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TRANSFORMER

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



July 2, 1989

- FOR THE LADIES -

"In Your Hearts Set Apart Christ As Lord"

I Peter 3:15

All around me women are lost and are training their children to follow in their steps. When I go to the grocery store, the bank, the mall, the playground, the library, or for a walk around my neighborhood, I am reminded daily that because Jesus has touched my life and saved me, I have a message for the women around me. The message will change their lives and their eternal destinies when they accept it. I used to try to think of neat and somewhat superficial things to talk to women about. We would talk about the latest news in diets, recipes, child-rearing ideas, our hobbies and so on. But now, in my heart, I want to get past these surface conversations and invite women to hear God's word. The best news of all that I could share with another woman is that Jesus wants and needs to be our Lord and Savior!

The first part of I Peter 3:15 says, "But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord." That means we are to give Christ a unique place in our hearts. This means it is more important what Jesus thinks than what we think. In other words, Jesus is to be the authority and decision-maker in our lives. This can happen only when we know his life and his words very well. I would like to share about two areas in which we must submit to the lordship of Christ so that we will influence the women around us to be saved.

Submit To The Lordship Of Christ In My Character

Romans 12:2 says that we need to be transformed, which means we need to be radically different than we were before we came to Christ. When we become Christians, we have to make character changes, and when we grow in Christ we continue to have to make character changes. I have had to make three changes in my character in the past year. Maybe some of you have had to make changes in these areas also. Think about the changes you have made and continue to make and determine if Christ is Lord in your character.

First, when I began to grow as a Christian, I realized that I could no longer claim shyness as a reason for not doing things that I did not want to do. I was a shy person in the past, and preferred to be into my own world of family, friends, books, routine, and hobbies, rather than to be out of myself in meeting people. I would never talk to a person about religion because I felt that it was a very personal and touchy subject with most people. I decided I had to change my shy character and pattern myself after Christ. Could you imagine Christ being shy and into himself? Never! Jesus needs to be Lord of my personality.

Second, I was never a person of strong convictions. I would never give my opinion on anything, and would never speak up in a group or class. I have had to change that part of my character. As a Christian, I need to have strong convictions to study the Bible with people, to disciple women, and to deal with sin. Jesus needs to be Lord in my convictions.

Third, I have had to change my character in the area of submitting to my husband. I never really had a problem with submission unless Randy wanted me to do something that I was extremely opposed to doing, and then I would really show him I didn't

have to do anything I didn't want to do! When I submitted my heart to Jesus, he became Lord, and my attitude towards submission had to change. Jesus needs to be Lord of my attitude in submission.

Submit To The Lordship Of Christ in My Time

James 4:14 tells us that we do not know what will happen tomorrow. This scripture says that we are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. Ephesians 1:16 says that we need to make the most of every opportunity. We must submit our time to God to see women won to Christ. We need to be willing to give our days and weeks, our mornings, afternoons, and evenings, to do God's work. God is the one who has given us time. How can we use it for him? We need to be well organized and disciplined to see that all of our responsibilities are adequately taken care of. I need to meet the needs of my family, and then the needs of the women I am working with. I can do all of this if I submit my time to God and pray for his guidance. It takes time to study the Bible with women. It takes time to disciple women. It takes time to read and study and pray every day. It takes time to serve people. It takes time to care for a family. Jesus is Lord of my time, and I want to do what he wants me to do with it.

When Jesus was on the earth, what was his character like? He used his mind and his heart to teach people and to love people. When Jesus was on earth, how did he use his time? He used it to serve people and to bring glory to God. In our hearts we must set apart Christ as Lord-Lord in our characters and in our time. Let Jesus use us to bring more women to him!

-Marsha Walters

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"FAMILY OF THE WEEK"

This week we want to honor a very fine lady that is a member of this congregation, Mrs. Lucille Doty.

Lucille was married to the late Harley Doty, and had two children; Sheldon (who passed away in 1953); and a daughter, Julia dunlap, who currently resides in Wolcotville. Lucille has 3 grandchildren and 7 great grandchildren, and says that she really has fun with them.

Some other leisure time favorites of Lucille's are going out to eat, and getting together with her sisters and reminiscing.

Lucille says that she has been a Christian for 22 years, and we want to congratulate her on being the individual of this week!

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ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- ATTENTION - Roy and Barbara would ask the cooperation and respect of the parents of the congregation in checking to make sure your child replaces Jerrod and Jordan's toys (balls, bicycles, etc..) in their yard after you use them.
Thank you!
- PRAYERS - Myrtle Whitlock, Dane Tate, Linda Sattison, Gay Ray, and the Noble Family.
- BABY SHOWER - There will be a baby shower for Amatha Davison and Baby on Sat. July 8 at 6:30pm at the building.

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)

July 9, 1989

FIRST THINGS FIRST

In everything we do in life, there are rules to be followed. In the game of baseball, you must run the bases from first to second to third to home. If a base runner insisted on going to third first, he would be declared "Out"! In golf, you must begin with Hole 1 first. In football, the game must begin with a kick-off first. The cliché is, "First things first."

First things must come first in Christianity also. (Matthew 23:25). "First things first." If we try to clean the outside of our lives without first giving our heart to God, then we are violating a rule for kingdom living. When Jesus was asked about the first and greatest commandment, He replied, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment, and the second is like it. Love your neighbor as yourself." (Matthew 22:37-39) The rule, first love God. That is internal. And second, love your neighbor. Loving your neighbor results from loving God. That is external.

Are we putting "First things first"? Are you living by externals or internals? The following is a list of contrasts between externals and internals. Check yourself by this list to see which you are living by.

