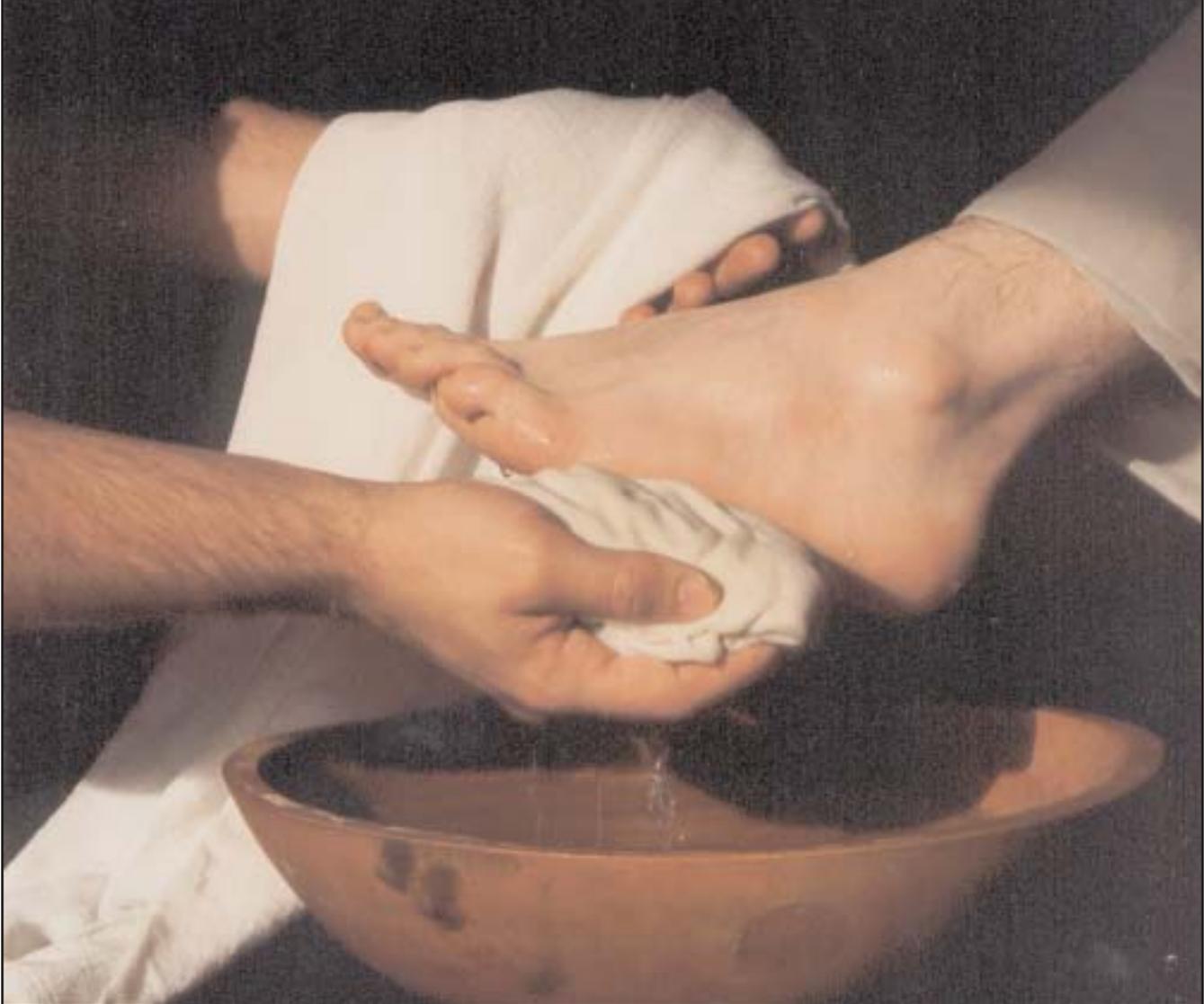


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The Heartbeat of

The Remnant



. . . is the Heart of a Servant

The Heartbeat of
The Remnant

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H o m e L i f e

by Denny Kenaston



John Wesley



Charles Wesley

John and Charles Wesley: who doesn't know these names? Most of us reading this article are not Methodists; however, we all know these two names. I was speaking to a Methodist man on a plane some time ago about John Wesley. I said to him, "I'm not a Methodist, but I want to love and

serve God the way that John Wesley did; he is one of my heroes." In the early years of the 1700's, England was at one of its lowest places, spiritually, in all its history. Sin abounded of the rankest sort on every level of society, and it seemed that there was no hope for the Church to revive itself and

turn the tide of evil. However, as there was by providence a Hannah in the days of Israel, so there was an “elect lady”, Susanna by name, who was brooding over her children in Epworth, England. Unknown to her, she was being led by God to raise a prophet and a psalmist, who would together be used by God to shake a nation, and influence their world. It is now three hundred years later, and still their voices speak loudly to the Christian community of 2001. What preacher has not used an example or word out of John Wesley’s life? What assembly of believers has not sung some of Charles Wesley’s songs? The impact of these two men is immeasurable. Surely God in his foreknowledge was leading and watching over their training. My desire in this article is to look deeply into the home and the heritage that produced these vessels of honor.

As I ponder the heritage of these two men, my heart is drawn to one of the promises given by God concerning our children. It is found in Isaiah 59:21. Written in the context of our adversary attacking godliness, we find this promise to those who turn from transgression. **“My Spirit that is upon thee, and my words which I have put in thy mouth, shall not depart out of thy mouth, nor out of the mouth of thy seed, nor out of the mouth of thy seed’s seed, saith the Lord.”** What a beautiful way to fight against the enemies of our God. Three generations of people who will not compromise the things of God. This is hard for the enemy to deal with. If only we could get a glimpse of the power of this strategy. You can be sure that the devil is well aware of it and fights with every means to keep this from happening.

“...Charles and John’s parents inherited a great burden for the church to return to purity and power. This burden was then passed down to these two boys as they grew up. It is easy to see why, once these two men realized they were on top of a major wave of change, they rode the wave with all their heart and soul.”

We find the previous generations on both sides of the family to be of noble character. Samuel Wesley’s relatives and Susanna Annesley’s relatives were both living on the cutting edge of what God was doing in England in their time. This had a profound affect on them and on their children. Controversies about high church practices, nonconformity, and the low estate of the church were hot issues. The talk around the table was constantly on the right and wrong of the issues of the day. Samuel’s grandfather went to his grave in utter grief over the persecutions released on him and some of his family. Samuel had an uncle whose name was John Wesley who was chased about like a dog, imprisoned several times, and finally died at age 34 of sickness brought on by his persecutors. It was said by most that young John was the image of his great uncle John, in fiery zeal and energy. On Susanna’s side we find it the same way. Her father was a very well known Puritan preacher. Dr. Annesley served in several Anglican churches until the controversies on nonconformity came to a head. He withdrew at great cost and persecution, and became a Puritan. He served for thirty years in the heat of the battles under constant troubles. He was considered by most to be a second Apostle Paul and one of the most influential Puritans of his day. So we can see by these things, that Charles and John’s parents inherited a great burden for the church to return to purity and power. This burden was then passed down to these two boys as they grew up. It is easy to see why, once these two men realized they were on top of a

major wave of change, they rode the wave with all their heart and soul. Now lets look at the parents.

FATHER WESLEY

Samuel, the boys' father, was the preacher in the village of Epworth in the Church of England. He held several other positions before this, but this was where life unfolded for the Wesley boys. He was a man of discipline and energy. As was mentioned already, he had a lot of strong opinions. It seems that at times this brought him and the family some persecutions that probably could have been avoided. However, the boys grew up in an atmosphere of periodic persecutions, which prepared them for endless attacks from the enemy of our souls. Father Wesley's patient endurance in these many trials was a beautiful example to them. A pastor and a writer, he was kept very busy in the study, as well as constant visits to his people. He was tenacious when it came to compromise, and his sons caught a good bit of this quality from him. Even though Mrs. Wesley is known for the methods of her household, it is interesting to note that Samuel was of the same character. An orderly, methodical life of good habits was his rule. He was a man who from his youth was known for his compassion on the poor and his constant visiting of prisons. He paid his own way through college living at poverty levels with contentment. Father Wesley was a poet. All through his life he was working on poems and prose. Nothing of any importance ever came out of this work, except one of his sons wrote a few songs. Yes, this is where Charles undoubtedly received talents and exercise in these areas. All through his years in the home, Charles constantly saw his father working on the rhyme of some poem. Oh, the wisdom of God is past finding out. It seems that Samuel had many dreams and visions that he longed to carry out, and was a bit of a prophet also. He drew up a missionary plan to reach out to China, India, and all the British territories, and then offered to go himself with his family and see it through. He also

prophesied on his deathbed of the coming revival in England, telling his sons, "you will see it, but I will not". In conclusion of father Wesley's influence, let me say this yet. He was not the dominate figure in his home. He was not the active father that I feel God would have had him to be. Yet his home was known far and wide as one of the godliest there was in his day. I know he had much to do with this.

MOTHER WESLEY

Susanna, the boys' mother, grew up in a very godly home. Her father, being a man greatly used of God, brought multiplied blessings upon the children. It is said that there were 22 children born to the Annesley household. The days were serious, and Susanna matured early in life as she listened to the many debates about spiritual issues. She was an ardent student and was well acquainted with Greek, Latin, and French while still in her teens. Her books were the Bible, theology, and the writings of the early church fathers. Because of the times she grew up in, she was wrestling with deep spiritual issues while other girls were still playing with dolls. Mother Wesley was without a doubt an unusual young lady—devout, thoughtful, and full of the virtues of a Christian woman. Many historians call her the mother of Methodism because of her clear methods of training the children. Balance was the word that best describes her character—a beautiful blend of kindness, discipline, sobriety, and joy. She consecrated an hour every morning and evening to entire seclusion for meditation and prayer. As a mother she bore eighteen children for her husband Samuel. Eight of these children died in infancy. It is hard for us to imagine the agony of having to bury eight precious little ones. As I studied the home, it seems that some of her strong opinionated nature made some problems in her relationship with her husband, but overall, she gave herself to the training of the children and to managing a very busy pastor's house.

MOTHER WESLEY'S METHODS

There are many testimonies written about the Wesley home. These records give the idea that it was almost the perfect Christian home. Biographies can be a bit one-sided, especially where you have so famous a person as John Wesley. Although human respect tends to be this way, wisdom is justified by her children. The proof is in the pudding, and we all must admit that many things were done right and the world has benefited from it. All the records that are written about the Wesley home indicate that Mrs. Wesley was the dominant figure in this home. Her education, gifts of organization, and strong personality, as well as Samuel's busy ministerial life, all worked together to lay the stage for this. Even though this is not as biblical as we would want, this woman poured her life into her children with purpose. We want to turn our attention now on how these holy purposes worked themselves out into practical methods of child training.

An Orderly, Scheduled Life

Susanna understood the deeper implications of a disciplined life. Because of this, shortly after the birth of a child, she began to direct the infant into a well-ordered schedule. There was a time to eat and a time to refrain from eating. There was a time to sleep and a time to be awake. She worked at developing these habits into the life and memory of each child. This was applied down to the hours in the morning and afternoon when a new baby would take a nap. Careful attention was devoted to this till the child would quietly go to sleep when laid in the crib. Then, of course, this also put the times of feeding on a regular schedule. These disciplines were developed with more order and schedule in mind. The child must fit into the nor-

mal segments of her orderly household. Rising times were punctual; family prayers, breakfast, and school hours were all by the clock. Quiet times for each child, evening prayers, and bedtime were the same time every day. There were times, as in all households, when providence disrupted this order, but she would always turn the family back to a well-ordered life. The stability and security that these principles bring into the life and development of a child are immeasurable. Mother Wesley pursued these goals with unwavering persistence. It is clearly evident: she saw the hidden wisdom, the affect that this would have on her children.

