love when we are together, the area that best reflects how much we understand about "family" is that of our actions. Specifically those actions which we take that really show that we care, or that some sacrifice has been made on our part toward that other brother or sister. Those sacrifices could include many things; money. time, talents & abilities, possessions, knowledge or advice, etc., etc.

I am by no means saying that there are no actions of love and concern shown within the church here. That would be a totally false statement, and one that I doubt I could ever make concerning the body here. However, I am pleading with

us to not rest comfortably on the basis of what good actions have taken place, but to ask ourselves some very convicting questions. Many times we talk about how faithful a certain brother or sister USED TO be, and how we have (since their departure from an active faith) sent them cards, etc., but have we really gone and in person made other, shall we say, meaningful efforts? And, more importantly, what could have been done to prevent such from happening in the first place? What are we doing NOW to prevent the same from re-occuring?

It is, to me, sometimes amazing to think about how strongly we expect certain evangelistic results in light of our present understanding of how a strong family should operate. When a baby is born into our blood-related family, just look at the immediate adjustments made in his/her favor!

Just think for a moment about how much fondling and caressing and picture-taking goes on. There seems to be no end to the things we do as new parthere is no lack of love for the same! Now compare for a moment the new baby that is born into the family of God (John 1:12-13), our spiritual family. What adjustments are made in his/her favor? Fondling and caressing may be slightly out of order, but how much of a 'touching' relationship develops? Perhaps picture-taking is out of line, but how much of a big deal do we make cut of what the angels in heaven are rejoicing about? When we are around this new babe immediately after it's birth, just how much pride do we show in him/her?

Now focus your attention on the other members of our spiritual family. I'm talking about the ones who were baptized years ago. You've probably all heard me use the illustration of us sitting down to supper one evening and one of our children not showing up, and upon asking everyone else where this family member is, the reply is the same from everyone, "We don't know....now that you mention it, we haven't seen him/her for quite awhile now!" How absurd, you say! (And rightly so).

With this scenario being fairly accurate, combined with what has been a general lack of understanding of the discipling and nurturing necessary for a babe beginning immediately after baptism, should it surprise us when our brother or sister comes to one of us years after their baptism and opens their heart to us emotionally about how rejected they feel as a Christian, and how they feel inadequate to win someone else to Christ, largely because no one ever took them on a regular basis and showed them how? Should we be so taken back when one of our number cannot in simple, easy-to-understand, Biblical terms describe his/her conversion to Christ? Do we have the right to feel a little strange when our brother or sister can't describe what a "Christian" really is? Do we have the right to be the least bit saddened when we look at special contributions for certain benevolent works and are able to remember more money being collected for our building and grounds?

One thing that seems to be an endless circle we get caught up in is

how difficult it is to minister to each other and fulfill passages like Gal. 6:1 when we are drowning in a sea of problems and pressures ourselves! The endless circle results from realizing that the very reason we are feeling overwhelmed by these problems in the first place, and can't seem to see light at the end of the tunnel, is because our own family hasn't come to our rescue! These "overwhelming" trials, when allowed to go unchecked, are what results in us wanting to leave our husbands/wives, becoming unfaithful and inactive, becoming workaholics, etc.,etc. This is another reason to have strong, God-centered families at home, because how we perceive our blood-related family often affects what we think of our spiritual family. If we hate our husband/wife, chances are we won't show love to our brothers and sisters in Christ either.

Brothers and sisters, please don't misunderstand my message. It is certainly intended in a spirit of love for each of you as my family in our Lord....but the time is now for us to realize, understand and do something about our "family ties". It is one thing to have succeeded in knowing how to perform the "minor" family responsibilities, but it is another thing entirely to understand and practice the more serious and "major" ones.

May our God bless us with the wisdom and understanding to do this. May He bless us with the courage to go in love to our family and know when to convict of sin as well as to encourage and edify. But most of all, please pray that He will help us all to be "...conformed to the likeness of His Son..." (Rom. 8:29).

-Roy

* * * * * *

"The Amazing Power" is the theme for the MID-AMERICA EVANGELISM WORKSHOP in Indianapolis, June 15-18. Most every church has seen difficult times, but if we all pull together we can make tomorrow a victory for Jesus. This year's workshop will equip everyone to be more effective at home and at our home congregation.