CONTRASTS BETWEEN PEOPLE WHO LIVE BY EXTERNALS AND THOSE WHO LIVE BY INTERNALS

<u>Externals</u>	<u>Internals</u>
1. Driven	1. Led (Romans 8:12-14)
2. Letter	2. Spirit (II Corinthians 3:6)
3. Would kill to get other to conform (Paul before conversion)	3. Would be killed to get others to submit to God (Phil. 4:4-9)
4. Want to be served	4. Want to serve (Matthew 20:28)
5. Doing	5. Being (Luke 10:38-41)
6. Preach themselves	6. Preach Christ (II Cor. 4:5)
7. Measure success by visible results	7. Measure results by spiritual growth
8. Depend on programs for results	8. Depend on God to produce lasting fruit (II Cor. 4:2)
9. Event-oriented	9. Equipping-oriented (Eph. 4:11-12)
10. Things/Activities Centered	10. People Centered (II Cor. 5:16, I John 3:16-20)
11. Indifference or Passivity	11. Active good will or devotion to one another (Romans 12:10)
12. Interested in controversy and controversial subjects, characterized by harshness	12. Not quarrelsome, characterized by kindness (II Timothy 2:24-26)

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|---|---|
| 13. Temporal Focus | 13. Eternal Focus (II Cor. 4:18) |
| 14. Many things necessary for salvation | 14. Only <u>one</u> thing is necessary for salvation (Luke 10:42) |
| 15. Plan Emphasis | 15. God/Man Emphasis (John 1:10-13) |
| 16. Works | 16. Faith (James 2:14-17; II Cor. 5:11; Matthew 23:1-4, 11-12) |
| 17. Telling or Demanding | 17. Persuading or showing (Lk. 22:25-26; II Cor. 3:11) |
| 18. Bondage | 18. Freedom (Galatians 5:1) |

There are many examples in scripture of those who engaged in obvious external activities that would lead those who observed to believe they were devoted religious people, and they were; but they had defied themselves. Some examples are the five foolish virgins (Matthew 25:1-13); and cups and dishes clean on the outside but left dirty on the inside (Matthew 23:25).

Jesus warned, "These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. They worship me in vain; their teachings are but rules taught by men (Matthew 15:8-9). God wants our heart First. If God has our hearts First, there will be no other Gods before Him (Deut. 5:7), and we will not be double-minded (James 4:8).

-Jim Woodell

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"FAMILY OF THE WEEK"

Congratulations this week go to the Lomeli family as our family of the week.

Pete is employed by Bauman-Harnish of Garrett, where he is a press operator responsible for operating molding presses in the production of various rubber products. His hobbies include woodworking, fishing, target shooting, singing, playing the guitar, reading, lifting weights, working on cars and spending a lot of time with his kids. His wife of 11 years, Ruth, currently is working towards management in Tupperware and babysitting. She spends her time recruiting people for Tupperware parties in an effort to acquire a new van for the business. She states that she enjoys teaching Sunday school, cross-stitching, reading, and she says that she wants to learn how to quilt and get things ready for the baby they wish to adopt.

Pete and Ruth have two children; Charity, 9, who is currently learning to cross-stitch, and loves to play with her kittens, go fishing with her dad, and knit; and Josh, 4, who likes Ninja turtles and wrestling with Pete.

The family as a whole likes to fish, go to the library, eat at Pizza Hut, go to horse shows, dog shows, and the rodeo, and also going to the zoo. Pete has been a Christian for 12 years and Ruth for 21 years. They state that they would like for everyone to know of their desire to adopt a baby, and also to let everyone know of how much they appreciate the church at LaGrange. They say that even though they have not been identified with this congregation for very long, everyone has really made them feel like "one of the family".

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

On behalf of Southeastern Church of Christ
Bob Herndon and the MAEW planning committee
cordially invite you to attend
the 11th Annual MID-AMERICA EVANGELISM WORKSHOP
held in the Indiana Convention Center
Indianapolis, Indiana
July 12-15, 1989

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ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Father/Son Banquet - Saturday, July 22, 1989 at 6:00 p.m. Be sure and sign up on the sheet provided on the table in foyer. There will be a minimum charge to cover costs.
- Help Needed - John & Beverly Ray are in need of some household items - dishes, furniture, etc. If you have anything you'd like to share, see them.
- Baby Shower - Remember the baby shower for Amatha & Nicole today at 2:00 p.m. at the building.
- Prayers - Those traveling - Beverly Ray to Louisiana; Sharon Pepito & Cara taking Mike and Heidi Herron to OCC for the week; Marcella & Bethany going back home; Jim & Sharon Pieratt traveling to Missouri for a few days.
- Nannie Hall hasn't been feeling well
- Kathleen Price still not able to get out.
- Gay Ray still having pain
- Mary Campbell & Mary Anne Wade both in Miller's Merry Manor.
- Gay Ray's brothers wife has to go in the hospital.
- Remember all these and any others you know of who are in need of our prayers. Cards and visits would be appreciated by those who aren't feeling well and can't get out.
- Congratulations - To Sheila Copeland for placing second in the tractor pull on the 4th. She pulled 450 lbs. Way to go!!

* * * * *

*Ray Pelfrey
Janis Northey-Virginia
K. Sambo Dad*

7/16/89

Do Deal with anger

1. Don't hint it
2. Don't suppress it
3. Process our anger (negotiate it)



The TRANSFORMER

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

July 16, 1989

"CHUMMING THE WATERS"

My first experience trolling for king mackerel off the East Coast was like a chapter out of some exotic fairytale. My wife, Diane, and I were with our good friends Joe and Kathy Mattox in their comfortable boat. The weather was gorgeous: bright sun, soft breeze, minuscule waves. It was the kind of day where you almost hope the fish will leave you alone (almost!).

