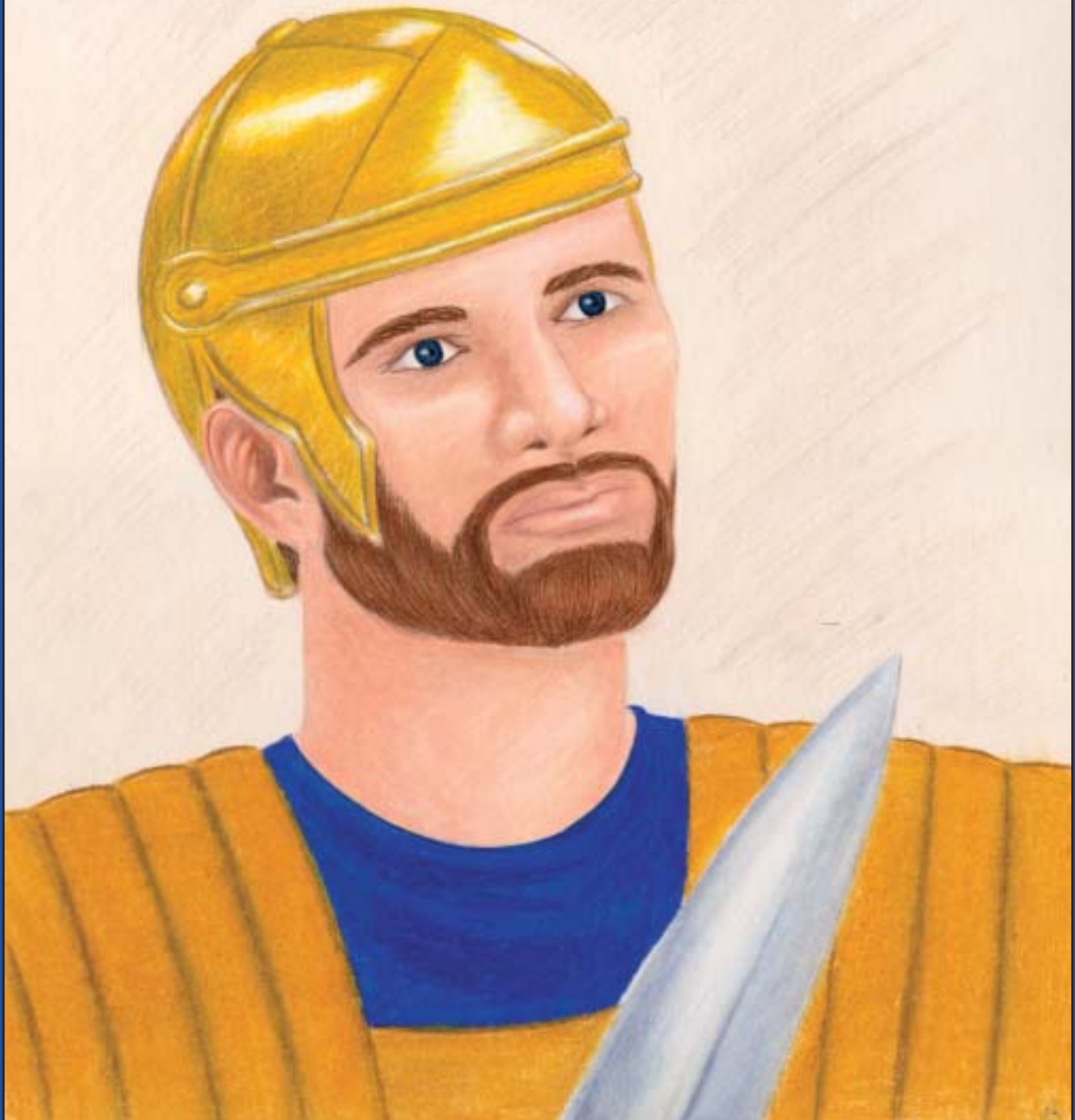


May / June 2002
Volume 8 Number 3

The Heartbeat of

The Remnant



. . . is Gentle Warriors

The Heartbeat of
The Remnant

Publisher

Charity Christian Fellowship
Publication Office
 400 W Main St Ste 1
 Ephrata, PA 17522

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The Apostle Paul makes many references to war in his writings. He uses terms like enemy, soldier and warfare. He also clearly defines a *different kind of war* than what comes to the mind of the natural man. This *different kind of war* is the true, spiritual war that is behind all wars that mankind has fought. Man, because of his lack of knowledge, has played into the hands of an evil, unseen enemy whose goal has always been “to steal, and to kill, and to destroy” (John 10:10). Oh how foolish men would feel if for only a few minutes the veil of the unseen spirit world could be pulled back. They see how Satan is using them to kill and to mutilate their fellow men. They would see how he has used their own selfish desires to pit one against another. He gets them fighting over borders, money and power so that he can fill hell with the souls of men.

This is a very sad reality. We grieve over the losses and destruction that Satan has wrought behind the scenes. We shouldn't be too hard on our unconverted fellow humans. We are guilty of some of the same kind of ignorant employment. Believers in Jesus Christ do not see how many times they have also been used in this unseen war. There are often “wars



A Different Kind of War

by Denny Kenaston

*We wrestle not against flesh and blood—
We wrestle against principalities,
against powers, against the rulers
of the darkness of this world,
against spiritual wickedness
in high places.*

Eph. 6:12 (adapted)

to one of my favorite testimonies in the Bible. I remember the account of unseen forces recorded in II Kings 6:8-17. The armies of Syria encompassed the city where Elisha was staying, waiting to kill him. The servant saw this formidable army in the morning and went in haste to tell his master of the dilemma. I love the prophet's sanctified response. He calmly reassured his servant, “They that be with us are more than they that be with them.” Elisha knew the other

and fightings among you” as in James chapter four. Brother is set against brother, and divisions occur among much needed troops. We Christians are sadly ignorant of the amount of activity we are involved in with evil spirits. Have you ever considered the possible number of evil spirits that have gone out into the world? Revelation chapter five mentions one hundred million angels singing around the throne. If that number represents the two thirds of angels that did not rebel, then that leaves fifty million fallen ones loose on this earth. That won't put a demon behind every rock, but does reveal more of them than most of us ever think. These lying spirits whisper many things into the minds of God's people, turning them against each other.

My meditations go

war very well. It seems he could even see behind the veil at times. He very calmly prayed that God would open the eyes of his servant, so his servant could see some of the soldiers in the real war in the spirit world. *Lord, open our eyes that we may see beyond the realm of flesh and blood.*

A Spiritual War

“For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;)....” II Cor. 10:3-4

Every war has defined perimeters which help those fighting to know how to engage their enemy. It would be ridiculous to come against an army of tanks with rifles, or to march in full formation against people who are hiding behind rocks in the woods. Warriors must discern the battle lines and engage the enemy accordingly. This holds true in the spiritual war. Paul writes about spiritual weapons, spiritual armor and evil spirits who are our enemies. He also speaks about strategies which will aid us in overcoming this enemy. We are in a *different kind of war*. We must learn about this war and how to engage our enemy. So many times God’s people have an imaginary idea of the war. It is more of a pseudo war. They know there is a war because the Bible says so, but they don’t have a clue what this war is really all about. Our enemy has done this, lest we should see him and arise and overcome him. It seems silly to me. We are in a war where we are promised victory, and most of us never engage the enemy.

As there are rules in every war, there are rules in this spiritual war. How are we going to fight? Have you ever heard of foot boxing? It is a way of fighting in which you only use your feet. If you are going to engage an enemy in foot boxing, then you must learn how to box with your feet. Those who choose this method of boxing practice and become very good at it. Why do they do this? Because they must learn to fight by the rules. Brothers and sisters, we are in a spiritual war. Like the foot boxer, we must acknowledge the rules revealed in scripture, master them and engage the enemy. I would like to give some definition to the war-

fare that is raging all around us. Let us consider our weapons, consider our enemy and his strategies. Then we can see clearer and enter into the battle.

The Enemy in This Spiritual War

Lucifer

He is a fallen archangel who rebelled against God Almighty. He is the god of this world and ruler over all that is evil. He is an unseen enemy who functions in the seen and unseen realms. He is a formidable foe and an enemy of all righteousness. His goal is to dethrone God Almighty in every way he can. He is a destroyer and has set himself to damn as many human beings as he can.

Wicked Spirits

These are fallen angels who followed Lucifer in his rebellion against God. They are called demons in the New Testament. They are filthy, unclean spirits who still serve their master as they did in the rebellion in heaven. They join with him to defy God in every way they can, to damn the souls of men in perdition and destruction. These wicked spirits are also invisible to our eyes. They are given many different names in the Bible. Many times they are named according to their evil character.

Evil People

The Apostle Paul used the phrase “enemies of the cross of Christ” when he was warning the Church at Philippi of certain men. Many wicked humans are used by these unseen hosts to attack and destroy God’s work and His people. We must recognize this fact: we have enemies who walk in bodies. Remember, we do not war with them after the flesh. This is a different kind of war. Some of these humans know what they are doing, and some of them are very ignorant of how they are being used by the devil.

The Strategies of the Enemy

He Uses Humans

As I stated above, our fellow human beings are used to attack us in a multitude of ways. Some attack us on purpose, and some don't have a clue what they are doing. We must be alert to what they are doing, or we fall into the traps of our enemy. The prophet Daniel teaches us that in the last days our enemy will "wear out the saints." Many times this is done by humans. There is a phrase that I have adopted and use often in the ministry. It has helped me to remember this strategy. I will often say to myself, "Don't take it personally," as I walk through the real world of ministry to my fellow man.

He is a Liar

This tactic is one of the enemies most subtle weapons against us. He lies! Jesus said, "He is a liar and the father of them." He hasn't changed a bit from the beginning when he said to Eve, "Yeah, hath God said?" He takes the truth and twists it. He sends forth lying spirits to whisper in our ears. He uses people to speak to us and try to convince us to go the wrong way. We must remember that a lie has no power over us whatsoever, unless we foolishly believe it.

He is an Accuser

The Bible calls our enemy "the accuser of the brethren." Oh, how he uses false condemnation to discourage us from serving God! Many times he will cause us to sin and then beat us unmercifully with condemnation. He will say, "So you say you love God? You don't love God. How could you and do such a thing?"

He Tempts Us

Our enemy wants us to sin and lose fellowship with God. He wants us to sin and bring reproach to the holy name of our God. He loves it when we fail and fall into sin. He uses all means to make this happen. Evil spirits will whisper suggestions to us. Evil people will live a tempting life before us. Some will even out-and-out try to convince us to live in sin. This is a great deception and is most destructive in a spiritual war. Remember the sin of Achan. It affected the whole of Israel.



We are in a different kind of war. We must learn about this war and

how to engage our enemy. So many times God's people have an imaginary idea of the war. It is more of a pseudo war. They know there is a war because the Bible says so, but they don't have a clue what this war is really all about. Our enemy has done this, lest we should see him and arise and overcome him.

He Uses Pride

This is his most powerful weapon. It is the very essence of his being. By pride he brought destruction on his own life. Many mighty warriors have fallen by pride. Oh, the foolish thoughts that he puts in the minds of men who have won victories over him!

The Weapons of our Warfare

When we think of the word *weapon*, we usually think of weapons to attack with, like a knife or a gun. This is not always the case in the Bible. The Bible uses the word to describe offensive and defensive equipment. A sword would be an offensive weapon; a shield would be a defensive weapon. As soldiers in this war, we receive great courage when God says to us, "the weapons of our warfare are mighty through God." This statement gives us tremendous insight into the nature of the war and the nature of our weapons. It puts our God in the center of the battle. Like the psalmist said, "through God we shall tread down our enemies." Spiritual weapons, against an unseen enemy, make a *different kind of war*. Lets look at some of our weapons:

Prevailing Prayer

Our most powerful stance in this war is the kneeling position. A soldier learns very quickly that his stance, or stand, is very important. If he loses his footing, he is at a great disadvantage. Satan and his demons tremble at a kneeling, praying Christian. He knows that God answers prayer, and therefore he will do all he can to distract you from this holy exercise. He is very happy when we get too busy in the battle to check our stance and set our footing again. Through prayer in the Spirit, we see the unseen enemy advancing.

The Word of God

God says that His Word is the Sword of the Spirit. This powerful weapon is used to pierce the enemy and tear down his lies. How foolish it is to go into the battle without a knowledge of the Bible. We must become students of the Word. This Word is “quick and powerful, and sharper than any two edged sword.” We are also told that the Word is part of our defensive weaponry. We protect ourselves against the lies of the enemy by having the truth hidden in our hearts.

Fasting

This weapon is probably hell’s best kept secret. The fasting prayer breaks the yoke of bondage placed on the souls of men. Fasting brings spiritual alertness. As I reflect upon my own experiences and the results that came, I don’t see how we can even enter into the battle if we don’t practice fasting from time to time. I have observed that when God’s people begin to fast, you will soon see clear spiritual victories in the war.

The Name of Jesus Christ

Jesus was given a Name that is above every name. As we consider the inner dynamics of this spiritual war, it is nice to know that we are on the winning side. I know sometimes it doesn’t seem that way, but that is because we don’t enter into the victory that we have in Christ. When our Lord Jesus went to the cross, He “spoiled principalities and pow-

ers.” The name of Jesus Christ is a mighty weapon to a Spirit-filled believer. These unseen forces must obey us who use this powerful name in the fear of God.

