

The Heartbeat of

The Remnant



"This do in remembrance of Me."

1 Corinthians 11:23-24

. . . is Pure, Consecrated Communion

The Heartbeat of

The Remnant

Publisher

Charity Christian Fellowship
Publication Office
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 Ephrata, PA 17522

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request your prayerful consideration of this need. Send subscriptions or contributions to: The Heartbeat of The Remnant, 400 W Main St Ste 1, Ephrata, PA 17522 U.S.A. You can call 1-800-227-7902 or (717) 721-7775.

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Amy Carmichael of Dohnavur

H o m e L i f e

by Denny Kenaston



Amy Carmichael, age 57 (1925), in Indian dress

In Isaiah 44:3-4 we have a beautiful promise that I feel is given in the context of revival. May I be so bold as to ask you to stop and read these two verses out loud? Think about your children as you read.

*I will pour water upon him that is thirsty
And floods upon the dry ground:
I will pour My Spirit upon thy seed,
And My blessing upon thine offspring:
And they shall spring up among the grass,
As willows by the water courses.*

First of all, there must be a thirsting after God in our personal life. This often comes in the midst of a dry and dusty land, where no water is. From this deep, personal longing, God promises to pour out his Spirit upon that thirsting soul. He also promises to make an impact on the dry and dusty land around him. In this beautiful context of revival, God also promises to pour water on the children of this thirsty man or woman. Maybe it isn't right to call it a promise, because, in reality, it is the natural overflow of the man who is revived. When God's Spirit fills, He fills to overflowing. The children get the blessing from the revival of the parents.

In this text, God also describes how this blessing will affect these privileged offspring. They will prosper spiritually. They will grow up like willow trees

planted by a river. Now, in this analogy, the children are the trees, and the parents that are revived are the spiritual rivers that supply a never ending portion of the Spirit's influence in the children's lives. What a lovely picture of a Spirit-filled home! Amy Carmichael was one of those willow trees.

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● Mom & Dad Carmichael ●

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William and Catherine were married somewhere around 1865. They both had the privilege of being raised in a godly home. They were married in an Irish Presbyterian Church. The revival fires of 1859 had brought fresh breezes of the life-giving Spirit of God into both of their lives. I guess one can never be quite the same after you have been in the midst of a visitation of God's Spirit. When God is real, and His voice clearly heard, it is like days of heaven on earth. Thousands of souls were ushered into the Kingdom, and Amy's parents were in the midst of it all. These revival fires also brought new life and deliverance from the more formal services of the Irish Presbyterian Church. The newly appointed preacher had been in the midst of revival as well. All these divine circumstances were ordered by God, working together to provide many streams of water for young Amy to grow up in.

William's family, as well as Catherine's, can be traced back several generations. You find signs of godliness and commitment to Christ on both sides of Amy's heritage. William was known by all in the little village of Millisle for his honesty, integrity, mercy, and heart of giving. It is hard for us transient Americans to imagine that a family could settle in one place for one hundred years, but this was the case with the Carmichael's. Amy's father was a miller—grinding grain into flour as his forefathers did for one hundred years before him. There was a God-fearing foundation under both families. They went to church on Sunday, kept the Lord's day holy, believed the Bible, and many other godly principles were followed. Then revival came. Everyone and everything was lifted to new heights of love and dedication. Praise God for those life-giving seasons of refreshing from the presence of

the Lord. Though the village was small, and one might say the church very insignificant, there were weekly activities that stir the soul on toward God because of the revival: Bible classes during the week, evangelistic meetings on Sunday evenings, and the usual Sunday morning meeting which were now full of life and never missed.

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● The Practical Side of Revival ●

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■ *THE POWER OF SOUND TEACHING*

Amy's father was a man of the Word. Every day the whole family was called to worship by the ringing of a bell. William sat with open Bible, reading and expounding from the King James Version. These daily exercises are what mold the mind and heart of a child. When the children are young, their little minds are open and clear, and memorization can happen almost unknown to them. The shorter catechism was also used consistently in the home, as their father was concerned that the family be sound in the doctrines of the church. As I study these saints of old, it impresses me again and again how the father knew it was his responsibility to guide the family with the Word. Today, I am afraid that many have given this task over to the preacher, and that only once or twice a week. Amy's father was also a lover of Spurgeon's written sermons. In those days, they were printed weekly. He would take the family on a Sunday afternoon walk and sit under a shade tree along the way, reading the latest of these sermons to all.

■ *THE POWER OF FIRM DISCIPLINE*

No one wondered what was expected of them, or where the lines were drawn in the Carmichael home. *White* was white, and *black* was black. There were few times when there was any ground in between. Many today feel that this is too strict, and it will prove to be counter-productive. Instead, we see that it brought a sense of love and security to homelife. What Mom or Dad said would always stand, and there was punishment if it

was not obeyed. There were five forms of correction used, depending on the depth of the transgression. They were as follows:

- ✓ To stand in the corner, with your face to the wall.
- ✓ To lose your privilege to go outside and play.
- ✓ To receive a spanking.
- ✓ To be slapped on the hand with a ruler.
- ✓ To be required to drink a mixture of substances that tasted bad.

In all these various corrections, the child was taught to take the punishment respectfully, and give thanks for it afterward. As I studied this area of child training, it seems that Catherine was the one who was involved in the corrections the children received. Father went away to the flour mill each morning and returned in the evening.

■ *THE POWER OF MOTHER'S LOVE*

It is always a joy to view a well balanced home, where father and mother are engaged in raising the children. The Carmichael home was one of these. This Irish lady had a heart that was set on rearing a Godly seed for the Lord. Full of tender love, and full of what I call grit, is the best way to describe her. She would not budge from doing right with the children. If the children needed a spanking, they got one right away. If it was time to drink that terrible drink, she saw it through to the end. I like that. We need some more mothers like that in America today. It is alright to get tough and have a furrowed eye-brow from time to time. It will establish your authority.

On the other hand, this Irish lady was a tender, loving mother. She was one who would sit with a child in the nursery, and expound the crucifixion to her children when they were yet young. She was one who would sing to the children all through the day, placing memories in them that lasted a lifetime. It was Catherine who inspired little Amy to pray a believing prayer at three years old, asking God to change the color of her brown eyes. It was the dear mother who placed the children on her knee many a time, telling them and showing them that Jesus loved them. Oh, the childhood impres-

sions placed there by a mother's love. It is hard to measure this kind of influence.

■ *THE POWER OF HOME EDUCATION*

The historical records give no reason for the children being schooled at home. It seems that it was a common practice in those days. Though we do not find a reason, we can certainly see the good results of it in Amy's life. The schooling was done by Mother, and what they called a *governess*. This was a young lady who lived in the home for the sole purpose of educating the children. One of these young ladies had a great impact on the children. Her name was Eleanor Milne. She was like an older sister in the home, and everyone loved her. A highly spiritual girl, she filled the children with many a story of missionaries and martyrs. The children sat in rapt attention as she told of India and the many needs that were there. Poetry, history, and geography all came alive to the children as she walked and talked with them by the sea-side.

Father and Mother were also very much involved in the homeschool they had. William would take the children on long discovery walks where many a science investigation took place. How the children looked forward to these times! Books were bought—all that could be purchased in those days. The children read and were read to, often. Toys were bought—the ones that were practical and useful; but the greatest toys for Amy were the toys of God's creation. The children had pets to love and care for. Father bought them a microscope so they could discover more of the creation and order around them. The parents tried to surround them with all that was good and beautiful and right. At the same time, they endeavored to keep all that was *not* good and beautiful and right away from them.

■ *THE POWER OF GODLY EXERCISES*

As I study the histories of how God molds His servants, even before they are converted, I stand amazed at His providence. Let us look at a few of them.

✓ Amy was destined to fulfill a calling to minister to the poor in India. Her mother had no idea of any of this; however, God was molding Amy through a Mother's hands without her knowing it. When Amy was young, she remembers a common and regular practice of feeding the poor. Mother would cook a pot of soup for the old and the poor. Amy and her brother would have the opportunity to carry this soup into the village and serve it to the needy. Was this a coincidence? I don't think so.

✓ Amy was the oldest of seven children. Because of this, she often found herself caring for her siblings when they were ill. She developed skills of gentle comfort and care. She had a touch that so ministered to the ailing ones that they often called for her when sick. When Amy was seventeen, her dear Father died unexpectedly after some financial setbacks. The family was thrown into poverty, and Amy became like a second mother to the children below her. Was this just happenstance? I think not. God was molding a vessel. We must help our children to see the bigger picture.

✓ When Amy was twelve years old, her father moved to Belfast, Ireland for business. He was a very Godly and influential man. Many preachers and church leaders stayed at his home. Guess who was sitting for hours, listening to these men talk of doctrines, of souls, of missionary exploits, and of Kingdom building?

✓ When Amy was seventeen, she began gathering the city children together to teach them the Bible on Sunday afternoons. Her heart was being drawn out to the poor. She started a club called The Morning Watch. All who joined the club had to be willing to get up early each day to study the Bible and pray. Saturday, they would get together and share what they learned, or how they failed during the week. She also started a weekly class with the mill girls of the city. These were young factory workers. She was burdened about their purity and their souls, and she labored to salvage them from wreck and ruin. The class grew to 500 girls.

So what does all this mean to us? God was using all of this to make Himself a choice servant. Amy didn't know it at first. Her father and mother didn't know it either. The point I would like to make here is simple. God is still molding his servants the same way. We have some of them in our homes, under our care. Let us be alert, and not too cautious when we see opportunities for learning experiences. Some are overly cautious about youth working in the city where sinners live. These poor and pitiful scenes were the very things that placed a burden on Amy's heart for lost souls. What if she was never allowed to see them?

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● A Life like Jesus ●

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What was the result of these fresh streams of revival that flowed through the home where Amy lived? What kind of willow tree grew up there in the Carmichael home? It was a beautiful one. It was truly a tree planted by the rivers of water, that brought forth its fruit in its season. Its leaves did not wither either, and whatsoever it did prospered. (Psalm 1) Amy served her beloved Jesus at home in Ireland till she was twenty-seven. Then she went to Japan for four years, serving there as a missionary and enrolled in the school of Christ. When she was thirty-one, she went to India, where she began her life work. She never went home on leave. She died in India, at eighty-four years of age. How can we measure her fruitfulness? An orphanage for the temple children, churches, young preachers, a hidden life of prayer the last twenty years of her life, and the books she has written. Many are still drinking from the rivers of living waters that flowed out of this life. Dear fellow parents, now it is our turn to raise up vessels for the Lord. Let us give ourselves to God continually. Let us thirst for that living water and be filled. Let us pay the price that brings the blessings that make the rivers flow through our homes. Let us trust our God for willow trees planted by the watercourse. ☐

Words Fitly Spoken

by Andrew & Elisabeth Weaver

A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in pictures of silver. Proverbs 25:11

We would like to recommend a simple spiritual exercise that has the potential to change a life, transform an unhappy home, or renew a dying church. Many of life's sorrows are caused by a tongue described in James 3:6 as being "set on fire of hell." On the other hand, some of life's richest blessings come through some person's wise use of their tongue. Proverbs 18:21 confirms the awesome power of the spoken word, saying, "Death and life are in the power of the tongue." A graphic picture of its fatal or healing power is given in Proverbs 12:18, "There is that speaketh like the piercings of a sword, but the tongue of the wise is health."

