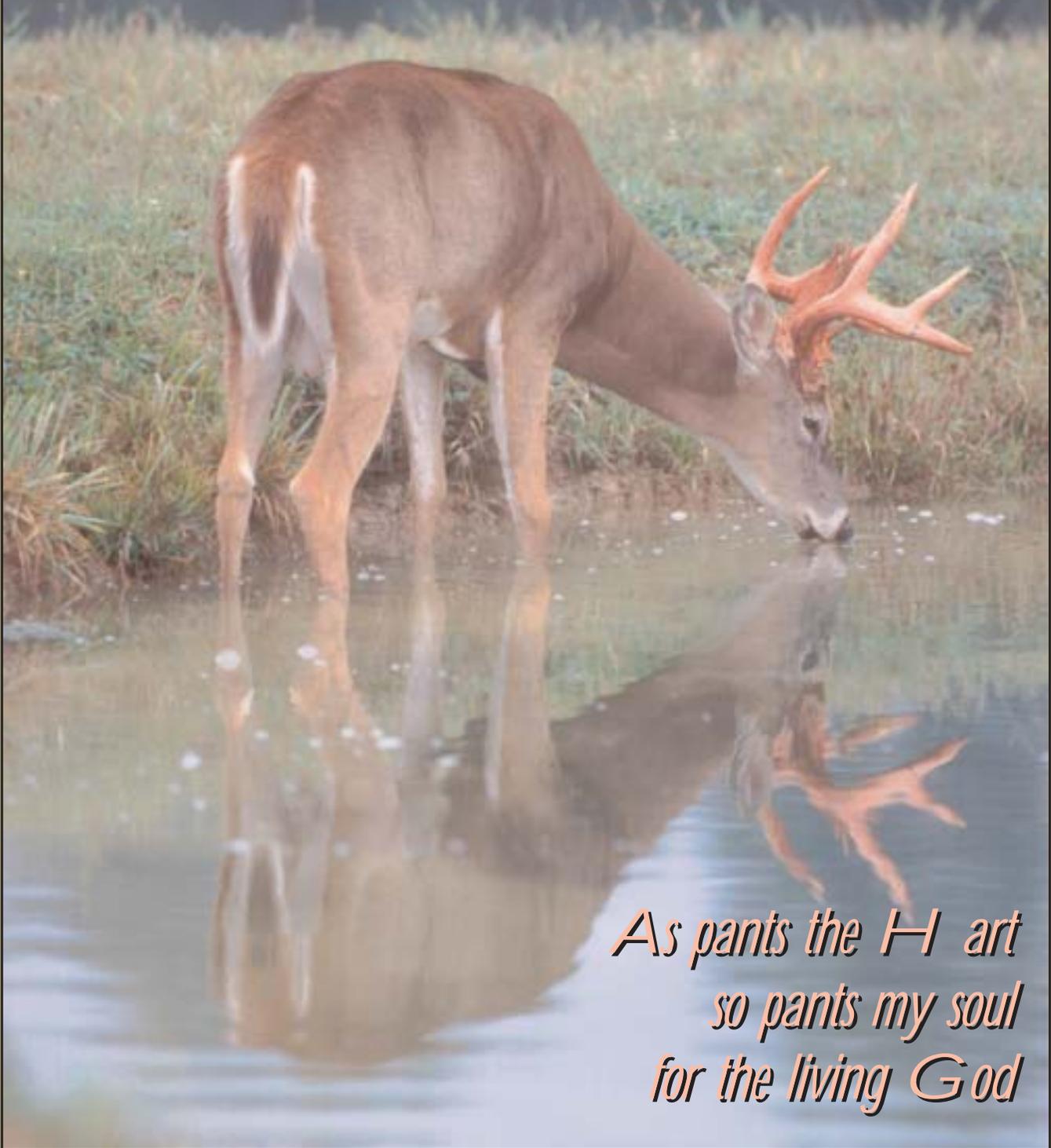


September / October 2001
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The Heartbeat of

The Remnant



*As pants the Hart
so pants my soul
for the living God*

. . . is a Deep Hunger for God

The Heartbeat of
The Remnant

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 from Our Readers*

Andrew Murray's

Home Life

by Denny Kenaston



*My Spirit that is upon thee, and my words
Which I have put in thy mouth
Shall not depart out of thy mouth
Nor out of the mouth of thy seed
Nor out of the mouth of thy seed's seed
Saith the Lord.*

*This is my covenant with them that turn from
transgression
Isaiah 59:20-21, adapted*

As one stands in the midst of Andrew Murray's life through biographies, you know immediately that you are standing in a wealthy place. We see such a beautiful, manifold fountain of grace poured out on this vessel. The name Andrew Murray is literally a household name among Christians around the world. His influence cannot be measured this side of eternity. He was a faithful husband and a godly father of eight children. Missionary, pastor, administrator, revivalist, writer, and missionary statesman are only a few of the ways in which he served the Lord and his people during his lifetime of 88 years. Through his writings (240 books and pamphlets), Andrew lives on and on, though his body lies buried in a cemetery in South Africa. Surely this is a testimony of the eternal life which abided in him while he walked upon this earth.

The Home History of Andrew Murray is one that I have looked forward to for some time. He is one of my heroes. I knew that I would be in for a rich time of study as I prepared for the writing of this article. I was not disappointed, but in fact found much more treasure than I anticipated. This holy man was not the beginning of a godly heritage as some of our studies have been. Rather, as we stand in the time of Andrew Murray's life and look in both directions, we see a godly heritage bursting forth from men and women who believed the promises of God concerning their families.

Andrew Murray traces his roots back to Scotland. His name, Andrew, was passed down

from four generations of Andrew Murray's, and as near as I can tell, there is an Andrew Murray in every following generation to this day. His great-grandfather, grandfather, and father, all carried the name Andrew from the generations before them. All of these men were godly men who set their hearts to love and serve the living God. Each of them chose a godly mate when it was time to marry and start a family. Through the rest of this article I will refer to Andrew as, Andrew junior, and his father as Andrew senior.

Andrew Murray Senior

This dear man and his wife Susanna are the unsung heroes in the Murray clan. The words of our Lord Jesus come to mind here where He said, "there is nothing hidden that shall not be revealed." Because God gave Andrew junior such a prominent place to stand among his people, we have missed the hidden influence of Andrew and Susanna Murray. When judgment day comes, this couple's righteousness "shall shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father." We want to mine some gold out of this godly home.



Andrew Murray senior lost his pious father when he was but two years old. His father passed on into eternity fervently calling upon God for his children's spiritual welfare. The four children and their mother, Isobel, were left in poverty to trust in the living God for their needs. But God heard the crying heart of the dying man and blessed his household after him. The two sons, John and

Andrew, both became preachers of the Gospel, and one of the daughters married a minister. Let us take courage and believe God for our present situations. Here again, a mother is left to raise a family without the support of a man. Relatives gave help, the older brother, John, helped to direct the younger Andrew senior, and of course, the living God of heaven came to their side and built a house of God-fearing children. If we sit in despair and unbelief because our case seems hopeless, how can God reach down and help us?

Young Andrew Murray senior had a longing in his heart to preach the gospel to the heathen in distant lands. He was twenty-six at the time. When an invitation was extended to go to South Africa, his heart rose to the challenge. He would pastor an established Dutch Reformed Church and reach out to the heathen in the regions beyond. So it was that this young pioneer missionary left Scotland, full of dreams and visions of serving the God of his fathers in a distant land. The year was 1822, and South Africa was indeed an undeveloped wilderness. It took Andrew senior ten rigorous days by wagon to get to the town that would be his home till death. After two years he met Susanna Stegmann, who soon became his wife, and together they began to raise a family to the glory of God.

We want to take a few sanctified glimpses into this home, because its influence raised up many servants in the kingdom of God. These beautiful results do not happen simply by accident or solely by God's providence. Specific principles were followed in the fear of God, and God gave an abundant increase. Of Andrew and Susanna's eleven children, nine were involved in the ministry. Five of their sons were ordained preachers, and four of their daughters married preachers. Let us also consider the grandchildren, because they are the true test of a man's home. Of their grandchildren, thirty-two of them were engaged in ministry. Seventeen of the grandsons were ministers, twelve of the granddaughters married ministers, and three more became missionaries to the unreached. The godly genealogy goes on and on from here. There were many servants of Christ down through the generations of this one family, and today their

descendants number several thousand in eight generations. Please remember also, the two godly generations that preceded Andrew Murray senior. That makes ten generations. Do I have your attention? Now let us look at several areas of powerful lasting influence.

Father's Example

Andrew Murray senior was a godly man. This will be easy to see as we gaze into his home. However, he was also a preacher, a very zealous servant of God. Like begets like, and this principle was clearly true in the case of the Murray children. Their father was full of the zeal and love of his God. A man full of the energy of the Spirit of God. He would often be preaching several times in one week's time. He threw himself into the work of establishing churches, and in his labors of forty years, he founded eight churches. He was a man of tireless dedication to the flocks that he started. The children watched his zeal for the Lord, and all of them said, "I am the Lord's." They saw father joyfully serving the Lord, and I'm sure this had much to do with their choices to enter into the work. When father and mother love to love the Lord, and love to love the people of the Lord, this becomes a powerful, continuous magnet to draw the children into God's service.

Reverence

If there were one word to describe the prevailing spirit of the Murray home, 'reverence' would be the word. This was the 1828 kind of reverence, not the watered down kind we have today. Webster's 1828 dictionary defines the word as follows: "Fear mingled with respect, esteem, and kind affections." "Reverence for God's name, reverence for God's day, and reverence for God's word were clearly sensed in the home. The wife revered

her husband, the children revered their parents, and all revered their God." What a beautiful atmosphere this must have created in the household. "The children were taught to render obedience in such a way that it was natural and normal to them. Father's word was law; from his godly decision there was no appeal. His wisdom was never questioned." These words were written with endearment by one of Andrew senior's daughters, in a small book entitled *Unto Children's Children*. This atmosphere was obtained in three ways: 1) by the spirit of father and mother, 2) by a lovely flow of love between parents and children, and 3) by a proper use of the rod when it was needed to correct a child for future blessings. This submissive, respectful attitude was witnessed many times, long after the children had left the home and were out on their own.

"When father and mother love to love the Lord, and love to love the people of the Lord, this becomes a powerful, continuous magnet to draw the children into God's service."

Missionaries

Here lies a hidden secret in the Murray home that could easily be overlooked. The Murray home was five hundred miles in toward the interior of Africa. It was located on the trail that led further out into the bush and jungles of Africa. Many missionaries traveled by the household and were invited by Andrew senior to spend the night. They were English, French, Scotch, and German, which provided many interesting language learning opportunities. This was no little undertaking, as they traveled more like a wagon train with many animals and workers. But this sacrifice was no matter to the head of the house, for he loved mis-

sionaries, and he loved foreign missions. The whole family was involved in showing hospitality to these many weary missionaries. The home was large, the grounds also, with gardens and fruit trees. This provided space for relaxation, and fruit that delighted many a missionary child, who ate the fruit like candy.

So, where is the blessing in all this, besides the fact that the servant opportunities were many for the Murray children? The blessings lie in the influence that the missionaries had on everyone in the home. Missionaries are dedicated people. Their love for the Lord is often exemplary. The real life stories they tell of their faith in God are very inspiring. The Murray children grew up on the many evenings spent sitting around listening to soldiers of Christ tell of the battles they fought. Mr. Moffat and Dr. Livingstone were in the number of missionaries who frequented Andrew Murray senior's home. The children were often gathered together to listen as father or mother would read the latest letter from one of these men. Most of us don't live on a missionary path, but we do have many biographies and other creative alternatives. The important part is to keep the lives of the saints, both dead ones and living ones, before our families. Let us do what we have to do in order to make this happen.