Plan to attend the Mid-America Evangelism Workshop in Indianapolis!

* * * * * *

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

NEW BROTHER IN CHRIST – Jim Braid was baptized Tuesday night after studying with Joe Oakley for a couple of months.

God bless you Jim!

YOUTH MEETING - Remember there will be a "German" Potluck following morning services today at Mary Ann Johnston's.

June Birthdays & Anniversaries:

1	Amber Turpin	12	Ruth Engle
	Jason Turpin	17	Mary Anne Wade
2	Chris Hughes	18	Lisa Shears
3	Enos Miller	26	Kathy Sowles
4	Joey Oakley		
	Thelma Morris	8	Austin & Patti Copeland
5	Ann Leslie	11	Joe & Lois Oakley
11	Freddie Oakley		

May God bless each of you on your special day!

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

OPEN HOUSES - Graduation begins at 2:00 this afternoon. There will be open houses at each of the following graduates homes following the ceremony. Katie Oakley, Lisa Shears. Steve Miller and Amy Palmer.(4-6 for Amy)

CARE GROUP 1 - Plan on meeting at the LaGrange town park on Saturday, June 4 at 2:00p.m.

CAMP COMMODITY - The camp is requesting the LaGrange congregation to supply brown sugar for the summer sessions. If you can help out , bring the packages to the building by the last Sunday in June.

APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE - There are applications on the table in the south foyer for summer sessions at Camp Indogan.

5th SUNDAY - There will be the regular 5th Sunday singing this evening.

PRAYERS Please pray for the Stueben County congregation. They are suffering from some relationship problems at this time.

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 YOUTHANK YOU FOR VISITING TODAY !



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

May 29, 1988

KICKING AGAINST THE GOADS

It was late February or early March. James and I were playing at the gravel pit. It was a cold, windy, overcast day, with a few flakes of snow flying; but we were having a great time. I had on my first pair of genuine boots. I mean rubber footwear that you could actually stick your foot right down into with no shoes on, and you didn't have to buckle them. They were black with red soles and a little too large for me (my mother had bought them at a sale and size was not a major consideration). Even with two pairs of socks, I "clumped" in them considerably. They came almost to my knees and looked like firemen 's boots - I was exceedingly proud of them.

There was a little thin ice at the edges of the gravel pit and we were breaking that ice by stomping on it and then splashing through into the shallow water beneath it. I had been doing this for some time, when I found a small pool covered with what we called "rubber ice." It was off the gravel pit but connected by a narrow neck of water. It would actually give with your weight and then spring back - a sort of trampoline effect. You can imagine what fun I had with it. Suddenly it gave way and I fell into some sandy water unlike any I had ever been in before. I sank immediately over my boots up to my thighs. Terrified, I began to struggle but simply could not extricate myself. This produced a fear which resulted in an absolute frenzy of effort to get out. The only noticeable result was that I was nearly up to my armpits within a minute or so.

I did not know that I should remain calm, I simply wore myself out struggling. Finally, I had no energy left and the absolute futility of further efforts overwhelmed me. James had come to help me, but quickly realized that he could be of no assistance. He stood completely helpless, within ten feet.

As I grew more calm, I noticed that I wasn't sinking any deeper. I told James to run and get Elmer Russell. He was a well driller, and I had spoken to him on my way to the gravel pit.

When they returned, I still had not sunk much further than my armpits, and, except for the numbing effect of the freezing sand and water, was not worried about my condition. Elmer got a rope around me, and being an extremely powerful man, pulled me out with relative ease. Unfortunately, he pulled me right out of my boots. It was about a mile or so to my house but I ran all the way in my socks, in spite of the fact that I knew I had some explaining to do when I arrived.

