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*. . . is Pure, Chaste, Virgin Daughters*

*The Heartbeat of*  
**The Remnant**

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# Difficulties in Prayer

*by Mathew Hinkle*

In considering the disciplines of the Christian life, that subject which is paramount, and is most awkwardly performed, is undoubtedly prayer. There are certainly multitudes of excellent books and even tapes that tell of the need for and the working out of prayer. In this article, I would like to cover the discipline of prayer from the aspect of difficulties in prayer, and there are many that we could cover. If there is any honesty amongst us, we all have difficulties in prayer. For some of us the difficulties seem so insurmountable, and so entrenched that we have either given up or almost given up in prayer. This then is a subject that all of us can take heed to and find refreshment from.

## The Difficulty in General

Prayer is often hard. Sometimes it is impossible. There are many times when the heavens are as brass and the earth is as iron, and it just seems your strength is being spent in vain. At times it seems your prayers don't even get to the ceiling, let alone get past it! Why? I wish to answer that

question more specifically as the article progresses, but in general terms, there are some principles that must first be understood. We must understand that prayer is warfare. We are beset with many enemies. One of the greatest enemies is yourself. Self does not want to pray. It is odious to the flesh to get up early in the morning, get uncomfortably on one's knees, and talk into the air to someone that you cannot even see, and expect something to happen from such a dreadful waste of time! Self can think (and does remind you!) of so many "better" things you could be doing with this time—like sleeping for instance! Satan and the hosts of hell are also direct adversaries to your praying. If it is true what Cooper wrote, "And Satan trembles when he sees, the weakest saint upon his knees", and if it is true that Satan will oppose everything that God loves (and God loves it when His people pray), then he will certainly oppose with all his vigor anyone who sets himself to pray. Prayer is hard. Prayer is work. Prayer is battle. There are innumerable distractions. Feelings, slothfulness, and unbelief greatly get in the way. The black night of unanswered

prayer closes in with a darkness that can be felt. Aye, prayer is battle. But as this article progresses, I would like to give you some very practical help.

## The Difficulty of Condemnation

Sometimes prayer is hard for you. The heavens seem to be as brass, and the earth as iron. You are seemingly getting nowhere, and perhaps this condition has gone on for days or weeks. Either gradually or suddenly the thought is presented that God must be hiding His face from you because of a secret sin in your life. You know that God does not hear sinners, and so you go on under increasing oppression and condemnation, looking for the hidden sin. Your spiritual life will get more and more confused, if you continue to follow this thought pattern. Yes, it is true that sin will block communion with God. But let us be very practical. Any decent earthly father is going to be quite ready to point out any misdoing in the life of a child of his. How much more righteous is God, our heavenly Father? He does not play hide-and-go-seek with His children. If sin has come into your life, the Holy Spirit will be a swift witness of exactly what it is. Satanic condemnation is always vague—he is the accuser of the brethren. Satan operates in hiding things—darkness and shadow. God is specific and offers hope—He shines light. For the open and seeking heart, He will plainly and quickly show any sin.

## The Difficulty of Feelings

This is undoubtedly the area where the greatest errors are committed, and where the need is greatest for clear teaching. One of the basic principles of prayer is that when we pray, we are coming to an intelligent Being Who does hear our every desire whether whispered or not, and Who desires our fellowship, friendship and worship through the means of prayer. Although prayer is certainly a two-way exchange of communication and mutual love, we like to try to confine the infinite God to our finite understanding. We expect God to communicate with us according to our preconceived notions. Thus there are times when we

go to prayer and find no sensibility of God, no perception of His presence. We become troubled because God is not “hearing” and communicating according to our ideas of how He should. We do not feel God’s presence. Many say, “When I first started walking with the Lord, it was easy to pray. I felt God’s presence near.” Amen! And so it is at times! But consider when you first started after God, you were a baby. God’s grace was enswaddling you and protecting you, and, oh, the feelings were so grand! Should you stay a baby though? God has to put you through special training to toughen you up and teach you to walk by faith and trust Him. Many Christians are fair weather pray-ers. We forget that we are to pray by faith, not by feelings. The promises of God and His divine, omnipotent, omniscient power do not at all depend on how you feel. Jesus never said, “Ask, and if your feelings are right, it shall be given unto you. Seek, only when you are sensible of My presence, and you shall find. Knock when conditions seem right, and the door shall be opened unto you.” We know that this mentality is absolute rubbish, and yet that is the subconscious attitude most of us have towards prayer.

## The Difficulty of Discouragement

Faith is the great root of the issue of prayer. If faith is to dry up or receive a mortal sickness, the whole plant of prayer will wither. It is no wonder then that Satan in this warfare tries desperately to undermine faith in prayer. Discouragement is his primary weapon. There are many varieties of discouragements. One of the simplest and most common modes of discouragement is that feeling that you are not getting anywhere. You know the feeling. You are trying to pray, but it just seems your thoughts are wandering, your emotions aren’t really engaged, your prayers are dry and formal. Then the thought comes, “I’m not getting anywhere. I ought to just give up.” On what basis do you believe you are not getting anywhere? On the basis of feelings, of course. Faith knows differently! Faith knows that God Almighty does indeed hear even these distracted prayers, and faith knows that these distractions are a part of the real,

practical prayer warfare that every Christian must undergo. So, will you succumb in the hour of warfare? Where do the suggestions come from anyway that you ought to just give up? Does God give out suggestions like that? When any form of discouragement comes in prayer or any suggestion that you ought to just give up, look behind the mask, and you will smell the sulphurous breath of hell. God the Lord encourages you to pray and wants you to pray, even if it seems feeble to you. The grace of prayer is a grace to be improved and learned only by being exercised in it. Don't expect to know it all overnight. You have many real battles to fight after the manner that the songwriter wrote about:

*My flesh is tired of seeking God,  
But on my knees I'll stay.  
I want to be a pleasing child,  
Until that final day.  
My mind is full of many thoughts,  
That flutter and confuse.  
But standing firm, I will prevail,  
In faith that I'll be used.*

### The Difficulty of Unanswered Prayer

Discouragement can come in the form of not seeing answers to our prayers, and subtly wondering if prayer really “works.” Again, so much of this problem is in our preconceived ideas of how God should answer a prayer. When we pray we naturally think of several ways that God could answer our prayer, and when the infinite God refuses to be bound by our finiteness, we become discouraged. God does answer, but usually not as we think He will. The wheels of His providence must grind on as He sees fit (Ezekiel 1). And please keep in mind that “no” or “not yet” are just as much answers to prayer as “yes.” So often we cannot see the forest for the trees in the matter of answers to prayer. God almost invariably works by very natural, normal means to bring about answers to prayer. Our faith needs to be built up by knowing the Bible, knowing the God of the Bible, and by prayers that are formed and informed by the promises and revelation of God's Word. On the mental side, we

need to cultivate the grace of perseverance. Perseverance, tenacity, determination, and persistence are rare Christian virtues. These virtues are crucial in fighting the call to “retreat” by “just giving up because you aren't getting anywhere.” In Luke 18:1-7, in Habakkuk 1, and 2:1-3, in Elijah's praying for rain on Mt. Carmel, in Jacob's wrestling, and in so many other promises and examples, we are taught the need of persistence in prayer. God must providentially arrange things for what is best for His kingdom and government. Allow him His time to work, but while waiting, always pray and do not faint. The one who is walking by faith does not need the “sign” of a thrill or a feeling or a voice in order to continue. There is a sure expectation that God has heard my petition and will reveal it all in His time.

### The Difficulty of the Thought Life

Certainly our thought life is one of the great arenas of real battle in prayer. We have already discussed the condemnation and discouragement that often come along when one wants to pray. But there are other areas where Satan tries to actively hinder God's people. Anyone who will pray will face multitudes of distractions both from within and without. It is so amazing how many things you can think of that you need to do when you are in prayer. Why did those things not come up before? Wandering thoughts, telephones ringing, that very important project that clamors for attention now, even the solution to a problem that you have long pondered, these all work together to distract you from prayer. Another trick of Satan is to bring up some vile, obnoxious thought either from your past, or from the air, and then accuse you with, “How can you come to God when you think such vile thoughts?” I remember reading a godly Puritan (Baxter or Rutherford) describing how Satan would come to them in prayer with evil, lustful thoughts that they had never taken part in—all to distract from prayer. Satan has no new tricks! All these objects and many more are to hinder you in prayer and cause you to give up. It requires discipline, but you must simply condition yourself to focus on the “better part” and just

push away all such suggestions. If you find your mind has wandered and you do not know what has happened to the last 15 minutes, just start up where you left off and keep on going. A prayer list is an excellent tool to help keep your mind focused.

God is looking for those who will trust and obey, and who will put aside all such satanic thoughts and get to the business of prayer.

## The Difficulty of Independence

Finally, there is this very subtle difficulty that keeps us from getting to prayer in the first place. For so many of us, we have not come to the end of ourselves, and we are still very independent and think we can take care of things ourselves. Often, we only need to come to God for really big items, or to have Him put his seal of approval on what we want. Prayer is the language of dependence. Prayer is the language of inability. Prayer is the language of emptiness. Lack of prayer is the opposite—it speaks of my fullness, my ability, and my self-sufficiency. The more we see our need and our inability, the more we will go to God's infinite storehouse of grace and power and appropriate what we need from Him—in prayer. How do I deal with this? The answer is quite simple but long and difficult in working out. Ask God to break your independence and self-sufficiency. He will do it, but it will be very unpleasant on the flesh, as you start to see things in your life spin out of your control in order to force you to God, and to train you that all you ever needed could be only found in Him anyway!

## Conclusion

I would like to try to bring all of these thoughts together by means of a practical, living example. In the early 1800's, the minister of the Second Congregational Church of Portland, Maine was a man named Edward Payson. He has come down to us with the nickname of "Praying Payson." In his life, he gave himself uncommonly to fasting and prayer, so that he literally did wear grooves in the wooden floor by his bed from his much praying. He was also someone that God used to bring

revival to his church and area! Payson's journals are marvelous to read, because they show the real-life struggles that we seldom read of in polished biographies. They show that this "prayer warrior" was a struggling soul just like you and I. For your encouragement, here are just a few entries from his journal relating to prayer:

*February 26, 1806: I drag along without advancing. O, how disproportionate are my endeavors to the mighty prize for which I contend.*

*February 28, 1806: Resolved to spend this day in fasting and prayer. Did so, but found no relief. Was astonishingly dead and wandering. In reading Mr. Brainerd's life, I seemed to feel a most ardent desire after some portion of his spirit; but, when I attempted to pray, it vanished. I could not even mourn over my coldness.*

*August 4, 1806: Rose with the impression that all I had formerly experienced was a delusion, and that I was still an enemy to God. Was enabled to go to Jesus, and plead earnestly for mercy, not for my own sake, but for His. I seem determined, if I must perish, to perish at His feet; but perhaps I was deceived. However, my hopes began to revive. In the evening, foolishly went into company, and had no time for prayer.*

*June 17, 1807: Had some life this morning, but was harassed with wandering thoughts. Seemed to myself more vile than any other creature existing.*

Such are only a few samples of the reality of those who would battle in prayer. It is not nearly so glamorous nor smooth as many books and seminars would make it to be. In our desire to stir souls up to pray, do we perhaps set up an artificial and unreal image of prayer? Earlier in this article, I had written about the rare Christian grace of perseverance. Payson had that, so that he kept on in prayer no matter how awful the battle was—and some of these journal entries are awful! And, in truth, there are also many entries that tell a completely different picture. God did favor him at times with seasons of refreshment to his soul. And so the Lord will do for all who will call upon Him. Will you call upon Him? Will you enlist in this terrible struggle and start pulling down the strongholds of unbelief, walking by feelings, discouragement, and distractions in your prayer life? □

# *The Sacrifice of a Living Son*

*by Gerald Nolt*



February 8, 1977, was a very cold day in Ephrata, PA when God blessed my wife and me with our first child, a son. We were very happy. He was a healthy child and my wife, Joan, was doing fine. I felt like a very blessed man to have a son of my own. I was thanking God for him every day and asking God for wisdom to raise him in the fear of the Lord. I was thinking of all the good times we would spend together, wondering whether God would give him a family of his own, and how great it would be when he brought his family home. After all, God would want our family to be close and live close together just like the ideal family. Why should ours be any different?

When our son was about 6 months old, he got very sick after his immunization shots at the doctor. His fever was very high, and as a father, my heart pitied him and wanted to take the pain for him. That night as I was rocking him and trying to comfort him, he fell asleep. As I gazed upon him, God started asking me questions about my dreams for his life. What would I do if He took my son home to heaven as a young child? Would I be able to accept it as God's will? If God wanted to send him to a foreign field to be a missionary, would I let him go? I thought, "God, you ask hard questions. Yes, of course, I would let him go if you keep him safe." But God would not let me go with that thought. He kept pressing the question deeper. Would I let him go knowing that I may never see him again? I soon realized God was truly asking me to let go of my dreams in place of His will for my son's life. I sat for hours pondering what God was asking, and slowly my dreams gave way to His will. I bowed my head and said, "God, I see now that He is yours and You have given him to us to raise for Your service, and, yes, may Your will be done in his life.