As followers of Jesus Christ, we have the privilege of speaking with new tongues. (Mark 16:17) Jesus' own life produced the beautiful testimony recorded in Luke 4:22, "And all bare him witness, and wondered at the gracious words which proceeded out of his mouth." He constantly experienced Psalm 45:2, "Grace is poured into thy lips."

For this spiritual exercise, we want to encourage you to employ some of your tongue's life-giving abilities. Discipline yourself to form a habit of blessing and complimenting people for their qualities and accomplishments. Look for those little blessings of action or character that are often overlooked, but deserve recognition.

At many funerals, there is something even more sad than the death, and that is the belated praise given in memory of the deceased. As people share their appreciation for little acts of service done by the person in their lifetime, or praise their character or integrity, do you ever wonder how much of that was expressed to the person in their lifetime?

The sad reality is that they probably heard very little of that praise during the time when it could have blessed and encouraged them. Eulogizing the dead is a poor substitute for encouraging the living.

Think of the many people in your congregation who deserve some appreciation for their faithfulness and friendship. Think of your congregation's leaders and the tremendous sacrifice they make for the flock. Think of your parents and the many years of love and care they have provided. Think of your brothers and sisters and the countless precious memories they've helped you to make. Think of your spouse's companionship, love and loyalty. Think of your children and how they have enriched and blessed your life. Think of all the overlooked people who contribute something important to your life: the church janitor, the song leader, your employer or your employees, the person who cleans the church house, the postman, the policeman, or the garbage truck driver.

When you come in contact with these people, do they find out that you appreciate their service? When a brother is discouraged and feels like a failure, does he know that you see many positive things in his life? They won't know unless you make an effort to tell them. Isaiah 50:4 tells us, "The Lord GOD hath given me the tongue of the learned, that I should know how to speak a word in season to him that is weary." What a simple but neglected exercise it is to speak an encouraging word to the weary! Proverbs 12:25 confirms the potential of a tongue exercised to bless others; "Heaviness in the heart of man maketh it stoop; but a good word maketh it glad."

continued on page 11

Charity Gospel Tape Ministry & The Heartbeat of The Remnant

Quarterly Financial Report

July - September 2001



Beloved Brothers and Sisters,

We find ourselves rejoicing again and again as the Lord keeps caring for His tape ministry and publication ministry. Our faith is being strengthened as we watch the many different ways that the financial needs are being met. Thank you for your help and prayers. I assure you that both of these investments are bearing much fruit in the kingdom. As you can see by the financial statement, the bottom lines look encouraging.

It is with much excitement that I bring you the report published below. This is the tape ministry in full action. Beautiful things are happening among a very special people group called the Hutterites living in Manitoba, Canada. They are a people of German descent, and there are about forty thousand of them living in North America. They are a religious group who live in community; that is, they have one purse and live on large farms together. Many of them are in need of the new birth. Thousands of cassette tapes, as well as many copies of the Remnant magazine, have been distributed among this people group for the last several years. The people have very little personal money, and have not been able to cover costs for the tapes and magazines. That means you have been covering the expenses of this work.

There is a sowing time, and there is a reaping time. We have felt for some time that reaping time is coming among these dear people. Well, it has begun. The Spirit of God is beginning to visit these hungry souls with light, and life, and salvation. Praise be to God!!! Look and see what God is doing, and join in with the angels in heaven as they rejoice.

-Bro. Denny

07/01/01 Beginning Balance	\$2,185.47
Receipts	
Tape Ministry Donations	\$54,067.05
Remnant Subscription Donations	\$7,851.33
Total Receipts	\$61,918.38
Disbursements	
UPS & Postage	\$6,968.16
Tapes & Albums	\$13,492.43
Computer/Equipment/Supplies	\$3,801.91
Equipment Maint & Repairs	\$259.50
Electricity	\$301.58
Telephone	\$1,296.35
Miscellaneous	\$616.30
Payroll Expense	\$4,730.00
Books & Catalogs	\$1,356.00
Remnant Publishing & Mailing	\$13,046.30
Total Disbursements	\$45,868.53
09/30/01 Ending Balance	\$13,864.38
Difference	\$16,049.85

THE WIND BLOWS IN MANITOBA

by Weston Leibee

"The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit." John 3:8

In the past two thousand years, the wind of the Spirit has blown over the earth, touching individuals, changing lives, and stirring up the enemy. Many different ethnos or people groups have felt the effects of that wind. At times, it comes in the most unexpected places, such as the obscure village of Oakville, Manitoba.

Oakville lies about one hours drive west of Winnipeg, in the middle of nowhere, literally. But in actuality, this village is in the geographic heart of scores of colonies of Hutterian Brethren or Hutterites. The Hutterite people originated in Austria during the late 1500s. Along with their Anabaptist contemporaries, they opposed the corruption and falsehood they saw in the state church of the day. Their beliefs were similar to the Mennonites, the Swiss Brethren, and many other Anabaptists. However, they believed Acts 2:44 to be a command, and therefore lived in colonies, or communities with all things common. Pooling their resources, they ate, lived, and worked together for the good of the group as a whole. Years later, due to persecution in Russia and Eastern Europe, they fled to the U.S. and Canada, where they settled in the vast farmlands of the Dakotas, Minnesota, Montana, Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba.

As the decades, and even centuries rolled by, the focus shifted more and more from salvation through faith in Christ to communal living: Whosoever lives in community shall be saved.

Gradually they came to find their security in the ordnung (their traditions and rules) and their leaders. Their faith evolved into a prosperous economic and cultural system. Huge tracts of land were purchased and turned into colony farms. Their numbers increased through generations of large families. But spiritually, the vital truths of walking in Christ and the gospel were overshadowed by emphasis on communal living.

Particularly in Manitoba, a hunger developed among the people for greater spiritual reality. In the 1980s the charismatic movement had a significant impact throughout the colonies. Many thought they had found the answer to a dying church. So they left the colonies. However, most of those who left ended up in a worldly lifestyle in the larger cities. This discredited the work, and many settled back down to normal colony life again.

As time passed in the colonies, some Hutterites were still disillusioned, and the longing, searching hearts would not be quieted long. Torn by the lack of spirituality among their own leaders and the shallow lives of many nominal Christians outside of the colony, they yearned for more. They wanted peace and meaning in their souls and a life that backed it up. They wanted to see a focus on outreach, purity in the church body, and spiritual leaders. They longed for more than a comfortable life on a prospering colony farm. God used the tape ministry during this time to fan the smoldering coals back into a flame again.

During the mid and late 1990s, the Spirit of God began urging several brothers from Charity Christian Fellowship in Pennsylvania to answer these calls. Brother Mose Stoltzfus had been preaching and ministering among the Hutterites in the Dakotas and Minnesota, but always felt drawn to southern Manitoba. The focus turned to Manitoba, and several brothers from Charity and Ephrata Christian Fellowship made visits to various colonies in Manitoba. In the mean time, Brother David Robertson from British Columbia moved to southern Manitoba with the purpose of ministering to the Hutterite peoples. He and his family prayed, gave away tapes and literature, and visited with open, hungry hearts. They spent about a year sowing seeds in these ways. After much prayer, these brethren decided to have a week of tent meetings to encourage the hungry and to preach the Gospel to the lost.

Dave and his family began to invite people to the meetings, though only one Hutterite agreed to come. Fear bound the hearts of the people. All knew and felt the resistance of the colony leaders and preachers. Yet the phone calls and letters we received were desperate, and we knew the gospel must not be bound or restricted.

So the first week of August found a tent being erected in Oakville, Manitoba. Many curious Hutterites drove by—some interested, some antagonistic. The first few evenings went fairly well, yet a spirit of fear pervaded, holding people back from any kind of public response or commitment.

On Wednesday, several key Hutterite leaders called for a meeting with Mose and Dave. They expressed their opposition to the work. The atmosphere was tense as the two conflicting views were presented. In the end, one of the Hutterite preachers turned to the brothers and asked, Could we [leaders] attend the meetings? Mose answered that the gospel is to be preached openly to all, and that they would be welcome. In the heavenlies, God was listening and decided to glorify His Son in the midst of the Hutterite people. Something beautiful was about to happen.

The following evening was Thursday. Brother Zac Poonen from India arrived from the States, where he had been preaching. He shared a powerful message contrasting the old covenant with the new. An altar call was again given, though everyone had told us, You will never see a Hutterite at an altar. We sang a few verses, and the saints of

God prayed, both in Oakville and at home in Pennsylvania. One of our own church people responded, and then to everyone's astonishment, one Hutterite stood, went to the altar, and began to weep. As we sang, the Spirit of God moved in and broke the spirit of fear that was upon them, and dozens of Hutterites went forward. They knew the cost, as their preachers and elders stood in the back watching. Many of them had known the truth for years but had hidden in the shadows. Now they were leaving behind everything they had ever known and making a public commitment to Christ. There was hardly a dry eye in the tent that evening, and you could sense the Spirit of God hovering near. Heaven rejoiced that night as years of tradition and religion began to melt.

After the service, a number of our people were invited into several colonies to stay the night. Lights burned until the wee hours of the morning as we shared of Christ, the gospel, and the new covenant together.

After this breakthrough in the heavenlies, we had days of heaven on earth. The atmosphere in the meetings grew more sweet and powerful each day. God used brother Zac to speak so clearly to the needs of the Hutterites; you would have thought he was from Canada instead of India. Attendance increased and the opposition slowly backed away, realizing they were powerless to do anything at this point.

There were several individuals requesting baptism, so a Sunday afternoon baptismal service was



planned. By Sunday many more had come desiring to seal their faith in believers baptism. Between four and five hundred people gathered at a lake in Portage la Prairie. Thirty-two people went into the waters, announcing their allegiance to Christ no matter what the cost. Again there was weeping and rejoicing, and the sweet presence of God witnessing to the obedience of those brave souls. For some, it meant immediate excommunication from their churches, homes, and many of their earthly possessions.

Sunday evening all were challenged from Gods word to go out and live what they believed. Hard choices lay ahead. Many of them are young people who face devastating separations from family and friends. Some walk away from a wealthy colony with only a few dollars in their pocket and no home, car, or job. But they walk with the Spirit of Him that bloweth withersoever it listeth.

The gospel continues to go out in Manitoba through Hutterites-turned-evangelists and cassette

tapes. A small church is being birthed in Oakville. Follow-up trips are being made by brothers from Pennsylvania and other places to disciple and assist these young believers, as well as to continue to reach out to other seeking hearts.

And this may be only the beginning. Already the calls are coming in from colonies in Alberta, South Dakota, and other places. The Spirit blows, and the fires ignite! Let us follow the fire.