When Joe invited me to go tournament fishing with him, I thought that since it was so much fun on just a regular day, there was no telling how much fun a tournament would be.

We got up before intelligent people normally do and went up and down the Intra-coastal Waterway looking for baitfish. On a nontournament day any baitfish will do, but on a tournament day it has to be menhaden, about six inches long - just what a mackerel is looking for when its tummy is empty. When we found them flipping in the water, Joe threw the net and hauled in three or four hundred fish, enough for the day.

On the previous day, we'd gotten about the same number of menhaden and had fed them into a meat grinder. This menhaden mush was put in a sack and became our chum bag. Now with the chum bag plus the live menhaden, out we went to the ocean.

When we finally reached the spot, we tossed the chum bag out. Then we began trolling around it in circles. But to make the area even more enticing to a king mackerel, we continued dicing the live menhaden into thirds and tossing the pieces behind the boat as fresh chum.

With the chum bag out and fresh chunks of menhaden in the water, there is often a feeding frenzy. Word gets out that there are freebies floating on the water surface, and every mackerel and shark within a wide radius shows up for a meal. Up come the mackerel, and if you're lucky, they start hitting the bait on your line.

This method of fishing is similar to a style of evangelism Paul described.

But thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumphal procession in Christ and through us spreads everywhere the fragrance of the knowledge of Him. For we are to God the aroma of Christ among those who are being saved and those who are perishing. To the one we are the smell of death; to the other, the fragrance of life. (II Cor. 2:14-15)

We serve as chum - a chum bag that's set out for the world. Not a very glamorous position, is it? Thomas a Kempis said, "God has lots of people who are yearning for the kingdom, but not nearly so many who are willing to bear the cross."

It's inescapable. If you've claimed Christ, you're part of the chum - either the best argument Christianity could have or the worst. Either you're the smell of life or the smell of death. There's no in-between. That's God's strategy for reaching people - to throw the chum bag out and keep cutting up people and pouring them out so others will smell and come to the ultimate bait.

That's what Jesus did. Jesus brought grace and truth. He was ground up in the meat grinder, because God was drawing people. He wanted them to smell the

fragrance of the love he had from eternity, so he set apart Christ before the worlds were made so he might be the sacrificial lamb. Jesus knew how to identify without becoming identical, and we are called to the same today.

God takes us out in the boat. He grinds us up and throws us back into the waters as chum. When people around us take a whiff, is it the aroma of Christ or or the stench of death? You're either the best or the worst argument Christianity has.

-Mike Cope,
Living in Two Worlds

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"FAMILY OF THE WEEK"
(to continue later)

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ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- THURSDAY NIGHT CLASS - The Thursday night class will not meet this week, July 27.
- CAMP INDOGAN - INTERMEDIATE SESSION July 16-21
SENIOR SESSION July 23-28
INTERMEDIATE SESSION July 30-Aug 4
JUNIOR SESSION Aug. 6-11
- FATHER/SON BANQUET - If you are planning on attending the Father/Son Banquet make sure you are signed up by today. It will be held July 22 at 6:00p.m. here at the building. The cost will be \$2.00 per person.
- CHILDRENS DAY. - Saturday August 5th is our Children's day. Plan on attending and enjoying the day with our children.
- ANNIVERSARY - The congregation here will be celebrating our anniversary on August 6th with a special assembly. Plans are in the making for this day.
- PRAYERS - Danielle Davison, baby daughter of Amatha & Cary.
- Pete Lomeli recovering from ear surgery
- Ruth Lomeli is having severe headaches from the tests that were done.
- Eddie McGuiggan had an auto accident this past week. He's OK but his car isn't.
- Gay Ray, Mary Campbell, Mary Anne Wade all in Miller's
- Tammi Johnston will be moving to Niles this afternoon.
- Remember all these and any that may have been overlooked in your prayers this week. Let's not forget to thank God for the answers to our prayers too.

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July 30, 1989

SELF-PITY

Isn't it fun to wallow in self-pity? I know it is true because so many of us do it so frequently. There seems to be nothing better than a good dose of griping about how everyone else makes so many mistakes; whining about the people at work who do not carry their share of the load; grumbling about your brother or sister who is the family favorite; spending an afternoon thinking about your string of bad luck and wondering how your friends do so well with their lesser abilities; and wondering why the bad health or accident had to happen to you.

A professor at a major university once told his class, "Self-pity is a luxury you cannot afford." He said, "No one can be effective as a marriage partner, patient, friend or employee if he has to carry the emotional overload of self-pity."

Self-pity is an enemy to enthusiasm. I know a person whom I seldom ask, "How are you doing?" Everytime I ask, I get a long tale of woe filled with self-pity.

I have found the people who have obstacles and yet, continue to fight to be the truly refreshing people in life. Those who have trouble and maintain enthusiasm, zest, smiling faces and determination are the ones who transform lives and influence the world.

Please be encouraged to reject all self-pity and to become enthusiastic with what you do have.

-Ken Jones

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Tim Hughes
- 2 Meghann Hostetler
- 2 Amber Budzyk
- 3 Penny Oakley
- 7 Sue Morgan
- 8 Becky Hutto
- 11 Dean Hoggatt
- 15 Becky Sowles
- 27 David Sowles
- 27 Brian Leslie
- 29 Hazel Miller

AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

- 5 Harold & Janet DePriest
- 12 Bob & Kathy Sowles
- 20 Dale & Mary Ann Johnston



"For crying out loud, Jonah! Three days late, covered with slime, and smelling like fish! ... And what story have I got to swallow *this time*?"