A few months ago, a brother gave a children's lesson at church. He told a story about a family taking a very dangerous trip to visit a mission orphanage high in the mountains. The family was very excited about the trip, and they were looking forward to being a blessing to the mission staff and children. It had rained the night before so the road was very slippery. They soon realized the road was hardly fit to travel. Then they came to a place very narrow and steep with a cliff on one side and a steep drop off on the other. They felt they could

not make it. The father led his family in prayer and asked for God's protection and that His will would be done. After the prayer, the driver slowly started moving ahead when they felt the vehicle slipping. This is the end of the story. We do not have a conclusion. Did they get to the orphanage safe or did they plunge to their deaths? In our minds we need to know. But his point in the lesson was that God's will was done. That was their prayer.

As I listened to this lesson, my mind was drawn to the time in the rocking chair with a sick child, pondering the faith that Abraham had when God asked him to sacrifice his son, Isaac. And God said, *"Abraham, take now thy son thine only son, Isaac, whom thou lovest, and get thee to the land of Moriah and offer him there for a burnt offering upon one of the mountains which I will tell thee of. And Abraham rose up early in the morning"* Gen. 22:2-3. We have read this account many times and yet, do we consider the heart cry that must have been in Abraham's heart? After God gave him His command, we have no words of Abraham trying to deal with God. It was just a simple obedience because it reads he rose up early to obey God. And when his son said, "Father, we have the wood and the fire, but where is the lamb for the offering?", Abraham said, "My son, God will provide Himself a lamb for a burnt offering." I do not know if Abraham thought God would bring Isaac back to life or provide another offering before He took Isaac's life. We will never know. Abraham believed that the most important thing was that God's will was done. Jesus taught us to pray that God's will would be done in earth as it is done in heaven. I believe God's will is always done in heaven and His desire is to have His will done at all times on earth. As I laid the sleeping child upon his bed, I fell on my knees and said, "God give me the faith like Abraham had. I do not give only this child, but all the children You bless us with, for Your service to use any way You desire. Little did I know what all this would mean and include.

By the time our oldest son Daryl was ten, God had burdened his heart to be a missionary in Africa. Every elective he took in school had to meet the test whether it could be used on the mission field. As a father, I wondered how God was going to work all this out because we knew of no mission organization that we could give our bless-

ing to, that would send him. So you can imagine our joy when after attending Charity Christian Fellowship for a few months, we learned they were starting a mission in Ghana, West Africa. Was this God's answer to our long unanswered question? During this time, we felt like a Hannah preparing a son for the Lord's work.

In January 1998, our son Daryl and his wife Rebekah left for Ghana, West Africa. They left a few weeks after their wedding to do the work that God had called them to do. We have had many people ask us hard questions about their future. "How can you do this knowing that it is not safe over in those countries?" "What if something happened to them, wouldn't you carry the blame forever?" Brothers, sisters, I share all this to make a point. No, it is not easy to see your son and his wife leave, not knowing if you will ever see each other again. No, it is not easy, knowing that you will not see your grandchildren for years at a time. When you get a report that one of the family is very sick and you wish you could run to their aid but cannot, it gives you a helpless feeling. It is then I remember my rocking chair experience with my sick son and fall on my face, and once again make the trip to Mount Moriah and lay my son and his family upon the altar of sacrifice to God. It is then that I do as Abraham did and agree with God that His will should be done on earth as it is in heaven, not knowing the end. God has taught me that I do not need to know the end to be at peace.

I believe God's desire is for us to give our children back to Him with no strings attached and not to question God if He takes our children to be with Him, or if He permits them to suffer for His sake. We need to teach our children very early in life that we are not our own but that we belong to God, and He can do with us as He pleases. I believe many more would be willing to go to the mission field, but we as parents hold them back by not giving our fullest blessing. We say things like, "Oh, you may go, but we were hoping you would stay close to home", or "We were hoping you would take over the family business so Dad can retire", or "Who is going to take care of us when we get old?" We tell them, "God can find someone else to go." Each generation keeps the next from

*continued on page 18*

# Sharpened Words for Little Ones



*Dear parents,*

*Just as the craftsman picks up his tools to make a fine piece of furniture, so the godly father picks up the Word of God to make and mold a young life into a servant of the living God. There is a sober, deep felt joy and satisfaction in the heart of the craftsman as he carefully works toward the finished product. He knows where he is going, and he knows how to get there. This kind of wisdom is available to the father who becomes a student of the Word, a student of teaching, and a student of his children.*

*When God commanded Moses to build the tabernacle in the wilderness, He also gave spiritual abilities to men so that the construction would be according to the pattern given to Moses in the mount. I see this as a principle that proves itself over and over in the Bible. The Spirit of God was brooding over these craftsmen to aid them in fulfilling the will of God.*

*Fathers, God is there with you, when you sit down before your children. Pick up the tools with your hands and open it, and begin to speak. He will help you mold the young lives, as you are doing it. Do not wait until you feel like you are ready and able—you will never start. The Lord hath ordained that we walk by faith and not by sight; step out and trust Him to help you. I was sitting around a family table not long ago listening to the family share the many ways God had provided for them financially. As I listened, it was evident that their faith had been tested and stretched, but God always came through, and glorified Himself. This is also the way God works with us fathers. If we step out in faith, we will be stretched, no doubt. But we will also find Him coming to our aid, again and again.*

*We submit these ideas to you fathers and mothers to encourage you to try, to encourage you to begin, and we know that you will find the Lord, the builder of the house, very faithful. The enemy has sown seeds of doubt and insecurity in our hearts, and we don't think we can do it. This is a lie. God gives the grace to follow through with every command He orders. Let us rise up and teach, and He will make us craftsmen.*

*--The Editors*

***God bless you as you teach!***

## Self Control

There are several places in the Bible where God likens the soul of man to a city. Proverbs 25:28 says *“He that hath no rule over his own spirit is like a city that is broken down, and without walls.”* For this lesson, you can get one or two of your children to help you build a small fort or maybe a portion of a Lego city. They will be very happy to help with this project. You must build it with several places where the wall is broken down. Explain to the children that the wall of the city was a great protection against an enemy coming in and spoiling the city. After you have clearly made this point in their minds, turn the corner and make some applications to some of the needs in their lives. You can make the list as long as you want. Appetites that are out of control, losing your temper, being lazy in the morning, lying, and stealing, these are a few. Show the children how these character needs will open them up to the enemy to come in and destroy them when they are older. Since it takes a while to build the city, you could take one each day for a week. Follow each one out to its destructive end and give illustrations where this very thing has happened.

## Understanding Father

Proverbs 25:3 says, *“The heaven for height, and the earth for depth, and the heart of kings is unsearchable.”* For this lesson you can use the Lego city again, or find one of those children’s storybooks where there are pictures of the operations of a city. Here you have an opportunity to explain a deep truth to your children. Many times, fathers need to make decisions that the children don’t understand. It is important that they understand that this is normal, and that father is not being unreasonable. He is seeing a bigger picture than the child, and this affects his decisions. You can help them to see this by using the example of the King. The servants of the king see their own little world and desire things in light of their perspective. The king sees the whole of his kingdom and therefore his choices might be different because of this. Use the illustration of a city to show how different things look if you consider the whole city. After you have this concept clear in their minds, turn to your home, and give examples where your perspective and theirs would be very different.

## A Wise Woman

You can use a little house that you have built with the children to illustrate Proverbs 14:1. *“Every wise woman buildeth her house: but the foolish plucketh down with her hands.”* With this lesson, you are training way into the future, planting seeds of holy principles in their hearts long before they will need them. You can use the little house that you built to reference the building or tearing down of a household. As you have made the spiritual connection of the house, give examples of how a wife and mother could do this to her household. You can give the positive and the negative examples. You can be taking pieces of the house off, or adding them on depending on what you are talking about at the time. It would be normal if a house were being built in the neighborhood, to see different parts added each day. On the other hand, how odd it would be, if each day you went by the house next door, you saw parts of the house missing. This is what is happening when a foolish woman tears her house down with her hands.

## Family Unity

This is a recurring theme in family devotions. The blessing and productivity of a home where there is unity cannot be measured. We all agree with this, and therefore we should pursue it with teaching continually. Use the scriptural teachings about the body of Christ found in I Corinthians 12 as a springboard for your teaching. Paul’s illustration of the human body is so very simple, yet profound. It is very easy for a child to understand how silly this would be if parts of our body refused to do their part. Paul provides ample examples, go over all of them, and then turn to the functions of the home. The different abilities of the children and their responsibilities can be applied to these points. The sky is the limit on this one, and you may want to take a few days on it to make many applications.

# Catherine Booth's

## Home Life

by Denny Kenaston

Pure, chaste, virgin daughters of Zion- that is the goal all of us parents have for the sweet little girls God has placed in our care. I like the title of one of the articles in this issue "Purity Starts in Little Girls". There is a depth of meaning, and many points that fall under that title. It seems only fitting to me that we feature a godly Christian woman in the home histories this time. Also, from my perspective, it was a natural step to take from my studies of William and Catherine Booth, to write about Catherine's home life. I crossed the path of her home history many times in my previous studies. Each time I crossed its path, I noted that this home is worthy of some meditation for our learning.

I want to share, as part of the introduction, a bit of my hidden motivation for writing these historical studies of godly homes. I am very burdened



for our homes. I want each one of them to be all that God would have them be. How many ways can you say the same thing before it becomes commonplace and unnoticed? The Home Histories provide me with a valuable tool to say the same things over and over again in the framework of an interesting history of someone's life.

I have stated before that we are not in agreement with all the doctrines of each person that we feature. Our desire and purpose is to study how they lived out godly principles in their homes. I don't agree with some of the doctrines that the Puritans believed; however, many of them consistently had family devotions morning and evening.

This challenges me. I cannot bless everything that Catherine believed and practiced, but I will not gainsay the love and zeal that was placed in her by her mother through very effective means.

## KATE'S MOTHER

I'm glad that every heritage is not perfect, because then that leaves room for people like you and me. Even with all our failures, God can raise up a godly seed out of sincere desire and determined obedience. Such was the case in Catherine's life. All was not well at home. Kate's mother, Miss Milward, was a faithful member of the Church of England. Although a very moral person, she was religiously lost. Like most people in this state, she was not aware of her desperate condition. In the midst of her blinded life, God who is rich in mercy, reached down to touch her and open her eyes.

There was a young man in her life who had asked for her hand in marriage. All seemed quite well with their courtship, and the wedding day was planned. On the eve of that very special day, some information came to her about her husband-to-be which verified unfaithfulness and lying on his part. Being a young woman of principle, she called off the wedding. This brought despair to his life, and that in turn brought despair to her life, but she would not compromise. The whole ordeal put Miss Milward into a bed of affliction for six weeks. This is such an example of how the spirit, soul, and body are so intimately connected.

Through this emotional and physical tragedy, she came under deep conviction of sin. The once blind and moral person now saw herself as poor and wretched. There was in the village where she lived one of those new, fanatical, Methodist churches. The news reached Miss Milward that many had received the forgiveness of sins, and her heart longed to attend the meetings. She had no strength to rise from her bed, so she made an appeal to her father to allow the minister to come and visit her. God had prepared the way, and soon after the minister left her, she believed God for forgiveness through the blood of Jesus Christ. As the Father healed her broken soul, her body was also healed, almost instantly. She rose from her bed, dressed herself, and entered back into the life of her house.

From that moment Catherine's mother was totally changed, never to go back to her old worldly religious ways. Salvation penetrated every fiber of her being. It brought a revolution to every area of her life. She left off all worldly amusements. No more card playing, no more giddy dancing, and no more theatre; they were gone forever. She changed her apparel immediately. Her covering was stripped of adornment, and made like those the pious Methodist women wore. Her curly locks of hair were brought into subjection, and she took the scissors to her ballroom dresses. Off went the lace and extra frills. She set to work to please God in everything, and gladly took her place beside the despised Methodists of her day. This is Kate's mother, so it shouldn't surprise us that a dedicated Methodist preacher came to her father to ask for her hand in marriage soon after this.

## KATE'S FATHER

John Mumford was a well known itinerate preacher of his day. He was a soul winner and a man of unceasing labors for the kingdom of God. After the initial rejection of a father who was a Church of England member, they did obtain his blessing on their union. Five children were born to them, Kate being the only girl. Three of the boys died in infancy, which seems to have been very common in those days. My, how times have changed. So few of our little ones die comparatively. There is not much written about John Mumford; he literally disappears from the records shortly after the children were born. In the early days of their marriage, he felt called of God to serve and preach. However, he resisted this call due to a desire to make money. Slowly his zeal began to cool, and eventually he gave up preaching altogether and then even his profession of religion. Mr. Mumford was at one time a strong temperance man, standing against drink in every way. With the cooling of his spiritual life, it soon became OK to drink a little wine to calm down from a heavy day of business. Then later, stronger drink was needed, and mother and daughter painfully watched him lose all power to control the hellish demon.

