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The Remnant



. . . is Households on Fire

The Heartbeat of
The Remnant

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The **Spirit** *of* **Fear**

by Mike Atnip

*“For God hath not given us the spirit of fear;
but of power,
and of love,
and of a sound mind.”*

II Timothy 1:7

Fear. It is the common lot of us all. Even amongst those of us who are the children of the Eternal God. Some great men of the past have been moved to confess it. Abraham would not let kings know that Sara was his wife, “for they will kill me.” Elijah, a man “subject to like passions as we” ran from the threat of the queen Jezebel, just after praying fire from heaven and slaying 450 prophets of Baal. He did this, after having lived some time in the house of a widow under God’s protecting hand—less than ten miles from Sidon, the queen’s original hometown!

Jumping to the New Testament times we encounter the great missionary Paul confessing that during his labors on the mission field,

“without were fightings, within were fears.” Yet, beyond these normal passions and feelings, there is a *spirit* of fear. By this is meant a spirit that binds men and women into a spiritual paralysis, and this on a continual basis. Those in the grips of a *spirit* of fear live in fear more than they live outside of it. Every action, every ambition, yea, every desire is haunted by those dreaded words, “What if...”

Differentiating Fears

Before proceeding, it would be wise to briefly state the difference between a healthy fear, and an unhealthy kind. Proverbs 3:25 sums it up in a rather unique way. “Be not afraid of sudden fear.” A healthy, reverential fear of God is an ongoing respect for His majesty and awesomeness. This kind of fear stays on a rather level plane, even though day-to-day slight fluctuations are the norm. However, the fear of God that each of us has, whether little or much, never sees radical ups and downs from one hour to the next. The “sudden fear” is one that comes roaring into our life like an overdue freight train headed for the next town. Engines roaring, horns blowing, it thunders upon us demanding the attention and respect of all. “Get out of my way or I will run you over,” it screams. This is not the Biblical “fear of God.” Moreover, we are advised to “Be not afraid...”

“What if...”

In my experience, these two little words unveil the *spirit* of fear as well as any. Perhaps they may sound rather innocent and gentle to some, but to those of us who have felt their power, they are freight trains indeed. You are walking along life’s path whistling a hymn when suddenly you hear it coming: “What if” or “What if you sinned three steps back?” Or “What if the sky falls in?”

Over-sensitive Conscience

These questions have little power to the strong, but not all of us are strong and wise, especially in the early days of our Christian life. In our fervent desire to please God, the accuser comes and whispers these accusations in the ear. "What if?" At first they are somewhat quiet suggestions, somewhat like the first low rumbles of the track when a train is soon coming. Being desirous to please our God, we

*With each progression, the doubts grow larger,
but the grip of fear gets stronger...*

"WOE TO YOU IF YOU DO NOT LISTEN!"

"YOU ARE RESISTING GOD!"

Soon, we are responding in fear, not love.

sure want to make right what we *might* have done three steps back.

In these situations, it is not real clear what was wrong, but better to make things right than to offend God. Therefore, we give ear to this *spirit* of fear. By heeding, we give it a place, even though it is a little place. Our conscience is tuned to this voice now, and when it speaks again, we are ready to give ear even sooner.

Soon it does speak again. The rumbling grows louder. "You *maybe* should..."

With each progression, the doubts grow larger, but the grip of fear gets stronger. By heeding a false *spirit*, thinking it to be the voice of God, the conscience soon is warped. Serving God is no longer a joy. The *spirit's* demands grow stronger. **"WOE TO YOU IF YOU DO NOT LISTEN!" "YOU ARE RESISTING GOD!"**

Soon, we are responding in fear, not love.

Fear vs. Love

We serve God for various reasons. They can probably be boiled down to two. We serve God, either because we love, or because we fear. It is written that the "Fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom." As children growing up in godly homes, this is a good maxim. Children do not understand the "why" many times, and to their little minds the rules of authorities, be it God, parents, or governments, make no sense. Therefore, it is best to teach them to obey, even if they do not understand. This can be done through fear of punishment, or through love, and a desire to please. Sometimes, the rod (administered by love) is necessary.

Hopefully, by the time the child has reached his teen-age years, a relationship of love and respect has developed between parent and child. This permits the quiet laying aside of the rod, along with its FEARFUL OBEDIENCE. Love now guides the child's heart. He obeys because he wants to, not because he has to.

It is much the same with many of us in our relationships with God. We start out in fear and obey legalistically; doing only what we have to do. If we do not obey, we fear judgment is awaiting us. This is not what God wants. He longs for the obedience that is motivated by love. For many, they need to grasp the revelation of God's father heart of love.

John tells us that perfect love casts out fear. When we reach "the end of the commandment," which is "charity out of a pure heart," our fear (the unhealthy kind) is displaced by agape love. If we serve God because we fear His reprisals, we are not yet perfect (complete, or mature) in love. We also read in the same context, that "fear hath torment." Many of us know what this torment is all about. Oh how miserable it is to live with fears.

By this, we can discern a *spirit* of fear and the Spirit of God. When the suggestion comes to perform, or the accusation of disobedience pains our heart. We need to ask ourselves, “Is it accompanied by fear of reprisal, or hope of ransom?”

Discouragement

The *spirit* of fear is a very discouraging spirit. Besides constantly accusing us of trespasses, it tries to hinder progress with a barrage of “probably won’t work” and “might not be the will of God” and such like for all the future ambitions of the saints. Because of these words, those oppressed by fear can never accomplish anything. A look at the story of Nehemiah reveals this strategy.

Listen to the accusations: “Will ye rebel against the king?” To a tender conscience, this would sting. They think, “Rebellion, no, I do not want to rebel. Maybe I had better quit this rebuilding lest the king get angry with me.” Notice the suggestiveness of the word “Will.” It is not a definite accusation, but *fear of a possibility*. Such is the tactic of an accusing spirit. There is nothing definite, just some suggestion to make one afraid!

Next: “If a fox go up, he shall even break down their stone wall.” This implies future failure, implying you might as well quit, because it is going to fail. *Fear of failure* is one of the accuser’s fiery darts. Stop it with the shield of faith!

Next: “They shall not know, neither see, till we come in the midst of them.” Let me call this one *fear of the unknown*. We fear that something that we cannot foresee will suddenly arise in our midst and stop us, so we might as well not start until everything is perfectly secure and assured. Because of suggestions like this, we often find ourselves hindered by fear in moving ahead.

Next: “Come, let us meet... in the plain of Ono.” This tactic does not necessarily use fear,

but it is commonly used in conjunction with it. Its design is to get the attention off the reconstruction work and onto some *possible* infraction of the king’s commandment. In my own experience, I failed to recognize this as quick as Nehemiah did; I spent many hours of my life “arguing” with the accuser whether I was guilty or not. Lots of time, energy, and efforts were spent going in circles. If I prayed, I should be working. If I worked, I should be passing out tracts. If I passed out tracts, I should be studying the Bible. If I studied the Bible, I should be spending time with the family. When with the family, I should be praying... YOU CANNOT PLEASE SANBALLET! He will call a conference every time to discuss how things should be done different. If you *fear* him, you will spend much time spinning your wheels going nowhere. Nehemiah did the right thing, and cut

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the consultation short, “I am doing a great work, I cannot come”!

Next: “That thou mayest be king”. This is translated into the fearful accusation that says, “You are proud of your spiritual accomplishments, and had better quit so you will not get to proud.” I have faced this temptation, and know a dear brother tempted with the same thoughts. He has staggered a bit at continuing his work, because of *fear* of what *possibly* could develop into pride of spirituality. The manner to overcome is to simply recognize that we are not guilty of everything we are accused of, and lay another stone in the wall!

Nehemiah recognized the tactic as a threat to bring fear upon all so that “Their hands shall be weakened from the work, that it be not



Are there faults in our lives? If so, let us rise up, get out of bed, grab a sword, and go out to meet them. Let us be like Benaiah, who “Went down also and slew a lion in the midst of a pit in a time of snow.”

done.” We should respond like Nehemiah did, crying out, “Now therefore, O God, strengthen my hands.” Amen!!

Finally: “Let us meet...within the temple, and let us shut the doors...” Oh, how many lives have become unfruitful and shut up within themselves, trying to preserve themselves! Gone is openness, transparency, and confession... How often a *spirit* of fear will try to get us off into some super-introspective corner, hiding lest we do something to offend our God. Nehemiah again recognized the enemy

and refused to lay down his trowel. Can you picture him saying, “Scared? Who me? Nah, I will not go in. It is just a scare tactic.” Moreover, in a few verses we read, “So the wall was finished...”

The enemy used jeers, threats, conference invitations, accusations, and letters from Tobiah. Why? The end of chapter 6 concludes with, “...to put me in fear.”

Lions in the Street

Our adversary recognizes the power of fear. Many men do also, and use their might to subdue others beneath them. Just the simple accusation has power. Preachers and cult-leaders can bring people almost spell-bound under their “authority” by a continual barrage of subtle accusations. “You are lukewarm...” “You are worldly.” Then the next sermon is about the lack of prayer. These accusations may be true. They may not. But for the spiritually weak, these accusations can be means of controlling others; a substitute for real spiritual authority.

Do not be afraid. Proverbs 26:13 speaks this way. “The slothful man saith, There is a lion in the way; a lion is in the streets.” He uses this for a reason to lay in bed, lest he go out into

the street and get eaten by this lion. Are there faults in our lives? If so, let us rise up, get out of bed, grab a sword, and go out to meet them. Let us be like Benaiah, who “Went down also and slew a lion in the midst of a pit in a time of snow.” There are many reasons to stay in bed on a snowy day, especially if a lion is roaming the neighborhood. But this valiant man rose to the need and took care of it, and is honored with his name in the sacred record forever.

Satan goes about as a roaring lion. With his roars, he attempts to keep the children of God

huddled in their safe, cozy little corners. “You come out here and I will eat you alive,” he roars. “You go on the mission field and you will die of malaria.” “You preach the whole truth and your congregation will kick you out.” Benaiah not only went out into the streets, but, yea, even into the very snowy pit, and overcame the fearful roaring.

Angel of Light

Our enemy is wise, and he sometimes becomes a sweet little informer. Let’s notice the same fear and doubt he tries to plant as we look at the temptation of Jesus for an example.