I thought I would receive the whipping of my life. You know, the funniest thing happened. When my mother first saw me, soaking wet, mud and sand right up to my ears, and my boots gone, she was real upset. I tried to explain what had happened, but right in the middle of my explanation the phone rang, and it was Elmer Russell calling to see if I had gotten home all right. He talked to my mom for a long time. When she hung up, there were great tears in her eyes and she came and hugged me and kissed me and made over me - I couldn't make any sense out of it at all. When my father came home that evening, I thought sure I was going to catch it good. He and mother talked for some time in their bedroom and I heard her say, "Oh, Fred, we almost lost him." When he came out, he never said much, but I noticed that when we prayed at supper that night, he mentioned me several times and told God how grateful he was that He looked after me when he couldn't. On Sunday afternoon, he and I walked over to the gravel pit and I showed him the place - I quess he wanted to look for my boots. but they were nowhere in sight. He stood there a long time and locked, and again he didn't say much, but I thought I noticed him wiping his eyes a time or two with the back of his hand, and I wondered about it, because the wind was hardly blowing, and it wasn't that cold.

I see two lessons here.

When Jesus appeared to Saul on the Damascus road, He said to him, "It is hard for you to kick against the goads." Saul, in his arrogance and pride, was struggling furiously to establish a righteousness of his own, and met with failure at every turn. The result was that he redoubled his efforts into a veritable frenzy of religious activity. It was futile. Only when he was stricken by the great light and forced to his knees, completely helpless, did he say, "I needhelp. I am lost."

"Be still, and know that I am God," says the Father through the psalmist. Our society pursues happiness and security in the same pushing, shouting, riotous way they approach a grand opening sale. It is not to be found in the sound and fury, the thunder and the storm. It is only found in the full realization of helplessness we feel when, alone with ourselves, we come face to face with our sins and our lostness, and we cry, "who art thou, Lord?"

The other lesson: I know that you see it. How He loves us. How He

grieves when He sees us struggling in futility, nearly lost. How pleased He is to throw His great arms around us and hold us to His heart when we turn to Him.

You know, late that fall I was playing at the gravel pit one sunny afternoon with James (I told you I wasn't real bright as a youngster - some might argue that age hasn't helped substantially), and we found one of my boots sticking right up out of the ground. I pulled it out and took it home, but it wasn't much good. I always wondered what happened to the other one.

-John Smith Lubobck, TX

* * * * * * *

SISTER - TO - SISTER

I ran across a recipe this week and decided to share it with you. You may have already seen this recipe because I think most of us look for it daily.

We know Satan uses the world to make havor of our lives but take heart, we have a shepherd who cares for us, even enough to lay down his life. John 10:7-18 expresses that the way to happiness is through Jesus. The part that makes me shiver is verse 10 b. "I have come that they may have life and have it to the full."

What more can we ask. He makes our lives full with the blessings of our physical family, spiritual family, material needs, spiritual needs and the opportunity of a fantastic relationship with Him even while we're still here on earth. "I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. He will come in and go out, and find pasture." John 10:9.

Sisters, take note of our pasture, be happy, rejoice and praise God for the abundant life He gives.

The Happiness Cake

1 cup of Good Thoughts
2 cups of Kind Deeds
3 cups Forgiveness
2 cups well beaten Faults
4 cup of Consideration for others
5 cups Sacrifice for others
7 cups Sacrifice for others

Mix the above ingredients thoroughly, adding tears of joy and/or sorrow and sympathy for others. Flavor with a little bit of love and kindly service. Fold in 4 cups prayers and faith to lighten all the other ingredients and to raise the texture to great heights of character in Christian living.

After pouring all of this into daily life, bake well with the heat of human kindness. Serve with a smile anytime anywhere and it will satisfy the hungriest of starved souls.

-Barbara

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Men's Retreat - All men interested in men's retreat later this summer, there are some pictures in south lobby of the proposed location.

Mens's Meeting - There will be a Men's Meeting this evening following evening services.

Notes of Thanks - Lisa Shears and Steve Miller wish to thank everyone for the Concordances they were given for graduation.

VBS

- Remember June 20-24 for Vacation Bible School, 9:30 - 11:30. Classes for 3 year olds through 6th grade.

Prayers

- Steve Miller will be going in Monday morning for ankle surgery at the Parkview Hospital in Ft. Wayne. If things go as planned he should be released within 48 hours.

- Lisa Shears and Diana Ritchie are traveling in Arizona for 2 weeks.and would appreciate prayers for their safety.

- Tim Wise got some metal shavings in his eye Wednesday.
- Prayer of thanks for the safe return of the Deisler family.

 $\overline{\text{JOIN}}$ in with scores of friends, known and new in learning new skills to prove all facets of your life.