We earnestly covet your prayers and support in this thrust of the gospel. Pray for the grace of God upon the young church. Pray for born-again Hutterites still in the colonies as they decide where to move. Pray for many still in the valley of decision. We also desire to assist those who need financial help in starting a home outside of a colony. If you desire to help in some way with the work among the Hutterites, please contact the Charity Gospel Tape Ministry at 1-800-227-7902




continued from page 7, Words Fitly Spoken by Andrew & Elisabeth Weaver

This simple exercise could revolutionize your family life. What if you had a perpetual contest to see who could in all sincerity give the most compliments? Parents, what if you set a goal of giving each child at least ten blessings for every reproof you must give in training them? Surely that's only reasonable. With your spouse, the ratio should be at least a hundred to one, and probably a thousand to one! We're not suggesting a flattery that breeds pride or an insincere sweetness that quickly becomes obnoxious, but just try this exercise for a few weeks. You'll be amazed at the number of sincere compliments you can give if you only have a thankful, appreciative spirit and look for the best in everyone.

In the body of Christ, it is especially important to recognize and bless positive qualities. Hebrews 3:13 commands us to exhort one another daily, and this should generally take the form of encouragement and blessing. We should take every opportunity to bless our brethren for their faithfulness, their orderly homes, their godly example, or some area of growth in their lives. When you have laid a

consistent foundation of positive input in your brethren's lives, they will find it easy to accept any correction you may need to offer. It's a sad commentary on our failure in this area when we find that many Christians become nervous whenever they receive a compliment. They've been conditioned to expect praise only as a forerunner of criticism. May God have mercy upon us! Surely Revelation 3:2 applies to our neglected, flabby spiritual muscles in this area of blessing others: "Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die."

If you begin faithfully exercising the positive potential of your tongue, you will be amazed at the results. "Pleasant words are as an honeycomb, sweet to the soul, and health to the bones." (Proverbs 16:24) What a privilege we've been given to spread sweetness and health wherever we go! Begin this exercise today for the sake of others, then marvel at what it does for you. 

The Sisters Holy Desires



Some of the sisters that shared in the sister's meeting

Beloved sisters in the Lord. We have heard your pleas in the little questionnaire that you filled out and sent in. So many of you have requested more input for the sisters. This article is in response to that plea. A few months ago we had a sisters meeting at the church. We do this quarterly. The sisters get together to encourage one another and to receive instruction. This article was gleaned from one of those meetings. Twenty-two of our sisters were each given a portion of Proverbs 31 to study and then to share what they had gleaned with everyone else. I happened to notice a set of notes that Janice Hurst had put together from the meeting, and I felt like it would be a challenge to all of you. These sisters have not arrived. Most of them shudder at the thought of putting their thoughts in The Remnant. We have entitled the article accordingly—The Sisters Holy Desires.

-Bro. Denny

Proverbs 31

v. 10

*Who can find a virtuous woman?
for her price is far above rubies.*

➤ *Edith Detweiler*

What is virtue? Virtue is the divinely inwrought strength of spiritual and moral character from which godly qualities and actions blossom.

Virtue is spiritual and practical devotion to God, which permeates every area and relationship of our lives.

Virtue is the depth of character, which gives us stability and steadfastness in our everyday walk.

As we gaze into these definitions of virtue through a woman's eyes, we get a beautiful picture of a godly woman whose life is steadfast in God. We know that Jesus is the only source of true virtue. I'm sure we all feel our sense of need as we begin this meditation on the beauty of a woman of God. How do we get there, you might ask? In Mark 5:25-34, we have an example of a woman who came to Jesus and received virtue. She had come to the end of all her efforts.

We may have read good articles or good books. We may have heard wonderful sermons, heard good counsel from faithful sisters, or changed our environment. But none of these can take the place of coming to Jesus and touching the hem of His garment in faith and brokenness. When we touch Him thus, He will release His glorious Virtue into our lives.

How highly do we prize virtue? We will have what we truly value. We may not be as virtuous as we wish we were, but we will be just as virtuous as we truly desire. The virtuous woman can handle trials with grace, courage, faith, and meekness. Virtue will keep you from falling apart when your life falls apart.

v. 11

The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her, so he shall have no need of spoil.

➤ *Emma Ruth Martin*

How does this trust develop in a husband/wife relationship? Proverbs 12:4 says, A virtuous woman is a crown to her husband, but she that maketh ashamed is as rottenness in his bones. Since you are a crown for your husband, honor him as king of your home. He will rise to kingly heights in his manhood as you honor him thus. Great is the hidden secret buried in these kinds of attitudes.

His crown should be decorated with **diamonds** of devotion, dedication, dignity and diligence that delight his soul.

How about **sapphires** that will shine and sparkle with the beautiful gems of a serving spirit? The gem of our sacrificial and submissive spirit will make his life shine.

Lets add some **pearls**—pearls of patience, peace, perseverance, and prayers for our husbands.

Rubies are the rarest of all gems. This crown should be radiating with the rubies of reverence and respect for your husband.

ere and respect for your husband.

The crown should be ornamented with **opals** of openness, obedience, overflowing love, and the oil of joy.

Now we need **emeralds** that emanate esteem, earnest commitment, and encouragement.

Adorn your crown with **amethysts** of admiration, affection, affirmation and attentiveness.

And we cant forget the crowning jewel of all contentment! This jewel adds luster to your crown. It releases your husband from bondage and pressure.

She that maketh ashamed is as rottenness in his bones, but a virtuous woman is a crown to her husband; his heart will safely trust in her, so that he shall have no need of spoil and their union will be blessed!

v. 12

She will do him good and not evil all the days of her life.

➤ *Miriam Nolt*

She will do him good by not discussing his weaknesses with her friends. She will do him good by encouraging him, instead of belittling him.

She will cheerfully fill in for him when he is gone, instead of complaining to the children. She will do him good by blessing his going with a smile not a frown.

She will stand in the gap when he is overwhelmed.

This verse speaks deeply to us women about the motives of our hearts. There are many

more ways to do him good that could be listed. But the heart of the matter is in our hearts. If we are motivated to do him good, the rest will take care of itself. The list could be endless. May God purify the motive of our hearts.

v. 13

She seeketh wool, and flax, and worketh willingly with her hands.

➤ *Amy Smoker*

This verse begins the practical works of the virtuous woman, works arising from a virtuous heart, one who fears the Lord. She works willingly with her hands, which tells us that her work is done from the heart and with delight.

1 Peter 5:2 explains how elders are to feed the flock of God with eagerness, willingly, of a ready mind, being an example to the flock.

Application: Our children are our flock. Are we examples of working willingly to them?

1 Cor. 9:17 Paul had the responsibility of preaching the gospel. If I do it willingly, I have a reward.

Application: We have a choice of how we will do our tasks in the home: grudgingly, of necessity, it has to be done or willingly, with delight. The reward (blessings), that comes to those who do it willingly are two-fold. Some come now, some come in eternity. I think of the powerful influence of a mothers joyful labors. The children will catch the spirit of it, and her husband will prosper in it. *Col. 3:22-24 And whatsoever ye do, do*

it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men. He will reward us.

v. 14

She is like the merchants ships; she bringeth her food from afar.

➤ *Lucy Shirk*

When this chapter was written, the women of the Bible had to travel afar to get food, so she probably got good things because she traveled so far. We can show our families love by spending time in preparing a good meal for them, and also by taking the time to study nutrition and what our body needs to be healthy. In this day of fast foods and quick hamburgers, there is a temptation to slight this matter of feeding our families and just throw something together out of drudgery. We should not yield to the spirit of this feminist age we live in.

Another idea I had was shopping to save our husbands money. A penny saved is a penny earned. Although we have chosen to be keepers at home, we can still help the family budget by watching for the bargains.

v. 15

She riseth also while it is yet night, and giveth meat to her household, and a portion to her maidens.

➤ *Christine Lamicela*

This verse speaks to my heart because of my physical condition just now. I don't rise up while it is still night, but I want to. However my husband assured me that I am not lazy;

our family has never gone without food, and they are well taken care of.

The word night in this verse actually has the meaning of during hard times. How many times we mothers with little ones or sick ones get up during the night to care for them, but then also arise and take care of the household duties during the day. I see the qualities of sacrifice and diligence in these verses. Motherhood is filled with challenges like this, and we mothers are built up and purified as we give ourselves to them.

v. 16

She considereth a field, and buyeth it; with the fruit of her hands she planteth a vineyard.

➤ *Romaine Hollinger*

In this verse it seems like the woman is a manager, realtor, and farmer. There are many things that can be done at home that don't distract from our primary goals. These activities are often a means of training character in the children as well. But what stands out to me is the word considereth. She doesn't just buy, but considers first. I need to consider what I am buying. When I find a bargain of nice shirts at a garage sale that would fit our son, I need to consider how many he actually needs, before buying all or any of the shirts.

We also need to take into consideration our husbands desires in providing for the family's needs. Can he trust my judgment?

With the fruit of her hands—What can we do with our hands to bless our husbands? We can grow many vegetables in our gardens. This teaches our children how to work and also blesses our husbands in saving on grocery money. May God give us creative hands that labor in good things that are fruitful

v. 17

She girdeth her loins with strength, and strengtheneth her arms.

➤ *Janet Wenger*

I see here that a virtuous woman is an energetic, hard worker. She does not waste time in trivial activities that do not benefit anyone. Instead she applies herself to do what she can! This is a very different picture than the one we see in the world today. God is honoring the woman that is strong because of hard and diligent work. We should not be so feminine that we won't work hard or get our hands dirty.

v. 18

She perceiveth that her merchandise is good: her candle goeth not out by night.

➤ *Anna Zimmerman*

She perceiveth that her merchandise is good. The commentary that I read said she takes care to manufacture the best articles of the kind and to charge a reasonable price, that she may secure a ready sale.

How does this apply to us? I see here a woman who is full of

industry, who does a good job, and has a good product to sell.

Her candle goeth not out by night—she is watchful and careful that her candle, or her lamp, burns all night, which is of great advantage in case of sudden alarms.

I believe she keeps her lamp filled with fuel. Being such a light sleeper and finding myself awake a lot, I think this is a good opportunity to have our lamps filled with fuel by praying. Pray for the needs around us, family, friends, neighbors, ourselves, and the list goes on and on. Let us not be slothful, but be on our guard every opportunity we have.

v. 19

She layeth her hands to the spindle, and her hands hold the distaff.

➤ *Laura Lloyd*

This is a picture of a busy woman who has both her hands full. Her tools weren't getting dusty. She was frugal and used what she had to provide for her household. It's an honor to work hard. How often we are carrying our baby in one arm and at the same time stirring supper, or helping a little one do a chore with the other hand. Again this is an industrious woman who does her jobs with proficiency.

v. 20

She stretcheth out her hand to the poor; yea, she reacheth forth her hands to the needy.

➤ *Lee Ann Zablosky*

We reach out to others in two ways:

First, with a closed hand that reaches down and helps pull another up.

Secondly, with open hands that reach out to help those in want.

For example: freezing an extra meal, keeping a guest room prepared for unplanned visitors, mowing a widows or an elderly persons yard.

This verse is sandwiched between two verses focused at home. God put it there for a reason. Even though much of our time and energy is focused at home, we can use our energies there to reach out to others. It is true that a mother is a keeper at home, however, if she is watching, she can find many needy opportunities. These become a training ground to teach her children by example.

v. 21

She is not afraid of the snow for her household: for all her household are clothed with scarlet.