"FAMILY OF THE WEEK"

This week we want to honor the Phil Hostetler family as our Family of the Week.

Phil, and his wife Diane, have been married for 12 years. Phil is employed by the West Noble Middle School, where he is an art teacher and the middle school track coach. His hobbies include painting, running, drawing, woodworking and coaching cross-country. Diane is a housewife, as well as manager of a family-owned bed and breakfast business and part-time custodian at Westview Middle School. Her interests include sewing, running, decorating old homes and farm work.

Phil and Diane have one child, Meghann, 8, who enjoys playing the piano, swimming, riding her bike, and playing with her pets and the farm animals.

The entire family states that they enjoys shopping together, as well as exercising, camping and going to Pizza Hut. Phil and Diane state that they are both Christians. Congratulations to the Hostetlers on being the Family of the Week!

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ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- CONGREGATIONAL MEETING - Immediately following morning services there will be a meeting for the entire congregation.
- TEACHERS MEETING - This afternoon at 5:00 p.m. there is a MANDATORY meeting for all the present teachers here at the building. Rm. 13
- SONG SERVICE - Since this is a 5th Sunday, there will be a song service this evening. Come prepared to sing praises to God.
- GARAGE SALE - Sally May is having a garage sale to help with hospital bills for Danielle Davison. If you have any donations for the sale, please leave in the old kitchen.
- CHILDRENS DAY - Here on August 5th starting at 12:30.
- PRAYERS - Mary Sowles, Bob & Dave's sister, had another heart attack and is in Hospital in Gary.
- Linda Sattison will be returning home the 3rd.
- Jennifer Pelfry will have to remain in the hospital 2 more weeks as they had to reset her arm.
- Joe Smith, Sharon Pepito's uncle in Arkansas, suffered burns from a radiator.
- Dan Davison's mother, isn't doing good concerning her cancer.
- Danielle Davison has been placed on a monitor.
- Continue to remember these and any others who need our prayers.

*Arva Miller
Jany Kay Davinson says*

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The TRANSFORMER

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August 6, 1989

WHAT HAPPENED TO COMMITMENT?

Many marriages don't seem to last any more. I keep hearing it more and more in the church. Sunday, an attractive woman about 32 years old, who was reared in a Christian home and married in the church, told me her husband of fourteen years had left her and their two girls for another woman. Last week, after two years of marriage, a young Christian wife told her husband she wanted her freedom to "do what I want to do." This week she moved out and continued seeing a newly-found boyfriend.

No one ever said marriage is easy. "And they lived happily ever after" is found only in fairy tales. One husband asked his wife, "Honey, how could the Lord make you so beautiful, and yet so dumb?" She retorted, "I guess the Lord made me beautiful so you could love me, and dumb so I could love you." Anyone who is married for any time at all knows that marriage, like any relationship, takes hard work, discipline, and responsibility.

At one time or another, all married people have probably felt they made a mistake and would be happier if they had only married someone else. The grass always looks greener in someone else's pasture. A strange story is told of one of the first ministers to venture among the Indians of the Yukon. Discovering that none of the tribe was baptized or married, he proceeded without further ado to do both. After the mass, five-hour baptismal and marriage ceremonies were ended, the preacher asked the chief which part the people enjoyed most. "Well, brother," said the chief, "we liked being baptized, but best of all we loved being married." Suspicious, the minister asked, "Why did you prefer the marriage ceremony?" The chief replied, "Because we all got new wives." Many feel that if they had a new mate they would be happy, but that's nothing but fantasy.

Marriage is as long as "we both shall live," not "as long as we both shall love." The longer we keep our commitment, the more we love our mates. The best love in the whole world is that total commitment of the total life to the marriage partner we now have. Changing partners will no more change us than changing clothes will rework our personalities.

Commitment means "no escape clause." The grass on the other side of the marriage fence must be watered, fertilized, and mowed, just like on this side. Whatever we can visualize doing or saying or giving in another marriage, let's give it to the one we've got and watch it flourish. The value, meaning, and satisfaction of our marriage will increase in proportion to the commitment we make to it.

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"FAMILY OF THE WEEK"

This week we have chosen to honor the Donald Hutto family as our Family of the Week.

Donald is currently unemployed, but claims that he is a pretty good handyman. His hobbies include C.B. Radios, riding bikes and doing odd jobs. Donald and his wife, Becky, have been married for 2 years. Becky is not employed, and is a housewife, whose interests involve shopping, going to Tupperware and toy parties, being a taxi(!), and fellowship with fellow Christians.

Donald and Becky have 4 children; Don, 9, who mows lawns and enjoys bike riding and the Boy Scouts; Mitra, 8, who is involved with Girl Scouts; June, 4, who likes pony riding; and Jamie, who will be 2 in October and enjoys playing with her dad. The entire family states that they enjoy going to the park, eating out and going on picnics. Donald and Becky have been Christians for 1½ years, and Donald adds, "I need my brother's and sister's prayers. I have been having troubles with my Christian life. I like the Church, but it seems that everytime I want to assemble, something holds me back. Thanks for everything that you guys have done for us."