This is a great grief to my soul even as I read and study for this article. He walked away from a powerful life and ministry for a little money and what it would buy. Although this is a tragedy without question, let us take another look at these circumstances. It appears to me that the father never left the home, but continued to be somewhat of a dysfunctional father. I think we can gain some encouragement here. Kate's mother raised the children on her own, with far less than the best situation. It can be done. He didn't fight against what she was doing; he just didn't do much on his part. It can be done. Don't get discouraged because your home setting is not what it should be. Rise up in the spirit of Caleb and say, "I want that mountain".

## EARLY YEARS OF TRAINING

To see the flower when it is still an early bud is the secret of any visionary. To see a mighty oak tree when all you have is a small sapling is what motivates the doing, the caring, and the hours of constant training. Mrs. Mumford saw the seed of a dedicated servant of God in her little girl, and she began very early to fertilize it with care. The two became very close companions as the dedication of the mother was passed on to the daughter. Kate's mother was strict, but full of tenderness and compassion. As I have been comparing many homes through these studies, it has become very clear to me that this combination has the most effect on the children. There were rules to follow, and right and wrong were defined at an early age. This approach, guided by a tender heart, produced a sensitive conscience, which is a precious gift to any child. There were many a bedtime confession with tears and prayers, as the little girl cleared her heart with her mama.

The Bible was the supreme Book of wisdom and learning in the home. It was read and expounded to the children on their level from their earliest memory. It was the main textbook for learning to read, and the main motivation for learning to read. Kate had literally hundreds of memories of standing at her mother's side listening, reading, or reciting from the old Book. Before

she was twelve years old, she had read through the Bible eight times. It should be no wonder that in later years she amazed many with her understanding of the God's Word. No Bible School was necessary because her whole life as a child in the home was a seminary full of holy revelations.

Catherine was "a tree planted by the rivers of water". Her mother never lost the zeal of her entrance into the kingdom of God. In fact, it seems to me that as her husband John began to cool and find other interest, her zeal increased. This was probably done to compensate for the lack that came from an absent father. This love and fervor, coupled with the prominence of the Bible, created an atmosphere of the Spirit in the home. As 1 Corinthians 7 says, the believing parent sanctifies the children, or makes them holy. In later years, Catherine Booth gave this testimony, "I cannot remember a time when I didn't have intense yearnings after God."

It was the 1830's in England and people were moving into the cities in great numbers. The children played in the streets, and the influences were not good if a mother had higher goals for her children. Kate's mother was one of the few in her day who said, "a companion of fools shall be destroyed." Worldliness and the sins that come from that world were not allowed. Kate had very few friends. There simply were no acceptable social companions available, so mother and daughter were the best of friends. They had to be, because there were no others. William Booth often said of his mother-in-law, "She was a woman of the sternest principle I have ever met." She was of the Puritan type- right is right no matter what the cost. These strong views on separation from the world affected every area of their lives. It sounds like biblical separation to me. It should be this way. Do you suppose this had anything to do with the clear testimony of nonconformity that the Salvation Army had for many years?

## A HOME SCHOOL FOR KATE

Because of her mother's convictions about the great dangers of association with careless peers, schooling at home was the only option. These

standards were passed on to Kate and she followed her mother's example, training all of the eight Booth children at home. "A school is a little world," she often said to others. Kate's own schooling began before she was three, and according to her mother, Kate knew her letters and could read simple words shortly after she was three years old. Picture the little girl, not even five years old, standing on a footstool and reading out loud to her mother. This is home school at its best. Mrs. Mumford was the teacher for the first twelve years, followed by two years in a girl's school with a very godly teacher. After this Kate's health forced her back into the home school mode, and this stage of education was more theological than academic.

The curriculum was of utmost importance, for truth prevails to make a holy child, but error brings loose living and a child that casts off restraint. Kate's mother was very selective when it came to the books the children read. She was so watchful that she would not allow the children to learn the French language, simply because many French writers were infidels. Because of her mother's strong love for truth, Kate was not allowed to read anything that was fantasy, or make believe. Only the purest forms of truth were allowed. I'm sure she would not have been permitted to read the novels of today, and romance novels would have been absolutely taboo. History and Geography were studied together with lots of discussion about His Story and how it applied to that day. Biographies were also used to inspire and guide the students' minds toward the right. Some lives studied were good and some bad. That was all right, because Mother was there to talk it out.

## TRAGEDIES, POWERFUL INFLUENCES

There were three major negative experiences that God used to mold the young soldier's life during those formative years. Oh how our natural love wants to shelter our children from the hard times, and the pains that often come in life. But God will use them in deep meaningful ways if we will give good counsel through them. It was this

way for Kate. Three of her brothers died in infancy. The little girl never forgot the solemn feelings that death brings to the one who looks on in amazement. Three times she looked upon a dead baby lying in her mother's arms. Three times she looked upon her mother, with tears running down her face. God used these occasions to impart to her a deep sense of the surety of death, which lasted all her life.

The greatest pain in Kate's years at home was undoubtedly when she watched her father slowly cool off spiritually, give up the ministry of preaching, and take up the cursed bottle of strong drink. She was much closer to her father and they spent more time together in the early years. Kate was more like her father than her mother. Oh the deep pain of watching a loved one lose their life to the world, right before your very eyes. Father had been a strong temperance advocate, holding many meetings right in his home. Tragedy? Yes, of course it was, but what was the result of this ongoing, painful experience? Mother doubled her efforts to train the children correctly. She became more earnest in prayer, and learned to know God in a sweet, intimate way. Mother and daughter drew very close to each other, and the spiritual bond was inseparable. Kate hated liquor all her days, and fought the devil for the degraded souls who were trapped by it.

The third major situation that could have destroyed the young lady's life came when she was fourteen years old. After two beautiful years of regular school, Kate was struck with a severe spinal disease. She had to return to her home, and recline on the couch or in bed continually. Kate was a very active girl, and this was extremely difficult to bear. Through the direction of her mother, and her unquenchable desire to learn, she took up studies at home. Only this time, the subjects were chosen by her spiritual longings. Hours were spent in Bible study, theology, and church history. She picked up the writings of Wesley, Fletcher, and Finny. She also found great delight in meditations from Newton's book on prophecy, and from Pilgrim's Progress. These works and many others were devoured and digested at the age of fourteen. Composition fol-

lowed, which helped her to formulate what she believed. God's Bible School is always perfect. The school of Christ is the most effective school there is, and this is what Kate discovered.

*God moves in a mysterious way,  
His wonders to perform  
He plants His footsteps in the sea,  
And rides upon the storm.*

*Ye fearful saints fresh courage take,  
The clouds ye so much dread  
Are big with mercy and shall break,  
With blessings on your head.*

*Judge not the Lord with feeble sense,  
But trust Him for the grace  
Behind a frowning providence,  
He hides a smiling face.*

*His purposes will ripen fast,  
Unfolding every hour  
The bud may have a bitter taste,  
But sweet will be the flower.*

*Blind unbelief is sure to err,  
And scan his work in vain.  
God is His own interpreter,  
And he will make it plain.*

*William Cowper 1750*

## CHARACTER, GODLY CHARACTER

Character, or moral and ethical qualities, was a high goal on Mother's list of priorities for Kate. This pursuit was started at an early age. She trained into the children the priceless gift of an enlightened, sensitive conscience. They were taught to always tell the truth, and that honesty in everything was the way a Christian should live. The sweet sound of a little girl crying over a failure of the day was music to the mother's ears. With persistence she began to mold the fresh new clay, which yielded easily now to Mother's will.

Mrs. Mumford believed that this was the calling of a mother. No one else will be given this awesome responsibility; no hireling could ever match a mother's care. She left behind many a trivial activity to give herself to the molding of an eternal soul.

Catherine's mother instilled in her many of those moral qualities that form a soul into an instrument that God can use. Kate hated anything that was evil, shuddering at times at the sights of degraded society. From her early childhood, compassion was a dominant part of her personality. This was developed in two ways. First, by helping her to be aware of the great needs of her fellow man around her. Secondly, by teaching her the gentle care of the animal kingdom. Chores were used to train her in diligence, which blessed her beyond measure all the days of her life. She was known for her unfailing diligence in all that she did. Humility was noticed in the twelve-year-old girl when she began to go to the formal school. She considered competition a dangerous thing, and was often found helping other girls get better grades than she. "Do right," said Mother, "no matter what the cost," and this quality was found many times as she interacted with other children of her age. She would not compromise. Ah, there are many more that we could look at, but the point is made. Let us actively pursue ways to develop character in our children, for the kingdom of our God.

## HOLY CHILDHOOD ACTIVITIES

We all know that the apprenticeship method of learning is the quickest, most effective way of learning. It is one thing to hear someone teach you, but it is a much deeper step when we put our own hands to the work and do something. The master knows that his student needs to hear how to do it, to see how it is done, and then lastly to rise up himself and do the work. This is the way our Lord and Master trained His servants, and this is the best way for our children. It seems that the mother we are examining knew this very well, because she filled Kate's life with many hands-on activities. I would like to ponder a few of these for our learning. If we can grasp this principle and

apply it, we will gain much ground in the area of child training.

 **Table Talks**

Those stimulating conversations that took place around the family table were used with purpose to stretch and educate the children. The subjects were lofty, and at times hard to understand. The younger children were encouraged to enter in to the debates and discussions. Kate was often found on a Sunday afternoon, sitting with the adults, discussing the issues of the day. We should encourage this with our children. If this is going to happen though, you will have to draw them in at first, and give attention to their thoughts when they speak.

 **Playing House**

Some would say that this is an insignificant point, but the world and the devil would not say so. Let us open our eyes and take note of the many ways in which the devil is using seemingly meaningless play to mold a generation of killers, harlots, and idle time wasters. Kate's little family of baby dolls consumed much of her time as a little girl. She needed to feed them, dress them, pray with them, and put them to bed. They will need a spanking, and then, ah yes, we must sew their clothes for them. This went on day after day with order and determination. There is no question in my mind; God used this innocent play to train a mother of eight for a very busy life.

 **Letters to the Editor**

The temperance movement was in full swing when Kate was growing up, and she was encouraged to enter into the cause. She would sit and listen to the adults discuss it, then sit and read all the latest periodicals on the subject, and then sit down and write to the editors. Many evenings, she would steal away into her room and share the burden of her heart in a letter to the editor. Was this merely childish play? I think not. To develop the ability to express your heart on paper is a valuable asset

in anyone's life. Do you know how many times she wrote articles for the Salvation Army paper, *The War Cry*?

 **Juvenile Temperance Society**

Children want to be involved. They will find a way to be "doers and not hearers only." She was the secretary of this little group of children at age twelve. Kate filled her time with arranging meetings, raising subscriptions for temperance magazines, and raising money for the cause. Others, Lord, yes, others; this seemed to be the focus of her formative years. The poor drunk on the street, the jobless, and even the lost in faraway heathendom, held her heart.

 **Little-girl Missionary**

Kate would sit in rapt attention as she listened to the stories of the great plight of the lost in distant lands. How could she raise some money for the cause? She denied herself many little extras and gave the money to missions. She renounced the eating of sweets, and gave to the cause. She went to others pleading the cause of the heathen, and was often surprised at the amount she was able to raise. How do you say no to a young girl with all this zeal and compassion?

## CONCLUSION

As I look back over the many powerful child-training points in this article, I stand amazed. All this was done in a home where the father was not supportive. He did not fight against this determined mother, but simply lived his own carnal life. Yet, look what was done. Many times the parent who feels alone in his/her goals for the children just gives up. Others constantly nag and fight and preach to their unconcerned spouse. This only makes things worse, and infects the home with the spirit of bitterness, and the children are defiled. Let us take courage, and press forward in faith, saying like Caleb, "I want that mountain." Let us fill our house with the spirit of **betterness instead of bitterness.** □

# The Wisdom of Soulwinning

by Loyal Martin

*"He that winneth souls is wise." Proverbs 11:30*



THE LIFE-BOAT.

At times it seems like the work of soul winning is not a profitable venture. After much labor, little fruit is seen. We face pressures and influences in our own lives as we press into the kingdom of darkness with God's message of truth. Sometimes it would seem like the best thing for us to do is to crawl into a little cave somewhere and hide from the world.

But God's Word declares otherwise. *"He that winneth souls is wise." Proverbs 11:30b* To be wise is to live according to the true nature of things, and to reap the hidden blessings that God gives to them that obey Him.

One who fishes for men is engaged in a work of eternal value. He is working in partnership with the Creator of the universe to bring a message to the

hearts of men. His task will affect the eternal destiny of the souls of men. The value of an eternal soul makes it a wise endeavor.