Revival

In the year of 1860, a gracious visitation of God's spirit began in Andrew Murray junior's church. There was a sound from heaven of a mighty rushing wind, which prevailed upon a group of youth who were having a prayer meeting. God visited this church and many others as revival fires began to spread. This is a wonderful thing to happen to a young minister of thirty-two, who had been praying for such a visitation for many years. It was from here that Andrew Murray junior was led into a beautiful spirit-filled life for which he is so loved and known. But where did it all begin?

Andrew senior had a holy exercise that he placed upon himself every Friday night for nearly forty years. On Friday evenings he would go into his study and spend the evening reading accounts of revival history and then praying for revival in his land. The children remembered well the many times they heard their father weeping and groaning in prayer for revival in the church. Here is where the seeds were planted in the hearts of the children. Here is where their own appetites were stimulated with a longing for God to come and move among His people again. Father would often come briskly out of his study, with excitement, and read to the family an account of God's visitation somewhere in the world. This burden was passed on to the children, and they began to pray as they grew older. This dear old man saw the answer to his prayers as the Holy Spirit was poured out in South Africa near the end of his life. His sons picked up the mantle, as well as did other men, and revival fires burned brightly. Do we grasp what is happening here? Hudson Taylor heard his father pray fervently for China, and Hudson blanketed China with churches. John Patton heard his father groaning in his closet for the heathen, and John Patton went to the heathen and won them in multitudes. Now Andrew Murray hears his fathers groaning for revival, and God raises the son up to carry the burden all across the Christian world for 150 yr. What are we longing for? What is it that our children see and sense that we are living for? They will pick it up and carry it beyond our fondest dreams and visions.

Andrew's Mother

She was simply called Mama. This was a name of endearment to all of the children. Though Andrew senior was a very active father, it is quite clear that this dear lady had much to do with the molding of the family. Her husband was a busy minister, and there were times when he was away from home for days at a time. Did everything stop when he was away? We know the answer to this question. Mother stepped in to fill the vacancy.

On Sundays when Andrew was away, she always taught the children out of the Shorter Catechism in the evening. The Lord's Day was strictly observed, and only a walk in the garden with the family was allowed. No games, running, or tree climbing on this day, and all must be in church to hear the word of God preached. One of the daughters writes, "She taught us to read before we were old enough to go to school, and the hymns and Bible verses which we learned at her knee have remained in the memory for a lifetime." In the earlier days when schools were hard to find, she schooled the children at home. Young Andrew was schooled at home for the first few years of his life. Oh, the beauty of the proper balance of father and mother working together to raise up a godly seed upon the earth. How can its influence be measured? It seems to me that Susanna was truly a helpmeet to her husband, and he was the head and leader of his home. Lord give the church many more of these in the days to come.



ent hymnbooks in Dutch and English. Father was a man of the Word and spent much time teaching and admonishing the children from the Bible. This was done as they rose up in the morning, while they sat in the house, while they were going on the way, and when they were going to lay down at night. The children well remembered their father striding back and forth in the dining room after supper, as he expounded and repeated a verse of scripture with unction and meaning. Many verses were hidden in the hearts of the children by this method. He would say the verses again and again with fervor and intensity, his face expressing the deepest emotions. As I picture this holy man, so excited about the Bible that he cannot stay sitting, my heart thrills at the thought of it. May the Lord raise up us fathers to be so full of zeal and conviction that we can't help but jump to our feet at times as we expound the word to our families.

Family Altar

There was a regular discipline of family devotions in the Murray home. It seems they followed the pattern of many of the old Puritans. Morning and evening, morning and evening, times of worship were never missed. We mentioned already how Susanna kept the flow of this regular worship in the absence of her husband. There were long seasons of singing as the family used several differ-

Precious Memories

As I study more and more of the families of the past, it becomes evident to me that each one of these examples had fun together. The picture of a home that is always sober and never laughs is not a godly picture. The joy of the Lord is a strength to a home, and a merry heart does do good like a medicine. Andrew Murray's home was no exception to this. They had many good times together. It is true that they lived days away from civilization; however, you don't need the nicest things to have good times with the family. The chil-

"The picture of a home that is always sober and never laughs is not a godly picture. The joy of the Lord is a strength to a home, and a merry heart does do good like a medicine. Andrew Murray's home was no exception to this."

dren had memories of rides in the wagon when father would talk to them and share interesting things about science and geography. There is real wisdom in having relaxed family times like this, when conversations flow naturally. The children were allowed to play hide-and-seek in the lower parts of the house, and many were the times when the squeals of happy children could be heard sounding through the halls.

Once every five years the whole Murray family loaded up the old horse wagon and made the ten-day trip to Cape Town. I suppose we would call it the family vacation. This trip was anticipated for many weeks and the thrill of finally leaving could hardly be contained by the children. Does that sound familiar to anyone reading this? The excitement of the children before the trip is almost as much fun as the trip itself. Much preparation was needed before a trip of ten days could be made, and this only heightened the anticipation. Finally the great day arrived, everyone took their seats, “crack” went the whip, round went the wheels, and up went the shouts of joy from the children as they pulled out onto the road. From an adult’s perspective, the trip was quite rigorous, but from a child’s perspective, it was simply camping out and having picnics for ten days. The children loved it and held the fond memories of these trips all their lives. Family singing and family talking commenced throughout the day, and the worship times were never missed.

Oh the simple joys of spending time together as a family. What makes them so meaningful? They had no water slides or go-carts to race. There were no amusement parks in those days. Somehow I think we Americans have missed the

most important parts and settled for the lesser things in our family vacations. The times spent together walking, talking, sharing hearts, and remembering—these are the things that make memories. It is not the thrill of some exciting ride, or the screams of family members doing something that causes the screams. We need to choose our times with our families wisely. Then ask ourselves this question, “Will this give me an opportunity to draw closer to my children’s hearts?” Let us redeem the time and use it wisely, for the days are evil.

Conclusion

This is the home that produced many servants of the Lord Jesus Christ. Andrew Murray is one of them. Andrew senior and Susanna laid the foundation of many godly generations. We do not know who is living in our homes. Is there another Andrew Murray, or Hudson Taylor, or John Wesley? It is not for us to know. Our responsibility is to be faithful and to live out Bible principles like these and others. If we turn our hearts to God and to our children, it will have a sanctifying effect on every one of them. Sadly, there are so few homes that are an example like this one we have studied. God is no respecter of persons. We all know this in our heads, but not in our hearts. What would happen if a whole generation of fathers and mothers would rise up in faith and confidence, obeying the Lord, and following His ways? Maybe that sounds a bit dreamy to you or idealistic. I can’t help but think that God would be longing for the same. □

“What would happen if a whole generation of fathers and mothers would rise up in faith and confidence, obeying the Lord, and following His ways? Maybe that sounds a bit dreamy to you or idealistic. I can’t help but think that God would be longing for the same.”

***Oh that my people had hearkened unto me,
And Israel had walked in My ways.
I should soon have subdued their enemies,
And turned My hand against their adversaries.
I should have fed them also with the finest of
wheat:***

***And with honey out of the rock should I have
satisfied thee.***

Psalm 81:13,14,16

Sharpened Words for Little Ones



Dear parents,

Sharpening words for our blessed children is an art, which should be developed over time. It is a skill, an ability, or maybe you could call it a talent. Whatever word we choose, each of these must be exercised in order for them to grow into their full potential. As an introduction to this section, I would like to consider a missionary, and how he develops his skills to reach a very ignorant, and simple people.

I remember listening to a friend of mine sharing after a six-month term of service on a foreign field. He was a seasoned preacher, and teacher of the Word, and could hold us all spellbound with his knowledge of the Word. But when he returned from this missionary experience, he made a beautiful statement that I never forgot. He said, "I have been giving children's lessons for six months." What did he mean by this statement? He was saying, that he had to take his vast knowledge of the word, and break it down to the level of a child, to teach it to these simple believers in a foreign land. This may sound like a difficult task, but it isn't. Desire is the motivating factor that makes the difference. With his heart full of years of Bible study, he found a way to impart some of his treasures to these dear people.

This is exactly what a father is supposed to do with his children. When we have a desire, we will find a way to plant it in our children. Like one man so aptly said, "Put the jelly on the lower shelf." These skills can be developed, as we plod along day by day in the duties of priest in our homes. I know a preacher who has many opportunities to preach in third world countries. The simple people always comment on his preaching. They say, "We like it because it is easy to understand." How did he develop such gifts? He has spent many years teaching his children daily from the Bible, carefully sharpening the words so they will hear and understand it. I'm sure he never dreamed that he was training for missionary preaching in third world countries.

—The Editors

God bless you as you teach!

Trusting the Lord

This is a very basic yet profound lesson that any child can grasp. Bring a dinning room chair to your teaching time, and set it in the middle of your family circle. Turn to the verses in Proverbs 3:5-6, and read them. Perhaps it would be good to give a definition of faith or trust before you move ahead into the object lesson. Faith is the leaning of the entire heart upon God and His word. After explaining this a bit, get up and stand on the chair. This is a picture of trusting God. Just as a person must trust the chair to hold them up, so also we must lean upon the Lord completely as we live by faith. Ask the children if they would be willing to get up on a chair that was weak and wobbly. They will all say no to that. You want to get up on the chair several times, even teach a while standing on it. Tell them, "I'm trusting in this chair completely", and they will agree with you. Keep going back and forth, referring to trusting God, and then to the chair. You can finish by reading several other verses with the word trust in them, and comment on them.

Keep Thy Heart

We draw this lesson from the scripture found in Proverbs 4:23. The word keep is a very enlightening word. It means to stand guard, to keep watch, to be a watchman, over your heart. Ask one of the children to help you illustrate this verse. Have them stand in the midst of the family to represent the heart. Then you can play the part of the one who is going to stand guard over this heart. You can march around the child watching in all directions for anything that might come into the heart. You can use other children or your wife to illustrate something trying to get into the heart. As they try to get in, you stop them. This can be a picture that is bad, a billboard, or maybe some wrong music in a store somewhere. This can be a T.V. screen at a Wal-Mart, or some child who is suggesting some evil thing to do. This is a real struggle in a child's life, so make it practical. You can even use this lesson as a springboard to open up a talk about things that have lodged there already. It can be a confession meeting with pray and cleansing and renouncing the things that have taken hold in their hearts.

Hard Heart or Soft Heart

You can use the parable of the sower to base your teaching time on a scriptural foundation. Matt. 13:3-9 will give plenty of verses to draw from. Find a large sponge, and a rock, and bring them both to family devotions. Emphasize the importance of keeping a soft heart, and explain how it affects how much you learn and grow every day. The wayside heart and the stony heart in the parable refer to the hard heart that doesn't receive the precious seed. The Word is likened to water, and truly it is a fountain of living water. Take the stone in hand and pour a large amount of water onto the stone. As you are pouring, ask the children how much water the stone is receiving. Talk about why, and explain how the heart that is hard will do the same thing with precious truth day by day. Then pick up the sponge, and begin to pour water onto it. You will note, that no water will come out of it for some time. This is good, as you can discuss how the sponge is receiving so much water. Relate this to the truth of God's word also, and get excited about how the soft heart just soaks it up more and more. Eventually, the sponge will begin to drip water, and you can relate this to the outflow of ministry in our lives when we are open and soft in heart. You can even squeeze the sponge for more effect.

