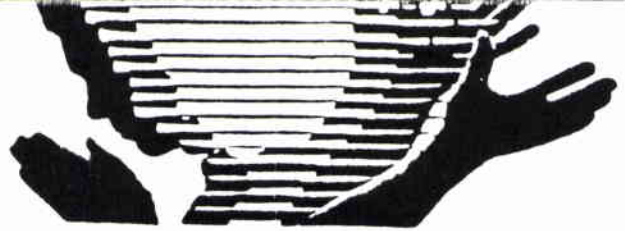




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TRANSFORMER



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

January 1, 1989

HAPPY NEW YEAR !!!!

THIS IS GOING TO BE A FANTASTIC YEAR WITHIN THE BODY HERE IN LAGRANGE !....
.....if we really believe Ephesians 3:20.

THERE IS GOING TO BE AWESOME SPIRITUAL GROWTH WITHIN THE BODY THIS YEAR!...
.....if we each practice Acts 17:11.

THERE WILL BE PEOPLE WALKING CLOSER THAN EVER WITH GOD IN THIS CHURCH THIS
YEAR!.....but only if I John 1:9 touches each of our lives.

THERE WILL BE DYNAMIC AND CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS BUILT BETWEEN MEMBERS OF THIS
CHURCH THIS YEAR!.....if we will all apply James 5:16 to our lives.

THERE WILL BE UNITY LIKE NEVER BEFORE IN LAGRANGE THIS YEAR!.....
.....but only if Acts 4:32a & John 17:20-23 are applied to our lives.

THERE WILL BE SOULS BROUGHT BACK TO GOD THIS YEAR!.....but only if
we understand and live John 13:35 , 17:23.

THE WEAKER MEMBERS OF THIS CONGREGATION WILL GROW SPIRITUALLY BEYOND THEIR
WILDEST DREAMS THIS YEAR!.....but only if those stronger apply Romans
14:1, 15:1-2,7 and Galatians 6:1-2,9-10.

THIS CONGREGATION WILL SEE MORE CHANGE AND GROWTH IN ALL RESPECTS IN 1989
THAN EVER BEFORE IN IT'S HISTORY.....but only if we apply John 15:5 and
Ephesians 5:1.

The list is endless, but the message is the same. We can be facing the most
productive year in the history of this congregation in 1989, but I would
be less than honest if I simply gave you the impression that we will see it
happen if we will just smile more, or congratulate the preacher on the
sermon more, or just be more optimistic about the whole situation!

I firmly believe with all my heart that we can, by the power of God, see
each of the things I've mention above come true in 1989 (and then some!),
but please notice a little word I've underlined with each..."IF". This
means that the accomplishment of each of the above is conditional. The
Christ-like qualities noted above will never just fall out of the sky one
day and attach themselves to the Body of Christ here in LaGrange! With
and by the power of God and His Spirit working through each of us only
will the above be done.

Do you really want to see a HAPPY new year? Try re-arranging your life and your priorities. Solomon, one of the wisest men who ever lived, after beating his head against the wall day in and day out finally came to his

senses and told us all the true key to happiness. It is found in Ecclesiastes 2:26, where he says, "To the man who pleases Him, God gives wisdom, knowledge and happiness....."

This year, let's all agree to make some radical changes in our lives and relationships with our God. Let's really have a HAPPY NEW YEAR!

- Roy

* * * * *

NOTICE

To make things easier for all of us! Please notice this important notice about notices. You may have noticed the increased amount of notices for you to notice. We notice that some of our notices have been noticed. On the other hand, some of our notices have not been noticed. This is very noticeable! It has been noticed that the responses to the notices have been noticeably unnoticeable. This notice is to remind you to notice the notices and respond to the notices because we do not want the notices to go unnoticed!

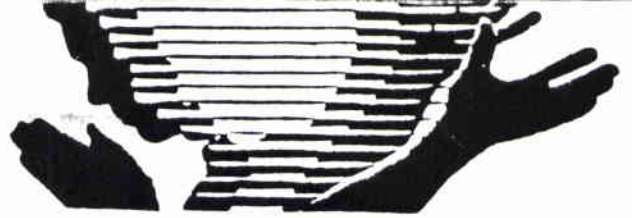
-The Noticing Committee
for Noticing Notices

* * * * *

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- THURSDAY NIGHT CLASS - Will begin meeting at Dean & Thelma Hoggatt's home on January 5 at 7:00 p.m. Roy will be conducting the classes. Everyone please feel free to join in and share with each other.
- ADULT CLASS CHANGE - This morning will start the new adult class being taught by Roy.
- CONGRATULATIONS - To Rick & Annie Green on the birth of a daughter, Jessica Lynn weighing in at 8 lb. 6 oz. on Dec. 12.
- PRAYERS
- Nannie Hall for a safe return trip.
 - Gay Ray is not feeling well at this time.
 - Thelma Hoggatt has had a bad cold and sore throat.
 - Annie Green recuperating from C Section.
 - Thanks for the Nobles safe return to us.
 - Remember these and any others that need our prayers at this time.

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



TRANSFORMER

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

January 8, 1989

MIS-DIRECTED CONVERSION

"Losing" Christians back to the world or to the fellowship of another religious organization is often a problem of misdirected conversion. Sometimes, people are converted to the church: its organization, its structure, and its traditions. If souls are converted to the organization and that organization fails them, they "fall away." The church, as God intended, is a fellowship of individuals who have accepted, identified with, been converted to, and put on Christ! A renewed emphasis must be placed on converting souls to Christ, not to the church.

The identity which transforms individuals to be sons of God is identity with Jesus Christ. When a soul is conformed to His image, when a mind is renewed daily to be as His mind, when the same spirit lives in an individual as lives in Jesus, then when saints painfully and often fail one another, each will be able to cling to his identity with Christ.

How many people have left the fellowship of the church of Christ because of a disagreement with an elder, discontentment with a preacher, or a falling out with another brother? How often do individuals moving from one community to another or children leaving home for college or a job fail to reunite with the church? When there is nothing more felt than an alliance with an organization, that alliance can be easily broken.

Human needs for productivity and power have had such a strong influence that God's plan for Christian fellowship has been perverted. To some, the church has become a social organization that holds little more spiritual value than any typical civic organization.

Have we emphasized the structure of the organization known as the Church of Christ to such an extent that the life has been choked out of the organism comprised of individuals who have been converted to Christ.

What have we failed to do? What have we failed to teach? What have we failed to model? We have assembled the saints. We have checked their attendance. We have provided knowledge, financial and emotional support, fun, food, and fellowship; and we still lose members. What have we failed to do? We have failed to make Jesus Christ the focus. Jesus' message to the people was "I want you. Come close to me. I accept you where you are. I love you. I'll help you to be what you need to be if you will only trust in me."

As long as we stress the organization and not the originator, we will have trouble. Christ's church has no identity of its own. Without Christ there is no church. Christ did not establish the church in order to have an organization to which people could be converted. What he did was establish a pattern of fellowship and encouragement among His converts.

Have we taken our eyes off of the master for so long that we have forgotten Him? It is time for a reevaluation. We need a renewal that would turn our hearts to focus completely on Jesus.

-Rita Baird
Image

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- MEN'S MEETING - There will be a men's meeting tonight immediately following evening assembly.
- BABY SHOWER - On Sunday, January 29, there will be a shower for Annie & baby at the Noble's home.
- THANKS - To all the men who preached during Roy's vacation!
- DISCUSSION GROUP - The Thursday Discussion Group are now meeting at the Hoggatt's from 7 - 8 P.M.
- ADULT CLASS - The new adult class begins this Sunday, (Introduction last Sun.). If you don't have a schedule, they are on the table in lobby.
- PRAYERS - Joey O. & Steve M. left early this morning for OCC.
- Grace Wolfe as she recovers from her broken hip.
- Henrietta Smith as she will be coming next weekend to do a ladies workshop on "Belonging".
- Angola congregation for unity.
- Harold DePriest as he continues to recover from his broken leg.
- Remember all these and any others you know who could use our prayers at this time.

