

Spirit at work in our lives. He is open about His nature, His personality, His expectations, and His love. If we desire fellowship with Him, then we, like God, must become an "open book." Walking in the light in this passage depicts a disciple that is open about and shares his feelings, thoughts, doubts, fears, aspirations, qualms, reservations, attitudes and, specifically, sins. Too many Christians have a sense that they should never sin again and so they hide their sins and weaknesses from other Christians, from God, and ultimately from themselves. The call to "walk in the light" here is not a call to sinless perfection, but a call to openness and confession of sin. "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness." In I John 1:9, God teaches us that as long as we live "in the flesh" we will fight and at times lose battles with our own sinful nature. The more critical thing to learn here is that walking in darkness (hiding ourselves) multiplies our sin while "exposing" our sin results in being strengthened and forgiven. (See Ephesians 5:8-14)

Here are some thoughts you may have which enslave you to "dark" living:

1) I've already confessed this sin before; 2) I can deal with this myself; 3) He/she won't understand anyway; 4) I just don't want to be challenged on this again; 5) I'm too ashamed to mention this; 6) I don't want to disappoint my brother; 7) I shouldn't be struggling with this thing by now.

If you are letting thoughts like this control you as a Christian, you are not experiencing the freedom and healing of being open with your life, or as James 5:16 urges: "Confess your sins to one another so that you may be healed!"

The consequences of a Christian choosing to walk in darkness are incredibly severe:

1) You feel separated from God and other Christians and oppressed by God's hand (See Psalm 32). 2) It cripples your discipler's ability to work with and mold your true heart and wastes God's precious time. 3) It incapacitates you from sharing your faith because you feel hypocritical in your heart. 4) Ultimately, it hardens your heart to the point of being insensitive to sin, to God, and to others. (See Hebrews 3:12-29, 4:1).

The most chilling words at judgement are given by Jesus to "hard working" Christians that refused to expose and be vulnerable with their true hearts. "Depart from me you evildoers, I never knew you." We must, despite the inevitable sins in our lives, determine to be a people known by God and by one another!

"Whoever lives by the truth comes into the light so that it may be seen plainly that what he has done has been done through God." (John 3:21)

-Lee Deloney
San Francisco Church of Christ

SISTER - TO - SISTER

Do you ever wonder what the world really thinks of us, who call ourselves "Christians". I hear, "They are a good church-going family" or "That's a nice church". I also hear that about those who are of other religious groups.

Will we settle for this to be our reputation? Are we ready to step out and make personal changes so this congregation of the Lord's church will have the characteristics of a united family in "spirit and purpose" (Phillipians 2:2)?

Have we grown enough to see the need for a very deep and personal relationship with our Father so we can grow to be more like Him (Hebrews 13:21)?

Do we present an attitude that is not "complaining or arguing, so that (we) may become blameless and pure...in a crooked and depraved generation, in which (we) shine like stars in the universe as (we) hold out the word of life...(Phil. 2:12)?

Are we making all our requests to God through prayer, with thanksgiving (Phil. 4:6)? And trusting absolutely in HIS answer?

Well, this is the clincher I guess. John 13:34, "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." If He loves us unconditionally, guess what - we must love each other unconditionally. That means putting up with each others weaknesses, sins and growing pains. All of this, through Christ's kind of love, will spur us on not only to good works, but to be the light of the world.

-Barb

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ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- CAMP BANQUET - The annual Camp Indogan Appreciation Banquet is scheduled for Saturday evening, October 8th. Please see Dean for transportation and schedules.
- HARVEST FESTIVAL - Remember to invite your friends to come to our Festival on October 8. See agenda for specific details.
- NEW MEMBER LIST - There is a new member list on the table in the lobby.
- PRAYERS - Bob Morgan at home recovering from an auto accident.
- Harold DePriest recovering from his broken leg.
- Glova Spears and family in the passing of Wade.
- Tim Wise, Paul Currier, Don & Becky Hutto for strength to continue their new walk.
- Howard Carpenter, Kathy Sowles' uncle, who is in the hospital in Ft. Wayne with cancer.

THANK YOU

Thank you for your love in contributions made to the "Food Basket" located in the lobby. This is available to meet the needs of those in the community outside the church, but is more available especially for those members in need within the congregation here. We would like to build it up enough to sufficiently meet needs that arise during the end-of-year holiday season as they seem to be greater at that time. It's such a blessing to receive help when we need it - yet how much more are we blessed when we give it. Acts 20:35

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"The highest reward for a person's toil is not what they get for it, but what they become by it."

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"JESUS TOOK TIME TO BLEED: WE MUST TAKE TIME TO READ"

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.

Evangelist :

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

The TRANSFORMER

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

October 9, 1988

THERE IS NO GOD?

Jim Bishop, popular author of 21 books, including "The Day Christ Died" and "The Day Kennedy Was Shot," died in 1987. This column, written in the 1960's, was a favorite of his wife, Kelly.

There Is No God. All of the wonders around us are accidental. No almighty hand made a thousand-billion stars. They made themselves. No power keeps them on their steady course. The earth spins itself to keep the oceans from falling off toward the sun. Infants teach themselves to cry when they are hungry or hurt. A small flower invented itself so that we could extract digitalis for sick hearts.

The earth gave itself day and night, tilted itself so that we get seasons. Without the magnetic poles man would be unable to navigate the trackless oceans of water and air, but they just grew there.

How about the sugar thermostat in the pancreas? It maintains a level of sugar in the blood sufficient for energy. Without it, all of us would fall into a coma and die.

Why does snow sit on mountaintops waiting for the warm spring sun to melt it at just the right time for the young crops in farms below to drink? A very lovely accident.

The human heart will beat for 70 or 80 years without faltering. How does it get sufficient rest between beats? A kidney will filter poison from the blood, and leave good things alone. How does it know one from the other?

Who gave the human tongue flexibility to form words, and a brain to understand them, but denied it to all other animals?

Who showed a womb how to take the love of two persons and keep splitting a tiny ovum until, in time, a baby would have the proper number of fingers, eyes and ears and hair in the right

places, and come into the world when it is strong enough to sustain life?

There is no God?

-Jim Bishop
Oct. 1988
Reader's Digest

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SISTER - TO - SISTER

Not a one of us can ignore what our Lord is doing among us. He has brought two of our brothers from very serious conditions to health that now enables them to assemble with us. With men and doctors who did not know their outcomes, our Lord knew. "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him and He will make your paths straight." Proverbs 3:6.

Blessings are being heaped on families of this body. By some who are being generous, others and themselves are prospering when it looked like there was no way out of such burdens.

"A generous man will prosper; he who refreshes others will himself be refreshed. Those who are attending the Thursday night Bible Study, the Tuesday morning and other individual studies are growing and being convicted toward a fantastic relationship with each other and especially our Father.

"A wise man has great power, and a man of knowledge increases strength; for waging war you need guidance, and for victory many advisors."

Proverbs 24:5,6

The Lord is using us to bring those who don't know Him yet and is adding them to His body.

"The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, and he who wins souls is wise." Proverbs 11:30

Look around you, become aware, our Lord is active and moving among us.

"In his heart a man plans his course, but the Lord determines his steps." Proverbs 16:9

"Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and your plans will succeed."

Proverbs 16:3

-Barb

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ANNOUNCEMENTS:

MEMBER LIST ADDITIONS - Mary Krontz, Matthew, Bradley John
R. 7 Box 30 b
Angola, IN 46703 665-7674

Wanda Petre, Kyla, Amber
R. 2 Box 142 a
Fremont, IN 46737 833-3026

Eulalah Turpin, Brian, Amber, Jason
70922 Servison
White Pigeon, MI 69099 (616)483-9213

MEN'S MEETING - There will be a Men's Meeting following evening assembly.