The Blood of Jesus Christ

We sing that there is power in the blood. Sometimes I’m not sure if we know what we are singing. The blood saves us, and the blood sanctifies us. The blood has opened the way for us warriors to stay in the presence of God, which is the key to victory. Revelation twelve says, “They overcame him by the blood of the lamb.”

To Speak with Our Mouth

Revelation chapter twelve also says, “They overcame him by the word of their testimony.” In this we see the force we have against the enemy when we open up our mouth. The devil will fight you more on this point than any other. This is because God has ordained that people get saved when we preach the gospel to them. That means they make a change of kingdoms. This is the last thing that the dragon wants. Through our words the eyes of the blind are opened. Let us get aggressive and seek and save that which is lost.

Holy Strategies in the War

Humility

The devil has his devices. We must not be ignorant of them. Our enemy tries to derail us through pride. God’s counter strategy is lowliness of heart. Humility releases grace into our lives, which in turn gives us power over the enemy. I can not emphasize the need of a humble, dependent heart enough. Many times in my own life I have felt like I was fighting a battle all alone. In my desperation, I broke before God and cried for help. God was there, wisdom was there, and I knew what to do. Our loving, all wise God designed the war in such a way that we depend on Him all the way through. The enemy cannot defeat us if we are humble.

Praise and Worship

Some may say, "This is a strange strategy to use in a war." Yes, in a natural sense this is true. If you understand the rules of this war, you will see the power and anointing that comes when we praise and magnify our God. There are several examples in the Bible when the battle was won through singing. God gave this strategy to Israel. It had powerful results. It confounds the enemy and sends him running in every direction. It will cause our foes to fight each other.

The Power of Love

Satan is ultimate hate personified. He openeth not the house of his prisoners. The dear lost people of this world serve a very hard taskmaster. He rules by hatred and fear. Nothing will open the eyes of the lost more than genuine, "lay down your life" love. It is one of the rules of this war. We must learn to love at all times. When the battle is raging the highest, we must manifest more love. I wonder how many executors were converted because they looked into the face of a martyr and saw love shining back at him.

Endure Hardness

Suffering and self-denial is part of a soldier's normal life. This is true with an earthly warrior. It is the same for us. We must arm ourselves with a mind to suffer. Soldiers do that. It is no problem for them to have some hard times. They expect it. We must put on this mind. We will overcome our foe as we "love not our lives unto the death."


The Christian's Armor

Paul the Apostle gives a list of our defensive weapons in Ephesians chapter six. We find protection in the heat of the battle in our armor. Paul pleads with us to put it on. I wonder how many Christian soldiers he watched fall in the day of battle. This is no make-believe war. The devil is playing for keeps. Many of those who call themselves God's people view the world as a playground. In reality, it is a battlefield. Souls are perishing all around us, all the time. When we consider this *different kind of war*, these pieces of armor become our very life. Loins girt with truth; heart covered with righteousness; feet shod with a motivation to go and preach; these are a defense for us. A shield of lively faith can stop the strongest fiery lies the enemy shoots at us.

Conclusion

This *different kind of war* is a vast subject. It can not be fully covered in as short of an article as this. My desire is to stir you up unto the war that lies ahead of you. We must become students of these strategies. A good soldier will study the battle before he engages his enemy. In Israel all the youth prepared for war.

All men twenty years old and upward went out to war. The young men knew this, and it stirred them in their youth. They dreamed of the day when they could set out in battle array with the brethren. We must do the same. I don't believe in killing my fellow man; however, I am not a pacifist. I am an activist. I see a *different war*. As Christians we need to be full of zeal and holy grit. We need to learn the rules, enlist in the war and serve our generation. Will you do it, my friend? Let us rise up and engage the enemy. We are well able, by the grace of God. □



I don't believe in killing my fellow man; however, I am not a pacifist. I am an activist. I see a *different war*. As Christians we need to be full of zeal and holy grit. We need to learn the rules, enlist in the war and serve our generation. Will you do it, my friend? Let us rise up and engage the enemy. We are well able, by the grace of God.



Caught by the Word

A Reader's Testimony

Dear Remnant,

Your publication is very precious to me. It provides sustenance in a "dry land." That is why I am reading every single jot and tittle contained in each copy. Praise our Lord for the people who have begun this good work, and who are now carrying on the work. He is and will be blessing you forever.

Your last issue (Jan./Feb. 2002) asked for a testimony. Here is mine. I think it was your March/April 2001 issue that had an article on "Studying a Book of the Bible." I took this suggestion, and on August 18, 2001 I began my own Bible study. I began as you suggested with Philippians just because I could think of no reason not to start there. I had given some thought to the notebook that I needed for it as I am having trouble writing by hand. I chose a steno-pad

as the spiral is on the top and would not interfere with my hand. I began writing out those verses that stood out to me with special meaning, underlining words, and soon writing other pertinent thoughts on the overleaf as well.

Since I had recently been involved in a translation job (English to German), it came to me to check out what the German Bible (Luther Ed'n, Stuttgart, 1984) would have to say on certain words or concepts. This was the beginning of a strong flow of blessings from the Lord, which I felt I needed to record. As the blessings began to flow, I had to give up the speed you had suggested (of reading morning and evening the same passage) and do one book for three weeks. Now I began to go more and more as the Holy Spirit directed. This bore much fruit in my study. Soon I found that many concepts are brightly illuminated when one compares the German and English expression. Then the idea came to include Matthew Henry's Commentary (my latest acquisition), and that really opened the flow wide.

I mentioned already that I am having trouble writing by hand, but God is even blessing my hands. There have been numerous times when I felt so uplifted in Spirit and so filled with joy that even my handwriting flowed smoothly and beautifully, as it did in my youth. Glory to God!

When I had finished Philippians, somebody suggested John to me. This took awhile to complete; now I am working on Matthew—almost done. By now I am finishing the fourth steno-pad, which shows you the abundant flow of grace and blessings that is coming as I receive new insights and record them.

Let me share another blessing that has come as I continue to study. I am being "called" in the middle of the night when there is the greatest quiet. I get up, go to my desk and continue the Bible study for a couple hours or more. I have never been "too tired" the next day. Indeed, it has become the most blessed, joyful and exciting period of my day. It can be recommended to anyone. The fact that I am pursuing studies at my own pace (sometimes even dwelling on a single verse that period) is showing me that it is important to allow the Holy

continued on page 19

I Am a Soldier

*“Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.
No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life;
that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier.”
II Timothy 2:3-4*

I am a soldier... In the army of God! The Lord Jesus Christ is my Captain. The Holy Bible is my code of conduct. Faith, prayer and the Word are my weapons of warfare. I have been taught by the Holy Spirit, trained by experience, tried by adversity and tested by fire.

I am a volunteer... I am enlisted for eternity! I will either retire at the rapture or die on the battlefield. I will not get out, sell out, be talked out or be pushed out. I will be faithful, reliable, capable and dependable. I will teach children, work with the youth, help others or just sit and learn. My God can use me, because I am here.

I am not a baby... I do not need to be pampered, petted, primed up, pumped up, picked up or pepped up. I am a soldier. No one has to call me, remind me, write me, visit me, entice me or lure me. I am a soldier.

I am not a wimp... I am in place, saluting my King, obeying His orders, praising His name and building His Kingdom. No one has to send me flowers, gifts, food, cards or give me hand-outs. I do not need to be cuddled, cradled, cared for or catered to. I am committed.

I will not be stopped... My feelings will not be hurt enough to turn me aside. I will not be discouraged enough to turn around. I cannot lose enough to cause me to quit. Devils cannot defeat me, people will not disillusion me, weather cannot weary me, sickness will not stop me and governments cannot silence me. I am a soldier. Even death cannot destroy me.

I will win... I started with nothing, and if I end with nothing, I will still win. My God will supply all my needs. I am more than a conqueror, and I will always triumph. I can do all things through Christ. I am a soldier in God's army. I am marching on in victory, marching and heaven bound. Here I stand....will you stand with me?

Growing in Gratitude

by Andrew & Elisabeth Weaver



This spiritual exercise is especially geared for families. Everyone, from the oldest to the youngest, can participate in it. Sometimes we overlook the most basic principles in God's word as we search for keys to spiritual growth because we assume that we're beyond the 'children's lessons.' If we all take

an honest look at our own hearts, we will have to admit that in this one, the children have passed us by. It's high time we learn how to have and practice a thankful heart. In doing so, we will discover that this is the key to many areas of growing spiritually. Romans 1:21 shows us that ingratitude is a root of many horrible sins,

and likewise, developing an attitude of gratitude will affect many areas of our life and help us to grow in Christ.

It is sobering to recognize that all ingratitude stems from pride, feeling we never get as much as we deserve.

The primary motivation for exercising this character quality is simply that God has commanded us in His Word, "In everything give thanks." (I Thessalonians 5:18) This verse leaves no doubt what we're supposed to do or how often we should do it, nor does it give room for exceptions. Everything means everything. True gratefulness springs from an awareness of our total unworthiness and inadequacy before a holy and just God. Our thanks should go first of all to God since, "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above." (James 1:17) That heart of thankfulness will naturally flow out to those around us for all they do to enrich our lives as well. We want to focus especially on the importance of thanking God and give practical suggestions to help cultivate this attitude.

As with many other fruits of the Christian life, we will find that as we make deliberate choices to be thankful, whether we feel like it or not, we will soon discover a heart full of thanksgiving that naturally spills out throughout the day. At first, this takes some discipline and old-fashioned grit to get into the habit.

Perhaps you are in a very difficult situation and feel like there isn't much to be thankful for. The challenge to you is to begin to exercise in this area today, and just see how blessed you are a week from now.

The very fact that we are being given life this moment is something to be very grateful for. God is on His throne and controlling the details of our lives. We have been promised that if we remain faithful, we will spend eternity in heaven with Him and a multitude of other blessings besides. Learn to thank God for what you do have instead of murmuring about what you don't have. Helen Keller, whom we all know faced numerous trials in her life, had learned this lesson well and shares with us, "So much has been given to me, I have no time to ponder over that which has been denied." Our perspective makes a world of difference.

We are all very accustomed to pausing before eating a meal and giving thanks to the One who has blessed us with the food set before us, and yet why do we only thank God at those scheduled times? Shouldn't we be just as grateful for every drink of water or a simple snack? Truly God deserves our thanks all day long for all He is continually giving us, so we should use every free moment and fill that moment with praise.

Often we desire to give God the praise that He deserves, but our downfall is our forgetfulness in the midst of a busy day. There are many

ways to deal with this weakness so that we can praise the Lord all day despite the many activities that it holds. The key is to make thanksgiving an important part of the day's plan, and it will happen. One family I visited posted signs throughout the house to remind everyone to give thanks. They made it very practical by paraphrasing I Thessalonians 5:18 to meet the situations they faced. For example, over the kitchen sink the sign said, "In washing dishes give thanks, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you." These signs quickened the minds of the children to be thankful in everything, even the tasks that were harder to rejoice in.

Another family used a timer to cultivate this habit of thanking God. The timer was set for one hour and as soon as it would ring, everyone would pause for a moment and thank God for something or sing a song of thanksgiving together. The timer was then reset for the next hour, and so on. Can you imagine the peace and joy that would reign in a home like this where God is being exalted and praised every hour? It only takes a moment! Simply going through the exercise of making a thanksgiving list periodically as a family (including all the little things) will help open your eyes to all that God has given.

Maybe you're like me and have learned that you simply can't trust your memory or your resolutions for more than a few minutes. My lofty goal of remembering to thank God for

something every few minutes fades from memory within an hour of beginning my work. So when I began this spiritual exercise, I wrote a 'T' for thanksgiving on my hand each morning (this spiritual life is also practical, after all). In the course of a day's work, it reminded me innumerable times to pause and thank God.

If you're saying, "It all sounds good, but that's just not my personality," I have wonderful news for you. The power of Jesus is about transformation, radical change and new beginnings. Believe it or not, the most die-hard pessimist can become an optimist who loves living and sees the bright side in everything. It is amazing how quickly the habit is established and you will find thanksgiving flowing out of your heart and mouth without effort. The fact is, there is a very bright side in everything.

Children being brought up in a home like this will not need to be taught to be thankful. They will pick it up naturally because they'll constantly be hearing their parents making positive comments about the beautiful sunshine (not the awfully hot day), delicious food from the garden (not all the tiring work that goes into it), and the joy of a sweet little baby (not the sleepless nights).

Begin exercising gratitude by willingly receiving all things from the sovereign hand of God and finding the benefits in each circumstance, and you'll be amazed to discover just how blessed your family really is. □

TAPE MINISTRY ROAD TEAM

Greetings to each one of you in the Name which is above every name, the name of Jesus Christ. Spring has arrived here in Pennsylvania, reminding us again that Jesus Christ, the Son of David, rose from the dead.

The work here has been progressing beyond our expectations. God has faithfully sent us the servants needed ahead of time. Praise His name. We have been busier than ever these last few months as the Ministry continues to expand abroad. The picture to the right is the latest addition to the list of faithful volunteers, and a happy answer to our prayers. John & Anna Weaver, and their daughter Mary Joy, have enlisted as the Road Team for the Remnant and Tape Ministry. For some time now we have been asking God for someone who could take the Ministry on the road. Again, He is faithful to supply all that is needed.