She Guided Their Appetites

Susanna knew that if the child did not learn to control its appetites, the appetites would control the child, possibly all of its life. Because of this, there were strict rules concerning eating. She trained the children to eat foods that they did not care for and to drink things that were distasteful. Medicines were given with dual purpose—to aid the child in health and to help them in discipline. Eating between meals was forbidden and seen as a destructive habit to be feared. Sweets were allowed in the house, but this luxury was supervised with much care.

The Home Must be Quiet

The children must not control the atmosphere of the home. There was much to be done each day, and for all to profit from these many activities it must be quiet. I think it is also good to bring in here that Susanna knew the benefits that each child would gain if it mastered this quality of quietness. "Always talking, never learning," as the old proverb goes. By the time a child was one year old, it was trained to cry softly. This was done by both positive and negative measures. The noise of a crying child was seldom heard in the household, and others would testify that you would hardly know that the house had children living in it because of the quiet atmosphere that prevailed. The children were taught to be quiet at family

prayers and even to ask a blessing at the end by making a sign rather than speaking a word.

The Child's Will Must be Conquered

Here I will quote Mother Wesley's very words, which are powerful and full of deep insight. "I seek to bring the child's will into subjection at an early age, and then endeavor to keep it there until the child gives its will to God." She continues, "This is the only strong and rational foundation of a religious education, without which, neither precept or example has any effect." Man's will is at the center of a true religious life. If there is no surrender of the will to the parents, it will be much more difficult to surrender that will to God when he calls. If there is no surrender of the will to the parents, all training in spiritual and domestic areas is frustrated. This is of utmost importance and must be acquired before other progress can be seen. A loving relationship wedded with the proper use of the rod will give the desired end if you persist.

A Very Orderly Household School

This is the term used by Susanna to describe her method of educating the children. For twenty years, she invested six hours a day in this most holy task. We can see her goal for this school so clearly expressed in words she wrote to her son John later in life. She wrote to him: "There are very few who would devote twenty years of the prime of their life in hopes of saving the souls of their children." By these words and the way she ordered the school, we can see that she was not set on a mere academic education. Each child received a passion for learning and a passion for righteousness through her influence. The family school was opened and closed with singing each day, and each child learned to read using the Bible for their primer. Mother Wesley wrote three books for the soul purpose of use in her home school. They were, [A Manual of Natural Theory](#), [An Exposition of the Apostles' Creed](#), and [An Exposition of the Ten Commandments](#). At 5:00 each evening she divided the children into groups

of two. She would put a child who could read, with a child who could not read. They then proceeded to read the Psalm of the day and one chapter in the New Testament. Every evening she spent some time conversing about spiritual things with one of her children, so evaluating the growth of the child. **Beloved**, this is an awesome revelation of the greatest secret behind the fruit of these two men. What an example of a devoted mother. She did literally waste her life on her children. She blocked out twenty years of normal society to pour herself into this most honorable profession. Ten of her children lived to adult age. All of them became devoted Christians, and they all died "in the Lord." There is much we can learn from this example. It is true that Susanna had a couple of maids to help her keep the house running while she conducted the school, however, we must remember that everything was done by hand.

Molding Godly Character

Character, that is moral and ethical strength, was one of the reasons for all this training. There must be in each child a practical, operational visible outworking of the Christian faith. As I gazed into this godly home, it was easy to see that Mrs. Wesley planned and carried out many activities that would place virtue into the fiber of the children. What were the tools that she used to do this? The old English country setting was a tool in her hands, as there were many chores to do. Caring for animals, milking cows, and caring for the garden were a few of them. Poverty was also wisely used to form life-long attitudes about money, time, and contentment. A promise was never allowed to be broken, and lying was a vice to be feared. She even taught the children that if they had done wrong, they would not be spanked for it if they would quickly confess with a broken heart, before they were caught. We have mentioned the orderly, scheduled life of the Wesley home already, however, it is worthy to bring it up again as we ponder the area of building character. Repeating good actions over and over again forms good habits. Thus, having those good actions set in order by a schedule is a tremendous aid. There is a time for

every purpose under heaven. Each day there is a time when the child reads the Bible, puts away his clothes, and milks the cow. A child grows up doing these varied activities without thinking about it. Do we see the value of these?

A Loving Atmosphere in the Home

All of what is written above may seem a bit too grave and mechanical as we look at them by themselves. But we should also stop and meditate on the oil that made all this machinery run so smoothly. Love—agape love, sacrificial love—was the prevailing spirit in the home. Susanna was a very affectionate mother. She was not a drill sergeant, demanding strict obedience or else. Many said in her day that her home was one of the most loving homes they had ever seen. The children noticed all of her sacrifices, and some of them almost idolized her. The discipline coupled with love created a bond between them that was a beauty to behold. Her kind and gracious character mixed with the hours she spent with them turned their hearts continually to honor and respect. Susanna had times of fun and games, where the children were allowed to wrestle and laugh and just make noise, as children must do. These last points are last but not least. You cannot have the rigor and discipline in the above-mentioned points by themselves. It must be wedded with a love that flows from heart to heart and back again. Let us keep the right balance.

MOTHER WESLEY'S FRUIT

It is written in many of the history books, "Susanna Wesley was the mother of the Methodist Church". When I began to read and research for this article, I read these words more than once. I must admit, I reacted a bit to them, thinking that the biographers were stretching things as they often do. I have spent hours study-

ing this remarkable woman, and I have repented about my reactions. There is much truth in this statement. Why do I say this? As you study the Methodist movement you will quickly see that there were several distinct characteristics of this movement. The areas of distinction were the very things that caused it to be such a force in England and America. Let me list a few of them for reference:

- *A practical sanctified life*
- *A personal devotional life*
- *A hatred for sin and unrighteousness*
- *An orderly life*
- *A revival of the Christian disciplines*

We could increase the list by several more points, but these are enough to make my point and the point that most historians make about Mother Wesley. As we look over the list we can easily see that these are some of the very methods that Susanna used in the training of the children. The early Methodists were given their name by their many critics. They looked on and saw the people exercising methods in their pursuit of God. They mockingly called them methodists. John and Charles Wesley were simply encouraging the members of the societies to excel in the things they had learned at home. John was the organizer and administrator of the societies. Where do you think he got those abilities? Charles was a preacher, but was most widely used in his continuous production of godly hymns. Where do you think he got that ability? So, what about Mother Wesley's fruit? Was she just a busy mother who spent her days on activities that wouldn't count? The answer is no, she was being directed by God to raise a godly family in a day when ungodliness prevailed. God mysteriously put His hands on her hands to prepare for Him two vessels of honor, meet for the master's use. She yielded to His hands and by faith she sacrificed twenty years, training, spanking, reading, praying, and loving. The results are still being felt on many sides, and in many places her voice and her son's voices are still being heard. □

A Chip Off the Old Block

by Dave Esh

There is a little shadow that follows after me,
And he imitates my actions, often to a tee.
It can be quite amusing or embarrassing at times;
I see my many weaknesses as he recites my lines.
He's constantly mimicking the way that I talk
And even tries to duplicate the stride in my walk.

When friends see this shadow, they, likely as not,
Will laughingly call him "a chip off the old block".
"A chip off the old block", an extension of self—
It's more than training or teaching or giving of wealth.
But I'm cloning and building a likeness of me,
For as the seed that is planted, so grows the tree.

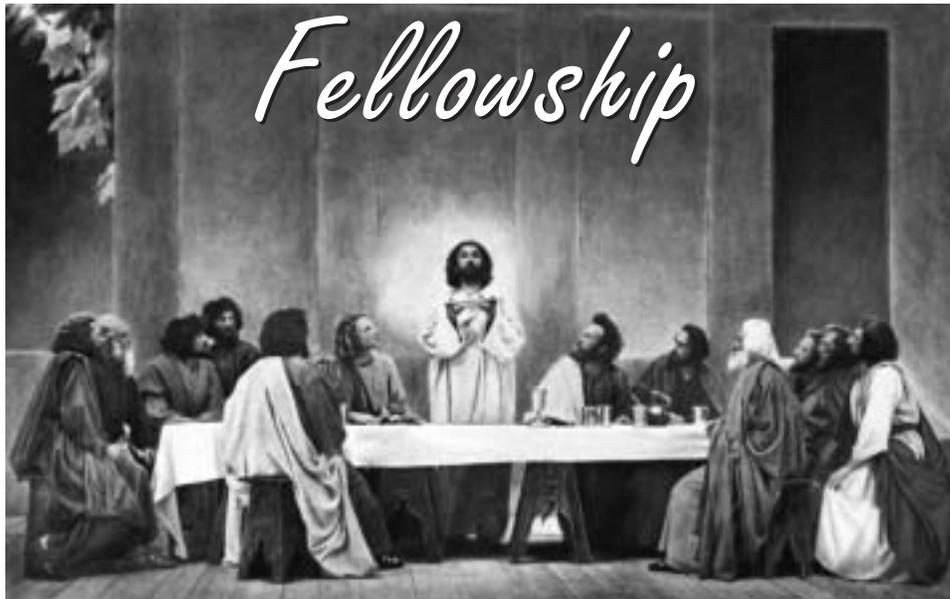
And the fruit thereof, whether it be good or bad,
Depends much on the actions of my little boy's Dad.
For our lives are as books, with each day as a page,
And so often our children can be used as a gauge.
Are they bright?, happy?, do they live without fear?
We can see much the same things looking into a mirror.

So, behold your children, look deep into their eyes;
What they are, or become, should be no surprise.
Then rejoice, or repent, whatever you need to do,
Because you will be looking at an extension of you.
"A chip off the old block", "made from the same mold"—
Our legacy will continue, as the future unfolds.

So, are we like our Father, if our Father is God?
Do we walk as he walked when on this earth He trod?
Are we loving and faithful, gentle and kind?
Giving food to the hungry and sight to the blind?
If we are Godly examples and build on the Rock,
We'll be honored to hear "he's a chip off the old block".



The Upper Room



by Mose Stoltzfus

In this message, we are going to focus on the beauty of our Lord Jesus and upon some of the truths that surround Him. We want to meditate on the power and the effect these truths can have in our lives. In Luke 22:12 we have a most precious verse with much deep significance. *“And he shall show you a large upper room furnished; there make ready.”* In this meditation, I would like to take us on a tour of the upper room. Come and join me, as we travel through some of the things that happened in that upper room. I do not know how many of you have ever taken notice of the unique things that happened there, but there are many messages that could come out of what took place in the upper room. I sense that there are many things we can learn from what happened there, things that are very special and necessary for all of us. I am going to assume that the upper room was the same in the Gospels as in the book of Acts. So, let us start our journey now.

The Room was Large

I would like to emphasize the fact that the Bible says the room was large. It was a place that

would hold many people. In the book of Acts, 120 gathered in this place. There was plenty of room there. It was as heaven will be; there will be plenty of room there. It was not a place where you would go to be alone with God, though that is an important part of our Christian lives. This was a place where people can meet together. That is what the Church is about—people. That is what heaven will be about—people.