* * * * *

A preacher's little boy inquired, "Daddy, I notice every Sunday morning when you first come out to preach, you sit up on the platform and bow your head. What are you doing?"

The father explained, "I'm asking the Lord to give me a good sermon."

The little boy said, "Why don't he?"

A small child attended church with his parents. When he knelt to say his prayers before going to bed, he prayed: "Dear Lord, we had a good time at church today. I wish you could have been there!"

LaGrange Church of Christ
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LaGrange, IN 46761



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TRANSFORMER

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January 15, 1989

WHICH DO YOU EMPHASIZE? TRUTH OR LOVE

Have you ever noticed that religious people often fit into one of two camps? One group considers itself to be a dispenser of truth. The other group considers itself to be a dispenser of love.

Those who emphasize truth are doing their best to follow Jesus the teacher. Jesus often began statements of revelation or instruction with the words, "I tell you the truth..."; and He constantly challenged the false teachings of His opponents, even when it offended those who had blind eyes, closed ears, and hard hearts.

Christians today who emphasize truth about restoring correct doctrine, and using a "thus saith the Lord" in all things. They usually stress Bible study over building relationships.

It is good that these Christians emphasize truth! But they often speak it in a manner that does not connect with the listener. Their message often comes across as uncaring and harsh. What they say may seem reasonable, but it is often ignored because it fails to touch the heart.

On the other hand, those who emphasize love are doing their best to follow Jesus the servant. They focus on Jesus' compassion for the diseased, poor, and helpless; and His love for those on the seamy side of society, like the tax collectors, adulterous women, and the demon possessed.

They are more likely to form fellowship groups than Bible study groups. They are more concerned about grace and building relationships than doctrinal teachings which may cause debate or division. But they, unfortunately, are less apt to confront the sins and errors in the lives of others who may be lost if they never hear the truth.

By now most of us are hopefully saying, "Wait, this dichotomy doesn't have to exist. Christians should teach the truth and practice truth at the same time."

That's right! Paul expresses this thought beautifully in Ephesians 4:15 - "Speaking the truth in love we will in all things grow up into him who is the head, that is Christ." If we want to become all that God wants us to be we must learn to emphasize truth and love at the same time. It is not loving to ignore the sins in a person's life and never point him to God's truth; and it isn't practicing truth if you blurt out Bible verses at someone in an unloving manner, or out of impure motivations. Truth and love were equally important elements in Jesus' ministry. Shouldn't it be that way in our ministry?

-Dick Clay

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

ADDRESS ADDITION - Linda Sattison
c/o Cari Killom
42076 Hanks
Sterling Hts., MI 48078 313/27-2686

COINS FOR CAMP INDOGAN - Cans are again available to those who would like to help in this good work. Sign up sheet and cans are in the south lobby.

RETURN TO COLLEGE - Paul Davison leaves Monday for MCC.

ATTENTION - Please be sure to get an up-dated list of Care Group Information.

- PRAYERS
- For the family of Clifford Carpenter, Kathy Sowles uncle, who passed away last week.
 - Donna Richmond, Sharon Pieratt & Lois Henson's sister in Florida, is being treated for a heart condition.
 - Francis Springer's brother, Leslie Kimberly, has Alzheimer's disease.
 - Jim & Lois Henson are traveling to Florida.
 - Dan Davison's mother is suffering with cancer.
 - It was found out that Bill Pepito's mother also has cancer. She is also suffering from Parkinson's disease.
 - Susie Dobenspeck, Judy Boyle's sister, is having trouble with depression concerning her cancer and financial problems.
 - All the college students as they get back into their studies and trials of college life.
- THANK YOU - To all who sent cards over the holidays, from Mike Sprunger.

* * * * *
A Fugitive Found

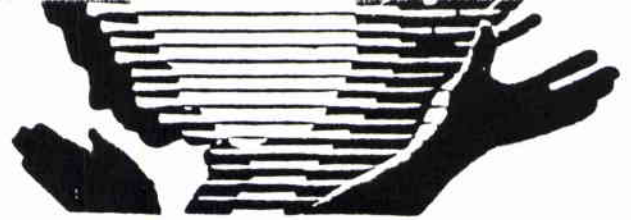
Feeling footloose and frisky, a featherbrained fellow forced his fond father to fork over the farthings and flew far to foreign fields and frittered his fortune feasting fabulously with faithless friends.

Fleeced by his fellows in folly and facing famine he found himself a feed flinger in a filthy farm. Fairly famishing, he fain would have filled his frame with foraged food from fodder fragments. "Fooy, my father's flunkies fare far finer!"

The frazzled fugitive forlornly fumbled, frankly facing facts. He fled forthwith to his family. Falling at his father's feet, he forlornly fumbled. "Father, I've flunked and fruitlessly forfeited family favor."

- Luke 15

LaGrange Church of Christ
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LaGrange, IN 46761



TRANSFORMER

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

January 22, 1989

When our Lord founded His Church, He did not intend it to be a loose association of holy rugged individuals, each striving for godly perfection with only occasional handshake contact with one another. He wanted us to be a godly society. We are constantly taught, throughout other Gospels and Epistles, to celebrate with each other, comfort each other, build up each other, use our gifts to complement each other's weaknesses, be examples to each other. Such is the way we are to live together. Such is the way that early Christians, for whom the faith was a political crime, often died together.

One of the most profoundly moving examples of this was the heroic conduct of the Forty Martyrs of Sebaste. They were all Roman soldiers of the 12th "Thundering" Legion, stationed in what used to be Armenia. Refusing their anti-Christian general's order to sacrifice to the gods, they were all condemned to the slow, cruel death of exposure to cold. They were stripped and forced to stand on the ice of a frozen lake until they either died or recanted.

Their commander provided them every inducement to abandon their Lord. Bonfires were built on the shore. Hot food and hot wine and tubs of hot bathing water were placed in their view. It would be so easy for any of them to walk to the beach and save his life.

One of them, to their shame, did just that. Perhaps his faith was shallow. Perhaps Satan found him weak. A congregation, no matter how solid, cannot always save every member. But a good congregation knows how to encourage one another, and that the membership roll takes second place to loyalty to Jesus Christ and His teaching that makes the individual so precious to Him and us. The mass apostasy that the onlookers surely expected after that first breaking of ranks never occurred. Not one more man came in. The freezing soldiers stayed where they were, together for Christ.

Today, seventeen centuries later and a third of a world away, our congregational life is not nearly as physically perilous. But our faith in the Lord Jesus and our commitment to each other must be just as strong as that of the Forty. Like them, we are constantly called upon, though in different ways, to witness, as a group as well as individuals, for what we believe. Like them, we will be hurt by desertions of those we've come to love and thought we knew - that is the price of our freedom in Christ. Let us, like the Forty, keep up our care and encouragement of each other, and keep showing to the watching world that we have something - and Someone - truly tremendous to offer.