ATTENTION TEACHERS - Be writing down your opinion about how the new material is working out for you

- There will be a teachers meeting Nov. 6th at 4:30 p.m. Please all teachers be there to discuss the new material.

- On Oct. 29th there will be a Teacher Training Session for all teachers of the High School and Jr. High classes. If you are interested in this age group or think you might be in the future, please feel free to attend.
Thanks from the Education Committee

BAKE SALE - There will be a Bake Sale on October 15 from 9 - 12 noon. Anyone wishing to contribute baked goods, please bring them to Patti Copeland's home. Have them on paper plates and wrapped in plastic. Proceeds going to roof repair.

PRAYERS

- Connie Davison for strength to hang in.

- Harold DePriest continuing to recover from injuries received in fall.

- Bob Morgan recovering from auto accident.

- John Powell, Vada Powell's grandson, in Parkview with injuries received in auto accident.

- Family of Bob Sowles Aunt Cora, who is terminally ill with cancer.

- Clint May, 6 mo. old nephew of Kevin May, had surgery.

- Judy Boyle's sister Susie awaiting results of tests.

- Sue Morgan will be undergoing foot surgery in future.

- Sharon Simpson sick with bronchitis.

Remember all these and any others you may know of who need our prayers at this time. Let's also remember to thank God for all our answered prayers!

ANNOUNCEMENTS CONT'D
MEN'S MEETING NOTES

- A binder with all notes from the Men's meetings from 7/87 until the present are in the copy room on the shelf for reference.
- FILES - There are now files in the lobby for every member on the updated list.
- PRAYERS - Continue to remember Harold DePriest and Bob Morgan as they continue to recover from their injuries.
- John Powell, Vada's grandson, still in Parkview from injuries received in auto accident.
- Sue Morgan for her foot problem.
- Our new Christians, Patti Copeland, Tim Wise, Paul Currier, Don & Becky Hutto.
- Sharon Simpson recovering from bronchitis.
- Family of Bob Sowles' Aunt Cora, who is terminally ill with cancer.

Remember all these and any others you may know of who need our prayers at this time.

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"JESUS TOOK TIME TO BLEED; WE MUST TAKE TIME TO READ"

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Wednesday

Bible Class	7:00 p.m.
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Evangelist :

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



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

October 16, 1988

THE WISDOM OF COLONIES

Many of us have seen birds in colonies - thousands and thousands or perhaps millions of birds living together. Some bird colonies can have more birds in a small area than can be counted and in reality, a majority of birds live in colonies. Of 260 species of sea birds recently studied by wildlife biologists, 98% nest and raise their babies in colonies. Many birds roost in colonies, including land forms such as turkeys, pelicans, quail, pigeons, starlings and crows.

A concerted effort by ornithologists in recent years has resulted in some incredibly complex discoveries which speak eloquently of the design that is seen in colonies of birds. Swallows nesting in colonies have been shown to help each other in locating prey. When cliff swallows are unsuccessful on locating insects, they return to the nesting area and wait for a successful swallow to return with prey. They then follow the successful bird back to where they obtained the prey. Similar behavior has been seen in ospreys, but with an interesting twist. Near Halifax, Nova Scotia, ospreys eat four kinds of fish - pollack, alewives, smelt and flounders. When an osprey returns with a smelt, pollack or alewife, the other ospreys in the colony are thrown into excited turmoil. All ospreys are in the air and follow the successful bird to the sea. If an osprey returns with a flounder, there is absolutely no reaction among the other birds. The reason for this behavior is that pollack, alewives and smelt are schooling fish, while the flounder is a solitary fish. Finding a flounder does not mean that any more are in the area, but finding schools of fish means a rich harvest of food is possible. The ability of birds to recognize different species of fish is remarkable and deliberate. When an osprey returns

with a pollack, alewife or smelt, the bird screeches and flies a patterned, attention-getting flight. When returning with a flounder, there is no noise or irregular flying behavior.

There are other advantages to colony groupings by birds. In one case, a bull moose was driven out of a nesting area by Franklin's gulls. Caciques, in Peru, have been shown to hunt up wasp nesting areas and nest among the wasps for protection. Evolutionists have suggested that colony nesting is a device that is destructive because of the attraction of predators and spread of disease, but the more we learn about the advantages of the behavior of colonies, the more we see a logical reason for the behavior. There is an intelligence behind the patterns of living things.

-John Clayton

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SISTER - TO - SISTER

No one has done more to liberate women than Jesus. In an age when females were ranked equal to slaves, Jesus acknowledged their worth and raised their status to equality with males before God. The gospels record many accounts of Christ interacting with women on the same level as He did with men. He healed women (Luke 8:42-48) shared His faith with them (John 4:4-26) allowed them to travel with His band of disciples (Matthew 27:55) and supported women when other men downgraded them (Luke 7:36-50, Mark 14:3-9).

In Joel 2:29, God states that "even on my servants both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days." Gal. 3:28 teaches that "there is neither...male or female for you are all one in Christ Jesus." If there is sexual bias in the church, it is a problem in people's hearts, not God's design.

Having equality before God, however, also means women are called to serve God as dilligently as men. Our femininity gives us a different role than men but no excuse for complacency. The lives of Esther, Sarah and the Proverbs 31 wife show us the kind of service we should be rendering in God's Kingdom. Romans 16:1-6 records praise for women in the early church and their accomplishments.

If Paul had listed your name in Romans 16, would he have written that you had "risked your life for him", beena "great help to many people", loved others "like a mother" and"worked very hard in the Lord"?

-Barb

ROOF REPAIR UPDATE

As yet our much needed roof repair job has not been done. Our contractor said that he would work it in as soon as he could. Hopefully soon!

The special contribution taken on Sept. 25th amounted to slightly less than \$1000.00. With the job cost set at \$1850.00, this means that yet another \$850.00 must be raised.

It is commendable that this amount of money has been given "over and above" our regular contributions by the members. There may be some yet that either could not give at the time or that were unaware of the special contribution that could now consider doing so. Knowing that another \$850.00 is needed and that any additional contribution would be welcome, we make this known.

In the remaining weeks before full payment is needed, anyone contributing toward this work, please earmark your contribution as "roof repair" and our treasurer, brother Dave Kimpel, will continue to apply it to this shortage.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS:

ATTENTION TEACHERS

- There will be a teachers meeting Nov. 6 at 4:30p.m. Please all teachers be there to discuss the new material.
- Be writing down your opinion about how the new material is working out for you.
- October 29 there will be a Teacher Training Session for all teachers of the High School and Jr. High classes. If you are interested in this age group or think you might be in the future, please feel free to attend.
- There will be a Teachers Appreciation Banquet on Saturday, November 12 beginning at 5:30 p.m. at the building. Please R.S.V.P. by November 6 to one of the education committee.

GUEST PREACHER

- Dick Hostetler will be preaching both services on Sunday, October 23.

NEW ADDRESS

- Craig Hostetler's new address is:
54-C Teson Garden Walk
Hazelwood, MO 63042 Phone # (314)621-1519

PRAYERS CONT'D

- Bonnie Sowles has bronchitis.
- Bob & Kathy's Aunt Cora terminally ill with cancer was sitting up this week.
- Roy Noble's mom is having some tests done.

Remember these in our prayers and any who might have been overlooked.



+ he **TRANSFORMER**

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

October 23, 1988

I am excited about the direction that our Sunday morning adult Bible classes will be taking beginning with the first Sunday of 1989! Beginning on January 8, 1989, the educational committee has chosen to combine both adult classes for the purpose of sharing discussion in a class designed to go back and re-discover some of the basics of the Christian life.