The Room was an Upper Room

It was not down on the street level. It was not earthy but it was heavenly, separated, and other worldly. It was upstairs and it was a place where there were no partitions or walls—one large upper room, above the noise and din of the streets and the people selling their wares. It was a place of quietness, it was a place where you could have a meeting and you would not be disturbed by the things that were going on down on the street level below. Oh, may our assemblies be like these—heavenly places, where deep and intimate things happen.

The Room was Furnished

Everything was cared for here. All the furniture and all the necessary things needed for the occasion were provided. All they needed to do was go there. They could go there and rest. They could go there, pray, feast, and learn. Truly, that is the way it is with the beautiful things that happen in an assembly. Jesus has made all things ready. The price has been paid, the blood has been shed, and he is seated at the right hand of the Father praying for us. For us, all we need to do is have our heart prepared and the rest will happen, by the mercy of our God.

The Room was a Place of Fellowship

Rather than a place where we might go to be alone and meet with God, this upper room was unique in that it was a place for fellowship. It was the place where Jesus met with the twelve and where the Last Supper was eaten. It was the place where they ate the Passover lamb and where the first communion was served. A large upper room was made for close intimate fellowship. All these things are done together. They were locked out from the world, locked out of the busyness, and locked out of the noise of an active world below. It was an upper room away from all that was earthly. The door was shut, and people could gather, open their hearts, and learn. That is what happened in the upper room. May our churches be the same—a place where we can leave everything behind, and have fellowship.

Disciples were There

This is a beautiful thought, but also a definitive thought. First of all, let us consider the beautiful. What is a disciple? He is a follower of Jesus Christ. He is committed to Christ, committed to His ways, and committed to leaving all to follow Him. This is true divine fellowship. This brings a lovely one-mindedness that is strength to all who

enjoy it. Secondly, let us consider the definitive nature of these words. What a mixture results when every kind of half-hearted person is there. I am not saying it should be the fellowship of the perfect. However, it should be the fellowship of the consecrated ones, those who love God with all their heart.

Jesus was There

He was without question the center of everything that was happening there. Jesus withdrew there with the twelve. I would guess that perhaps one of the most valuable paintings in all of art's history is the one of "The Last Supper" with the twelve. Jesus was the center of attraction there, and He sat in the middle (at least the picture gives it that way, and the disciples were all around Him). He was the center focus of all attraction there. Yes, there were twelve disciples; Judas was there, but Jesus was the central figure. He is what made this upper room fellowship so sweet. Take Him out of the room, and what do you have? You have nothing but religion. It is the same today in our assemblies. We can have the people there. We can have all the furniture there. We can put everything in place, but if Jesus is not there, we do not have anything.

Love was There

It was a scene of love. In John 13:23 we have an account given by John, the disciple whom Jesus loved, that he had his head laid on Jesus' breast. So we have a picture here of adoration and love. Maybe John sensed that they were near the end. The disciples had been given enough instruction that he could have known. Whatever his thoughts, we have a scene of intimate love and fellowship. This is a picture of how it should be with us today. In the upper room there should be close intimate fellowship with Jesus Christ. We are speaking spiritually here. We are two thousand years down the road, but we still need to lean our heads on Jesus' breast. The love feeling that John had for the Master is to be the same in our hearts. There needs to be an intimacy, a depth of love that spiritually we trust Him and lay our head on His

breast. In the upper room it happened, and it will happen for you and me if we dwell in the upper room—that sweet intimate adoring love for the Master where he is everything, and we pour out our hearts to Him.

Humanity was There

There were some things that happened there that were not the best. Some rivalry over who would be next to Christ in His Kingdom was expressed in the upper room. We must remember that this was before Pentecost. It is also good for us to be honest and acknowledge that things like this come into our lives. Peter made the strong declaration that he would not leave Christ, that he would not forsake Him. But Jesus said that “this night, before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice.” (Matthew 26:34) Peter also said “though I should die with Thee, yet will I not deny Thee. Likewise said also all the disciples.” (v. 35) That all happened sitting at the table in the upper room. It was a place where the news of a betrayal was made known. I do not think that any of the disciples knew that until they were there in the upper room. But there shut away from the world, Jesus broke the sad news to them that one of them would betray Him. Let us be honest and say that many times humanity gets in the way when we are trying to have fellowship.

Self-Examination was There

Jesus said to them, “One of you will betray me.” Very quickly, as it lighted upon the ears of all that were present, self-examination took place in the upper room. Men began to lay their hand on their breast and say, “Lord, is it I?” Self-examination is a principle that we all need to learn about the upper room, about communion, about sweet intimate fellowship. “Lord, is it I? Have I done something to grieve You? Would I betray You?” That all happened up there. They began to examine themselves one after the other. I think that all of them said, “Lord, is it I?” Paul said, “Examine yourselves” (2 Corinthians 13:5), and, “For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged.” (1 Corinthians 11:31) Finally Jesus revealed that it

would be the one who would dip with Him at the same time in the cup. I would guess that they were eating the Passover meal at this time.

The Communion of the Cross was There

It was the place of the first communion, up there in the upper room. In Matthew 26:26 we see these words, “And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and brake it and gave it to the disciples, and said, ‘Take, eat; this is my body.’” Though we say these words 3 or 4 times a year as we participate in a communion service, here was the first time it was done in a service. These were not new words to the disciples, for they heard them in John chapter 6. However, this is the first time the symbols of the bread and the wine were used with those very deep words. In John 6:53-57 we have these words, “*Then Jesus said unto them, ‘Verily, verily, I say unto you, except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink His blood ye have no life in you. Whoso eateth my flesh and drinketh my blood hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day. For my flesh is meat indeed, and my blood is drink indeed. He that eateth my flesh and drinketh my blood dwelleth in Me and I in him. As the living Father hath sent Me and I live by the Father, so he that eateth Me, even he shall live by Me.’*” Now here the doctrine of communion was given, and it was acted out there in the upper room through the symbols of the bread and the wine with the eleven. We must eat and drink of Christ. For over 2,000 years since that meeting in the upper room, men and women have been partaking of Christ in spiritual communion with Him. The communion service is a picture of that life of feasting on Christ. As we partake of Christ spiritually, eating of him and drinking of him, we receive nourishment from Christ. His life makes us able to overcome the powers of sin in our lives and the powers of darkness in the world. Brothers and sisters, we must learn to be eating and drinking of Christ all our days. This is what communion is all about.

Servanthood was There

Feet washing was initiated there in the upper room. After supper was ended He took a towel, girded himself, and proceeded to wash His disciples' feet. It seems that Peter was indignant. He said, "Lord, dost thou wash my feet?" Peter knew this was out of order and tried to stop Him. However, Jesus was giving them an example in lowliness and servanthood. So after He had finished washing all of their feet, He began to teach them what He was doing. Christ explained to them the principles of true greatness. Let the greatest serve the others. Humble yourselves and wash one another's feet. He said to them, "Do as I have done to you." This is how it should be in the church. It should be a brotherhood of servants who with lowliness of mind serve one another. As we wash each other's feet today, this pictures how we should be all the time with each other. It is part of the **Upper Room Fellowship**. Lord, teach us to esteem our brother higher than ourselves.

Teaching was There

I do not know if you have ever thought of it before, but there was some very powerful teaching in that upper room. John 13-17 were spoken in the upper room. I do not know how precious and meaningful these words are to you, but they are very precious to me. Let us consider just a few of these life-changing revelations.

- *I am going away, but I am coming again.*
- *The promised Holy Spirit.*
- *An intimate spiritual relationship with the living God.*
- *The key to an abundant fruitful life was abiding in the vine.*
- *A deeper understanding of love—sacrificial love.*

These many truths take on rich meaning when you remember that their whole world is going to be turned upside-down very shortly.

Preparations for Calvary were There

That is what it was. He had them all there; they had their meal; He had washed their feet in chapter 13. Then He proceeded to give them some of the most profound truth in the whole New Testament, and finished with a beautiful closing prayer. Then He went to the garden, and on to cruel mockings, and then to the cross. Let me tell you, when we have an upper room, we can take a Calvary much easier. When we have the upper room with that sweet intimate fellowship of a brotherhood, when we hear from heaven and understand each other and the presence of God is there and love is there, then we can take the mocking and the scourging a lot more easily. However, so many people do not have an upper room. There are many Christians out there—and not through any fault of their own—who are in situations where they do not know what an upper room fellowship is like.

Prayer was There

Our Lord prayed the prayer recorded in John 17 in the upper room. It seems like it flowed out of His heart after He finished teaching them in the same manner that a prayer flows out at the end of our sermons. I have often wondered what it was like to be there when that beautiful priestly prayer

continued on page 28

"Let me tell you, when we have an upper room, we can take a Calvary much easier. When we have the upper room with that sweet intimate fellowship of a brotherhood, when we hear from heaven and understand each other and the presence of God is there and love is there, then we can take the mocking and the scourging a lot more easily."

WHAT KIND OF MOSES?



In this modern day, everyone seems to think that the silly and the cute is the best way to teach children. Please stop and ponder what we are doing. What kind of Moses do you want your children to remember? Which one is most biblically correct? Are we diluting the power and example of Bible characters when we put them in cartoon form? Let us strive for the things that are excellent.

Spreading the LIGHT

We at Charity Gospel Tape Ministry want to take a moment to give a heartfelt thank-you to all the many contributors who faithfully support this ministry. We are rejoicing, as we realize that the tape ministry has been able to supply 170,000 tapes during the past year. The letters continue to come in almost daily, containing testimonies of changed lives. It seems that a tape ministry is becoming one of the most effective means to reach people with the Gospel. This is a general listing of the tape ministry income and expenses for the year 2000.

**God Bless You
for Giving!**

01/01/00 Beginning Balance \$9,396.32

Receipts

Tape Ministry Donations \$175,572.86
 Remnant Subscription Donations \$13,462.50
 General Fund Support \$46,420.56
Total Receipts \$235,455.92

Disbursements

Payroll Expense \$30,715.00
 UPS & Postage \$21,627.96
 Tapes & Albums \$137,119.75
 Computer/Equipment/Supplies \$12,518.37
 Telephone \$3,920.01
 Electricity \$1,294.28
 Miscellaneous \$525.00
 Publications \$11,884.10
 Remnant Publishing & Mailing \$23,953.77
Total Disbursements \$243,558.24

12/31/00 Ending Balance \$1,294.00

Difference -\$8,102.32

Sharpened Words

for

Little Ones



Dear parents,

Welcome to *Sharpened Words for Little Ones*. In *Proverbs* chapter 4 we get a glimpse of a father, sitting his children down before him, and giving them good doctrine. We know the whole of the book of *Proverbs* was used to instruct schoolboys, and the old Jewish fathers used it to train their sons.

It is a very practical book. Please note, this book, which is very practical, is filled with analogies, object lessons, and illustrations to help the students learn more quickly. These teaching methods also help the students to remember what they learned. We know that the greatest teacher that ever lived used these same methods to teach the people when He was here on earth. These methods were tried and proven by the Master Himself. I think it is right to say God inspired these methods of teaching. This is the same God who told us to train our children. We give you these ideas with a hope that you will use them and find more like them on your own. When you come across a good one, let us know. We would love to print it for others to use.

--The Editors

God bless you as you teach!