The soul winner carries the greatest message that tongue can express or ear can hear. It cost the death of God's spotless Son at the hands of ungodly men. It is God's revelation of truth that cannot be found merely by natural reasoning. The message must be carried by a messenger and be received in faith. God Himself witnesses to the authenticity of the message by His spirit. This word fully meets the inner needs of man, and the soul that does not know this message is like a desert barren and fruitless. It has the power to bring a man into a vital relationship with his Creator and change a wretched sinner into a saint of God. It would be utmost foolishness to neglect or to tamper with this message. *"Woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel!" 1 Cor. 9:16b*

The evangelist is forced to focus on the issues that really matter in Christ's kingdom. He cannot add to or take away from God's message. Many who have neglected this work are today wandering in a maze of religious confusion or have lost their own faith in God. Many have no joyous reality in their own lives because they draw back in fear and hide from the world. After generations of this, about all that is left is a family church or a cultural clique that is far from what God intended His people to be or experience. Even the genetic features begin to be distorted in such a closed society

and they bear a negative witness to the wisdom of soul-winning. The Mennonites in Russia are an illustration of this truth. When they promised not to evangelize the peasants, darkness and decay began in their faith. A faith that is not precious enough to us to share with others becomes a dead faith and gives us a false sense of security, but *“they that sow in tears shall reap in joy. He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him.”*

When we are engaged in this work, we are forced to rely more fully upon God. The pressures and attacks we experience bring a depth to our Christian experience that would otherwise be

lacking. We come to know our God and prove His sufficiency as we labor for Him. God strengthens our own commitment and purifies our own lives as we share our testimony with others. Our children catch our heartbeat and respond to the gospel message because they see a reality in our faith.

Another benefit of doing the work of God is the unity that it produces among God’s people as they labor together for a common cause. In Matthew 24:45-51, neglecting God’s work is directly connected with beginning to smite fellow-servants. This truth has been demonstrated many times in history. When Christians open their hearts to God’s burden for souls and labor and pray together, a tremendous

unity is experienced. When the work is neglected, strife begins.

The work of soul winning is wise because of the eternal rewards that this laborer will experience. The pain and toil looks small when it is compared with the honors that will be given to the Lord’s servants someday. *“And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever.” Daniel 12:3* Though we are not worthy of these honors and we will cast our crowns at His feet because we have only done by God’s grace that which was our duty to do, yet, Christ will recognize the marks of a true faith and give a crown of righteousness to all that love His appearing. □

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continued from page 8,

*The Sacrifice of a Living Son* by Gerald Nolt

doing God’s work. Let’s break the cycle and each one of us parents teach our children to seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness rather than the American dream.

It breaks my heart when I see many people wanting the “good life”. I pray each day that God would help me never to lose sight of His work and will and never to take back what we have given Him, the children He gave to us. I have heard my parents say a few times when they see other families getting together to enjoy each other: “It makes us miss our children and grandchildren who are in different states, and countries.” However, they would never challenge the will of God for our lives. How we thank God for their attitude, because it gives us the opportunity to follow God’s call to do His work with their blessing. When Samuel’s mother, Hannah, prayed her prayer for a son, she asked for a son so he could be used to work in the temple. She could have just asked for a child to grace their home, but her prayer was for

God to bless her and her husband so they in turn could bless God by giving the child back to Him. This should be our prayer as parents. “God, as you bless us with children, we give them to You for Your work in any way You desire.” Just think of the joy that kind of a prayer would bring God.

Let us run with joy the race that God has set before us, and let our children run the race that God has set before them. Proverbs 3:1-6 expresses my heart toward all of my children. *“My son, forget not my law; but let thine heart keep my commandments. For length of days, and long life, and peace, shall they add to thee. Let not mercy and truth forsake thee: bind them about thy neck; write them upon the table of thine heart: so shalt thou find favor and good understanding in the sight of God and man. Trust in the lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.”* This is my prayer for my children. □

# CHRIST

## *Our Example of Humility*

by Roman Kauffman

*“Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: but made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: and being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth: and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.” Philippians 2:5-11*



Looking at this Scripture, have you ever considered what Jesus was willing to endure in order that we might be saved? Oh, we try to think it through, but we can't really grasp it. As I studied for this message, I had to ask myself, "Do I even understand in a small measure what true humility is?" It is so evasive, and just about the time you think that you're humble, pride tells you that you are. Mankind is so saturated with pride that we hardly know how to relate to anything else. It is the most natural thing possible and that is why we have such a hard time understanding humility.

Pride is not only out there in the world, but it openly sits in church pews and reveals itself behind the pulpit; I can testify to that. It is in the mission field and in just about any work that the church wants to accomplish.

This message is meant to expose and unveil our pride. It is meant to reveal how God thinks in

light of what is important. It is meant to bring us to repentance when we see how far removed we are from true humility. But let me ask the question, "What is true humility?" We know that God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble, and we don't want God to resist us, so we need to know. We can ask one another what humility is and come up with a variety of ideas. Or we can go to the dictionary and find out that educated people define it as modest, meek, or abased in spirit of feeling, or low in grade of importance. If we do a little thinking, we can come up with this definition: *humility is when one subjects himself by choice to a low grade of importance when the power and means to do otherwise are at his disposal.*

That really doesn't sound too bad to our human minds. But the problem is that our concept of humility is still only man's sinful version of it. How can we that are born and saturated in pride

really know what is humility? The root of pride that we received from Adam is so ingrained in us and yet it is so opposite and far removed from God that we often miss His version of greatness. 1 Corinthians 1:28, 29 says “And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to naught things that are: that no flesh should glory in his presence.”

How does God look at humility? What is His version of it? I believe the clearest definition of humility is seen in the birth and life of Christ. Look at verse 7 of our text. “But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men.” This is God’s version of humility. No reputation. Why? Because God is humble. God is the essence of all humility. I had never looked at God as a humble God, but rather as all-powerful. If you forget everything else in the message I want you to remember this—that humility and meekness are not weakness. Humility is power. Our God is all-powerful, yet He is the essence of all humility. Jesus said, “I am meek and lowly.”

What does this statement ‘He made Himself of no reputation’ signify? I believe the secret of true humility is in this statement. Let’s examine the birth of Christ and see how God looks at no reputation and see if our mentality is the same. If you were God, and there was a whole planet that you wanted to save and could only do it by your own sacrifice, how would you go about doing this? How would you get a whole planet of people to recognize you?

When God finally decided to send the long-awaited Messiah into the world to set the captives free, you’d think that He’d do it in the way that would get the most attention. After all, God had a burden for His people and He didn’t want any to be lost. He wanted man to see salvation clearly. But He also wanted man to see the value of humility because God is humble. How are we ever going to see God if we can’t see humility? God wanted us to see His true nature so He chose the route of no reputation.

What humiliation and sacrifice the Lord Jesus endured! Hebrews 10:5 tells us, “Sacrifice and offering thou wouldest not, but a body hast thou prepared me.” A human body- that’s not so hard

for us to comprehend. That’s all we know. But a human body for God?! One that gets hot and cold and hungry and tired and weary? A body that is subject to pain and mistreatment by men, and has burning desires and lusts to overcome? For Jesus to have been God Himself, to have created all things, and to have a glory that will take the ages to come to reveal; for One that was able to do this, to put on a human body in the form of a helpless baby! Oh, may we realize what a wonderful God we have.

Let’s look at His birth; born in a barn. After a long journey for a woman in her ninth months of pregnancy, a stable would be the last place any respectable father would want for his wife. And the nativity scenes we see somehow don’t make the picture. They don’t smell right, they don’t look right. We overlook the unsanitary conditions that this place must have had. Laying a newborn baby into a saliva-streaked manger? Listen, this is God’s version of humility, of no reputation!

If God had asked me to somehow bring to pass Christ’s birth, I might have thought it better for God to snap His fingers and bring a germ-free hospital into existence where no patient has ever been. I would want the best of staff working at the hospital so that no mistakes could happen. After all, centuries later people could have marveled about the birth place of Christ. That’s the way we like to get attention; that’s the way we’d like people to notice Christ. But listen, that is not God’s way and that is not God’s heart! God made Himself of no reputation. This would be a birth that would impress no one. Through all ages no one would ever be threatened or intimidated by the birth of Christ.

What about the choice of location? A famous city would have been my pick. It would have increased people’s ability to remember Him, and certainly improved His image. But little Bethlehem? Surely when one wants to bring in the King of kings and Lord of lords he doesn’t choose little Bethlehem! But you see, no one was ever to be intimidated by His birth or His birthplace.

And how about Jesus’ parentage? We believe in the virgin birth now. But what about back then? My heart broke to realize that Jesus had to grow up amid whispers of “Bastard,” and endure the shame of illegitimacy. Don’t think it wasn’t real! It’s evi-

dent even in the Pharisees' scorn of Him when He was a grown man. (John 8:41)

What if a choice young girl from a respected Christian family today unexpectedly turned up pregnant? What do you think would happen if a sympathetic friend got enough courage to ask her, "Who is the father?" And she would say, "The Holy Spirit." Do you suppose people laughed? Do you suppose anyone ever asked Jesus as a boy why He didn't resemble His father Joseph, and then walked away snickering? Listen, this was real! In Bible times, a bastard and his descendants were excluded from the assembly of the Lord to the tenth generation. Though we know that Jesus was not a bastard, the world viewed Him differently. If I would want to convince the world that I was the Son of God, I wouldn't want to have that on my record, but multitudes of illegitimate children born down through the ages could look to Christ's birth and not be intimidated. Hallelujah! How utterly vulnerable God made Himself to the tongues of people. Why did He choose to do it this way? Because He wanted no reputation.

Look at His ancestry. God wanted to make sure that no one would ever feel intimidated or inferior about their lineage when they came to His son. Look at it! The pure Jewish lineage was broken through Ruth the Moabitess and Rahab the Canaanite. Further shame, Rahab was a harlot. Jacob, as his name indicated, was a cheat. David was a murderer and an adulterer and Solomon, in spite of his wisdom, had hundreds of wives who took his heart away from the Lord. Why did God take these measures? So no skeptic can ever claim that Christ was the final product of a super race.

Can we get a picture of what God sees as great? Can we get an understanding of how Jesus looks at humility? Look at His name. The name Jesus was actually the same as Joshua (Hebrews 4:8 shows they were interchangeable) and perhaps He was the tenth one on the block. Joshua is not a bad name, but it was too common. Surely the King of all kings should have a name that no other person ever had, so people remember it.

How about the announcement of His birth? We would probably prefer the biggest public address system in the world. We would set it up in the biggest city and we would announce it at the moment when the most people are paying atten-

tion. But no, this is not God. He chooses a desolate spot in a field with only some sheep and a motley handful of shepherds.

And look who gets to carry the news of His birth; lowly shepherds that were considered of not much account. Why not the king or those in royal places? Because God's nature is humility and He made Himself of no reputation.

What about His physical appearance? We all like beautiful children. We dress our children to draw attention and we glow with pride at all the compliments they get. But this is not God's way. Get it straight, Jesus was no Elvis Presley! God gave Him a body and physical makeup that would best suit the purpose. No one would be attracted to Him because of His physical advantages. His form would not intimidate anybody. All could feel at ease around him. He fit in with the common people. Isaiah 53: 2 says "He hath no form nor comeliness and when we shall see him there is no beauty that we should desire him." Jesus could pick up a child and set him in the midst, and I don't read that the child was nervous or upset or crying for his mommy. Why? Because that child felt totally at home in Christ's presence. That's how any child will feel in the presence of true humility.

Have you ever wondered what you would do if God had chosen your home to be the place where the Son of God would be raised? What kind of home would you buy? What kind of neighborhood would you choose? After all, someday He is going to be the King of kings. Mary knew these things, and the Bible says she hid them in her heart. I don't think she understood everything, but she knew that this was a special child, and she knew in spite of all the rumors that it was the Holy Spirit that made her pregnant. What did Joseph and Mary do? After fleeing for their lives they moved to Nazareth. Nazareth? But surely God could do better than that! Nazareth wasn't the place to raise the Son of God. The moral and religious reputation of Nazareth was so bad that Nathaniel's response to meeting Jesus was, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?"

As we study the life of Jesus we consistently find Him living far below His means. The cattle upon a thousand hills were His, not to mention the thousand hills, but He didn't flaunt His wealth,

and He didn't use it for personal comfort. He gave it up. He gave it to man who refused to worship Him. What humility! We put a lot of stock in ownership but we do not find that Jesus owned more than He carried on His back. Even in the animal kingdom, foxes have holes and birds have nests, yet the Son of Man had no place to lay His head.

How does God ever expect to impress people and get their attention? Let's face it. God's version of no reputation is not ours and the sooner we recognize it the sooner God can use us. He simply doesn't view riches like we do. His words in the Sermon on the Mount don't line up to our way of thinking. He does not say that where your heart is there will your treasure be. No, we first accumulate our treasures and then our heart follows.

The problem with wealth is this: it affects our relationships with people. If we know someone is wealthy we have a difficult time being real around them. Those people have a way of intimidating us. We get apologetic about the gospel. Listen, God is not impressed with wealth, and neither is true humility. Or if we are the ones that display wealth then we intimidate others. They can't be real around us. What are we portraying about humility and no reputation? Paul told the Corinthians, "For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich." (2 Corinthians 8:9) Christ didn't want riches to get in His way and affect the message of the gospel. He did not come to redeem things, He came to redeem people.