There are homeschool curriculum fairs all over the United States where parents gather to search for material to use in the training of their children. This is an excellent place to minister with the tapes and the Remnant. We have

John, Anna, and Mary Joy Weaver—
the Tape Ministry road team



The Tape
Ministry booth at
a homeschool
curriculum fair



01/01/02 Beginning Balance **\$2,270.98**

Receipts

Tape Ministry Donations \$75,642.45
Remnant Subscription Donations \$8,063.44
Total Receipts **\$83,705.89**

Disbursements

UPS & Postage \$7,011.22
Tapes, Albums & Labels \$49,771.00
Equipment & Software Purchases \$420.71
Equipment Maint & Repairs \$121.10
Mailing & Office Supplies \$2,908.33
Rent & Electric \$3,400.00
Telephone \$2,127.77
Website Development & Maintenance \$258.75
Miscellaneous \$765.25
Payroll Expense \$9,800.01
Books & Catalogs \$1,956.61
Remnant Publishing & Mailing \$11,698.96
Total Disbursements **\$90,239.71**

03/31/02 Ending Balance **-\$4,262.84**

Difference **-\$6,533.82**

known of this opportunity for years, and felt like we should have someone who could go to these and minister. The Lord has placed the burden to do this on Brother John's heart.

They have loaded the trailer with all the equipment they need, tapes, catalogs, and Remnants. They will be on the road for about five months with stops all over the East-Central part of the US. Pray for them, the devil hates what they are doing, and road life loses its excitement very quickly as the miles roll by. This is a beautiful opportunity, and they have already met many hungry people. We have also included a picture of their display that they set up at the curriculum fairs.

It is again time to bring you up to date on our finances. God has been good, and the needs always seemed to be met. Blessed be His Name. I sincerely thank each one of you who have helped in any way with the work here. We think of you often.

--Bro. Denny

Home Histories

Dear faithful readers of Home Histories,

There is no article on the history of godly homes in this issue of the Remnant. I am sorry about this. I have been writing a book on the home, eight hours a day for the last two months. Many have requested that I tackle this project for years. I am now getting around to it. The Home History is missing because I needed to keep my "home focus" on the book. I hope to publish it by the end of summer. I will keep you posted on its availability.

Also, I continually have a real challenge finding good, solid material on godly homes of the past. If anyone has a suggestion for future articles, please send me a letter with information.

--Bro. Denny

Revival Meetings

AUGUST 5-11, 2002

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Mannie Troyer, Cleveland, NC, will preach revival messages each evening
Denny Kenaston from Charity will preach Friday, Saturday, and Sunday morning
Mose Stoltzfus from Ephrata will preach Saturday afternoon.

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If You Faced Death Right Now

by Keith Daniel

“It is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment.” Hebrews 9:27

“And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.

And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.”

Revelations 20:11-15

We find in these verses some of the most staggering words in the entire Bible. They are the ones that make men shudder and tremble. Yes, “It is appointed unto man once to die,” and no man can cancel this appointment. It is also appointed unto man to stand before an all knowing Judge whose name is Jehovah. We all know the possibility of death hovers over every one of us this very moment. The question that I would like to impress upon each of us is this: Are you ready to face this death if it should come now? As you are pon-

dering the words of this sermon, realize that it could be your last one before you are transported into eternity. Do not think it is impossible. Many people think this subconsciously, but the truth is, you could die right now while you are reading this.

I was preaching in my country a few years ago, and God was moving in a mighty way. One particular night, as I was standing in the pulpit of God, a burden came into my heart that was unusual. It was such a crushing burden that I began to hold on to the pulpit and cry out to the

people with deep compassion and care. I didn't understand what had come over me. As I was pleading with the people, a man who was sitting in the front row of that church suddenly slumped forward. I was the first to see it, and I went from the pulpit, and ran down to where he was. I called for some medical help. A nurse rushed forward and took his pulse. She looked up at me in shock and said, "He's gone. This man is dead. I'm sorry." A tear came down her face as the reality settled down upon her. The tears flowed down my face as I realized that this man had died while I was preaching. I couldn't carry on preaching. I looked at the congregation in brokenness and said to the stunned congregation, "This man has passed away. We cannot go on. I want you to go home and come back tomorrow to the next meeting."

I watched the people of this town stand and move towards the door in stunned silence. Suddenly, my heart rent in two, and I was moved to cry out loud, "If **you** faced death right now, would **you** be ready to meet with God?" Revival broke out in that church that very night. If that would have been you, would you face it having prepared to meet with God?

When I was first married, I was preaching in Cape Town, South Africa. I was in the church, soaking my self in prayer and the Word of God, preparing to preach. I looked out and saw what a lovely day it was. I felt I should go for a walk along the beach to get my mind clear and to get some fresh air. It was just a short distance from the church. I went down to the beach. I began to pray as I walked along. I went away from the crowds. I walked and walked until I was out of sight of everyone.

Suddenly, two men came swiftly over the dunes. I realized these men were evil as I looked in their faces. Screaming like animals, they pulled out these long blades. I could do nothing. I just looked at the blades. One pulled me down. The other got on top of me.

One said, "Kill him! Kill him!" Suddenly I saw blood all over. I didn't feel any fear, but I knew that I was being badly hurt. The long blades were cutting me.

I looked into their eyes and saw hatred. I thought to myself, "How could someone who knows nothing about me, hate me so much?"

He shouted at me, "We hate you people! I'm going to kill you!" And suddenly, my mind began to realize what was actually going on. The most amazing thing happened right at that moment. I thought to myself, "My time is gone. I am going home right now, never to be hurt by the devil again. I'll never face any more temptation or hurt from Satan again. I'm going home to Jesus right now. My time is finished."

In my heart came welling up a joy and a peace that passeth all understanding. Like a wave, divine love flowed through me. The thought that I was going to be with Jesus for all eternity, safe in His arms, caused this joy to well up so much that I began to worship God aloud.

Suddenly, this man standing over me began to weep. He shouted at me, "How can you say such things when you know you're going to die? How can any man die like this? How can you say such things? How can you have no fear of death like this?"

I looked at him, and I said, "It's because I'm a Christian. I have prepared to meet with God. I've been washed in the blood of Jesus. There is no judgment facing me of any sin. It has all been washed in the blood through Christ. The Bible says, 'Fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul; rather fear him that is able to destroy both the soul and body in hell.'"

The man got up, and he cried loudly. The other man got up from behind me, and he began to hit this man and swear at him, "What are you crying for? We hate these people. Kill him, man!"

This man said, "No. No. What I have done to you today, sir, is a terrible mistake. I am sorry for what I have done to you. I have made a terrible mistake."

I began to speak to them about God. The other man started crying, "Let's just get away from him." They began to run. As they ran, they turned around. The one was weeping so loudly he was literally sobbing.

I cried out to them, "Oh, I want to see you in heaven! I want to know you've been saved, that I didn't go through this for nothing. Seek God to save you." They just kept running, weeping.

I got up somehow and made my way back. When they found me they took me to a hospital, and contacted my wife. There I sat while they

were stitching me. I began to think and reason, “Oh God, why would Thou allow such a thing to happen to me? I wasn’t out there in sin. I wasn’t out there in folly that I needed to be rebuked and chastened. I was out there in prayer. I was going through a sermon to preach for Thee. How could You allow such a thing to happen to me?”

Suddenly God spoke to me in my heart. His voice echoed in my heart, “I allowed this to happen to you to show you how man can die with a peace that passeth all understanding, no matter what the circumstances of his death are.”

Oh, if you faced death right now, would you face it having prepared to meet with God? Would you face it having God’s peace? There’s no understanding how God can give you this peace at such a moment—but He does give it! Death has lost its sting. The grave has lost its victory. If you faced death right now, would you face it with men’s blood on your hands? Will you answer that question to God, every one of you, right now?

If you faced death right now, would men’s blood be on your hands?

Ann Smith was a twenty-year-old girl when I was a young fellow at Bible School. The Smith family had one of the godliest homes in our nation. Her father was one of the most loved preachers of our time in South Africa. This family took me under their wing, and I loved them for their godliness.

But, here was Ann, one of their daughters, backslidden. She was so backslidden that she was going into the world. As a girl, she gave her life to Christ. As a girl, she knew what it was to have quiet times. She knew what it was to confess Christ to people, to walk with God. Now, somehow, she was tasting what the devil wanted her to taste. Is that possible? It is. It’s beyond understanding. I have never been able to grasp it, even to the smallest degree. How is it possible that you could have tasted Christ’s love,

presence and power; and then, after having tasted God as your friend and companion, go back to what the devil holds out to you? It’s beyond understanding how anyone could ever listen to Satan again after tasting of Christ. There’s no understanding, no way of explaining it. Ann was backslidden, and there she was going off into the world breaking her godly mother’s heart. This was after her father had just died.

I remember talking to her about what she was doing. She said, “You know Keith, don’t think I enjoy sin. I’m not going to lie. I’m not enjoying it. I just can’t stop. Don’t think I enjoy walking out that door knowing that my mother gets on her knees as I shut the door and doesn’t get up until I come home.” She said, “Even in laughter, the heart is sorrowful. I laugh, but I am sorrowing.”

I said to her, “Oh, Ann, what is God going to have to do with you? What is God going to have to do to make you come back out of sin?”

Two weeks later, they found she was riddled with cancer—at twenty years old. She was in such bad shape that they just closed her up and said, “She’s only got days to live.” She lay dying—dying. Oh, how she clung to God in desperation to cleanse her by the blood for her sins, for trampling afresh on the blood of Christ! How desperately she sought God to enable her to face eternity.

Then, when she had confessed with such desperation and longing to be cleansed and forgiven afresh, she did something that staggered everyone. She didn’t sit back and say, “Okay, now let me die. I’ve been given my time to get right with God and now all is well.” No, Ann, in her dying days, said, “Bring my friends here. I must speak to them.” She begged them to come. They came. They began to weep looking at her. She said, “Forgive me, I never warned you while I was in sin with you. I knew you were going to hell. I knew with what you were doing you’d go straight to hell. I never warned you. Forgive me, but I must warn you now. You are going to hell. If you die, you are going straight to hell for eternity. God will judge you unless you come to Christ. Repent from your sins. Please don’t go to hell.” She begged them. They wept. As the next one came, she begged

the next one; as the next one came, she begged him. There were those that would not come. She said to the nurse, "Please take this telephone number. Please tell her, 'You wouldn't come to me, but I need to give you this message. You are going to hell unless you repent from your sins. Forgive me that I didn't warn you. I beg your forgiveness. I should have warned you. Oh, come to Christ! Get saved by the blood of Christ!'"

Then Ann would ask the nurse, "Did you tell her she was going to hell?"

"Yes," the nurse said weeping.

"Please take this next phone number. Tell him the same thing. He's going to hell."

The moment came when Ann Smith sat back on that bed and could not think of one single soul left on earth whose blood would be on her hands. She had warned everyone she had neglected previously. She had begged each of them. She didn't want to face God with men's blood on her hands! She was desperate not to face God that way.

Tell me, if you faced death right now would you face it with men's blood on your hands? The only reason you've never warned them is because you're backslidden yourself. If you're rightly related to God, you will take this seriously. The only reason you can sit here tonight with men's blood on your hands is if you're backslidden—not a little bit, but greatly backslidden. Don't doubt that. I would be a liar in the pulpit if I would say anything different. If you faced death right now, would you face it with men's blood on your hands?

If you were with a soul that was facing death right now, what would you say to him?

I was talking with an Anglican minister, who had come to one of my meetings, to pray and weep for souls while I preached. I said to him, "Why are you different than other Anglican ministers?"

He looked at me and started to weep again, "Oh, Keith, I was a blind leader of the blind for over twenty years. I stood in the pulpit preaching as an unsaved man. I was so sincere. I wanted to serve God, but I was blind.

"One day the phone rang. There was a terrible accident outside of town. I rushed out to the ambulance. Crowds gathered. I looked down at a young man who had grown up under my preaching. His body had been ripped apart. I thought he was dead. I went down on my knees. His eyes focused on me. He was dying. He said, 'Father, thank God it's you. I'm dying. I can't face God. I'm so full of sin. Help me to face God.'" He pulled this boy up into his arms. This boy looked at him in desperation, "Help me. I'm dying. I'm going right now. Please help me to face God!"

This man looked at him and felt for his prayer book. He couldn't pray without a prayer book. He didn't know how to help a man who was so condemned by sin to face God. Suddenly he saw this young man's eyes turn from desperation to condemnation as he realized that this "religious" man couldn't help him to face God. The young man died with his eyes full of condemnation.

This minister looked at me and said "I couldn't eat. I couldn't sleep. I couldn't preach. I couldn't go back into the pulpit. I wondered if anyone has ever faced God through anything like that. What have I done to help men find God and truth so that they can face God? When I looked into that boy's eyes, I knew he wasn't clear with God!"

"No one knew what to do with me. My mind just snapped! Some Christians came and said, 'You're coming with us, we're taking you to hear the truth!' They took me to a series of meetings where a young fellow was preaching the gospel. I stood there and thought to myself, 'Oh, I know these verses are in the Bible, but I've never been able to put it like that. How is it

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that I've never been able to understand? This person is preaching in such a way that a child could understand. How is it possible?' I began to sob and weep.