Ye are the Light of the World

This devotional should be done at night, as we will be dealing with light and its effect in the darkness. Bring several candles with you to your family time. After you have finished singing, turn out all the lights for a few moments. Then turn them on and read the verses that pertain to this lesson. Talk about being the light for a short time, and then turn the lights out again. Just keep on teaching the concept to them as you all sit in the dark. They will love the change in environment and they will be listening. Then get one candle out and light it with a match. Make sure you all note what just one candle does to the darkness. You can also get some kind of a bushel and put the light under it so the children can see how much this affects the darkness. After discussing light and darkness for a while relating this to the lost world around us, pass out all the candles. As you light them one by one you will see how much more the darkness is affected by more candles. Family testimony can be brought in here. You should tell them how important it is to be in unity with each other, and how this makes the light shine more brightly. This is also a good time to talk about your church. How many more lights you have and how much brighter the light is when the church stands together. Finish your time in the dark, with all the candles lit, singing that little children's song, "This little light of mine, I'm going to let it shine."

Hating Sin

This is a very important concept in a child's life. We know that our Lord Jesus loved righteousness and hated iniquity, and we want to learn to respond in the same way. Your children will never forget this lesson. We will be looking at Ezra Chapter 9. You want to wear an old shirt the morning that you plan to teach on this. Start by giving them a little background for what happens in this text, Ezra's burden for God's glory, and how they traveled back to Jerusalem to establish the destroyed city. The testimony of God is an important one. Then explain what the people did. When Ezra came to the city and heard about the evil they had done, he rent his garment. At this point in the story stand up and act the whole thing out. Ripe your shirt open with your hands like he did. The buttons on the shirt will go flying everywhere. You will even have the attention of your wife if you don't warn her ahead of time. There is much in this chapter that Ezra did because of his grief over their sin. Spend some time on all of it, and then spend some time on the holiness of God and why it is so grievous to sin and compromise.

Jesus is Coming

The Bible clearly teaches us that Jesus is coming again and we don't know exactly when. We are warned many times that we should be watching for His return. We are to be expecting Him to come, and be prepared at all times. Faithfulness to God and His word is our responsibility while we wait for His coming. Here is the object lesson. As you start your time with the family, get up in the middle of the first song and walk over to the window and look out as if you are watching for someone to come. This always stirs interest because we all like visitors. Do the same thing during the second song, maybe even twice during this one. As you sing the third song, do it again two times. They will probably be asking you why you are doing this by now but just put them off. There are many portions of scripture where this principle is taught, so choose one and begin teaching. Somewhere at the beginning of the teaching, get up again and go look out the window. They should understand by now, why you were doing this all through the singing. Now you can teach on what it means to be watching, waiting, and being prepared.

Bad Habits

Here is a good way to teach the children how strong bad habits can be if you don't deal with them. An appropriate verse for this lesson is found in Ro. 6:16, where it talks about becoming a slave to sin. Bring a spool of thread to family devotions and start by showing the children how easily you can break one strand of the thread. You can usually get one of the boys to break it also. Then get a volunteer to help you teach the lesson. You need to set him in a chair and start winding the thread around and around, many times. Make sure it is enough that they will not be able to break loose. It is best to tell a story about a boy or girl who started out doing something wrong one time. Explain to them that this child should have dealt with their wrong action right away, but they didn't. This might even be a story out of your own life. As the story goes on, you should be wrapping the thread around them many times. Tell the children how it becomes easier and easier to do the wrong again and again, the longer you put off dealing with it. Eventually you can not stop. Try, as you will, as hard as you can, you are not able to stop. When you get to this point in the story, you have a child sitting there who is all wrapped up in thread. Have them try to break loose of the binding. He will not be able to do it. Give them a little pep talk and let them try again. They are bound and they know it and all the rest of the children also know. Now you can read the verse from the Bible and explain that this is a principle in the Word. He that committeth sin is the servant of sin. There are many ways that you can go from this point. You can take another family devotion time and teach them how Jesus Christ is the only way to get loose once they are bound. You could take another time and teach them the whole lesson on the positive side. Good habits are also gained the same way one at a time. The same verse explains this. It also speaks to us about becoming a servant to righteousness. Any action done sincerely twenty-one times in a row will become a habit. This has tremendous potential for children who want to develop character in their lives. So there you have three ideas for teaching times which all come from the one illustration of using thread to bind them. You can encourage them to open up and tell you about areas of their lives where they see the threads getting stronger. You can also stimulate them to choose some good habit that they need to bind into their lives, and offer to help them do it.

Strangers and Resident Aliens

by Donna Wojcik



Otto & Donna Wojcik

“**D**early beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims....” (1 Peter 2:11a) Several years ago, I began to meditate on this verse. For me personally, it had both earthly and spiritual meaning and so

this verse has become very special to me. I was born in Canada, and maintain an earthly citizenship there; however, I hold a United States immigration green card or Resident Alien card that permits me to live here.

I was not raised in a Christian home, and I was well into my mid-twenties before I had any real experience with church. Unfortunately, this experience was not in agreement with the scripture in matters of dress, jewelry, makeup, hair length, etc. As a new believer, I felt sure that the leadership of the church would never steer me down the wrong path. And since I had not been discipled, and was kept busy “working” in the church, I did not know that in order to grow I needed to read God’s Word. How wrong I was to place my trust in the leadership and not in the Lord Jesus. For eight years, I blindly followed them—too busy to read the Bible and find out what God really says. Oh, how the Lord must have grieved over me those eight years, yearning for me to read His Word and truly follow Him. Near the end of that eighth year, I began to sense that all was not as it should be. I just knew that there had to be more than what these people were telling me that there really was a holy life that believers could live. As I began to read the Word and search it for myself, I began to see that I had indeed been led down the wrong path. My life was not giving glory to the Lord, and I was grossly ignorant of His Word. As a result of the Spirit’s prodding, I withdrew

from the church, and began an intensive study of the Bible. And what I found was both shocking and amazing. I found things within its pages that I had never even heard before.

In 1991, the Lord sent me a Bible believing, God fearing husband who loved the Lord with all his heart. I know now that the Lord had His will in bringing us together, but at the time I did not know this. I was NOT the picture of the godly woman. I had extremely short hair, and wore pants, jewelry, and make-up. Yet as my husband looked at me, he did not see these things. Otto saw me with long hair, in dresses, and without all of the other things. The Lord let him see me as a godly woman that the Lord knew I would become once He got a hold of my life in a deeper way. I am truly thankful that the Lord brought us together. For it has been Otto who has pointed me to the scripture as the final authority in all situations. As I began to search the Word, I also began to make the changes necessary in my life. This was not because Otto said that I should, but because it was in God's Word. As these changes began to be made, I began to see myself more like a stranger and alien in this world.

Have you ever seen someone that you just know is from another country? What was it that first let you notice that person? Was it their clothing? Was it their accent (speech)? Was it the way that they did things, or the things that they occupied their time with? As a Canadian, I have had to learn to speak differently. I must remember that a

bag is called a sack. I must remember that the letter "z" is pronounced "zee" not "zed". And I must remember to try not to say "eh" so much. My speech reveals that I am from another country. I am an ALIEN here.

As I reflected on the verse in 1 Peter 2, I began to see that I am indeed a Resident Alien in every sense of the word. I began to ask myself these questions: "if I am a citizen of heaven, do people of this world notice that I am an alien here? Can they sense that 'this world is not my home, I'm just a passing through' as the song says? Do I dress as though I am an alien? Does my speech identify me as an alien and a stranger? Do my actions, the things I do and the places I go reflect that I am an alien? Does ALL that I do as I journey here in this world show that I am not comfortable here, and that I long to return to my real home—my spiritual home?" You can see that there are a lot of things to consider when we are aliens. We are living here, but we do not have to adopt the habits, language, and dress of this world.

My husband and I recently moved here to Las Cruces, New Mexico. I am praising God that He has called us here, for it has served to reinforce my thoughts on being an alien. With a population of over 70,000 I have found that I am the only one (that I have seen to date) who

wears a veiling all the time. Yes, people do stare at me like I am an alien. And all that I can do is say "PRAISE GOD!" They are recognizing that I am an alien and stranger. Some people get up enough courage to ask me what religious order I belong to. Praise God that I can testify for Him! Many ask if I always wear dresses. Praise God again—I am an alien! Many ask if we have television or go to movies. Praise God—I am an alien!

Many times, we meet people who call themselves Christian, yet do not in any way reveal that they are any different than those in the world around them. They dress the same as everyone else, they go the same places as

"Yes, people do stare at me like I am an alien. And all that I can do is say "PRAISE GOD!" They are recognizing that I am an alien and stranger."

everyone else, they follow the hair styles as everyone else, and listen to the same things as everyone else. Can anyone see that they are an alien and stranger here? I'm afraid not!

How I praise the Lord who pulled me out of the clutches of this world, and has set me up as an example and witness for Him. I am thankful that I can be a resident alien for Him. I praise Him that people can observe my life and know that I am an alien—know that I am only passing through on my way to heaven to be with my Lord. □



THE HIDDEN POWER OF A HUMBLE ACT Feet

by James Cunningham

Welcome to the Blessing Corner. In this Issue of the Remnant, we have chosen to feature one of the principles from God's Word that may be a bit controversial. We have no desire to contend with anyone, but only to inform and give testimony. This is the purpose for The Blessing Corner. If you have discovered a beautiful blessing hidden in one of God's many precepts, we would love to hear from you. Write to us and share your testimony so we can pass it on to others. We all need to grow in our understanding of the Bible.

The text where this principle is found is John 13:1-17. The scene of the text is the upper room where the Passover supper was eaten, and where the first communion service was held. Sometime during this deeply intimate time with the disciples, our Lord took a towel, girded himself, and began to wash their feet. This came as such a surprise to them that Peter said, "Dost thou wash my feet?" In other words, "I should be washing your feet." After Jesus finished, He sat down and began to teach them in His usual manner. He taught them the principles of servanthood and humility, and finished by telling them that He has given them an example, and that they should "do as I have done to you." For those believers who take the practice literally, His last words are very meaningful. He said to them, "happy are ye if you do them." In our local fellowship, we practice the ordinance of footwashing at the same time that we partake of the Lord's Supper. Some of my fondest memories of brotherhood fellowship are those sweet times when we all bowed down and washed one another's feet.

I was not brought up in a church setting where feet washing was practiced as an ordinance. Because of this, when the Spirit of God began to deal with me, it was life changing. My first thoughts were typical thoughts of unbelief. I reasoned, "Surely it couldn't mean that for real." My only experience with feet washing was at a Bible School fun night. The wives of all the professors were made to wash their husbands' feet in front of the entire crowd. It was a time of tremendous laughter, jesting, and applause. I tremble at the thought of it now. With this background, I continued to reason, surely, this ancient practice has passed away due to major cultural change. I thought that to spiritualize the passage is the proper approach for our day. Jesus is

teaching us to be humble and that is what we should be. To serve others would be today's equivalent of what Jesus did. These were my initial thoughts when I first faced this truth.

As time went on, I began to take a more serious look at the subject. I had been taught a deep respect for the Word of God, and I knew I must address this issue with a responsible heart. I cannot just pass over it and say it is not for our day. God wrote it in His holy Word, and I must accept this without question.

After I came to this firm conviction in my heart, God surprised me with the way He made it a blessing to me. At the time of my ponderings, we were meeting with a few brothers of similar background and some problems had arisen. I was leading out in the fellowship, and my first reaction was to be swift and decisive and "take care" of the issue before the assembly. I had studied up on my duties as they related to the assembly and had complete confidence that I would be acting in accordance with Scripture. A few short minutes before we were to meet, I mentioned to my wife the action that I felt was to be taken. Cautious, but supporting, she encouraged me to do what God was telling me to do. I bowed my head one final time, and the Lord clearly spoke, "Wash his feet"!