We will begin by looking at the Word of God as being the ultimate authority in all we do, as opposed to opinions and traditions. We will also study and discuss such topics as "How we got the Bible", "The Old Law Sacrificial System", and some other topics often overlooked in our preparation to be more equipped concerning our knowledge of God. If time permits, and the interest is there, perhaps we can add such subjects as "The Role and Authority of Elders and Leaders in the Church", etc. Enclosed in your bulletin today you will find a copy of the schedule we will be following for this class. Please pray in the weeks of 1988 that remain that this class will be productive, and if you fit the age group normally represented by these classes, be willing to attend.

I would also like to take this opportunity to invite you, if you are not already doing so, to attend the discussion and sharing sessions that are currently taking place at Joe and Lois Oakley's home on Thursday evenings. These begin at 7:00 p.m. sharp and end promptly at 8:00 p.m. Some of the ladies of the congregation have offered to babysit, if that is a need of yours. Check around and see who can serve in that way. Many of us have shared burdens and troubles during these sessions, and shared how God's word applies to these, in ways that have never been done in this congregation before. We encourage you to attend.

God bless you in your continuing efforts to live as Jesus.

-Roy

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Sunday

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

Evangelist :

Wednesday

Bible Class	7:00 p.m.
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Roy Noble - 463-4100 (hm.)
463-3571 (off.)

"I would rather have thousands to say to me at the judgement, 'We heard you preach, and you hurt our feelings,' than to have just one lost soul to say, 'I heard you preach and you did not tell me the truth.'"

-John T. Lewis

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"I was never so shocked and embarrassed in all my life. You just blurted out 'Amen' right in the middle of the sermon."

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SISTER - TO - SISTER

Submission to Authority

In all our lives, we in the Lord, are to be in submission. It starts as early as childhood. Being in submission to our parents' authority is a basic principle brought to us through many generations of God's people as He decreed. Ephesians 6:1 sets the motivation for submission to our parents - because "this is right".

Submission to governing authorities has its place in our lives as Christian women. Romans 13:1-6 establishes the authority God has given to our law and lawmakers of the land. Have you ever really seen the importance of following all traffic, being honest with your tax-return and being a true law abiding citizen? "Therefore it is necessary to submit to the authorities, not only because of possible punishment but also because of conscience". Romans 13:5. When we rebel against those authorities we are rebelling against what God instituted.

Colossians 3:18 - "Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord." Do we need any other reason for being submissive in our role as a wife? I think not!

In verse 22 and 23 a precedent is set for our submissive relationship with an employer. "Slaves, obey your earthly masters in everything; and do it, not only when their eye is on you and to win their favor, but

with sincerity of heart and reverence for the Lord. What ever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men."

"Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ" Ephesians 5:21.

"Obey your leaders (elders) and submit to their authority..." Hebrews 13:17a

It's easy to make a list of all those we need to submit to, but sisters; let's see submission as it really is. Maybe you didn't catch the theme that runs through these verses:

Submit...for this is right

Submit...to give reverence to God

Submit...for it is fitting in the Lord

Submission is a way of life that is pleasing to our God. Let's pray for each other sisters to become submissive to our Father and His will so our lives will be pleasing to Him.

-Barb

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ANNOUNCEMENTS:

TEACHERS

- There will be a teachers meeting Nov. 6 at 4:30 p.m. Please all teachers be there to discuss the new material.
- The Teacher Training Session for all High School and Jr. High teachers will be October 30 from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. If you are interested in this age group or think you might be in the future, please feel free to attend.
- There will be a Teachers Appreciation Banquet on Saturday, November 12 beginning at 5:30 p.m. at the building. Please R.S.V.P. by November 6 to one of the education committee.

SONG LEADERS

- A meeting of all song leaders is scheduled for this Sunday evening at 4:30 in classroom #10.

CARE GROUPS

- Care Groups 1 & 4 will be meeting at the building October 29 for a Costume Party. See Zone Board in lobby for further details.

PRAYERS

- Gloria Cunningham, Barbara's sister, will be going to Mayo Clinic.
- Chris Deisler's mother is in the hospital in Ann Arbor for heart tests.
- Nannie Hall had tests done concerning her cancer.
- Harold DePriest has a new cast, the pins are out.
- Bob Morgan got his rubber bands removed and can eat soft food.
- Susie D., Judy's sister, concerning her cancer.

WHEN STORMS SURROUND

When rain around is falling
And thunder growls above,
Yet Jesus has enclosed us
Within His tender love,

When floods around us gather
And everything seems lost,
Remember Jesus bought us,
And at an awful cost.

If everything looks hopeless
With nothing left for you,
Just lean your heart to Jesus,
He'll tell you what to do.

He'll show you of your needs
And what task is for you.
Just pray, trust and obey Him.
He'll show He loves you, too.

- GAY RAY

 ^{h e}
TRANSFORMER

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

October 30, 1988

ARE YOU PART OF THE ROYAL PRIESTHOOD?

It was Plato who suggested that the common people should not have any voice in shaping their own society. He claimed they are not educated or wise enough to even know what is best for themselves. Only the elite should be allowed to speak, rule, and hold positions of honor.

Aren't you glad that this is not true in the kingdom of God? It is interesting to look at the type of people Jesus chose to be His disciples, who would later direct the growth of the Christian movement. They were not wealthy politicians, or men of influence. They were not educated religious leaders. Rather Jesus chose fishermen, and even one tax collector and one zealot. What an unlikely group of leaders!

Then when the church began to develop, the Lord saw fit for elders and deacons to lead and care for the people of God (I Tim.3, Acts 20:17,28, Titus 1:5-7, Phil. 1:1, I Pet. 5:5). But that does not mean they were the only ones appointed for ministry.

Everyone who is saved by Christ's blood is part of a "royal priesthood..a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His wonderful light" (I Pet. 2:9). We have all been commanded to "live such good lives among the pagans that.. they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us" (I Pet. 2:12).

Whether a person has been a child of God one day or fifty years he has received the Holy Spirit; "God lives in all of us, from the most educated to the least educated, "competent as ministers of a new covenant" (II Cor. 3:6). It is the pleasure and responsibility of every member of the body of Christ to minister to one another (I Cor. 12:21-26), and to those who are persihing (II Cor. 2:14-17). Every evangelist, elder, and deacon must be a recipient of ministry as well as a vessel of ministry.

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Bible Class 7:00 p.m.

Evangelist :

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

This means everyone has a voice and a task. If you are a child of God, you are a minister! Jesus demolished all clergy - laity distinctions when He said, "Do not call any man on earth 'father', for you have only one Father and He is in heaven. Nor are you to be called 'teacher', for you have one Teacher, the Christ. The greatest among you will be your servant" (Mt. 23:9-11).

If you are God's child you are part of the royal priesthood. How are you doing in your ministry lately?

-Donmoyer Digest

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SISTER - TO - SISTER

Submission to Serve Others Needs

Phillipians 2:4-7 teaches that, "each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interest of others. Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: who being in the very nature of God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant..."

God has never said it will be easy to give up our rights and put the needs of others ahead of our own, but He had commanded us to do that because He knows that it is only through self-denial and self-forgetting that we find self-fulfillment. He had created us "to do good works" (Eph. 2:10) and to function on the fuel of sacrificial love. Selfish ambition is on the Galatians 5 list of sins because it destroys love and relationships.

Tabitha was a disciple who served others like Jesus did. Acts 9:36 records that she "was always doing good and helping the poor." Phoebe, "a servant of the church in Cenchrea" was "a great help to many people" (Rom. 16:1-2) and Priscilla served so well that "all the churches of the Gentiles "were grateful for her" (Rom. 16:3).

Make your eyes and hearts aware of those around you. After you greet one another today and fellowship, go home and make a list of needs you heard about. Choose as many as possible to act upon. Serve one another!