GO new places...do new things!

LEARN to be the best you can be...because of Him.

MID-AMERICA EVANGELISM WORKSHOP

INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA

JUNE 15-18, 1988

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 YOUTHANK YOU FOR VISITING TODAY !



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

June 12, 1988

"GOD WILL PROVIDE"

"Then Jesus said to His disciples: Therefore do not worry about your life, what you will eat; or about your body, what you will wear...But seek His kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well.'"

Luke 12:22, 31

We live in a world filled with worry. We worry about our jobs, our families, our health, and others' approval. Even when there is no reason to worry, we worry that things are too good to be true. Our problem is we lack faith that God will truly provide. We need to consider some simple reminders of His daily providence.

CONSIDER THE RAVENS. Jesus explained, "They do not sow or reap, they have no storeroom or barn; yet God feeds them" (Luke 12:24). Do you worry about what you have or do not have? Are you busy building storerooms or barns for yourself or others? Would it not be ridiculous to watch a flock of ravens raise a barn to store their grain for the winter? How much more so do we look in God's eyes as we frantically build barns to store up that which will not last. Are we not much more valuable than birds? Truly, we need to trust that God will provide exactly what we need.

CONSIDER THE LILIES. Jesus wanted us to understand that real, lasting adornment comes from the Father. Do you worry about how you look - either physically or spiritually? It does little good to worry about the physical. Change what you can change and accept what you cannot. But what about the spiritual? Too often we become "overly anxious" about how we look before others. We need to be more concerned about how we look before God. How should we look? Simply put, we are to be clothed with Christ (Romans 13:14). That means we must put on compassion, kindness, humility,

gentleness and patience (Colossians 3:12). Then, we will surpass Solomon in all his splendor and shine like lights in this dark world.

CONSIDER THE PAGANS. What are you really striving after in your life? Where do you focus most of your attention and energy? The pagans have a thirsty lust for things which never fulfill, and chase after these until they drop. Is it any wonder stress and time management workshops are often the most attended functions in our professional and business world? Jesus wants us to stop running after the things of the world and run the race which leads to an everlasting crown — one that is worthy of our every effort.

CONSIDER THE KINGDOM. Eight short months ago Emily and I were considering a life of comfort and ease. I was about to become a partner in one of the largest and most prestigious law firms in the United States. We would have settled down in our hometown and slowly melded into society. We would have worried about our new mortgage, our children's education and the other trivial matters of "Upper Middle Class America". We were rapidly becoming citizens of the wrong kingdom. Thankfully, one man had the courage and vision to challenge our hearts and call us to consider the Kingdom of God. Day by day, we have seen our worries dissipate and our hearts filled with joy as we have given ourselves to the work of the Lord. Surely, we have seen that God does provide if we just seek first His Kingdom.

-John Bringardner Boston, MA

* * * * * * *

SISTER - TO - SISTER

We make decisions every day of our lives. Tuna Helper or Shake and Bake, red or blue, drive or walk, pay or charge, go or stay, play or work. We even decide to do something or procrastinate.

There is one area of our lives as God's women that we may have not made a decision about and that is in choosing what our own personal ministry will be. When we chose to be His disciple we immediately took on the ministry of bringing the lost to God (2 Cor. 5:18).

Look at this passage and see if you see your ministry listed. If not, decide where God can use you.

"Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we who are many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man's gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith. If it is serving let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously: if it

is leadership, let him govern dillegently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully." (Romans 12:4-8)

Did you find your ministry? Be open and aware of otherssand their needs. Ministring is doing for others. Every member has the ministry to bring the lost to God, share the simple gospel truth, and share their lives. Because we do not all have the same function in the body, choose where you can best minister to the rest of the members:

- 1. Prophesying Paul uses a Greek word which means simply "speaking forth the will of God...the counsel of God..". In light of passages such as I Cor. 14:31-35, we see that as women we have limitations on our choosing this as our ministry.
- 2. <u>Serving</u> Caring for the physical needs, sewing, buying groceries, sitting with children, clean houses, prepare meals.
- 3. Teaching instructing students in Bible class, teaching your children at home, choosing a sister to share the Word with for spiritual growth.
- 4. Encourage Send cards to those who are sick, down, joyous over an occasion, those who work diligently for the Lord, oor to a sister to just say I Love you!
- 5. Contributing give generously to those who have met with hard times, unexpected health bills, or low income.
- 6. <u>Leadership</u> Be confident of what God has given and be involved to promote the Kingdom. Teach in the womens class, organize, share in responsibility.
- 7. Show mercy cheerfully care for the sick, afflicted, oppressed with joy no grumbling!