Wow, I just knew the Lord was mistaken, and I began to reason with Him that the prob-

lem had to be taken care of, and what would this accomplish?

"Wash his feet"!

I knew I was wrong to argue, so I filled a bucket with water, and grabbed a towel.

That evening, unknown to me, there were some visiting brothers among us. (Can you imagine the example I would have been, if I were left to my own ways?) We opened in song and greeted each other, then the Lord said, "Now." I began to weep as I asked all in attendance to take off their shoes and socks,

"Heaven opened up over us...and we had a sweet victorious meeting. I have often wondered what would have been the outcome of that meeting, had the Lord not intervened."

and explained that I was told of the Lord to wash their feet.

The fear I had of being rejected was immense, but I knew God had spoken to me. They all began removing their shoes (to my relief), and I began. The place was silent until one of the other brothers whom I had only met recently spoke up. He said that it wouldn't be right for him to have his feet washed, and not be able to wash someone else's feet. So he began, then another followed, and then another followed. Heaven opened up over us.

Someone sang Isaiah 52, and we had a sweet victorious meeting. I have often wondered what would have been the outcome of that meeting, had the Lord not intervened.

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Through the years in my ministry, I have come across testimonies similar to this one where someone simply stumbled on this blessing. It began as a simple prompting from the Lord and ended in an overwhelming experience. I know of a husband who was led to wash his dear wife's feet at the height of feelings of gratitude. They were both touched deeply through obeying this principle.

Some time ago, I was reading a missions periodical, *Asia Harvest*, an outreach to the unreached in Asia. There was a testimony of a young sister on a short term missions trip to some of these hidden unreached people groups.

She found herself among these searching, hungry people. All of a sudden, she was prompted to wash their feet. Now this was a people who wore sandals, so they knew what feet washing was all about, and they knew it was the lowest of tasks. Mind you, she did not speak their language, but in her act of humility and love, she spoke the language that touched their hearts. Revival broke out, and the Spirit of God swept into the meeting. Several souls were converted that day, many others were touched by the practical

expression of the Gospel, and the sound of her humble act was spread abroad to many others. If I remember the story rightly, there is a church there because of this beautiful encounter.

A few years ago, I had the privilege of witnessing a most treasured blessing in a feet washing service. A small fellowship of believers had been led together, out of a sincere desire to follow the Bible in every way they could. Most of the families were in a Methodist Sunday school class together, and had stumbled on the principle of obeying what the Bible said. "Let's do it," they said, "and see where it takes us." Well, that choice led them into starting a small assembly, and this was their first communion service. One of the brothers said, "We should wash each other's feet while we are together; it is in the Bible." So they determined to try it and put their whole heart into it. I was there, and I will never forget what happened in that meeting. Men were weeping on each others' necks, and many words of love and humility were flowing from heart to heart as they washed one another's feet. There was no ritual in this little meeting of the saints, but love and sincerity flowed. The sisters also had a deep meaningful time together. One sister who had ought with another was arrested by God. As the sisters paired off to begin, God put the two of them together.

When the one sister who was struggling stood before the other, she broke and began to weep tears of repentance. They literally washed each other's feet with their tears. This meeting was heavenly, and I thought to myself while I was there, "There is power in this ordinance if it is done with sincere hearts."

Some would say that feet-washing is only to be done in spirit. We are to serve our brothers and sisters in Christ, and this is all Jesus was teaching. It is true that Jesus was teaching them to serve one another, but is that all

"...there are some sweet exercises in humility hidden in the act of literally washing my brother's feet. The act of feetwashing encourages the spirit of servanthood that should prevail among us continually."

He was teaching? I think not; there are some sweet exercises in humility hidden in the act of literally washing my brother's feet. The act of feetwashing encourages the spirit of servanthood that should prevail among us continually. It is the same when we partake of communion. We are to be living in fellowship with God and with our brother, yet from time to time we eat the elements together as a remembrance to the Lord.

Historically, there have been whole denominations who take

the verses literally, and whole ones who feel it is to be done only in spirit. The early church practiced feetwashing on a regular basis, as they always had dirty feet from walking. What a joy it would be to see the African Christians practice this ordinance, as they also have dirty feet from sandals and walking. Some of the Protestant influence in missions has obscured it from their eyes. There are many churches in Russia who keep this ordinance and Orthodox and Catholic also have it in some small form in their rituals. The Anabaptist brethren have practiced it for nearly five hundred years, and several other denominations who came from them. The primitive Baptist and Missionary Baptist also have regular times where they wash one another's feet. I'm sure there are other groups that I am not aware of, but this list is sufficient to help you to see that it may not be as weird as you thought it was.

In conclusion, we want to remember, that God is way more concerned that His people learn to humbly serve one another as they walk through life together. Micah 6:8 comes to my mind, "He hath shewed thee, oh man, what is good; and what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?"

-Bro. Denny
□

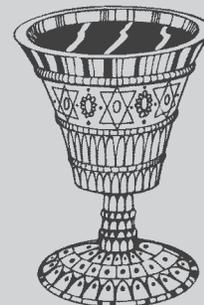
A Chosen Vessel

The Master was searching for a vessel to use;
Before Him were many, which one would He choose?

“Take me,” cried the gold one, “I’m shiny and bright.
I’m of great value, and I do things just right.
My beauty and luster will outshine the rest,
And for someone like you, Master, gold would be best.”



The Master passed on with no word at all,
And looked at a silver urn, narrow and tall.
“I’ll serve you, dear Master, I’ll pour out your wine,
I’ll be on your table whenever you dine!
My lines are so graceful, my carvings so true,
And silver will always compliment you.”



Unheeding, the Master passed on to the brass,
Wide-mouthed and shallow, and polished like glass.
“Here! Here!” cried the vessel, “I know I will do,
Place me on your table for all men to view.”

“Look at me,” cried the goblet of crystal so clear,
“My transparency shows my contents so clear.
Though fragile am I, I will serve you with pride,
And I’m sure I’ll be happy in your house to abide.”

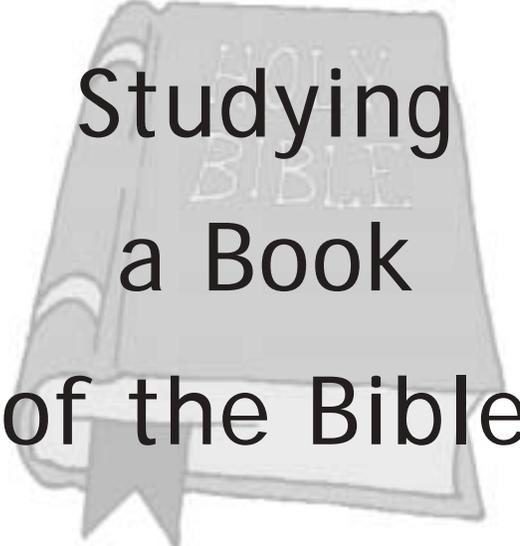
The master came next to a vessel of wood,
Polished and carved, it solidly stood.
“You can use me, dear Master,” the wooden bowl said,
“But I’d rather you use me for fruit, not for bread.”

The Master looked down and saw a vessel of clay,
Empty and broken it helplessly lay.
No hope had the vessel, that the Master might choose
To cleanse and make whole, to fill and to use.

“Ah! This is the vessel, I’ve been hoping to find.
I’ll mend it and use it and make it all mine.
I need not the vessel with pride of its self,
Not one that is narrow to sit on the shelf.
Not one that is big-mouthed and shallow and loud,
Not one that displays his contents so proud.
Not one that thinks he can do all things just right,
But this plain, earthly vessel, filled with power and might.”

Then gently he lifted the vessel of clay,
Mended and cleansed it, and filled it that day.
Spoke to it kindly, “There’s work you must do—
Just pour out and serve others, as I pour into you.”





Studying a Book of the Bible

by Andrew Weaver

There are very few spiritual exercises with such life-changing potential as the study of God's Word. Most believers readily agree that the Word is necessary for their growth and even for their survival, but it is far too easy to mechanically read a chapter or two every day, without ever digging below the surface for the hidden treasure. Maybe you think that in-depth study of God's Word belongs to scholars who can analyze and compare obscure Greek words, and have never disciplined yourself to carefully study any part of it. If so, I hope to encourage you to try studying a book of the Bible, using a very simple but effective method.

Many people are surprised to learn that over half the books of

the New Testament can easily be read in less than twenty minutes each. For your exercise, choose one of those short but meaningful books, such as Ephesians, Philippians, James, or an epistle of Peter or John. Incidentally, this study should not replace your regular quiet time. Rather, it is something extra, a special exercise that will greatly deepen your love for God's Word.

The only things needed for this exercise are a Bible, a pen, a notebook, and an open heart. Other books or commentaries are helpful sometimes, but in this study you will use only the pure Word of God. The goal is to hear what God is speaking to your heart, and not to read what He has revealed to another person. Begin each session by expressing in prayer your desire

to learn, and inviting God to be your teacher.

For example, let's suppose you choose to study the book of Philippians. For the first week, you simply read through Philippians every morning and evening. Don't spend time analyzing individual verses at this point. Just read it from start to finish each morning and evening and feel the heartbeat of the book. Think of Paul writing from his prison cell, and try to feel the reason why he was moved to write this letter. What is the main theme? What are some important recurring words and thoughts? During this first week, learn to appreciate Philippians as an inspiring book, instead of just focusing on a few of its well-known verses.

Having read Philippians fourteen times in the first week, you will find each verse becoming so familiar that you may be tempted to read too quickly or carelessly. Instead, as you begin the second week, discipline yourself to read even more carefully and slowly and begin making notes of outstanding truths and promises. Compare your notes with your mental impressions of the first week. Do you still see the same main themes? Can you sense the 'heart' of this letter? Continue reading it slowly each morning and evening, making notes of any new truths that inspire you.

During the third week, you will only read Philippians once a

continued on page 25



Book Review

by Andrew Weaver

Abide in Christ

by Andrew Murray

A *Abide in Christ* by Andrew Murray is one of the greatest Christian classics available to readers today. While it is true that no book by a human author can compare to the Bible, it is also true that God still can and does inspire the pens of His godly servants. As you read *Abide in Christ*, you will realize that this is one of those rare books where every page seems to give evidence of the Holy Spirit's inspiration and guidance. The message it contains is one that no believer will ever outgrow, and is one of the few books that I believe should be in every Christian's library. This deeply challenging book addresses a subject close to the heart of everyone longing for spiritual growth- the need to abide in Christ through unbroken communion.

Abide in Christ has thirty-one chapters, allowing the reader to study and absorb one chapter each day during the course of a month. The author uses Jesus' own example from John 15 of Christ as a vine and believers as the branches to make thirty-one specific applications of this truth, each with an accompanying Scripture text. In the

first chapter, Andrew Murray explains his purpose in writing the book: *There is especially the question, with its various aspects, as to the possibility, in the midst of weary-*

ing work and continual distraction, of keeping up, or rather being kept in, the abiding communion. I do not undertake to remove all difficulties; this Jesus Christ Himself alone must do by His Holy Spirit. But what I would...by the grace of God be permitted to do is, to repeat day by day the Master's blessed command, "Abide in me," until it enters the heart and finds a place there, no more to be forgotten or neglected... So we shall gaze on its blessedness, until desire be inflamed, and the will with all its energies be roused to claim and possess the unspeakable blessing.