-Michael Murphy
Integrity, Nov./Dec. 1988

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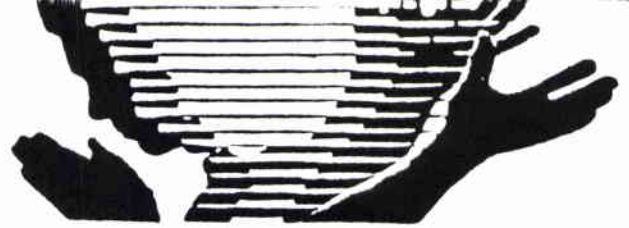
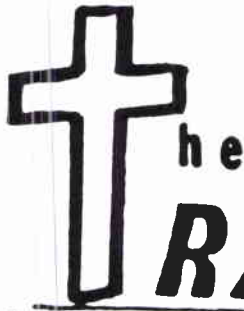
ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- ATTENTION LADIES - If you would be willing to head up the Secret Sister program for the next 6 month period, please contact Kathy Sowles by this evening.
- THANK YOU - To all who came to surprize Dave & Bonnie Sowles Sunday evening. Without all of you we could not have had the success we did in showing our love to them. Thanks again, Patti C.
- ADDRESS CHANGE - The Copelands address can no longer be used as Hillcrest Dr. It now needs to be addressed as P.O. Box 411, 293 Pleasant Ave. Topeka, IN.
- THANKS - For the visits prayers, and flowers. From Rick, Annie & Jessica Green.
- FELLOWSHIP - This evening will be the 4th Sunday Potluck, and the 1989 budget proposals presented by each committee head.
- PRAYERS
 - Jesse Pieratt, Jim Pieratt's mother, in Camdenton, MO was hemorrhaging internally and Jim & Sharon went down to be with her on Monday.
 - Jerrold Jordon Noble have both been suffering with fevers this week.
 - Kimberly & Becky Sowles have been sick this week with fevers too.
 - Dave Sowles was also under the weather this week.
 - Austin Copeland was laid off his job Friday.
 - Harold DePriest as he goes for therapy on his leg 3 times a week.
 - Remember these and others who are suffering from the flu or other illnesses or problems.
- NOTICE - Communion will not be served in the nursery on Sunday mornings.
- SKATING - There will be a skating party on Monday, Jan. 30 from 6:30 - 9:00 p.m. at the RollerDome in Ft. Wayne. Cost \$1.75 to skate, \$1.00 skate rental.

* * * * *



LaGrange Church of Christ
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TRANSFORMER

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January 29, 1989

THE VALUE OF A RELATIONSHIP

I used to visit George every Thursday when I lived in Miami. At the time I wasn't sure what kept drawing me to his musty little trailer. But looking back on it now, I think I know.

George had an unusual appearance - a patch over one eye ("I lost it in the war") and not a hair on his head. He was Canadian to the core and always kept the "maple leaf" draped in front of his trailer. Though over sixty, he swam and golfed daily and danced nightly. His voice boomed like a cannon when he talked, and he walked with such a pendulum swagger that he could have cleared a path for a bull.

But there was something much more profound about George that made me want to visit him. One summer day I realized what it was.

It was a hot Miami afternoon when I knocked on his door. He invited me in with his customary "Well, hello, Max! Come on in here!" (He gave every visitor a glass of lemonade and some secret-recipe popcorn.) I stepped into the trailer.

"I've got someone I want you to meet," continued George with his Canadian twang. "My friend, Ralph."

I looked toward the corner. My eyes were still adjusting from the outside sun to the dimly lit trailer. As my vision cleared, I could see Ralph - and I wasn't sure what to think. There was a certain wildness about him - shoulder-length unkempt hair, a chest-length untamed beard. He was at least George's age, probably older. Apparently he didn't know what to think of me, either. His darting eyes sized me up from beneath his salt-and-pepper hair.

My palms began to sweat.

George interrupted the silence. "Sit down, Max. I've got something to show you." I sat on one side of the table while George scooted in next to Ralph, across from me. "My most valued possession is right here."

I looked at his hands and then around the trailer. "Where, George?"

"Right here." George put his big arm around Ralph's bony shoulders. "My most valued possession is my buddy, Ralph."

A relationship. It has more power than any nuclear bomb and more potential than any promising seed.

What matters most in life is not what ladders we climb or what ownings we accumulate. What matters most is a relationship.

It's a wise man who values people above possessions. Many wealthy men have died paupers because they gave their lives to things and not to people. And many paupers have left this earth in contentment because they loved their neighbors.

"My most valued possession is my buddy."

-Max Lucado,
On The Anvil

* * * * *

"Family of the Week"

(This column will be a regular weekly beginning with this issue.)

When I first came to LaGrange in May of 1987 to investigate the position of being your next evangelist, I remember stopping at a pay phone and calling a phone number in Howe, Indiana. A voice said to stay there and they would come to pick me up. In a few minutes I was following the tail lights of a very old Volkswagon bug. I was about to encounter the warm hospitality of the family described here.

When I think of a family that will go out of their way to help others, asking nothing in return, I think of the Joe Hughes family. Joe and his wife Kathy have been married 21 years (or is it 20?).....well, after much discussion it was decided that it is 21!

Joe works for Sealed Power, Inc. where he is a fork lift operator. Kathy works for Lakeland High School where she is the main dish cook, preparing main dishes daily and operating the cash register at the lunch hour. Her hobbies include sewing, reading and shopping.

Joe and Kathy have 4 children. Chris, 17, who enjoys playing the guitar, and currently delivers the Gateway Shopper; Tim, 16, who likes to play tennis; Kathy Jo, 15, who likes to go shopping; and Patty, 13. The entire family says that they enjoy going to the Toledo Zoo, as well as Florida!

This entire family belongs to Jesus Christ, the children all having become Christians 4 years ago. Joe and Kathy gave their lives to Him 18 years ago.

Get to know this family. You'll be blessed for it!

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ANNOUNCEMENTS:

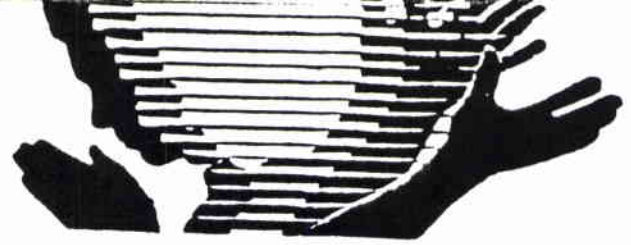
- BABY SHOWER - The shower scheduled for Annie Green (announced earlier) will be at the building on Sunday instead of the Noble's. Time's the same.
- NOTICE - An announcement is in the south lobby concerning some Angola members meeting at the Tri-State library on Sunday evenings. See announcement for details.
- FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS
- | | | | |
|-----|--------------|----|--------------------|
| - 1 | Ross Diesler | 19 | Robert Sowles |
| 2 | Patty Hughes | 20 | Johnny Kay Davison |
| 12 | Josh Lomeli | 24 | Tammi Johnston |
| 14 | Paul Davison | 26 | Thelma Hoggatt |
| 16 | Gary Pieratt | 27 | Sharon Pieratt |
| 17 | Gay Ray | 28 | Annie Green |
- May God bless each one with a super day!
- SKATING - Monday, January 30 at the Rollerdom in Ft. Wayne from 6:30 - 9:00.
- REMINDER - Please check your files regularly.
- FELLOWSHIP - We will be having our fellowship potluck this evening along with the financial report.
- PRAYERS - Thelma Morris, Henson's traveling, Jesse Pieratt, all those suffering with the flu.

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



TRANSFORMER

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



February 5, 1989

"WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO CREATIVE FUN IN OUR FAMILIES?"

Another family evening routine, just like hundreds before; dinner, clean up and T.V. until bath and bed for the kids. Spring, Summer, Winter and Fall, it's all the same. The TV is always there and almost always on.

One of the most often heard complaints I hear as a marriage counselor is: "He watches TV from the time he comes home until we go to bed.", "Our TV is on from dawn until dusk.", "She's married to the TV, not me." The TV is a source of irritation to many families today.

Now, I'm not anti-TV. It has become a powerful influence on all of us for learning, behavior, information, communication and entertainment, etc., in both positive and negative ways. We should use the instrument as a positive tool but most of us turn it on and indiscriminately watch anything and everything.

Contrariety reports say TV doesn't damage and influence our morals and behavior, but truth and reason tells us whatever we put in our minds from whatever source has its effect upon our thoughts and behavior. But besides the detrimental effects on our thinking, I'm particularly interested in what it has done to family life and family interaction.