Jesus was fresh from the baptismal waters, where the Holy Spirit fell upon him in a visible manner, and a heavenly voice publicly declared him the Son of God. What did this sweet little angel of light tempt him with first? “If.”

We will park here a little bit. Just this very word betrays the origin. God never convicts of sin with an “If you did wrong,” or “Maybe,” or “What if,” or “Perhaps.” God is always direct, clear, and specific. When God wants you to see sin, you will know when, and how you sinned, and more importantly, **the way out**.

Now let us return to Satan’s temptation. “If thou be the son of God,” now wait a minute! Just 40 days before, God Himself had declared Jesus to be His Son. What is this “If” business? It is nothing less than a scare tactic. It is a way to get Jesus to doubt his Son-ship, and to perform a deed to prove it. Once Jesus gave into this first doubt, and performed something in fear to prove something, he would be hooked. Satan knew this. However, praise God, Jesus knew it too. He refused to perform by Satan’s accusation. He could easily have turned the stone into bread. Later in His ministry, he fed thousand with a few loaves. This was by the command of His father.

Never give place to the devil by proving your son-ship out of fear of his accusations. I have been tempted with the thought that “if” (notice that little word again,) I was on-fire for God, I would walk into McDonalds restaurant, get upon one of the tables, and preach Jesus to a lost and dying world.

When the thought came to me, my flesh recoiled! I thought to myself, “Oh no! I do not feel that way! There must be something wrong with me. I must be lukewarm, or backslidden!” This was an accusation from the enemy. When the time comes for me to walk into McDonalds and stand upon a table to preach, God will lead me to do it by love and compassion, not to prove my spirituality.

Faith or Fear

I personally have gone through many fiery trials in this area, especially in my earlier years. In the midst of these trials, I found a bumper sticker that read “Faith or Fear.” I put this on the bumper of my International Scout,

*God never convicts of sin with an
“If you did wrong,” or “Maybe,” or “What if,”
or “Perhaps.” God is always direct, clear, and
specific. When God wants you to see sin,
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and more importantly, **the way out.***

and with part of another bumper sticker, I added the words right below, “the choice is yours.” This was done as a way to evangelize, but as time went on, I felt that God had inspired me to do it for my own sake! Every time I walked past my vehicle, I was reminded again. “Am I responding in faith and love, or in

continued on page 10



Picture of a Prophet

by Leonard Ravenhill

The prophet in his day is fully accepted of God and totally rejected by men.

Years back, Dr. Gregory Mantle was right when he said, “No man can be fully accepted until he is totally rejected.” The prophet of the Lord is aware of both these experiences. They are his “brand name.”

The group, challenged by the prophet because they are smug and comfortably insulated from a perishing world in their warm but untested theology, is not likely to vote him “Man of the Year” when he refers to them as habitués of the synagogue of Satan!

The prophet comes to set up that which is upset. His work is to call into line those who are out of line! He is unpopular because he oppos-

es the popular in morality and spirituality. In a day of faceless politicians and voiceless preachers, there is not a more urgent national need than that we cry to God for a prophet! The function of the prophet, as Austin Sparks once said, “has almost always been that of recovery.”

The prophet is God’s detective seeking for a lost treasure. The degree of his effectiveness is determined by his measure of unpopularity.

He does not know compromise.

He has no price tags.

He is totally “otherworldly.”

He is unquestionably controversial and unpar-donably hostile.

He marches to another drummer!

He breathes the rarefied air of inspiration.

He is a “seer” who comes to lead the blind.

He lives in the heights of God and comes into the valley with a "thus saith the Lord."
 He shares some of the foreknowledge of God and so is aware of impending judgment.
 He lives in "splendid isolation."
 He is forthright and outright, but claims not birthright.
 His message is "repent, be reconciled to God or else . . . !"
 His prophecies are parried.
 His truth brings torment, but his voice is never void.
 He is the villain of today and the hero of tomorrow.
 He is excommunicated while alive and exalted when dead!
 He is dishonored with epithets when breathing and honored with epitaphs when dead.
 He is a schoolmaster to bring us to Christ, but few "make the grade" in his class.
 He is friendless while living and famous when dead.
 He is against the establishment in ministry, then he is established as a saint by posterity.
 He eats daily the bread of affliction while he ministers, but he feeds the Bread of Life to those who listen.
 He walks before men for days but has walked before God for years.
 He is a scourge to the nation before he is scourged by the nation.
 He announces, pronounces, and denounces!
 He has a heart like a volcano and his words are as fire.
 He talks to men about God.
 He carries the lamp of truth amongst heretics while he is lampooned by men.
 He faces God before he faces men, but he is self-effacing.
 He hides with God in the secret place, but he has nothing to hide in the marketplace.
 He is naturally sensitive but supernaturally spiritual.
 He has passion, purpose and pugnacity.
 He is ordained of God but disdained by men.

Our national need at this hour is not that the dollar recovers its strength, or that we save face over the Watergate affair, or that we find the answer to the ecology problem. We need a

God-sent prophet!

I am bombarded with talk or letters about the coming shortages in our national life: bread, fuel, and energy. I read between the lines from people not practiced in scaring folk. They feel that the "seven years of plenty" are over for us. The "seven years of famine" are ahead. But the greatest famine of all in this nation at this given moment is a *famine of the hearing of the Word of God* (Amos 8:11).

Millions have been spent on evangelism in the last twenty-five years. Hundreds of gospel messages streak through the air over the nation every day. Crusades have been held; healing meetings have made a vital contribution. "Come-outers" have "come out" and settled, too, without a nation-shaking revival. Organizers we have. Skilled preachers abound. Multi-million dollar Christian organizations straddle the nation. BUT where, oh where, is the prophet? Where are the incandescent men fresh from the holy place? Where is the Moses to plead in fasting before the holiness of the Lord for our moldy morality, our political perfidy, and sour and sick spirituality?

God's men are in hiding until the day of their showing forth. They will come. The prophet is violated during his ministry, but he is vindicated by history.

There is a terrible vacuum in evangelical Christianity today. The missing person in our ranks is the prophet, the man with a terrible earnestness, the man totally otherworldly. He is the man rejected by other men, even other good men, because they consider him too austere, too severely committed, too negative and unsociable.

Let him be as plain as John the Baptist.
 Let him for a season be a voice crying in the wilderness of modern theology and stagnant "churchianity."
 Let him be as selfless as Paul the apostle.
 Let him, too, say and live, "This ONE thing I do."
 Let him reject ecclesiastical favors.

Let him be self-abasing, nonself-seeking, nonself-projecting, nonself-righteous, nonself-glorying, nonself-promoting.

Let him say nothing that will draw men to himself but only that which will move men to God.

Let him come daily from the throne room of a holy God, the place where he has received the order of the day.

Let him, under God, unstop the ears of the millions who are deaf through the clatter of shekels milked from the hour of material mesmerism.

Let him cry with a voice this century has not heard because he has seen a vision no man in this century has seen.

God send us this Moses to lead us from the wilderness of crass materialism, where the rattlesnakes of lust bite us and where the enlightened men, totally blind spiritually, lead us to an ever-nearing Armageddon.

God have mercy! Send us **prophets!**

©1994 by Leonard Ravenhill, Lindale, TX

continued from page 7, The Spirit of Fear by Mike Atnip

fear?” “Am I obeying Christ in peace, or am I driven by condemnation?” This was a great help to me as I learned to walk under the smiling face of my Heavenly father.

Led or Driven

In the western states, they still have cattle drives. You will see them moving them down the roads at times; horses, ropes, hollering and all. All who work with animals know, you drive cattle, and you lead sheep. This is good for us to remember likewise, God leads His children, but Satan drives his slaves. It is an easy trap to fall into. We begin to listen to the fearful accusations of the cattle-driver, motivated by a *spirit* of fear. If you look into the New Testament, you will find only one time where the Holy Spirit drove someone. One of the Gospels uses this word in reference to Jesus going into the wilderness to be tempted. Let us remember, God's Spirit always leads with peace—the *spirit* of fear always drives.

I discovered an interesting thing about Jesus while studying one day. In the Gospels, we find Him coming to his disciples with the same phrase. “It is I, be not afraid.” Jesus never comes like a

freight train, a “sudden fear.” He comes with assurance, even when he comes with a rod.

In conclusion, let us reason together for a moment. Two people can arrive at the same destination, but travel in very different ways. The one was led, and the other driven. My dear brother, or sister, if you feel your life to be one of pressure, fear, proving your relationship or obedience from condemnation, I urge you to calmly consider the *spirit* that you listen to. Does it provide assurance and comfort when it corrects you? Does it provide a way of escape when conviction comes? Are the accusations clear and specific? Do they lead to openness with other brothers, or do they make you want to hide in fear? You may be doing the right things, but are you being led, or driven?

These words I write, not to condemn, but to liberate. I have been there. I still have a tendency to these fears. But I am learning to pick up another stone to lay in the wall, telling Sanballet, “I cannot come, I am doing a great work.”

Will you join me? □

My dear brother, or sister, if you feel your life to be one of pressure, fear, proving your relationship or obedience from condemnation, I urge you to calmly consider the spirit that you listen to.



How to Love Your Children

by Miriam Helmuth

Significance...

Instilling a sense of significance in a child is very important. It is something we find needful. My attitude about myself will be conveyed to my children. If I feel a sense of self-worth, my children will feel the same. If I feel, "I am worthless. I am no good," that will be discouraging to the children. Letting them help around the house will give them a sense of worth. For example, when we are all doing something, like baking or cleaning, and the four-year-old calls out, "Mama, I want to do something, too," then give him a job as well. A child will feel left out very quickly if you don't give them something to help you with.

Children need the opportunity to serve in meaningful experiences in order to learn responsibility. When Rebecca was a small girl, she would rinse the dishes for me. I got to the point where I could wash faster when she rinsed them for me. At first, she didn't help me that much. But, as time went on, she could keep up. That was a real blessing.

Ask them to get the clean diaper, or put the soiled one away. If you are washing furniture, that can be a very delightful thing for a little child to do. They like to help wash off the

walls or pick up toys. There's a saying that goes something like this: "If they can toddle, they can tote."