In the chapter "Abide in Christ: And You Shall Find Rest to Your Souls" he writes: *But, alas! I hear someone say, it is just this abiding in Jesus...that is so difficult, and the very effort to attain this often disturbs the rest... What a mistake to speak thus! Is it a labor to a little child to rest in its mother's arms? Do not the arms of the mother sustain and keep the little one? And so it is with Jesus... Oh, it is because the blessing is so great that our little hearts cannot rise to apprehend it; it is as if we cannot believe that Christ, the Almighty One, will in very deed teach and keep us all the day. And yet this is just what He has promised...*

In speaking to those who have been frustrated by their own human efforts to abide in Christ, Mr. Murray writes: *Could they but understand how just their own efforts are the cause of their failure, because it is God alone who can establish us in Christ Jesus... Their first need is to cease from striving themselves to establish the connection with Christ more firmly, and to allow God to do it... What they need is the simple faith that the stablishing in Christ, day by day, is God's work- a work that He delights to do...if we will but trust Him for it... Faith is confessed helplessness casting itself upon God's promise, and claiming its fulfillment; faith is the putting ourselves quietly into God's hands for Him to do His work.*

In a faith-filled chapter titled “Abide in Christ: Every Moment” we find a response to the mistaken idea that Christ cannot keep His followers from sin. This day’s text is taken from Isaiah 27:3, where God says of a branch in His vine, “I the LORD do keep it; I will water it every moment: lest any hurt it, I will keep it night and day.” *Christians are so accustomed to look upon sinning daily as something absolutely inevitable, that they regard it as a matter of course that no one can keep up abiding fellowship with the Savior: we must sometimes be unfaithful and fail. As if it was not just because we have a nature which is naught but a very fountain of sin, that the abiding in Christ has been ordained for us as our only but our sufficient deliverance! As if He would give us the command “Abide in me,” without securing the grace and power to enable us to perform it! As if, above all, we had not the Father as the Husbandman to keep us from falling!*

Speaking of the need to die to self in order to abide in Christ, the author states, *Come away out of self and its life, abide in Christ and the Christ life, and Christ will be your life... Try and realize that though self is not dead, you are indeed dead to self... Your death in Christ has freed you completely from the control of self...except as you, in ignorance... or unbelief, consent to yield to its usurped authority. Come and accept by faith...the glorious position you*

have in Christ. “And now, little children, abide in him, that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming.”

Other inspiring chapters speak of abiding in Christ and in His love, abiding that our joy may be full, abiding in stillness of soul, and abiding in trial and affliction. I believe that every chapter and even every page of this book will inspire you with some blessed truth that you can apply to your walk with God and your desire to grow in Him. I strongly urge every believer to read this book and pray that God will use it to open a beautiful new depth of communion with Him as you *Abide in Christ.* □

This book is available through almost any Christian bookstore, often for \$5.99 or less, or you may wish to contact the publisher directly.

WHITAKER HOUSE
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Continued from page 23, Studying a Book of the Bible by Andrew Weaver

day, but you will take more time for this reading each morning. Read slowly and meditatively and make notes of how challenges or promises apply to you personally. For example, when you read Philippians 2:5, “Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus,” make very personal applications. How will the mind of Christ affect the way you relate to your family? How will it change your prayers? How will it change the way you deal with temptation?

As you slowly read Philippians each morning, let God speak to your heart. Make

notes of things you believe He wants to change in your life, and write about experiences or trials God brings into your life to effect those changes. Make a list of the goals you have been inspired to reach as a result of your study, and claim by faith the promises that will help you reach those goals.

By now your mind should be continually filled with Philippians, and you will discover that your life is slowly being transformed by the constant renewing of your mind. Furthermore, your mind will be so occupied with God’s Word

that the devil will have a hard time finding an idle moment to insert a temptation. I believe you will be eager to keep strengthening those once-flabby muscles and dig right into the next book, and the next, and the next! By the time you come back to Philippians, you will have grown so much that your second study of it will thrill you with all new insights and inspirations! And hopefully by this time, what was once a special spiritual exercise for you will have become a daily habit. □

Holy Sacrifices

by Ross Ulrich



"The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? When the wicked, even mine enemies and my foes, came upon me to eat up my flesh, they stumbled and fell. Though an host should encamp against me, my heart shall not fear: though war should rise against me, in this will I be confident. One thing have I desired of the Lord, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to enquire in His temple."
Psalm 27:1-4.

The Offering Up of My Life

I would have thought that David, a man of war, may have desired above all else to annihilate God's enemies. But no, above all he desired to see

the beauty of the Lord. I believe this is the right priority. All true service for Christ must flow from a heart enraptured with Him. How I need more of this "Mary" heart, choosing the one necessary thing, sitting at Jesus' feet. It seems to me, that this was the only thing and the most important thing, even in the midst of enemies and battles. Oh, for a heart that is so set on my God, that I will not lose sight of Him or my desire for Him no matter what the troubled circumstances might be.

The Offering Up of the Youth

The youth team from the States is here in Ghana since January 13th. They will fly home on this coming Tuesday, Feb. 13, Lord willing. What a joy to see them offer up their lives for service to the King! They have been such a blessing to all the missionaries here. Sacrificial service describes them so very well. They gave my family the week off while they stayed with us and took over so many of the household duties. I don't know how we would have made it at our missionary retreat if they hadn't stepped in and carried much of the load.

They are now in the North, so I don't hear much of their exploits there. But God really

used them during the week they were here in the South. They shared programs in 4 different high schools. One school was a girls' school and about 1,500 girls came to the service. The girls on the youth team preached at that school. We've already received a letter from one of the girls who was at that service and was encouraged.

The last program was at a Methodist boys' school in Cape Coast. The electricity was off and we nearly canceled the program. We finally decided to shine the car headlights in the back door, and the team used flashlights to see their songbooks. The program went on fairly well. Even without a p.a. system the 600 to 800 boys who attended could hear because the acoustics in the huge old chapel were good, and the boys were attentive. After the service they normally give about 15-30 minutes for interaction with the school students. But because the electricity was off and the students couldn't go for evening study time, we had a two-hour question and answer session. The youth team broke into small groups, each surrounded by a mass of curious students, asking serious questions like, "What do you think of Gospel rock?" and "Is it right for a Christian to have a girlfriend?" and "How can you tell if a prophecy is from the Lord or

not?" What seemed to be a hindrance (the light outage) was really a great blessing! At first we were pleading with God to restore the power so the program could go on well. After it was all over and we saw God's better plan, we thanked Him for keeping the lights off! Praise God for His sovereign design in all events of our lives. I'm sure the youth will have many more stories to tell of God's working in the Northern Region.

The Offering Up of a Son

Our missionary retreat at Kumasi turned out much different than we had planned. Our all-wise God had some very special exercises of faith for Cynthia and me. It was a blessing to have Bro. Denny with us again, hearing our hearts and sharing God's Word. My brother Roy was also here, which was a special treat, though our time together was short. Ah, someday we will say good-bye no more, as we sit down together in the glory of His kingdom and share for all eternity.

Back to my story, which starts even before we went to the retreat. Our youngest child, Adriel (19 months), was sick with malaria. We treated him with chloroquine and went in faith. When we got to the retreat he was still very sick, so we took him to a private hospital for blood tests and treatment. He did indeed have malaria, so they gave him two more chloroquine injections. He was not looking very good

that evening, very pale and lethargic.

The following morning, Bro. Denny preached on not being offended in Christ, on going on with the Lord even when overwhelmed with circumstances we do not understand. Immediately after the message, Adriel went into convulsions! We had never had such an experience before. Quickly, I asked Bro. Denny to pray, then we let our children give little unconscious Adriel a kiss goodbye. Then Cynthia and I hurried across the city toward the hospital, while the rest were having an earnest prayer meeting. I have never had such a drive in an African city as that day. The traffic was backed up, as usual. I didn't know how I could wait for this traffic to move, so I drove up on the sidewalk with my lights flashing. How we cried and prayed to God as we drove!

It broke our hearts to see his little body twitching and his eyes blinking involuntarily, staring as if blind. We told God that Adriel belonged to Him, and that if He would get more glory by healing him, then He should heal him. But if it would bring more glory to God by taking him, He could take him, because Adriel was His. It was truly heart-rending, but we felt the peace of God even as we were rushing across the city with tears running down our cheeks. We didn't know how God would answer. As others have said, "A missionary buries his children many times in his heart." Well, we praise God, for he gave us back our "Isaac". We marvel again and again at God's mer-

cies! That time, the hospital admitted Adriel and gave him several quinine IVs and a pint of blood from our oldest son, Michael. As I write this, little Adriel is doing fine. He is a happy little boy full of sparkles and smiles. God bless all of you who received the hot-line message and interceded for us through this difficult time.

The Offering Up of the National Leaders

Please continue to pray for the leaders and the church at Wawase. We are having indigent growing pains, and it is hard to know what to do at times. The financial implications of the church here and our mission being two separate organizations is discouraging them. We have been trying to back away from financial support (building church buildings, financing crusades, etc.). It seems to have taken the wind out of their sails. It is the old matter of unmet expectations. We are much to blame by initially doing these things and thus setting a precedent.

Pray that the church at Wawase, especially the leaders (Elders Joseph Enti and Charles Otoo, and Deacon Alfred) will not be bitter toward the mission. Pray that they will put their trust and expectations in God, and that they will take courage and "rise up and build" God's Kingdom. I know that the church here can go forward without financing from the mission, but the whole prospect looks very bleak and long and

tiresome to those who were expecting the mission to underwrite the projects. Pray also that God will give me wisdom to deal humbly, patiently and with understanding. These men are real Christians, but this is a great disappointment to them. Pray that the adversary, the Devil and his wicked spirits, would be defeated as they try to use this situation to destroy God's work.

The Offering Up of Thanksgiving

God bless and eternally reward those of you who intercede for us and the souls here. Many times we feel the warfare. I get the feeling that the sundial of time has nearly run out, and Satan is redoubling his efforts. I cannot begin to find the words

to express how we all feel toward you who pray. I can say as Paul did, "that thanksgiving was rebounding to the glory of God." Only eternity will reveal the effect of your prayers on the many circumstances here.

I praise God and draw strength from promises such as Isaiah 59:19, "*So shall they fear the name of the Lord from the west, and His glory from the rising of the sun. When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the Lord shall lift up a standard against him.*" And Isaiah 41:10, "*Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.*" And again, Isaiah 43:2, "*When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not*

overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee." All these sacrifices, holy sacrifices, and for what? For the souls of men we all do these things. In eternity the many offerings will seem so small as we gaze upon "*the Lamb as it had been slain, in the midst of the throne*". We will meet our labors there, our works do follow us. Brothers and sisters, let us hold fast, being unmovable, and always abounding in the work of the Lord.

Servants of the soon-returning King of kings, the Lord Jesus, of whose kingdom there shall be no end,

Ross & Cynthia Ulrich
and family

□

Continued from page 13, The Upper Room Fellowship by Mose Stoltzfus

was prayed. The greatest thrill of all is that the prayer has been answered. Oh, for prayer, anointed prayer in our churches.