Thank you, Huttos, for being our Family of the Week.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS:

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| BABY SHOWER | - For Robert Nathaniel Denny on August 12 at 3:00p.m. here at the building, son of April & Robert Denny. |
| PRAYERS | - <u>Mary Anne Wade's</u> sister, Rachel Haven, passed away in Ohio.
- <u>Bill Pepito</u> and <u>Harold DePriest</u> are both looking for jobs.
- <u>Earl Vaughn</u> , Patti Copeland's father, has been having problems with his throat again.
- <u>Orvie Miller</u> recovering from an accident on his moped.
- <u>Mary Sowles</u> has been hospitalized with heart problems.
- <u>Mary Campbell & Gay Ray & Mary Anne Wade</u> , residents of Millers Merry Manor.
- Remember all these in your prayers this week. |
| CARE GROUP 3 | - Care Group 3 will be meeting on August 19 (Saturday) at the Johnston's for a cook out beginning at 4:00 p.m. |

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August 13, 1989

A young boy walked into a drugstore and asked to use the telephone. He asked the operator to give him a certain number: "Hello, Dr. Anderson...do you want to hire a boy to cut the grass and run errands? Oh, you already have a boy? Are you completely satisfied with the boy you have?...OK then, goodbye, Doctor."

As the boy thanked the druggist, the druggist said: "Just a minute, son...if you are looking for work, I could use a boy like you."

"Thank you, sir, but I have a job." The boy replied.

"But didn't I just hear you trying to get a job from Dr. Anderson?"

"No sir," said the boy, "you see, I am the boy who is working for Dr. Anderson. I was just checking up on myself."

It would do us all good to check up on ourselves to see if we are living a life that is productive and pleasing to God. In fact, Paul instructs us to do just that. "Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves." (II Cor. 13:5) This spiritual examination should be taken very personally.

Paul concludes in II Cor. 13:6- "I trust that you will discover that ye have not failed the test."

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"FAMILY OF THE WEEK"

This week we want to honor a wonderful lady, Mrs. Francis Springer. Francis is a widow, after having been married for 17 years. She has had two children, James and Mary. She states that she was a cook for 40 years until she had a stroke, followed by the disease she currently has which has handicapped her.

Her hobbies include sewing and needlework, and her children are very active in sports. Her family enjoys getting together for games and sports, as well as helping other people.

Francis adds that she has been a Christian for 30 years, as well as her daughter. Her son, Jim, was a Christian, but left Christ at the time of his marriage 18 years ago.

We want to commend Francis for her courage and attitude in the face of trials. In that respect, she is an example to us all. Thank you, Francis.

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DANDY DESIGNS



One of the more common evolutionary debates center around the question of how any theory of evolution can explain the neck of a giraffe. Most of these discussions center around how environmental pressure could force the animals to reach higher and higher searching for food. There are massive skeletal problems in such explanations, but even more amazing are the problems of fluids.

In physics, one of the more basic laws of fluid pressure states that pressure at the bottom of a fluid column is equal to the height of a liquid multiplied by its density. At the bottom of a 10' deep lake, for example, the pressure is equal to the density of water (62.4 lbs. per cubic foot) times the height. In this case, then, the pressure is 624 pounds per square foot higher than normal air pressure. That's why your ears pop when you dive too deep in a lake.

In the human body, the same thing is true. A 6' man will have 62.4 lbs per cubic foot x 6', or 374.4 lbs per square foot more pressure in the blood vessels in his feet than in the top of his head. You can see the wisdom in the brain being in the top of his head rather than in the lower extremities of the body. With lower fluid pressure, there is a reduced risk of aneurysm or breaking of a blood vessel. Some giraffes can stand well over 12' tall. Pressure differences between the top of the giraffe's head and the bottom of his feet can reach over $\frac{1}{2}$ ton per square foot. In Nature magazine (Sept. 3, 1987, p.59) is a recent study done on giraffes to explain how these pressure problems are resolved. In the neck of the giraffe are a series of one-way valves that propel blood and other fluids upward against the gravitational pressure. These valves not only reduce the pressure the heart must exert, but they are designed in such a way that, when the giraffe bends over to drink, the pressure in his head doesn't soar and kill him. In addition to the valves, the giraffe has tight skin and fascia (connecting tissue) that prevents pooling of blood and edema. The article states that this tissue is, in effect, an antigravity suit like those used in hospitals.

The article concludes by saying the giraffe is certainly unique in its adaption to high gravitational pressures in its cardiovascular system. I would suggest that the giraffe shows God's wisdom and design in engineering all of the things needed for its unique life-style.

-John Clayton

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ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- MEN'S MEETING** - Sunday evening following assembly. It is important for all men to be there. The finance committee will present recommendations for the congregations finances.
- PRAYERS**
- Dan Davison & family in the death of his mother, Margie Burkhart.
 - Dean Hoggatt who received 7 stitches in his leg due to a cut he got from broken glass.
 - Remember these and others, Earl Vaughn, Gay Ray, Mary Sowles, Orvie Miller, who haven't been feeling well, as you go to the Lord this week.

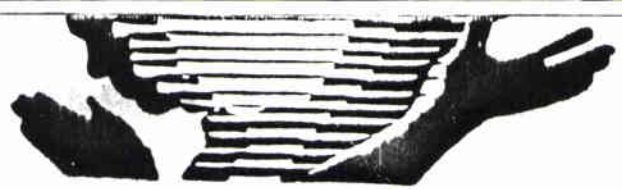
LaGrange Church of Christ
R.R.5, Box 13
LaGrange, IN 46761



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TRANSFORMER

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



August 27, 1989

REJOICE THAT YOUR NAMES ARE WRITTEN IN HEAVEN

There was a missionary who went to a very unreceptive country to preach the gospel. It took him nine years of teaching and service before he made his first convert. Such a humble return for one's labor has potential to cause great emotional distress (if not a little brain damage). How could this man keep on preaching in light of the rejection he faced?