Add any of the ways you can think of to minister to our body. We have arms that are hurting, legs that are weary, eyes that are strained. You don't have to doctor every member, but there's one near you today, look and listen, you'll soon see a place where you can minister.

Just think, when we all are ministring with what God's given us we'll have some kind of body!

-Barbara

* * * * * * *

Camp Season Soon to Begin

The Camp Indogan change cans as well as the brown sugar packages need to be brought to the building by next Sunday, June 20th. Please remember to do this and thanks to all who helped out in this program this year.

For the Camp, Dean Hoggatt

CHILDREN LEARN WHAT THEY LIVE

If children live with criticism, They learn to condemn.

If children live with hostility, They learn to fight.

If children live with ridicule, They learn to be shy.

If children live with shame, They learn to feel quilty.

If children live with tolerance, They learn to be patient.

If children live with encouragement, They learn confidence.

If children live with praise, They learn to appreciate.

If children live with fairness, They learn justice.

If children live with security, They learn to have faith.

If children live with approval, They learn to like themselves.

If children live with acceptance and friendship, They learn to find love in the world.

-Dorothy Law Noite

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 YOUTHANK YOU FOR VISITING TODAY!



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

June 19, 1988

YOU CAN'T MAKE ME

A past co-worker of mine once told me that he had read the entire New Testament a few years back and "couldn't see what all the fuss was about." I was shocked that someone who had bothered to read the New Testament in its entirety found nothing particularly moving or significant to him or to his life. Since then I have heard others repeat similar responses and I have puzzled over how it could be that the Holy Spirit was unable to touch them. I have come up with several reasons, but the clearest one is this: Nothing can affect us unless we are willing to change.

To meet God is to change. He confronted us through His Son when Jesus, God-become-human, talked to the folks in Palestine. And when God confronts us - whether it be through meeting Jesus or reading the message of the Bible, or through prayer or by meeting a believer - something has to happen. We must respond in some way. If we are unwilling to change, we propel ourselves away from His face like two south ends of two magnets. But if we are willing to change, we are drawn to Him just as powerfully as nails to the same magnets.

With magnets, there is no such thing as half-magnetized. With Jesus, lukewarm is out of the question. If we are in hot pursuit of God and His Ways, He will be able to shape us into His mold. If we coldly and deliberately run away from confrontation with God, He can keep pursuing us with persistent love, ever hoping we will finally stop and say "I give up - to You." But when the Spirit has chased us to where we finally stop, listen to the message, and then say, "Hmm, interesting, but not for me" or "Maybe someday," then there is nothing left to be done. Not the clearest confrontation with God in this world can force us to change. We have got to be willing to change.

-Integrity Magazine Sept. - Oct. 1987

SISTER - TO - SISTER

It has been said that women are far more emotional and talk more than men. Maybe so. Whether that statement is true or not; the scriptures provide a test for each of us.

"The good man brings good things our of the good stored up in his heart, and the evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in his heart..." Luke 6:45

You ask, Well, where's the test? It's in the latter part of verse 45: "For out of the overflow of his heart his mouth speaks."

What's in your heart towards your husband - "nag, nag, nag"
What's in your heart towards your children - "Exasperation, exasperation, exasperation"

What's in your heart toward your fellow sisters - "Gossip, gossip, gossip"

What's in your heart towards the lost souls around you - "Silence, silence, silence"

We all need to check what's been coming out of our mouth to see where our hearts are. Let's apply some encouragement from the word:

"May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer."

Psalms 19:14

"A wise man's heart guides his mouth, and his lips promote instruction." Proverbs 16:23

And finally, for us all to have the same understanding and realize the importance for us to get ourselves in tune with God and His word:

"May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you a spirit of unity among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus, so that with one heart and mouth you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ." Romans 15:5-6

If you can, add the 119th chapter of the Psalms to your Bible study this week!