As younger parents, we sometimes could not understand why the children would not pick up the toys as willingly as we thought they should. We eventually realized that if we helped them, and maybe even sang a little song with them, that motivated them. Our little Margie can be in the middle of anything, and if we start singing, "Pick up the toys," she starts singing and picks up her toys. It's amusing.

Show them by your attitude that they really have accomplished an important task. Later, their daily duties will give them a sense of accomplishment. To be needed is to grow. If you are needed, you can grow better.

In our first twelve years of marriage, we were hog farmers. The boys just loved tagging along after Vernon and asking questions. If I would go to my parents for a day, they didn't even want to go with me. I couldn't quite understand this. But one day, after returning home, one of the little boys was so excited. He had seen a coon out back. They had such a fun time at home.

After moving to Michigan, Vernon was a contractor. He took the little boys along. It's sometimes hard to do that, but he usually took

To be needed is to grow. If you are needed, you can grow better.

the four-year-olds on up and put them to work. They wouldn't get paid, but they would bring the nails to him or keep the nailers filled. It really gave them a sense of significance.

Security...

If mom and dad have security in one another, the children will catch on to that. Giving them security prepares them to go out and face the world and life's battles. If your children see you have self-discipline, and that you make little sacrifices for them, it will help to give them security. If they see dad skipping a meal for them, or fasting with one of the children, it gives them security. Or maybe you go without boots so one of the children can have boots. That really ties strings.

One time, one of the children had forgotten their mittens. We were out in the woods. It was cold. I asked him, "Do you want mine?" He didn't really say that he wanted mine, but I just gave them to him. If they forget something like that, don't belittle them. Just let them wear yours. The next time, they will be more mindful of it. If they see you suffer for their sake, they won't be so quick to forget again.

The more caring and sharing you are toward them, the more they will be toward you. At the bank sometimes you get lollipops. I love when I hear it said by the one who has come with me, "I want to give it to my brother who didn't come along." Train them to think of others. Quite often, the boys make pancakes for breakfast. They always make a big one for Vernon; or, if they are making cookies, they will make a real small one for the baby.

That reminds me of when we were courting. Vernon's parents were there one evening. We were Amish, and the Amish had kerosene lamps that you had to go outside to fill. Vernon's mother was just ready to go outside. Vernon met her at the door and said, "No, you aren't going out there." He had thought it was

too cold for her. I kept that in my heart. The way a young man treats his sisters and mother is how he will treat his wife.

Acceptance...

Tell them you love them. Hold them. Hug them, regardless of whether they've done good or bad. Accepting them unconditionally is showing them that you love them. You don't compare them with one another, but recognize each child as unique. One child may have a knack to get the housework done, while another may have more of a knack with children. I dare not say to the one who baby-sits, "I wish you could manage this house like your sister does," or to the other, "I wish you had more of a touch with the children." You get beside them and encourage them in areas they aren't so sharp in, so they can learn all areas of life.

Accept them for the gifts that they do have. If one has a gift with children, praise him for that. Some naturally have that more than others. If you will accept their gifts, the children will then, in turn, accept each other's gifts. One of ours is more mechanically minded. I'll hear the other boys asking him, "How does this work?" One of the boys is into books and education. I hear the other boys asking about music, and he explains that to them. Each one has his own gift, and no one should feel intimidated by another.

The more knowledge they have, the more they can be of service in any given situation. Be careful not to feel that, because you really wanted to do something when you were young but never had the opportunity, now one of your children should pursue that. Your child may have a different calling on his life. Also, I think our children will face things we may never need to face in regards to persecution.

If your child is interested in something, but you don't really care for it, don't dampen his spirits. Don't tell him, "I really wish you would

You
don't
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just drop that for now.” Help your child find satisfaction in his own achievements. A wise parent stands beside his child when he ventures out, and encourages him, even in things you have not done. I like to encourage the girls to try out a new casserole or recipe. Teach them as many different things as you can in sewing. They will be of better service if they are taught different things. This will also instill in them a sense of self worth.

Love...

There is a need to be loved. One of the greatest joys we can know is to love and be loved. This is not only true for children; it is true for every person—the parent, the unmarried adult in the home, the aged. But it is especially true for the tiny baby, the growing child, or the teenager. They need emotional satisfaction to perform their best. We show our children how much we love them to the degree that we include them in things. As a result, the children will become capable of including other people in their lives and in their love. This will give them a sense of belonging, which will give them the possession of confidence. If we have confidence, we are able to face life.

The amazing part is that our children need love even when they are unlovely. Christ loved us when we were yet sinners. The greatest influence that will give them the ability to love is seeing and feeling their parent’s love for each other. We should not only tell them we love them, but we also need to demonstrate that love to them in non-verbal ways. Hold them, smile, pat them on the shoulder, look deep into their eyes, and just cuddle.

Love also involves trust. We are afraid sometimes to let our daughters go out and help someone because we just aren’t sure if they can do it. I’ve heard in wedding ceremonies about “letting the arrow go.” What hunter goes out to hunt without first practicing with a bow? We need to practice. We need to let them go a little and see if they hit the mark. If they don’t hit the mark right away, don’t be dismayed. Just bring

them back in and train them a little more, this way or that way. Then, let them go again. They will eventually hit the mark. You can come to a place of confident assurance that the arrow will hit the mark.

Be willing to listen, and listen carefully, to those little hurts, complaints, and joys. One of my little ones would come up and rub his hands across my arms while I was nursing the baby. At the time I didn’t realize it, but his love language was “touch.” It is a challenge to listen to each one, especially the more you have.

Love is also sharing experiences like baking cookies together, washing dishes, and sharing our work or play. Our love towards our children is what motivates them to be good. We need to love them unconditionally, not because they did extra well, but because they are each a unique gift to God. We need to look deeper than the childhood pranks, and find their real identity. We need to have open and comfortable relationships. We don’t need money or gifts to show them love. Love is taking time for each other.

Praise...

Praise their performance and not their personality or physical features. They cannot help if they have a cute nose or pretty eyes. They can help their performance. If you are sincere, it will help the child accept congratulations with ease and humility. Praise their acts of kindness and generosity. They need approval. It is especially important that they receive praise from the people that are most important to them, that is, their parents. Praise them for what they do on their own initiative.

For example, one day I looked out the window and saw the boys using the sled to carry wood. All of a sudden, it plopped over. I just opened the door and praised them for the big load they were hauling—and saw a sparkle in their eyes. Later, they came and said that they had cleaned out the dog pen and swept the porch, too.

One of the
greatest
joys we can
know is to
love and be
loved.

D

Discipline...

Knowledge, understanding, and wisdom must temper love. If we have no boundaries or visions of what we want for our children, and never say “no” to them, we are raising them for nothing and for no one. If we love them, praise them, trust them, and accept them, they will believe in our boundaries. If we train them, it will not take as much discipline. The discipline should enhance the training. If we have an ever-present spirit of wanting them to become vessels fit for the Master’s use, we will practice self-control and constancy in discipline. Each wife must work with her own husband as to what vision you have in this matter.

G

od...

Pray for each child by name. Intercede for them individually. The best memories we share as a family are formed when we pray together. That is when our hearts melt together. There is forgiveness there, and a new start. Our vision is this: “That our sons may be as plants grown up in their youth; that our daughters may be as cornerstones, polished after the similitude of a palace” (Psalm 144:12).

Finally, I have a parable. I ask myself, “Which of these am I?”



I took a little child’s hand in mine. He and I were to walk together for a while. I was to lead him to the Father. It was a task that overcame me. So awful was the responsibility. I talked to the little child only of the Father. I painted the sternness of the Father’s face. We walked under tall trees. I said, “The Father has power to send them crashing down, struck by His thunderbolts.” We walked in the sunshine. I told him of the greatness of the Father, who made the burning and blazing sun. In the twilight we met the Father. The child hid behind me. The child was afraid. He would not look up at the face, so lov-

ing. He remembered my picture. He would not put his hand in my Father’s hand. I was between the Father and the child. I wondered. I had been so serious and conscientious.

I took the little child’s hand in mine. I was to lead him to the Father. I felt burdened by the multitude of things I was supposed to teach him. We did not ramble. We hastened on from spot to spot. At one moment, we compared the leaves of the trees; the next moment, we were examining the bird’s nest. While the child was questioning me about it, I drew him away to chase the butterfly. If he chanced to fall asleep, I would waken him, lest he should miss something. We spoke of the Father often and rapidly. I poured into his ears all of the stories I wished him to know. We were often interrupted by the wind blowing, of which we must speak, or the coming of the stars, which we must study, or the gurgling of the brook, which we must trace to its source. And then in the twilight, we met the Father. The child merrily glanced at Him. The Father stretched out His hand, but the child was not interested enough to take it. Feverish spots burned on his cheeks, he dropped exhausted to the ground, and fell asleep. Again, I was between the Father and the child. I wondered. I had taught him so many, many things.

I took a little child’s hand in mine to lead Him to the Father. My heart was full of gratitude for the glad privilege. We walked slowly. I suited myself for the short steps of the child. We spoke of the things the child noticed. One time it was one of the Father’s birds. We watched it build its nest, and saw the eggs that were laid. We wondered later at the care it gave its young. Sometimes we picked the Father’s flowers, and stroked their soft petals, and loved their bright colors. Often we told stories of the Father. I told them to the child, and the child told them to me. We told them, the child and I, over and over again. Sometimes we stopped to rest, leaning against the Father’s trees and letting His air cool our brows—and never speaking. In the twilight, we met the Father. The child’s eyes shone. He looked up lovingly, trustingly, and eagerly into the Father’s face. He put his hand in the Father’s hand. I was, for the moment, forgotten. I was content.

□



A Change of Allegiance

*The Testimony of
Dean & Tania Taylor*

Dean...

Two times in my life I have seen my father cry. The first was when I was 7 years old, and he told me that his father died. The second was when I told him I was seeking discharge from the U.S.

Army as a conscientious objector. As a child growing up in Texas, my only brother and I were raised to believe in God, but we were also raised with a deep sense of patriotism. My earliest memories include family vacations to the Alamo, Confederate battlegrounds, and other such nationally venerable sites. I immensely enjoyed these excursions, and I remember feeling very proud of my American heritage.