What about the strange man that Jesus chose to be His forerunner? We would want someone attractive and eloquent, a fascinating orator. But just look at what no reputation and humility does. Jesus assigned this important task to John the Baptist, a rough man who dressed inappropriately for a minister. What's more, he was committed to an organic diet. Yet Jesus spent no time justifying or explaining away His forerunner's actions. The prophets simply called John a voice. They didn't even bother to give him a name. And where was he going to have his speaking engagements? In the wilderness!

Oh, brethren, how far we have fallen. The humble mind that seeks no reputation commits weighty matters to the most unlikely people. Look

what kind of people Christ chose to be His disciples. How would you and I have advised Jesus to choose His disciples? We would suggest some professors from the most famous seminaries, and how about a few with charisma to get the people's attention? Maybe a few millionaires in case of a financial bind. Then perhaps half a dozen musclemen as bodyguards. Otherwise, somebody might get crucified!

Just look at His crew. He walked the streets to find them and chose a Zealot and a tax collector and some that had just left their smelly fishing boats. Some had heavy accents, inappropriate for eloquence. One had a weakness for greed that would later expose itself in the betrayal. Another often spoke before he thought. Others were critical. And yet, I find Christ's selection of disciples so encouraging. If He could work through them, then He can work through me.

A cry for the weary and heavy-laden to come together would hardly be our way of gathering a missionary team. I think we do need to choose those who are filled with the Holy Spirit, but let's get straight how Christ thinks. The humble mind calls the unlikely. Paul reminds the Corinthians how they were called. He goes through a long list of things like fornicator, adulterer, thief, drunkard, and covetous and then says, "And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus." (1 Corinthians 6:11) Praise God! Oh, where would we be if the Captain of our salvation was not the humble Son of God?

Let's look at His death. Our text says that He became obedient to death, even the death of the cross. We look at the scriptures about His death on the cross, but we totally fail to see the extent of His shame. Paul told the Corinthians that the message of the cross is foolishness to those that are perishing. Is the cross foolishness to us in Western society? No! We see the cross in polished gold around people's necks. It's always a beautiful thing. Listen, that's not realistic! We don't fully understand the cross since people don't get crucified anymore. If Jesus came to this age, the unbelievers would treat Him far more humanely. They would electrocute Him, or hang Him, or gas Him, or kill Him before the firing squad, or inject Him with a lethal dose of poison.

How would any of these vehicles of death that I just mentioned look on a church steeple? Foolishness! Imagine having a little electric chair on a chain around your neck. We forget how the cross looked. In our day the cross doesn't seem so foolish, but imagine how ridiculous the people of this time would think we are if we walked the streets telling them that our best friend just died for them in an electric chair. We would tell them that if they would believe this, and take up their electric chair and follow Him they would be saved.

And what about our hymnbooks? How would this sound, 'At the electric chair, at the electric chair, where I first saw the light'? Or 'There's room at the gas chamber for you'? We can't relate to the shame of the cross. That is where the lowest criminals, the lewdest of mankind were done away with. Jesus was considered a criminal. And what's more, even the religious people's Bibles told them that everyone that hangs on a tree is cursed.

Look how foolish it looked to the world when Christians back then identified themselves with Christ crucified. Think how the scriptures would sound if paraphrased in 1 Corinthians 1:22-23 "For the religious people require a sign and the intellectuals seek after wisdom, but we preach Christ electrocuted, unto the religious people a stumbling block and unto the intellectuals foolishness." Even in His death His example of no reputation and humility leaves us speechless.

*When I survey the wondrous cross  
On which the Prince of glory died,  
My richest gain I count but loss  
And pour contempt on all my pride.*

When I think how God goes about winning the world, I wonder how He can even use me, with my mentality. How does God's method of winning the world fit in today? Where does this prosperity gospel come in? Where do we come in? How does our life fit the picture of what Christ's life is? He made Himself of no reputation. Reputation is important to us. I want to be seen with the right people. I want to be remembered in the right light. I want to live in the right home, drive the right vehicle, and wear the right clothes. The right image is important to us.

What do you think people said when they saw Jesus spending so much time in the home of Mary and Martha? What do you think the gossip was like? Jesus didn't worry about it. He was not out to make a reputation. We think our lifestyle and the way we dress and conduct ourselves must somehow impress the world to win them. God forbid! Jesus didn't have to impress anyone. He sought no reputation. How much of what we do is done with the wrong motive behind it!

The Bible says the fear of man works a snare. How many times are we caught in this snare,  
*continued on page 26*

The Maker of the universe as man for man was made a curse.  
The claims of law which He had made unto the uttermost He paid.

His holy fingers made the bough which grew the thorns that crowned His brow.  
The nails that pierced His hands were mined in secret places He designed.

He made the forest whence there sprung the tree on which His body hung.  
He died upon a cross of wood, yet made the hill on which it stood.

The sky that darkened o'er His head, by Him above the earth was spread.  
The sun that hid from Him its face, by His decree was poised in space.

The spear that spilled His precious blood was tempered in the fires of God.  
The grave in which His form was laid was hewn from rocks His hands had made.

The throne on which He now appears was His from everlasting years.  
But a new glory crowns His brow and every knee to Him shall bow.

# Purity Starts in Little Girls

by *Laura Lloyd*



All of us mothers have those times when we sit and dream of our little girls growing up and getting married to a fine young Christian man. I know we also plan for our daughters to be virgins when they marry. To reach this goal, we must begin seeking it long before they marry. I want to share with you how the Lord has led my husband and me, as we have sought to raise pure children in the midst of a “crooked and perverse generation”. We didn’t think we had the qualifications for writing on purity—unless dreams, visions, and desires count. We currently have 6 children age 9 and under so our family is yet young. I pray that the Lord may use our lives to be an encouragement to some of you. We don’t claim to see everything yet nor be experts, but we write as those who are still in school, with a great desire to learn.

Moment by moment I’m kept in God’s love. Moment by

moment—how secure it makes me feel. Oh, the freedom I have to risk loving others because I know my Heavenly Father is guarding my life. He will keep anything harmful from happening to me—anything he cannot use to refine me and make me into the image of Jesus His dear Son. In the same way, I want to guard my little ones who depend on me for their protection.

I think of my infant baby girl clinging to my arms. She was our first-born child and we had so many questions about child-training. We felt so inexperienced. How would we keep this little one pure in her youth? Everywhere we looked were young people even in Christian homes who were caught in the awful consequences of immorality. Our hearts cried out to God for wisdom. How do we raise up this little girl so that she will walk in the way of purity, being kept from the impurities of others as well as the impurities which can arise from within her own heart?

We were challenged by some tapes to shelter our children. I wrestled with fears of smothering them and “overprotecting” them. We didn’t want them to

grow up handicapped, with a dependence on Mom, and unable to relate to other people. We had begun our married life in a trailer court setting. This meant that neighborhood children often visited us. I had received the call to shelter my children and wanted to keep them in earshot and view at all times, so I kept my toddler, Hannah, at my feet continually. A five-year-old girl would frequently visit and play with Hannah. Of course, she was used to going wherever she pleased whenever it pleased her. She wanted to run back to play in Hannah’s bedroom located at the other end of the trailer from the kitchen where I was working. Was it really necessary to take the trouble to run after them and require them to play within my sight and sound? Just as this question was arising in my heart, J’s mother shared with me that J had been molested by her boyfriend. I breathed a prayer of thanksgiving to God for confirming my convictions to shelter my children lest they be defiled. Purity starts in little girls; only one time in some secluded spot could be terribly destructive.

I remembered some regrets from my own childhood in regard to purity. It happened at a slumber party. We were sleeping out under the stars in an open field in the country. It was most-

ly girls from church-going families so it must have sounded innocent enough that we were left unsupervised. Well, someone suggested we play Truth or Dare and...I still have regrets from that night. Because of the experiences of that night, I have chosen to never allow my children to participate in slumber parties. Purity starts in little girls.

At a later time when we had three girls and two boys, we were tempted to let them play in the attic while I was working downstairs—then I couldn't see the mess that was made. Again, God's warnings are so timely. A sister from church shared with us how she had been molested by a sibling in their barn, undiscovered by their parents. There was no reason we couldn't find things for the children to do near me. We also enforced an open door policy: no playing behind closed doors. Purity starts when the children are little.

Then there was a Mother's meeting, which helped to guide us. We were challenged about letting children bathe together. Even though at that time we had only girls, we began to see that it could arouse thoughts and temptations, especially if left unsupervised.

My first thoughts about the topic of purity in little girls were of clothing. To walk in purity one must not wear the "attire of a harlot". We thought much about how we were to dress our girls and learned all we could about modesty. If the principle for modesty is keeping the form of our body hidden from view from all but our life partners, then we would not want our

young marriageable daughters wearing dresses that revealed their slender waists and beautiful legs. If we didn't want that dress for our girls in youth then perhaps our toddlers shouldn't be dressing in Hollywood fashions either. If modesty means not drawing attention to ourselves (and it does), then plain and simple clothes would be in order for our little girls. They should be neat and clean and glorifying to God. This is much better than the frills and bright colors that draw comments like "she's so cute...."

Then we wondered how a girl could enjoy running and jumping and climbing trees in a dress without revealing her body immodestly. Surely the bloomers of years gone by were the answer. And the leggings or heavy tights in winter would keep their legs warm and covered. (A wise sister gave me the needed warning that they still need to be taught to keep their dresses down.) For some of our girls this seemed a trial of discomfort, something new they didn't think they wanted to adjust to, but getting excited about them myself and wearing them has helped. Purity starts in little girls—the girls we started in bloomers before they can remember anything different have had the easiest time enjoying them.

We live in the inner city, and we often have occasion to see the "attire of the harlot". My husband uses the frequent opportunities to teach both our boys and girls what not to wear and do. The inner city also provides many opportunities to

show them the sad results of life lived in such a manner. Our family devotions, which is often in Proverbs, also provides ample admonitions and illustrations on impurity and its end.

Then we have learned to have an eagle's eye over the books we let our children see and read. We want them to be repulsed by unlawful sexual activity in books, but what about the flirtation and dating and romantic ideals in the romance novels I grew up with? Is that really excellent reading material that will help them to guard their hearts with all diligence? We must search to find the most excellent reading material for them, so that the purity of our little girls is safely guarded. Another subtle danger is the advertisements that come to the home. We need to remember that these women are harlots, and are guided to express the spirit of a harlot in every picture they pose for.

Now friends and relatives have wanted to fill the house with dolls for our little girls. Should we let our little girls' imaginations follow the trail of the sexy body with ideal proportions and lewd clothing of the Barbie dolls? No. We decided to ask them to give us only baby dolls so our little girls could practice being good mommies. We must be diligent to keep the purity of our little girls' thought life.

To know their thought life, we must be willing to keep the lines of communication open from the time when they are just little girls. We have learned that this means listening to things rehearsed in great detail that we

have already heard or don't feel are greatly important. We want them to share their thoughts and feelings with us when they become attracted to boys later in their lives, so we must learn to ask questions: "What did you talk about?" "Did everyone have good attitudes?" ...And, of course, we must learn to listen attentively to our little girls now.

Along with communication in general comes the need to talk about the differences between boys and girls, and about where babies come from. These are things that children are curious about, and if we don't open the conversations, they may talk about them with their friends. They need to know about the special parts of their bodies that

are sacred. Inform them that they should never let anyone touch them or see them. We want to let them know that they can come to us with questions, but they aren't to talk about such things with their friends. We want to be the ones to tell them of the blessings of God's plan for marriage. We have a goal of virgin brides giving themselves freely and joyfully to their husbands on their wedding day. That innocent purity must be guided and protected.

We don't want them searching for approval and appreciation from any boy that looks their way. We have observed that they must be secure in the affection of their father who knows how to give them

approval and blessing. May praise and approval be the focus of our relationships and reproofs only a necessary part of training. Purity starts with the little girls on Papa's lap receiving a blessing. Oh, the protective power of a father's love. No young man can break into it.

Finally, the best gift we can give our children is our love for each other as husband and wife. Why have some youth run away from home in rebellion to seek illicit "love"? Some have turned from faith in God because their parent's marriage was way below the norm, and they thought they could find something better. Oh, what shame. Let us love one another and guard the purity of our children. □

.....  
continued from page 23, *Christ: Our Example of Humility* by Roman Kauffman

because we are trying to impress someone? We want to be accepted, we want to be looked up to. We put on a face that really hides the truth. The person you see in church is a different person than what we see at home. We fall into the sin of hypocrisy and are not real, putting up a front that collapses on Monday morning, all because we seek a reputation. The image that the hypocrites portray to a sinful world is doing more damage than all the infidels and atheists put together.