➤ *Margaret Brown*

It's funny that I got this verse, as I'm from California and it never snows there. I'd like to look at this verse practically and spiritually.

First, in the practical sense, she has her household well prepared, so she is not afraid of the coming seasons. She was planning ahead and working ahead. She had to be filling up idle time with thoughts and labors way into the future.

Also, I'd like to compare this to us as the Bride of Christ; we know He is coming for us, so we prepare ourselves for that time.

We have thoughts and labors way into the future.

v. 22

She maketh herself coverings of tapestry: her clothing is silk and purple.

➤ *Shirley Lichtenberger*

My thoughts go to what we clothe ourselves with. This virtuous woman put care and thought into what she wore. If something is modest, it is neat, clean, and harmonious. Her clothes are pleasant. Yet we know that there is a more important adornment than this. That is the hidden person of the heart. Let's make our homes beautiful with a beautiful spirit warm and comfortable, and be clothed with purity with lives that express our riches in Christ.

v. 23

Her husband is known in the gates, when he sitteth among the elders of the land.

➤ *Rachel Beiler*

One of the most important uses of the gates of an ancient city was for holding court. The gates were also popular meeting places for the people.

I don't believe the husband was just sitting with the elders to waste time while she was doing her work. He was sitting there as one of the most respected citizens of the town, helping to create law and order. These kinds of things happen through the hidden woman principle. A wife can be an unnoticed influence to her husband through

encouragements and uplifting words. We can pray for them in the many important decisions that lie on them. Proverbs suggests that you first give to your husband and then to others. This giving will come back to you full circle in the form of homes and communities full of security and love. Being a devoted wife is one of the foundation stones for balance and order in all areas of our life.

v. 24

She maketh fine linen, and selleth it; and delivereth girdles unto the merchants.

➤ *Mary Rose Barker*

We all are in different seasons in our lives. I see this verse as a woman that is able to use resources in the home to supplement her husband's income. Many of us cannot do anything like this just now because we are busy with the little ones and with home schooling. One thing we need to be careful about is to only sew or bake for income as our husbands bless us. Another sister brought out that she home schools her children to aid in the expenses. We need to be looking for creative ways to remain a keeper at home and yet help supplement the household income.

v. 25

Strength and honor are her clothing; and she shall rejoice in time to come.

➤ *Lora Owens*

This verse indicates that the

woman wears strength and honor like we wear our clothing. These words are descriptive of her inner character. Inner character is worn and noticed like the garments we wear. A woman who is living in her home and community as this woman is described has a God-confidence about her. There is a dignity about her. She also is prepared for the days ahead. She shall rejoice in the time to come because she has risen up to the challenges in the preceding verses and done those things. The blessings that come through all this obedience will cause her to rejoice.

v. 26

She openeth her mouth with wisdom; and in her tongue is the law of kindness.

➤ *Judy Rennie*

This verse is very self-explanatory, and I confess I fall short of the ideal at times. The word law in this passage means precept or statute. So it's not just an option; it carries more weight than that. This verse reflects on some of the deeper aspects of a godly woman. She is spiritual. Yes she is practical, and can handle the many labors of motherhood, but she is also full of the graces of the Spirit of God.

v. 27

She looketh well to the ways of her household, and eateth not the bread of idleness.

➤ *Etta Martin*

"Looketh" in this verse

means: *to peer into the distance, to keep watch over our own family and anyone else God has placed into our household.* She is an overseer, a manager, a visionary, and a planner. However, it doesn't stop there. She eateth not the bread of idleness idleness means laziness. If she is going to carry out her dreams and plans, she will have to get busy and do something. Truly, a well ordered home will take away all idleness from our lives. This becomes a protection from idle words and gossip.

v. 28

Her children arise up, and call her blessed: her husband also, and he praiseth her.

➤ *Sylvia Hurst*

Blessed in the amplified Bible says, fortunate, happy, to be envied. Call and blessed both refer to the same Hebrew word in the concordance. The phrase is used in Mal. 3:12, "And all nations shall call you blessed." Leah also used the phrase in Gen. 30:13, "Happy am I, for the daughters call me blessed." They looked on them as fortunate, to be envied.

The children and husband see her as one that is blessed. They notice her as one to be desired. She is happy.

Then the last part, he praiseth her, praiseth is the same word used for thanking God. It means: to make a show, to boast, to rave, to celebrate, to commend. This woman whom we have been looking at receives one of the highest, most prized rewards that a woman

can receive. Her husband raves about her to others and also to her face.

v. 29

Many daughters have done virtuously, but thou excellest them all.

➤ *Louella Leinbach*

Often when I have read this verse, I have wondered what it could mean. Who are these daughters? I think these daughters were daughters like Mary, Miriam, Ruth, Hannah, etc. In what way did she excel them all? She excelled them in her spiritual and practical devotion to God and her family. This kind of devotion reaches into every area of her life. In her life we see seven Christian virtues that are listed in 2 Peter 1:57: Virtue, Knowledge, Temperance, Patience, Godliness, Brotherly Kindness, Charity. All these things flow from a relationship with the Lord. The more time we spend with the Lord, the more we become like Him.

v. 30

Favor is deceitful, and beauty is vain; but a woman that feareth the Lord, she shall be praised.

➤ *Jane Nolt*

In these verses the Lord impressed upon me two very different ways or choices:

1. Favor is deceitful and beauty is vain. The meaning of these words is as follows: outward and physical pleasure or attractiveness; to be bright or make oneself fair; to deck or adorn, to give pleasure to the

senses. This is misleading, false, empty, and unsatisfactory, with no real value (worthless). This way appeals to our carnal, fleshly mind and will, but it is empty, of no value or worth.

2. But a woman that feareth the Lord she shall be praised. This is one who has a profound reverence and awe toward God. One who is prized, commended, and receives favorable judgment of the Lord. This way comes from the inner cleansing and purifying of the soul, which comes through the blood of Jesus and daily turning to the Lord. It means finding our fulfillment in Him and being the meek and quiet woman, which is of great price. Which way are we following? I want to encourage each of us to be simple in our clothing, but neat and orderly, so the inner beauty and joy of Jesus can be seen in us. God forbid that we adorn or deck ourselves in lace, bright colors, and gaudy prints that only draw attention to our outward appearance.

v. 31

Give her of the fruit of her hands; and let her own works praise her in the gates.

➤ *Janet Grover*

Give her of the fruit of her hands Her reward is in being prepared, and in a job well done, the satisfaction from serving her family. The fruit of her hands is a godly seed and a blessed husband. It may be hard for some to see that the many things that a Christian woman does with her hands for her family, these influence her home. The word hands here means open hands, giving hands, serving hands.

Let her own works praise her in the gates Her labor speaks for itself. She doesn't have to boast about it herself; but by fulfilling her God-given responsibilities, it brings her honor. □





We Will Never Be the Same

by Kim & Amy Costanza

My name is Kim Costanza and I, my wife, Amy, and our five children live near Pittsburgh, PA. It is our great joy to testify to the wonderful, powerful, patient and tender workings of God in and through our lives in the past four years. The following is our testimony:

A Little Background

I am the son of a jazz musician, and most of my friends and family worked in or around the music industry. We went to church regularly, but as far as I know, I never heard the Gospel preached. I began playing professionally at the age of fifteen, and was in nightclubs shortly thereafter. Alcohol was readily available, so I began to drink nearly every weekend.

By the time I was in college, my musical career had progressed and so had my involvement in sin. The more I sought pleasure through fulfilling the desires of the flesh, the more it eluded me. In 1984, one of my fellow musicians who had recently been converted, began to share the Gospel with me. At first I laughed...then I listened...then I watched such a transformation of human being that could not help but ask, "Could this be for

real?" Nine months later, after more wrestling, I surrendered my life to Jesus Christ. No more drugs, no more wild living—I was done. And I was free!

Ministry

After I was saved, I stopped all musical activity for five years. God used this time to allow me to grow and to be purified of the sinful activities associated with my past. As this was happening, I saw that music itself was not sinful—it was beautiful and pleasing to God. What a freeing and joyful experience to praise God through voice and instrument as the Psalms declare (Ps. 150). During this time, someone asked me to play a hymn in the church I was attending. I played "Amazing Grace" on my saxophone and for the first time, I played without sin in my heart! What a joy it was. After this, many asked me to play in their churches and within the next six years, I had traveled all over the country playing concerts and had made five recordings of instrumental worship. These recordings were very successful, and the record company that sponsored them sold over 150,000 copies.

By 1998, this music "ministry" was at its peak. I had concerts scheduled all over the United

States. In November, I was scheduled to tour the largest churches in Korea and in January was to play a concert with the two best-known Christian musicians in the world who together had sold over 30,000,000 recordings.

In addition, I was seeing success in my business—my employer was considering me as a partner in our insurance firm and had advised me to look into joining a Country Club. We had just moved into a fine home in a “desirable” neighborhood, and our oldest daughter had begun attending the best Christian school in the area. It seemed to me that God was pleased with us, because all of these good things wouldn’t come to us without His blessing. We also were surrounded by many Christians who were affirming our thoughts. However, in my quiet moments, I was concerned that my life didn’t measure up to the challenges of the New Testament. I believed these things, and preached them well—but to say that I was living them—that was another matter.

Slippery Rock Retreat

In the midst of this all, I was asked to lead the music for a small retreat for men. I agreed out of obligation, but my heart wasn’t in it. God was doing such “big” things these days—the small ones just didn’t have my attention. As God in His mercy would have it, that “small” retreat was to change my life. The speaker was a man named Denny Kenaston, who from my perspective, looked like an Amishman, preached like a Baptist, and worshiped like a Charismatic. While I couldn’t figure out what label to put on him, I knew that God was speaking directly to me through his messages. Denny preached on true revival—and I knew I didn’t have it. Denny preached on the duties of a godly man—and I knew I didn’t measure up. Denny preached on the home—with a radiant wife, obedient children, and a man who led by example with “quiet authority.” Not only did I not have that kind of home, I couldn’t remember if I’d ever even seen one!

I was undone—never, except in the days of my conversion, had I felt such a burden. At one of the breaks, I remember getting alone and telling God that I could not live in my current state. If the

claims of this man were real and possible, that I must somehow—by the grace and mercy of God—have them. Otherwise, I asked God to let me die. I had never before, nor since, asked such a thing. Oh, but what a faithful God we serve!

When I returned home Saturday evening, I wasn’t sure how to describe all of this to Amy. But God had that already worked out. Brother Denny was giving the message at our church the next morning....

From Amy’s Perspective

As I look back on our lives four years ago it is quite clear that only God could bring about such a change of heart and direction—not without questions or struggles, but He has proven Himself faithful and true at every crossroad.

I remember very clearly when Kim agreed to play at the Slippery Rock men’s retreat—a small obligation to fulfill in the midst of a big schedule...Aren’t so many things beautifully backward with Jesus?! Well, as Kim mentioned, he was “undone” when he returned from the retreat and somewhat unable to articulate just what was so different about this teaching. However, I would have the opportunity to hear a message by Denny Kenaston as he would be preaching at our church the following morning. Kim was full of anticipation and I was cautiously optimistic. I was not sure what changes were coming but was sensing my own resistance, especially when Kim shared with me a caution Denny had expressed to him concerning his musical pursuits. At that, I wanted to meet the man who had the boldness to challenge the direction of our lives without really knowing my husband. After all, we were Christians. We would straighten this whole thing out in the morning....