Before we answer that question, let's look at another scenario. I know of a congregation that is on course to baptize 1,000 people into Christ this year, and they are retaining 70% of the new converts. How can the leaders and members of this congregation keep from swelling with pride in light of their great success? What will keep them from saying "Look what we have done - aren't we good?"

In Luke 10:17-20 Jesus dealt with the pride of success experienced by his disciples. When the seventy-two returned from their preaching mission throughout Israel they were full of joy and said, "Lord even the demons submit to us in your name." After Jesus praised the defeat of Satan by the power of God he said, "However, do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven."

Here Jesus gives the secret of dealing with the pride of success; but I believe it is also the secret of dealing with the discouragement of failure. Whether the disciples had been successful or not, they could still rejoice that their names were written in heaven.

In applying this principle to us today, whether our children are faithful or unfaithful, if we remain true to God we can rejoice that our names are written in heaven. Whether the ones we teach and pray for become Christians or not, we can still rejoice that God has forgiven our sins and promised us an eternal reward. In the midst of deep failure, or in the midst of great victory (even the ability to cast out demons), the proper response is not to give up or to swell with pride. The proper response is to take joy in the love and salvation God has given us through the blood of his son Jesus.

Are you rejoicing that your name is written in heaven?

-Dick Clay
So. Bend, IN

"FAMILY OF THE WEEK"

Our family for this week is the Eulalah Turpin family. Eulalah has been a Christian for 10 years. She is employed by the Coachmen Co., where she has worked for 14 years. She works in personnel, handling employee benefits and all salaried personnel files.

Eulalah has three children: Brian, 14, who enjoys baseball, football and swimming; Amber, 10, who spends time collecting butterflies and unicorns and playing girls soft-ball; and Jason, 10, who collects baseball cards and plays Little League ball.

As a family they enjoy going to Cedar Point together and going out to eat. Remember to congratulate the Turpins for being our family of the week!

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ANNOUNCEMENTS:

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS - 2	Barbara Noble	12	Cinda Simpson
2	Milissa Leslie	15	Jean Pieratt
3	Kathy Jo Hughes	17	Dale Dorris
4	Sharon Pepito	19	Perry Miller
7	Eulalah Turpin	19	Rick Shears
8	Brian Turpin	23	Bill Pepito
		29	David May

SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 2 Pete & Ruth Lomeli 19 Bob & Sue Morgan

PRAYERS

- Lucille Doty had been in Sturgis Hospital last weekend suffering from an anxiety attack.
- Jean (Hoggatt) Carter's baby, Ariel, had been in the hospital with respiratory problems.
- Nannie Hall, hasn't been feeling well.
- Gay Ray, Mary Campbell and Mary Anne Wade at Miller's Merry Manor.
- Kathleen Price fell and hurt her knees.
- Steve Miller, Joey Oakley and Mike Pepito going to OCC.
- Remember these as you go to God in prayer this week.

LADIES DAY

- September 23 will be the Ladies Day in Battle Creek. Be sure you are signed up if you plan on attending.

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LaGrange Church of Christ
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The TRANSFORMER

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

September 3, 1989

RELAX

I like the way a prominent businessman put it: "Belonging to Jesus Christ means that we are His in any situation He has happened to drop us."

Some of us seem to think that the only way we are going to experience God is if we see a burning bush, or become a full-time missionary in a third-world country. Anything short of this means that we will not find God.

That concept is wrong. No one of us is ever going to start experiencing God any place except where we are now.

Look at Jesus Christ. He did not go rushing out of His way to do something religious. He just walked calmly through life. Calmly – that's what impresses me so much. It seems that He moved almost casually through life in His relationship with people; and He was God's there. Whether He had a word of love, of uplifting, of encouragement, or a word of frightening rebuke, in every situation He was God's. His relationship with God, and being God's Servant, did not depend upon world-wide travel. It did not depend upon whether he was in Jerusalem, or the countryside in Galilee. It did not depend upon having a pulpit, or being in charge of a large philanthropic fund with which to meet the needs of the poor. He was simply God's Servant where he was, and whatever He was doing.

Isn't it true that most of us have felt that we are supposed to turn into some sort of half-angel with a shining halo? That's not it. We are supposed to be normal human beings doing the normal, simple little duties of life – full of God!

Is it possible that we have made our Christianity into some tense, striving, religious effort when all that God wants is to live with us and through us?

JOHN GIPSON
Little Rock, Arkansas

"FAMILY OF THE WEEK"

This week we want to honor the Dave Sowles family as our family of the week.

Dave is employed as a welder with the Ironworker's Local 292 out of South Bend. His hobbies and other interests include restoring cars and doing auto body work in general. His wife of 4 years, Bonnie, is a housewife, and enjoys singing, crocheting, quilting, sewing, cooking for banquets, entertaining at home and doing crossword puzzles.

They have 4 children; Joseph Sowles, 21, who lives in Steger, Illinois; April Denny, 19, who enjoys swimming, skating, tubing, and playing with Nathan; Amber Budzyk, 18, who likes running, swimming, playing volleyball and shopping; and Julia Sowles, 16, who lives in Steger, Illinois also.

As a family they enjoy playing PeeWee golf, going out to dinner, taking weekend trips, playing volleyball, swimming, decorating the house, having barbecues and studying the Bible together. David has been a Christian 31 years, Bonnie 4 years, Joe and Julia for 3 years, and Amber and April for 4 years. Thanks Sowles, for being our family of this week!