Don't we want rest from all this? How many of us are seeking rest but afraid to admit it? That reputation thing is so deeply ingrained into you that

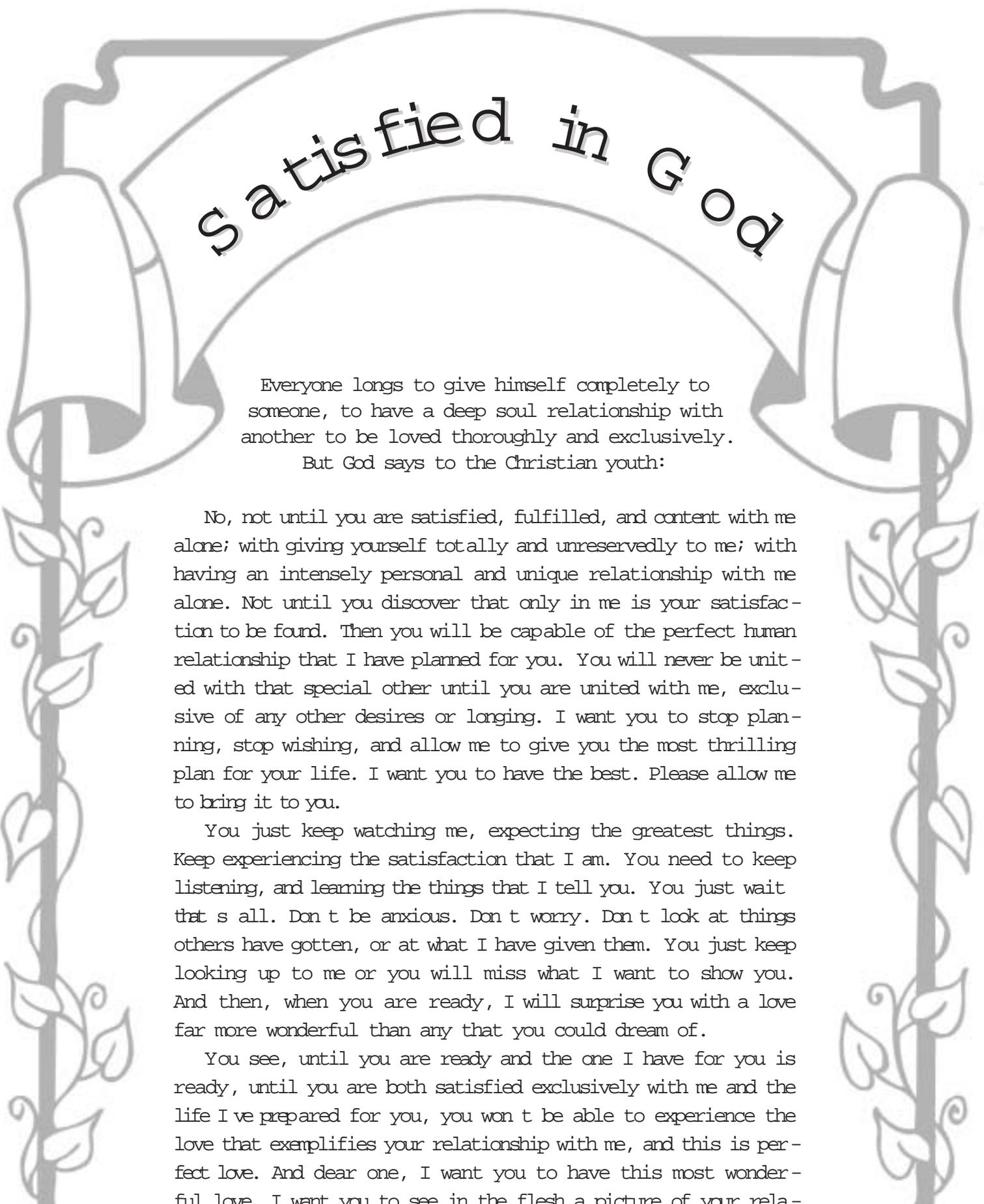
you can't expose your need. Are you weary and tired of trying to impress others? Are you tired of putting up a front? Are you tired of trying to outdo some one else? Listen to the invitation from Christ, our greatest example of humility of all times. "Come- come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy-laden and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn of me, for I am meek and lowly and ye shall find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light." Although you know it well, I'm going to remind you one more time: God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble. Come and find rest. □

This was taken from a message preached during Leadership Seminar 1998.

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Ask for index# 2118. This tape is also in Set 80: Great Examples of the Bible.



# Satisfied in God

Everyone longs to give himself completely to someone, to have a deep soul relationship with another to be loved thoroughly and exclusively.

But God says to the Christian youth:

No, not until you are satisfied, fulfilled, and content with me alone; with giving yourself totally and unreservedly to me; with having an intensely personal and unique relationship with me alone. Not until you discover that only in me is your satisfaction to be found. Then you will be capable of the perfect human relationship that I have planned for you. You will never be united with that special other until you are united with me, exclusive of any other desires or longing. I want you to stop planning, stop wishing, and allow me to give you the most thrilling plan for your life. I want you to have the best. Please allow me to bring it to you.

You just keep watching me, expecting the greatest things. Keep experiencing the satisfaction that I am. You need to keep listening, and learning the things that I tell you. You just wait that's all. Don't be anxious. Don't worry. Don't look at things others have gotten, or at what I have given them. You just keep looking up to me or you will miss what I want to show you. And then, when you are ready, I will surprise you with a love far more wonderful than any that you could dream of.

You see, until you are ready and the one I have for you is ready, until you are both satisfied exclusively with me and the life I've prepared for you, you won't be able to experience the love that exemplifies your relationship with me, and this is perfect love. And dear one, I want you to have this most wonderful love. I want you to see in the flesh a picture of your rela-

tionship with me. I want you to enjoy materially and concretely the everlasting union of beauty, perfection, and love.

I offer you myself. Know that I love you utterly, with all my heart, for I am God believe it, and be satisfied!

# Book Review

by Andrew Weaver

## The School of Christ

by T. Austin Sparks

If you are willing to invest a little time and perseverance in search of printed treasure, consider this little gold mine of a book by T. Austin Sparks. He was a humble, unassuming servant of God who was reluctant to do much writing for fear that it would draw undue attention to himself instead of to Jesus Christ. He did, however, give his blessing to publishing this little book, which is simply a transcript of a series of his messages. His own preface best describes *The School of Christ*: *Firstly, try to remember all through that the spoken form is retained. The messages were given in conference, and the reader must try to get into the spirit and*



*mind of listening, and not only reading... This explains much that would not be the character of a precisely literary production. It has its difficulties for readers, but it also has its values. Then, my advice is that not too much, indeed not a lot, should be attempted at once. Almost every page requires thinking about, and weariness can only overtake if too much is read without quiet meditation.*

As the speaker/author makes clear, this is not a book to hurry through. Although it contains less than a hundred pages, you should spread your reading of it over many days, with time for careful reflection. The message it contains is too important to dilute through haste.

The School of Christ does not mean a school where we learn about Christ, but where we learn Christ Himself. The author explains... *We could take up everything there is about Christ as doctrine, as teaching, but that is not what we are after. It is Christ Himself...* Speaking of the Holy Spirit as the Teacher in this school, T. Austin Sparks says... *The mark of a life governed by the Holy Spirit is that such a life is continually and ever more and more occupied with Christ, that Christ is becoming greater and greater as time goes on... Is that the nature of your spiritual life? If not, then there is something wrong.*

A foundational truth in learning Christ is that He is altogether different from your natural self. *We cannot produce from this nature anything acceptable to God. If you attain your best, you have not commenced Christ. You are still hunting round for something somewhere, some rag of goodness in yourself that you can present to God that will please Him, satisfy Him and answer to His requirements. You will never find it... there is only One in this universe concerning whom God can say from His heart "in whom I am well pleased", and that is the Lord Jesus Christ. If ever you and I are going to come into that favor, it will be as "in Christ Jesus", never in ourselves.*

Describing the transformation of faithful students in this school of Christ the author explains... *It is not that they become so much better, but it is that Christ within becomes so much more real as a power. And he warns that we must be in a place... where we are perfectly open and ready for the biggest consequence of the Holy Spirit putting His finger upon anything in our lives needing to be dealt with.*

*continued on page 39*

# The Blessing Corner

**W**elcome to the Blessing Corner. We have a special testimony to ponder this time, which should be an encouragement to many who face difficulties that stand like mountains before you. God specializes in the impossible and delights to draw the hearts of His children toward Him when they have nowhere else to go. Believing prayer stands out to me in this testimony. The power of brokenhearted, believing prayer is far-reaching. I heard a sermon years ago that arrested my attention, and I never forgot it. The title was *When Prayer Becomes a Cry*. The point of the message was that when prayer moves into the realm of desperation, it becomes a cry. The book of Psalms says much about the crying prayer. Many times when we find the wait of prayer, God is waiting for us to fall on our face in utter dependence on Him. This does a special work in the desperate heart, and, of course, brings the answer to the prayer quickly to pass.

The other principle that stands out to me is also a powerful one. Many times people try in vain to put their marriage together. They try this and then that, but to no avail. In Sam & Susanna's testimony, the need of the hour was a transformed heart through the power of God unto salvation. Has salvation come to your house? Oh, the joy that comes into a home when the third Person of the Triune God comes to abide in it. --The editor

## A House United in Christ

by Sam & Susanna Glanzer

*"Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house." Acts 16:31*

Sam —

**W**e are rejoicing as one new family, reunited in Christ Jesus, and praising His most holy name for all He has done for us through many faithful prayers. I know that I am nothing, yet my Father in heaven in mercy has heard my cries and answered them by the merits of His Son. I humbled myself and prayed along with many other brothers in Christ, and God has answered our prayers in restoring my wife and children unto me.



My family and I come from the religious group called Hutterites. If you trace their roots back about 450 years, they were part of the early Anabaptist movement in Europe. This group of God's people were on fire for the Lord, standing for truth, and winning many souls for the kingdom. My people have lived in community down through these years, sharing all we had with each other, and living together on a colony. But we lost the fire of the Holy Ghost, the quickening of revival among us, and settled down into religion. This is where I found myself about four years ago—lost and groping for answers, blind and stumbling around in my works religion.

After much searching I was gloriously converted, born again by the Spirit of God. This happened about two years ago. The scales fell off my eyes as they did for our beloved Paul. My wife still lived on the colony and was very religious. When I came to her with joy to share what God had done for me, she thought that I was drunk. She chased me out of the house with many words. I felt altogether alone and forsaken. I had no one at the time to share my painful burden with, so I turned to the Lord. I fell down on my face in utter despair and cried out to Him. I did this day after day, until one day, the Lord reached down from heaven in tender mercy. He gently took my hand and whispered in my ear by the Holy Ghost. He said to me, "Sam, it is all right; it is all taken care of. I took care of it two thousand years ago on Calvary."

I seemed to hear Him say in my soul, "Get up My son and lift up your head. Be a good soldier of Jesus Christ. Look to Jesus and the Father."

### *Susanna* —

Our years apart were a nightmare. I always thought I was better and more religious than my husband. I tried to shove him around all the years of our marriage. Even after he left our home, when he would come for a visit, I tried to tell him what to do. As I look back on all of those years, I see now that these actions flowed out of a bitter, hateful, cold, and rebellious heart. When Sam came to visit after he was born again, I resisted him. When he told me that Jesus had forgiven him and that He was real in his life day by day, I thought he was insane. I had never heard him talk that way, and his face was full of peace. Each time he would come to visit, he would share more about Jesus and what He was doing for him. I only got angrier each time. But deep down in my heart, I was not satisfied. Yet I was too proud and religious to listen to that still small voice inside of me. I was so bound by religion and following rules and regulations that I was blind. The fear of man was my snare, keeping me from being honest in myself. I was miserable but wouldn't admit it. I had no idea of the blessings that were waiting for me if only I would repent and believe in Jesus as my only way of salvation.

### *Sam* —

These painful experiences continued for the space of two years. I was a lonely man yet not alone, because Jesus was my closest friend. Many prayers were prayed, many tears were shed, and many other Christians were praying for our situation. Then in February of the year 2000 I went to the Leadership Seminar at Charity Christian Fellowship in Leola, Pa. While I was there I was asked to share my testimony with the rest of the men. As the men heard of my divided home, they all began to pray for my wife in the daily prayer sessions at the seminar. God also sent a few individuals who agreed with me in united prayer for Susanna. It seemed that God was bearing witness in the hearts of some that my wife was going to be saved soon. We prayed the prayer of faith and believed God for the results.

Two weeks later the faithful God of glory moved in my dear wife's heart and changed it completely. As I walked through the door to visit her and beamed a loving smile at her, something happened—in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, as if someone turned the light on in her heart. Praise God, Susanna's heart melted, the hardness was gone, and she came with me that very hour. Two weeks later she was born again as she cried out to Jesus to save her.

From that moment everything has been different. It is like nothing has ever happened—no wounds to heal, no bitterness to deal with, everything is under the blood of our

Savior. Blessed be His holy name. If any household be in Christ, it is a new house. Old things are passed away; behold all things are become new. I thank God for all the people who prayed for my family, especially those who prayed with me personally. Pray for us as we serve the Lord in South Dakota. We want to be instruments of revival wherever we go. We know that satan would like to destroy our family, but God is greater than all his plans.

### *Susanna* —

Two weeks after Sam returned from Pennsylvania he came to visit me. That day the mighty God worked a miracle in my heart. As my husband came through the doorway, I just stood and watched him. I will never forget the shiny, gleaming face that greeted me. The peace of God which passeth understanding was radiating out of his face. Instantly my stony heart was softened. I can't explain it, but I was ready to learn from him and follow him wherever he would

lead me. I knew that very moment that what my husband had was the truth. My fear of man disappeared. It didn't bother me anymore "what will other people think". I went with him that same hour—that is how fast the Holy Spirit moved in me.