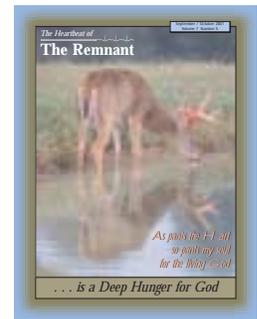
Keep Your Eyes

The verses that follow the one above flow naturally encouraging more accountability, Proverbs 4:25-27. You need to find something that you can use to make blinders like what a farmer used to use for his horses. A piece of cardboard will do very well, and then come up with a way to strap them onto the side of the child's face. It doesn't hurt to over kill a bit for the sake of the lesson. When you put them on, the child should have a very limited vision, seeing mostly straight ahead. Let each of the children put them on so they get a clear idea what it is like to be looking, but only seeing straight ahead. To keep your heart, many times you must keep your eyes from looking at things they ought not. These verses provide you with much material to teach this principle to the children. Let's face it; we live in an age where the world is attempting to use the eye gate to get into the hearts of our children. We must train them to walk through this evil world with their blinders on. After you have spent a couple of days on this exercise, take them to a store where they will need to watch what they see. As you pull into the parking lot, stop and have a prayer for God's help, and then go into the store. Your lesson will become very practical, and the children will be very careful about what they see. You will have a great success in the store, and a good opportunity to praise the children for being so careful over what they see. We know, of course that the real tests will come when they are more by themselves.

Charity Gospel Tape Ministry & The Heartbeat of The Remnant

Quarterly Financial Report

April - June 2001



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Below you will find the financial records of the Tape Ministry and The Remnant for the second quarter of this year. As you can see, we are coming out of the red. For this we are very grateful to God and to all of you who pray for the ministry and support it with your gifts. We continue to face many challenges in our offering supported ministry, however, we are full of confidence for the future. It is the Lord's ministry, and He always pays His way.

THE REMNANT

Our heart has been filled with courage and rejoicing as we see the overwhelming response from so many to the form we sent you. Thank you! We have received so much positive and constructive input from many of you. If you have not filled out the little questionnaire, we still welcome your response. If you have misplaced it, a simple note in the mail would be fine. We would love to hear from you, and again, it helps us keep our mailing list active. The Remnant subscription list continues to grow considerably at each new printing. Praise the Lord! Let us work together to spread a good clear word from the printed page. Pass it on to someone else, loan it if you want it back, or send us the names of those you are sure would enjoy reading it.

TAPE MINISTRY

The tape ministry, well, how can I say it? It continues to be a most fruitful ministry. I cannot count how many times a brother has come to me in my travels and shared his testimony with me. It goes something like this: "I was driving somewhere and decided to listen to one of the tapes that were given to me. As I began to listen, I became convicted about a need in my life. Soon I was crying, and had to pull the car over and weep my heart out to God. My life has never been the same." By God's grace, we want to get the Word out in as many ways as possible. Thank you for your help and prayers. As I shared some time ago, we are getting The Godly Home tapes done professionally to save

04/01/01 Beginning Balance	-\$26,515.77
Receipts	
Tape Ministry Donations	\$63,287.19
Remnant Subscription Donations	\$9,491.50
Total Receipts	\$72,778.69
Disbursements	
UPS & Postage	\$3,605.81
Tapes & Albums	\$30,555.85
Computer/Equipment/Supplies	\$553.24
Equipment Maint & Repairs	10.49
Electricity	\$184.41
Telephone	\$935.89
Miscellaneous	-\$20.00
Payroll Expense	\$5,592.50
Books & Catalogs	\$154.65
Remnant Publishing & Mailing	\$6,875.55
Total Disbursements	\$48,448.39
06/30/01 Ending Balance	-\$2,185.47
Difference	\$24,330.30

time. This has really lightened the load on the workers in the tape ministry. On the right is a picture of many volunteers who gathered together to put 12,000 Godly Home tapes into tape albums. Let us all be busy in the work of the Lord. Maranatha!

NEW LOCATION

For the last few years the Tape Ministry and The Remnant have been operating in very crowded working conditions. When we started the Tape Ministry we never dreamed that it would grow the way it has in the last few years. Praise the Lord for these kind of good problems. These two ministries have been located in the basement of the church. They have overflowed to one of the nursery rooms, the storage shed outside, and filled up every corner of empty space available. There is adequate room for our present needs, and room for expansion, in the building where the Ephrata church will be located, so we are going to move the operations over to that location.

Please note: All tapes and sets will be available for self service at both of the church locations—only the daily operations will move to Ephrata. The 800 number will remain the same, and we will keep you posted on other number changes as we receive them. Please note also there will be considerable renovation expenses as we prepare the new sight for operations.



WWW.CHARITYMINISTRIES.ORG

We have been encouraged by many for the last two years that we need to have a Web site for the ministry. This has been a matter of much prayer and discussion. We are clear with the Lord to take this step, and seek your prayers about the outreach that this could bring to many. The Web site is www.charityministries.org. Under this address we will have five major divisions:

- ❶ **Charity Gospel Tape Ministry** • On this page you will be able to view the tape listing in its entirety. You will be able to place an order for tapes or other material. You will also be able to download a select amount of sermon tapes to listen to later.
- ❷ **The Heartbeat of The Remnant** • This page will have information about The Remnant, as well as a few issues of the Remnant that can be downloaded. You will be able to subscribe to the magazine as well.
- ❸ **Charity Christian Missions** • On this page you will find information about missions. The Missions Newsletter will be available to read and a few back issues can be downloaded. Up to date information from each Missionary in Africa and Haiti will also be at this sight.
- ❹ **Announcement Page** • This page will save our workers much time. They receive many calls about special meetings, different men's preaching schedule etc. On this page you will find this type of information. This announcement section can be used by other churches also if they want to inform people of special meetings. We will try to keep it up to date monthly.
- ❺ **Church Directory** • In this section, we plan to list the churches that you find listed in the front of the tape catalogue, however, we will have much more information about each church. We will have the location, a map to find them, size of congregation, ministers, age of the church, etc.

Please be patient with us as we develop this web site. We are only learning how these things work.

- A Spiritual Exercise -

A Very Revealing Exercise

by Denny Kenaston

I have a real stretching exercise for you in this issue of the Remnant. I hope that many of you will take the challenge that I will propose to you. You may learn some things that you never expected to learn. This is some of the design for the different spiritual exercises that are suggested in this magazine. Paul admonished Timothy to “exercise thyself unto godliness” and also stated that it would be profitable. There are many different aspects to the profit that you will receive; however, you will never know what they are unless you step into the water and begin.

Some time ago I challenged the congregation at Charity to this very exercise that I will give to you. To my surprise, the whole church raised their hands and said they would do it. It was a very healthy experience and we learned some needful things about our fast-paced life and ourselves. I must say that it was a bit painful but very good for us. Here goes!

We were in the midst of several discussions on discipleship, which had stirred up many desires among us to receive some practical training in the Christian life. In response to these desires, I brought a mes-

sage one Sunday morning on some of the basic disciplines in a Christian’s life. After I presented them, I challenged the church to a commitment to do them consistently for two weeks. They said “yes”, we want to try it for two weeks and see what happens. That is what I would like you to do— try it for just two weeks, every day, never miss, and see what happens. Let’s look specifically at each one of these basic disciplines.

1 Hour of Quiet Time

Everyone agreed on that Sunday morning that this is not an extreme task, but rather, this is surely a proper amount of time alone with God each day. One hour of meaningful, meditative, prayerful devotions each day for two weeks. You can’t miss no matter what. Nothing is going to get in the way of this hour with God for the whole two weeks. You must be willing to change other priorities to make this happen, or you will not learn what God has for you to learn. Who will do it? Let’s take the adventure and see what happens. Many people in

our fellowship used it to push the reset button in an area of their life that they needed to set right for a long time.

Family Devotions

I asked for a raise of hands on this one also to see if I was demanding too much in this exercise. Not one person felt this was too high. “Yes”, they agreed that this should be a normal discipline in the life of a believer in Jesus Christ. This is mostly the fathers’ commitment, however, it requires mom and all the children to say, “amen, let’s do it”. Mom must be willing to work the schedule around this important daily activity. The children must be willing to sit up and lend their interest in whatever is being done during this time. The family altar should have a time of wholehearted singing, a time of meaningful sharing from the Bible, and then a time of prayer for the day and for others. I will give you Sundays off on this one because we all go to church on that day. Two weeks of this beautiful exercise never missing will be a great blessing to all in the family. Dad, will you take the initiative and get the family

back on track? This would be a good time to refocus the family. I know it is something that we all know we should be doing. We just get so busy, don't we?

Husband & Wife Pray Together

Here is a discipline that most couples would like to do, but never get around to it. They say, "There just seems to be other things happening so much of the time, and we never can quite get together." May I suggest to you that you try to make it happen at the end of the day, or at the beginning of the day. You can more easily do it then. Just take about ten or fifteen minutes each day and together pour out your heart to God. You might be surprised how many different blessings you will find. Some couples are quickly aware that they have some problems between them that keep them from this meaningful exercise. I am asking you to do this every day for two weeks. Who will rise to this very basic challenge in Christian married life?

Couples, Go on a Date

Now this will be a real tough one. Set aside some time each week for the next two and have a date. I'm not saying you have to go out to dinner somewhere. Just spend a couple of hours together building your marriage. The sisters in the congregation were coming to me and thank-

ing me for this suggestion. Why? Do you think their husbands do not love them? No, they just don't take the time. The men enjoy these times very much, but they don't think of it as easily as a woman does. Now I want to give you some guidelines on this one. This time must be a courting atmosphere. No problem solving, no lists of things that need to be done, no complaints about something the other is doing that bothers you. This must be a building time. Hold hands, open doors, say words of blessing to each other. Make it a sweet date time and you will both be blessed, and the children will love it.

These four disciplines, for two weeks—what do you say, shall we try it? Come on, let's try it and see what happens. You will be strengthened by God's Spirit in the inner man. You will learn some things about yourself that are very revealing. You will get a new look at priorities and what really is important. You will begin to see some things about your schedules that might not feel so good at first. Let me share with you a little insight that I have

gleaned as I travel around the country preaching in many churches. Most of the people are not doing these basic things of the Christian life. They all know they are very important, but they just don't have time to do them. This is very sad to me. How can we grow and raise up a testimony for the glory of God if we are missing these basic disciplines? The answer is, "we cannot".



Who will stretch themselves?

It may be that we need to change our lifestyles to fit the Christian ethics that we all say we believe. You only truly believe that which moves you to action.

When the congregation at Charity all raised their hands to try it, I encouraged them to write down the experiences they had and the things that they learned during the two weeks. Would you do the same? We would love to hear from you. Write us and let us know how it went. We would like to publish a few of them for the benefit of others. □

Spiritual Addictions

“...for as ye have yielded your members servants to uncleanness and to iniquity unto iniquity; even so now yield your members servants to righteousness unto holiness.”

Romans 6:19

by Paul D. Weaver

For most people, the word addiction will have a negative connotation, but there is evidence in the Bible that addiction can be a positive thing. The family of Stephanas is mentioned in I Corinthians as having addicted themselves to the ministry of the saints. How did they become addicted? What did they do to be recognized as addicted? Couldn't they keep themselves from ministering?