I'm old enough to remember pre-TV days. As a youngster I remember game nights when we'd gather around the table for several games of Pollyanna, Flinch, Rook, or Old Maid. Remember any of those? Now, I can't blame TV alone on the death of family play time. It can die from Dad's meetings, or Mom's exercise class or the kid's music lessons or whatever. But TV is often the gap filler for the spare time. Families need times for creativity, fun, play, interaction on a joint project, a common interest to make the family unit strong and make some family memories.

How about your family? What have you done together that each could participate in as a working partner?

One of my regrets is our family never regularly had family devotionals. We'd try over and over, having the best intentions but never fully successful. We tried different times, different rules, different methods. It worked for a while and then ended sadly for me. But many families I know have been successful and they tell me that the secret is shared participation and responsibility. When family devotionals can be achieved, I can think of no better way to achieve closeness and creativity with family and God.

Maybe these few ideas can whet your mind for more suitable suggestions for your family unit. These ideas are limitless.

In any project, however, there should be simple basic rules for anything to work well. You can probably add several to my simple list but here are some basics:

1. Start when the family is young. Let it become a way of life in your home. It's harder to get started when the kids are older.
2. Involve every family member in planning and implementing the project, whether it is a game or a garden.

3. It has got to be rewarding to work. Rewarding can mean fun, uplifting, successful, or just feeling good, but it must have rewards or you'll have drop outs.
4. Schedule ahead with everyone in mind. In our society schedules are tight. It must be planned far enough ahead so everyone can make arrangements.
5. Be as flexible as you can without destroying the committment. At times, special events will come up. This is part of life and always will be. We must show respect of the individual needs as well as that of the group.
6. Let go when your family is ready to let go. When it ceases to be fun but a function, it ceases being creative and positive.

For any relationship to grow, whether it is two or a congregation of hundreds, they must spend good times together. These good times involves interacting, rewarding, giving, sharing, compromising, loving, and even disagreeing. The ole TV just can't do that for you. It takes us giving of ourselves. And that's what makes beautiful memories.

-Christian Family

* * * * *

"Family of the Week"

This week's family often comes to mind first when one thinks about those who serve and help people. Their lives have been examples to all in this way. I am talking about the Hoggatts.

Dean is self employed as a real estate broker, and enjoys helping people, keeping a diary, playing horseshoes and working on his house. Thelma is a housewife and parttime substitute school teacher. Her hobbies include World Bible School, being a CASA volunteer, and couponing.

They have 5 children; Kathy Lynn Long, who currently is a teacher in a Christian school and living in Charleston, South Carolina; Kent Allen Hoggatt, who lives in Rochester, Michigan and works for Michigan Christian College as well as preaching; Leslie Deanne Brock, who is a housewife in Taylor, Michigan where her husband preaches; Jean Marie Carter, a real estate title researcher also living in Charleston and Brian Paul Hoggatt, who lives here in LaGrange and is an accountant for Sturgis Federal Savings Bank.

Dean and Thelma state that a few of the leisure things they enjoy include playing Scrabble, going to McDonalds, visiting their children, going to lectureships and traveling. They state that all of their children are Christians, having put on Christ in their teens, and are currently active in their local congregations.

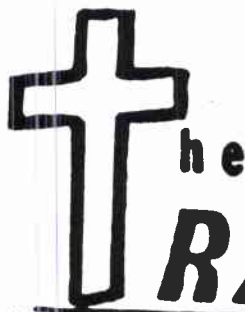
Congratulations on being our family of the week!

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ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- | | |
|-----------------|---|
| A BIG THANK YOU | - to Austin Copeland, Phil Hostetler, Fred Oakley and Harold DePriest, for fixing the pews in the auditorium. |
| | - to Dean Hoggatt for working on the doors. |
| PRAYERS | - for the family of <u>Thelma Morris</u> who went to be with the Lord Thursday. |
| | - <u>Roy Noble</u> as he is battling with his sinuses. |
| | - <u>Alf Howard</u> , (Kathy Hughes' father) in Ft. Wayne hospital. |
| | - all those who are still suffering with the flu. |
| | - Let's remember all these and any others that are in need at this time. |

LaGrange Church of Christ
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TRANSFORMER

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

February 12, 1989

DAVID AND THE GIANT - WORRY

"Doctor, I came to you because I'm worn out. Before this thing hit me, I could work all day and not get tired. When I drove the tractor yesterday, I got so weak that I had to stop before I got halfway across the field. I had to get off the tractor and lie down by the fence before I got enough strength to go on. That's not like me. For the past month, I've been completely bushed. I've been losing weight, too."

I stared in amazement at Joe, a husky twenty-year-old farmer. He was the type who never got sick, yet here he stood - wholly incapacitated for work. His tiredness could have been signaling a serious disorder, so my first thoughts were of anemia, leukemia, or perhaps internal bleeding. The possibility of cancer and tuberculosis came to my mind. Physical examination and laboratory tests, however, found no organic trouble.

I questioned Joe more carefully, and I discovered that his attractive fiancée had recently started dating another guy. Also, a man who had promised to give Joe a good bargain on a used car had now raised the price \$200. The fear of losing both girl and car had already caused Joe to lose his appetite, his sleep, and his strength.

Yes, this young man's fatigue was entirely due to worry and anxiety. Many scientific studies have shown that long and continued stress completely exhausts a person. I explained the situation to Joe and gave him a few antianxiety tablets. Within a week, his normal strength came back; and his appearance and personality improved so much that he won and married the girl of his choice. Not work but worry had made him weary.

Perhaps you have had a similar experience. Some days you work hard from early morning until late at night without experiencing fatigue. Then, another day, you are worn out by the middle of the day. Next time you have such unusual weariness, pause and think; often you will be able to remember some emotional upset.

The Psalmist David had more reasons than most of us to have justifiable fears. Consider his encounters with a savage lion, a ferocious bear, the gigantic Goliath, the murderous King Saul, and his treacherous son Absalom. David saved himself from psychosomatic disease because he always put his trust in the Lord:

The Lord is my light and my salvation -
whom shall I fear?

The Lord is the stronghold of my life -
of whom shall I be afraid?

Though an army besiege me,
my heart will not fear;
though war break out against me,
even then will I be confident.

Psalms 27:1,3 NIV

High blood pressure can be caused not only by hostility, as previously shown, but also by worry. This was clearly demonstrated during the siege of Leningrad in

World War II. While the city was under seige, doctors observed a massive outbreak of high blood pressure within the city.

If researchers place a mouse cage in a room with a caged cat, these mice develop high blood pressure in six to twelve months. Even though the cat never even chases the mice, the constant worrying of the mice subjects them to the serious disease of high blood pressure.

All of us have had and will continue to have encounters with the giant worry, so let us recall a bit of history. Remember when King Saul and his mighty army were cowering at the mere words of the giant Goliath? The stripling David was stirred by Israel's lack of faith in God. Refusing the accepted methods of fighting giants, David went out armed with a mighty faith in God, a leather sling in his hand, and five smooth stones in his pocket. Was he afraid?

When I am afraid,
I will trust in you.
In God, whose word I praise,
in God I trust; I will not be afraid.
What can mortal man do to me?
Psalms 45:3,4 NIV

David's faith was bound to conquer, and conquer it did. In our everyday encounters with big and little worries, the practice of our faith decides whether we cower or conquer. David was able to conquer not only Goliath; but on many occasions, God also gave him the strength to conquer the giant worry. Perhaps that is one reason why his psalms are so helpful in dealing with worry.

-S.I. McMillen, M.D.
None of These Diseases

* * * * *

"Family of the Week"

This week we want to honor the Mike Hall family as our Family of the Week.

Mike and his wife, Pat, both gave their lives to Jesus in 1979, and their daughter Michelle became His disciple in December of 1988, becoming the newest Christian within the Body at LaGrange at this time.