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NOTE: This will be the last week that we will have the "Family of the Week" addition. It was the original intent to include every family in the congregation. Every family has been contacted concerning this. Those families who were not included was of their choice. We wanted to assure you that no one was neglected or overlooked. A hearty "thank you" to those who have participated and allowed us to get to know you better.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- NEW CARE GROUPS - New care groups are being formed. Check the list on bulletin board to see if you are on it, so we haven't missed anyone who wants to be included.
- CAMP INDOGAN - Monday, Labor Day, there will be a Pot luck at the camp for all who wish to attend.
- YOUTH RALLIES - Sept. 22 & 23 - Pre-Teen Youth Rally Wil Smith-Director
Sept. 29 & 30 - Teen Rally (13-18) Theme: Love One Another
Director - David Yasko from Muncie
- WEDNESDAY LADIES CLASS - The lessons with Jane McWhorter will begin September 20.
- SECRET SISTER POTLUCK - We will be revealing secret sisters on September 8 at 6:00 p.m. here at the building. If you wish to be included in Secret Sisters this time, pick up a form on Secret Sister table, fill it out and give to Patti Copeland by Friday so you can be included in the drawing.
- PRAYERS - Our ladies in Nursing Home-Mary, Mary Anne, & Gay; men on new committees; any of our number who are sick at this time.

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TRANSFORMER

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

September 10, 1989

PLAYING GAMES WITH GOD

"...the people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play" (I Cor. 10:7)

Games have become a common pastime in the American way of life. Millions of dollars are spent annually in the U.S. by advertizers seeking to place their games in American homes. Some games are designed for adults or families, while others are primarily designed with children in mind. We learn early in life that games are fun to play.

A popular song a few years ago showed how we have applied the game-playing philosophy to life. The singer captured the hearts of people with the words "...life ain't nothing but a funny funny riddle." We often identify with such thinking, whether consciously or otherwise. And why not? It's comfortable to believe that life has no more consequence than a riddle or a joke. But I find it somewhat difficult to imagine the apostle Paul seeing life as a game. With such words as "for me to live is Christ, and to die is gain", and "I count all things but loss...that I may win Christ", Paul seemed to indicate that he had found the answer to the "riddle" of life.

There isn't anything wrong with playing games. The danger comes when we begin to play games with God, because He can't be "bluffed". Do you take life seriously? In life it matters both how you play the game, and whether you win or lose, because losers don't get a rematch. Those who have the wrong answer to the riddle of life will find that it's no game. Think about it!!

-Mel Schulman

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THANKFUL HEARTS

For all that God in mercy sends-
For health and children, home and
friends;
For comforts in the time of need,
For every kindly word and deed,
For happy talks and holy thoughts;
For guidance in our daily walk-
In everything give thanks.
For the sweet sleep which comes with
night,
For the returning morning light,
For the bright sun that shines on
high,
For the stars glittering in the sky-
For these and everything we see,
O Lord, our hearts we lift to Thee;
In everything give thanks!

Since some of you now have sons gone off to college, I thought you might enjoy the following:

A Mother's Letter to Her Son in College

Dear Son:

Just a few lines to let you know that I am still alive. I'm writing this letter slowly because I know that you cannot read very fast.

You won't know the house when you come home...we've moved.

About your father...he has a lovely job. He has 500 men under him. He is cutting the grass at the cemetery.

There was a washing machine in the new house when we moved in, but it isn't working too good. Last week I put fourteen shirts into it, pulled the chain, and I haven't seen the shirts since.

Your sister Mary had a baby this morning. I haven't found out whether it is a boy or girl, so I don't know whether you are an aunt or uncle.

Your Uncle Dick drowned last week in a vat of whiskey at the local brewery. Some of his work mates dived in to save him, but he fought them off bravely. We cremated his body and it took three days to put out the fire.

It rained only twice last week; first for three days, and then for four days. Monday it was so windy that one of the chickens laid the same egg four times.

We had a letter yesterday from the undertaker. He said if the last installment isn't paid on your grandmother within seven days, "up she comes."

Your Loving Mother

P.S. I was going to send you \$50.00 but I had already sealed the envelope.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS:

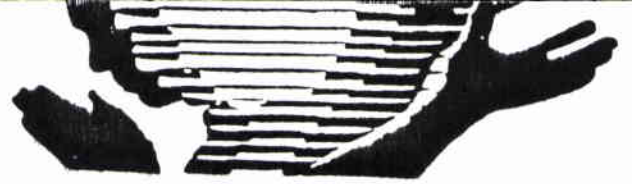
AND THE LORD ADDED...Mike Sprunger was baptized last Sunday evening. God bless you Mike! His address and phone number are:
R. 3 Box 43A 854-3252
Wolcottville, IN 46795

CONGRATULATIONS - To David & Kim (Herron) Gaither on a 6 lb. 7 oz. baby girl born August 23, 1989. She is named Brianna Lee.

MEN'S MEETING - This evening following assembly.

PRAYERS - Roy & Barbara & family as they travel back from Colorado this week.
- Nannie Hall had some tests done last week
- Our ladies in Miller's - Mary C., Mary Anne, and Gay.
- Remember these and any others in need this week.

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TRANSFORMER

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September 17, 1989

THE SECRET OF SUCCESS IN CHURCH WORK

Every few months someone thinks he has found the secret. We found it in having good locations and nice buildings. We found it in building the Bible School and helping the needy. We found it in Vacation Bible Schools and cottage classes. We found it in Gospel Meetings and City-Wide Meetings. We found it in radio and television programs. We found it in youth programs and singles' ministries. We found it in bus ministries and counseling services. We found it in celebrities and special music. We found it in retreats and Family Life Centers, etc., etc. Try to name one thing we haven't found it in! And yet—we are still looking for the secret of success in church work. We have found the secret a thousand times, and still are trying to find it.