An addiction, according to the dictionary, is a “dependence on or commitment to a habit, practice, or habit-forming substance to the extent that its cessation causes trauma.” Can we in reality become addicted to righteousness to the extent that to cease being righteous would cause us trauma? Don't we want to be brought under the power of righteousness? (Romans 6:17-18) An addiction is a strong habit formed over time, by repeatedly doing the same thing. The first smoke or drink taken by someone is usually not overly pleasant, but the person is often pressured into it. As he repeats that action again and again, it becomes a habit, and slowly it becomes the ruling factor in the person's life. After a period of time, they are truly addicted, and cannot seem to help themselves. They are under the power of that addiction.

Isn't this a pattern that Christians should develop, but with righteousness? Should we not practice holiness again and again, until it becomes a habit, and even an addiction? What if we were truly “slaves to righteousness” and could not seem

to stop being righteous? Suppose you were so addicted to intercession you couldn't go a day without it? How about the “ministry of the saints” as mentioned above- suppose you couldn't really help yourself, you just automatically ministered wherever you went. Have you ever heard of someone addicted to supporting missions? It seems every dollar he earns goes for his addiction, even to the point of sacrificing some of the “comforts” of life. That is the way it can be for a drunkard, so could that not also be true of something far nobler? Imagine getting addicted to witnessing. Everywhere you go, the love of Christ pours out of your life, and affects others. Smokers don't seem to care what people say or think of them; they are just addicted, and they practice their habit everywhere. What about us? Does man intimidate us, or are we truly addicted to Christ?

A person addicted to a bad habit, especially drugs, will go through painful withdrawal symptoms if he suddenly ceases his habit. The only way to get the victory over the addiction is if his desire to quit is stronger than the desire to continue his addiction. Is it not a shame that we can so easily lose out on what should be our spiritual addictions? We can so easily go a day without prayer or witnessing or exhorting a brother, and feel no pain, no trauma at all. It's time we get under the influence of Jesus Christ, and follow hard after Him, to the point that we can't pass a day without serving Him in some way. Get addicted to prayer, to intercession, to praise, or to loving your brother. Should there not be something wrong if we go a day without prayer? There should be some withdrawal symptoms if we try to give up our habit. You can't just drop an addiction any day you feel like it. It takes effort. Why then can we drop our prayers or intercession or praise so easily?

The person addicted to alcohol will go through a lot to get to the bar where he can satisfy his craving. He won't let a little bad weather stop him. In fact, he might ride a bicycle or even walk several miles in the rain to feed his addiction. Are you that committed to assemble with believers? Would you go to those lengths to minister to the needy? Does the drunkard have more commitment than the Christian? Shall not we, who bear the name of Christ, be wholly devoted and committed to His cause? And yes, maybe even addicted? □

The Special Act of a Servant's Heart

by Sheryl Lapp

The beauty of life all surrendered to God—
A person who's walking the path Jesus trod,
In purity, freshness, and love all combined,
A heart that by God is being refined.

Gentleness, meekness, and joy all around
Peace and contentment flourish, abound
With willing hearts and sweet, loving touch,
We all remember our Lord Jesus as such.

Our cup is all empty of our own selfish dreams.
Abandoning it all we join the Lord's team.
We now are His servants to do and obey,
We hear His voice softly, "Here, this is the way."

Sometimes the Lord leads us through valleys deep;
The way is not easy and our hearts often weep,
But the way of the servant is enduring the cross,
For through all the trials God purges out dross.

Our blessed Lord Jesus, greatest Servant of all,
O, do we not hear His beckoning call?
"I've given my life...can you not give yours?
To be servants to people I bled and died for?"

"O, yes, dear Lord Jesus, I answer your voice,
I'll love and obey you, a servant by choice."
Addicted to service, wherever He calls—
I'll go where He bids me, with Him as my all.

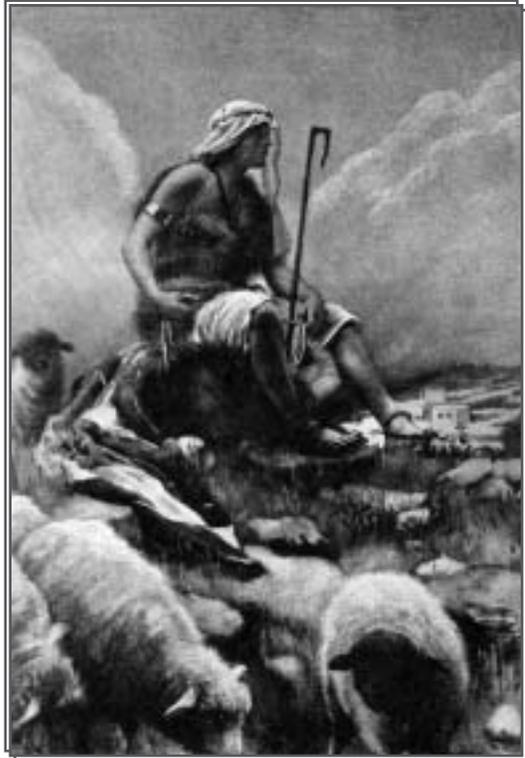
Rejoicing in Jesus, this life I embrace,
Knowing His power and infinite grace.
A life of true service is one of delight,
O'er shaded by love and kept by God's might.

Book Review

by Andrew Weaver

The Pursuit of God

by A.W. Tozer



Even before his death in 1963, A.W. Tozer was recognized by many as a twentieth century prophet. His fearless denunciation of apostasy and apathy in the Church made him a thorn in the side of those who were at ease in Zion, including many in his own denomination. He was not just a negative prophet of condemnation, however. *The Pursuit of God* is an example of his ability to denounce the ills of modern 'Christianity' while shining a positive light on the path of those Christians who hunger and thirst for God Himself. Of the more than forty books written by Tozer, *The Pursuit of God* continues to be the most widely read, and has proven to be a true Christian classic.

This subject was so important to A.W. Tozer that it was said he could forgive almost anything in a person as long as they had a pure desire after God. If details of Tozer's theology don't mesh with our own, we owe the same forbearance to him. His desire for God was passionate, and it shows in this book.

The Pursuit of God had an unusual birth. It was written during an all-night train trip from Chicago

to Texas in the late 1940's. Dr. Tozer's biographer says that Tozer literally wrote the book on his knees, racing to keep up with the flow of inspiration coming from his heart. God's Spirit inspiring that pen seems the only explanation for this book's enduring appeal to thirsty souls.

In his preface, Tozer explains that hearing and knowing the truths of the Bible and having correct doctrine are not enough. *It is not mere words that nourish the soul, but God Himself.... The Bible is not an end in itself, but a means to bring men to an intimate and satisfying knowledge of God.*

The first chapter laments the fact that for many people, the new birth is more of an end than a beginning. *Everything is made to center upon the initial act of "accepting" Christ, and we are not expected thereafter to crave any further revelation of God to our souls... It is, however, not an end but an inception, for now begins the glorious pursuit, the heart's happy exploration of the infinite riches of the Godhead. That is where we begin, I say, but where we stop no man has yet discovered, for there is in the awful and mysterious depths of the Triune God neither*

limit nor end... To have found God and still to pursue Him is the soul's paradox of love.

In other chapters he writes about the unbelief that clouds our vision of God. Although we acknowledge the reality of an unseen spiritual kingdom, it seems less real to us than the world we contact through our five senses. Naturally then, our faith is slow to reach out in confidence to an unseen God. But, as a chapter titled "The Universal Presence" shows, God is always near us. It is only our dim perception of Him that makes Him seem distant. *Our pursuit of God is successful just because He is forever seeking to manifest Himself to us. The revelation of God to any man is not God coming from a distance once upon a time to pay a brief and momentous visit to the man's soul... God is here... And always He is trying to get our attention, to reveal Himself to us, to communicate with us. We have within us the ability to know Him, if we will but respond to His overtures. (And we call this pursuing God!)*

Tozer defines the faith that is essential for pleasing God as the gaze of the soul, fixed perpetually upon God. *Now, if faith is the gaze of the heart at God, and if this gaze is but the raising of the inward eyes to meet the all-seeing eyes of God, then it follows that it is one of the easiest things to do. It would be like God to make the most vital thing easy and place it within the range of possibility for the poorest and weakest of us.... Someone may ask, "Is not this of which you speak for special persons such as monks or ministers*

who have, by the nature of their calling, more time to devote to meditation? I am a busy worker.... I am happy to say that the life I describe is for every one of God's children regardless of calling. It is, in fact, happily practiced every day by many hard working persons and is beyond the reach of none.

"Now, if faith is the gaze of the heart at God, and if this gaze is but the raising of the inward eyes to meet the all-seeing eyes of God, then it follows that it is one of the easiest things to do. It would be like God to make the most vital thing easy and place it within the range of possibility for the poorest and weakest of us...."

The final chapter "The Sacrament of Living" deplors the habit so many Christians have of separating their spiritual and secular life. They imagine that actions such as prayer or fasting please God, while He somehow dislikes the mundane things they must do in the course of a day. Tozer contrasts this idea with the blessedness of someone living in complete obedience to God's will; *Of such a one it may be said that every act of his life is or can be as truly sacred as prayer or baptism or the Lord's Supper. To say this is not to bring all acts down to one dead level; it is rather to lift every act up into a living kingdom and turn the whole life into a sacrament.... We must offer all our acts to God and believe that He accepts them.... Keep reminding God in our times of private prayer that we mean every act for His glory; then supplement those times by a thousand thought-prayers as we go about the job of living. Let us practice the fine art of making every work a priestly ministrations. Let us believe that God is in all our simple deeds and learn to find Him there.*

If you have an opportunity to read this inspiring book, take it, and I trust that God will bless its message to your heart and inspire you wholeheartedly to *The Pursuit of God*. □

The Pursuit of God by A.W. Tozer © 1993 Christian Publications, Inc.

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This book should be available through your local bookstore.

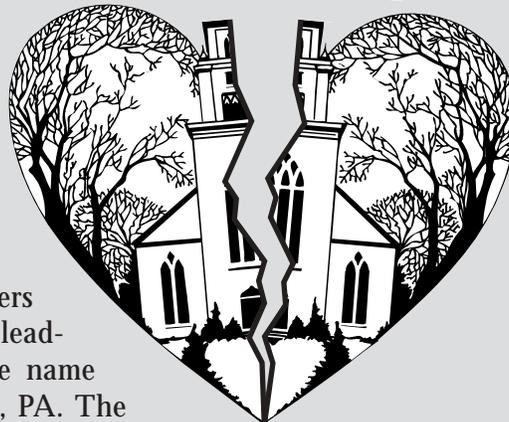
CHURCH DIVISION NOTICE

Did I get your attention on this one? I pondered the title and realized that probably everyone will read this little announcement. I am not sure of the motivation of all the readers, but I did want you all to read it.

About three months ago we divided Charity Christian Fellowship into two congregations. All of the elders and the brethren agreed that the church was getting too big. As a church grows in numbers there comes a point in its growth where the size hinders the growth in maturity. You begin to lose the more intimate fellowship that smaller groups allow. We felt we were at that stage, and it was time to divide and conquer.

Bro. Mose Stoltzfus and Bro. Rick Leibe are the two elders for the “new” church. Bro. Dean Stump is the deacon. These leaders and the brethren who went with them have chosen the name Ephrata Christian Fellowship and they are located in Ephrata, PA. The new address is: 400 W Main St, Ephrata PA 17522. This is about 10 miles northwest of Charity.