“I am a real Christian,” were the first words Denny spoke after some initial greetings and words of thanks.

“Is that so?” I thought. “Well, what are we?!” And then he went on to explain what a real Christian believes, and how a real Christian lives and behaves. None of his words could be disputed; they were all in the Bible. All of my premeditated responses faded away. With all due respect, I felt like Job, placing my hand over my mouth in response to God’s truth. This preacher had the simple answers to many of my inner struggles of trying to balance my Christian life with my social status. I wasn’t supposed to balance them! I was to fall head over heels for the Lord Jesus and let

everything else fall into His hands to do with those areas what He pleased. How freeing!!

We had hope as never before for our marriage, for our children, for our spiritual health! It was all in the Bible, but somehow we'd missed it or didn't think it applied to us. The grace of God allowed us a second chance! I went from, "Who does this man think he is?" to "Why me, Lord? Why have You allowed Kim and me to change our course with our children while they are still so young when many of the other men at the retreat have children in their teens that are already in rebellion? God, You are gracious and I am going to share this message with anyone who will listen!"

Kim again...

As we discussed what was happening, we realized that God was at work in our lives in such a way that we needed to pay very close attention. One thing we were sure of—we had to find out more about these folks from Lancaster. So we did. We ordered their tapes, we visited their churches—we consumed all we could. And we began to see major changes in our life. Here are just a few:

➔ **Raising Our Children**

The first tape series we obtained was "The Godly Home." We had never been taught proper correction, encouragement etc. My children still talk about the day we had a family meeting and Daddy confessed his errors and discussed the "changes" that were going to take place. And did they! We had three children then, and I never knew what a joy I had been missing. I thought three was all we could handle, but as we applied these principles, we began to see such joy in rearing children that we became open to having more. I would have never thought that I could have five children and be sane, let alone happy. How wrong I was.

➔ **Work**

Up until now, work was a big part of my identity. All of a sudden, I began to see it as a means to provide for my family and nothing more. Therefore, instead of seeking that partnership, I approached my boss about a "demotion" so that I might work from home. This had never been done in our office before, and

he was not receptive. However, I took the matter to prayer, because I truly believed that it was best for my family and that I could actually do a better job of working for my company. Five months later, God opened the door for me to be at home on four of my five workdays. Yes, it was lower pay and I gave up any idea of being a partner. But four years later, I wouldn't trade a day of it—not one.

➔ **Homeschooling**

Our oldest daughter was in a Christian school at the time. We were experiencing frustration with her subtle, but evident changes in attitude and were concerned about what she was being exposed to. It wasn't that the school was bad, nor her teacher. What we realized was that so many parents just like us were leaving the responsibilities of training and discipling their children to the local church and Christian school. As we studied God's Word, we realized that this was never God's intention. While I was not in favor with what I thought I knew about homeschooling, I certainly didn't see good fruit in the direction we were going. So, with Amy's persistent leading, we set out on the journey of teaching our children at home. From the first year and every year after, we have doubted whether we were capable of going further. And yet, God's grace has been continually there, giving us strength, hope and peace to press on.

➔ **Television**

I grew up in a home where the television was on nearly every waking hour. It was a source of education, entertainment and a central part of my life at home. Although the use of TV was greatly reduced in our early Christian years, we still watched an average of an hour of TV per day—more on weekends. In several of the tapes from Charity, men challenged to avoid the television. This seemed at first, a bit too radical, but as I prayed about it, I began to see what a waste of time it really was. I also saw very clearly how many of my worldly lusts were stirred and inflamed through seemingly innocent programming. So

we made the decision that except for news emergencies and well-recommended videos (G or PG rating only), television would no longer be a part of our life. When we do watch a movie, we do it as a family, and try to find things that are profitable for discussion or learning. We have found so much to do with our extra time! And I have really noticed that many of my desires for the world have been greatly reduced because they are not continually being fed.

➡ Family Devotions

As a young Christian, I felt that teaching the Bible was the Pastor's job. I began to hear that it was my job to not only provide the physical needs of my family, but that I was also to provide the spiritual needs as well. I did not think that it was possible for me to give daily teaching to my wife and children, but again, by the grace of God—"what is impossible with man is possible with God." We are now at a stage where we have daily devotions five of the seven days each week. What a difference it has made for all of us.

➡ Change of Vision About the "Teen Years"

As our family began to change, people began to notice my children. They were a testimony nearly every place we went. People were constantly remarking about what lovely children we had. However, this was almost always followed by the comment: "Wait until they become teenagers!" How discouraging! We were so troubled by this that we took it to God in prayer. While we still do not yet have teenagers, we believe God that He will continue the work He has begun in our lives and that our children will not rebel as teenagers. We have seen enough families in the past five years who can testify to this, and we are holding to God's promises. We refuse to accept this as a hopeless fate, and we are prayerfully asking God to make those years even better than these.

➡ Principles of Modesty and "the Covering"

One of our first questions that came from the observation of Charity Gospel Fellowship was: "Why do the women cover their heads and dress the way they do?" We were certainly familiar with Amish custom, but was this a biblical practice? If so, was it an expression for everyone? What a study this became. We never studied a subject so thoroughly in all of our Christian years. I cannot say why this was such an important issue to resolve, but I know that it was. After three years, we came to the conclusion that the biblical instructions for a woman to cover her head when she "prays or prophesies" was valid for all of the church—not just for Corinth. So, Amy began to cover her head at these times. By the Grace of God, the wife of our Pastor also agreed with this and began to do the same. I have been surprised at the response from others. While it is obvious that people notice this covering, very few will ask about it – almost as one would react to a wheelchair or a disability. Yet, in the scores of churches I have visited I have never seen another church where this is practiced. At this point, these two women are the only ones in our fellowship who observe this instruction. We are prayerfully hoping that God will give grace and understanding to the other women in our fellowship, and that this will bring us together, not tear us apart.

In addition, Amy began to change the way she dressed and the way the children dressed. While we felt much more freedom than some in this area, the principle was clear in the scriptures, and it brought a new freedom to our home. I have seen the power of God so dramatically change my wife by the obedience to scripture. She has walked by faith in these areas and God has blessed us richly by her obedience.

From Amy's Perspective...

I would have told you, prior to listening to some teaching about modesty from some our brothers and sisters at Charity, that I dressed very modestly—nothing revealing, but of course you want to accentuate the positive. Then I was asked to consider something that

I had never considered—these were my brothers and sisters in the Lord Jesus. Would I ever want to cause my brother to stumble or to encourage turning my brother's eyes away from one of my sisters? Heaven forbid! Again, such a simple yet profound teaching with great freedoms and blessings!

The covering was a "big one" for me. I had actually questioned this practice about 13 years ago and then again shortly after meeting Denny, but was always assured that it was a cultural application in the time and place of Corinth. But why did all of the women who worshiped where the most solid Bible teaching I had ever heard preached wear this covering? By God's grace, we were now in a church where the pastor and his wife had conviction in this area but had never resolved it. So, as Kim said, we studied and prayed and discussed until the answer became rather clear.

I can't say it was the answer I was hoping for, but I can say I only wanted to do the right thing before the Lord. If it is important to Him, it is important to me, whether I fully understand it or not. It was quite awkward at first—this unspoken issue with everyone I would talk to in our church at that time. They knew it was there—I certainly was aware of it, but no one said a word. I felt like the Cat in the Hat! Occasionally something would get back to us about someone's concerns regarding the "direction" the church was going. (Were we becoming a Mennonite church?!) But our church ended up going in a completely unforeseen direction and many of those who were "concerned" no longer are in the same fellowship.

I would never bring this issue up unless asked, as I remember so vividly my own struggles with this practice. I still wrestle with the total application of the covering, but, as the scriptures are clear, when I am praying or prophesying, my head is covered. We must always respond to our conscience and the Holy Spirit's prompting and then step in faith. And really, what is a minor awkwardness on this earth compared to pleasing our Lord in heaven?!

Involvement in the Local Church

Kim Again...

Because I was traveling so much in music ministry, I never got too involved in the local church. But as these changes occurred, I began to get more

concerned about how we would find like-minded people to fellowship with. Due to my change in work, we began praying about moving to a more economical area to live. It took two years and many prayers, but God provided a wonderful home for us in a rural area – and He cut our mortgage in half! One of the unique features of our new home was a living room that was 24' x 30'. We jokingly said, "We could have a church service in here," when we saw it. Little did we know what God had in store. Within 6 months, we found a church where the Pastor was an excellent teacher and also like-minded with where God had been leading us. He and I began to pray that God would bring revival to our hearts and the church. As he began to preach more boldly about prayer and other issues, it became clear to him that the elders of the church were in disagreement with where he was headed.

For months he tried to resolve these differences, and all the while, we prayed every week that God would make His will known. In December of 2000, while I was in Italy on a mission trip, I got an e-mail that our Pastor had resigned. I didn't know what to do. I sought the counsel of the missionary I was staying with and we prayed. I asked this missionary if it was possible that God had a different work in our area, and maybe we should start a new church. While he confirmed the possibility, he cautioned me not to contact any people and not to hold any meetings during normal church hours – this was to prevent any divisiveness on our part. If God were at work, He would build the fellowship. So I contacted the pastor and shared the idea. We agreed that the next Sunday, Christmas Eve, we would open our home to praise and thank God for what He had done for us. We called no one, but for those who asked, we did make the meeting known. On Christmas Eve, we had seventy people show up at our home! I didn't know it at the time, but a new church was borne that day. In three months, we were 80 people and too large to keep meeting in our home. In six months, we were over 100, meeting in a fire hall reception room, and spiritually speaking, having the time of our lives. God is continuing to bless this church with much love, unity and sound teaching.

With all of this, I must be very clear that there have been, and continue to be, many struggles. In

our search of the Scriptures, we have found dynamic tensions that can balance truth—but make applications sometimes difficult. We know that above all things, the Scripture must be our guide, and that we must not sin against our conscience. Therefore, I would like to highlight some areas where we are continuing to seek God for growth and clarity.

The Romans 7:7 Predicament

I am not sure I understood what Paul was saying in verses 7-25 until I began to address some of these areas of life. While I recognize that Paul was referring to the OT Law here, there were specific New Testament directives that had the same effect. I can so easily replace “covet” in that verse with other things. Take the principle of modest dress for example: As we became more aware of this, all of a sudden, my eyes were seeing immodesty everywhere! The instruction that was to bring freedom to me was bringing condemnation and death because of my sin. For a long time, I didn’t know what to do with this—why was there a bigger problem here than before? However, through prayer and study, I saw that there were areas of my flesh that had to be put to death before I could have victory. There was nothing wrong with the instruction—it was holy and good—yet of itself, it could not bring victory. I have found such a greater understanding through these struggles—and this pattern seems to be true with almost every area in which a person begins to apply New Testament instructions to life. Prayer, fasting—you name it. If one wants to take the course of holiness, I think he will at some point travel through the Romans 7 crossing. Truthfully, we must put the flesh to death every day if we are to hope to walk this narrow road.