-Barbara

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ANNOUNCEMENTS:

5th SUNDAY SINGING - Today is another 5th Sunday, so come this evening prepared to sing praises to God!

- There will also be singing at Miller's Merry Manor every 5th Sunday at 2:30 p.m.

FOOD BASKET UPDATE - You will be encouraged to know that this has adequately met the needs of several families within the body here in the past few days. Thanks very much to those who made that possible. What we have available now has dwindled significantly. If there are those of you who could help build this back up it sure would be appreciated.

SINGSPIRATION - There will be a dinner and singspiration at the Kendallville church building on Saturday, November 19. Dinner will be at 6:00 p.m. and the Master's Image quartet will be singing at 8:00 p.m. Come join in the time of fellowship and praise to God.

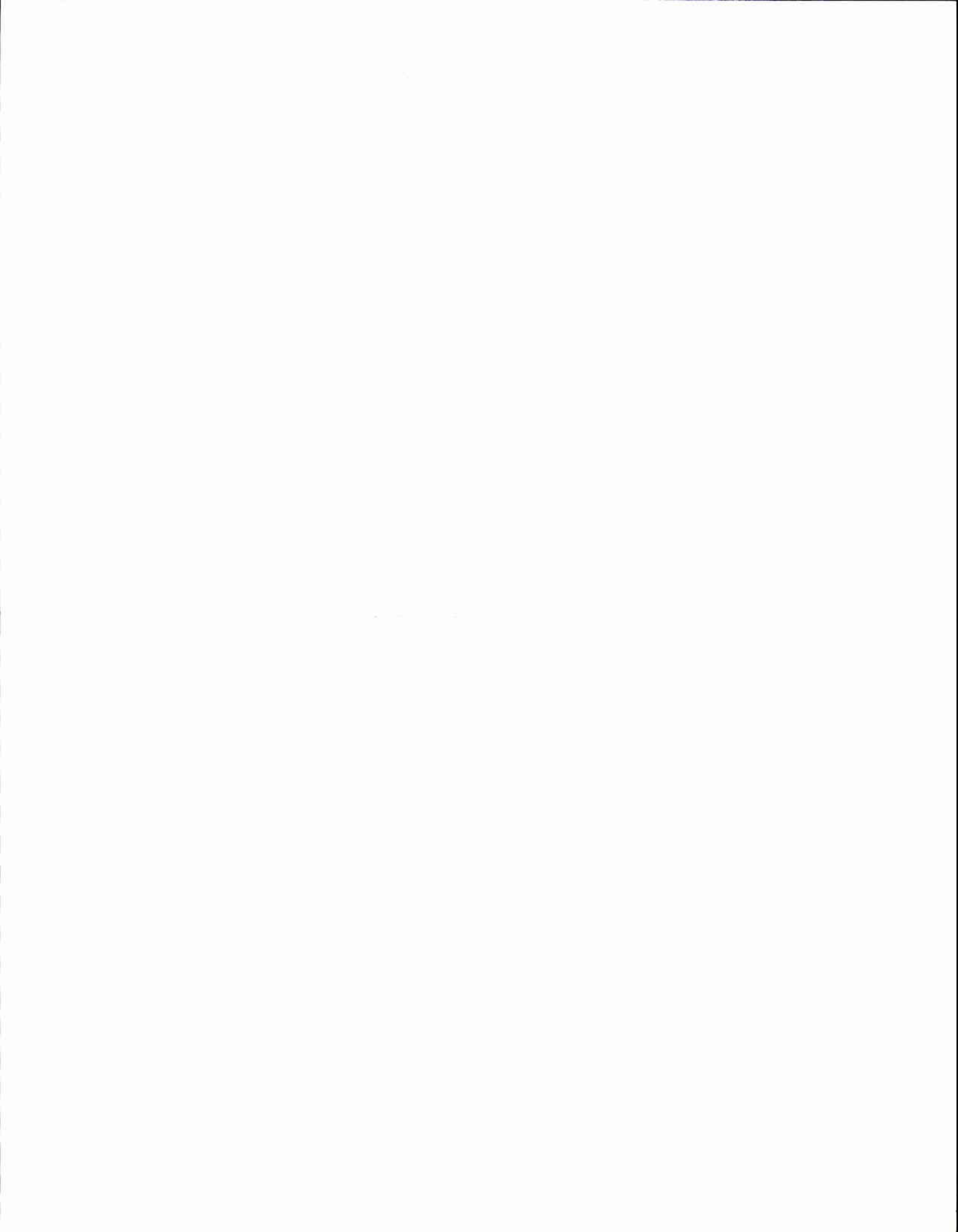
NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS	-	7	Patti Copeland	27	Michael Stayner
		12	Diane Kimpel	28	Lisa Oakley
		21	Michelle Hall	28	Mike Hall
		22	Pete Lomeli	29	David Kimpel
		25	Roy Noble	29	Drew Deisler
		25	Joe Oakley	30	Donna Oakley

HAVE A HAPPY DAY!!

PRAYERS

- Gloria Cunningham & family as she goes to Mayo Clinic for tests.
- Roy Noble's parents as she is suffering from back problems.
- Nannie Hall had good test results, her cancer hasn't spread to any vital organs and they got it all.
- Harold DePriest as he still has a ways to go in his recuperation from his broken leg.
- Bob Morgan that he will continue to recover from his auto accident.

1. (1/8/89) - The Authority of the Word
2. (1/15/89) - How we got the Bible : Pt. I- The Production of the Old Test.
3. (1/22/89) - " " " " : Pt. II-The Transmission of the O.T.
4. (1/29/89) - " " " " : Pt.III-The English Bible before King James
5. (2/5/89) - " " " " : Pt.IV -The Kings James Version
6. (2/12/89) - " " " " : Pt. V -The Revised Versions
7. (2/19/89) - How to Study the Bible : Pt. I - Interpreting the Bible
8. (2/26/89) - " " " " : Pt.II - Using the Study Tools
9. (3/5/89) - Who is God? (The Nature of God)
10. (3/12/89) - Man's Problem: Sin (Light & Darkness)
11. (3/19/89) - Faith
12. (3/19/89) - Repentance
13. (3/26/89) - Discipleship (includes Counting the Cost)
14. (4/2/89) - Baptism
15. (4/9/89) - Grace & Works
16. (4/16/89) - The Coming of the Kingdom : Pt. I - Old & New Test. Predictions
17. (4/23/89) - " " " " " : Pt.II - Fulfillment of the Predictions
18. (4/30/89) - The Nature of the Church (The Body)
19. (5/7/89) - Baptism of the Holy Spirit: Pt. I - The Indwelling of the Holy Spirit
and the Baptism of the H. Spirit
20. (5/14/89) - " " " " " : Pt.II - The Miraculous Gifts
21. (5/21/89) - The Old Law Sacrificial System : Introduction
22. (5/28/89) - " " " " " : Pt. I - The Burnt Offering
23. (6/4 /89) - " " " " " : Pt. II- The Meal Offering
24. (6/11/89) - " " " " " : Pt.III- The Peace Offering
25. (6/18/89) - " " " " " : Pt. IV- The Sin Offering
26. (6/25/89) - " " " " " : Pt. V - The Trespass Offering
27. (7/2/89) - " " " " " : Pt. VI- The Day of Atonement Offering
28. (7/9/89) - An Overview of Acts (The Beginning of the Church)
29. (7/16/89) - The Nature of Worship
30. (7/23/89) - Prayer & Fasting
31. (7/30/89) - The Lord's Supper: Pt. I - The Passover Background
32. (8/6/89) - " " " " : Pt. II- The Supper in the 1st century and today.
33. (8/13/89) - Church Assembly
34. (8/20/89) - Giving
35. (8/27/89) - Music in the Assembly
36. (9/3/89) - Confession
37. (9/10/89) - Other Religions (Question & Answer period; can be extended if need)
38. (9/17/89) - The Restoration Period (Restoration History)
39. (9/24/89) - Undenominational Christianity



A young man stood to preach his first sermon. He was so frightened that he could hardly speak, but he had written a good, long sermon so he just kept plodding on through it.