This is a good division and we are all looking forward to more growth because of it. There is a sad feeling that comes from time to time because we do not get to see each other as we use to, but we know this is part of Kingdom expansion. Pray for all of us as we seek to raise up churches that will glorify the Lord. –*The Editor*



Warnings about C.S. Lewis...

The following information was gleaned from an article found in the July/August issue of

The FCM Informer. I have never felt good about this author, C.S. Lewis, but could not tell you why. Something just didn't ring clear and true to me. I have cringed many times as I realized how many of God's people were reading hours and hours of his writings. Please beware of the dangers of allowing our children to read the fantasy stories that even the world are running after.

Lewis revealed his very loose view of Christianity in his Book *Mere Christianity*. He wrote, “*There are people in other religions who are being led by God's secret influence to concentrate on those parts of their religion which are in agreement with Christianity, and who thus belong to Christ without knowing it.*”

He converted to Anglicanism, and later even turned toward the Roman Catholic church. He went to a priest regularly for confession, and received extreme unction at his death in 1963.

He believed in purgatory, and in praying for the dead.

He did not believe in a literal Hell, the historicity of the Book of Job, or the inspiration of the Bible. He didn't believe in the depravity of man.

He believed in theistic evolution, which is a mixture of evolution and the Bible account of Creation.

There are dangerous implications concerning the occult in his Narnia series. This series makes up half of all his books sold each year. He spoke with deep respect for Pagan myths, and for the myths in the Holy Scripture.

Media Spotlight reported that *The Chronicles of Narnia* is recommended by the producers of *Dungeons and Dragons*.

Dear brothers and fathers, let us sanctify our libraries of all that would poison the precious pure minds of our children. –*The Editor*

Courtship Principles in Genesis

by Andrew Weaver

One proof of the divine inspiration of the Bible is the timeless quality of its content. These writings from an ancient culture that was vastly different from our own teach many important principles that are totally relevant to our modern society. For example, let's consider some principles of godly courtship from the story of Isaac and Rebekah. Although nearly four thousand years have passed since the events of Genesis 24 took place, the principles they teach us are still valid. First, we see...

A Godly Father's Involvement

Abraham must have been keenly aware of the events in Isaac's life and of the developments in his heart, for it was Abraham rather than Isaac who initiated the search for Isaac's wife. It may be that Isaac had not really sensed his own need yet when Abraham realized the time had come. But this undertaking was no haphazard afterthought on Abraham's part. It would have been far easier just to choose a local girl for Isaac, but Abraham wasn't



looking for the easiest route. He had received a promise that his descendants would be “as the sand of the seashore”, and he must have sensed that the kind of wife he found for Isaac might affect millions in future generations.

When his servant expressed doubt about being sent on such a search, Abraham was able to confidently tell him that the Lord would send an angel before him to prosper his journey. Apparently he had communicated with God about this matter, and so he was confident of His leading. It is very important to note that Abraham was known as the friend of God, so we can be sure that he heard from God before making this important decision. As a friend of God, Abraham had earned his son's trust, and Isaac apparently didn't try to interfere or control the search.

Blessed indeed is the young person whose father is involved in his/her courtship from its beginning, and twice-blessed if that father is a friend of God who has heard from heaven concerning his child's courtship. It is not good enough for an anxious father (or mother) to decide that the time has come for their children's marriage. It takes a friend of God to discern that word from the

Lord, and to act properly upon it. Fathers, you owe it to your children to become a friend of God and to learn to hear His voice. Otherwise, you will be poorly equipped to guide them, and might well end up manipulating circumstances according to your own human reasoning and plans. That would be a tragedy, for it would deprive your children of the blessing of...

God's Sovereign Marks

As Abraham's servant traveled, it soon became evident to him that God was involved in this search for Isaac's wife. There were too many sovereign marks of God throughout the whole process to be credited to coincidence. The servant was led to the right city, to the right well, on the right day, at the right time. There he prayed and asked God to reveal His will by an unmistakably sovereign mark. He would request a drink from the young ladies who came to the well, and if one of them offered to draw water for his ten camels also, he would know that to be Isaac's future wife.

This was not the gambling prayer of someone who was simply desperate to find the first willing girl. After all, he could have decided to take the first one that gave him a drink, or even the first one that smiled at him. But wanting to be very sure, he made the condition hard, and even quite unlikely, considering his long row of thirsty camels. But even before he could finish his prayer, God answered it clearly, and Rebekah began to draw water for all those camels. Still the servant waited, daring to hope for another of God's sovereign marks of confirmation. He got it when he asked Rebekah who she was, and found that she belonged to the very family he hoped to find. There could no longer be any doubt. God was in this, and it was meant to be.

Those sovereign marks that confirm God's leading are different for different people, but they are important. In a decision with eternal consequences, God's confirmation is needed before you dare proceed. Your marks may be less dramatic than the ones in this story, but they must be clear. God is not limited. Somehow He can make His will very clear. And His will includes...

A Bride Not of the World

Abraham had a clear vision of the kind of wife he wanted his son to marry. He refused to even consider any of the heathen women around them. Even in that ancient time, Abraham understood well the disastrous results of an unequal yoke, and he would not settle for the more convenient choice of an unmatched partner. Abraham himself had been called out of a heathen country to serve the true God, and he knew that Isaac was a son of promise who would be blessed by God also. What a tragedy it would have been to ruin the potential of that life with a godless companion.

That principle has not changed. Today, there are many young people who have taken a brave stand for holiness in their churches and youth groups, but now they are tempted to compromise in order to find a spouse. They feel far away and alone and think it is impossible for God to bring them the godly husband or wife they desire. They are tempted to give in to the peer pressure and take a partner of their own choosing. If you are such a young person, take courage from the story of Isaac and Rebekah. Even without the convenience of modern transportation or communication, God was able to bring together two people across a vast distance. And since God was so clearly the One orchestrating it, the bride quickly received...

The Blessing of the Parents

No courtship is complete without the parents' blessing, and that blessing is especially remarkable in this story. Consider the account from the perspective of Rebekah's parents. One evening she was sent to the well as usual to fetch water, and returned wide-eyed and breathless with the exciting news that she had met a servant of their faraway relative Abraham. The servant was promptly invited to lodge at their house, and he must have shocked them all with the story of his errand and God's supernatural leading. Acknowledging God's hand in all the events, the family said, "The thing proceeds from the Lord...take her and go." It is interesting to note that they apparently made their decision solely on the basis of God's clear leading. There is no record of any critical analysis of Isaac's

life and character, although that would surely have been reasonable enough.

The next morning the servant asked permission to take Rebekah and return immediately to his master. Rebekah's mother protested, asking for at least ten more days with her daughter. It seems a fair request. After all, it was almost certain that they would never see her again. But the servant appealed, and when Rebekah expressed her willingness to go immediately, her family blessed her and sent her away. They must have been stunned by the sudden shock of it all. One evening their life was calm and peaceful, following a familiar routine. Apparently they didn't even know that Isaac existed. The next morning, possibly as little as twelve hours later, they willingly sent Rebekah out of their lives forever, to be the wife of that stranger.

Parents, you can relax. The important principle here is not the speedy process, but the parents' willingness to agree to God's unmistakable direction. I do believe God expects you to be very prudent and careful before giving your blessing to a courtship, but once God's will is clear, is there any real value in withholding your blessing?

Rebekah's family released her with no strings attached. It must have been difficult, but in view of God's evident will, it was the right thing to do. Parents, one of the most valuable gifts you can give to your children is simply the release and liberty that they need from you in order to establish their own home. That freedom and blessing from her parents made it possible for Rebekah to be...

A Bride That Forsook All for Her Husband

If Rebekah's family was left stunned by the dramatic turn of events, just imagine how she herself must have felt. One day she was cheerfully performing her usual duties in service to her family. Suddenly her life changed forever when she generously offered to do an unusual favor for a tired stranger at the well. The next morning she was riding away on a camel, leaving her family and friends forever for an unknown future as the wife of an unknown man. The only reason she could take such a dramatic step was that God's leading

was unmistakably clear to her, too. She must have felt amazed and unworthy as she realized that God knew her personally and had been preparing her all along to be the wife of Isaac.

When the servant begged to leave the very morning after meeting Rebekah, her family decided to leave the decision to her. She was called in and asked, "Wilt thou go with this man?" and her immediate reply was, "I will go." How much is contained in those three words! It was a promise to forsake all that was familiar and dear to her, and a lifelong commitment to someone she didn't even know yet. Somehow I think Rebekah hadn't slept much the night before. She must have faltered at the thought of leaving her family and homeland forever, but no doubt as she pondered the mysterious, perfect ways of God, she knew that she could trust Him for an unknown and unknowable future. The sovereign marks of God removed any doubt, and once she was fully convinced of God's will, she wasted no time playing coquettish games of hard-to-get. She gave her full consent to God's leading, and put her faith in action. God rewarded her with...

A Consecrated Young Man

We can only imagine the thoughts, dreams, anticipations, apprehensions, and questions that must have filled Rebekah's mind during that long journey on the back of a camel. The servant's description of Isaac that first night was very sketchy, at best. The Bible doesn't even record whether Rebekah knew the name of her future husband before agreeing to forsake all for him. Did she ever wonder as she traveled whether she had acted too rashly? Did she ever wish to turn back to the familiar routine of a comfortable life with her family? No doubt she spent many hours thinking, wondering, and asking the servant questions about the man she was to marry.

And what about Isaac? How anxiously he must have watched for the return of that camel train! Surely the days passed slowly for him as he waited, wondering whether God had prospered the search for his wife. And how did he pass the time spent in waiting? He walked in the fields at

continued on page 28

The Death of a Nation



by Richard Yerby

I want to tell you a little story. It is a true story and we will not change the names to protect the innocent, because no one in the story is innocent.

Once upon a time there was a country. Long, long ago it was inhabited by Indians who lived a very primitive life. At that time there were no cities, towns, factories, or stores in that nation. But as time passed, this land was discovered by people from different countries. Eventually these people started to migrate to the new country where the Indians lived and settled down there.

The first ones who came from the old country were mostly God-fearing people who came to gain religious freedom. They found that the primitive life there was extremely hard and rugged. They had to carve an existence out of undeveloped land. They battled the elements of nature, living in crude shelters. They worked hard to grow crops, hunt, fish, and gather berries, nuts, and fruits that were growing wild. They got their food from nature. They battled hostile Indians and fought off wild beasts to stay alive. There were many diseases and sicknesses, which often shortened their life. But the rough life made them a tough, strong people.

They found the new land to be a very rich land; a land flowing with milk and honey, and abounding with natural resources. Those pioneer-

spirited people dreamed great dreams about developing that country. They carved out towns from woods and grassy meadows. They pushed westward. Soon, many more people began to join them from the old countries across the ocean, so that the trickle of people coming in became a great stream of immigrants.

Because many of these were God-fearing people, God blessed and prospered them. As God did so, they slowly came to have some leisure time and the means to enjoy some of the pleasures of the new life they were building in the new country. At first it was very little leisure and very few pleasures. The first common pleasure was simply that of eating the good food they were able to grow on the land. As they worked hard, the rich land yielded an abundance of food. So it was only natural that the people should begin to enjoy it. They seemed to be unaware that there was a hidden danger in this pleasure, and that they must exercise great care when partaking of it.