The Upper Room was a Picture of the Church

As we end this meditation, we realize that church life is being expressed all through these points and all through the disciples' experience with Christ. Oh, how beautiful all of this is. The whole thing is fellowship, communion, and other words that also describe togetherness. Jesus was the center of the upper room fellowship. All of these varied experiences flowed out of this one fact. God wants our assemblies to be just like this. When Jesus is the center, and all are looking to Him, lovely things happen. Honesty prevails and servanthood is a common expression. Love flows

among the brothers and sisters, and God's will is revealed. We could go on and cover all the points of this message. They all flow out from Him. Put the Lord Jesus Christ in the center of your church and keep him there. You will never be sorry, and you will have an **Upper Room Fellowship**. □

For the audio cassette tape from which this message was taken, ask for "The Upper Room" by Mose Stoltzfus, Index# 1367, from:

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Snapshots of the Konkomba Church

by Daniel Kenaston

Oh give thanks unto the Lord; call upon his name: make known his deeds among the people. Sing unto him, sing songs unto him: talk ye of all his wondrous works. Glory ye in his holy name: let the heart of them rejoice that seek the Lord. Psalms 105:1-3

Praise the Lord, call upon his name, declare his doings among the people, make mention that his name is exalted. Sing unto the Lord; for he hath done excellent things: this is known in all the earth. Isaiah 12:4b-5

Greetings, dear brothers and sisters in the name of our exalted Lord! I trust that as you read these verses, your heart will ready itself to bring an offering of praise to our dear

Saviour. May our hearts ever be “tuned to sing his praises”! As I meditated on what to write about this month, God impressed upon my heart the realization that the fulfillment of my responsibility in keeping you informed about the work here should not only take the form of a prayer list of the problems and difficulties we are facing, though that is also appropriate at times. I also have a God given mandate to ‘make known his deeds among the people’ and to ‘make mention of the ways and places in which his name is exalted’ so that ‘the hearts of those who seek the Lord can rejoice!’ We all know ‘that he hath done excellent things’ but the only way that you are going to know the excellent things that he is doing here is if I tell you! Simple truths,



indeed, but God brought them home to me in a new way in preparation for this article and it is this burden that motivates the direction of my writing. Our desire is definitely not to paint a fake or rosy picture of what is happening here, nor is it our heart to make this a list of our accomplishments. Rather, we hope that as you read these written snapshots of the Konkomba church your heart will swell with praise for what God is doing here, and that your heart will rejoice once again in the excellency of our Savior!

Snapshot #1

It is Sunday morning, and a hot dry wind is blowing across the fields kicking up a score of little whirlwinds as I sit waiting for church to begin in a village a couple of bush miles from where we live. It is time for the service to begin and from the many surrounding huts people are beginning to stream into the little church. I say into the church, but in fact there are no walls. Just a couple of trees (which don't provide much shade since the leaves have fallen off in this dry winter period), and a few stick benches arranged in a square are the only elements of the church building. O yes, and the bell! The call to come to the morning service is aptly carried out by an old discarded disc blade which hangs from one of the nearby trees.

So that is the setting. A very simple one indeed, but one that becomes hallowed ground by the fact of the people who fill it every week. For you see, this is one of the newest villages in which we are working, and the people who gather here are hearing the stories of creation, etc. and eventually the gospel, many of them for the first time. The hunger created by having never heard the clear bible message is evident in their eyes as they sit in rapt attention listening to the story of creation. Particularly the old men sit with quizzical looks on their faces, every now and then nodding in agreement or turning to each other to explain some point more clearly. After about an hour of telling the creation story, part of it by me and part by others, we explain the application of this story to these idol worshippers. We tell them that the God who created everything (they

already have a cultural belief in the creation) is above and more powerful than anything that he made and that he desires us to worship him directly instead of through animals or other created things. We go on to explain through a story that God feels insulted and angry when we worship the things he made instead of him. We close by encouraging them to keep coming to the classes to learn more, and give a special thank you to the older men who came and showed such interest, encouraging them to lead their people onto God's path by their example.

The response to the teaching was not long in coming. As soon as I sat down, the old men began to ask questions relating to their own animistic practices which include the worship of idols, crocodiles, etc. Upon hearing my answer, they burst into a buzz of discussion, saying to each other, 'If this is true, then in fact, we have been insulting God by the things we have been doing'. We thrill to hear their quick application of the truth to their own lives and pray for them to follow through with what they are saying. **This is the Konkomba Church!**

Snapshot #2

Let's move now to another Sunday morning service, this time in Bilisinga which is at the center of our work. Once again I am perched on a simple log bench, and it is time for prayer. We do our services a bit different here and we have just finished singing and we are ready to have our prayer meeting. One of the men gets up and leads the prayers by stating what or whom we are going to pray for and then we all pray in unison on that subject for a minute or so before he goes on to give another item to pray for. Today the man who is leading the prayers forms a very quaint picture with his son who also came to the front with his father and is now standing holding onto his father's trousers. The man leading prayers commonly comes to church in an old suit coat he bought somewhere, only he wears it without a shirt underneath, and today is no exception! To complete the picture, his little son is dressed in, well, exactly nothing, and I had to

chuckle to myself as I gazed upon these two dear uninhibited Konkombas.

But there is more to it than just a cute mental image. My mind turned to the story behind what I was seeing, and my chuckle turned to sincere thankfulness for what God has done in this man's life. I remembered the time when he told me about his life before Christ, the life of drunkenness and immorality, the sacrifices to idols and fear of the evil spirits. And now there he is, one of the budding leaders in the church, with a life testimony that becomes clearer everyday as he continues to follow God's word. When he opens his mouth to preach, the words don't come fast and when he reads it comes even slower, but his sermons are filled with meaning and experience and the younger believers around him are encouraged. Because of the work of God in his father's heart, that little boy who clings to his daddy's leg is growing up in a home where idols are not worshiped and daddy does not drink. Praise God! That little three year old recently turned down an offer from one of their neighbors to share in their meat feast, a rare treat that all of the children look forward to, because he knew that they had just offered it to idols. The change in his father is being reflected in the life of this innocent little boy who clings to his daddy's knee during prayer time!! **This is the Konkomba Church!**

Snapshot #3

On Friday afternoons I often spend some time studying for the leadership training classes that we hold all day Saturday, and today was no exception. I was pouring over my topical bible when Christy announced that one of the church brothers was coming up the lane to the house. Upon going out meet him, I was surprised to find one of the leaders from Bilisinga—minus his bicycle. After inviting him onto the porch and getting him the customary, and evidently much needed, drink of water, we asked what brought him to see us. He very calmly reminded me that this is Friday, the day that he holds services in a couple of villages where we do not have a church yet but have some believers. When I asked about his bicycle, he sim-

ply stated that it was 'spoiled' this morning so he had to walk. A quick mental calculation of the distances between the villages he had already gone to came to a total of about 16 miles so far with 7 yet to go before he would be home!

I tried not to appear shocked as I did not want him to think that this kind of dedication to God's work is anything unusual, but in my own heart I asked myself whether I was as dedicated as he was. After a few words of blessing and encouragement, he was on his way, ready to walk another 7 miles on his thin sandals! This man, and others like him, are regularly making these kinds of sacrifices in their effort to reach out to the many villages of their own people who do not have the gospel. Every week, on foot or bicycle, these men are preaching, not only in their own villages, but also in about 5 other villages who have asked them to come. Though young in the faith and still lacking understanding in many areas of Bible doctrine, the dedication of these young men is a constant source of both encouragement and challenge to me. **This is the Konkomba Church!**

Snapshot #4

It is not uncommon for me to arrive at a village for a service and have to wait awhile for the people to gather, especially if the night was 'cold', which is anything around 75 degrees!! This waiting is particularly true of the training classes we hold for leaders on Saturdays because the men who gather in Bilisinga for those classes come from 4 other villages some of which are 4-5 miles away. Trying to use this time wisely one recent Saturday, I looked around me and saw one of our church brothers sitting under a nearby tree tying handfuls of grass in the way that they do for roofing. I knew that he had been building a new compound (a series of rooms in a circle) so I walked over and told him I would like to help, though my grass weaving skills are about nil. He was anxious to show me his new house so we walked over and he pointed out where each family member would live, including the location of the hen and pig houses. It was a typical Konkomba house with about 1 square and 4 round rooms, so very similar

“He said to me, ‘That house no be my house, this house be my house, and my house nobody go make pito (local beer). My childs is no grow up to taste pito!’ Hallelujah! His motive for this construction project was so that his children could grow up in a Christian environment, not surrounded daily by the things that had enslaved their parents!”

to the many other houses I’d seen being built during this building season.

But this was not a typical Konkomba man and the reasons behind the building of this new house were anything but the common aspirations that many Konkombas have to build a new house. This brother’s original house stood just 100 meters from where we were standing, and that compound, though it was shared by 5 families, was large enough and nice enough that I thought he must have had a specific purpose in mind when he began building. It was not easy to communicate, but between his limited English and my very limited Likpakpaaln he explained what I knew to be the deepest motive of his heart. In the shared compound, 2 Christian families lived along side 3 families of idol worshippers, but this house would be different. He said to me, “That house no be my house, this house be **my** house, and **my** house nobody go make pito (local beer). My childs is no grow up to taste pito!” Hallelujah! His motive for this construction project was so that his children could grow up in a Christian environment, not surrounded daily by the things that had enslaved their parents! **This is the Konkomba Church!**

Snapshot #5

It is a typical Northern Ghanaian afternoon, and we are sitting on the porch trying to escape the sun’s searing rays. The ‘we’ is three of us: myself, my translator, and our leading Konkomba pastor. We are counseling together over the issues and problems facing the church. This dear man sitting in front of me is by far the most mature leader we have here, and his tireless dedication to

the work of God among his people has been a joy to behold. Yet what is it that he is now saying? Can I believe my ears? “Daniel, God has been speaking into my heart that I should farm less and preach more.” It is true, during the farming season which just past, much of his time was taken up with farming, but I know that they must farm if they are going to eat, so I’ve tried not to put too high expectations on them. But it is clear from what follows that in the quiet of this brother’s heart, God has been speaking to him, asking him to let go of his desires to ‘get ahead’, and asking him to be willing to be just a poor farmer and preacher of the gospel. He continues by saying, “You know the business that I wanted to start, God showed me that I was making my choices by what would be good for the business instead of what would be good for the church. I want to turn away from these business thoughts and preach more.” I rejoiced to hear these words, not because the business was big (it was tiny), or because I had really sensed that it was taking his heart away, but rather I rejoiced in the fact that God was at work in this man’s life, calling him to the work of God, and he was responding to that voice. I rejoiced also because of the need that we constantly have for people to go to answer all of the crying voices around us. **This is the Konkomba Church!**

Snapshot #6

I am on the motorcycle riding double with Matthew, our dear friend, helper, and translator, and we are winding our way through a little bush trail that is the Bilisinga road. Matthew sometimes jokes to me that it is ‘Highway #1’ as we cross

streams, dodge trees that are in our path, and fight to maintain that upright position which is most desirable when crossing a mud hole. Up ahead on the trail we see a man on a bicycle signaling to us to stop. The man is very happy to see us and has been hoping to meet us for awhile. But he stopped us to ask for something, and I will just record his words here, basically as they came to me through a translator. "I am coming to you from a nearby village, but I am not alone, many of my people sent me. We have seen that people who have received God's book are very changed from the way that they used to be. We have seen the life of the people in Bilisinga, that it has changed since they heard God's words, and we want to be like them. We, the young men and women (35 years and down) of my village, want to follow a new path, that is God's path, and we are begging that you would come and begin teaching us from God's book". Then, as if to indicate to me the fact that they are really serious, he finished up with these words, "We have already built our church and are only waiting on you to come"! **This is the Konkomba Church!**

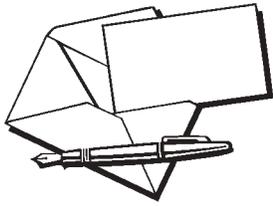
Dear brothers and sisters, I hope that as you have read these few written glimpses of the Konkomba church your heart has been drawn upward in praise to God as mine has as I've sat here writing them, and that you have a bit better understanding of the work that God is doing here among our people. These stories are real, and though I have clarified a few details to make it more understandable to you, each one actually occurred and there are real people behind each one of them. I hope that you can tell that we love these people very much! God has given us just a bit of his dying and yet still undying love for them, and as we pour our lives into them, our investment in them grows, and that love grows also. We continue to need your prayers, both for us as young and needy missionaries and for the young Konkomba church, and our desire would be that many of you would also ask for and receive a little of that love that we mentioned earlier. As you spend time in prayer for us and for the Konkombas, your investment and love will grow also, until you can truly say, "These are my people"! If we all stay faithful,

you in praying there and us in working here, we will all one day stand around a group of ransomed Konkombas in the throne room of God, and Oh, can words ever describe the joy that will be ours to stand in that day and say along with our dear Saviour, "These are our people"! May this vision fill our hearts in such a way that it motivates us to prayer and action!