The secret of success in church work is God! Let me say it again: The secret of success in church work is God!

In Exodus 17:9, "And Moses said to Joshua, 'Choose for us men, and go out, fight with Amalek; tomorrow I will stand on the top of the hill with the rod of God in my hand.'" So Joshua did as Moses told him and fought with Amalek. And it came to pass that "whenever Moses held up his hand, Israel prevailed; and whenever he lowered his hand, Amalek prevailed." So Aaron and Hur held up the hands of Moses until the going down of the sun, "and Joshua mowed down Amalek and his people with the edge of the sword."

Strange! Joshua was commanded to fight (and he did), but the victory was not to be found in him, or in his strategy. No matter how weak Joshua felt, no matter how his knees trembled, no matter how he counted the enemy host and found them ten to one, no matter how inadequate he felt himself, when he went out to fight, so long as Moses held up his hand, Joshua won. Conversely, no matter how hard he fought, if Moses dropped his hands, he could not prevail.

The victory was not vested in Joshua. It was not vested in his enthusiasm, bravery, sacrifice or skill. The victory was vested in God himself. And faith in God by holding up the rod allowed everyone to see what the secret of success was on that day!

JOHN GIPSON
Little Rock, Arkansas

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

FOR OUR SENIOR CITIZENS - We are a new job training program specifically for senior citizens. We are the Senior Training Employment Program (STEP). To qualify, interested individuals must be 55 or older and must meet our income guidelines (1 person household \$5,980.00/yr., 2 person household \$8,020.00/yr.). We have the funds available to provide training and education, to update interview skills and resumes - in general, to provide our clients with the skills to raise their level of employability. There is no cost to either the client or potential employer. If you do not qualify but know someone who may, please pass this information along to them. If you are interested and do qualify or are unsure, please contact us at 2555 Oakland Ave., Elkhart, IN 46517, (219)295-1820. Ask for either Virginia Manley or Leah Kelly.

SHULTS-LEWIS COMMODITY - Our commodity this time is peanut butter. Let's all be sure to bring in a jar this month. They will be picking up our donations the end of this month.

ATTENTION TEACHERS - Please don't take Bibles out of the auditorium. They were bought to be used second hour. Thank you.

PRAYERS

- Nannie Hall has been having some bad days.
- Mary Anne Wade, Mary Campbell & Gay Ray who are all in Miller's Merry Manor.
- Pray for these and any others you know who are in need at this time, as you go to your Heavenly Father this week.

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TRANSFORMER

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

September 24, 1989

WHAT DO YOU SEE?

"Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father."

John 14:9

Should a man see only popularity, he becomes a mirror, reflecting whatever needs to be reflected to gain acceptance. Though in vogue, he is vague. Though in style, he is stodgy. Personal convictions change with the seasons. Individual beliefs come in all colors, each for a different night of the week. He's a puppet on a thousand strings. He's a singer of a hundred songs, with no song of his own. His appearance changes to fit the setting so often that he forgets who he set out to be. He is everyone and no one.

Should a man see only power, he becomes a wolf - prowling, hunting, and stalking the elusive game. Recognition is his prey and people are his prizes. His quest is endless. There is always another world to conquer or another person to control. As a result, he who sees only power is degraded to an animal, an insatiable scavenger, controlled not by a will from within but by lures from without.

Should a man see only pleasure, he becomes a carnival thrill-seeker, alive only in bright lights, wild rides, and titillating entertainment. With lustful fever he races from ride to ride, satisfying his insatiable passion for sensations only long enough to look for another. Ferris wheels of romance. Haunted houses of eroticism. Hammer rides of danger and excitement. Long after the crowd is gone he can still be found on the carnival grounds rummaging through empty boxes of popcorn and sticky cones that held the cotton candy. He is driven by passion, willing to sell his soul if need be for one more rush, one more race of the pulse, one more sideshow that will take him away from the real world of promises broken and commitments to keep.

Seekers of popularity, power, and pleasure. The end result is the same: painful unfulfillment.

Only in seeing his Maker does a man truly become man. For in seeing his Creator man catches a glimpse of what he was intended to be. He who would see his God would then see the reason for death and the purpose of time. Destiny? Tomorrow? Truth? All are questions within the reach of the man who knows his source.

It is in seeing Jesus that man sees his Source.

-Max Lucado

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS -	8	Pat Hall	20	Donny Angus
	9	Judy Boyle	24	Bill Oakley
	16	Hailey Deisler	26	Margaret Tucker
	16	Kevin May	26	Norma Miller
	17	Jamie Hutto	31	Chase Deisler

OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES -
11 Bill & Sharon Pepito 12 Fred & Penny Oakley

CLASS NOTEBOOKS - Roy is making available notebooks on the Sunday AM class that was held January - August of 1989. If you would like a copy, please let Roy know soon. (If you were in the class and kept most of your notes, please request only those that you are missing, as this will save time, paper, etc.)

SECRET SISTERS - Have you remembered your Secret Sister this week? Colossians 3:23

MCC LECTURESHIP - The 1989 Michigan Christian College Bible Lectureship is just around the corner! Our theme is "To God Be The Glory." We are anticipating a spiritual feast beginning Sunday evening, October 1 and going through Thursday evening, October 5.

PRAYERS

- Opal Copeland recovering from blood poisoning in her foot.
- Jim Braid suffering with mono, and soon to be a daddy.
- Our ladies in Miller's, Mary Campbell, Gay Ray & Mary Anne Wade.
- Nannie Hall still not feeling the best.
- Susan Kirkendal undergoing surgery Tuesday, Sept. 26.
- Remember these in your prayers this week. And don't forget to thank God for His answers!

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