"Speak up!" a man yelled from the back.

"We can't hear you back here!"

The young man tried to preach louder. But in a little while the man called out again, "We can't hear you !"

The young man tried a little harder, but he became more frightened by the minute. Finally, the man in the back stood up. "We can't hear a thing you are saying!"

Another churchgoer in the front stood up, turned around, and asked, "What are you complaining about? Just sit down and thank God, or I will change places with you."

* * * * *

"JESUS TOOK TIME TO BLEED; WE MUST TAKE TIME TO READ"

Grange Church of Christ
R.5, Box 13
Grange, 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.)

The TRANSFORMER

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

November 6, 1988

I faintly remember a song about a man and his horse and how they were caught in a terrible snow storm. They had traveled many miles and were only 100 yards from home when they decided to rest. After all they were tired from all of their past labors and were cold and they rightly deserved a break, Right? Well the sad conclusion of the song is that the man and his horse were found the next day frozen to death. They were so close. A brother in Christ who works for the Forest Service in Arizona said that when one is caught in a snow storm he is very tempted to curl up and go to sleep. But that is the wrong thing to do for when one rests in that manner he may never wake up. Concerning the road home for Christians Paul said, "Let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we shall reap if we do not grow weary" (Gal. 6:9). The man was so close to his salvation but lost it because he gave up too soon. How about Christians today? If we could only encourage other Christians not to give up on God and His church for we are so close to our inheritance. In Romans 13:11 we're told "--For now salvation is nearer to us than when we believed". At times we may not "feel" like going on or we get "burnt-out" or we may just want to quit, thinking it's not worth it. But before we do remember what happened to the man in the snow storm and how close he was to safety. As Jesus said to the church at Smyrna so He says to us: "--Be faithful unto death and I will give you a crown of life" (Rev. 2:10).

-Ed Bialon

SISTER - TO - SISTER

Plan Plotting

What is it that you are trying to achieve right now in your life? Maybe a few years ago you were working on getting rid of pimples, graduating from high school, finding a husband or the right job. Today, is it raising children, having "financial security", failing health, loneliness, a discontented marriage, boredom...?

Proverbs 16:3 has a pretty straight forward answer for accomplishing everything we do. "Commit to the Lord whatever you do and your plans will succeed." Our Father loves us so very much that His will for our best interest is always first no matter which direction we think we must go. "Many are the plans in a man's heart, but it is the Lord's purpose that prevails" (Prov. 19:21).

There are many great things we plan to accomplish. Committing ourselves to Him through prayer and our daily life will ensure the best possible situation for us and our plans. In Proverbs 20:18 we are instructed to get advice when we make plans. I can think of no one better than our Lord to consult on all we do.

Sometimes it takes many twists and turns in our plans to keep us or get us closest to our creator. Knowing and experiencing God is our key to eternal life which Jesus expressed in His prayer to God in John 17:3. Sisters, the more we know who Jesus is and what He is for our lives, all of our plans for anything we do will be aimed toward Him. He created us to love and to be loved by Him.

-Barbara

* * * * *

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- TEACHERS MEETING - There will be a teachers meeting today, Nov. 6 at 4:30 p.m. All teachers please try to make it as we will be discussing our new class material.
- Teachers Appreciation Banquet - November 12 there will be a Teachers Appreciation Banquet at the building. The time is 5:30 with lots to eat, good entertainment, and a guest speaker. Just a fun night out!
- LADIES RETREAT - The Ladies Retreat will be December 9 & 10. There is a sign up sheet on the Secret Sister table. For more information contact Diane Hostetler or Patti Copeland.
- THANKSGIVING SINGSPIRATION BANQUET - Saturday, November 19, 1988. Dinner will be served at 6p.m. and gospel singing by the Master's Image Quartet at 8 p.m.

FOOD BASKET

- Get Off Your Can Day - November 20 - Everyone who can is encouraged to bring one can, two cans or more cans so others can have the cans for Thanksgiving.

PRAYERS

- Gloria Cunningham, Barbara's sister, will be going to Mayo Clinic on Tuesday.
- NANNIE HALL there was more cancer found last week.
- Wray Newkirk was involved in an auto accident.
- Harold DePriest and Bob Morgan as they continue to improve from their accidents.
- Sue Morgan with her foot problem.
- Jim Henson as he continues to gain strength from his heart surgery.
- Any others who haven't been mentioned that are ill or are struggling at this time.
- Dean & Thelma Hoggatt traveled to Arizona this past week due to the death of Dean's brother.

* * * * *

BE WITH ME LORD

Thy will be done, dear Lord, I pray,
And lead me all along the way,
And may I ponder every word,
Obey it as a little bird.
Lord, let me see when I am wrong,
Follow you as I go along.
Lord, let your word in me instill
A strong desire to do your will.
Lord, if I wander, call me back
And show me what it is I lack.
In everything I do, instill
A greater strength to do your will.
In everything I say or do,
Lord let it all be done for you,
And as I go along my way,
Please be with me, dear Lord, I pray.

Gay Ray



SCORECARD 88



U.S. PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION 1988

Michael Dukakis
Democrat

George Bush
Republican

Opposes	Pledge Not to Raise Taxes	Supports
Opposes	Death Penalty for Drug Dealers Who Murder	Supports
Opposes	SDI (Defense Against Nuclear Attack)	Supports
Opposes	Parental Choice In Education (Vouchers)	Supports
Opposes	Aid To Nicaraguan Freedom Fighters	Supports
Opposes	Voluntary Prayer in Public Schools	Supports
Supports	Furloughs for Convicted Murderers	Opposes
Opposes	Balanced Budget Amendment	Supports
Supports	Taxpayer Funded Abortions	Opposes
Supports	Gun Control	Opposes
Supports	Special Rights for Homosexuals	Opposes



INDIANA GOVERNORS RACE



Evan Bayh
Democrat

John Mutz
Republican

Supports	Abortion	Opposes
Opposes	Education Vouchers	Supports
not committed	Continued Freedom for Home Schools	Supports
Supports	ERA	Opposes
not committed	Continued Freedom for Church Day Care	Supports
not committed	Continued Freedom for Christian Schools	Supports

There are inherent limitations in judging the qualifications of an incumbent on the basis of certain selected votes. Considerations should be given to unrecorded matters such as performance on subcommittees and constituent service

For more information on the candidates positions see Voters Guide 88

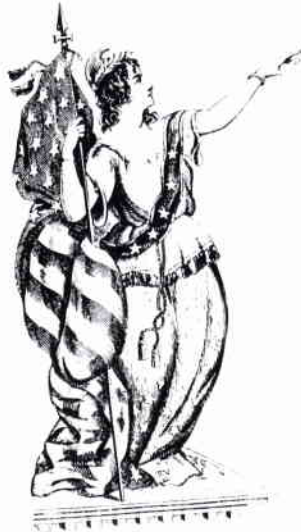
1001 Pennsylvania Ave. NW Suite 850, Washington D.C. 20004 202-393-1333

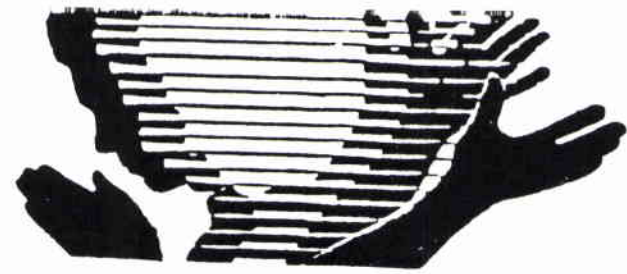
State Senate District 13

Dennis J.
Sprunger
Democrat

Robert L.
Meeks
Republican

Undecided	Homosexual Rights	Opposes
Supports	School Prayer	Opposes
Undecided	Parental Consent for Birth Control Devices	Supports
Supports	Lottery	Supports





TRANSFORMER

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

November 13, 1988

ENJOYING CHRISTIANITY

I love being a Christian! People do not view their Christian lives with joy because they allow Satan to fill their hearts with bad rather than good attitudes. We must get the right attitudes in our hearts so that we can have the right attitudes in our lives. I believe our Christianity should be a blast and if you follow these biblical directives, I know your life will be changed.