Throughout my childhood years, my family attended a Methodist church, and in my



early teens, I started attending a Baptist church. My interests in school were predominantly in music, and I kept very busy playing in the band and singing in various choral groups. My parents were the type who came to everything I did, and I thank the Lord for the loving, affirming atmosphere in which I was raised. On Nov. 12, 1986, I left my childhood home and headed off to the U.S. Army.

Tania...

At the age of 19, eluding gunfire, land mines, and checkpoints, my father made his escape from Hungary to the United States during the Communist takeover of 1956. Seeing both his father and grandfather carried off to Siberian concentration camps, and experiencing a childhood marred by the atrocities of warfare, he was determined that this legacy



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would not continue with him. He had experienced the damage of a totalitarian takeover, so he was always very zealous to train in me a sense of duty to stand against such foes as he and his family had suffered under.

Amnesty International helped to relocate my father to Dallas, Texas, and secured him a job as a machinist, although he spoke no English. A few years later, he met my mother, and not long after, they were married. My mother was the spiritual anchor of our home. She taught us children (myself and my two younger brothers) to love God and to fear His Word. Religious radio and TV were a common part of our everyday lives. Christian TV had a particularly powerful influence in my life. As I watched testimonials of salvation and great miracles, I remember how my heart would long after the Lord. I had given my heart to Him, yet, I had so many ups and downs in my walk with the Lord. Over many years, I slowly departed from Him in my heart. Eventually I fell into the deceptive mindset of “easy-believism,” and I suffered much in my faith due to my indifference. Looking back, I feel I neglected to “keep my heart with all diligence.” Although I always had a prayer relationship with the Lord, the Lord Himself warns us, “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven” (Matthew 7:21a). It wasn’t until years later that the Lord allowed me to wake up out of my stupor.

Like Dean, I was also very involved in music, and it was in the high school band that we first met. Six years later, we were married and started our life together in Germany, where Dean was stationed. Exactly one year later, I joined the Army and had to return to the States for eight long months of training, never seeing Dean even once during that time. The day I left for Basic Training was the saddest day of my life. Looking back on it, I think I must have been crazy. Here I was a new wife and, instead of building a godly home, I was off throwing grenades, shooting machine guns, and repelling down 60-foot-high towers in combat boots.

After such a long separation, I finally arrived back in Germany to join Dean. We experienced a sweet reunion and enjoyed working and traveling together in the band, after such a long separation. But the Lord was already working in our hearts, calling us out, even out of a job that was (in the flesh) extremely rewarding.

Dean...

In the Army band we performed many types of music, some worse than others. Eventually, we both started to sing in an official U.S. Army rock band. During that time, we were members of a Baptist Church off base. They did not mind us being in the rock band, because they felt it was being done “for the troops.” As a child I never really had a taste for rock music, but the church that I went to often took us to “Christian” rock concerts, and I eventually developed a taste for it. After acquiring a taste for “Christian” rock, it didn’t take much to make the transition to secular rock. In the rock band, Tania and I always said there were some songs we would not do because of our convictions. Looking back, I now see we were merely attempting to appease our consciences. The music we were taking part in was often of a sensual and wicked nature, and we both shudder as we realize how deluded we had become.

Tania...

One of the tools I believe God used to help pull us out of our “deluding spirit” was having us move to a house in a valley that could not pick up TV reception. This was strangely painful for me. It was as though I was breaking intimate fellowship and daily communion with an old friend. I really wonder where we would be today, if God had not taken this ungodly influence and desire out of our lives.

Dean...

Since we had no TV, we naturally had more time to read. For the first time in our marriage, we began to dig into the Word of God together,



A Change of Allegiance

The Testimony of Dean & Tania Taylor

and it was such an exciting time. I look back on that time with wonder. Night after night, it seemed the Lord was showing us something new. I felt an illumination from God. As the Lord began revealing His light, we were never able to return to our old ways of thinking. We also fell under severe conviction of sin during that time. The Lord was daily showing us areas in our lives that needed to change. The first thing that God really pressed on our hearts was the rock music.

Tania...

During this time, Dean and I read a biography called *No Compromise*. It seemed that the title and the message “no compromise” really struck a chord with us. Our band had entered its busiest season, and we were traveling extensively around Europe. When we weren’t on duty, we had been booking private engagements in the local pubs with the rock band. It was during this time we both felt a stern calling from God to repent of that life-style and give our lives fully to Him. We both vividly remember one night above all the others as the real turning point of our lives. We fell under such a severe conviction of sin that we dropped to our knees in a hotel room. We felt so very burdened by our compromising lives. We both knew the truth; it had settled down over our hearts, and we trembled with fear. We knew we had to either choose God or choose the world—but trying to have both was impossible. Thanks be to God! That night we felt the Holy Spirit reach down and pick us up, right where we were, as we surrendered our lives totally to God. It is a night we will never forget.

Dean...

The first thing we did when we got back home was to resign from the rock band. Our commander did not resist this much, since there were always plenty of people waiting for an opportunity to get in. However, we could see a look of concern in his eyes and sensed his worry that we might be getting too radical.

As we were joyously discovering new light, we had both been sharing our newfound convictions with another married couple in the band, Rick and Dawn Shirley. The Lord was also at work in their lives, and we were experiencing a great time of revival together. Rick also chose to resign from the rock band. The four of us started to have regular Bible studies together, and they were powerful!

One night, while reading through the Sermon on the Mount with Tania, the Lord really opened our eyes. When we got to Matthew 5:44, we had to stop. It said, “But I say unto you, love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you”.

We said, “What are we going to do about *this*? Is God telling us to leave the Army?”

We tried to ignore it at first, but the Lord kept pressing it in on our hearts. I was just back from armorer school and was newly promoted to sergeant. We had decided to make the Army a career...but now this! We really thought that we must be crazy. We did not know of *anyone* who believed like this. The first thing I did was read a book written by the Chief Army Chaplain in Washington D.C., on the “Just War Theory.” I read the book with great expectation, hoping to better understand how this theory made sense

For the first time in our marriage, we began to dig into the Word of God together, and it was such an exciting time...Night after night, it seemed the Lord was showing us something new....As the Lord began revealing His light, we were never able to return to our old ways of thinking.



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biblically. However, by the time I got to the end of that book, I knew that I could never again embrace the “Just War Theory.” It was also becoming clear to me that we had a difficult path ahead of us, and there would be no easy answers. To top all of this off, the Persian Gulf War was just heating up, and patriotic emotions were soaring.

Tania...

Needless to say, these times were full of angst and fear for us. We had no idea that you could legally request to be discharged from the service based on legitimate, personal convictions. We had mistakenly thought that our only choices were to run away (“go AWOL,” as we called it) or face imprisonment. Furthermore, we were lambasted daily by the military media, playing up the ill fate of those who had chosen to run away.

The Shirleys were as convinced as we were that they could no longer participate in the war with a clear conscience, and we drew together in prayer to seek God for deliverance. Thus, God led us to a few books that really helped us, e.g.: *The Pilgrim Church*, *The Martyrs Mirror*, *How Christians Made Peace With War*, and *Will the Real Heretic Please Stand Up?* These books helped to sharpen our convictions and confirm that, indeed, God had been leading us, and we needed to continue in this path. It was reassuring to see, historically, that the early Christians and the persecuted Christians throughout all the ages, had believed just as we did.

Dean...

Once again, God brought a book across our

path that further solidified our conviction. The book was called, *He Came Preaching Peace*. For the first time ever, we heard clear teaching on the “Two-Kingdom Theory.” We now saw clearly that Jesus taught that there are two kingdoms: the kingdom of this world and the kingdom of heaven. Jesus said that His servants were not to be citizens of a worldly kingdom, but rather that we are citizens of a heavenly kingdom. We searched the Scriptures and were amazed at how beautifully the truth came together. Our alliance was to God, not to men; we were to be about the business of our heavenly Father, to do His bidding, and to not entangle ourselves in the affairs of the world. Suddenly, all of Jesus’ words could be applied realistically in our lives, and not merely talked about. Before, there had been so many inconsistencies with Jesus’ words and what we had been taught about war. How freeing it was to lean on Jesus, and take Him at His Word!

At that point we contacted the publisher of the book and asked if they had any recommendations on how we might get counsel concerning our situation. They forwarded our letter to a Mennonite group working in Germany, who became very instrumental in helping us with the CO (Conscientious Objector) process.

Tania...

Another day that will remain forever engraved upon our minds is the day of the “Deadly-Force Briefing.” The war had started, and the commander sat the whole unit down and informed us that the time had come to lay aside our musical duties and take up arms. I remember our commander looking right at Dean and stressing, “If anyone comes in here,

We searched the Scriptures and were amazed at how beautifully the truth came together. Our alliance was to God, not to men; we were to be about the business of our heavenly Father, to do His bidding, and to not entangle ourselves in the affairs of the world.



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you *will* use deadly force to stop them, if necessary.”

We knew the time had come. Immediately following the briefing, the four of us met in the music library; we got down on our knees and prayed. Without delay, we methodically got up from our knees, gathered our paperwork, and started a single-file line to the commander's office. That march up the stairs seemed like a thousand miles, and will always remain “frozen in time” in my memory. We entered the commander's office, stood at attention, and saluted. Dean then presented the commander with the paperwork, and announced to him the news that we were initiating the request for CO status. The commander hardly uttered a word, but a distinct sentiment of disapproval was clearly communicated in his grave countenance. We then crossed the threshold into an eight month long season of intense trials, persecutions, and spiritual growth in the Lord, like we had never before experienced.

Dean...

When the CO process is started, there are several different hurdles the military puts you through. In each hurdle, we were required to stand on our own. The first hurdle required submitting our convictions in written form, in addition to answering an extensive battery of questions. We marveled at the acrobatics displayed in the questioning, which presented just about every twist and angle on the position of nonresistance you could imagine. When completed, this packet was sent to the Pentagon, where it was analyzed for inconsistencies and, ultimately, assessed for sincerity. The rigors of this first hurdle really challenged us, and yet, we were so grateful for the opportunity to give a testimony of our faith.

The next hurdle required an interview with an Army chaplain. This went surprisingly well. After I shared my convictions with him for about an hour, I asked him if, with all that he knew of the Bible, he could really look me straight in the eye and tell me that I was wrong.