-Barbara

* * * * * *

You are cordially invited to an Open House in honor of Jim and Sharon Pieratt's 25th wedding anniversary on July 9, 1988 from 2:00 - 5:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall at the Church of Christ in LaGrange.

* * * * * * *

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

THANKS

- To Dale Johnston for spraying the yard for weeds.

VBS

- This week from 9:30 11:30 for children 3 years through 6th grade.
- Still needed are cookies and Kool-aid for VBS
- All Sunday and Wednesday teachers need to remove everything from the walls in your classrooms today.

PART-TIME WORK - If anyone would like part-time work for 4 - 6 weeks, see Roy. (16 or older)

CARE GROUPS - Care group 1 will be having a Potluck following morning services here at the building on June 26.

- Groups 2 and 4 will be having a Potluck at Bonneyville Mill on the 26th immediately following morning ser= vices.

P.M..SPEAKER - This evening John Garrison will be bring us the lesson.
This will be their last time with us before moving to
Kalkaska, MI where he will be preaching.

LOST & FOUND - If anyone lost something valuable in the men's room, see Roy.

* * * * * * *

WALKING WITH THE LORD

You ask me why I love the Lord, Well, friend, just let me say Life was not worth living Till the Saviour came my way.

You say, I lose so much in life. Yes, friend, praise God I do. I lose the sin and sorrow Which was all I ever knew.

I lose the days spent seeking joy, The long nights full of fears. I lose the heavy burdens Which I carried through the years.

But friend, I would not have them back For all that you could pay. Life was not worth living Till the Saviour came my way.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Pat Powers 982 8762 office - Care Group 1 will be having a Pot Luck immediately CARE GROUPS following morning services today at the building.

We'll be making plans for our camping weekend.

- Care Groups 2 & 4 will be having a Pot Luck at Bonneyville Mills today following morning services.

- John & Virginia Garrison's address is: NEW ADDRESS

252 M-72 S.E. Kalkaska, MI 49646

LADIES BIBLE CLASS - will meet at Barbara noble's home on this coming Tuesday morning (28) instead of Sharon Simpson's

from 9:30-11:30.

JULY BIRTHDAYS - 5 Adam Leslie Katie oakley Nannie Hall Brian Hoogatt Janet DePriest Opal Copeland 8 Susan Pieratt Chris Deisler Terry Simpson Luella Oakley 9 Lois Oaklev Jenell Miller Harold DePriest

JULY ANNIVERSARIES -

Joe & Kathy Hugnes Dale & Laura Jorris 6 Jim & Sharon Pieratt 25 Chris & Jil Deisler

- Francis Springer broke her tail-bone. PRAYERS

Remember Francis and any others of our number who are

ill or having trials at this time.

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 !



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

June 26, 1988

ANNIVERSARY TIME!

This past week marks our family having been with you here in LaGrange for one year....that's right, a whole year! It seems like just yesterday that I attended a men's retreat at Indocan. and after having sat up most of the night was handed a post-hole digger the next morning to join in helping work on the camp. Something like the comment, "Let's see how good you are at digging these holes" was made, and I remember wondering where that talent fit into the work of the preacher! Well. very few holes but many challenges later, we can as a family say that we have enjoyed it. You have treated us well, and have taken care of our needs far beyond what we deserve or could have ever imagined. You truly are a very special group of people.

-Rov

"VIGILANTE VENGEANCE"

"They do not know what they are doing" Luke 23:34.

Thirty-seven years old. Thin, almost frail. Balding and bespectacled. An electronics buff. Law-abiding and timid. Certainly not a description you would give a vioilante. Certainly not the person you would cast to play Robin Hood or the Lone Ranger.

But that didn't bother the American public. When Bernhard Hugo Goetz blasted four would-be muggers in a New York subway, he instantly became a hero. A popular actress sent him a "love and kisses" telegram. "Thug-buster" T-shirts began to appear on the streets of New York City. A rock group wrote a song in

his honor. People gave and raised money to go toward his defense. Radio talk shows were deluged with callers. "They won't let it go," said one radio host.

It's not hard to see why.

Bernhard Goetz was an American fantasy come true. He did what every citizen wants to do. He fought back. He "kicked the bully in the shins." He "punched the villain in the nose." He "clobbered evil over the head."