"I cried out loud, 'Oh God, I'm a blind leader of the blind! Save my soul! Save me by the blood of Jesus!' I stood up, and I knew that I was born of God. The Holy Spirit bore witness with my spirit that I was a child of God. I began right there to worship God. Oh, how I began worshipping and shouting!"

"I got in the pulpit the next Sunday. I cried out to my congregation, 'I have been a blind leader of the blind. I haven't helped anyone to God, but now I see. I want all of you to see. I want all of you to come to Christ!'

He went to saved and unsaved ministers and told them all that had happened to him. Then he said, "I don't care who it is, if it's your church people, I must share this message. I'm going to every home to beg them to come to Christ." He went from home to home and implored them to seek God. He told them of the hell that awaits them. He told them of the heaven they could gain, of the Christ that could save them from all. He was a minister that went to every home in his town to tell them of Christ, because he had now found Christ himself.

Oh, my dear friend, if you're a blind leader of the blind, and if one of the blind you are leading would face death right now, what would you say to them, sir? Come to Christ yourself, and then go back to your pulpit, and tell them what you've found tonight.

If your son faced death right now, what would you say to him?

What would be your last words to him? Your son, your blood, if he faced death right now, what would be your last words to him?

I remember a little boy named Timothy who was from a godly home. We all loved Timothy, this little character. He came often to the youth camps where I preached. He quickly grew to be

a teenage boy. He was good looking. The girls all liked him. I used to watch from the back of the building when people were preaching about hell from the pulpit. There was Timothy. He was kicking the girls' feet while hell was being preached. I looked and said in my heart, "Oh Timothy, it's like water off a duck's back to you. You've heard everything, but you haven't allowed it to get into your heart. You're playing the fool while hell is being preached."

Oh, we loved him. I loved him, but I feared for his soul. I went away, and the years went by. I was asked to come back and preach to the youth camp again. All of these young children were now older and married. They came back to see me. There came this fellow with a little beard, and black leather jacket. "Do you remember me, Uncle Keith?"

I said, "Timothy? Oh, I must be getting old. Look at you, Timothy. You're a man. I remember you playing the fool when we preached hell. I was so worried for your soul. You must be saved by now. Did you get through to God, boy?"

Tears just welled up in his eyes. "Goodbye, Uncle Keith." He turned and began to walk away.

I said, "Timothy, Timothy, you don't mean that after all these years you're not right with God? How can it be possible that you're not right with God?"

"I only came to say hello to you. Don't speak to me, please," and he began to weep. He got on his big motorbike.

I said, "Timothy, you could die on that thing. That thing is a death trap. You could die right now. Don't take a chance with your soul. Please, Timothy, come pray with me. Get right with God now."

He just looked at me. He revved his bike up and without a word sped away, weeping as he went. I stood weeping as I watched him go.

That same night, his father phoned me, "Oh, Keith, Timothy has been involved in an accident. He's dying. That motorbike. I warned him, I begged him not to buy it. Keith, he's dying without God! Pray for him. Please. I'm going now to the hospital. He can't die. He doesn't know God. Pray. Please pray!"

We got on our knees, weeping to God.

The phone rings again. The father calls and

says, "Timothy's gone. He's dead."

"Did you manage to speak to him?"

"Oh, Keith, when I looked at him I thought he was dead already. The doctor said he's not dead. He's alive. I grabbed hold of his hand and shouted, 'Timothy! Timothy, boy, can you hear me?' The doctor said he couldn't hear me. I said, 'This is my son! He's dying without God! Don't tell me not to try to talk to him!'

'Timothy, oh, Timothy, I've always warned you, boy. You're going to face God right now Timothy, and I know you can't face God this way. I know you're in sin. Oh, Timothy, if you can hear me while you've yet got breath, ask Jesus to wash you in the blood. Receive Him as your Savior. Timothy, you've still got moments! Ask him!' I paused and then pled with him, 'Timothy, if you're praying, you owe this to me son, squeeze my hand. I know you can't speak, but let me know you've prayed.' And, Keith, he squeezed my hand with such strength that even the doctor uttered out loud! I looked at my boy as he squeezed my hand, and then he died. I wept and shouted, 'Hallelujah, Timothy's with Jesus.'

Oh, if your son faced death right now, what would your last words to him be?

Beware, even facing death may not make you seek God. If you've hardened your heart continually, and you think that by leaving it until your dying moment you can still seek God, beware! Even facing death may not make you seek God.

Oh, now is the acceptable time. God says today is the day of salvation if you will harden not your heart. I want to ask you all something very tenderly, from the depths of my heart. I want to ask all of you, young and old, even if you're a preacher who has been in the pulpit for twenty years. Are you prepared to meet with God? If you faced death right now, would you face it with God's peace? What excuse would you give God that you didn't prepare? □

I want to ask you all something very tenderly, from the depths of my heart. I want to ask all of you, young and old, even if you're a preacher who has been in the pulpit for twenty years. Are you prepared to meet with God? If you faced death right now, would you face it with God's peace?

continued from page 8, *Caught by the Word, A Reader's Testimony*

Spirit to guide me in my search. I feel that this is a key, because He is the teacher of His word. It seems only fair to mention that I live alone and have no family (besides the church), which has a bearing on the quiet time and the options that are open to me for middle of the night Bible study.

I would also like to mention that I am reading your book reviews with great interest. The book by E.H. Broadbent, *The Pilgrim Church*, is providing insights on the many difficulties and apostasies found in the church

today. Therefore, it is very profoundly guiding and strengthening. I have been writing all of my friends about it and even sent an "excerpt" from page 395 (identifying the book/publisher) and some of the thoughts about ritualism and rationalism on that page. These two curses are great modern hindrances to being open to God's revelation and blind us from seeing the steps that need to be taken in order to evangelize the lost.

May our blessed Lord be close to each of your readers

and each member of the *Remnant* staff.

*In His name,
Irina Azar*

I want to give a hearty "thank you" to our fellow pilgrim for this excellent letter of testimony. This is what we are looking for from our readers. The testimony of blessing inspires others to take up the challenge and step into the waters of spiritual exercises.

--The Editor

□

I Am Living Under the Law...

If I feel condemned and worry whether I am performing well enough to satisfy God.

This shows I do not yet understand that Jesus is my righteousness (1 Corinthians 1:30). God said, “[Jesus] is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased,” and it is only Jesus who pleases Him. My own works never please God, but when He sees His Son in me, He is well pleased. The less of me and the more of Jesus that He sees, the more pleased He is. Trying to please God by my works is a frustrating impossibility because one failure totally condemns me (Galatians 3:10; James 2:10). True faith is the starting point if I want God to be pleased with me. (Romans 4:3; Hebrews 11:6)

If I think it is more difficult to be a Christian than not, and I think the world has more fun than I do.

This reveals that I am mostly concerned with externals and am missing the glorious freedom and joy of surrendering my life to God (1 Peter 1:8). Serving God may have difficulties, but it is infinitely better than the alternative (Galatians 4:9). A total surrender to God actually makes life easier because I no longer have to make my own life come out right. God will make all things work together for good and give me true rest. (Romans 8:28; Hebrews 4:9,10)

If I cannot accept God’s forgiveness for my sin, and still carry condemnation.

It is an insult to God to think that I must somehow earn my forgiveness when it is freely offered to the repentant sinner through the sacrifice of Jesus. It is my pride and unbelief that tell me I must do something to earn God’s pardon for sin instead of humbly accepting it as an unmerited gift that I can never really repay. (1 John 1:9; Romans 8:1)



If I am constantly defeated by the same sin.

A pattern of failure reveals that I trust my own strength because I am never defeated when I *fully* trust God for victory. Each defeat proves I did not trust God’s power, but when I humbly admit my weakness it allows God’s power to supply my lack. (2 Corinthians 12:9; 1 Corinthians 10:13)

If I determine to try harder when the Spirit convicts me of a need in my life.

If I merely try harder, I still think I can sanctify myself by improving my performance. I do not yet understand that Jesus is my sanctification. I also show that my standard of holiness is much lower than God’s because I can attain to mine by sheer will-power. The new covenant’s standard is impossibly high for the flesh. It takes Jesus in me. (1 Corinthians 1:30; Galatians 3:3)

If I check my spiritual growth by comparing myself to other people instead of to Jesus Christ.

This reveals that I still think it is good enough just to reach a level of performance that makes me an average Christian. Looking to

Jesus makes me despair of my own fleshly efforts. (Romans 10:4; 2 Corinthians 10:12; Romans 8:29)

If I think sin is always something I do, and I'm only guilty of sin if I do certain actions.

The new standard introduced in the Sermon on the Mount and lived out by Jesus deals with the root of the problem instead of the fruit of the problem. The main issue now is the condition of the heart. I can be guilty of gross sin even without any outward action. (Mark 7:20-23; Matthew 5:27,28; Matthew 12:33-35)

If I am more concerned with people's opinion of me than I am about the truth.

For example, if I tolerate rebellion in my heart as long as I yield outward obedience, I show that I am still more concerned with my performance than the real condition of my sinful heart. Admitting the truth will set me free. (Matthew 23:27)

If I teach and demand of others things not found in the Bible.

This reveals a performance-oriented mentality that does not accept God's standard of inward holiness and claims that righteousness really depends on keeping certain man-made rules. Eventually those rules will actually replace God's standard, and people will be considered righteous as long as they just conform outwardly to these rules. (Matthew 15:9; 2 Peter 1:3; Revelation 22:18)

If I cannot accept believers who are different than myself.

This shows that my confidence is still in how I look and how I perform, and so I cannot accept someone who looks or acts differently. (John 7:24; Acts 10:34, 35)

If I serve God because I want to avoid hell.

This shows that I just want to perform well enough to be accepted, instead of focusing on an inner relationship based on unconditional

love for God. If I truly recognize God's holiness, I will serve Him just because He is worthy, and then the rewards He offers are simply side benefits, not the main focus. My motive will be my love for the Lamb and not my fear of the fire. (Job 13:15a; Revelation 4:11)

If I constantly lack assurance of salvation.

My salvation is insecure if I judge myself by my performance instead of by the witness of God's Spirit, because each failure on my part casts doubt on my salvation. When my trust is in Christ and the sufficiency of His sacrifice, I no longer depend on myself for assurance. This does not mean that I can continue in sin because my salvation is in Christ. In fact, when my focus is relationship with Him instead of performance for Him, I am more repentant than ever about any sin that grieves Him and quick to repent. My sorrow is that I grieved God instead of just being sorry about the consequences of my sin. (1 John 3:9, 20, 24)

If I am kept from sin only because "the Bible says I shouldn't do it."

I am only trying to get by, instead of having a relationship with Jesus that makes me desire to please Him above all else. As I grow in grace and become more like Jesus, I will hate sin and desire holiness, not because I fear punishment, but because I have the mind of Christ and personal convictions against sin. The law of the Spirit in my heart can keep me farther from sin than all those laws that have been a burden to my flesh. (1 Peter 1:15, 16; Ephesians 4:20-24; Hebrews 12:14)

If I read the first thirteen points and decide that my works (or lack of them) do not matter so I can gratify my flesh.

My works are really a matter of life and death, for I shall be judged by them, but they must be the genuine fruit of a transformed heart, and not my own pathetic efforts at righteousness. (Revelation 20:12; Isaiah 64:6) □

I am living above the law in grace when I truly understand and experience that a transformed heart naturally produces good works, but good works never produce a transformed heart.

The Blessing Corner

“He brought me up also out of an horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock, and established my goings. And he hath put a new song in my mouth, even praise unto our God: many shall see it, and fear, and shall trust in the Lord.”

Psalm 40:2-3

The World Didn't Satisfy Me

by Penny Tindall

These verses really describe what has happened to me during the last few months. In order for you to fully understand what took place, I should go back to my childhood. When I was three years old, I was taken away from my parents and placed in a foster home. In this foster home, I was exposed to witchcraft, drugs and a lot of evil things. Joseph & Elizabeth Tindall adopted me when I was almost seven years old. As I look back, I am so very thankful that the Lord allowed me to be placed in a Christian home, and that they were willing to endure me till I came to God.

Once I reached my teenage years, I began to be very outwardly rebellious. I was into witchcraft, heavy rock music, smoking, drinking and reading very evil, sensual books. I was searching for happiness. I was so very miserable. During this time, my brother, who was also adopted, ran away. Since I was already very rebellious, I decided that I would



also leave. The police made me return home because I was so young, but my life started to go downhill very fast. I often tried to commit suicide. I was so unhappy. I was very bitter towards God and my parents. My life was almost ready to crumble to pieces when one day I heard a message on salvation. From the time of that message, I made a choice. I then knew what I

would do—I would conform to the religious principles that we were taught until I was eighteen. Then I would do what I wanted.

I conformed for some time, but then I found out that it's not very easy to conform when you haven't been transformed on the inside. Soon I was back to my old ways of rebellion. My attitude and my life really concerned my parents. Many times they tried to talk to me, but I would always refuse to talk.