*We are, committed with you to this end,
Daniel & Christy, and Abigail Kenaston*



"I am coming to you from a nearby village, but I am not alone, many of my people sent me. We have seen that people who have received God's book are very changed from the way that they used to be. We have seen the life of the people in Bilisinga, that it has changed since they heard God's words, and we want to be like them. We, the young men and women (35 years and down) of my village, want to follow a new path, that is God's path, and we are begging that you would come and begin teaching us from God's book . . . we have already built our church and are only waiting on you to come!"



Precious Letters from Our Readers

We have been so blest these past two months by your overwhelming response to our plea to write to us. There are so many letters coming in, that we cannot possibly print them all. Please keep them coming. We have chosen to focus a bit more on international letters in this issue. These letters are so typical of the heart that beats in this group of people we are calling the Remnant. I don't know how else to refer to them. It would make a good article sometime: Who is the Remnant? Where did they come from? Is it a new denomination? These are all very good questions that should be answered.

We have chosen to feature the letters from the international front for two reasons. First of all, because the letters and testimonies in the letters read like a scratched record. We hear it over and over again. They love the truth deeply and long to be in fellowship with others who also respect and obey the Bible. They are having a hard time fitting into the departing churches around them. The second reason is to encourage all of us. This drawing of the hearts by God is not an American phenomena only, but we are constantly finding others scattered around the world who long for a closer walk and a clearer walk with God. Oh let us all be strengthened to go on. We are not crazy, we are not being extreme, we have not gone off the deep end. God is always, in every generation, calling his people to leave all and follow Him fully. Let us join our hearts with the number of those found in Revelations "who keep the commandments of God."

--The Editors

Dear brothers in Christ,

I would like to thank-you because you send me the two magazines you publish.

Also, I like very much the new REMNANT magazine. Congratulations! I read all articles with great interest. The REMNANT is a very good spiritual food for the children of God. Thank-you again.

*With Christian love,
Manolis Calomiris
Athens, Greece*



Christian greetings to all those who have so richly blessed us and others through your tape and magazine ministries. The Remnant and Mission

Newsletter have give us a stronger determination to keep walking in the way that the Lord is leading us and the confession and faith and practice of your fellowship is an inspiration and guide for is. It had laid before us scriptural standards which we were aware of but have not seen or heard of as being practiced in Australia. No doubt there are some who do not like us. They would be isolated couples or individuals. And more then anything, your standards have given us the courage to go on knowing that we are not alone in our beliefs and practice.

We cannot express adequately the joy and spiritual blessings your ministry is bringing us especially through the audio tapes. It is a blessing

indeed to have them because we can replay them anytime we wish and we are also able to use them in reaching others. This is not a Christian society even though many, many call themselves such and it is of great comfort to me (Joseph) to know that there are men out there who truly love the Lord and are open about their faith. It is difficult for me to find any man who is prepared to talk openly about scriptural truths. Most in fact, do not want to know at all.

We live in a rural part of New South Wales—mixed farming—very small towns especially compared by your standards and considerable distances to travel for anything. Briefly my wife Carolyn and I have been married 37 years are now aged 60

and live in a small village of 24 homes. We have been committed to Christ for most of our married life and in the last twelve months have been led by the Lord to come and of the church we were in because of their growing worldliness and desertion of scriptural standards—there are no churches near us which we could possibly attend because of the standards they have. The nearest would be over 70 miles away. As a consequence we have chose to fellowship at home on a regular weekly basics and have the attendance of other believers on a irregular basics. We would dearly love to correspond with someone in your fellowship or a like minded fellowship, so that we can have someone to express our faith to and be guided by, being on our own one can easily slip into error. Seem to have run out of room so need to run.

May the Lord bless you and your ministry and fellowship.

Yours in Christ Jesus,

*Joseph & Carolyn Van Loon
Shimara
Garland Street
Leadville, NSW 2844
Australia*



Dear Remnant,

A sincere thank-you for the materials (catalog and magazine) that you sent to our home.

The Heartbeat of the Remnant...is an exceptional publication and the sample that you sent to us has become a treasure in our home. My hus-

band and I were so blessed by the Christ-centered articles and would ask that you please add us to your mailing list. We are so excited to get this material out to our Church family.

I am including our order form for tapes. Praise God for such a ministry as the one God has led you into. We hope to copy these God-honoring messages and pass them on to as many others as we can and may God use them for His glory in the lives of others. I must admit that we have had such a hard time deciding what to order—everything looks SO good and there are so many hungering after God and His ways here in Selkirk. We thank-you again for your generosity and faithfulness to God—you have blessed our hearts by your example of faith and trust in God for provision.

May He continue to strengthen you in your service for Him!

*Jeff & Jani Goudy
Selkirk, MB, Canada*



Dear Editors of the Remnant,

A heartfelt thank-you for the effort you are putting into the Heartbeat of the Remnant. May the Lord bless you as richly as you are blessing others with your effort—your work.

I really love the Home Histories, we can learn so much from them on raising Godly Families. Thank-you for adding the places where we can get the books that you review. There is such a need for good solid reading material.

Thank-you Brothers and Sisters in Christ for the encouragement you are to my life. May the Lord be honored and praised thru your ministry. Amen!

*Mark & Delia Wollman
Henderson, Minnesota*

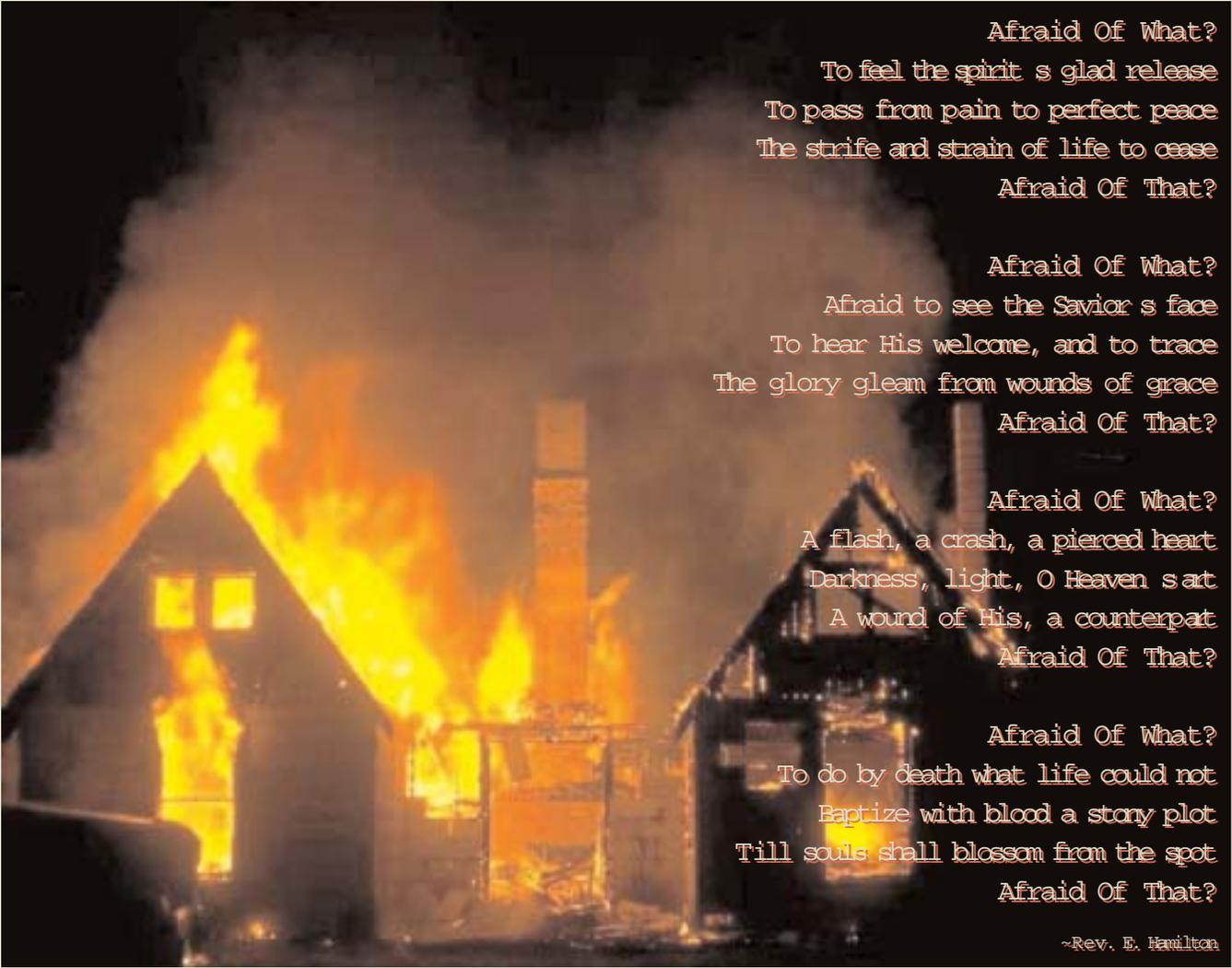


Dear Remnant,

This is my first attempt to respond to any magazine or article I have read. This magazine is not sent to my home, yet, but a wonderful fellow Christian lady in my church has sent them home with me many times in the past year! WHAT A BLESSING and INSPIRATION they have been in reaching my husbands heart as well as my own in so many ways!

The reason for this short letter is to say: THANK GOD FOR YOU ALL AND YOUR MAGAZINE!! We have enjoyed 10 years of marriage, and have been abundantly blessed with 6 children and another one due in May! GOD IS GOOD!! ALL THE TIME!! Throughout our marriage, these last few months with the help of your articles on Humility and other people's homes, our relationships in our own home are becoming "deeper" and more Christ-centered. Our children (ages 8, 7, 6, 4, 2, and 1) enjoy Bible Time, anyway, but now wait to hear "something" from the Remnant! GOD BLESS YOU as you continue to serve our Mighty Creator! We are praying for you daily!!

Misty Charboneau



Afraid Of What?

To feel the spirit s glad release
To pass from pain to perfect peace
The strife and strain of life to cease

Afraid Of That?

Afraid Of What?

Afraid to see the Savior s face
To hear His welcome, and to trace
The glory gleam from wounds of grace

Afraid Of That?

Afraid Of What?

A flash, a crash, a pierced heart
Darkness, light, O Heaven s art
A wound of His, a counterpart

Afraid Of That?

Afraid Of What?

To do by death what life could not
Baptize with blood a sorry plot
Till souls shall blossom from the spot

Afraid Of That?

~Rev. E. Hamilton

The Heartbeat of

The Remnant

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