Specific Applications of Scripture in a Local Context

As an elder in this new church, it is an awesome responsibility before God to lead and guide

correctly. It is so critical not to bind another’s conscience beyond Scripture. However, it is also important not to ignore areas that are difficult. So many of these areas (while seemingly outward in application) are issues of the heart, and while we might be able to reproduce a church that looks like other churches, we are most concerned that the hearts of people are desiring to please God. “O how I love Thy Law” should be our cry. Issues of outward appearance are always easier if we set standards for people (How long should the dress be?; how much hair should be covered?; etc.). However, if the standard goes beyond Scripture, we are not leading properly. I remember Mose Stoltzfus speaking on this subject and cautioning that people want a standard so that the conscience doesn’t need exercised—but this isn’t the way of the New Covenant. So we preach the principle and pray that God will bring the standards as He wants them.

The Danger of Phariseeism

It is truly amazing to me that not long after all these good things began happening in our lives, we suddenly began noticing the lacking in others. Subtle thoughts began creeping in and we were tempted to be critical or judgemental. How foolish! Wasn’t it the grace of God that was gentle with us? We had accomplished nothing of ourselves. How could we judge another? Yet, we began to realize that this was an inherent danger in seeking a higher standard – there would always be the temptation for self-righteousness and judgement of others. We are learning to be very careful with this one.

True Revival vs. an Outward Improvement

There are many days when the “outside of the cup” looks a whole lot better than the inside. We must be so careful not to take any refuge in what appears to be happening, what others think they

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Overcoming Sensuality

WINNING THE WAR AGAINST THE FLESH



**We wrestle against
principalities and powers**

- ❗ **Recognize** your potential for moral failure (1 Corinthians 10:12). All of us are prime targets for the lust of the eyes and of the flesh. The Scripture gives key examples of believers who fell prey to moral temptation (e.g., David, Samson, Noah's son Ham, Lot's daughters, etc.). Even the committed believer is susceptible if he relaxes his guard against the flesh.
- ❗ **Realize** that you do not have to give in to moral sin (1 Corinthians 10:13). You already have the grace to meet all temptations. God always provides a way of escape. Even if you failed in the past, God can give you strength to be an overcomer now—you can decide not to give in.
- ❗ **Resolve** once and for all to be pure (1 Peter 1:13-15). Decide to be what God asks—to be holy in mind and body. Make a commitment that regardless of what it takes, you will be pure. Start fighting a battle that you intend to win, not to merely do better. Refuse to give in, even for a moment, to temptation.
- ❗ **Remove** all bitterness (Hebrews 12:15,16). Bitterness is a root problem that breeds moral impurity. Its ability to defile fosters the corruption of inward morals. Deal with any unresolved hurt from your past.
- ❗ **Restrain** your flesh in every area (Romans 13:14; 1 Corinthians 9:27). You cannot indulge your flesh in any area and expect to control it. Do not allow even one area of compromise to go undealt with. Maintain discipline especially as it relates to laziness, overeating, or lack of exercise learning to say no to your body.
- ❗ **Reject** anything in your life that would lead you back to bondage to the flesh (Proverbs 4:14, 15,23.). Cleanse your home of any reminder of sensual living. Get rid of all magazines, books, immodest clothing, and even companions who are not serious about being pure. Avoid tempting

places, situations, and people. Learn to develop new habits, especially at times when you would be tempted to indulge in old ones.

- ⚡ **Run** from every form of evil (2 Timothy 2:22). If you find yourself in any compromising situation flee! Don't stick around to battle it—run! Do not begin reasoning. Obey the very first prompting of the Holy Spirit. You will fall if you stay here long enough to think about it!
- ⚡ **Renew** your mind with the Word of God (Psalm 119:9,133; Philippians 4:8). Program your mind to think right. Wrong thinking must be replaced. Respond to all wrong thoughts with the Word of God. Like Jesus did, don't let any temptation go unchecked and unrebuked.
- ⚡ **Recruit** the help of a godly believer or authority (James 5:16). It is doubtful you will come to total victory without shaming yourself to another. This attacks pride—the root of your sin—and it provides daily accountability to help you maintain consistent victory.
- ⚡ **Remind** yourself when tempted of the true consequences of your sin—what it really does to you, your children, your family, and your testimony (James 1:14, 15). Minimize the temporary pleasures of sin.
- ⚡ **Refuse** to stay defeated and depressed if you fall (Proverbs 24:16). Forgiveness is available from God—you must forgive yourself as well. Praise God that He will use your defeat to make you all the more determined to be victorious in the future.
- ⚡ **Rely** on the power of the Holy Spirit to keep you pure (Galatians 5:16). Submit your members to God daily, and ask God to empower you to be all that He wants you to be. Call on Him by faith for strength to obey. ☐

continued from page 23, We Will Never be the Same by Kim & Amy Costanza

see, or what seems to be going well. We must strive for a “broken and contrite” spirit and an attitude of poverty and humility. We know our hearts and they are still deceitful, and can offer comfort when there should be none. We desperately need God’s grace everyday, for “unless the Lord builds the house,” we labor in vain.

Insulation vs. Isolation

As we try to live a holy life, pleasing to God, there is a temptation to “come out and be separate” in a way that God never intended. Jesus came to seek and save that which was lost, and if we huddle in and protect ourselves from the world, we will

miss one of our greatest purposes for remaining on earth. We desire to be light and salt by how we live, and we don’t want to put that light under a bushel. This is a tension that we face every day, as we are to be in the world, but not of it.

Finally, as we look back and look forward, what we see in both directions is the faithfulness of God. How we thank Him for this. He is gentle, patient and kind – too much so to leave us where we are. I know that He won’t let us stay in the current state for long—always onward and upward. It is our prayer that God would revive and refresh His people. He has begun that in our lives. ☐



The Remnant

Who Are They?

As I sat down to read my E-mail letters that came in through the last week, I came upon a very familiar letter. The address of the writer was different, but the content of the letter read like a carbon copy of the same letter I have read hundreds of times. Here is an example of what we read:

Dear Charity Ministries,

My name is _____. I received a copy of the Godly Home tapes from a friend of mine. I cannot begin to tell you how they have affected me and my family. I could not hold back the tears as I listened to the sound teaching on the home. As I listened, I said in my heart, "I'm not crazy; there are other people who feel like I do about my children, and the church, and the Bible." Please help me, I don't know what to do. We have visited church after church in our community, but we just can't get peace about going to any of them. The music, the worldly youth department, and the general compromise on clear issues in the Bible stop us

short each time. We are now sitting at home, and listening to tapes on Sunday, but I know this is not the way it should be. Please help me, I don't know what I should do. Can you give us some counsel?"

It seems there is a stirring of God among many believers in this land we live in. They are beginning to take a fresh look at what Christianity is and what it is suppose to be. It seems that we are living in the last of the last days before Jesus returns for His bride. The Holy Spirit through the Apostle Paul warned us that in the last days there would be a departing from the faith. That men would not endure sound doctrine, but turn away their ears from the truth. I know we need revival, and that many are praying for it. I am one who is also praying for a move of God upon the failing churches in this land, and upon my own heart. However, could it be that maybe this is part of the falling away that Paul wrote about?

This departure from the true and right, will naturally cause

the true and sincere to struggle with how to fit into the confusing, compromising church of today. If there is a falling away, then there also must needs be a coming out that moves right along side of it. I don't write this to offend anyone. I don't write this to say some have arrived and the others are second class citizens. I have a broad view of the body of Christ. But the body of Christ must be His beloved bride. Many are questioning whether the church at large is in fact His beloved bride. There are a growing number of families (into the thousands by now) who weep and struggle and search for reality, both inward and outward. Their stories in this struggle are very much the same. We have given them a name because we meet so many who are just exactly alike. We call them the Remnant, which literally means a surviving portion. You could just as easily call them the Pilgrim Church, as Broadbent did in the Book review in this issue. What name we give them doesn't really matter. The important thing is that we recognize the mysterious hand of God stirring a multitude to return to some measure of biblical Christianity. I meet them by the hundreds as I travel. They are very much alike, though they do not know each other. Let me share with you some of their likenesses.

- They have a deep burden for their children. God has supernaturally turned the hearts of the fathers to their

children, and many other major changes have taken place because of that.

- They are returning to God's revealed order for the home. The husband is the head, and leads out. The wife submits to her husband, and wants it to be so. The children obey their parents in all things, and find delightful blessings in doing this.
- They have a literal, and practical view of the Bible. What the Bible says must be obeyed, and lived out in everyday life. They are hearers and doers of the Word.
- They are mostly home-schooling families. This turning of the heart to the children has caused many to take up the rigorous task of schooling the children at home. Many of them got caught by choosing to educate their own at home. They found their hearts deeply committed to the task of raising up a godly seed.
- They long to walk with God more deeply. This longing has caused many to withdraw a bit from the fast pace of American life, slow down, and turn aside to seek the Lord.
- They are weary of the worldly mixture they find among professing Christians. Rock music, punk christians, blue hair, and nose rings are not in their portfolio of what a

Christian is. To try to have intimate communion with this adulterous mixture is a grief to them.

- They are taking a second look at materialism and riches. The American dream is to them a foolish illusion that never satisfies. Many are leaving the cities to find jobs more suitable for family work, etc.
- They have taken a fresh look at what the Bible says about modesty and sensuality. The display of the female form for all to see is no longer an option for them or for their daughters. Most of the time I can spot these people by this point alone. It is a mystery to me, because they are not being taught most of this, but learn it on their own, by the Holy Ghost.
- They are very careful about the marriage of their children. No more just falling in love to who knows what, and then a life time of heartache and conflict.

- They identify with the simple persecuted brethren around the world, and long for the pure flow of the Holy Spirit that these lowly saints are experiencing.

So, who are they, what is their name? Waldenses, Albigenses, Hussites, Protestants, Anabaptists, Huguenots, Nonconformists, Moravians, and the list goes on and on. As the Spirit of Christ broods over the world stirring and drawing out a people who will love Him with all their heart, and walk in His ways. Where are you? Do you know who you are? Are you one of those lonely ones who have been told that you have gone off the deep end. Let me give you some counsel? Get a copy of the Pilgrim Church, the book featured in the Book Review of this issue. Read it carefully, read it prayerfully. You may find out who you are in that book. I Did!!

-Bro Denny



*The Remnant that is escaped,
shall take root downward and bear fruit upward.
Out of Zion shall go forth a Remnant,
The zeal of the Lord of hosts shall do this.
Wherefore, lift up thy prayer for the Remnant,
That is left.*

Is. 37:31,32,4 adapted

Sharpened Words for Little Ones



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Welcome to Sharpened Words for Little Ones. This little section of The Remnant is designed to help you step into the water of obedience and see God bring you through. I was thinking the other day how many sermons I get while conducting family devotions.