Around this time, we met Dr. Ronald Williams from Hephizbah House (a place for rebellious teenage girls). When I heard about this place, it sounded sort of exciting, so I asked dad if I could go. I thought, “Well, if I go to Hephizbah House, I'll be out from under my parent's authority for awhile, and then when I come back I'll be almost eighteen.” Dad and Mom agreed to let me go out there, and I went in February of 1999. When I got to Hephizbah House, I found out that it was not as I had expect-

ed it to be. I again tried to conform, but inwardly I had no peace or happiness. I was still very miserable. This went on for about two and a half years. One day I wrote Dr. Williams a note and told him that I was leaving. I was tired of living a double life. I had turned eighteen in May of 2001, so they could not keep me there against my will.

On September 24, 2001 my pastor came out to Hephizbah House and picked me up. I was planning on “going out into the world” and finding “true happiness.” All I could think was, “My life will be wonderful now, because I am finally out from under authority!” Oh how foolish I was to have such deluded thoughts.

The morning after I had arrived at my pastor’s place, I found out that dad was coming home from Bolivia for a week (my family are missionaries to the Bolivian people). When I first heard that he was coming home I thought, “Oh great! Just the person I want to see in my rebellious state!” That weekend there was supposed to be meetings in North Carolina at Camp Wesley, and dad asked me if I’d be willing to go. I really didn’t want to spend the weekend with dad so I thought, “I might as well go down there.” The Lord had a much different reason for me to go!

I was under deep conviction all week. I was miserable, and I knew the right thing for me to do would be to repent and give my life to the Lord. Something held me back. During that weekend, dozens

of people came up to me and said, “I’m praying for you,” “I really care what happens to you,” and “I’ve been where you are, and it’s not worth it at all.” I wanted to show everyone that I could go to a weekend of meetings and not get saved. I hardened my heart. On Saturday night Pastor Mose Stoltzfus preached a message on *Signs of the Times*. This message really convicted me, but yet something held me back from going forward during the invitation. On Saturday morning, I had met Lorraine Wurtz and Margaret Waldner. They looked so peaceful and happy. I knew they had what I really wanted. I started watching what they did. By the glow on their faces, I knew that they were happy deep down inside. On Sunday Lorraine and I took a walk. She shared her testimony with me. This got me really thinking, “If the Lord could save her, then surely there must be hope for me!”

On Sunday evening Margaret and Lorraine came up to me and wondered if I would sit with them in church. I didn’t mind sitting with them, but they sat so close to the front. I knew I couldn’t sit through another invitation. I ended up sitting with them, and Mose preached on *Roadblocks to Hell*. They had an invitation about eight verses long, but I wasn’t going to respond. Once it was over, I was so glad...I made it the whole weekend without getting saved! The Lord had different plans for my life. After the service, a group of girls

came to me and starting praying aloud for me. Now what was I supposed to do? I was under conviction, but didn’t want to get saved. About seven girls were around me praying for me. I was crying.

After a few minutes, I asked to talk to Mose & Rhoda Stoltzfus. They took me out to one of the rooms, and we started talking. I told them all that had gone on during the last while, and then we knelt to pray. I started confessing my sins, and there was such a great spiritual warfare in the room. I surrendered my life to the Lord and asked Him to forgive my sins and be in charge of my life. I got off my knees. I felt such a peace and a joy. I had finally found what I had been searching! I wondered why I had not repented much sooner. My life was now transformed for the glory and honor of God. The world never gave me the happiness I desired. It only gave me guilt, misery and scars.

In closing, I would like to say a word to the young people who may be reading this. I tried many things of the world, but they brought me no peace and happiness—only scars and regrets. Don’t look for happiness in the world. It really isn’t worth the pain. In Jesus you will find the happiness that you are searching for. Make a decision for Christ. I desire to be a clean vessel for the Master to used for His glory.

*Because of Calvary,
Penny Tindall*

□

The Dangers of Drama

by Denny Kenaston

“Let a man so account of us, as of the ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God. Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.” I Corinthians 4:1-2

I would like to address the issues of drama and the religious movie. There is a question in the hearts of many of God’s people about these new emerging methods of “edification.” While some are questioning, the bulk of the people are flocking after the latest “Christian” craze. There is a serpent lurking in the tree of knowledge today, calling to Christians everywhere, saying, “Come and eat of this new fruit.” I see many dangers in these seemingly moving methods of “edification.” Is there anything wrong with it? Are Christian movies changing the world? This is a good question. I am not sure I can answer it with my limited knowledge of what is happening in the “christian world.” I do know that millions of people in this land have now watched dozens of these new movies, and I don’t see a lot of change in the moral climate of our land.



interesting to study the origin of words. As I studied the word actor, which is one who plays the part in a play or movie, I found an interesting change. The word should be hypocrite. No one is going to give the star of the show this title, so we call them actors. This word comes to us out of the Bible. Jesus used the word when he described the true character of the Pharisee. It literally means playacting, “to feign a part that is not real.” Jesus reproved the religious because they were acting out a part that was not real in their life. I know there is a difference in open playacting and hidden hypocrisy, but not that much difference. This clearly expresses the concern that I have. The religious movie is full of hypocrisy. It is not real, not true and is acted out on pretense. How can this be a right way to preach the gospel or edify the saints?

Playacting

So, what is wrong with the “sanctified movie”? Let us consider first of all the issue of drama. Drama is playacting. Drama is people acting out a lie. It is when a person pretends to be someone that they are not. I find it

Playing the Sinner and Sinning at the Play

Jackie and I saw a Christian movie many years ago when we were still in Bible School. We had never considered the right or wrong of Christian theatrics. We had thrown our television away years before this, but this was a new twist for us. We were sitting there enjoying the theme as it unfolded, and suddenly it dawned on us what was taking place. A man and a woman were kissing and hugging each other on the screen. My wife said it first. She said, "Honey, they are not married." Wow, she was right. But it was "okay" because it was Christian. It was for the cause of Christ, and maybe someone would get saved. We continued to watch with our new revelation. Then there was a man on the screen who was drunk and out of his mind. The actor (hypocrite) had to really play his part. He did a good job convincing us all that he was a drunken sot. Again we began to compare notes quietly with each other. How can this be right, to act like a drunk? This is a damning sin. Our conviction began to form right then and there. Friend, let us reason together. How can this be right? What reason could possibly be good enough to justify this kind of behavior? Would you let your wife kiss another person for the sake of the gospel? I wouldn't, and I don't think you would either. Recently I heard the testimony of a father who was convicted about this nonsense by his six year old son. The two of them were watching a movie together, and the son saw some of this kind of stuff on the screen. He asked his father, "Daddy, is it alright to do this because it is a movie?" The dad was speechless. That was the last movie they watched.

The Pseudo Power of Unreal Emotions

Consider the emotional dynamics of the religious movie or play. Did you know that a movie must be acted out on a higher than normal emotional level, or

the movie would not be very interesting? An actor must learn to release their varied emotional expressions in the extreme mode. If anger must be acted out, it must be an outburst of rage with loud screaming. This cannot be done unless the actor enters into that rage with their whole heart. This has to be defiling. All of the other emotions are the same. A foolish drunk must enter into the emotions of that drunk. A lover must also do the same. These extreme emotions make the movie exciting. It also creates a powerful emotional effect on the audience. People are very responsive to these movies, but does it bring any repentance which takes place in the will of man? I don't think so. If these movies are so powerful, where is the revival? We need to keep our children and ourselves out of the unreal world of the movies. Millions of people have trained their emotional responses, in real life, by these extremes. The result is weird, hard-to-understand relationships in real life. Do your children a favor—keep them away from this hypocrisy.

Plays and Movies for the Children

I can hardly hold back the tears as I allow my heart to come under the burden of our children. What an evil, poisonous baby-sitter we have hired to come in and entertain the next generation of disciples and church leaders. All that I have written above is enough to spoil the godly seed among us, but this is worse yet. We have figured out that children love foolishness. So in the name of "relating to the children, on their level," man has come up with a whole

What an evil, poisonous baby-sitter we have hired to come in and entertain the next generation of disciples and church leaders...in the name of "relating to the children on their level," man has come up with a whole array of plays and movies for the "kids." These productions are full of dangerous deception.

array of plays and movies for the “kids.” These productions are full of dangerous deception. Where is our discernment? We have “christian cartoons” and silly plays that make the children laugh while they “learn about Moses, Noah, and Jesus Christ.” Many of God’s people have followed the world into the “innocent animal movies.” My dear brothers and sisters, the serpent is in those movies. They are full of “innocent” witchcraft, new age teaching, and eastern religion.

Recently, I had an obligation to go to a typical Evangelical church service. When we arrived, we were told, with quite a bit of excitement, that we will have a play put on by the children for the Sunday morning service. I hurt deeply in my heart all the way through this “ministry to the church.” The producers of the play mixed a CNN Broadcasting reporter into the story of Joshua leading the children of Israel into the Promised Land. I could hardly bear the sacrilege. I sat and watched a young lady throw selfish fits of anger about her make up running in the wilderness. She bossed and degraded several young men who tried to reason with her. She manifested spirits of envy and jealousy when someone else got some attention. I could go on and on, but the point is made. All the while the saints were roaring with laughter at all this display of evil. When the play was finished, the pastor gave a five minute presentation of the gospel. They all patted each other on the back, and went home.

Deceptive Ministry at Best

I wonder what the Apostle Paul would do with these “sanctified plays and movies”? Read the verses in the beginning again, now that we have reasoned a while. Paul just finished writing about the glorious spirit-filled ministry of the New Testament preacher, in chapter three. This is a holy, pure, without wax, (sincere) ministry. We must remember that the apostle had a very powerful life changing effect on those he ministered to. He knew this was done by the pure, clean, ministry of the Holy Spirit. In verse two he uses some con-

victing phrases that apply to our subject at hand. Look at them:

- Hidden things of dishonesty.
- Not walking in craftiness.
- Handling the Word of God deceitfully.

Because of the purity of the ministry, this kind of deception is not allowed. He goes one glorious step further when he mentions the real, truthful life he lived among men and in the sight of God. These verses surely apply to the “ministry” of the Christian play and movie. Jeremiah said in his day, “Cursed be he that doeth the work of the Lord deceitfully.”

Forty years ago, A.W. Tozer wrote an article titled, “The Menace of the Religious Movie.” I have pulled some excerpts out of it for our meditation. He was a prophet in his day, and many disliked him because he preached against the latest new ideas in the church. I wonder what he would say today? Things have changed even more since he walked the earth. He stood and spoke like a thorn in the side of a departing Evangelicalism. They did not listen; that is obvious by the example here given. This is very normal in the churches. The church I visited is a “good church.” Consider the words of the prophet Tozer:

The plain fact is that no vital spiritual truth can be taught by the movie. The movie addresses its message primarily to the eye, and to the ear only incidentally. Were the message addressed to the ear as in the Scriptures, the picture would have no meaning and could be omitted without loss to the intended effect. Words can say all that God intends them to say, and this they can do without the aid of pictures.

That religion and amusement are forever opposed to each other by their very essential natures is apparently not known to this new school of religious entertainers. Their effort to slip up on the reader and administer a quick shot of saving truth while his mind is on something else is not only futile, it is in fact not too far short of being plain dishonest. The hope that they can convert a man while he is

occupied with the doings of some imaginary hero reminds one of the story of the Catholic missionary who used to sneak up on sick people and children and splash a little holy water on them to guarantee their passage to the city of gold.

It is not uncommon to find around the theater human wreckage washed up by the years, men and women who have played false parts so long that the power to be sincere has forever gone from them. They are doomed to everlasting duplicity. Every act of their lives is faked, every smile is false, every tone of their voice artificial. The curse does not come causeless. It is not only by chance that the actor's profession has been notoriously dissolute. Hollywood and Broadway are two sources of corruption which [have turned] America into a Sodom.

Indeed, history will show that no spiritual advance, no revival, no upsurge of spiritual life has ever been associated with acting in any form. The Holy Spirit never honors pretense.

Is the appearance of the religious movie symptomatic of the low state of spiritual health we are in today? I fear so. Only the absence of the Holy Spirit from the pulpit and lack of true discernment on the part of professing Christians can account for the spread of religious drama among so-called Bible believing churches. A Spirit-filled church could not tolerate it.

The whole preach-the-gospel-with-movies idea is founded upon the same basic assumptions as Modernism—namely, that the Word of God is not final, and that we of this day have a perfect right to add to it or alter it wherever we think we can improve it.

the spirit of the act he is doing. Any one who can bring himself to act a part for any purpose must first have grieved the Spirit and silenced His voice within his heart. Then the whole business will appear good to him.

Secondly, it identifies religion with the theatrical world. In the name of Jesus Christ, we have joined in with Hollywood in hopes of edifying one another. It is entertainment, just like Hollywood is. This is worldly. John said, "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world." We are losing our separation, as we join in with the world.

Thirdly, we are training the palate of our children with a taste for drama. This becomes an easy jump for them at a time of foolish liberty. First, *The Sound of Music*, then, who knows what they will justify? They will not be satisfied with the inferior stuff the religious movie can offer. They will demand the real thing. What can the parents say, when we have taught them to gather around the video with popcorn and soda?

Fourthly, the next generation will gradually see Christianity as another form of amusement. This is already happening if you look around you. The contemporary church is "reaching out to the next generation" with new music, a new gym, new dress standards and, yes, the movies. Can you see what is happening? The church building is like a theater, or a roller rink. "Hey guys, what do we do tonight? Let's go over to Entertainment Fellowship Church. They are having a party there."