Developing this primitive land was very slow and difficult at first. But as time passed it really picked up speed. Steam was fired through the paddleboats to push them up and down the rivers, and it was fired through large, iron locomotives to push them down the newly laid rails. With that, the pace of life shifted gears to run much faster. From the east, those daring pioneers pushed out into the

central and western areas. Towns grew into cities. Stores, factories, and shops were built.

As time passed, people became more prosperous. As they did, more pleasures began to enter their lives. However, eating and drinking were still the most common pleasures for them. The first settlers ate mostly food that nature provided; berries, nuts, roots, fish, and animals taken from the land. Soon they began to farm the land and grow fruits and vegetables. Most of those foods were highly nutritious and were eaten to nourish and strengthen the body. But as stores and shops began to appear, food was sold in them. These stores came to have a small variety of sweets, candies, and other delicacies that are eaten solely for the pleasure derived from eating them. As these became more common, another giant step was taken in the direction of eating for pleasure.

Throughout the nineteenth century, this country was rapidly changing and “progressing.” Regrettably, there were wars, battles, conflicts, and various problems. But each new day seemed to bring greater prosperity than ever before. The nation reached its “manifest destiny,” extending from the East Coast to the West Coast. As this happened and as prosperity continued, gradually the dinner and supper tables in many houses became more heavily laden at each meal. People were no longer struggling, fighting pioneers. They had more time to sit down to eat and drink. Now they also had leisure time to rise up and play after they ate and drank. Subtle danger was lurking much closer, but it seems as though no one was aware of it. After all, what harm could there be in sitting down to eat and drink? Hasn’t God given us these good things to enjoy?

Then as the twentieth century rolled onto the scene, life began to change more rapidly than ever before. The industrial age gave birth to many new machines and gadgets. Around the turn of the century the whole world was shocked, amazed, and changed completely, by the birth of one of its biggest “babies”. The century opened by rolling

out the automobile, and life would never be the same again.

Towns and cities were becoming more numerous and growing larger. People began a slow exodus from the country to the city, and that exodus grew every year. City life meant that a larger variety of foods were available for people to eat. At that time, country living typically meant eating mostly what food you could grow on your farm. On the occasional trips to the town, store, or junction, other staple foods were bought, loaded onto the wagon, and brought home.

Bins, boxes, and barrels containing sugar drops, peppermint, and other candies were becoming more common in the general store. On the rare trip to town or to the store, the children waited, hoped, and often got treated to a piece or two of the candy by their parents. How they would look forward with excitement to the infrequent trips and dream about that candy during long, uneventful days of country life. They sure did wish they could have the candy to eat all the time. Sadly, they were unaware of the fact that it was good for them to be estranged from their lusts frequently.

The twentieth century ushered in vast and deep changes that had never been known before in human life. It brought an end to much of what had been a part of human life from the time the world began. The automobile also added many new pleasures to human life. The Sunday drive became a favorite pastime of many people, as they acquired the newly invented cars. Also the use of the car and the trucking industry that was coming along to transport goods, made it much easier for people to have access to a greater variety of foods to prepare meals for banqueting and feasting.

Another discovery gave us something else that was shocking and exciting. One day a man got a shock while flying a kite, and the world will never recover from this shock. Most of the lifestyle known by man from the beginning of time, became ancient history almost overnight. Soon wires were being strung to run electricity into homes, and new

“Behold, this was the iniquity of thy sister Sodom; pride, fulness of bread, and abundance of idleness was in her and in her daughters, neither did she strengthen the hand of the poor and needy. And they were haughty, and committed abomination before me: therefore I took them away as I saw good.”

Ezekiel 16:49-50

inventions of convenience were made. One of these was the refrigerator. These new machines made it convenient for people to stock and store much more food in their home. Perishable food could be kept for some time in the refrigerator and that greatly changed people's eating habits, and changed what they ate.

As more families began to acquire an automobile, it was much easier to go to town or to the store more often, load up with goods, and bring them back and store them in the refrigerator. This enabled people to satisfy their lust for eating more often. This helped them not to be estranged from their lust. They could stock up on goodies that once before were a treat only when they went to town. But now these treats were often waiting for them in their own home, anytime they cared to partake of them.

Life began picking up at a much faster pace as the twentieth century rolled on. World War I shook much of the known world at that time, and affected this nation immensely. But when the war was over the people quickly recovered, and the gay twenties brought unthinkable excitement and fun. Life was getting filled with so much pleasure. As the pace of life increased, some people who loved their God began to be alarmed that numbers of people were turning away from God, and finding pleasure in numerous other things.

But then the depression years of the thirties took a lot of color out of the life that had been so gay just a decade before. Maybe God was trying to get their attention. And just as recovery from the depression began to come, suddenly much of the activities of normal life had to be set aside as almost every citizen joined in, in some way or another, to help win another world war. That war helped usher in an industrial revolution that shifted the pace of living into what seemed to be the highest gear possible. The nation will never be the same because of the age that was ushered in after World War II.

Speeding around the curve into the decade of the 1950's, it seemed like so many new things were

popping up on the scene. Years before, electricity had brought on the radio and it was finding its way into most homes. The pleasure that it gave became an idol in many hearts. But its power to turn people away from God was nothing compared to that of the two evil monsters that soon found their way out of Hell and followed it. When one of the baby monsters was born, it could not speak for several years. Still, crowds flocked out just to watch it move. Then, when it got old enough to speak, the moving pictures stole the hearts of millions more. That monster's sister followed soon. It was a one-eyed monster, a big idol that the people would place in a prominent place in their home and bow down to it and worship it with undivided attention for several hours each day. People gave their time,

attention, and heart to it more than they had ever given them to God.

New pleasures were being "invented" almost daily, at a rate like never before. They were vying for the people's hearts, each one trying to woo followers to it. But even among so many pleasures, the pleasure of eating never seemed to take second place.

Advertising in magazines and newspapers enticed people to buy all kinds of "new" foods. Commercials on the radio and television kept urging people to eat, eat, eat. Grocery stores were turning into supermarkets with long rows of vast shelves, which held every food that could be imagined. People were now often using machines to do work which before had to be done by hand. This gave the people more leisure time. They used this leisure many different ways, but often it was used for picnics and barbecues. They were preparing more food and eating more food, and just enjoying the pleasure of eating.

As the pace of life so rapidly increased during the 1950's, those who loved God were aware that something was going wrong with the nation. They saw that new sins and new problems were creeping in. For years Paris had been steadily growing in its influence to set the style for the way people dressed. Now more and more people were consulting the fashion magazines to get their standard

"For when I shall have brought them into the land which I swear unto their fathers, that floweth with milk and honey; and they shall have eaten and filled themselves and waxen fat; then will they turn unto other gods, and serve them, and provoke me, and break my covenant."

Deuteronomy 31:20

“For many walk who are enemies of the cross of Christ; whose end is destruction, whose God is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things.”

Philippians 3:19

of dress, rather than consulting the Bible. People began to look to the world to see how they should live their life instead of looking to God and His Word. Those who did not attend church and did not follow God seemed to be increasing in numbers. Godly preachers became alarmed because the nation was beginning to rapidly turn from God. The best of the preachers would preach against movies, television and the other new gods that the devil was offering to the people. It is wonderful that they did that. But still, almost everyone was blind to the greatest idol, which had come on the scene first and opened up the way for all these others. That was the idol of eating and drinking for pleasure. The people were now “playing” with numerous new idols. But they had sat down to eat and to drink for many years before they rose up to play.

It must have been in the 1950's that another very deadly serpent slithered its way into the country, and began to multiply. It made its way into every area it could to spread its deadly poison. The monster of rock music came into the country and caused almost an entire generation of fine young people, our hope for tomorrow, to sell their souls to the devil.

The 1950's saw many people become affluent in so many ways they had never known before. Much of the population gained more wealth and buying power than they had ever thought to be possible. They were able to buy radios, televisions, cars, new homes, and other gadgets to make a most comfortable life. They began to live in pleasure like never before, with plenty of leisure time to use for their own self. Vast numbers of the population began to live only for this world and the things of this world, completely putting God out of their lives. They began to set their eyes on the things of this world and set great goals in their life. In doing so, they made a fatal mistake.

They set their affections on things and neglected one of the most precious gifts that God had given them, their children. They neglected to give them the teaching they needed in the home,

because now there were more exciting things to do, like watch TV. They neglected to be parents to them as they should. As they entered the 1960's, they were shocked to discover that they had reared a generation of young adults who wanted to rebel against the lifestyle of their parents. Multitudes of that generation of young people were lost to the hippie movement and other similar movements.

The affluent life that so many had begun to enjoy in the 1950's had really taken its toll, and the change in family eating habits was at the top of the list of things that were destroying home life. It had been typical for the rural family in America to eat three meals a day together as a family. It was the exception rather than the rule if all of the family did not gather together for all three meals. The women of the house usually had to take great pains to prepare each of these meals for the family. But during the 30's, 40's, and 50's, the people of this country were rapidly migrating from the rural areas into the towns and cities. Their lives began to change a lot, and one of the greatest changes was their eating habits.

City life seemed to make it harder for the family to come together for the morning meal. It seemed that Dad had to eat earlier than anyone else, so he could get off to work. The children ate a little later and then went to school. And mother often sat down to eat by herself after everyone was gone. During school vacation, often the children got out of the habit of eating breakfast regularly. After sleeping late, instead of having a hot meal, they would munch on cold cereal or a piece of toast. Also it was less frequent that the family was able to get together for the noon meal. The breadwinner was usually away from home at noontime.

In many homes, Mother came to take on a job, so often she was not there at noon. The children soon became accustomed to making their own sandwich and eating alone. Even the evening meal, which should be a time for the family to get together, was destroyed. This meal slowly moved from the kitchen table to little trays in the living room, where each person sat down in front of the

one-eyed monster. Instead of talking with each other, they turned to letting the monster entertain them while they ate. They quickly came to love this false god so much that they just wanted to worship it all the time. The increase in restaurants and fast food parlors quickly stepped in to finish off the family table.

In the 60's, affluence rose at an unprecedented pace. New pleasures were cropping up every day to claim people's attention. So this nation found that it was faced with many new sins it had never been faced with before. It was faced with problems completely unknown in the past. This nation that, a few years ago, had sat down to eat and drink was now rising up to do nothing but play. Life seemed to be providing so many new pleasures, that now the people never had to be estranged from their lust. So they were doing all they could to satisfy all the different lusts of their flesh. They discovered that as they did this, the things that satisfied their lust yesterday would not satisfy their lust today. It always seemed to take more pleasure than was required yesterday, to satisfy them.

As this progression continued, more of the things that were offered to the people to satisfy their lust, were sinful things. The earlier pleasures and delights satisfied them less and less all the time, so that something stronger, something deeper, something more intense, was required to satisfy these lusts. The people who had once found pleasure in partaking of food and non-alcoholic drink to satisfy the lust of their bodies, now were turning to alcoholic drink to satisfy these lusts. Drunkards rapidly increased in numbers, multiplying the problems such sinners cause for everyone around. More began to use tobacco. And in the sixties, the drug culture came on the scene as people began to use strong drugs to stimulate the body.