Mike is employed by AroCorp. of Angola, and operates a pneumatic controlled machine. He enjoys ice fishing and hunting with his son, Dave. Pat works for Lakeland Junior High as a teacher's aid in the math department, helping children with problems, grading papers, running copies and so forth. She likes to spend her off time sewing and doing needlecraft.

Mike and Pat have been married for 16 years, and have 3 children; Michelle, 13, who is avidly involved in 4-H and spending time with her horse; David, 11, who enjoys sports and hunting; and Hollie, who is 7. Both parents state that they enjoy watching the children participate in sports, and that the family has, in the last few years, begun to count on going to Cedar Point each summer.

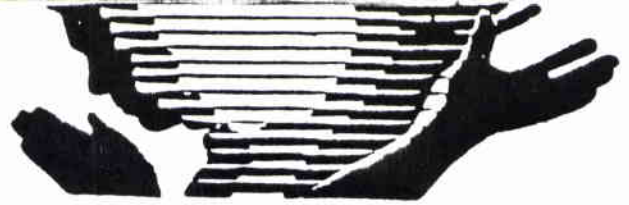
Thank you, Hall's, for blessing our lives!

* * * * *

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- There will be a men's meeting following evening service tonight.
- Remember all those who are still sick at this time and several who have upcoming surgeries.
Carrie D., Ryan Kimpel, Cathleen Kimpel (Dave's mother)

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



TRANSFORMER

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

February 19, 1989

"YOUR DAD MUST BE CRAZY"

What would you do if you were a high school football player and your coach sent in a play that called for you to run the ball to your opponent's goal line? It has happened!

With seven seconds left in the game, Tishimingo High School was leading Falkner High School, 16-14. At stake was a berth in Mississippi's 1988 state class 1A playoffs. Tishimingo had the ball on Falkner's 40-yard line. All they had to do was run out the clock on the next play, and they would win the game by two points.

Coach David Herbert, who has Lou Gehrig's disease and coaches from a seat in the back of a pickup truck, sent in a play to his son and the team's quarterback, Dave Herbert. The play called for a handoff to tailback Shane Hill who would run as fast as he could for Falkner's goal line.

"Your daddy must be crazy!" protested one of the tackles. So, while the argument went on in the team's huddle, a delay-of-game penalty was called on Tishimingo. Finally the team lined up, the ball was handed off to the tailback, and he ran 55 yards in the "wrong" direction. He laid down in the opponent's end zone and waited for the clock to expire - with practically everyone on the field and in the stadium bewildered. A two-point safety for Falkner. Score tied. Time expired.

Was the coach crazy? Like a fox, maybe. You see, in order for his team to reach the playoffs, Tishimingo had to beat Falkner by four or more points. After thinking about the chances of going 40 yards on one play or kicking a field goal from that distance, he decided overtime was his best bet. Thus the strategy which appeared so muddleheaded.

Had the tailback been chased down and tackled, Falkner would have suffered a two-point loss - but would have gone to the playoffs. But not one of its players gave chase to the ball carrier.

What was the result of the maneuver? Tishimingo won the overtime, 22-16, on a third-down, two-yard run by Shane Hill. Hill finished the game with minus 29 yards for the night. But his team won and went to the play-offs.

Sounds a bit like the cross to me. God became a man, was pushed around by his enemies, and was executed as a criminal by the Roman procurator of Palestine. Satan appeared to have won. Jesus of Nazareth was dead. His disciples were scattered. God had suffered defeat. Or had he?

Three days later, Jesus was alive from the dead. Over a period of 40 days, he showed himself alive to hundreds of people. Then, 51 days later, Peter explained that it had all been part of a divine strategy. He said, "This man was handed over to you by God's set purpose and foreknowledge" (Acts 2:23). He continued and cited Old Testament predictions which had been fulfilled by the resurrection. The crescendo came when he announced: "God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ" (Acts 2:36b).

There you have it! A game plan that looked to all the world like craziness. One which still confounds disciples in our church-huddles and observers in the world-stadium alike. But the Son executed his Father's call to perfection. He died on the cross to pay the sin debt of the human race.

"For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God" (1 Cor. 1:18).

Two thousand years this side of the event, we still proclaim that foolishness to be the wisdom and power of God.

-Rubel Shelly
Image

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FAMILY OF THE WEEK

This week's family of the week is led by a fellow who has accepted one of those "thankless" jobs, that being the church's treasurer. I am talking about the Dave Kimpel family.

Dave and his wife, Diane, are both Christians, Dave having been so for 7 years and Diane for 11 years. They will, as of March, have been married for 7 years.

Dave works for Group Dekko International in Kendalville, where he is responsible for machine rebuilding and set up, plumbing and electrical on new equipment, and the ordering of parts. He enjoys looking at old cars, working outside in the summer months, and doing things with the family. Diane is a homemaker, and enjoys caring for the children, her house and her husband, as well as working with the Keenagers.

Dave and Diane have two children; Erin, 12, who enjoys swimming, reading, volleyball at school, and riding her bike in the summer; and Ryan, 4, who enjoys his nursery school and helping his dad work. The entire family likes to take small trips in the summer, go sledding in the winter, and eat at the Hacienda.

Congratulations to the Kimpels as our family of the week!

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ANNOUNCEMENTS :

- CARE GROUP - The next meeting of Care Group 6 will be Sunday February 26 at the home of Judy Boyle. A carry-in dinner is planned following morning service. See Judy for more details.
- CAMP CANS - We would encourage you to take a Camp Indogan can for the support of the youth camp program. The coins from those cans added together last year amounted to approx. \$1500 which helped in offsetting camp cost. The cans and sign up sheet are in the south lobby.
- YOUTH RALLIES - You are invited to the Heritage Church of Christ's Youth Rally at the Riverview Junior High School. Registration will begin at 9:30 a.m. Saturday February 25, 1989. The theme is "Here's Looking at You-2000" There will be a \$2.00 fee.
- Market Avenue Church of Christ, Canton, OH will be having their rally on March 17-19. Theme: "Take This Cocoon - I Want To Fly" (Learning art of thriving in Christ).
- PRAYERS - Sharon Simpson in hospital with pneumonia.
- Terry Simpson suffering with an ulcer.
- Lucille Doty having some problems with her nerves.
- Chris & Jil Diesler are traveling this weekend.
- Bonnie Sowles having some teeth pulled in the near future.
- Dean Hoggatt fighting off a cold.
- Remember these in your daily prayers and any others that haven't been mentioned.

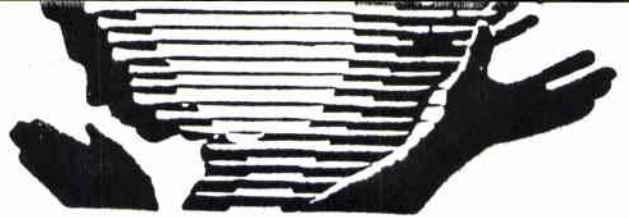
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TRANSFORMER

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



February 26, 1989

"EXCESS BAGGAGE"

This year, on Valentine's Day, I received a pleasant surprise as Barbara took me to dinner at a nice restaurant locally. It was nice to get away from the pressures of life for awhile and be able to sit and talk and enjoy ourselves in that way. After our meal, we had some spare time on our hands, so we went to a department store and browsed around. When it came time to leave, as we were walking out the door, we noticed what appeared to be a new twist on the type of machines that are there by the exit doors to grab your quarters. Usually these consist of gum machines, picture-taking machines, or some type of machine which will give you your entire medical condition in one quick glance. Well, I rationalized, why not? After all, I had certainly spent a quarter more foolishly on other things! The machine we saw was to give you your weight, but more than that, it was also to give you what your ideal weight should be based on your height, age, sex, etc.