Fifthly, the movies have a defiling effect on the audience. As we view a movie, we see and hear all that has been mentioned above. Many evil emotions are manifested in one of these productions. These are portrayed for the purpose of teaching. In one movie, you might bring your children in contact with several of these extreme, evil attitudes. The audience is affected in many ways. They learn to manifest the same spirit, as they have seen displayed before them. They become dull to the evil and are no longer grieved by it. As they set wicked things before their eyes, their conscience is clouded. They find it more difficult to muse on good things, because it is easier to be amused with entertainment.

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The Dangerous Effects of Drama

First of all, the defiling effect upon the "actors" who play the part of the various characters in the movie. As I stated already, the actor must enter into



The Longing Prayers of a Sister

*"Hear my cry, O God; attend unto my prayer.
From the end of the earth will I cry unto thee,
when my heart is overwhelmed: lead me to the rock
that is higher than I." Psalm 61:1-2*

Oh God, make me a woman...

who has God first in every area of my life; wholly devoted to the Father, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit. **Make me faithful...** faithful in prayer; faithful in times of fasting; faithful in Bible reading; faithful in memorizing and meditating on His word; faithful in rising early to give Him the first part of my day; faithful in praise. **Make me obedient...** instantly obedient to the clear direction of God through His Word and Spirit; that the Lord Jesus Christ might be manifest in my life, to the glory of the Father, by the power of the Holy Spirit; daily seeking God's direction.

Oh God, make me a wife...

A meek, quiet, reverent wife; loyal, gentle, and cheerfully obedient to my dear husband. I want to be loving, supportive, encouraging and satisfying to my husband; doing him good and not evil, that he might safely trust in me. **Make me a wife...** who is a crown and a pleasure to him; modest, feminine and chaste in appearance and spirit, willing to bear his children. **Make me submissive...** grateful to be under the covering of his love and leadership; seeking his counsel, advice and prayers. Help me to humbly appeal in points of differ-

ence, rather than instructing him. Teach me to respect the burden of leadership he bears for our family. **Make me adaptive...** adopting his priorities, goals and desires as my own; readily and gratefully accepting his leading and reproof as from the Lord. Help me to be grateful and content with God's material provision through him. Teach me how to express honest appreciation to him; trusting his ideas and believing in his visions. **Make me merciful...** graciously giving him room to fail; never saying "I told you so" in word or spirit; always yielding my expectations of him to God. Help me to assume the very best about my husband, ready to forgive any wrong, free from grudges and bitterness towards him, remembering how much God has forgiven me. **Make me reverent...** a ready listener to all he shares, maintaining eye contact with sincere interest. Make me a joyful laborer in our home, singing as I work, and a partner with him in reaching our children and others for Christ.

Make me a faith filled Mother...

joyful, compassionate, kind and wise; meeting the needs of each child, sensitive, tenderly relating to each one. Help me to view each child as a trust from God and not as my own personal possession. **Make me a teacher...** of good things, regularly storing in their hearts

God's Words, hymns of the faith and poetry of eternal value. Let me be an example of what I teach, full of enthusiasm, walking alongside them as they learn their responsibilities. Make me a regular source of commendation in their areas of growth in good things; graciously allowing them to fail and learn. **Make me an example...** in our home, one who doesn't change the order when their father is not present. Help me to teach the children to honor and obey Daddy out of love and devotion, setting a trustworthy example of this in my own relationship to him. Make me an example of honor and reverence toward my own parents and my husband's, that the children can learn from me. **Make me a friend...** a ready listener to all the children want to share with me, careful to maintain eye contact as an evidence of sincere interest. Help me to implant in them love and appreciation for each family member and a heart of humble service toward each one. Make me a friend who encourages and helps them to establish godly friendships with others; involving them in opportunities to serve others, using their own ideas whenever possible. A friend who freely forgives each one for any offenses; having no "favorites," but delighting as God does in His unique creativity of each one's God-given characteristics.

Make me a homemaker...

creating a haven for my family where love abounds and a place of welcome for visitors. Help me to make the atmosphere of our home one of cheerfulness and spiritual encouragement where nourishment, health, refreshment and rest abound. Make me a woman who rejoices to share Christian love and hospitality to all who enter, with simplicity, compassion and humility.

Make me an edifying Sister...

in the church family, joyfully given to the ministry of the saints; ready in every way to labor together with others in the Lord's harvest. Teach me to honor and support the shep-

herds God places over me, as well as their families; having no favoritism, but valuing each minister's uniqueness. Help me to love the saints, considering each one better than myself; freely forgiving any wrong with a spirit of restoration; having a heart beating for unity and purity in the church. Teach me to be careful to approach the needy one (if it is my place) in humility and the love of Jesus, with much prayer. Help me to be a faithful example of a Christian woman; especially encouraging other women in their walk of faith, giving special attentive care to any widows or fatherless children in our church family.

Make me a witness...

burdened for the souls of every person; with a special heart toward lost family members as Paul had for his lost Jewish brethren. Oh God, give me souls that I might win over to Your love! Help me to be ready to meet others' physical needs as God enables, in love carefully communicating to each one a heart vibrantly ready to care for their eternal needs above all. Make me mindful at all times that I am a representative of Christ to others, carefully guarding the honor of Him, my Beloved, that no shame would come to His name as others observe my life. Teach me to humbly serve all to whom God directs me without regard for my own personal preference among people, not considering people of lowly status too low, nor people of high earthly rank too high. Lastly, help me to be careful to maintain separation from the world, and all its attempts to entice, while serving those still caught in its clutches; faithfully praying for God's best for each one, including enemies.

Oh, my God, I bring these prayers unto Thee. How I long to be pleasing to Thee in all things. Receive the prayers of Thine handmaiden, which I cry to Thee from the depths of my heart. In Jesus Christ's Name, Amen.

□

Book Review

by Andrew Weaver

The Power of the Spirit

by William Law

The *Power of the Spirit* is the best book I have read on the controversial subject of the Holy Spirit. There is no need to detail the unhealthy extremes on both sides of this issue, since we are all too familiar with them and the powerless lives they both produce. Instead, I encourage you to consider the biblical, balanced view set forth in this volume. Genuine truth is timeless, and you will find this eighteenth century book clearly addressing twenty-first century issues in the following collection of excerpts.



True Christianity is nothing but the continual dependence upon God through Christ for all life, light, and virtue; and the false religion of Satan is to seek that goodness from any other source. No man can remain in the goodness of his redeemed state but by continuing in that vital relationship to God that begins at his conversion; which is the same as saying that the continual inspiration and empowering of the Holy Spirit within the redeemed heart is vital and necessary to the salvation given us in Christ. Nothing but God in man can live a godly life in man.



Is it not the utmost in self-seeking folly to look upon God's plan of salvation as having our rescue from judgment as its ultimate goal? Rather, it is to rescue us from rebellion against the will of God and to bring us into conformity with His eternal purposes in Christ Jesus. Because God is infinite in wisdom and love, this conformity to His will is our highest good, blessing, and joy. Thus one who rejects Christ's salvation willfully consigns himself to empty despair and eternal separation from God's wise and loving purposes.

The New Testament without the coming of the Holy Spirit in power over self, sin, and the devil is no better a help to heaven than the Old Testament without the coming of the Messiah. And just as the Pharisees' rejection of Christ was under a profession of faith in the Messianic Scriptures, so church leaders today reject the demonstration and power of the Holy Spirit in the name of sound doctrine.

Many Christians are careful to observe certain times, places, and rituals of worship; but when the service of the church is over, they are but like those that profess no regard for religion. In their manner of life, in the way they spend their time and money, in their cares and worries, fears and pleasures, indulgences and diversions, it is often impossible to distinguish professing Christians from the rankest unbelievers, until they once again unite to sing of their love and devotion to Jesus.

What a paradox to see the professed Church of the Lamb filled with great numbers of champion disputants, who from age to age have been up in arms to support and defend a set of opinions, doctrines, and practices, all of which may be embraced without demanding the least degree of self-denial, and most firmly held fast without bestowing the least degree of humility! Why is it that we see Bible scholars equally pleased with and contending for the errors and absurdities of every system of theology under which they happen to have taken their education? Because natural genius and human wisdom can feed no other food than the deceptive fruit of that ancient tree of knowledge. How absurd to seek to be wise in scholarship concerning the letter of Scripture in order to obey Christ's command that we must become like a little child to enter into His kingdom!

The one true proof of our being living members of Christ's Church on earth is our being inwardly of the Spirit and outwardly of the behavior which Christ manifested while in the world.

Take away everything from Christ which evangelical orthodoxy calls emotionalism and fanaticism; suppose Him not to be the baptizer with the Spirit and fire; suppose Him not to be the very life of our life, manifesting Himself in and through us by His very works and words, and you have as sure a rejection of Christ and His redemption as ever Jewish rabbi made.

The church is filled with professing Christians whose faith has never gone beyond a conviction that the words of Scripture are true. They believe in the Christ of the Bible, but do not know Him personally. The indwelling of the Holy Spirit is sound doctrine to their minds, but their lives are empty of His manifest power either to overcome sin or to convert others to Christ. Though many are zealous to preach the gospel, yet instead of bringing men to Christ, they seek to reason them into a trust in their own learned opinions about Scripture doctrines. Some men preach as though Christ had said, "By their doctrine ye shall know them"; others write as though He said, "By their gifts ye shall know them."

What a betrayal of faith and contradiction of reason, to preach the necessity of being living

members of the body of Christ, and yet to deny in the name of sound doctrine a real and living manifestation of the power of that life in us.

Since it was the sins of the world that made the Son of God become a compassionate, suffering Advocate for all mankind, there is no greater sign of your own baptism in the Spirit than when you find yourself all love and compassion towards them that are very weak and sinful, and especially towards those that oppose and misuse you.... The baptism in the Spirit is no longer sought or believed in, and the manifestations of the Holy Spirit are feared and preached against, lest in desiring them we should give entrance to the manifestations of seducing spirits. And therefore the best sons of the church must find doctrines that excuse them for that lack of loving others as themselves, that lack of surrender to the lordship of Christ in everything, and that lack of blessing and power—in short, the lack of all the virtues that once marked the true Church. [None] will tolerate the scriptural teaching of victory over sin, since to do so would condemn themselves; but at all costs the life of the old man must be defended, and exhortations to a life filled and constantly inspired and empowered by the Holy Spirit are dismissed as tending to extremism.

So great is the blindness which pride brings to the soul, that helpless creatures feel exalted because of natural abilities that are given them by God, and boast of such things as though they were their own. If man will boast of anything as his own, he must boast of his misery and sin, for there is nothing else but this that is his own property or his own doing.

To suppose a man to be born again from above who is yet under a necessity of continuing to sin, is as absurd as to suppose that the true Christian is only to have so much of the nature of Christ alive in him as is consistent with that much power of Satan still controlling him. All this blasphemous absurdity denies or debases Christ's victory over sin and death; yet in the name of sound doctrine from books and pulpits, issues forth the teaching that the Christian can never stop sinning as long as he lives. Can this destructive teaching bring any hope or desire of doing God's will on earth as it

is done in heaven? Surely he that is left under a necessity of sinning as long as he lives can no more be said to be cleansed from all unrighteousness than a man who must be a leper to his dying day can be described as cured from all his leprosy. Could Satan himself have devised a more clever lie to keep those enslaved who could have triumph and freedom in Christ than this doctrine that is everywhere preached, that the Christian is not really dead to sin nor free from sin, but must serve sin as long as he lives? Faith must grasp a better promise than this for victory, or it will never overcome the world!

How trifling is that learning which sets up imagined differences between faith and its works. Is there any meaningful distinction between Christ as a Redeemer and His redeeming works? Can we have one without the other? And how else can Christ be known to be in you than by His works being manifest through you? If there are no works, then Christ must be absent, and without Christ, there can be no works. Therefore all the learned volumes written about the fine distinction between faith and its works are as absurd as though they had been written about the difference between a thing and itself....

The question is not whether gospel perfection can be fully attained, but whether you come as near it as a sincere intention and careful diligence can carry you through faith in Christ. Can you really call yourself a follower of Christ without at least intending to follow Him all the way?



I hope this small selection from this book's riches has been enough to inspire you to read it for yourself. You will find yourself humbled as you gain a new appreciation for all that God offers by *The Power of the Spirit*. □

*This edition edited by Dave Hunt
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continued from page 27, *The Dangers of Drama*, by Denny Kenaston

In Conclusion

Sixthly, the precious wasted time that it takes to sit, again and again, and see the latest movie must be accounted for on judgement day. Who has time for such an utterly empty use of their time? I don't see how a dedicated servant of Christ could possibly find time to fritter away on such nonsense. Maybe this seems too strong—if so, forgive me. I have no desire to offend anyone. May the Lord of the harvest stamp eternity on the eyes of our hearts, that we may better use His gift of life and time.

I have written my piece. I have produced my cause. I have brought forth my strong reasons. Where is discernment in the church today? Very few are concerned about all this

departure. We have lost the Holy Ghost, Who gives the gift of discernment. We have followed Israel of old, and united our experience with theirs.