In the early 1900's, rising up to play was ever on the increase. At that time, this playing may have consisted largely of going out for a Sunday drive, taking a walk, or playing some kind of simple sports. But that gradually began to change and there came to be more places for people to go and

play. There were dances and social gatherings. The local hangout for the young people in the fifties saw them gathering around the jukebox and dropping in a nickel to spin their favorite tunes. They learned to love the movies at the local theater. They were now following after so many pleasures. They rose up to play more and more, and the play became less and less innocent. The dance halls slowly became places of gross immorality. What was seen at the movie houses yesterday would not satisfy the lust of the flesh today, so it had to be more exciting, more violent, and more immoral, until finally these places were just spewing out immorality and sin. Places where young people would hang out began to offer more sinful things for them, until almost none of the places could be classified as innocent, by any standard.

Moving through the 60's and on into the 70's, this nation saw such horrible atrocities as mothers and doctors murdering unborn children. Political leaders joined in on the murder by making it legal. Perverted homosexuals came out of the closets, and every perverted sin that could be imagined began to be displayed before the people as much as possible. Booze flowed like a mighty river of destruction. One other thing that characterized this generation was the fact that they were almost never estranged from their lust of eating. The refrigerator at home was always full, to offer food desired at any time. Coffee breaks were common,

along with snacks, treats, fancy meals, and in between meals. This people had become a nation that ate all the time.

Radio, television, the car, other new inventions, new conveniences, and new gadgets had come into their lives, and allowed them to almost never be estranged from their lust. As they enter the 1980's, with mental, nerve, and heart problems ever on the increase, they still want to press on to newer and more exciting things. Some faint voices in the wilderness yell, "Danger!" and predict that this rat race will soon bring destruction. They call Rome and Greece to remembrance. But the warning is drowned out by the roar of pleasure-mad people

*"But Jeshurun waxed fat, and kicked: thou art waxen fat, thou art grown thick, thou art covered with fatness; then he forsook God which made him, and lightly esteemed the Rock of his salvation."
Deuteronomy 32:15*

and their pleasure-making machines. We leave them here and expect to soon witness their fate.



The End

Greetings brethren, this is Brother Denny. Don't get mad, don't overreact, calm down if this little story troubles you. I only ask you to stop and think about it with an open heart. He has a very good point. We are not saying that a car is evil, or that electricity has ruined our nation. However, we must keep all of these new inventions in proper Biblical order. That which

was made to be our servant can easily become our master if we do not walk with God and live in discernment.

Let me make a few comments on the sin of gluttony. This sin is so accepted in our land that millions of people, even Christians, stuff themselves proudly and think nothing of it. Church members boast about how much food the preacher can put away (God forbid). Many are laughingly eating themselves into leanness of soul. I for one am glad for this brother's boldness to write about this sin. There are so many verses in the Bible on this subject that we could never list them all because of space. I challenge you to take a concordance and look up a few words on this subject. Try these words: fat, fullness, filled, eat, gluttony, belly, etc. Consider the verses spread throughout the article to stimulate you into a deeper study of God's word on this subject.

This little story was taken from a book written by Richard Yerby, A Little Reviving. Richard is a missionary in Japan. He has some strong views, but let us remember that missionaries face many things we don't even dream of. □

continued from page 22, Courtship Principles in Genesis by Andrew Weaver

evening, meditating and communing with God. For Isaac was a consecrated young man, not wasting his time in amusements, nor striving to become wealthy, yet not uselessly idling the time away. The story of Isaac's near death on Mt. Moriah reveals a deep respect for his father. He had learned to accept his father's authority, and now God was prepared to validate his authority as a leader in his new home.

God blessed the faith and obedience of this young couple by orchestrating the ideal meeting between them—one final, sovereign mark of His approval. Rebekah's first glimpse of her future husband must have filled her with confidence and reassured her of God's perfect guidance. For as Rebekah arrived, Isaac was meditating, meeting with God, no doubt praying about his coming responsibilities as a husband. What a perfect way for those young people to meet! And within moments of their meeting, Isaac knew that he had been rewarded for his trust and obedience with the gift of..

A Pure and Modest Bride

As soon as Rebekah realized that she was about to meet the man she had come so far to marry, she veiled herself, as was fitting for a pure, modest bride. She did not take God's unmistakable leading as an excuse for being too bold or eager. With shy modesty, she waited for Isaac to hear from the servant the whole miraculous story of God's divine leading. The Bible emphasizes the fact that Rebekah was a pure virgin, and no doubt that was one of the reasons God chose her for Isaac, the son of promise. And Isaac, as he sensed this "shamefaced sobriety" knew that she was the perfect wife for him. She had kept herself for him alone, long before she knew for whom it was that she was keeping herself pure. Against all odds, God had brought them together, and with Him planning it, of course they were perfectly suited for each other.

This beautiful story ends with one beautiful little phrase that tells us all we really need to know: "and he loved her." □

A Sister's Hunger for God

“*O* **taste and see that the Lord is good: blessed is the man that trusteth in Him” Ps 34:8.** I was born and raised in Lancaster county PA. My parents were Amish, and I grew up the same. I became a religious person—religious without knowing Christ. God had to show me that my own righteousness is as filthy rags in His sight. I had to learn that, *“It is not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration and the renewing of the Holy Ghost” Titus 3:5.*

Hunger for Salvation

God began to work in my life after three of my sisters and one brother were born again. Their new life in Christ caused me to question, “What is truth?” and “Which church is right?” The Lord kept bringing to my mind John 14:6, *“I am the way, the truth, and the life. No man cometh unto the Father but by Me.”* I started to see that no church can save me; only Jesus can give me eternal life. One day one of my sisters explained God’s glorious plan of salvation to me. She

helped me to see that I must come to God as an individual, repenting of all my sins, and accept Jesus Christ as my personal Savior. Then I would be born again and receive a new life. I knew that day that I had never done anything like that. I realized that I knew about Jesus, but I didn’t know Him. That day in 1975, I opened my heart to Him to follow Him and to let Him cleanse me. God saved me by His mercy and kindness, and His presence became a reality to me. Praise the Lord.

Hunger Through Trials

Life as a Christian has not always been easy, but I have tasted of the Lord, and I long for more of Him. I want to know of His ways, and walk in His Spirit. In John 7:7 Jesus said, *“If any man thirst, let him come unto Me and drink.”* God is a fountain of living water, and I find my heart coming again and again to drink of Him. My heart often unites with the words of Paul in Phil. 3, *“that I may know Him...”* My deepest desire still is to know Him in His fullness, being led by His Spirit. Moment by moment kept in His

love; moment by moment led from above.

The Lord has used the trials of my life and my own failures to teach me to seek Him more. I have learned that in me, that is in my flesh, dwelleth no good thing. I need something more than traditions, rules, regulations, and the religions of men. Through my many needs God has brought me to see my continual need of a relationship with the person of Jesus Christ. When I allow Him, He lives His life through me and writes His laws upon my heart. At a time in my life when I hardly had any fellowship with other believers, I was pressed to seek close fellowship with God. Crying out to my Lord, I learned that times alone with Jesus satisfy like nothing else can. His presence satisfies the longing soul.

Helps to Hunger

Giving attention to reading has helped me continue seeking after God. Reading the Word and seeing what the early Christians were like has made me long for more of Jesus. I long for more of the Holy Spirit that I might be one of those over comers we read about in the Bible. Another book that has stirred my longing heart many times is Deeper Experiences of Famous Christians. This book gives short accounts of many believers who were led by God into a baptism of grace that changed their lives forever. An endowment of power, a filling of the Spirit was granted to them as they sought God for more of Himself. One of the books featured in the book



MINISTRY OUTLOOK:

*Dry,
Shriveled
Seeds or
Mature,
Productive
Plants?*



by Daniel Kenaston

Greetings of Christ's love to each of you our partners and helpers in the work here! I trust that this article finds you walking under an open channel of God's blessing in your life and feasting repeatedly at the table He spreads for us daily. We are continually amazed at how perfectly the Lord meets our every need by what he puts on our spiritual table each day. He truly customizes our diet to just what our spirits need and balances every day's meals so that we can continue to walk in a steady forward climb up the path that He

daily reveals to us. In so many ways He provides just what we are hungry for, just like a loving Father, and we surely are grateful for His loving care!

I realized as I began writing this that it has been 3 months since we wrote last and I want to take a few lines here to fill you in on our activities during this time. Shortly after the last article (written the end of May), we left Bunbonayili and headed south for our missionary retreat in Kumasi. Our days there were filled with hearing inspiring messages and lots of deep heart sharing about the

difficulties and problems that we are facing at each of our stations. The fellowship with the rest of our missionaries here is always a blessing to us and in some ways fills in the void created by being so far away from all of our families. We headed on down to Accra (the capital) after the retreat and worked on getting more paperwork through for Abigail so that when we flew back to the states all three of us could go. Christy said that Abigail looks so much like us that everyone would know she was ours, and I certainly agree, but that is not enough to satisfy the immigration authorities of Ghana or America, so we got all of her documents in order to prove that she is truly OURS!

We left Ghana on June 20 and returned on August 2, spending about 6 lovely, busy weeks with our families in the states, and meeting as many of you, our dear friends, as we were able. It was a real time of refreshing for our spirits, to receive so much love in such a short time from our families, and to sense the high degree of support that we have from so many of you through your prayers and interest in our lives and tribe. We enjoyed every moment of our time spent state-side, but this is undoubtedly home right now, and we are glad to be back here in Bunbon to resume our life and ministry in this area. We came back one stronger than we left, as my brother Samuel joined us on our return trip and will minister with us during the next few months.

That brings us to where we are now—thankful for our time in the states, but happy to be back with our tribe. God’s goodness in every different circumstance we face is so amazing, and we have found Him to be equally faithful in every change, whether through wisdom for the challenges of our ministry here or by coaching us through our first visit back to America! We praise Him for his steadfast love!

“And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.” Galatians 6:9

“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.” Psalms 126:5,6

“The seed is the word of God...But that on the good ground are they, which in an honest and good heart, having heard the word, keep it, and bring forth fruit with patience.” Luke 8:11b, 15

We returned to Bunbonayili right in the middle of the farming season, and all around us are fields of peanuts, corn, and cotton. It is especially so this year as this is the year for “Linampal aakom”. Every couple years the chief of each village calls for what we call ‘backyard gardening’, which means that for the upcoming farming season the animals which normally roam all around the houses must be tied up, enabling the people to plant

the land right around their houses. In the in-between years, this land lies fallow while everyone plants their farms in the traditional pattern which calls for farms to be at least a half mile away from the houses, allowing for the free grazing of the village animals. The yield from the farming done close to the houses is generally very good, both because the land is allowed to rest and because of all the natural fertilizer spread by the animals during the two years they graze on it.

Planting is something that is in our blood, probably from our parents because they were always so enthusiastic about



doing it when we were growing up. I can remember the many hours I spent pouring over the seed catalogs in the dead of winter, dreaming of the garden we would plant as soon as the soil was warm enough. It is so fulfilling to put all of the little seeds into the ground and then watch as the shoots start popping up a few days later. It is true that as a boy I sometimes grew tired of the weeding and cultivating, but now all of those difficulties are forgotten and what still remains is a great love for gardening. So, a few days after we settled into life back here in Bunbon, Christy and I got the seeds out of the storage

room and started planting our own little backyard garden. For many reasons unknown to us, very few of the seeds we bring over from America grow well here, some never even germinating, but that has yet to discourage us from at least trying.