This unassuming hero embodied a nationwide, even world-wide anger: a passion for revenge.

The outpouring of support gives clear evidence. People are mad. People are angry. There is a pent-up, boiling rage that causes us to toast a man who fearlessly (or fearfully) says, "I ain't taking it no more!" and then comes out with a hot pistol in each hand.

We're tired. We're tired of being bullied, harassed, and intimidated. We're weary of the serial murders, rapists, and hired assassins.

We're angry at someone, but we don't know who. We're scared of something, but we don't know what. We want to fight back, but we don't know how. And then, when a modern-day Wyatt Earp walks onto the scene, we applaud him. He is speaking for us! "That-a-way to go, Thug-Buster; that's the way to do it!"

Or is it? Is that really the way to do it? Let's think about our anger for just a minute.

Anger. It's a peculiar yet predictable emotion. It begins as a drop of water. An irritant. A frustration. Nothing big, just an aggravation. Someone gets your parking place. Someone pulls in front of you on the freeway. A waitress is slow and you are in a hurry. The toast burns. Drops of water. Drip. Drip. Drip. Drip.

Yet, get enough of these seemingly innocent drops of anger and before long you've got a bucket full of rage. Walking revenge. Blind bitterness. Unharnessed hatred. We trust no one and bare our teeth at anyone who gets near. We become walking time bombs that, given just the right tension and fear, could explode like Mr. Goetz.

Now, is that any way to live? What good has hatred ever brought? What hope has anger ever created? What problems have ever been resolved by revenge?

Have you ever wondered how Jesus kept from retaliating? Have you ever asked how He kept His control? Here's the answer. It's the second part of his statement, "for they do not know what they are doing." Look carefully. It's as if Jesus considered this bloodthirsty, death-hungry crowd not as murderers, but as victims. It's as if He saw in their faces not hatred but confusion. It's as if He regarded them not as a militant mob but, as He put it, as "sheep without a shepherd."

"They don't know what they are doing."

And when you think about it, they didn't. They hadn't the faintest idea what they were doing. They were a stir-crazy mob, mad at something they couldn't see so they took it out on, of all people, God.

But they didn't know what they were doing.

And for the most part, neither do we. We are still, as much as we hate to admit it, shepherdless sheep. All we know is that we were born out of one eternity and are frighteningly close to another. We play tag with the fuzzy realities of death and pain. We can't answer our own questions about love and hurt. We can't solve the riddle of aging. We don't know how to heal our own bodies or get along with our own mates. We can't keep ourselves out of war. We can't even keep ourselves fed.

Paul spoke for humanity when he confessed, "I do not know what I am doing."

Now, I know that doesn't justify anything. That doesn't justify hit-and-run drivers or kiddie-porn peddlers or heroin dealers. But it does help explain why they do the miserable things they do.

My point is this: Uncontrolled anger won't better our world, but sympathetic understanding will. Once we see the world and ourselves for what we are, we can help. Once we understand ourselves we begin to operate not from a posture of anger but of compassion and concern. We look at the world not with bitter frowns but with extended hands. We realize that the lights are out and a lot of people are stumbling in the darkness. So we light candles.

"They do not know what they are doing."

There is something about understanding the world that makes us want to save it, even to die for it. Anger? Anger never did anyone any good. Understanding? Well, the results are not as quick as the vigilante's bullet, but they are certainly much more constructive.

-Max Lucado No Wonder They Call Him the Savior

* * * * * * *

SISTER - TO - SISTER

(Will continue next week)

* * * * * * *

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU! To all the VBS teachers: Patti Copeland, Mary Ann Johnston, Luella Oakley, Donna Oakley, Robert Sowles, Penny Oakley, Deb Duzan, Barbara Noble, Pat Hall, Jane Gensic, & Diane Kimpel. Thank you Roy for leading the kids in the singing.

Monday - 75 Wednesday - 81 Friday - 81
Tuesday - 79 Thursday - 81

We had 7 parents visit the classrooms on Friday.

Thanks to Kathy Sowles, Becky Hatto, Bonnie Sowles, Amber Sowles & Thelma Hoggatt for making Kool-Aid & cookies.