Best Friends. Jesus taught us the secret of joy when He spoke of the two greatest commandments. He made life simple and full! We were all created to love and be loved. God is the one who provides us with love and people are our opportunity to express our love. We need to believe that God is really out to make our lives awesome. We must become convinced that making best friends with God and people will change our lives. Quiet Time will become the most thrilling time of the day! Sharing our faith will become fun because we actually care about the person! Discipling will be refreshing as we share love with another Christian. Teens - we must stop looking at relationship with God and men as a burden and instead see the joy.

Loving Life. There are so many people today on drugs, alcohol and music as an escape that they cannot love life. My activities as a Christian are enjoyable, but they also have a purpose. I want to love people and by allowing them an opportunity to get close to me I give them the greatest love offering a man could give - the message of Jesus Christ.

Always Rejoicing. The circumstances of life sometimes do not work out the way you want them to and it is discouraging. In Philippians 4:4, Paul tells us to rejoice in the Lord always. No matter what our circumstances, God is working in our behalf, constantly trying to love us. Focus on God, not your situation! The greatest joy stealer is sin. When we hide sins like lust, lying, or cheating it destroys us. When we do not tell people about these things we do not know how to change, nor how to accept God's forgiveness. We become burdened with guilt, discouraged by constant failure and soon have a great desire to fall away. The solution that will bring back joy is openness and repentance. We need to be open so we can get an older Christian's help. They can also share their own experiences and how they changed. Once this has taken place, we must be willing to work hard at changing. Whether it is our circumstances or sin, we have a God who is greater than both so we can constantly rejoice. He will always forgive us, always give us His Holy Spirit to help us change and always be there with an understanding and compassionate ear.

Teachable Hearts. I remember a time when I was struggling spiritually. There were even doubts in my mind about my salvation. I opened my life and found my salvation was sure, but my heart was not. I was told I was not a spiritual man and given specific advice on how to change. It was hard to face who I was, but also relieving. I followed the advice and I praise God because I have grown so much since.

-Trust! Obey! Never Give Up! Growth brings a lot of joy!

I know that my Christian life is filled with joy because of these things. Stay open, learn and as a consequence enjoy Christianity!

-Joe Garmon, Jr.

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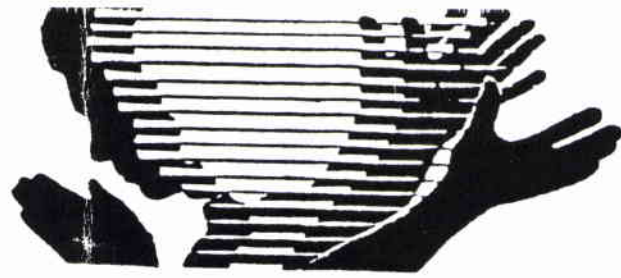
ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- MEN'S MEETING - There will be a men's meeting tonight following evening service.
- SISTER BULLETIN - Barbara's Sister - to - Sister article will be replaced with a monthly Sister - to - Sister Bulletin.
- THANKSGIVING SINGSPIRATION BANQUET - Saturday, November 19, 1988 at the Kendallville Church of Christ. Dinner will be served at 6:00 p.m. and gospel singing by the Master's Image Quartet at 8:00 p.m.
- LADIES RETREAT - The Ladies Retreat will be December 9 & 10. There is a sign up sheet on the Secret Sister table. For more information contact Diane Hostetler or Patti Copeland.
- FOOD BASKET - GET OFF YOUR CAN DAY - November 20 - Everyone who can is encouraged to bring one can, two cans or more cans so others can have the cans for Thanksgiving.
- NEW ADDRESS - Alma Dorris has a new address:
220 So. Mountain St.
Apt #16 P.O.Box 16
LaGrange Apartments
LaGrange, IN 46761
- PRAYERS - Gloria Cunningham still undergoing tests at Mayo Clinic.
- Nannie Hall with her cancer.
- Sue Morgan will be having foot surgery in the near future.
- Harold DePriest and Bob Morgan as they continue to recover from their accidents.
- Paul Himes in the passing of his wife Geneva.
- Dean Hoggatt and family in the passing of two of Dean's brothers.
- Dave Kimpel's Mom is suffering with a blood clot in her leg.
- Earl Martin, Barbara's uncle, has Lupas.
- Any others that need our prayers at this time that haven't been mentioned. Thank God for all the answered prayers too!

* * * * *

WHEN JESUS IS STUDIED, ACTS THE RESULT"

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



TRANSFORMER

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

November 20, 1988

"NOT WHAT THEY EXPECTED"

A friend of mine, who is an avid walker, has been after me for months to join her in her addiction. Recently, I made the mistake of being at her house at "walking time" and was shanghaied into going along. Actually, she didn't kidnap me as much as she deceived me. Not willfully, I'll admit, but I certainly did not get what I expected. You see, she invited me to go walking with her. It was a pleasant night, and a stroll sounded appealing, so I agreed. Little did I know I'd joined forces with a woman driven to break land speed and endurance records. After 20 minutes, I was puffing so hard that railroadcrossing guards were lowering as I approached. After 30 minutes, some unseen assailant drove a dagger up through my ribs, and I began to suffocate. After 35 minutes, the two jello-sticks that I once called legs gave way beneath me, and I lay in agony as I watched the cloud of dust that was my "walking" partner disappear as she looked over her shoulder - puzzled, waving at me to catch up with her.

I "grew up" in the church, and as far back as I can remember, one question, like a troublesome little dog, seems to have been always nipping at our heels: Why do so many people return to the world and renounce the commitment they once made to our Lord?

Our Christian life is often compared to a walk. We might even use that metaphor in evangelizing unbelievers. The problem is that, too often, our new brothers and sisters find out a few weeks or months or perhaps even years into their Christian walk that this isn't the pleasant stroll they expected. While some people are able to step up their pace and stick with the journey as they come to understand what they've begun, many others simply drop, exhausted, rubbing the blisters and wondering why they ever agreed to try.

You see, our rallying cry has for too long been to make converts, when Jesus' commission was to make disciples. There's a difference. Success in terms of the Christian mission should not be determined by how many people we convince to start the walk, but by how well we try to equip them to complete it. Perhaps it's time for us as Christians to re-examine what Jesus told disciples he expected of our walk. And perhaps it's time for us to begin sharing those expectations with people before they take their first steps.

In Matthew 10:16-38, Jesus gives us a picture of three things he expects for us:

Jesus expects persecution. In verse 16, Jesus says to his disciples, "I am sending you as sheep among wolves. Therefore be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves."

If sheep are to go out among wolves, then, it seems only logical that they will face hardship. And Jesus tells us in verses 17-23 that persecution will come from all quarters.

The rightness of our being treated wrongly is a difficult concept to grasp, but an important one. You see, I used to think that following Christ was an ancient version of How To Win Friends and Influence People. I used to think the Golden Rule contained the promise of reciprocity. In other words, my version read, "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you, and they will." Jesus, however, promises just the opposite. He says when you treat people like I do, expect them to treat you like they did me. (A little hint: they killed him.)