The print-out that I received didn't reveal any major surprises to me, but it did cause me to notice something else. After giving me my true weight (Ha!, no way I'm going to tell you! You'll just have to guess), it also said that my ideal weight was _____, and that I was overweight _____ pounds! Why, of all the nerve! It then stated that I should weigh myself regularly to check my progress. It then went on to say, "Have a nice day". Oh, yes, it also happened to allow me 5.5 lbs. for clothing! (Whew!...What a relief!)

You know, on the serious side, I didn't go home that night and lose any sleep over that machine's diagnoses, even though it was true. But I got to thinking about something. God tells each one of us "where we are" (how much we "weigh"). His word convicts us each time we sin, unless our hearts have become too hard to do so. We know that we sin, and that we have strayed from His glory. (Rom. 3:23) He also tells us what our ideal weight is (where we should be; Gen. 1:27; Matt. 5:48, 'perfect' = complete). Many of us carry around an awful lot of excess baggage, or weight. We need to go on a spiritual diet, and feast on the word of God. We need to see our struggles as "spiritual exercise", if you please.

It's interesting to note a word found in John 6:44. Jesus uses the word HELKUEIN, meaning "draws". The word always involves some kind of resistance (John 21:6,11; 18:10; Acts 16:19). The Hebrew equivalent is found in Jeremiah 31:3, where God talks about building the Israelite nation back to the point where they once were spiritually. But even with God working on their side, there were going to be struggles. In those struggles, we gain a spiritual "work out", and we lose much of our excess baggage, becoming more like Him.

As the machine told me, "weigh yourself regularly to check your progress". We must do the same for the spiritual being. Let us "weigh ourselves" more often, and let His word be the scales. Interesting, isn't it, that the machine said "...to check your progress". It's as if the machine had a mind of its own, and it was assuming that I would make progress! Many people often weigh themselves, and realize where they need to be, but never make any progress! You know, Jesus spoke

many times in scripture in a manner that showed that He assumed that His disciples would make progress in a particular area. He never had any doubt. Notice in passages like Matt. 6:2,5,16 that He says "when" you do these things, not "if" you do them. Was that machine so naive as to think that every person that put a quarter into it would naturally make progress? No, the owners of that machine only want your quarters! They couldn't care less about you health! But how unique that shows God to be! Even though He knows every person who reads His word will not always make progress and obey it every time one reads it, He still loves us and cares about our spiritual health! Praise Him for being such a loving God! Just as that machine allowed me 5.5 obs. for clothing, God allows us a "margin of error", if you will. His grace says, "Take that sin off of Roy's record, because He is striving to remain spiritually slim and trim. I know where his heart and intent are, and that is what counts."

Oh, by the way, the machine then said, "Enjoy your day". Won't you do the same?

-Roy

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"FAMILY OF THE WEEK"

Our family of the week for this week is the Joe Oakley family. Joe is employed by the Northern Indiana Public Service Company, where he is a mechanical equipment operator, running backhoes and trenchers, installing gas lines, reading meters, doing inspections, etc., and enjoys lifting weights and eating out when he has spare time. His wife of 21 years, Lois, is a housewife, who also serves by keeping the church building clean during the week. She enjoys taking care of Joe (he states that this involves feeding and babying him!), as well as her children.

Joe and Lois have 3 children; Joey (Joe III), 20, who is currently a student at Oklahoma Christian College, and likes fishing as a pasttime; Katie, 19, who is a student at Glen Oaks Community college and enjoys going shopping or watching movies with her boyfriend Jim, and Donna, 14, who is a student at Lakeland Junior High and likes roller skating and reading.

The family states that a favorite way to use their time is eating out at different places and working with the church. The entire family are Christians, Joe and Lois having been so for 18 years, Joey 11 years, Katie 7 years, and Donna for 4.

They all add that their life is involved with the church, and trying to live what Jesus would have them to be. Congratulationa to the Joe Oakley family.

* * * * *

IN DEPTH BIBLE STUDY. Each Saturday in March there will be a class for those wanting to know more about In Depth Bible Study. We will be at the building from 1:30-3:30 or 4:00. It is a workbook study and each person will study at their own pace. If you plan to attend you will need to bring a ring binder notebook and pen and your favorite study Bible. If you can't come each week it won't matter - come when you can.

-Education Committee

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ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- YOUTH RALLIES - Remember the youth rally on March 17-19 in Canton, Ohio.
- PRAYERS - Lucille Doty having some heart problems at this time.
- Bill Pepito's mother, Dan Davison's mother, Sue Morgan's relatives, all who are ill at this time.

LaGrange Church of Christ
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TRANSFORMER

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



March 5, 1989

THE CHANGING UNDERSTANDING OF SNOWFLAKES

One of the most compelling arguments for the existence of God is seen in the design found in nature all around us. The writer in Romans 1:20 expressed it this way: For since the creation of the world, God's invisible qualities - His eternal power and divine nature - have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse. We know God is, through the things He has made.

One of the most beautiful striking examples of God's wisdom in the creation can be seen in a simple snowflake. All of us have seen pictures of snowflakes or perhaps looked at snowflakes ourselves. Most of us are familiar with the fact that science has not been able to find any two snowflakes that are alike. The beauty of a snowflake caused Wilson Bentley, who did detailed studies of them, to say:

Some resemble Dorian columns; others look like oak leaves. Still others are shaped like dinner plates...But the most wondrous crystals were the thousands of almost perfectly symmetrical, six-armed flakes, each a marvelously intricate and distinct piece of frozen lace that seems to have been sculpted by the hands of an artistic God.

When I studied meteorology in college, I was given two simple explanations of snow. At temperatures below -40F, water vapor freezes into crystals. At higher temperatures, water vapor needs a seed or condensation nucleus to condense on. I was told this nucleus was dust. About that time, research showed that snowflakes forming at temperatures where seeds were thought to be needed did not actually have seeds in them. For the past 25 years, a blizzard of theories has been advanced to explain how snowflakes form. The most recent evidence indicates a biological cause for warm cloud snow. Studies done by Russell Schnell of the University of Colorado have shown that two species of bacteria (*Pseudomonas syringae* and *Erwinia herbicola*) contain a molecule that has the best affinity for water ever observed. When these bacteria are injected into a cloud chamber, the result is an instant snowstorm. The bacteria also cause frost to form on plants.

Drs. John Hallet at the University of Nevada and James Langer of the Institute for Theoretical Physics at Santa Barbara have studied how snowflakes grow physically and mathematically. Water gives off heat as it freezes on the seed. Any irregularity in the surface of the crystal reaches out into cooler regions around it to provide more surface area to release the heat. The result is a branch-like protrusion called a dendrite. Since ice crystals are hexagonal (the strongest possible shape), snowflakes tend to have six arms. An infinite number of temperatures and combinations make the variety we all admire.

When we realize that a biological source is the start of all this, we have to realize that snow would not ordinarily exist on a planet warm enough to sustain life. Snow is vital to the stability of our planet, locking up water and allowing a constant flow of water from the mountains to the sea. All of this speaks of design and wisdom - a beautiful system designed to provide an incubator in which life cannot only survive, but thrive. "Hast thou entered into the treasures of the snow?" (Job 38:22).

-John Clayton

"FAMILY OF THE WEEK"

This week's Family of the Week is unique in many ways. We are highlighting the Bill Pepito family.

Bill is employed by Ross Labs, located in Sturgis, Michigan, where he is a training supervisor and staff manager. He is responsible for manufacturing training within the plant for over 460 employees, and is head of the training department. In his spare time Bill enjoys scouting, fishing, working with the Literacy council, and photography. Bill's wife of 8 years, Sharon, is a homemaker, and she states that her duties there include keeping the family agenda, fixing the food, and mediating! Her hobbies include reading, singing, crafts, and plants and gardening.

Bill and Sharon have 3 children; Mike, 18, and Nick, 15, who both enjoy sports, singing in the school choir, and being in musicals; and Cara, who is 7.