He said he could not.

Following the chaplain's interview was our consultation with a psychiatrist. The psychiatrist's only purpose in this process was supposed to be assessing whether we were competent to stand trial. Yet, I believe, in my case, the lady had a personal ax to grind. As soon as I sat down in her office she said, “I've got you all figured out!” She then began to probe, asking if I believed in paying taxes, and I told her that I did. She went on to say that I was inconsistent with my convictions. She said that the fact that I did not want to support the war but I did want to pay taxes proved that I was inconsistent. I told her that I lived by the teachings of the Bible, and that the Bible told me to love my enemies *and* pay my taxes. I told her that I didn't always have to understand it, but I was expected to obey it. At that point she became very irate and started to hurl all sorts of questions at me, for which the Holy Spirit gave me answers. Finally, with much frustration, she shouted that I had no right to lecture her on the Bible, and proceeded to list for me her many credentials, which ended with, “...and I'll have you know I'm a card-carrying Methodist!” I was still trembling as I walked out of her office, but I am confident the Lord had a reason for allowing me to undergo her ruthless grilling.

Tania...

The final stretch of the road was probably the most intimidating hurdle of all. We each had to stand trial, individually. This was a court hearing, where an investigative officer was assigned to interrogate us about every imaginable facet of nonresistance. Witnesses were even brought in from our unit to testify of our sincerity.

The counselors who were helping us through the whole process had given us a little book that was supposed to help us prepare how to answer in the court hearing. We discussed it amongst ourselves and remembered what the Bible says, “But when they shall lead you, and deliver you up, take no thought beforehand



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what ye shall speak, neither do ye premeditate: but whatsoever shall be given you in that hour, that speak ye: for it is not ye that speak, but the Holy Ghost” (Mark 13:11). So, we threw ourselves on the promise of God and decided not to study beforehand what to say.

Dean...

God graciously fulfilled His promise, and we were each able to answer with confidence and power, which was not of our own! We were presented with every manner of, “What would you do if...” case-scenarios. We were drilled on numerous topics, such as persecution, tyranny, Hitler, previous wars, robbery, harm to family members, hunting, etc.

Following our hearings, we left in suspense, knowing nothing of our fate. It was to be four more months until we would be given an answer. Standard military procedure mandated that we not be required to serve in any capacity that might violate our conviction; hence, we were dismissed from our usual duties and assigned an assortment of menial jobs while awaiting the results of our requests.

Finally, eight months after our initial applications were submitted, we were notified that our papers were on the commander’s desk. The same officer who had conducted our hearings met with us in a tiny office upstairs. Once we were all in, he instructed us to shut the door. As we stood there in anticipation, we could see the four manila envelopes sitting on his desk. He informed us that the process was completed, and that the results were in. But then he put us to a curious test. He asked us if we still wanted to leave the Army. He said that since the war was long over, we could still, at this point, choose to stay in our jobs, the results would simply be discarded, and all would be forgotten. He encouraged us further that, although it might be embarrassing for a while, eventually people would forget it ever happened, and we could go on happily with our military careers. We didn’t even need to look at one another. We simply told him that we were firm on our con-

victions, and that we still wanted to follow through, no matter what the consequences.

His reply surprised us a bit. He said he was glad to hear our response, and that we had each been granted a CO release with Honorable Discharges. But then something miraculous happened. He leaned forward, as if to confide in us, and we’ll never forget the words: “I wanted to tell you something before you go... I, too, am now leaving the Army for the very same reasons.” Words could not express the joy within our hearts at that moment. It was such a confirmation that the Lord had truly been with us every step of the way, and had even brought about a mighty miracle! We just rejoiced in the Lord!

Not long after that, we were released. Returning to the States and forever leaving the comforts of our nice military way of life was not easy. It was the only life we had ever known as a married couple. Yet, we can truly say that the joy of the Lord was ever with us, and His presence was particularly near to us during those days of uncertainty.

As we sought God for His direction, He continued to work even more miracles, cleansings, and teachings in our lives. We were tempted to fear that we would never find like-minded fellowship anywhere, but within days of our return, the Lord had already directed us to the fellowship that we were to be a part of for the next 11 years, until we moved to Pennsylvania. While every step of the way was not perfect in those 11 years, we saw the hand of the Lord in countless mighty ways, and we just rejoice that He gave us such dear fellowship all those years.

Believing that we had experienced a clear conversion, we were rebaptized on Resurrection Sunday, 1992. Since then, we decided to allow God to bless our home with children, and Tania conceived our first child that year. God has blessed us with five beautiful children since then: Stephen (9), Stephana (7), Christian (5), Christina (3), and Joanna (1). How

continued on page 35



PRAYER ANSWERED BY CROSSES

I asked the Lord that I might grow
In faith and love and every grace,
Might more of His salvation know,
And seek more earnestly His face.

I hoped that in some favored hour
At once He'd answer my request,
And by His love's constraining power,
Subdue my sins and give me rest.

Instead of this, He made me feel
The hidden evils of my heart,
And let the angry powers of hell
Assault my soul in every part.

Yea, more, with His own hand He seemed
Intent to aggravate my woe;
Crossed all the fair designs I schemed,
Blasted my hopes, and laid me low.

"Lord, why is this?" I trembling cried,
"Wilt Thou pursue Thy worm to death?"
" 'Tis in this way," the Lord replied,
"I answer prayer for grace and faith;

"These inward trials I employ,
From self and pride to set thee free,
And break thy schemes of earthly joy,
That thou may'st seek thy all in Me."

Charity Gospel Tape Ministry & The Heartbeat of The Remnant

January-March 2003 Financial Report



As I look over the quarterly financial report for the Tape Ministry and the Remnant, my heart fills with praise and gratitude. The year is moving by very fast, and once again, God is blessing the work above what we could ask or think. The tapes continue to go out in record numbers. The letters of blessings and changed lives keep coming in. And God continues to expand His work into far distant fields, and with people who have not known us before. Thank You Lord, and thank you to all who support this ministry.

I will express a few needs that we have at present, things that require more than normal financial flow. We are in need of upgrading some of our equipment at the ministry offices. We need several flat computer screens for some of the work stations. We are told that these kind of screens are much easier on the eyes. Some of the workers spend hours gazing into these screens. It is needful to get them the better screens. In addition to this, we are needing to make a few major changes in office construction and expansion. If some of you dear supporters feel lead to help with this project, we would be very grateful.

--Bro. Denny

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------|
| 01/01/03 Beginning Balance | \$11,822.54 |
| Receipts | |
| Tape Ministry Donations | \$57,596.31 |
| Remnant Subscription Donations | \$5,793.10 |
| Total Receipts | \$63,389.41 |
| Disbursements | |
| UPS & Postage | \$6,731.48 |
| Tapes, Albums & Labels | \$30,766.30 |
| Equipment & Software Purchases | \$424.91 |
| Equipment Maint & Repairs | \$793.04 |
| Mailing & Office Supplies | \$2,426.70 |
| Rent & Electric | \$2,950.00 |
| Telephone | \$1,293.24 |
| Website Development & Maintenance | \$422.81 |
| Miscellaneous | \$1,101.81 |
| Payroll Expense | \$8,300.01 |
| Books & Catalogs | \$4,329.73 |
| Remnant Publishing & Mailing | \$9,853.50 |
| Total Disbursements | \$69,393.53 |
| 03/31/03 Ending Balance | \$5,818.42 |
| Difference | -\$6,004.12 |

NEW TAPE SETS

We have two new tape sets that have been added to the list of available tapes. I believe you will find them very practical and helpful. In these days when many are departing, it is always refreshing to find practical, Biblical teaching. The brethren at Hope Christian Fellowship in Loveland, CO, hosted a Leadership Seminar in April. These two sets come from those sessions.

The Man and His Money

by Mose Stoltzfus

This is a very practical set of messages on Biblical finances. Mose covers many different aspects of this vast subject. It is by no means complete, but very helpful counsel for us men. There is counsel on debt, foolish spending, the curse of the credit card, and the dangers of materialism.

The Man and His Home

by Denny Kenaston

This set covers several aspects of Christian leadership, and how it relates to our homes. Some of the subjects covered are: The father's priestly role in the home, The father's role as a teacher, Gentle fathers, loving husbands, and more. Good stuff for men.

A lone with God

I met with God in the morning,
When all was dark and still,
And asked for strength and courage,
His love my heart to fill.

I spent some time before Him,
Bowed low upon my knee,
To thank Him for His mercy,
And that He cares for me.

It seemed to calm my spirit
To be with Him alone.
Oh, what a place of blessing
Before His awesome throne!

I rose to face my duties,
My heart all free from care,
For I had dropped my worries
While kneeling down in prayer!

In 2001 Americans wagered 7 billion dollars on lottery, 18 million on horses and dogs, 592 billion on casinos, and 150 billion on other forms of gambling. It is a total of 817 billion on gambling in 2001.



The Sin of Gambling

by Mose Stolfus
a transcribed sermon

It is my desire to speak to the ears of society in America concerning the sin of gambling. There is an extraordinary silence in America on this issue. It is flooding our society like a tidal wave. Our preachers are not speaking. The newspapers are almost totally silent. I find

when this happens, numbness slowly creeps over our hearts and minds, and we begin to shut our eyes to the sin. We just don't think it could be so wicked or wrong. We don't talk about it. We feel confident that surely no one would be involved in such things. I would like to say that all sin—

of every description—is a temptation. It will set itself against our people at one time or another.

I can say that I have had to face it in my years, and I still have to. There is the attraction of the signs that come up, the speaking billboards, and flashing lights, that draw our attention. This burden has come from an article that I read this week. I will quote the article in its entirety before addressing it. A few weeks ago, a man by the name of Jack Whittaker won 170 million dollars on a Powerball lottery. He was a professing Christian, and he had some relationships with some churches and pastors. He immediately decided that he would tithe the money to three ministers. So, these pastors got hundreds of thousands of dollars. John Piper, the author of the article, sends a message in "World Magazine" as a rebuke for accepting that money. Here is the story:

"The West Virginia pastors who accepted Jack Whittaker's tithe on the \$170 million Powerball lottery should be ashamed of themselves. One of them said that it was a blessing to have that kind of backing. Christ does not build his church on the backs of the poor. The engine that delivers His righteousness in the world is not driven by the desire to get rich. The gospel of Jesus Christ is not advanced by undermining civil virtues. Let the pastors take their silver and throw it back into the temple of greed...