In the next two weeks that followed, I came to Jesus Christ. I gave my everything to Him, and He accepted me and took my burden of sin away. He saved me, even though I am not worthy and in spite of all the evil that I had done. The fear of man, my pride, rebellion, hatred, and anger were all taken away. Praise the Lord! Hallelujah! I am free in Christ Jesus, not free in men. He only is the ark that saves us from all that is evil in this world. A precious verse to me has been 2 Cor. 5:17: "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature; old things are passed away, behold all things are become new."

I have had much pressure from relatives to turn back to my religious traditions and away from Christ. God has kept

me in His hand. The last 15 months that we have been together have been beautiful. All praise to God; we are nothing. God has given us a new love for each other. A love like nothing we have ever experienced in twelve years before. Everything is covered by the blood of Jesus. We never accuse one another of things in the past; it is all gone. He washed us white as snow. Thanks to our Wonderful Counselor, the mighty God, the everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace. Isa.9:6

God is still at work in us this last year. He has shown us many things, and we are walking in obedience to His light. He blessed us with homeschooling our children, and we have been so thrilled by this challenge. I will end this story of God's restoring mercy with this joyous announcement: we are expecting a little baby. We have three precious children now and rejoice to receive another one from the hands of our gracious Father. □

## M A R K   Y O U R   C A L E N D A R S

*at*  
**Hope Christian Fellowship**  
*Loveland, Colorado*  
**October 15-22, 2001**

Speakers: Ken Lowry, Roman Kauffman,  
 Denny Kenaston, and Zac Poonen  
*For more information contact Phil Lapp at*  
*(970) 613-9718.*

*at*  
**Charity Christian Fellowship**  
*Leola, Pennsylvania*  
**November 5-11, 2001**

Speakers: John D. Martin,  
 Denny Kenaston, and Rick Leibee  
*For more information call 1-800-227-7902,*  
*(717) 656-4155.*



# Two Sacrifices



by Steve Clark

In this short article, I would like to share with you about two different sacrifices that I have witnessed lately here in Ghana. It seems that it is written on the conscience of all mankind that God and sacrifice go together. The challenge for all of us is to make sure that we are making the right kind of sacrifices. Oh, the dreadful feeling on Judgment Day, when some find out that all their sacrifices were in vain!

On Thursday the 21st of June seven of us went on a survey trip to an area that was new to us. The area is north of Karaga and fairly remote. Karaga is a town about thirty minutes west of Gushiegu and is possibly the area where Mel and Barbie will base out of in the future. We had heard of this

area north of Karaga and wanted to check it out. We were told that the Dagombas there were much more primitive and that Islam hadn't made much of an impact yet. So Brother Mel, my two sons Paul and Caleb, three national brothers, Abdulai, Idrisu, Lateef, and my self loaded up in the Land Rover pickup and headed out for the day. We started our trip with prayer asking guidance from our caring, loving Father. We also asked to be used of God throughout the day.

As we were traveling there were many people working in their farms and we would wave or greet them as we passed by. We also would ask directions when we weren't sure which way we should go. One time we saw

three men sitting on a mound about a hundred yards off the road by a small body of water. They had a small fire and it appeared that they were cooking some food. Lateef said it looked like they were sacrificing some animals to an idol, so we decided we would go over to them and see. Sure enough, that is exactly what they were doing.

One man was the chief of a nearby village. Another man named Abdulai was there sacrificing to the idol for the first time. The third man was named Yakabu and he was the one killing, dressing, and cooking the sheep and birds. They had killed a sheep, a guinea fowl, and a baby chicken. Their idol was on the lower side of the hill close to the body of water. It was just a protrusion from the bottom of this hill. The idol was about three feet wide and maybe six feet long and stood about three feet off of the natural ground level. It was made of rocks and dirt. The top of it was covered with the blood of the animals along with the dead baby chicken. The chief placed the liver of the guinea fowl on the idol and said, "God, we have given you the blood and now we give you the meat." They also had some meat that they had cooked and they were eating it. The chief wouldn't tell us why they were making these sacrifices but he did say they do it about once a month. They also told us that the chief from Karaga comes and sacrifices a cow to this idol sometimes. They told us that this god had told them that we were coming to visit them, and before they

even left their village the diviners said that there would be strangers visiting them while they were making their sacrifices. When we asked how the god told them the chief picked up three small stones and dropped them and said that in the way the stones fall their god tells them things.

Brother Mel and Lateef started talking to them about idol worship and the true God. The chief got very annoyed and only wanted to argue instead of listening. Abdulai, who was sacrificing for the first time, was much more open and Brother Mel starting zeroing in on him. The other national brothers were still trying to talk to the chief without much success. I was standing there silently praying for them all. The man Mel was talking with told him that all his children had died and that his wives had left him. He said he saw others sacrificing to this idol who were prosperous and he thought he would try it to see if his problems would go away. Brother Mel, knowing the language, was able to preach the gospel to him, giving him the good news of a Savior who loves him and who gave His life as a sacrifice for his sins. The chief kept moving from one place to another and our Christian brothers would move right with him, still trying to get a few words in between his many. I thought I would give it a try with him so I asked our Abdulai to interpret for me. Lateef was by then talking to the third man, Yakabu. I did get the chief to listen some but I am not sure he really believed or received what I was telling him.

We prayed for them before we left, and believe that God had sent us to them, and that His Word will not return void but will accomplish what He pleases.

The second sacrifice is of a very different nature from the first. How we rejoice to see some of these Dagombas repent of their idolatry and turn to serve the living God.

Friday afternoon, the 22nd of June, we headed out for the village of Kpakpiba to have an evening meeting. We loaded up both of the mission's Land Rovers with church brothers and sisters. Our Land Rover Discovery normally seats seven American style or about twenty African style. This time it had nine people in the front and middle seats plus all the crusade equipment (two speakers, sound system, generator, slide projector, a tote with cords, microphones, etc.) in the back, and the light poles tied to the top. The other Land Rover is a pickup with seating for three in the front and there were about twelve of us in the back. We drove through Gushiegu singing songs and rejoicing in the Lord. The sky looked very black in the direction we were traveling. We were about twenty minutes out of Gushiegu when it started to rain, and rain it did! We in the back of the pickup were soaked to the skin by the time we got to Kpakpiba. The people there were so happy it was raining because it hadn't rained for a long while and their crops were starting to suffer. They said we were the ones who had brought the blessing of rain with us.

We waited until the rain let up and then we started setting up for the service. By the time we were ready to start, it had stopped raining, and most of the village people were there ready to listen. After some singing and testimonies, blind Abdulai preached a very good message. God is really using this brother and it is exciting to see how he has grown over these last few years. He gets around so well, many people can't even tell that he is blind. He used twenty-nine of the Creation to Christ slides and preached from those. He had chosen the slides, put them in order and preached a message using all of them. It is amazing to me the memory that this brother has. He listens to the Dagbani and English Bible on tape and uses and quotes much scripture while he is preaching.

The people listened well and there was good response afterwards. We don't usually have an altar call the night of the crusade, but tell them if they are interested in more teaching they should send some representatives to Gushiegu and we would consider starting some weekly teachings. Our trip back to Gushiegu was very peaceful and dry. It fills my heart with joy to hear a church full of Dagombas offer the sacrifice of praise unto God. Even more than this, to see and hear a blind man who knew not God, preach a powerful sermon of salvation makes my heart sing. I wonder how the God of heaven feels about them? Let us continue to stand together for this people group. It will be worth it all when we stand with them around the throne for all eternity. □

# God Sought for a Man

*as told by Paris Reidhead*

**M**any years ago in Toronto, Canada, there was a young man by the name of Tony Titchlon and he learned of a Bible Institute down on the hillside off of the Hudson River at Nyack. He had a mother to support so he came down only for one semester or two.

He went there under Dr. Simpson and went to Dr. Simpson and said, "Look, I want to go to Nigeria, West Africa." Just about that time the alliance had committed itself to the Congo and there wasn't any possibility of it.

He had to go back home to work in Toronto and take care of his mother and his family. He applied to the mission and the mission said, "Sorry, we can't take you. You aren't well enough educated, you're far too small, far too frail, you have a mother that's dependant on you, you're just not missionary material at all and we can't take you."

He could've gone back home and taken a job, but, you see, the Spirit of God had burdened him for West Africa and he was following the Lord and wasn't following the dictates and the decisions of the board. He was following the Lord Jesus Christ and knew that the mission working there was the Sudan Interior Mission and so there wasn't any question in his mind. They had to take him, so he arranged for his mother to be cared for.

He got his outfit and his passage (he carried his whole outfit in one little suitcase) and arrived in West Africa. He went up to where the whole staff was having a field conference. The whole staff consisted of Dr. Steeron. Now he represented 100% of the missionaries, so when Tony came, it just doubled the entire staff and so they had a field conference and they decided that it wasn't right for one tribe to have all the missionaries so they divided half the missionaries which was Tony. Tony was to go out and open the work in the Yagba area.

So he picked up his outfit and started off walking down the jungle path until he came to the Yagba area, where the chief was. Now he knew he had arrived because strung across the path were human skulls and any way you went through that aperture into that village, those skulls were going to rattle. So he gave them a little clout and went on through, walked into the village, saw the chief, threw down his bundle, and said, "Where am I going to stay?"

Well, they were too surprised to kill him right then, but they thought if they had him right there, they could make a meal later. And so they pointed and said, "Go over and stay with that old widow. She's got a place." So he went over and slept on her husband's grave; that's where he put his blanket and he stayed there.

He ate and he knew sometimes what he ate. And he took Paul very literally, "Ask no questions, for conscience sake" because it may have been somebody's cousin that they were eating. He was very careful about that.

He started to preach and they said, "You can't preach here, we won't listen to that stuff," and the witch doctor got after him. So, Tony, at night, as he learned the language, would speak out up on the hills that overlooked the valley. And Tony would go out and lean over the rocks. Now he was a frail little man, maybe about 5' 2" and he had a high-pitched squeaky little voice until he was there in Yagba territory and he would lay down on those rocks and shout the gospel down. It filtered through them and they didn't know what had happened but there was this voice coming and it sounded like thunder. It couldn't be that little white man. It couldn't be him.

So, anyway, he would preach the gospel and he was over there and he didn't talk like that. God gave him a bass voice, and so here he was shouting the gospel down.

Then one time these people snuck out, and, by this time, he had built a little house out by the edge of the village. And, there at the village edge, he had this experience of having 11 other men that would meet together with him for prayer in the morning. But the witch doctor was not excited about this; he was very angry!

He kept festering the people, and finally one day when they were midst the morning prayers,

they heard this dancing. It was the death dance. He opened the shutter (he didn't have glass) and outside were all the people gathered, all the men with all their stuff on, and it meant that somebody was going die and be sacrificed. They were dancing around the hut. Well, they had a supply of water, a supply of corn, and a little fuel, so they just decided to extend the prayer meeting because it didn't look to hospitable out there and so they stayed there for 13 days.

For 13 days, that witch doctor went up and down railing at the people and screaming. They took turns eating and sleeping. The men were getting a little discouraged and could hear their names being called and they knew what these men would do if they had a chance. (They didn't know, as they later found out, that they didn't need to worry, because afterwards the men said, "You know, who were those white men who stood out there who had those very white clothes on that kept us away when we wanted to come at you?")

The Lord Jesus appeared to Tony during those days and spoke to him and he encouraged him and told him that there was going to be a great harvest in that village.

They waited till the 13<sup>th</sup> day and then it was silent and they looked and saw that the people had all gone up the hill to pray to the evil spirits and Tony said to his friends, "Now, follow me and do just what I tell you. Come with me." And they went out of the house, right down to the center of the village, and stood under the spirit tree that was just eschew with skulls, and waited there.

All this time, the others had been singing a song with a native tune, one of those death dance tunes, and after a while they came down from the top of the mountain and came by and saw the door open and the tracks leading into the village.

Rushing into the village, they saw Tony and his eleven brethren and they were singing the same tune, but with Holy Ghost words. Tony was there standing in front of them and worshipping Jesus and adoring Him.

With the witch doctor at the head and all the warriors coming with their guns, Tony waited till they were just in front of them where they could release the spears and they would reach for them and he put up his hands and said, "Stop, in the name of Jesus Christ the Son of God." And it was

as if a cable were stretched across, men were leaning over it, they lost their balance, and stood back.

Tony kept singing and said, "Do you like the song?"

The witch doctor said, "Listen, you be quiet."

Tony replied, "They've listened to you for 13 days; what have you done? They have listened to you too long. Do you want me to go on singing?" And the people said, "Yes." Tony said, "Then you tell him (the witch doctor) to go away." And they said, "Go away, we have followed you long enough."

And Tony began to sing to them the gospel. God gave him the words and then they had prayer and he preached and then he went back home.

The next morning when he got up he went out and there in the yard were groups of 10, and 3, and 12, and families all sitting alone around in the yard, no one talking to each other, just little groups alone. "What are you doing here?" he asked. "We want your talk." So he said to the near ones, "Come in."