I am sure that we are all familiar with the idea of ministry being compared to planting seeds, and the verses above should make it clear that God uses the comparison in His word, but God has brought this home to us in a new way during the last weeks as we have faced some challenges to our faith regarding our labors here. I mentioned above that we did some planting, and it was while we were planting that Christy made a comment to me that became the catalyst which God has used a score of times since to challenge my faith. She was watching me look through the stack of little seed packets, and she mentioned to me how that when we plant seeds, we hardly even consider how the seeds look; our only thought is what the mature plant will look like. We went on to discuss how that no one tries to sell seeds by putting a picture of the seeds on the package. Rather they picture in their advertisements what people are thinking about when they plant—the final product. Beautiful photos adorn the outside of every packet, but every one shows the end goal of a lovely plant loaded with fruit!

Because of all that we were already facing on the ministry side, the spiritual application to these thoughts spoke into my heart immediately, and contin-

ues to do so. During our time in the states it appears that Satan attempted to destroy all that God has been doing here through bringing in confusion, relationship difficulties, and a general cooling off of spiritual fervor. Coming back to face all of this has stretched our faith once again as we seek to hold on to the spiritual reality that God IS planting His church here and will continue to do so even when it feels like Satan is gaining ground again. It is not that everything is in shambles, but I think just facing the reality of how quickly Satan moved in to destroy and how consistently he labors against the church here has sobered us. It has made us draw more deeply from the well of faith that is in God's Word for strength to look and work toward the future picture of the church that we see in the Bible.

I think by now the application is obvious, but what I have seen as I've meditated on this physical/spiritual correlation in the past days is this: planting is by its very nature a work of faith, and when faith is absent or weak, the work of planting and waiting for growth becomes impossible. Now I doubt that you ever thought of gardening as a project requiring faith, and I can't say that I have either, but think with me; follow the thought processes that we all have when planning, planting, and cultivating those little seedlings. If we did not somehow believe that the little shriveled seeds that we drop in the ground would someday become the lovely plants we see on the

package, and did not also believe that the work we are doing contributes to that final success, we would not invest our time and energy to plant and care for the little seeds. But we do believe in the success of the seeds we plant, so we labor, not thinking of how difficult the work is or regarding just how tiny and dried out the seeds are. We think instead of the beautiful plants that will grow out of these seeds and of the abundance of fruit that these plants will one day bear. To think of these things while putting in the ground the shriveled pebbles we call seeds is nothing but pure faith!



In the same way, God has called Christy and me here to plant, not corn or tomatoes, but the seed of his Word in the human heart, most specifically Konkomba hearts. These seeds are not unlike the ones we plant in the soil each spring, for they look just as tiny and insignificant and seem hardly connected in any way to the future mature church that God has promised us in His Word. Some of these seeds that we have planted with prayer have sprouted, and in many we are beginning to see a resemblance to what we believe they will one day become. But there are many others seeds which have either

not yet sprouted or have sprouted out such a tiny shoot that it takes real faith to believe that they will one day become the luscious plants that have been our goal as we prayed, planned, and planted.

Sometimes as we gaze on the 'garden' the Lord has given us responsibility for, we slip out of faith, and our work quickly seems so useless and ineffective, and Satan is always at our ear suggesting that we give up. We have been there a few times in the couple of weeks since we began ministering here again, but our Father, who oversees the whole farm, continues to draw our hearts upward to walk moment by moment in faith. He is encouraging us, and we are slowly learning to look not at the shriveled seeds or tiny shoots for what they are now, but to look at them from the perspective of faith, which sees the true potential that lies within them. We are going back again and again to the 'seed catalog' (God's Word) to look at the lovely pictures and dream of what we believe will one day be a reality even here for the seeds we have planted. We are dreaming, but we are not day dreaming, for there is work to do to see this God-given vision from His word become a reality in Konkomba hearts and villages! The beautiful picture we have seen in God's Word of a mature, prolific church is not only possible, but we believe in faith that it is a reality in progress among our people here!

As I close out these thoughts, it is our prayer that by sharing some of the struggles

we are facing, your heart will be drawn to pray for us in these areas. We desire to keep on in the work God sent us here to do, that of planting God's Word and caring for the little seedlings that make up the Konkomba church. But, as I mentioned above, this is faith work, and without faith we cannot continue to labor, so we desire your prayers for us that God would keep lifting our eyes to look from His perspective and for the grace to make the daily choice to walk by faith not by sight. In sharing a little of the way that God has

refreshed and lifted our spirits, we desire to give glory to our caring Father Who cares for us so consistently. We also hope



that the thoughts of planting seeds in faith with our eye on the end goal will also minister to your spirit as you labor with us here in faith and wherever

else God has called you to tend His field. We are so thankful for each of you and your labors on our behalf! We remain here, happily doing God's work among our people, but also quite obviously still taking classes in God's school of faith. Thank you for joining our classroom for the past moments by reading this article!

*Just planting seeds
and tending seedlings,
Daniel & Christy Kenaston
and family*



continued from page 29, A Sister's Hunger for God by Miriam Fisher

reviews was a great help to me
continued on page 33
several years ago: The School of Christ by T. Austin Sparks. This book helped me to yield to the loving hands of God as He purified me. I could identify with the main theme of the book, how God has us in a school to form Christ in us. This often happens when we are in adverse circumstances. As I read, I got a glimpse of God's purpose in this school: more of Jesus, more of His likeness, more of His image and presence in my life. Once again I found myself crying out to God, "Yes, Lord, yes, I want more of you."

The Fruit of Hunger

More of Christ in reality in the inner man—this is growth. I

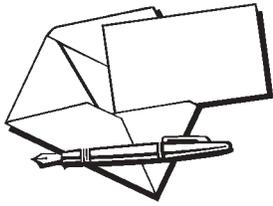
have learned that the true spiritual life for which we thirst will never be found in things. Doctrines, rules, even knowledge of the Bible, as good as that may be, will not satisfy the deep longing of the heart. True life is found in Jesus, the Holy Spirit revealing Christ to us in a way that meets our need. God brings us into those difficult situations in order to make a place for the Lord Jesus in us in a deeper way—more of His love, His strength, His endurance, whatever our need is at the time. Some of my sweetest times with my Lord Jesus have been, and still are, times when I'm facing a battle, something I can't handle on my own.

Hunger for Others

As I have drawn nearer and

nearer to the Lord, my heart has gone out to others. O that others could know the sweetness of the Lord. One of my deepest prayer burdens has been for my own people. Like Paul said of Israel, I say of the dear Amish people, "...my heart's desire and prayer to God...is that they might be saved. For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge. For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God." (Rom. 10:1-3) It saddens my heart to see them going about doing many religious things, but they don't know Him, which is the essence of true Christianity. I long to see God complete His work in me. I long to see Him revive the church which is His body, to meet the needs of

thirsting souls around the world
as Isaiah says, *“I will pour water
on him who is thirsty, and floods
upon dry ground...”* (Is. 44:3) ◻



Precious Letters from Our Readers

We, the publishers of The Remnant magazine, want to give a big, hearty “**Thank You**” to all of you who expressed your support of the ministry of printing The Remnant. We are encouraged to say the least. Below is a very small example of the letters we have received from you. Keep them coming, even if you have some constructive criticism, we want to hear that also. We are very new at this kind of ministry and consider all that is written. I personally read all the letters that are sent, and we hope to move into more two-way correspondence as the Lord provides a secretary.

-The Editor

We enjoy the Remnant very much and find many of the articles encouraging and helpful in remaining faithful to God and living a separated lifestyle when many people we know feel separation is not necessary. God bless your ministry!

Middletown, PA

Super magazine! Your articles are great! They are not fast reading—meant to be digested slowly and applied to your life. I can tell a lot of thought goes into this magazine. Thank-you for printing it and sending it to me. I share it with two other families.

P.S. Your covers are attractive, too!

Opelika, AL

We have found the “new” magazine to be excellent. The book reviews have been very helpful. We are reading (and re-reading) both “The Calvary Road” and “The Release of the Spirit.” Although we have been believers for 20+ years, we have never been taught this concept of godly “brokenness.” These two books and some of the tapes from Charity Gospel Tape Ministry have been a real help and the Lord is using them to draw me and my family closer to him.

The study on “Meekness 101” was also a help. We used it in our family devotions. It is not an

easy lesson to put into practice, especially for our young ones, but it is a good start from them.

We are part of a two-family house church. All ages participate in the meeting together. We celebrate the Lord’s Table as part of a full meal. Meeting this way has helped us grow spiritually a great deal. We are praying that the Lord will lead other families who have a real zeal for the Lord to join us.

Thank-you for your ministry to us via tapes and the magazine.

Plainfield, CT

We love the new format of The Remnant. We’ve been having you send us 20 copies to distribute to others. Could you please send us 30 copies now? Our mailing list has increased. Thank-you!

Mogadore, OH

I very much enjoy the Book Review and Home Histories articles. I have ordered the books that are highlighted in these sections and use them for devotions and/or home-school studies.

Lake Elsinore, CA

We cannot express our gratitude and appreciation that we are able by your generosity to receive The Remnant and the tapes from the ministry. Thank-you with all our hearts and may the Lord richly and abundantly bless you. We'd love to continue to receive the magazine. The articles are inspiring and challenging. They are a real faith booster. Thank-you!

Pilot Mound, MB, Canada

Thank-you so much for your inspiring magazine, The Heartbeat of The Remnant. The Lord has encouraged me to step back and allow my husband to lead. Because of reading the 2 articles you had on this subject for the sisters, I have been motivated to continue stepping back. Any more of this type of article would be greatly appreciated. It is the first thing I look for each time I receive your magazine. God has used the articles for our spiritual growth. Keep up the good work!

Methuen, MA

As a father, I have appreciated the new format of The Remnant. The segments on Home Histories have been an inspiration to me. These articles help me to be consistent and faithful in my leadership in the home. It has also given me a greater vision of what God would have my home and family to be.

Bellingham, WA

Thank you, thank you, and thank you! There are no publications out there like yours— godly, hard hitting in self denial, and unworldliness. It is also a tremendous encouragement to persevere in raising large Christ centered families for the Lord's glory and service. Great job.

Hamlin, NY

KEITH DANIEL • Fall 2001 Itinerary

SEPTEMBER

28-30 Camp Wesley • *Mooresville, NC* Mannie Troyer (704) 278-3990

OCTOBER

1-3 *Burlington, NC* Keith Murray (336) 421-1423
 8-10 Christian Light Fellowship • *Bedford, PA* Joe Brechbill (814) 623-6217
 12-14 Grace Christian Fellowship • *Bainbridge, NY* Mike Kauffman (607) 967-2624
 15-17 Old Paths • *Rochester, NY* Joe Cammelari (716) 964-9351
 19-21 Philadelphia Christian Fellowship • *Philadelphia, NY* Melvin Kauffman (314) 659-8654
 22-24 Vienna Christian Fellowship • *Vienna, ON* Jake Driedger (519) 874-4442
 26-28 Roselawn Church • *Middlebury, IN* Thad Lechlightner (219) 875-6058
 29-31 Gospel Light Christian Fellowship • *Yuba, WI* Darwin Hostetler (608) 647-4299

NOVEMBER

2-4 Kitchy Pines • *Bemidji, MN* Mike Sporre (218) 835-4366
 5-7 Maranatha Baptist • *Carthage, MO* Don Courville (417) 246-5408
 9-11 Hope Christian Fellowship • *Loveland, CO* Ken Lowery (970) 613-4397
 12-14 *Iron Mountain, MI* Mike March (906) 774-4211
 16-18 Carrolton Baptist Church • *Carrolton, OH* Stanley Anderson (330) 627-5124
 23-25 Calvary Christian Fellowship • *Kidron, OH* Phil Neuenschwander (330) 857-6786