“For my people have committed two evils; they have forsaken me the fountain of living waters, and hewed them out cisterns, broken cisterns, that can hold no water.” Jeremiah 2:13

Oh, how far the church in America has fallen! She has lost her way in a fast departing culture. She has filled her buildings and paid the bills, but lost the Holy Ghost. And all the while she proclaims that revival has come. Shall we sit in guilty silence while this goes on? I think not. Let us rise up and be counted as a Remnant that has seen the Lord and His holiness. □



Hopes and Dreams Under His Wings

by Daniel Kenaston

“How excellent is thy lovingkindness, O God! Therefore the children of men put their trust under the shadow of thy wings. They shall be abundantly satisfied.... and thou shalt make them drink of the river of thy pleasures. For with thee is the fountain of life: in thy light shall we see light.” Psalms 36:7-9

Greetings from our home to yours. It is our prayer, to be deeply satisfied in Jesus, drinking until we are fully filled from the river of pleasure, blessing and life that flows from Him! He is THE fountain of life; even life itself draws its meaning and purpose in the fact that He lives! Look at the words the psalmist uses to describe our fulfillment in God—*abundantly satisfied*. Those words make me think of filling a bucket at the base of Niagara Falls. You bring your bucket, no matter how big or how dry it is, and hold it up to the waterfall for just a minute. Instantly your bucket will be abundantly full and that abundance will be visible to all by the water streaming over the top of your bucket and cascading down the sides! Yes, abundantly satisfied.

Friends, these words have not been born out of an especially good week or a blissful morning. To be honest with you, the obstacles that have stood in the way of my writing these thoughts have been formidable. I have really wrestled with walking in faith regarding the writing of this article. I have felt very hindered or distracted in my spirit. I have prayed, paced

and thought for hours before feeling any sense of direction or enough clarity of mind to begin typing. The truth and reality of being fully satiated in the river of God’s Spirit is not dependent on plans that work out or good mornings or even on soaring faith.

Let me draw your attention to one line of the verses above and in particular to just three words, “put their trust.” There are times when we’re viewing God’s faithfulness or experiencing a victory that our faith mounts up and without effort we believe solidly in our God. There are other situations, sometimes more common than the previously mentioned ones, in which we do not see any path forward and the difficulties of stepping out in blind faith seem immense. These are the times in which we must “put our trust,” that is to place or position our faith under the shadow of God. It may take a heroic effort to do this, but the wonderful truth is that the abundant satisfaction is still available to us!

That is where I am this morning. My trust is under the shadow of my Savior. I fought a long time to get it there. But do you know what? I am satisfied, praise God! So...whether you get

under the shadow of His wings today through a soaring faith or by a purposeful putting of trust in Him, just make sure you are there, and then enjoy the satisfaction that comes from drinking at the river of His pleasures! May God bless you!

Brothers and sisters, as we write these update articles our desire is that they would be both informative and inspirational. Numerous people have written to us in response to the last few updates, letting us know that they are praying for us regularly. We know that many of you carry the work here on your heart. Thank you from the bottom of our heart for the part you are playing in our continued life and ministry here! Our God is so good. Only through His enabling power all of us have been and can continue to be faithful in our part of His great harvest field. We trust that this update letter will be a blessing to you as we share about our life and ministry in the last several weeks: Holidays, Houses, Hopes and Horizons!

Holidays

As a family, we find it necessary from time to time to leave our village setting to rest our bodies and rejuvenate our spirits after the strains of spiritual war and missionary life. We do this only with the intention of getting strong enough to go back and labor more. We also have a goal of maintaining the rightful focus on our family relationships.

Two weeks ago we had one of these times, and what a treat it was for all of us! Usually we just take a day or two in Tamale, the larger town that is the capital of our region. This time we planned ahead to travel several hours south to Kumasi, where we rested for about four days. The setting of the guest house where we stayed was perfect for such a family retreat, with lots of green grass (basically nonexistent up north), cool breezes and flowering bushes which Abby threatened to strip bare by the time we left!

The highlight of our time together was when we went to visit a lake about 45 minutes away from Kumasi. I have heard of it numerous times but this was our first time to visit. It will surely not be the last time by family vote! By American

standards the lake is very underdeveloped, but to a missionary family from the water-starved North, just the sight of a body of water seven miles wide was therapeutic. The lake is accessed by a little road that literally runs right to the edge of the water and then ends.

We walked a little ways around the lake and found a partially secluded spot to sit and eat our picnic lunch while we watched some fishermen pulling up the little traps they use to catch the fish. The sight of such a 'big water' nearly drove Abigail crazy. As soon as we finished our bananas and tuna fish sandwiches, we went wading in the shallow water. There were lots of pretty stones on the lake bottom. Abigail kept bending down to reach them only to come up sputtering as she had submerged her face in the process. All of us enjoyed the time; Abby loved the "big bathtub," Esther practiced skipping stones and Christy and I enjoyed just looking at the water, somehow soaking up its cool moisture and remembering all the lakes we visited in the States. To be honest it felt very American because we associate lakes with family trips and camping in National Parks. There were certainly lots of reminders that this was still Africa if we just looked around a bit.

That was our holiday, days of rest filled with fun family activities from the picnic by the lake to the enjoyable shopping in the big stores of Kumasi; from the big bowl of deluxe rice we shared at the chop bar, to the quart of local ice cream that we splurged and bought. We found extra time for reading, talking and singing. All in all we just breathed the sweet air of a restful environment and soaked up strength to go back and work some more. God blessed our time with His presence and refreshed us in spirit and soul as much as in body.

Houses

Houses? Yes! Houses! As missionaries, we are always looking for ways to close the gap that exists between the way that we live and the lifestyle of the people that we live among. We desire to close that gap as much as is humanly possible. First to focus the people we live among on our message rather than the on the things

that we own. Secondly, so that we can say to our new believers as Paul did to his, "Follow me as I follow Christ," and actually have a life they can copy in many essential areas.

Christy and I have felt God moving us to focus our attention on things that we can change while still maintaining the family and ministry that we feel God has called us to have. This is an ongoing process as we look at different areas of our lives and scrutinize what is absolutely essential to our life and what could be changed or adapted. One outworking of this has been the switch to using bicycle when going out to the villages as I have shared in other updates. The other major one so far relates to the type of house we live in.

As we lived among our people, sleeping and eating in their houses while in the villages, we realized that we could live in a compound style house with only a few adjustments to meet our specific needs. We knew that it would mean some adjustments to go from cement to mud walls or from square to round rooms, but as we felt God moving us in this direction, we felt at peace and even excited at the thought of "moving down" to a local Konkomba house. After getting a clearing from our authorities a couple of months ago, we spent most of the month of February working on this new house which is built not far away from where the old one stands.

After clearing the land, the house began to rise up from the ground about one foot each day as we added a layer of mud to the previous day's work. We enjoyed watching the house go up, and it went up fast. With so many people (an average of forty per day) skilled for every task at hand, the entire house was built, roofed and plastered in only three weeks!

There is something fascinating about building a house out of the ground, grass and trees around you. We learned a lot as we went along. The building site was a busy place. Keeping enough water for those mixing the mud, keeping enough food to feed all of the workers and answering the dozens of little questions kept us very busy, especially so when added to the ministry that we are already doing.

We moved into this new house just over a month ago, so we are still making a few adjustments. Overall we are happy with the move and

really happy to now be, in the words of the village people, "real Konkombas."

We love our new house with the three mud-walled rooms built square with a metal roof for living and cooking, and then the four round grass-roofed rooms for sleeping. The compound floor made with pounded cow dung is a great place for Abby to play. Christy loves the local paintings that the women made around the doors of the rooms with paint made from battery powder and the bark of trees! Esther enjoys filling the big clay water pot buried in the corner of the compound and feels more closely connected to how she grew up because of this environment.

For me, our love of the Konkombas and their way of life has actually changed our idea of beauty, and I think the Kenaston Kompound is a beautiful house. Beautiful for its looks, but also for the things that it represents, the connection that exists and is growing between us and our people.

Many of the people around us do not understand what we have done, but they respect it and are happy that we like their style of house. The mission has agreed to allow the local government schoolteachers to stay in our other house for the time being, until a decision is made on what should be done with it.

Wow! That is a lot of explaining in a few sentences. It still probably leaves you with more questions than it answers. Suffice it to say that all of us are happy and content in our new surroundings, glad to be Konkombas, and praying that this move will result in a greater clarity of testimony for our lives here. Come visit us sometime and see for yourselves!

Hopes

I have mentioned in earlier articles that I generally use a bicycle to go out to the many villages where we are working with little churches and Bible study groups. Some of the villages are pretty far apart. I spend a lot of hours on my bicycle, peddling to and from villages. The pace that my national brothers set is not too fast, and I do a lot of thinking as I ride. As I work my way over the dusty trails, around stones and across little streams, I think about what God is doing in

our tribe. I dream about what He might do in the future. These are not idle dreams, for we are working hard to see them come to pass; neither are they reality yet, so the best word to describe these thoughts and feelings is the word *hope*. This hope spurs us on, not just to force our legs to carry us to the next village, but in a broader way to continue being faithful in the work we are doing while always pressing towards the day in which our hope will become a reality.

So we are hoping—not just wishing something would happen but working in faith to see it fulfilled. I would like to share with you two of these specific areas. Join us in our hope!

In the average week I visit about three villages, some of them asking for Bible teaching and others in various stages of spiritual growth and development. We hold services with them, work on solving problems among them, and work at raising up leaders to care for the people in each village. As I come into contact with all of these Konkomba people, one thing is very obvious: the Konkomba people are very hungry for truth right now. This hunger has given the Gospel message a wide-open door in most villages. I have spiritual contact in some form with about twenty villages, but I have requests from many more. As I ride I pass through scores more, all needing Christ and almost all hungry and ready to hear.

God is drawing the Konkomba people to Himself, not just one here and there but as a group, and because of the hunger that God has placed in the hearts of this tribe, we never get a negative response when we go to preach in a village. We do not ask them to allow us; rather, they come to us with gifts begging us to come.

If you had the time, we could get on bicycles and ride for a month, visiting three villages every day, and probably would only meet a handful of people unwilling to hear. I know that not all would drop their idol worship and follow Jesus, but all would listen and many would believe. This kind of openness to the Word of God is not only experienced by white missionaries visiting bush villages. When our local leaders go out they get the same response. The hope that fills my heart with faith longings is that God would sweep across this group of people with a move of His Spirit and bring a large portion into

the Kingdom in a short time. If God would add to this spiritual tinderbox a special move of His saving grace, and if the local church leaders would be spiritually prepared to disciple not just one here and there, but rather the whole of the tribe—oh, the transformation that would occur among my people!

I look at the beauty of the godly families that are beginning to emerge, and I try to imagine what it would be like if all across this people group such personal and corporate change was taking place. Is this a dream? Yes, but not an impossible one, and so we hope and pray and work toward it; meanwhile we pedal on, trying to be faithful in the fruitful work that God has set before us now.

One of the sad marvels of our time is that though we live in an age of advanced technology. The number of people who have never heard the Gospel is at best holding steady or maybe even increasing with the high rate of population growth in many countries where the name of Jesus is not known. When you think about what Jesus means to you, and you realize that greater and greater numbers of people are dying without knowing Him or even having the chance to know Him, it could almost drive you crazy. Maybe it needs to drive us just a little bit crazy so that we will do some extraordinary things to reach the world!

One of the wonderful tools that we have for work among the Konkombas is New Testament Bible cassette tapes in the two main dialects spoken by these 500,000 people. We have known of these cassettes for quite some time but only recently felt led to begin incorporating them into our outreach. They have been a great blessing to our village churches so far, providing a Bible for the many who are illiterate and helping to make the Bible the center of the church service as everyone gathers around to listen to God's Word in their own language.

The people listen, commenting on some parts and grunting their approval at the end of almost every verse. The tapes are answering a great need that we have had for something to give to those villages that are longing for Bible teaching, but have, for lack of anyone to send to them, been sent away empty-handed. At least they can now listen to God's Word when they

gather every Sunday to sing in their little "church." We feel God's guidance very clearly in the use of these tapes. We rejoice that the technology of cassettes can be used to allow illiterate people to hear the Bible and that the hungry souls we meet can now be given something to draw them more towards the light.

Here then is my dream: Couldn't we organize people to distribute and follow up on these tapes in every little Konkomba village? I know that with God's help and a few local men with a burden for this work, we could distribute 100 of these NT tape sets without difficulty in the villages within fifteen miles of Bunbon. I have already experienced the joy of riding into a village and seeing a group of people huddled together under a tree and of hearing the beautiful sounds of the Uwumbor Aboor (Konkomba Bible) wafting on the wind towards me. Wouldn't it be wonderful if every village had a set of these tapes and could listen to God's Word whenever they wanted? Wouldn't it be a tremendous seed planter for future churches in all of these villages? For now I am hoping, limited by the shortage of both foreign and local workers, but I do pray towards this! Could you pray too? Pray for God's Word to cover the Konkombas as the waters cover the sea. (Isaiah 11:9)

Horizons

There are two more things that I would like to share with you briefly before I close this update. I have termed these two developments horizons because both of them take our ministry here into new territory that has only been on the horizon up to now, but God willing both of these may soon be reality.