So he talked to them and they wanted to receive Jesus Christ. He led them to the Lord and they went out the back door and another group came in the front door. That went on for over 1,500 people. The Spirit of God settled down on that area. It wasn't everyone, but God had given a great harvest. It had gone from 12 to over 1,500.

It went on and the church was built. Then one day Tony was working in the dispensary and he reached up to get a bottle of sulphur acid. It slipped out of his hand, hit a shelf, broke, and the raw sulphur acid came into his face and his eyes. He picked up some water, threw it in his face, laid down on a bed, wrapped his head in a wet towel, and called one of the people to him. "Go to the next station and ask for help," which was about 40 miles away.

The Christian brother went as fast as he could, but it was sometime before he got there and the other missionary could get back.

But shortly after this happened, two of the godly women came outside the door and started to pray. They prayed and they prayed and one of them was there all the time praying and worshipping.

When the missionary came from the other station, Tony was lying there, and he peeled back the towel and saw what the acid had done to his face

and to his eyes. He just laid down on the bed, took him in his arms, and started to sob like a baby. Tony said, "Don't sob, it's all right. God's going to heal me." "Oh, Tony, Tony, your eyes are gone." "It's all right, God's going to heal me." "How do you know Tony?" "These 2 women have been praying ever since it happened and God told me that he is going to heal me."

As time went on, he would see a little bit of daylight, and then he could see forms. The skin that had been replaced had no scar, the only thing about it, the new skin that God gave on his eyelids and on his cheeks never tanned, it just always stayed white and it wasn't like the rest. But his eyes are just as bright as could be.

There came a time when there was a surge of smallpox. It was just taking the people and so Tony went to the Lord about it and said, "Lord, what are we going to do?" And he went out to the people afterward and said, "Listen. God has told me that he wants a testimony here. Anyone who moves in on the compound will not be affected by this disease." Now that's a brave thing to do, but the people moved in. Some did, some didn't, but as the surge moved through the place, there was not one person who had moved his family under the compound that died from the disease.

There was a drought in that area. They planted corn once and it didn't come up. They planted their corn again and it came up and died. They had to have food or else everyone was going to be hungry. The Moslems had gone to their sacrifice, the Pagans had gone to their sacrifice, and the elders of the little church now came and said, "What are we going to do, what are the Christians going to do?" And he said, "Well, what does the scripture tell us?" And one of the elders said, "It tells us that Elisha was a man of like-passion and he prayed and it didn't rain and he prayed and it rained." And Tony said, "Tell the drums that there is going to be a meeting tonight in the church to pray for rain."

So the drums carried the message to the believers to gather in the church and then the Pagans drums went and the Moslems drums went and they said, "We'll see who's God is God!" Tony didn't know, but he did know that the Lord Jesus said, "You go and as you are going, lo, I am with you always."

When he went into the church that night, these people had all brought their rain hats. And there wasn't a cloud in the sky as big as your hand! They came to church to pray for rain and they weren't going to get wet going home! They sang 2 songs, had some prayer, and then they heard a patter on the roof. They sang a third song, but they couldn't finish it because they couldn't hear. That tin roof rattled with the rain till it sounded like the inside of a drum. And, anyway, all they wanted to do was to praise the Lord because the rain had come.

I happened to be with Tony just after he'd come back from his last trip to that part of the world. He had gone around to the churches to see the people and the day had come when he was to leave to come back to America. He'd come in from preaching in the morning and had lunch with one of the missionaries. He didn't know what was going to happen. When he came out from lunch there was over 50,000 people that were there. They had been walking for 2 or 3 days from various villages because they were all coming to see him and bid him goodbye because they wouldn't see him till they met him at Jesus feet. There was a truck and they had a little pulpit on it with a chair and a canopy over it and he got up on it and they parted.

He went out into the square near the front of the church and there they were. There were some of these old men that had been dressed in war paint who had danced 13 days with their spears to call for his blood. But instead of seeing Tony die they had received the Lord Jesus Christ and had been faithful followers of Christ for all these years. There were 2 of the men that had been with him for those 13 days in that prayer meeting. And there they were, over 50,000 people, who had come in from all over the area to see this little man that had walked in under the skulls strung across the path and threw his bag down and said, "Where am I going to stay?" There they were. And when the last message had been given and the last testimony and last embrace of the leading brothers, they started the motor of the truck and it slowly moved out and Tony said, "50,000 voices lifted up and sang, 'All hail the power of Jesus name, Let angels prostrate fall, Bring forth the royal diadem, And crown him Lord of all!'" □



# *Precious Letters from Our Readers*

Dearest brethren in  
Christ,

My name is Harry Antonopoulos and I am a resident of New Windsor, Maryland.

As I look back at a series of events that recently took place in my life I can't but thank our Lord who always provides for us, by His abundant and loving care, His precious bread of life.

A few months ago a dear friend and brother in Christ gave me as a gift, a tape album by Zac Poonen titled, "The Fulfilled Christian Life". I was so blessed with this gift for it was an answer to my prayers. I could write to you pages explaining the reasons why that gesture was such a blessing, perhaps at some other time. In a nutshell, when there is a famine in the land, not that of food but of the Word of God, such a banquet as the one presented by the Holy Spirit through brother Zac becomes a major reason for joy and of highest gratitude toward our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ who knows how to lead His sheep into green pastures indeed!

At this point is when the series of events mentioned earlier began. One of the tapes, for one reason or another, was blank and therefore I thought I should call the telephone number found on the tape's label to see if I could purchase a replacement tape. The individual who answered my call was extremely kind, apologetic, and offered to replace the tape without any extra cost to me. That was my first personal contact of any kind with Charity Christian Fellowship, which at this point I only new as Charity Gospel Tape Ministry, according to the tape's label.

Not long after this, the tape arrived as promised, and I continued to listen to brother Zac, a tape a day, for sixteen days, and something in me was quickened by the Holy Spirit to pray for this dear brother, being fully convinced that hell notices the true treasure-houses of God's riches and does not miss any opportunity to come against them.

By the end of sixteen days I knew deep in my heart that, since it was permissible to let others hear these messages by duplicating the tapes, I was going to do this and to give them to my brothers and sisters in our small church.

The Lord was merciful to us and many hearts were changed and spirits were provoked by the Holy Spirit into personal revival, something for which I have been crying to the Lord for, for quite some time now.

We are a very small church of twenty that meet in our homes as each one avails it for God's glory. I am their pastor and servant in Christ and I have come to love them with such deep love that even the thought of one of them not being constantly on fire for the Lord and lose his or her first love makes me cry out for help unceasingly, which I know can only come from Him.

There is such a parched land out there that at times it can be easy to give into discouragement, especially when you feel alone in the fight. But praise be to our God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ who is always perfect in His time and wise in His ways to eagerly prove His faithfulness and love toward those that truly love Him and seek Him with all their heart.

Today, March 29th, I received your "Remnant" publication and I must also say, with great joy, that "the heartbeat of the remnant" is loud indeed. It is so good to have the Spirit of the Lord bring into one's path kindred spirits, who truly understand "the heart of a servant". What makes this even more wonderful is that you sent this publication to me without me asking for it or having any idea of its existence.

We thank our Lord Jesus Christ for you and your ministry and pray that some day we will be greatly blessed to meet some of you in person while we are still fighting the good fight, here in this life, and be encouraged as we find rest in the safe and strong hands of our Greast Shepherd.

I want so much to let my brethren know about you, something which will not wait till we all meet as a church, for I am going to call them, one by

one, and tell them the good news of our brethren in Leola, PA.

Forgive this letter, filled with sincere yet child-like expressions of the heart, from someone you don't even know, but I trust that He who knows the hearts of all men will let you see, by His Spirit, a little of ours.

May our Lord Jesus Christ, who has chosen us before the foundations of the world to know Him, to love Him and to serve Him, strengthen your mind, heart and spirit by His precious presence, at all times!

*With gratitude and affection,  
always in His service,  
Your brother in Christ,*

*Harry Antonopoulos*



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Our joy is rekindled every day as we receive His mercies anew every morning. Our heartfelt thanks and gratitude for your ministry through provision of The Remnant and the uplifting godly articles therein. They not only inspire and encourage us but also open up to us the scriptures in a new way as we seek to serve Him in spirit and in truth.

We would also like to thank you for publishing our letter in the March/April issue and our cry for fellowship. We had to come before the Lord and repent of our complaint of feeling alone as He answered our cry in such an overwhelming manner. We received many letters from Christian brothers and sisters who read The Remnant, and, in fact, we even had a visit from one young couple who, like us, thought they were the only plain church people in Australia. They live some 550 miles away but we have managed to visit and fellowship twice already and continue to support and encourage each other through phone and e-mail contact and have more visits planned. God is so gracious.

We appreciate your invitation to your readers to contribute and we intend to do so as and when the Lord leads us for without His guidance and inspiration it would not be worth the paper it is written on. Please keep us on your mailing list and know that both the copies are well used and read by a number

of people. One copy stays with us for use by our fellowship, friends, and others. The second copy goes to our daughter and her family of 6 children most of whom read and devour it. They search for any material they can find that awakens their desire to give their lives to Jesus.

May the Lord continue to pour out His blessings on you and all the staff and people who make this wonderful ministry such a powerful tool in spreading the Word.

PS. When you do a book review could you please advise where it is available. Most would not be available in Australia so a U.S.A. distributor's name and address would greatly assist. Many thanks and prayers and blessings.

*Joseph &Carolynn van Loon  
Australia*



Dear Charity Ministry,

I would like to thank you all for your ministry to me and my family. We have grown in the Lord with your help. I am writing to inform you that at this time, I would like to cancel our subscription to The Remnant. I have discovered that through the years I have developed a Charity mindset—"What would Charity say about this or that."

I need some time now to renew my mind and to see where the Lord wants us to go and to see what Jesus says about what we should do. I guess what I am trying to say is that we put ourselves under your ministry instead of under the Lord Jesus Christ, who is the head of the church. We need to please the Lord and go where he wants us to go. Thank-you again for all you have done for us through the ministry.

*Your Brother in Christ*

*We praise God for the wisdom of this Brother. God forbid that any of us should replace Christ in any way. He is God's servant and He will lead him we are confident.  
--The editor*



Hello,

Thanks for the magazine I got today.

One thing I am concerned about. Since The Heartbeat of The Remnant believes in following the Bible, they would be careful about the length of Jesus' hair.

Also, I would like to know if The Remnant uses any specific Bible version.

Thanks,  
Lydia Choo Ming Huay,  
Singapore

Dear Sister in Christ,

Thank you for the challenge about the length of hair in the artwork. We are limited in the amount of selections we have in this area. We will try to do better. If you have any suggestions on where we could get more scriptural pictures please inform us.

We would also like to briefly answer your question about Bible versions. We use the King James Version of the Bible. That is by conviction, not by preference. Occasionally a verse may slip by that is not, because we draw from a lot of different authors, but we try to find them and change them. Some of the short word essays

have many Bible verses in them with a few other words added. We are not calling them the Bible. They are more like some of the early Christian writings were; full of verses mixed with other words. May God make our vocabularies like that: full of the Bible, mixed with other words.

We use the King James Version because it is the best translation. I have personally studied some of the other translations, and I am not happy with the many changes that have been made. There are many very important portions of scripture that have been deleted, with the explanation that better ancient texts have been found. I feel this is a terrible error. Many of the major doctrines of our faith have been watered down.

The King James Bible was translated from the Received Text, which is a compilation of a few thousand fragments that agree with each other. These fragments that agree have been preserved by God for his people down through the centuries. Several books have been written on the debate about which Bible we should use. My concern for all the translations is also guided by my love for our children. Many of them do not have a Bible. One man quotes from the ASV, another from the NIV, another from Phillips translation. Soon our children will not know "Thus saith the Lord," but instead, "thus saith my version." --The editor

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continued from page 28, *Book Review* by Andrew Weaver

In this school, we learn eventually that our pet doctrines, fads, and experiences are not the key to the abundant life. We read... *'Its' do not work! It is all a matter of the Person, the Lord Jesus, and the Holy Spirit will never save us by an 'it'. He will always bring us to the Person... We take the Acts and the Epistles as setting forth the technique of the Church and adopt it as a crystallized system of practice, order, form, and teaching, and the weakness in the whole position is that the Lord Jesus has been missed and lost.*

Reminding the reader that God's ultimate goal in everything is His own glory, T. Austin-Sparks says... *The degree of glory ultimately will be the measure of Christ that each one of us has. That in turn depends upon how much you and I by faith are really making Christ the basis of our life, the very basis of our living, of our being...*

I urge you to read this little booklet carefully and then enroll in the lifelong school of learning Christ. Even death is not the end of studying our great Subject, for in all the ages to come God will be showing us the exceeding riches of his grace toward us in Christ Jesus. Only then at last we will know as we are known and reach the final stage of the eternal *School of Christ*. □

This book is available free upon request by writing to:

Emmanuel Church  
12000 East 14th St  
Tulsa, OK 74128-5016  
U.S.A.