This family likes outdoor activities, camping and traveling, as well as enjoying various restaurants. Bill has been a Christian for 15 years, Sharon 27 years, and Mike and Nick for 4 years. Thank you for blessing our lives, Pepitos!

* * * * *

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

DID YOU KNOW?

- The need for higher education for todays High School graduates is a foregone conclusion. Strong liberal arts programs are not the only academic specialty of Michigan Christian College. Students may also obtain one of several majors in an occupational degree program designed for the student who wants to enter the job market after 2 yrs. of college. These include programs as computer information systems, legal assistance, child care and secretarial science. You may phone MCC admissions office toll-free at 1-800-521-6010.

AREA NOTE

- The spring Camp Indogan Development Dinner is planned for March 18 at the Reed Rd. Church of Christ building in Ft. Wayne. See Dean for tickets.
- The "Accapella Band" (an all vocal group from Paris, TN) will be presenting a program in Plymouth at the Lincoln Jr. High School on Tuesday evening March 7 at 7:00 p.m.

YOUTH

- There will be a meeting March 11 at 1:30 p.m. at Reed Rd. Church of Christ. Russel Scott, a master in marshall arts, will be speaker.

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- | | | | |
|-----|------------------|----|-------------------|
| - 3 | Cara Pepito | 12 | Alma Dorris |
| 3 | Scarlett Morgan | 12 | Mary Ann Johnston |
| 6 | Billie Sanderson | 17 | Bonnie Sowles |
| 8 | Andrew Oakley | 21 | Sheila Copeland |
| 10 | Jill Pieratt | 24 | Aaron Simpson |
| 11 | Sally May | 28 | Phil Hostetler |
| 11 | Will May | | |

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

- | | | | |
|------|-----------------------|----|---------------------|
| - 12 | Dean & Thelma Hoggatt | 20 | Dave & Diane Kimpel |
| 31 | Enos & Norma Miller | | |

BAPTISM

- Deb Duzan was baptized on Feb. 25. We rejoice with her!

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



TRANSFORMER

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

March 12, 1989

While at Cedar Point Amusement Park with the teenagers from church, I experienced something which perfectly illustrates a principle of spiritual growth. The first thing I did when we entered the park (with the encouragement and company of others) was to get on the Demon Drop - the most death defying ride in the park. From the moment I saw this ride until the moment I stepped in line I was saying outwardly, "there is no way I am going to ride that thing!" But inwardly there was just enough curiosity as to whether or not I could live through it that I tried it to find out.

Since I lived through the Demon Drop I could then summon enough courage to ride some of the large roller coaster rides, like the Iron Dragon and the Corkscrew, but I would still not ride the Wildcat, Blue Streak, or even consider the Gemini (the one with the mile long dips). Yes I lived through the Demon Drop, but it was over in three seconds. However, I instinctively knew that the human frame was not built to withstand five minutes of 'cliff-jumping' type activity. I just knew rigormortis would set in before I could finish riding the Gemini.

But guess what the kids had me doing before the day was over? That's right - I was riding the Gemini, and loving every minute of it. In fact, I rode the Gemini three times; the last time with my hands in the air, even on the biggest dip. Why? Well, for one thing I could see others stepping off the Gemini with all their limbs and faculties unimpaired; and secondly, I received lots of positive encouragement from the kids who told me I would love it. But most importantly, I had gradually and progressively worked my way up to increasingly daring achievements. After all, if I could survive the last one, maybe I could survive the next one.

Paul tells us that we are transformed into the likeness of Christ "from one degree of glory to another." One step of faith after another, we learn gradually and progressively how to live as Jesus did.

-Dick Clay

* * * * *

"FAMILY OF THE WEEK"

This week we want to honor the Bob Sowles family. Bob is employed by the Auto Parts Company, where he is a salesman. In his spare time he enjoys tinkering with cars. His wife, Kathy, is a homemaker. She is also involved in babysitting part-time, as well as part-time office cleaning and working for Stopher's Photography. She enjoys using her spare time for needlework. Bob and Kathy have been married for 16 years.

They have 3 children. Robert, 15, is also employed part-time at Auto Parts Company where he stocks and cleans up after school 3 days a week. His hobbies include collecting baseball cards, constructing models, and being involved in neighborhood sports. Kim, 11, and Becky, 9, enjoy reading, swimming, riding their bikes, and collecting Barbie dolls. The entire family likes to go to grandma's house in Gary every chance they get.

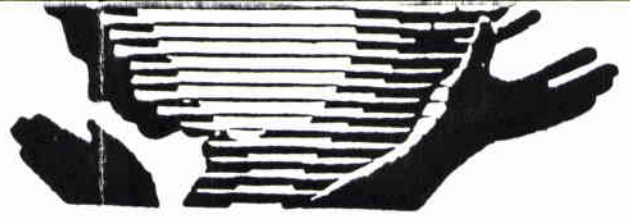
Bob and Kathy have been Christians 30 years and 12 years respectively. They have lived in the LaGrange area since 1974, having lived for awhile in Kalamazoo, Michigan as well. Congratulations to the Sowles on being our family of the week!

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ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- MEN'S MEETING - There will be a men's meeting tonight following services.
- REMINDER - Each Saturday in March there is a class for those wanting to know more about In Depth Bible Study. We are meeting from 1:30-3:30 or 4:00. It is a workbook study and each person will study at their own pace. If you plan to attend bring a ring binder notebook and pen and your favorite study Bible. If you can't come each week it won't matter - come when you can.
- CHANGE - We are going to change Wednesday evening services March 15 to Tuesday March 14, so people can go to the seminar at Lakeland High School on Wed. It starts at 6:30 to 10:30 p.m. Must be 17 or over to be admitted.
- YOUTH - There will be a Youth Rally on April 29th at Reed Rd. Church of Christ.
- CARE GROUP - Care Group 3 will meet at Austin & Patti Copeland's home on Saturday, March 18 at 5:00p.m. More details on bulletin board.
- MCC PARTNERSHIP DINNER WEST III - Plans are well under way for Michigan Christian College's Partnership Dinner West III scheduled for Saturday, April 15, 1989. This fund raising event demonstrates the unity members of the church have in their support for MCC. Hundreds of tickets at \$50 for adults and \$25 for students will be sold for this wonderful evening.
Jerry Tallman evangelist for the Rochester, Michigan congregation will be the speaker. In addition to an encouraging message from Brother Tallman and a nice meal, we will enjoy a musical performance from MCC's chorus.
Some from LaGrange are planning to go. Would you consider going?
- ATTENTION MEN - All are invited to play ball this afternoon at Lakeland High School gym. Cost \$1.00 each.
- PRAYERS - Bonnies neice, Candi, had a baby boy Tuesday.
- Missy's sister, Dee Dee, had surgery.
- Kathy Hughes had some surgery last week.
- Elizabeth Swartzentruber, Mary Ann's mother, is in the hospital with bronchitis.
- Remember these and any others who are under the weather at this time.

LaGrange Church of Christ
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TRANSFORMER

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

March 19, 1989

THE MONKEY'S VIEWPOINT ON LIFE

Three monkeys sat in a cocoanut tree discussing things as they're said to be; said one to the others, "Now listen, you two, there's a certain rumor that can't be true....that man descended from our noble race. The very idea!!....it's a dire disgrace; no monkey ever deserted his wife, starved her baby and ruined her life, and you've never known a mother monk to leave her babies with others to bunk or pass them on from one to another 'til they scarcely know who is their mother. And another thing! You'll never see a monk build a fence round a cocoanut tree, and let the cocoanuts go to waste, forbidding all other monks a taste. Why, if I put a fence around this tree, starvation would force you to steal from me. Here's another thing a monk won't do: go out at night and get in a stew; or use a gun, or club, or knife to take some other monkey's life. Yes, man descended, the onery cuss, but, brother, he didn't descend from us!!"