In 2001 Americans wagered 7 billion dollars on lottery, 18 million on horses and dogs, 592 billion on casinos, and 150 billion on other forms of gambling. It is a total of 817 billion on gambling in 2001. That is well of three quarters of a trillion dollars spent into thin air by the over abundance of financial ability that Americans have, to throw around money, and still live their lives.”

The article continues, “This is a blot on American life. Break it down to individuals. Massachusetts sells more than five hundred dollars worth of lottery tickets each year for every man, woman, and child in the state. Think how many do not gamble, and you will begin to imagine what thousands are throwing away.”

The same thing happened when the money was going to Las Vegas years ago. Atlantic City built up in order to provide gambling for the east, so people would not have to travel so far. Now, Pennsylvania is becoming jealous of so many people driving to Atlantic City and is considering building casinos in Philadelphia. Our new governor would like to legalize it in other areas of the state. Those of us who have traveled in the western states have seen slot machines when stopping for gas. When you get off an airplane, you see slot machines greeting you in the lobby. It has been one of the most awful things to hit our society.

My first experience of gambling was when I got

together with a few of my friends when I was fourteen. I remember them playing cards. One boy said to me, “If you’re going to be among us, you need to do this.” They were playing with pennies, but I still had an inward aversion to it. I thought a person should not do this. Later on that day, I went into the house and their older brothers were sitting around the table playing cards. They were throwing dollar bills on a pile. I was appalled that a man would take his hard-earned money and gamble it away at a card game. I know that in my innocence it was a shocking thing. I pondered those things. I realize today that it is actually becoming socially acceptable.

I would like to sharpen your conscience very deeply.

Word of God why it is wrong. We must plant such an aversion to it, that when ungodly temptations come their way, at some unique time in their life, they will never want to try it to see what would happen when the lights are flashing. It is so simple to put in a quarter and pull a lever and watch the wheel spin. This thing is addictive. It draws you in, and traps you. It will rob you of your virtue, your morality, and perhaps even your marriage.

It is a well-known fact that there has been a moral decline in our nation. The change has been so gradual that we hardly think about it. But if we look back over thirty years, there has been a phenomenal change in attitude on this subject. Gambling. Fraud. Deceit.

It is so simple to put in a quarter and pull a lever and watch the wheel spin. This thing is addictive. It draws you in, and traps you. It will rob you of your virtue, your morality, and perhaps even your marriage.

It is amazing when you get cold in your spiritual life, what you will soon fall into. I want to speak out against the ills of American society. We are dead wrong on what we are thinking and doing. I want to warn every Christian, and every father, to sit your children down, and to teach them the ills of gambling—that it is wrong, very wrong. We must understand by the

Immorality. These are plainly evidences of a declining morality. So many times, things get so watered down and muddied, that people begin gambling in very small ways and do not think about it. They start betting among themselves, about certain facts, or maybe a ball game. They begin to bet each other a dinner. And slowly they slip into this frame of mind.

Years ago, children were taught early in life, by loving parents, that the Bible was true, and that people should obey its teachings. Even though the word gambling is not found in the Bible, the principles are crystal clear throughout the Scriptures. Our fathers were taught that gambling was an evil vice, and that it should be shunned by young and old alike. Gambling is big business today. Teenagers are entering the gambling world in increasing numbers.

Webster's Dictionary defines gambling, "To play or gain for money or other state; to hazard; to wager; to stake or wager in gaming." Many people seem to have trouble distinguishing between what constitutes gambling, and what does not. We recognize the devil as our enemy, but still continue to cover our eyes in this matter, so that we cannot see clearly. Gambling is playing for money, or playing a game of chance for money. Gaming always involves risk to obtain something for nothing, and it often means losing what one has and obtaining nothing. It is getting something for nothing without rendering service or exchange of goods. It is an attempt to get money without earning it; therefore, it is a vice and a sin, according to the wise man Solomon, and many other principles in Scripture. It is to reap without sowing.

In essence, gambling is stealing. It is a form of robbery. It is an attempt through chance to gain the possessions

of another with nothing given in exchange. Every gambler is a parasite. He wants to live off what he can get from others. He is a leech on society; therefore, there is a loss of virtue and falling of society when you begin to gamble.

I have heard some people say that gambling is anything that involves a chance. They try to diminish it, and say that all of life is a chance. People will say that farming is a chance, or starting a business is a chance, or marriage is a chance. Yes, there are uncertainties associated with life. We often say, "The man who never takes a risk never gets anywhere." There is a certain amount of risk about getting out of bed in the morning, of driving to church. There is a certain amount of risk in having children. Yet, the averages are good. It is not a gamble in any sense of the word, and is not in any way analogous of the spirit of gambling we are warned about in Scripture.

Bible scholars through the years have long stated that gambling breaks the tenth commandment, "Thou shalt not covet." Gambling is a form of covetousness. To covet is to wish for with eagerness. No one can see the coveting heart. It is witnessed only by the Lord, and he who possesses it. Gambling is a desire to profit at the expense, or the loss, of another. You are hoping that somebody else will lose, so that you will win. And when you win, you are likely taking money out of the pocket of another poor, lost soul that is addicted to gambling,

and possibly even on the verge of bankruptcy. Maybe his children are going hungry because you have won. I cannot see how any Christian can feel any clarity in conscience, having money in his pocket from a winning gamble.

Some even gamble for great sums of money, and lose it all. Gambling is a vice. It is dangerous, and deceitful. It is productive for many evils, and injurious to the morals and health of its people. It has been a ruin of many worthy families, and the loss of many a man's honor. It ends many, many times in suicide.

To the beginner, gambling is fascinating. The winner begins to push his good fortune, and then his fortune reverses. The gambler, in hopes of retrieving his loss, plays more in order to try and regain it. Finally, in desperation, he loses everything. I remember the story of a couple in Iowa. They were in their fifties, and had farmed all of their lives. Their farm was almost all paid for in a nice community. Along came riverboat casino gambling. The couple decided to try it out. They began to play and lose money, but somewhere along the way, they won. Their friends found out that they had won 30,000 dollars. A few years later, to the shock of the community and relatives, both of them committed suicide. They eventually found out what had happened. The farm had been mortgaged and their credit cards were maxed out. This man and wife had become sucked into this thing.

They lost everything through gambling. At the last and bitter end, they both decided to commit suicide. They were a respectable couple. I got a sick feeling when I heard of it, and to think that the local politicians are jealous for this debauchery in our community utterly bewilders me.

They have even had to develop "Gambler's Anonymous", right next to "Alcoholic's Anonymous", to work with compulsive gambling. It is a compulsive and evil habit. I remember in our witnessing, years ago, we decided to go to Atlantic City to witness and pass out tracts. We began to sing in the middle of a bunch of casinos. I never had such a disappointing time witnessing in all of my life. People were so cold. They had their faces set. They were carrying quart-size jars

of quarters. They were going from place to place, trying their luck. We thought this might be an opportunity to preach the gospel to them. They gave us such a deaf ear. They were heartless.

Gambling has a powerful and corrupt influence on society. It almost inevitably leads to intemperance. Interested friends may warn. Wives may entreat with tears. But seldom, they say, is a man delivered from the fatal snare of gambling. I have seen it written, "Ruin is marked over the door of the gambling den. If one regards the salvation of his own immortal soul, and the happiness of his family and friends, he will shun this heartbreaking, soul-destroying, fashionable but ruinous vice."

Finally, there are eternal consequences to gambling. I believe a gambler will go to

hell. Unless he repents, and comes back to the Lord Jesus, and lives an honest and godly life, he will lose his soul. Therefore, we should hate gambling. We should shun it. We should rebuke it, just as John Piper did. We should speak up against evil when we see it, and say, "That is not right. That is robbing money from the poor, causing them to be in bondage." Christianity and gambling are not compatible. They do not go together. I would like to encourage you young men to shun it. As a young person, I settled it in my heart. Make a commitment now, never to throw your money away on things that are of no value. May the Lord grant us boldness in this area. □

"I the Lord thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children, unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me." Exodus 20:5

"Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit, shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting." Galatians 6:7,8

"Godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and raiment let us be therewith content. But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows." 1 Timothy 6:6

"Wealth gotten by vanity shall be diminished: but he that gathereth by labor shall increase." Proverbs 13:11

"He that oppresseth the poor to increase his riches, and he that giveth to the rich, shall surely come to want." Proverbs 22:16

"He that hasteth to be rich hath an evil eye, and considereth not that poverty shall come upon him." Proverbs 28:22



The State of Anabaptism in 2003

by Paul Emerson

We live in a day and an age where many of God's people are burdened about many things. Every major denomination in Christendom is experiencing major shifts away from the life and vitality of their beginnings. I get letters representing them all. The letters basically express the same thing, words of concern over drift. Drift away from the original zeal and love for God. Drift away from the clear Biblical positions that others died for. I am concerned for the same things. This concern is one of the reasons for this magazine. I recently read a short article written by Paul Emerson a Mennonite minister. He expressed the same sigh as he watches his church drift away from one of the most powerful testimonies of any group a God's people in church history. The article, printed below, fits our burden in this magazine. God, send us more prophets who will not be silent. --The editor

As one views the descendants of Menno today, a mixed message is received. On the one extreme, there are those who represent a very obvious apostate drift in theology and Biblical application. They publicly sum up the leftward travel over the last 40 years with "We've come a long way, baby!" Others in this stream are busy redefining the person and work of Christ. The message of salvation is being accommodated to the leftist and pluralistic doctrines of men.

On the other extreme, there is a restlessness. An apparent fear exists that the Biblical theology espoused by

Anabaptists for hundreds of years is not Anabaptist enough. A distorted hermeneutic is being suggested that makes the true meaning of Scripture dependent upon the consensus of a group of mere men. Since when does any man have a right to sit in judgment upon what God has said?! The apostolic doctrine of salvation is also being adjusted in some circles in order to deny the Biblical truth of substitutionary atonement. When one plays with this one, he is quite literally playing with fire! As church members become less devoted to obeying the clear teachings of Scripture, the

more detailed rules seem to be needed in order to maintain a semblance of good order. People mourn regulation but do not realize that it came about because of their failure in self-discipline.