Dozens of times as we are sitting together, and I am teaching from some portion of Scripture, it dawns on me, "This is a sermon." These simple everyday responsibilities are truly used by God to train us and expand us for future ministry. I am sure that is one of the reasons that Paul told Timothy to check and see what a man's home is like before you ordain him into the ministry.

A faithful man at home will be the same in the church. Consider also that a man who has consistently expounded the Word to his family will be ready to expound the Word to a flock of people. Oh, the mysterious ways of God. He gives us the task of telling Bible stories, giving character lessons, and teaching the truth with many different objects. We carry out our task, day in and day out for many years, and, behold, we have become an able minister without even going away to a school to prepare.

I remember the learning experiences that I had working among the poor people of North Chicago. The children were all TV addicts. They were used to being captivated with changing pictures and thoughts every fifteen seconds. This was a challenge to keep their attention on a Sunday School bus. Little did I know that God was teaching me how to preach and teach in simplicity. I want to encourage you fathers to rise up to the task that God has entrusted to you. God is also preparing you for other things. He that is faithful in the unseen things will be given bigger things to do in the future.

-The editor

God bless you as you teach!

God's Telephone Number

You will need a helper with this one. Bring a telephone to family devotions, and attempt to get contact some one by phone. Each time you dial the number, have your hidden helper say those wonderful words that none of us like to hear. There are many different ones that you can use: "No one is available to take your call." "Please call back at another time." "The number you have dialed is not in service." "I'm sorry, the number you have dialed is busy." You can think of more of them. You want to use many of them so the children get the idea. It is so hard to get through to someone. Then turn to Jer. 33:3 and read God's telephone number. Explain to the children that He is never away from the throne, and will always be ready to hear you when you call. The illustrations are endless from this point onward as you have laid the foundation for much good discussion.

Harmony in the Family

Teamwork and yielding to the wishes of another is the lesson here. There are many verses that you can draw from that speak about one mindedness, or being of the same mind. Before you begin your time in the Word, prepare some of the children ahead of time. Speak to them separately, and ask them to help you by singing a different song when it is time to sing. When the song is called and all begin to sing, there shall rise up a terrible confusing sound. Everyone will agree that this is a terrible way to have family worship. The point is, that everyone had their own mind about what they wanted to sing. Because of this, no one enjoyed the singing. This is the way family harmony can be at times. We want to do what we want to do, and nothing else matters. But look at the results. To be in harmony and to have the same mind, is a choice. We have to give up our will at times for the good of all the others in the home. You can make this very practical and ask for examples where they had a different mind in something.

The Blessing of Faithfulness

In this lesson, you will need to get a friend to help you. Give him a message of good news to deliver to your family. He can call on the telephone and ask for each member of the family to come to the phone. You could also use the speaker phone so all could hear it together. When they get their turn, have him tell them of some special event planned for the family. Maybe something like "your dad is going to take you all out for supper at Wendys." As each child hears the message, their face will light up with joy. This is a very refreshing message. After this is all done, discuss with the children the principle of faithfulness. Find a definition for the word, and expound on it. What if he forgot to call and tell everyone. What if he got the message all mixed up, and told some of you some bad news, or different news. Here we have one who was diligent to carry out the task, and look how it has lit up everybody's heart with joy. You can use the verses in Proverb 25. Verse 13 is a verse on the blessings that come when the job is carried out right. Verse 19 is an example of the sadness and disappointment when the job is not done right.

The Poor Wise Man

Turn to the portion of scripture in Ecc. 9:14-18, and read the story about this dear man who did what nobody else could do. Wisdom is the motivation here. We must be constantly looking for different ways to motivate our children to seek after wisdom. We don't know what the wisdom was that he used to deliver the city. The Bible is silent so that we can fill in the blanks with many different points of wisdom. Use your imagination to come up with a feasible situation that could have happened. Use the story of Elisha where the Syrians encompassed the city where he was staying. See how this one wise man delivered the whole city. Remember the time when famine was in the land of Samaria, and it was the lepers who ventured out into the camp of the enemy, and found all the food and spoil, delivering the city. You could also use the example of the Apostle Paul when he was lost at sea for fourteen days and how he delivered the entire ship full of men by his wisdom.



Jerry's Choice

This story happened a long time ago, when money was scarce and most people were poor, not because they were lazy, but because jobs were also scarce. The boy in our story was born back then, and his grandpa named him Jerry. Jerry had four brothers and six sisters. It was almost impossible for his father to earn enough money to buy food and clothes for his big family. He worked long hard days, but got so little pay; he just didn't have enough to properly care for the family.

Now in this same community there lived a man we will call Mr. Pete and his wife, Mrs. Sara. They had a very nice farm, house, and animals and it seemed they had plenty of money too, but they didn't have any children. Mr. Pete was really

a kind, quiet man, but Mrs. Sara was quite bossy and liked their money very much.

She was very careful how they spent it and didn't want to spend any more than was necessary. Mr. Pete farmed with horses, not tractors, and there was always much work to do. He had horses, cows, pigs, and chickens to feed each day, so he had to grow lots of grain and hay for feed.

He and Mrs. Sara also raised vegetables to take to market each week, so they could sell vegetables, eggs, and meat to people who lived in town. One day Mr. Pete had an accident and hurt his back very badly so he couldn't do all the hard work anymore. They needed to get someone to come help quickly. Mrs. Sara didn't want to hire a

grown man; that would take too much money. She also told Mr. Pete, I want to get a young boy so I can whip him if he doesn't do what I want him to do. She looked around for a boy, and guess who she saw? Eleven-year-old Jerry. She knew his parents were poor and had lots of children to feed and could surely use some extra money!

She and Mr. Pete talked to Jerry's father. We will give Jerry a good place to live, buy his clothes, and give you a little money each month if you will let him come live with us. Now Jerry was his mother's helper and loved her very much. He would carry water for her on washday, help work in the garden, and do many little jobs to make her work easier. His mother appreciated his help very much, and of course she loved him dearly and didn't want him to move away from home. Jerry's father thought about the money he would get, and Jerry would get clothes and food he wouldn't have to pay for, so he decided Jerry should go. He took Jerry to Mr. Pete's house and left him there. Mrs. Sara showed him his new bedroom. He was upstairs, in the dark, all alone. Remember, he had brothers and sisters to be with at home; now he was alone. Many times he cried himself to sleep, he was so lonely at night. Jerry had to get up early, go to the barn, clean stalls, feed animals, milk cows, and gather eggs. He had so much work to do during the day he really didn't have time to think about his family.

He was here to work, and Mrs. Sara made sure he worked

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Book Review

by Andrew Weaver

The Pilgrim Church

by E.H. Broadbent



Are you one of those people who think history is boring? Maybe you think church history is the most boring of all, a tedious list of names and places that you can neither pronounce nor remember. Allow us to recommend a totally different kind of church history book, *The Pilgrim Church*. Its story will fascinate, inspire, and chal-

lenge you. It is simply the account of God's faithful remnant, which the author calls *The Pilgrim Church*, from the time of Pentecost until the early twentieth century. Thoroughly researched and very well documented, it shows clearly that God has always preserved a faithful Church. In every stage of history there have been groups of sincere, seeking souls who separated themselves from the world and the religious establishment and sought only to serve God and live like Jesus. In *The Pilgrim Church*, E.H. Broadbent records the history of many of those groups, documenting their failures as honestly as their successes.

In the first chapter, the author explains his book. *Events in the history of the churches in the time of the apostles have been selected and recorded in the Book of Acts in such a way as to provide a permanent pattern for the churches. Departure from this pattern has had disastrous consequences, and all revival and restoration have been due to some return to the pattern and principles in the Scriptures. The following account... shows that there has been a continuous succession of churches composed of believers who have made it their aim to act on the teaching of the New Testament. This succession is not necessarily to be found in any one place; often such churches have been dispersed or have degenerated, but similar ones have appeared in other places. The pattern is so clearly delineated in Scriptures as to have made it possible for churches of this character to spring up in fresh places and among believers who did not know that disciples before them had taken the same path, or that there were some in their own time in other parts of the world.*

Very early in the history of the church, men had already complicated the simple message of the Gospel, claimed inappropriate power and authority, and lost sight of some of the most basic Bible truths. Writing about the Lord's Supper being corrupted into a supposedly miraculous act performed only by a priest, Broadbent says that this was one of several things that *...intensified the growing distinction between clergy and laity. The growth of a clerical system under the domination of the bishops, who in turn were ruled by "Metropolitans" controlling extensive territories, substituted a human organization and religious forms for the power and working of the Holy Spirit and the guidance of the Scriptures...*

Sad to say, even in those early days the Church was splintering into many mutually exclusive fac-

tions, but one thing they all had in common was persecution. *When the Church came into contact with the Roman Empire, a conflict ensued in which all the resources of that mighty power were exhausted in a vain endeavor to vanquish those who never resisted or retaliated.... However much the churches were divided in view and practice, they were united in suffering and victory.*

The fourth century saw the first union of Church and State, a lamentable violation of all New Testament teaching on the subject, and within a short time, the so-called Church had all the power of the State at its disposal. But always there were those lovers of the truth who rejected the very idea of such an unholy alliance, and simply sought to follow Jesus Christ. Pagans and professing Church alike viciously persecuted such people for centuries, but the true light was never extinguished. *The first three centuries of the Church's history prove that no earthly power can crush it. It is invincible to attacks from without. The witnesses of its sufferings, and even its persecutors, become its converts and it grows more rapidly than it can be destroyed. ...the union of the Church and the State, even when the powers of the mightiest Empire are put into the Church's hands, do not enable her to save the State from destruction, for, in abandoning the position which her very name implies, of being "called out" of the world and of separation to Christ, she loses the power that comes from subjection to her Lord, exchanging it for an earthly authority that is fatal to herself.*

As *The Pilgrim Church* clearly shows through many chapters, the greatest harm is done to the Church not by persecution, but by the rise of false doctrine from among her own members. Yet as Broadbent affirms, the pattern for the New Testament Church is delineated so clearly in the Acts of the Apostles that a true church can grow up in any place where honest people simply read and obey the Word of God. Some of the most inspiring accounts in this book are of such people, who with no human example to follow, simply accepted the biblical pattern and were used by God in the growth of the Pilgrim Church. Some attempted to reform the corrupt system in which they found themselves, while many others broke away entirely and began anew in faith. Although their beliefs and practices varied somewhat among

different groups, most of them had in common a passion to know Christ and become like Him.

Broadbent quotes extensively from the works of many writers through every age of the Pilgrim Church. One of them writes in the seventeenth century about the *One Thing Needful: Christendom has become a labyrinth. The faith has been split into a thousand little parts and you are made a heretic if there is one of them you do not accept...What can help? Only the one thing needful: return to Christ, looking to Christ as the only Leader, and walking in His footsteps, setting aside all other ways until we reach the goal, and have come to the unity of the faith (Eph. 4:13). As the Heavenly Master built everything on the ground of the Scriptures, so should we leave all particularities of our special confessions and be satisfied with the revealed Word of God which belongs to us all.* There is the heartbeat of the Pilgrim Church, the common desire that has bound God's people together through two millennia.