The first is the planned ordination of a local elder in the near future! We have been observing the life of this brother and working alongside him ever since we began ministering among our people here. He is a humble, faithful man who carries a real burden for the lost of his tribe and has a heart for reaching out to disciple those under his leadership. He is the only choice we felt clear with at this time from among the men who are in leadership roles. The churches have confirmed that he is the one whom they feel

should be ordained to lead them. We rejoice in these steps, big steps that are taken with some fear and uncertainty on the part of the churches here, but taken none the less because of faith in God's Word and because the need is so acute. I look forward to having the man who has been informally recognized as the leader become an ordained elder, ready to give some needed direction to the church and ready to work more closely with me as we look into the future of the churches here.

The second horizon is in the area of more laborers for the harvest field, more specifically troops from overseas to work in the field of the Konkombas. I am sure that you have sensed some of my desperation as I have written repeatedly about the many open doors that we must refuse because our hands are already full. We have prayed along with you for more workers to come and labor with us and some of the doors that were closed (residency permits from the Ghana government), are beginning to open. The mission board is considering sending some new faces to work with us here. Although we do not have a definite answer or know who may come, we are rejoicing at the opening of this new horizon! Mission work is essentially a victory march, albeit sometimes a very difficult one. We know that Christ will triumph and that many Konkombas will be around the throne. The thought of some others joining us in this march among the Konkombas is encouraging. We welcome in advance any new workers to the field, and we beg for more prayers to undergird all of the new efforts outlined in these hopes and horizons.

Dear friends, thank you for your patience and commitment shown by reading over this long update and caring about all of the details that are expressed. I beg you to read it with prayer in mind and you will find many things that are well worth your time in praying for. Thank you for your care and for the time you invest in prayer for the work here. God is blessing your efforts with fruit, and we are in hope for even more fruitfulness in the future!

*For Christ among the Konkombas,
Daniel Kenaston & family* □



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. This 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* of when 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.

Waiting to hear... --The Editors

Dear Editor,

We appreciate your magazine so much. The article about the Booth family (July/Aug 2001) was wonderful! "Why Revival Tarries" (May/June 2001) was also excellent! We read the book about eighteen years ago. We lent it out and never received it back. Now we can order another copy! Or perhaps a case to pass out?

Pray for our family. Pray God would place us in a church that would be right and good for us. We are a homeschool family with four girls, ages 7-18. We have all enjoyed your family tape series very much. It might be that we will have to home church. It may be the only safe place to go to church.

Richmond, TX

Dear Remnant,

Rejoice with us. The Lord has recently gloriously saved and healed my family. He has given love back to my marriage. Three years ago we were going to get

divorced. God had something else in mind. Tomorrow we will celebrate our twelfth anniversary. We no longer try to fill our lives with drugs and alcohol, but we long to continually be filled by the Holy Spirit who has full control. Praise the Lord! Your magazine has been a great encouragement, especially the book reviews. Keep up the good work.

A Brother and Sister in Christ

Dear Friends,

Over the past years we have stopped our subscription to several magazines due to the articles not being true to God's Word or the immodesty and worldliness of the on the front covers. Thank God for a magazine that is true to God's Word from cover to cover! I am blessed by each magazine and want to especially mention the front cover. On the cover of each edition there is a message and a challenge, a simple but beautiful picture, a few words and a profound message!

The March/April 2002 issue seemed like every article was written just for me. God has used you to speak to my heart and give me the words I needed to hear. Thank you.

Middletown, PA

Dear Friends and Co-Laborers with Him,

I praise your collective labors. Thank you for all your work and labor of love, for your outreach of inspiration and Christ-like benevolence. It has truly yielded within me a passion and desire for the deeper things of God. Thank you for allowing me to gaze upon the wisdom and knowledge of God through your eyes.

I have found it to be a great privilege and honor to share in your great burden and continual longing to see all men come to the knowledge of the Lord – a passion which grows ever so vehemently with every passing day. So with a resounding

praise, I commend you in the Lord and thank you again for keeping me in touch with *The Heartbeat of the Remnant*.

Idaho



Dear Brother Denny,

The latest Remnant was so good. I liked "The Hidden Man of the Heart" (Mar/Apr 2002). A lot of what was written I had read before through my thirty years of living with an unbeliever. The key I got out of it was he must see Christ in me! May I keep that uppermost in my mind and have grace to do it. *The Blessing Corner* was very precious. So was the article on the thought life.

I always enjoy the letters to the editor. It must be a hard job to select ones to print.

I was sorry someone was offended by Brother Francis of Assisi. I just believe we will always find dear sisters and brothers who will differ with us on theological points. When this occurs we must look upon the hearts.

Dear Brother Francis loved God and knew Jesus intimately. He had much to offer. Yes, he was part of the Remnant.

Dear Brother Denny, I am waiting on a book I bought that is supposed to be about the Remnant in the dark ages. I think it will be most interesting.

El Paso, IL



Dear Remnant and Tape Ministry Staff,

I wanted to let you know how much we appreciated the testimony of the family presented in the *Blessing Corner* in the Nov/Dec 2001 issue of the

Remnant. This family was real to us and has reached many of the places we have in our pilgrimage.

We have found that there are many returning to a strong biblical foundation. They are trusting God not only for their salvation and various social issues, but also in every area of their life. They are willing to start confronting those "sacred cows" that have kept them from seeking the Lord and searching His word for every area of their lives. "Sacred cows" are issues that are not discussed for fear of offending someone, such as modesty or biblical male/female roles.

We were introduced to the Godly Home Series several years ago. It has been a blessing to our home. We have recently shared it with family along with the Remnant. They were blessed by them. In fact, they shared them with another family member, and that person called and asked why we hadn't told her about it also!

I am asked occasionally about my covering. It has recently become an issue with my side of the family (though I have worn one now for over three years). I am ordering information to share with others. May I copy some of the tapes if need be? I am unable to send a donation until after the first of the year as we playing "catch up" on our budget from the time off my husband took to take care of me after our fourth child was born in October. I know shipping can be costly, but I hope this will be acceptable. Thank you again for your ministry.

Belleville, IL



Dear Remnant,

May the Lord continue to bless your invaluable ministry. Thank you for being consistent

in the use of our beloved 1611 King James Version of the Bible. Please kindly furnish me with your latest literature and cassettes catalogue.

South Africa



Dear Remnant,

May God bless you as you strive to do His will and as you encourage us to get on our knees if we want to see revival come to our church, to the whole world and to every Christian. O if only we would see more of His will be done amongst us. Yes, you are right if you say that we Christians need to be revived first of all. How sweet and precious it would be if we would all, each one of us, awaken out of our sleep. It's way too easy to just go with the flow. We need to strengthen our spiritual muscles and go against the tide; then we will see action.

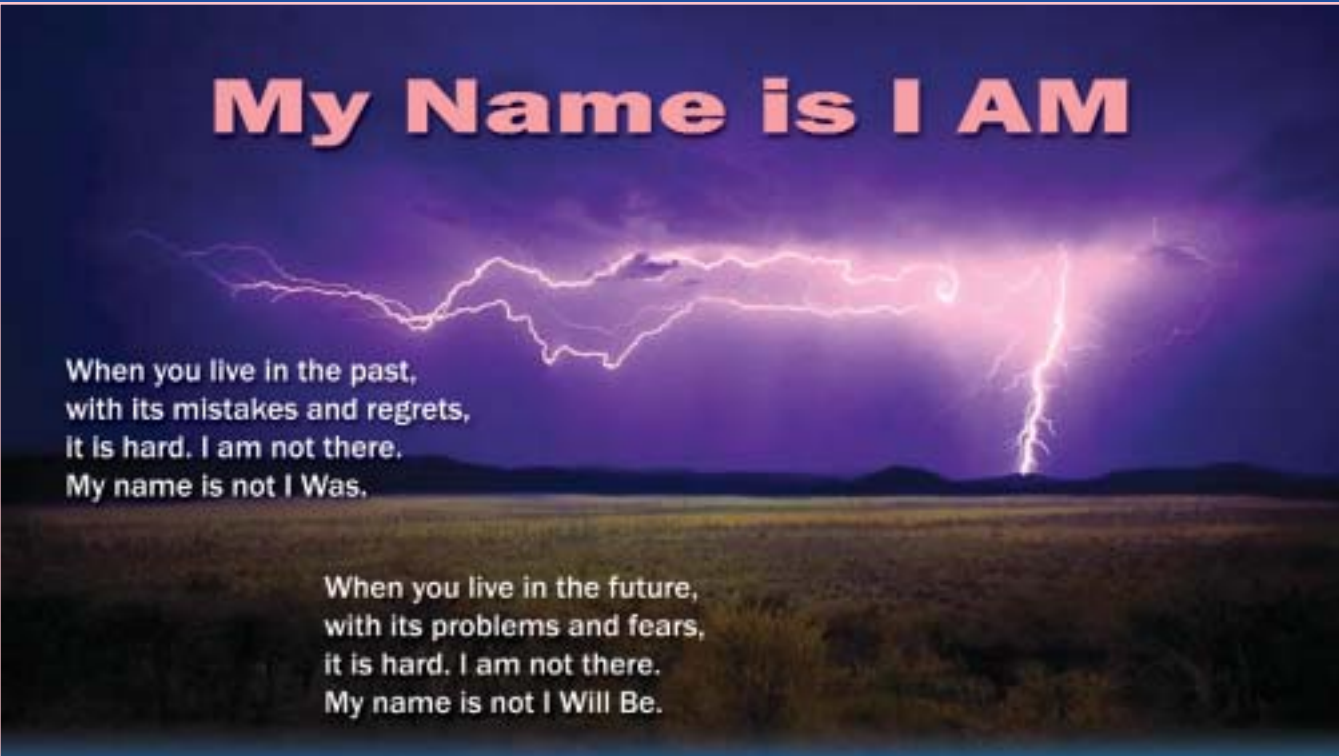
We need to stand up for what is right, prove God's Word and have godly fear instead of fear of man. We need not be afraid of ruining our reputation. We need to let God have His way with us, and *then* we will see revival coming into our land. But that is easier said than done. That's why we need to spend more time in prayer and less talking about it.

Thanks for including articles in your magazine like "The Hidden Man of the Heart" (Mar/Apr 2002). If you want to you can include more of those that maybe go a little deeper. Thank you.

Alexandria, SD

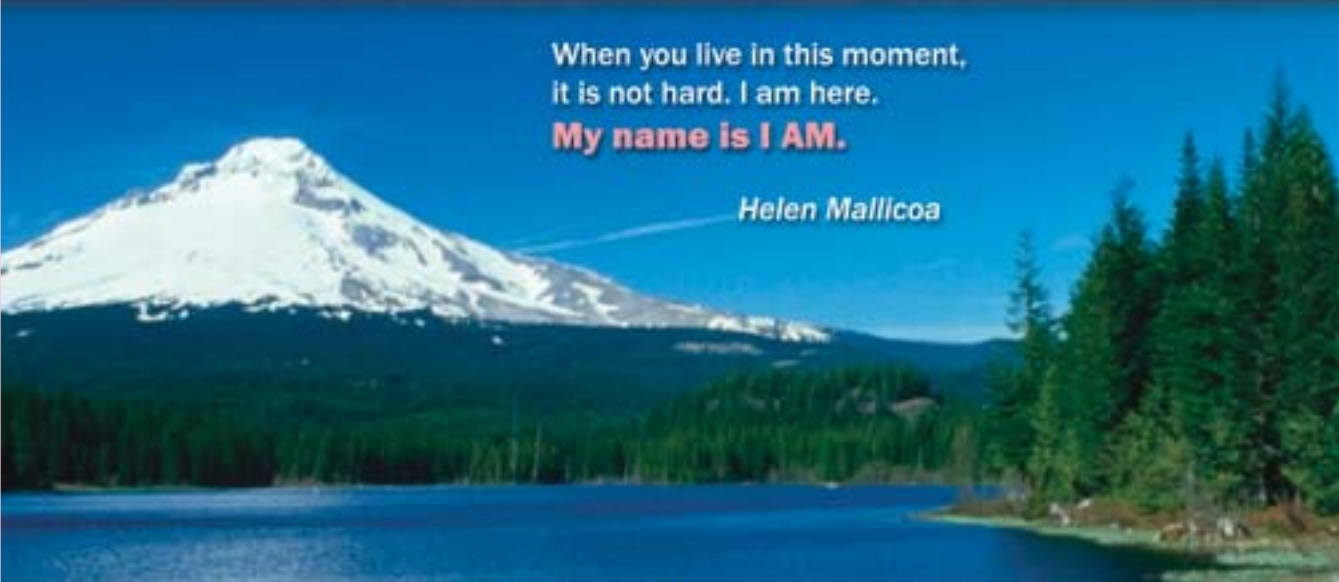


My Name is I AM



When you live in the past,
with its mistakes and regrets,
It is hard. I am not there.
My name is not I Was.

When you live in the future,
with its problems and fears,
it is hard. I am not there.
My name is not I Will Be.



When you live in this moment,
it is not hard. I am here.

My name is I AM.

Helen Mallicoa

The Heartbeat of
The Remnant

Charity Christian Fellowship
PUBLICATION OFFICE
400 W Main St Ste 1 • Ephrata, PA 17522
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Nonprofit
U.S. Postage
PAID
North East, PA
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