True Anabaptism has always been a movement of radical Christianity. Of late, it appears that many have exchanged radical Christianity for merely being radical. Much that is being represented as Anabaptist Christianity has no relation to Biblical Christianity whatever! The only answer is a fresh, soul-stirring life-changing revival. Pray for that Holy Spirit visitation. □

Announcing.....

2003 WEEKEND MEETINGS

August 7-10, 2003

to be held at

EPHRATA BUSINESS CENTER
400 West Main St. • Ephrata, PA 17522

Charity, Ephrata, and Harmony Christian Fellowship are having their annual summer meetings again in August. The meetings will be held at our conference center, which is also the meeting place for Ephrata Christian Fellowship.

Speakers

Mose Stoltzfus *Ephrata, PA*
Aaron Hurst *Leola, PA*
Rick Liebee *Ephrata, PA*
Denny Kenaston *Leola, PA*
Emanuel Esh *Leola, PA*

and others

Lodging Coordinator:
Dave Esh (717) 355-2917

Schedule of Meetings

Thursday

7:00pm Revival Service

Friday

7:00pm Revival Service

Saturday

9:00am Teaching topic

12:00noon Noon meal

2:00pm Teaching topic

5:00pm Evening meal

7:00pm Revival Service

Sunday

9:00am Sunday morning service

12:00noon Noon meal

2:00pm Family and
Congregational singing

5:00pm Evening meal

7:00pm Revival Service

For any other information, call Charity Ministries at 1-800-227-7902

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

by Jacob Mast

When I survey the wondrous cross...

This is the cross of death, the instrument of cruel death! On this cross the Lord Jesus suffered Himself to be nailed. He had at His disposal many legions of angels who would have instantly come to His rescue. No doubt they would have slain every blood-stained hand that dared to lift itself against their Creator. But even in such pain, He held them back by His powerful word and by His great love.

On which the Prince of Glory died...

This was no ordinary human. This was Almighty God. This was He who formed all things. This was the Prince of Heaven who had created man, but was now allowing man to slay Him. As those cold, hard nails were cruelly driven through His hands, He did not so much as speak a word or protest. It overwhelms us to see such love, but at the same time, it makes us fearful to disobey

such a one's least command, lest we should feel the wrath of the Father who dearly loves Him who died.

My richest gain I count but loss...

Indeed, what can be compared with such? What is there on earth that is worthy to be thought of at the same time? It is but dung! Who could want to stay here on earth gaining filthy lucre when one can obtain such riches as those that are from above? O friends, let us hasten on our way; let us not pause to ponder upon this world and how to gain its riches. We have a higher calling than that.

And pour contempt on all my pride.

Yes, contempt is what pride needs! Such love pleads that one would utterly loathe such an ugly thing—and not as in pouring cupfuls of water on a campfire, but rather as in taking a high pressure fire hose to a raging fire!

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast...

Forbid it, Lord, that I should glory in any other. Forbid it, Lord, that I should think of my own righteousness. Forbid it that I should do anything but wholly lean on Thee.

Save in the death of Christ, my Lord...

Yes, indeed, of *that* I shall boast: that my God so loves me that He died in my place, that He, the perfect One, would suffer the sentence of my crime. Let us always be mindful of this. Let us not forget how the Judge took His own death sentence for us upon Himself, how He willingly went to the gallows and hung there in our place. Let us not deceive ourselves; we richly deserve to suffer!

All the vain things that charm me most...

What is it that charms us most? Is it our business? Our earthly dreams? Those things which we longingly hope to obtain? Is not even our life unworthy to be compared?

I sacrifice them to His blood.

Yes, with glee I sacrifice my new car, my house, my

bank account, fame, or approval of man. I willingly accept with joy the contempt of a scornful world. Oh, that we would rather eat bread and water and keep peace with Jesus, than abound in earthly treasure and be counted an enemy of His!

See from His head, His hands, His feet...

Yes, gaze upon them and ponder much. Be amazed at the sight of them. Marvel at such patience. How the thorns did pierce this beautiful Rose! How He spills forth His blood, patiently suffering the buffetings of sinful man, patiently suffering the buffetings of my own hands! Such beauty there is to be seen there. Oh, that tongues were not so feeble and could do justice to it! Surely man did not know that he was buffetings God...or did he?

Sorrow and love flow mingled down...

Yes, sorrow that man had fallen, sorrow that man had gone the way of devils, sorrow that He had lost that intimate fellowship with man, sorrow that man had gone his own way. Yet He demonstrates His great love by offering to buy man back, offering to make a new covenant with man. His love is an earnest longing for man to come back to Him. Are we not called to

be His disciples? Is it not true that a disciple does that which he sees his Master doing? How should we then live so as not to grieve Him more? Sorrow and love flow mingled down: of which is there more?

Did e'er such love and sorrow meet...

Was anyone else ever willing to suffer so? Was anyone else ever *able* to pay the cost of our sins? Could anyone bear such grief but Him alone? In spite of being offered the world, He chose to suffer. Do we truly follow Him?

Or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Surely man's hatred must have been great to so severely abuse and mock his King! Surely pride is a very deadly poison if it would cause one to be so blind as to crown Him in such a cruel manner. Brethren, let us not deceive ourselves; that is self-righteousness in action. Let us ever be mindful of those things, and let us not return to doing such deeds.

Were the whole realm of nature mine...

What words these are! This speaks of all we have, all our earthly things. What if we were able to gain the whole world? What if we

were able to cause all things to become ours? Yet, even then...

That were a present far too small...

Indeed, even that gift would not suffice to bring before the King of Kings; it would yet be far too small. No amount of earthly treasure will do, no matter how vast. What little we do have is hardly worth being counted, yet we think at times that we are giving up a lot.

Love so amazing, so divine...

Yes, this is no ordinary love—this is God's amazing love! Perhaps one would dare to die for his friend or for a good man, but that one would die for His executioners...

Demands my soul, my life, my ALL!

Yes, such love constrains me to give my all! It constrains me to despise my own life. Such love cannot be contained and must be returned, no matter how small it may seem in return. Such love must not be kept to oneself because it is altogether lovely and good. Such love makes me want to follow Him. □

Book Review

by Dean Taylor

The Normal Christian Life

by Watchman Nee
1903-1972

Raised and educated in the providence of Southern China in a town called Foochow, Watchman Nee prospered as a young man. He excelled his peers, and his academic achievements frequently placed him at the top of his class. However, his life was forever changed when, at the age of seventeen, he gave himself completely to Christ.

Speaking of his conversion Nee says, *"I was alone in my room, struggling to decide whether or not to believe in the Lord. At first I was reluctant, but as I tried to pray I saw the magnitude of my sins, and the reality and efficacy of Jesus as the Savior. As I visualized the Lord's hands stretched out on the cross, they seemed to be welcoming me, and the Lord was saying, 'I am waiting here to receive you.'* Realizing the effectiveness of

Christ's blood in cleansing my sins, and being overwhelmed by such love, I accepted Him there. Previously, I had laughed at people who had accepted Jesus, but that evening the experience became real for me, and I wept and confessed my sins, seeking the Lord's forgiveness. As I made my first prayer, I knew joy and peace such as I had never known before. Light seemed to flood the room and I said to the Lord, 'Oh Lord, You have indeed been gracious to me.'"

Nee kept this grateful attitude throughout his life. Immediately following his conversion he began witnessing to his classmates and countrymen. In 1923, following a time of personal growth and persistent prayer, a revival broke out in his hometown where hundreds were saved, including 69 of his 70 classmates from school.

Following his conversion, Nee felt a clear calling from God to preach the gospel full-time. Nee poured himself into study. He studied the Bible, the lives of spiritual men, church history, and other godly books. He never attained a formal theological education, but he allowed himself to be shaped and molded by the school of Christ, in the spiritual battlefield of early 20th century China.

Living a life of tireless devotion, he became weakened in the flesh by tuberculosis and chest pains related to a weak heart. However, he still pressed on, all the while trusting in God for provisions and health. In 1949 persecution broke out in his city of Shanghai. After much prayer, he felt that because of the need in the mainland for the witness of Christ, he was to stay and continue to minister in that area. As was expected, in 1952, he was arrested for his faith and taken to prison, where he stayed until his death in 1972. Still grateful in spite of persecution, on the last day of his life he wrote a letter



about his thankfulness to Christ. Under his pillow was found a scratch of paper with the fol-

lowing words feebly written, “*Christ is the Son of God, who died for the redemption of sinners, and resurrected after three days. This is the greatest truth in the universe. I die because of my belief in Christ.*”

Because of the faithful brethren he left behind, nearly the entirety of Nee’s ministry has been transcribed and preserved in periodicals and books, leaving literally hundreds of books and spiritual works. Of all of his books, *The Normal Christian Life* is probably the most well known.

The presuming title of this book incites a challenge, right from the start. Nee’s desire in this book is not to advocate a super standard for an elite class of Christians, but to present what should be the expected inheritance of each child of God. From start to finish the book is completely Christ-focused. He says in the beginning, “...*God will answer all our questions in one way and one way only, namely, by showing us more of His Son.*” The book deals with deep issues such as sin, our sin nature, condemnation, and walking victoriously in the Spirit.

Nee has a wonderful way of getting to the core of an issue. In dealing with the death of self and our victory over sin he wrote, “...*God’s way of deliverance is altogether different from man’s way. Man’s way is to try to suppress sin by seeking to overcome it; God’s way is to remove the sinner. Many Christians mourn over their weakness, thinking that if only they were stronger all would be well. But that is altogether false; it is not Christianity. God’s means of delivering us from sin is not by making us stronger and stronger, but by making us weaker and weaker.*”

Speaking of the law of sin and death, he brings out the truth that these laws act similarly to the law of gravity, as something constantly working on us. He gives an insightful example, that if he drops his handkerchief, he needs to do nothing, and the law of gravity will naturally draw it to the ground. But, if with his other hand he reaches out and catches it, the law of gravity is overcome by another law superior to it, namely the law of life. He says that it is in just this way that the law of life in Christ has triumphed over death in all its forms. He says that if we allow God to have His clear way with us, we shall find His new law of life.