Jesus expects us to enter into proclamation. In verses 26-33, Jesus talks of the importance of explaining the hope we have in Him - even if it means persecution. In fact, Jesus points out, there is nothing that man can do to us that can compare to what God's holiness will compel Him to do if we deny His Son.

Jesus expects priority. Perhaps Jesus took a deep breath as He summed up all His expectations in verses 34-38.

Today, a common method of persuading people of their need for Jesus is the argument that becoming a Christian will "fix" their lives. You have family problems? Become a Christian. You're not the success you had expected to be by this age? Become a Christian. These are entirely the wrong motives for the walk. In fact, they are entirely worldly motives. We need to teach people that their decision to follow Jesus should be based on who He is - the Son of God - and the authority His identity gives Him.

Isn't it time we stopped looking over our shoulders - puzzled, and waving at the weary to catch up? Let's try to let people know before they get blisters on their toes that we're not inviting them on a pleasant evening's stroll. Let's give them a chance to decide at the start if they're willing to put on their walking shoes. True, we might end up with fewer "starters" that way. But Jesus didn't call us to recruit "starters" : He called us to recoup souls.

-Jamie Atchley
Image, Nov. 1988

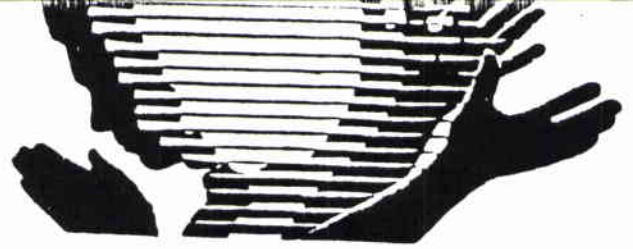
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ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- MEMBERS - Please check your files in the lobby.
- CARE GROUPS - Care Group 4 will be meeting November 26 at 5:30 at Judy Boyle's home. This will be Pot Luck and it's open to all Care Groups. Bring a friend The more the merrier.
- Care Group 2 will be meeting on December 4 at Mike and Pat Hall's right after morning services - chili.
- PRAYERS - Gloria Cunningham has an infection in her gall bladder and will have surgery. This should take care of all her health problems. Thank God.
- Nannie Hall is having some reactions to her cancer medication.
- Earl Martin (Barb's uncle) does not have Lupas as thought before. Another answer to prayer.
- Tim Wise for stronger faith.
- Remember these and any others in your daily prayers. Praise God for all the answers to our prayers!

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



TRANSFORMER

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

December 4, 1988

THE CHURCH: A NEGLECTED PERSPECTIVE

A task we have struggled with from the first century until now centers around self-understanding. What is the church? How shall we understand our role? How do we want to be seen by the world?

For the most part, we have focused on theology to define the church. So we have researched and argued issues such as organization, doctrine, worship, and mission. It has helped. But it has not gone far enough. It has not created a church as dynamic as the one you read about in the New Testament.

From the standpoint of the neglected dimension, here are four words which need priority status in our thinking:

1. Community. People need to belong, to be accepted, to fit in a larger group. Of all people, the church should be able to give this message to its members. We have been accepted by God; we must accept one another. No castes. No favoritism. No discrimination or prejudice. The church is the body of Christ, and every member has a role to fill for its health and welfare.
2. Love. The unique bond which holds the church together as a cohesive body is love. Not guilt. Not fear. Not duty. God is love. So, since we have our Father's seed in us, we are learning to love one another (cf. 1 John 3:14). Love casts our fear, enhances faith, and creates life. Existing as an oasis of love in a world of suspicion and hatred, the church is both salt and light to the world around us.
3. Redemption. Because of its relationship to Jesus, the church is a redemptive body. Christ's blood flows within his body, just as our blood flows within our physical bodies. That blood nourishes and cleanses every part of the body. It produces growth. It creates health. It generates energy. In addition, the concern of the different members of the body for one another is also redemptive. Mutual protection and concern are customary. Wounds are tended lovingly. Redemptive healing occurs.
4. Attractiveness. When the church exhibits the beauty of a bride adorned for her husband (cf. Eph. 5:25-27), every head will turn to see it. People who have grown weary of sin's ugliness will eagerly renounce evil for the sake of spiritual purity.

When we really are an attractive community of redemptive love, we will have solved our concern about both edification (ie., strengthening the saved) and outreach (ie., evangelizing the lost). Our self-image will produce boldness. Our image before a watching world will draw sinners to their Savior.

We've neglected these issues. We dare not do so any longer.

-Rubel Shelly

LOST If you have seen or know the whereabouts of the wireless microphone that normally stays under the pulpit, please let Roy know. It is a Radio Shack brand. Thank you.

* * * * *

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

CARE GROUPS

- Care Group 2 are meeting today for a Chili Potluck at Mike and Pat Hall's immediately following morning assembly.

DECEMBER

BIRTHDAYS

- 3	Hollie Hall	26	Nick Pepito
5	Kathy Hughes	26	Dianne Hostetler
8	Connie Davison	28	Rick Morgan
8	Bob Morgan	29	Alison Gensic
11	Zella Bellaire	29	Jerrod Noble
18	Fred Oakley	31	Jane Gensic

DECEMBER

ANNIVERSARIES

7	Midge & Millard Hughes		
10	Rick & Annie Green	21	Kevin & Sally May

BIRTHDAY PARTY

- For Michael Stayner immediately following morning services today at his home. (Judy Boyle's)

GUEST SPEAKER

- Today we will have the previlage of listening to Dick Hostetler speak for both morning and evening services.

NEW PHONE #

- Dan & Connie Davison new phone number is: (219)475-5947

PRAYERS

- Jim Carpenter, Kathy Sowles' brother, was injured at work.
- Millie Mast, Rose Mast's mother-in-law, (friend of Mary Ann J.) has cancer. Also Riley and Ada Stark, Rose's parents are in poor health.
- Tim Wise having struggle with faith.
- Bob Sowles' Aunt Cora passed away Sunday, funeral was last Tuesday.
- Sue Morgan had her foot surgery Tuesday and has to be off her feet for two weeks.
- Francis Springer found out she has lymphatoma in her arms which causes her to drop things.
- Nannie Hall was told by her doctor in Ft. Wayne that she doesn't have cancer. She is still having some congestion due to a cold.
- Elizabeth Swartzentruber, Mary Ann Johnston's mother, had lazer surgery for some skin cancer on her face on Friday.
- John Bishop needing a heart transplant.

Remember to pray for these and any others you know of that weren't mentioned, in your daily prayers. Thank God for all the answered prayers!

LADIES RETREAT

- Be sure to get your reservations in to Patti Copeland or Dianne Hostetler by December 7th.

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"JESUS TOOK TIME TO BLEED: WE MUST TAKE TIME TO READ!"

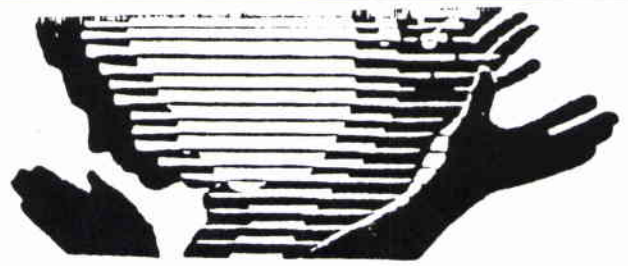
LaGrange Church of Christ
R.R.5, Box 13
LaGrange, IN 46761



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TRANSFORMER

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



December 11, 1988

JESUS: The Healer Of Troubled Souls

Recently, a TV talk show interviewed a group of teenage boys who were guilty of sexually abusing children. One of the juvenile sex offenders admitted to having many victims ranging from four to seventeen years old. When he was apprehended his only regret was that he was caught, but after a period of treatment he now feels agony for his victims. When asked, "what should be done to you if you violate another person once you are released from detention?," he responded, "I should be sent to the electric chair."