* * * * *

CO-OPERATE WITH GOD

When your troubles are around you
Like the waves upon the seas,
And seem ready to engulf you,
Just get down upon your knees.
Tell the good Lord all about it,
He can hear you anywhere.
If you love Him, He can help you,
And your troubles gladly share.
If you study His commandments,
Try to keep them day by day,
It is certain He will help you,
And will guide you on the way.
He will give you understanding
Of the things you need to do.
He will guide you and provide you
And will always be near you.

-Gay Ray

"Family Of The Week"

This week we would like to honor the Fred Oakley family. Fred and his wife, Penny, have been married for 19 years and have 3 children: Freddy, 18, Lisa, 17, and Andrew, 14.

Fred is employed by Lakeland High School, where he cleans the school and makes a better environment for the teens. In his spare time Fred enjoys pitching horseshoes. Penny is also employed by Lakeland High, where she is the AM Assistant Manager of the cafeteria. She has worked there for 9 years. She also works for the LaGrange Hospital, and is a housewife, which she states is by far her most fulfilling job. Her hobbies include going shopping, going on trips and eating junk food!

Freddy enjoys being a part of the Lakeland High basketball and track teams, and enjoys all sports. Lisa enjoys shopping and going out with her friends. Andrew loves to cook and go bowling. As a family, they all state that they like to go camping at the nearest Holiday Inn!

Fred and Penny have each been Christians since 1971, and Freddy and Lisa since 1985. They wish to add the following:

"The greatest meaning to our lives has been learning from the Bible about the love, mercy, and grace our Father and His Son has for us and has shown us while being here at LaGrange; to learn from the scriptures how we can serve Him and our fellowman who we come in contact with every day, putting into practice what we have learned. We are happy and blessed to have people like you here at LaGrange who give us strength and encouragement, as we hope that we also give to you. In Christian love, the Oakleys."

Congratulations to this wonderful family for being our Family of the Week!

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ANNOUNCEMENTS:

THANK YOU

- Dean and Thelma wish to thank all who brought cards and gifts to their 40th anniversary celebration. Most of all we thank you for your thoughtfulness and love.

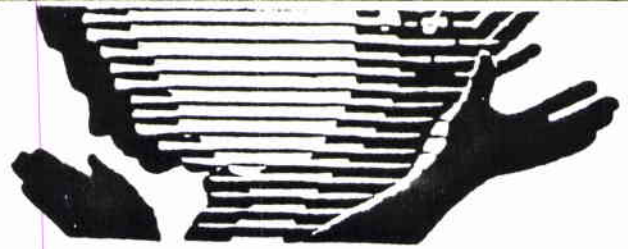
THURSDAY EVENING CLASS - will begin meeting at Joe & Lois Oakley's again next Thursday from 7 - 8 p.m.

PRAYERS

- Byron Cunningham, Barb's brother, will be undergoing surgery again on his broken arm.
- Erma Dubois, Kathy Sowles' mother, had gall bladder surgery.
- Dean & Thelma will be traveling to Tulsa next week.
- Remember those who have been ill or are still not back to their full health. Praise God for His 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)

March 26, 1989

BOBBY KNIGHT'S ADVICE

Basketball fans do not have to be told who Bobby Knight is. He coaches at Indiana, and seems to come up with a winning team almost every year. Recently he was asked, "What is the most important advice you can give to young people?" He answered, "The most important word that young people can learn is the little two letter word 'No.' Learn to say No. It will keep you out of all kinds of trouble. It will simplify your life. Everything will be easier if you learn to say No. If you always say Yes you are headed for trouble. At any time you can go from No to Yes without any difficulty, but it's really hard to go from Yes to No. Learn to say No."

Coach Knight is right! Those who always say Yes are headed for trouble. By learning to say No we can save ourselves a peck of heartache and trouble.

No is a timely word for the twentieth century, but we have become so elastic that we have learned the skill of saying both Yes and No in one breath. Years ago Francis J. McConnell satirized this by writing, "During the Boxer Rebellion, hundreds, yes, probably thousands, of Chinese Christians were martyred. There they knelt, with their heads on the blocks, and the knives trembling in the hands of the executioners. All they needed to do was to grunt out a Chinese word that meant 'I recant' and their lives would be saved. Now what should I have done under these circumstances? And I speak not simply personally, but in a representative capacity, for I think the rest of you are very much like myself. With my head on a block, I think I should have said, 'Hold on! I think I can make a statement that will be satisfactory to all sides.'"

In our day and age we are always tempted to say Yes. When pressed we will say Yes and No.

Will you have the courage to stand up and say No?

-John Gipson
Little Rock, Arkansas

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DID YOU KNOW?

Instructors are the heart of any academic program. At Michigan Christian College, students can study Bible under the founder of the first graduate program in Bible among the churches of Christ or take government from an instructor who has been invited to the White House by two U.S. Presidents. In fact, 47% of the full-time faculty have completed their doctorate or are doctoral candidates. The small college atmosphere of MCC even allows students to know their instructors on a personal basis. You may phone the MCC Administration Office toll-free at 1-800-521-6010.

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FAMILY OF THE WEEK

This week we would like to highlight the Dale Johnston family as our family of the week. Dale is employed by the Agro-Culture Liquid Fertilizer Co. where he is district manager for 4 states. He also has a Lawn and Turf Care business in this area where he mows, trims, fertilizes, etc. both residential and commercial. His hobbies include going out to eat and tinkering around on his equipment. Mary Ann works for Foltz's Bakery part-time, and is also a Mary Kay consultant and a housewife. At the bakery she is responsible for glazing donuts, preparing pans, icing rolls, making coffee cakes, etc. (It would never do for me to have that type of job!) She also waits on customers part of the time.

Dale and Mary Ann have been married 11½ years, and have 6 children. Randy, 26, is married, with two daughters and lives in Howe; Jim 24, lives in LaGrange; Rick Shears, 22, who lives in Kendallville; Laura (Shears) Dorris, 21, who lives near LaGrange; Lisa Shears, 18, who works at GRI in Howe, where she sews seats for automobiles; and Tammi Johnston, 18, who is a senior at Lakeland High and works for the Toll Plaza in the Gift Shop.

Their spare time interests include; Mary Ann, singing, reading, crafts, and decorating cakes; Lisa, shopping and reading; and Tammi states that she enjoys shopping also. The entire family likes to go out to eat whenever possible.

Of this wonderful family, Mary Ann has been a Christian for 18 years, Lisa 6½ years, and Tammi for 6.

Our thanks to the Johnstons for being our family of the week!

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ANNOUNCEMENTS:

APRIL BIRTHDAYS	- 1	Jim Pieratt	18	B. J. Gensic
	2	Patricia Leslie	22	Ryan DePriest
	5	Sharon Simpson	22	Laura Dorris
	9	Joe Hughes	24	David Hall
	13	Austin Copeland	27	Don Davison
			29	Vada Powell

APRIL ANNIVERSARIES	7	Wes & Sharon Simpson	13	Don & Becky Hutto
	8	Perry & Hazel Miller	25	Roy & Barbara Noble

SKATING PARTY - On March 27 from 6:30 - 9:00 at the Rollerdome in Ft. Wayne.
Cost: \$1.75 to skate, \$1.00 for skate rental.

PRAYERS

- Gay Ray
- Byron Cunningham, Barbara's brother, is home from the hospital
- Elizabeth Swartzentruher, Mary Ann's mother, is back in the hospital in Sturgis with pneumonia.
- Jesse Pieratt, Jim Pieratt's mother, had a pacemaker put in.
- Francis Springer having some problems with her health.
- Sheila Copeland has a kidney infection.
- Dean & Thelma are traveling this week.
- Corinna Rink, Mary Ann's niece, has been having kidney and bladder problems.
- Remember all these and any not mentioned as you pray this week.

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