Superseding that of the old, the new law allows us to live in Him, in holiness and with victory over sin.

On finding God’s will for our lives, he expounds on Psalm 36:9, “*In thy light shall we see light.*” He explains that when we enter into God’s light, He illuminates our path, and only then can we see His will for our lives. Further, he says that light has only one law: it shines wherever it is admitted. We may shut it out ourselves, but it is better for us to say with the Psalmist, “*O send out thy light and thy truth: let them lead me.*” (Ps 43:3)

I must admit that at times his persistent emphasis on resting in Christ and allowing Christ to do all the work really challenged me. In some ways, it resembled the vocabulary of “*easy believism*” that many of us came from. However, when I considered his life and followed his theme to the end, I realized that he wasn’t at all preaching inactivity, but rather action that was completely void of our old self, and entirely motivated by God.

This whole message really comes together in the last chapter. In this chapter, he speaks of Mary’s anointing the feet of Jesus with the ointment of spikenard. He wrote that the final achievement of the gospel is for us to completely “waste” our lives on Jesus. In speaking of Mary’s anointing he wrote “...*in approving Mary’s action at Bethany, the Lord Jesus was laying down one thing as a basis of all service: that you pour out all you have, your very self, unto Him; and if that should be all He allows you to do, that is enough.*” A life emptied of self like this will be a beautiful fragrance to the Lord. Nee further exhorted that the aroma that filled the house that day in Bethany, still fills the Church today, when saints of God, like the broken bottle of spikenard, allow themselves to be broken, wasted, and consumed on the Lord Jesus Christ. □

“The Normal Christian Life”
can be ordered from most Christian
bookstores. Or, read it online at
www.ccel.org/index/classics.html



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 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 Editors of Remnant,

Bless God for His longsuffering and mercy towards us, thru His Son Jesus Christ. To him only be the glory.

I just wanted to thank you for the article you had in the Jan-Feb issue of the Remnant. The article titled, Stand behind Your Man. How I so desperately need this teaching. I know there must be hundreds of women who are equally grateful for it, so I will speak on behalf of them also. In a day when Satan has destroyed so many homes thru rebellion in women, we desperately need to repent of the error of our ways. May God help us sisters to turn this tide of evil, by living in the order that God first ordained for us women.

Wisconsin

Dear Remnant,

Greetings to ya'll in our Lord's sweet name-Jesus! I just wanted to write and let you all know what a blessing it is to receive and to read your magazine. I am really enjoying the Mar/April 2003 magazine. It has challenged me about praying without ceasing. Praying more than usual has been pressing on my heart for at least 2 weeks. Then, to read “The Role of Prayer in Spiritual Awakening” just challenged me even more so. It seems that I am in prayer continuously. At times, I don't even know what to say, but the Lord puts the words in my mouth that I am to speak. All of us Christians would make such a difference; shake this whole world up really, if we prayed without ceasing. Oh to just be upon our knees and cry unto the Father, to pray for one another and to pray for this world. If we all did so, we

would see the difference. God bless you all's magazine ministry!

Louisiana

Dear Remnant,

Greetings in Jesus name, the worthy King of glory! First of all, thank-you for sharing your interview about the church in China. Praise God! My heart is thrilled when I read about a people or a church who gets excited about Jesus, outside of a church building. Praying everywhere, they meet in the shop, in a parking lot, in cars, and yes in caves and forests and in houses. Hallelujah! Thank-you King Jesus! The Lord is worthy to be praised everywhere. My heart totally unites with these dear Chinese Christians. I was very much encouraged with the article in the Remnant.

God bless you for your labor. Also, thank you for the article on the One-eyed monster, the devils tool of destruction. There are so many young children and people filled with fear because of it.

South Dakota



Dear Remnant, and Tape Ministry,

Thank you for the heartbeat of this magazine. There is a dearth of godly homes in the church world today. I am a pastor, and I gather the younger parents (those with children at home) of the church in order to listen to your tapes on the Godly Home. We meet about every other week in someone's house and listen to a tape. My passion is to have godly fathers in my church producing godly homes. I believe this is the foundation of a godly, spiritual church. Many Christians these days in the USA expect the church or a Christian school to create godly chil-

dren. They are wrong; Dad is the key. May God help us men to sacrifice for our wives and families as Christ loved the church. I loved your interview on the Chinese church. I devour your magazine as soon as it comes each time.

Arizona



Dear Charity Christian Ministry,

Grace, peace and mercy be with you all from God the eternal and almighty Father, through Jesus Christ who gave himself for our sins and received much suffering that He might deliver us from the evil and perverse world and through the presence of the Holy Spirit that guides us and guards us.

My dear brother and sisters in Christ, I want you to know that I am so blessed with your messages through the tapes. So is my church here in Hong Kong, The Pentecostal Free Will Baptist Church. We are all Filipinos in the church working as Domestic helpers

in Hong Kong. Others assured us to preach the gospel in the church. When we learned that women should not stand to preach, our sisters were afraid to do then. Now we listen to a Charity tape on Sunday mornings. Truly, God is a merciful God that he sent someone to fellowship with us. There are truths that are not yet taught to us, which we have learned through the tapes. How great God is for He opens the way for those who seek His kingdom.

I wish I were sitting in one corner of your church hearing the words of God. It is more than enough for us still to let you know that while we are hearing the message, we are there in that room blessed by what we hear and filled by the presence of the Holy Spirit.

God bless your ministry and bless the people whom your tapes, the words of God will reach. I do pray for your dedication to lift up the banner of Jesus Christ.

Hong Kong



continued from page 20, A Change of Allegiance, the testimony of Dean & Tania Taylor

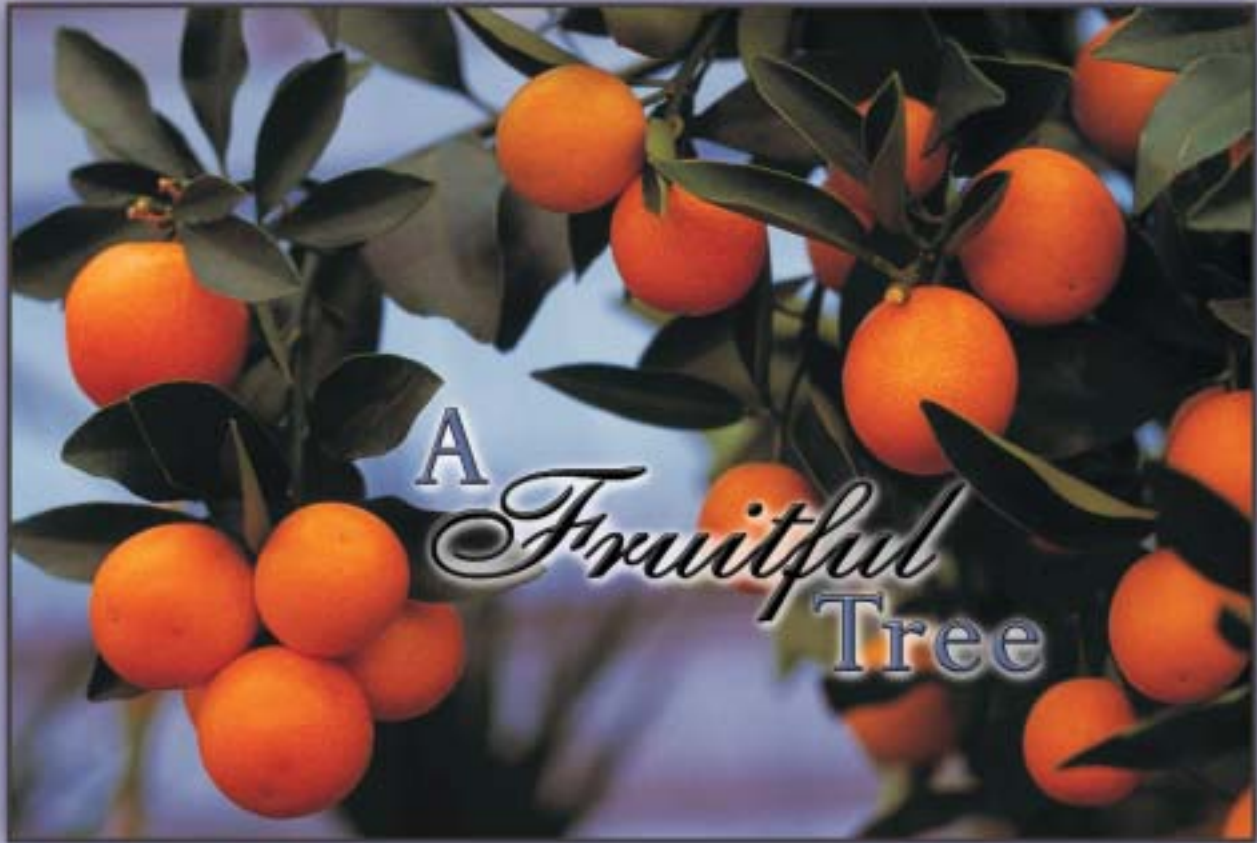
we praise God for revealing His truth in this area and blessing our home with these precious gifts!

On this journey we have made many mistakes. Yet, the Lord is still so merciful and long-suffering. His loving-kindness never fails. He has gently shown us our errors along the way, and we have

learned to *fear* getting our eyes off of Him. He *alone* is our rock and salvation. We praise Him for this revelation to our hearts and minds. It is our testimony that the Lord's mercies are new every morning. Great is His faithfulness! Sometimes Tania and I feel we are slow learners, but praise God, today we can truthfully say

with Paul, in II Timothy 1:12, "... For I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that He is able to keep that which I have committed unto Him against that day." □

Dean works on the editorial staff of The Remnant and Tania helps with copyediting.



*And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water,
that bringeth forth his fruit in his season;
his leaf also shall not wither; **Psalm 1:3**
and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.*

*The righteous shall flourish
like the palm tree: he shall grow
like a cedar in Lebanon.*

Psalm 92:12

*I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him,
the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.*

John 5:5&8

Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.

The Heartbeat of

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