There are many groups of people in our culture who live life with a sense of guilt or alienation. Those who are addicted to drugs and alcohol, those who live on the street, and those who are dependent on public help to deal with physical or mental handicaps often feel unwanted and rejected.

In Mark 5 we find a story of a person who was feared and rejected. He was possessed by a legion of demons, and he lived in the tombs. His neighbors feared him and wanted to control him, but when they bound him with chains he would break the chains with his supernatural strength. We know he did not feel good about himself because "night and day..he would cry out and cut himself with stone." It reminds me of so many hurting people today who have trouble sleeping, or even become suicidal.

But notice that the evil spirit was subdued and the man was brought back to "his right mind" in the presence of Jesus. Jesus sent the man back to his family to share what the Lord had done for him, and "all the people were amazed." The next time Jesus came to that region the people were more receptive to him (Mark 6:53-54).

The only way to find true peace for a troubled heart is to come to know Jesus. He can give you a whole new view of yourself, and grant you an important mission which will add to your self esteem. The mental health professionals may be able to help people with special problems, like the juvenile sex offender already mentioned. But if he really wants to break his cycle of sin it is going to take the power of God working in his heart and life. Only Jesus can deliver us from slavery to sin or low self esteem. Only Jesus can truly heal our brokenness and grant us new life.

-Dick Clay

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ANNOUNCEMENTS:

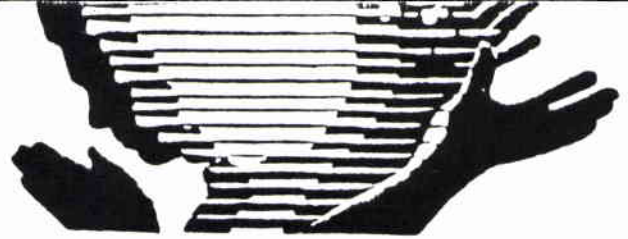
- MEN'S MEETING - Tonight immediately following evening assembly there will be a men's meeting.
- NEW ADDRESS - Dan & Connie Davison's new address is:
R. 1, Box 294
Pleasant Lake, IN 46779
- SHULTS-LEWIS COMMODITY - The Shults-Lewis commodity - Velveeta Cheese - will be picked up today.
- CARE GROUPS - Care Groups 1 will be meeting today immediately following morning services at Joe & Kathy Hughes'. They will be having a baked potato bar. Bring a topping and a gag gift and come enjoy the fellowship.
- PRAYERS - Austin Copeland's mother was diagnosed as having Lupas and is in the hospital with kidney failure.
- Jim Carpenter, Kathy Sowles brother, has gone home from the hospital.
- Francis Springer for courage as her condition has worsened.
- Tim Wise in his struggle with faith.
- Sue Morgan in her recovery from foot surgery.
- Nannie Hall with her health problems and for a safe trip for the holidays.
- Johnnie Davison was in a car accident last week. The car was totaled but Johnnie was OK except for some bruised.
- Angola congregation for unity.
- Harold DePriest as he continues to recover from his broken leg.
- John Bishop for recovery from his heart transplant.
- Millie Mast, Rose Mast's mother-in-law, with her battle with cancer.
- Remember these in your daily prayers as well as any that were not mentioned here.

* * * * *

MONEY

Money will buy a bed but not sleep; books but not brains; food but not appetite; finery but not beauty; a house but not a home; medicine but not health; luxuries but not culture; amusement but not happiness; religion but not salvation - a passport to everywhere but heaven.

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



TRANSFORMER

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

December 25, 1988

The thought just occurred to me of how many people, in the course of conversation in the last few weeks, have noticed what day of the week Christmas falls on and remarked something like, "OH....Christmas falls on a Sunday this year!"

As Christians living among the world-view of what this holiday is to represent, the significance of the coincidence of Christmas and Sunday being on the same day is really not that big of a deal....or is it? How do we really view this, the "holiday" of all holidays? The one time of the year that we would think an employer worthy of being sentenced to prison for making someone work.

Do we view Christmas as the ultimate temporary release of materialism as we anticipate tearing open that beautiful wrapping paper for the item that "we've always wanted"? Or, on a less selfish note, we just can't wait to see the faces of those close to us as they make the work of so many lay-a-way departments all seem finally worthwhile?

Or, do we perhaps see this holiday as many in the world see it, as a time to celebrate the birth of Immanuel, the Alpha and Omega, the Lion of Judah, the Living Water, the Light of the World, the Lamb of God, the Rock, the Great Physician, the Messiah, the Cornerstone, the I AM, the Bread of Life, the Prince of Peace, the Lord, the Shepherd, the Bright and Morning Star, the True Vine, the High Priest? (In case none of these names appeal to you, He asks in Matt. 16:15, "Who do you say that I am?")

For many years in the Lord's Church, there have been efforts by many to make sure that the Church does not get the slightest bit of a reputation for having recognized December 25 as Christ's birthday. After all, we don't really have PROOF now, do we?! How unfortunate this attitude is! No, wait just a minute. If you're thinking, "He's right. We should just be glad that some people even recognize Jesus at all!", then you've also missed the point I want to make.

As you go through the Bible, you find mention made by God through His word and the prophets that a Messiah was to come. Some see this as sufficient reason to say that there is more in the Bible about His birth to celebrate than any other time of His life. However, a careful study of the prophets will reveal that another time of His earthly life held equal (if not more) importance. Isaiah tells us about it in Isaiah 52:13-53:12. It was His suffering and death!

Most of the world would recoil at the thought! Celebrate something as horrible as a man's death?! Especially one as excruciating as that of Jesus? No way! I mean, God wants us to remember above all else that His Son was born of a virgin, and that the delivery room would make LaGrange Hospital look like a castle, right? He wants us to decorate our lawns and Christmas trees with remembrances of the type of livestock present on that night, right?.....WRONG!

Jesus told His disciples in Luke 22:19 that the bread they were partaking of was to be done in memory of His body. The same message is found in Matt. 26:26. He never asked them to remember the physical characteristics of His earthly body. He never said, "Remember the length of my toenails as I sat in the boat and fished with you" or "Remember the way I cut my hair and shaved my beard, and do likewise!" He told them that He was about to suffer and die, and He wanted them to remember His death! And celebrate it for all time!

In Acts 2:42 we're told that even the earliest converts to Christ were devoted to (among other things) the "breaking of bread". The Greek here refers to the bread used to remember the death of Christ. Examples of the first century Church's manner of assembly denotes that they partook at least every first day of the week, and at times there is strong evidence they may have partook more often than that! The once-a-year celebration of Christmas pales dim in comparison to this type of devotion!

Just how important was Christ's death? Paul tells us in I Cor. 15:3 that it is "of first importance" (NIV). He then says in verse 14 of that same chapter that if there was no death, then there would be no resurrection, and if there was no resurrection, then our faith is useless! He then says in verse 56-57 that Christ's death is the only thing that has made our victory over death possible! Friends, that's cause enough to celebrate!!

Oh, by the way.....MERRY CHRISTMAS !

- Roy

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ANNOUNCEMENTS:

MEMBERSHIP

- Linda Sattisin wishes to place her membership with the congregation here. her address is: R 2 Box 98
Hudson, IN 46717

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS -	9	Midge Hughes	20	Jill Deisler
	13	Mike Pepito	27	Mary Campbell
	18	Steve Miller	30	June Angus

JANUARY ANNIVERSARY - 19 Dave & Bonnie Sowles

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Anna
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