The author's estimation of the Anabaptists could well be applied to many other groups: *...It was not the form of baptism that gave them courage to suffer as they did. They were aware of immediate communion with their Redeemer; no man and no religious form came between their souls and Him... This fellowship with Him enabled them to understand their communion with those who shared it with them, and in their churches to realize the fellowship of saints. These churches had various beginnings, various histories, and differed according to the character of the persons in them; but all were alike in their desire to adhere to the pattern of primitive Christianity found in the New Testament.... Taking this path they were subject to special temptations, and wherever they yielded to fleshly desires, political aims or covetousness, their fall was great, but by far the greater part were enabled to bear a good testimony to the faithfulness of God.*

This book is not the story of a single denomination or a particular group. It spans 1,900 years of history, and records the stories of believers who were known by many different names in dozens of different countries. In addition to well-known groups like the Anabaptists, Moravians, and Waldenses, *The Pilgrim Church* recounts the history of many long-forgotten assemblies whose stories will inspire and encourage you. Jesus Christ has promised to build His Church, and this book will thrill you with the history of the fulfillment of

that promise. In every age, in many places, under widely varying circumstances, among people of all walks of life, He has indeed built His Church.

If you have ever been tempted to despair as you compared modern Christianity's anemia with the early Church's fearless power, reading *The Pilgrim Church* will renew your faith. That desire to return to the truth and find the 'one thing needful' is the very thing that has inspired many chapters in the story of the Pilgrim Church. It begins with people like you, accepting the Word of God as it stands instead of in the context of your particular creed or confession. When you are willing to do that, willing to 'come out from among them', willing to face ostracism and persecution, and willing to pay any price to be 'conformed to His image', then you can join the eternal, triumphant story of *The Pilgrim Church*. □

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P.O. Box 2041
Grand Rapids, MI 49501-2041

This book is available from:

Benchmark Press
1593 Pinola Rd. • Shippensburg, PA 17257
U.S.A.

(717) 530-8595

Cost: US\$22 + shipping

continued from page 30, Jerry's Choice

hard. Jerry got to go home once a month on Sunday afternoon. Oh, how he looked forward to that Sunday. Mrs. Sara didn't want him to go very often. She said that made him too homesick. One day a kind neighbor, who had been watching what was happening, brought Jerry a present. It was a nice Bible storybook. It even had some pictures in it. Jerry loved that book and the beautiful stories of Joseph, Moses, Daniel, and Jesus. He would hurry with his morning chores, go into the house, get washed for breakfast, then sit and read his Bible storybook until breakfast was ready. When he went to eat, he would put his book back on the shelf until he had a few minutes before mealtime to read again. Mrs. Sara watched this for a while, and one morning when Jerry went to the shelf to get his book, it was GONE. Mrs. Sara said he was getting too involved

and attached to the Bible storybook, and she wasn't sure that was good for him. She never gave it back.

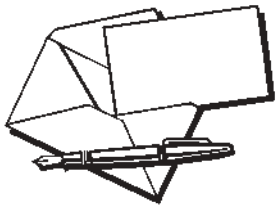
Sometimes Jerry thought he couldn't bear all the unfair treatment he received, so one day, out in the barn, he talked to God. He made a choice. He promised God if he grew up and God blessed him with children, he would be with God's help a good father to those children. Jerry could have chosen to be mean, angry, and bitter all his life, but he chose God's way. Jerry stayed with Mr. and Mrs. Pete until he was 21 years old. He never got money for all his years of hard work. He never got to go back home to live with his family. But God was watching and God blessed him and took care of him. After he was grown God blessed him with a godly wife, and her parents were very special to him. Jerry did become a father. He remembered the

promise he had made to God out in the barn, and with God's help he was a godly father. He taught his children about God and God's Word.

Several years ago, Jerry was telling a friend about his Bible storybook that was taken away from him many years ago. Later his friend was in a used bookstore and saw an old Bible storybook. He thought about Jerry and decided to buy the book. He took it to Jerry and asked, Is this Bible storybook like the one you had when you were a boy? Guess what? When Jerry opened it, it was the same book! The only difference was the color of the cover. Jerry is now an old man, but he still loves God and he still enjoys reading his Bible storybook. God has blessed him very much because he made right choices.

-by Jerry's daughter

□



Precious Letters from Our Readers

We thank God for the many letters of counsel and encouragement we have been receiving. It is the only way we can evaluate our progress. Keep them coming. Our desire is to foster a free flow of edification, inspiration, and burden; from us to you, and you to us. That way we can pass some of the blessings on to the others who are reading. We would love to hear from you in any of the following ways.

- »»» A meaningful lesson in family devotions that you can pass on to other fathers.
- »»» A testimony for *The Blessing Corner* where you found God's blessing in some area of obedience.
- »»» A question that can be answered to the edification of all.
- »»» An area of spiritual growth, obtained by one of the exercises suggested in the magazine.
- »»» A word of encouragement or counsel about *The Remnant*, or any section of it.

Dear Editor,

I just received the Magazine, "The Heartbeat of The Remnant" this morning, and I was so touched that you sent it, that I felt compelled to write and say a big THANK YOU. This is the second copy I'm receiving and I was really looking forward to it. I have had to borrow in the past, but having my own copy now enables my husband to read and also pass unto others.

Although I've not sat down to read, I was drawn to the short article, "Warnings about C. S. Lewis." I was drawn to it because he happens (or happened) to be one of my favorite "Christian" authors. Believe me, I didn't know anything about him. I just assumed he was a born-again Christian author. To tell you the truth, I read the Chronicles of Narnia, and I was carried away. I was even contemplating buying the series for our Family Library, even though I had some uneasy feelings when reading some of them. I want to thank you for the warnings.

I can't truly express how grateful I am to you, for all your articles. I want you to know that God is using you to do a lot of work in my family. My husband read the last edition, and it inspired us to re-introduce the reading of the Bible at our supper table, and explain to the children what the Bible is saying.

I pray that God will continue to enrich you in every way. I pray that His anointing shall not cease to flow in your ministry. I pray that you will not lose your reward, and that you will reap all that you have sown, in multiples. Amen.

Dear Remnant,

I just want to write and say that The Remnant is such a blessing to my husband and me. We really like the changes in the new Remnant. Thank you so much for your wonderful work in putting it together.

We live in Sweden and we are longing to be part of a Christian fellowship that is set apart from the

world and has the convictions you share in your magazine. We don't know of any Mennonite church here. We are praying about the possibility of being part of starting a new work here.

We were blessed with our first child, Melody, last year. Being a stay-at-home mother and homemaker is a very lonely walk over here. You might know that Sweden is a Socialist nation and the society here is built up so that it's very difficult for a family to live off one income. It's the norm to put your children in daycare from 1 year of age and the daycares are supposed to be good for the children. The government is currently working on making the daycares free for all families. Homeschooling is legal so far but only around 100 children are being homeschooled in Sweden. I don't know any family personally that homeschools and I don't know if any Christians are homeschooling in Sweden. Spanking is illegal. The church here surely needs a true revival that touches the homes.

If the Lord wants us to continue to live in Sweden we trust that He will make a way for us to live godly lives and to raise up our children in His ways.

God bless you!

*Ulrika Freeman,
Sweden*

Dear editor,

I totally agree with you that the Bible teaches us that we can keep our children from the world. You are only the 3rd person whom I've heard teach that. Mr. Booth and I firmly agree. By God's grace all my children will be sold out for God. I pastor a church in the heathen "mission field" of Phoenix, AZ. I would absolutely LOVE to meet you and speak with you. So if you're ever in Phoenix, PLEASE look me up.

Phoenix, AZ

I have just appreciated the spiritual depth of the articles in the Remnant. During my busy schedule as a schoolteacher, The Remnant was one of just a few magazines I took time to read. How I heard my God calling to me through the pages.

A line on the article concerning Andrew Murray's book *Absolute Surrender*. Shortly after reading the article I came across the book and was able to borrow it and read it and Scripture on my knees in my devotions most of the winter. Life changing!

Wooster, OH

We're sorry that it costs you so much to send your magazine to

Australia! We do very much appreciate your sacrifice. We enjoy the Remnant and share it with another family but if you find it too expensive to post we'll understand if you think it's wise to take us off your mailing list.

Bundaberg, Australia

I do very much enjoy The Heartbeat! We appreciate all the hard work that goes into it. May God bless you! I notice that most, if not all, of your pages "Sharpened Words for Little Ones" focus on families that have older children, and several at that! (older meaning 5 and above) Kenn and I have a 2 year old and a 9 month old. Would you have suggestions for small, young families? Our 2 yr. old is extremely sharp—knows her colors, counts to 10, and copycats like everything. We want to take advantage of these teachable moments.

Canton, OH

I really enjoy reading Remnant magazine, especially on the topic of godly homes/home biography. I wonder where we could purchase these books (mentioned by Denny Kenaston) written by William & Catherine Booth. I also want to thank you for sending me the Mission magazine and weekly cassette tapes.

Singapore

The Training of Children
by William Booth

Schmul Publishers
Salem, Ohio 44460
U.S.A.

May the Lord bless you all for this ministry. I am alone here. No church fellowship and I have no family. You have no idea how I look forward to the Heartbeat and the missions newsletters.

Mempis, TN

We have been blessed tremendously by this new edition of "The Heartbeat of The Remnant." We like the way you organize it and the covers are so inspiring! Everything is so helpful...a challenge for every one! Thank you and keep up the good fight!

Marcellus, MI

Thank you for your wonderful publication—I am always encouraged to draw closer to the Lord with each issue. I especially enjoyed this issue on revival! I have a feeling you might receive some negative feedback on your new subscription policy, but do not be discouraged! Those who truly feed on the magazine will not mind the little bit of effort it takes to keep receiving it. May God bless this ministry!

Phoenix, OR

The Heartbeat of The Remnant is a great blessing to our family. We have many of the Charity tapes and praise the Lord for how He has used your ministry to bless our family. I am a Baptist Evangelist and Home Schooling father of 10 special needs children—married 32 yrs, 12 children.

Springfield, KY

THEY CRUCIFIED GOD

THEN THE JEWS CRIED OUT, "LET GOD BE CRUCIFIED,
LET GOD'S BLOOD BE UPON US AND ON OUR CHILDREN."
THEN THE SOLDIERS TOOK GOD, AND STRIPPED OFF HIS CLOTHES,
THEY PUT UPON GOD A SCARLET ROBE OF MOCKERY.
THEY PUSHED A CROWN OF THORNS DOWN ON GOD'S HEAD,
AND PLACED A REED FOR A SCEPTER, IN GOD'S RIGHT HAND.
THEY BOWED THE KNEE BEFORE GOD AND MOCKED HIM.
THEY SPIT UPON GOD'S FACE AND SMOTE HIM ON THE HEAD.
AND THEN THEY LEAD GOD AWAY, AND CRUCIFIED HIM.
MANY THAT PASSED BY REVILED GOD, WAGGING THEIR HEADS.
AND THERE WAS DARKNESS OVER ALL THE LAND.
THEN GOD CRIED OUT WITH A LOUD VOICE, "IT IS FINISHED".

The Heartbeat of

The Remnant

Charity Christian Fellowship

PUBLICATION OFFICE

400 W Main St Ste 1 • Ephrata, PA 17522

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