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The Heartbeat of

The Remnant



. . . is a Spirit of Modesty and Humility

The Heartbeat of
The Remnant

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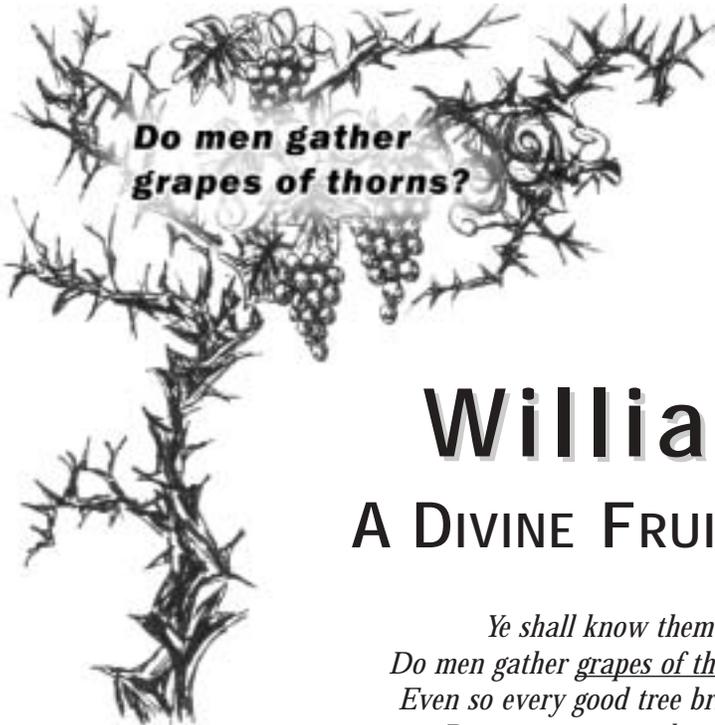
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**Do men gather
grapes of thorns?**

William Law

A DIVINE FRUIT INSPECTOR

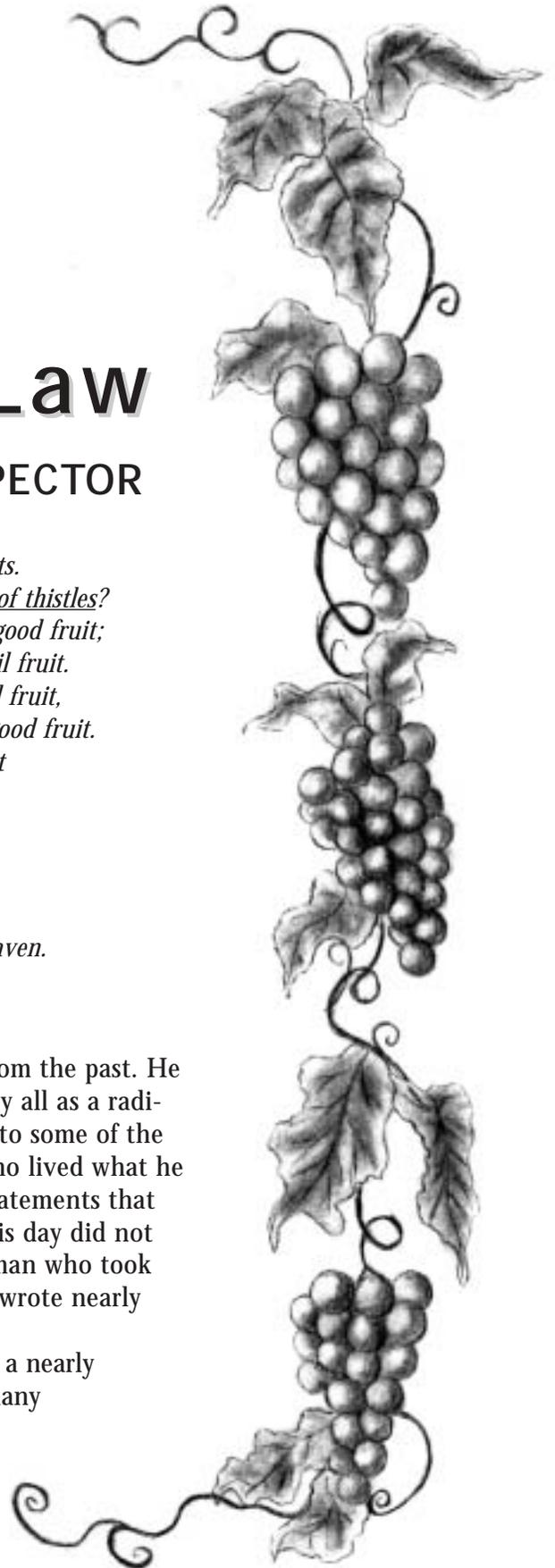
*Ye shall know them by their fruits.
Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles?
Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit;
But a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit.
A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit,
Neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit.
Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit
Is hewn down, and cast into the fire.
Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.*

*Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord,
shall enter into the Kingdom of heaven;
But he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.*

Matt. 7:16-21

William Law's writings are some very strong medicine from the past. He was a contemporary of the Wesleys', and was known by all as a radical. He lost his ordination because he would not bow to some of the directives of the state run Church of England. He was a man who lived what he preached and governed his life in accord with the many clear statements that you will read in the following pages. Most of the Christians of his day did not like him because they felt his standard was too high. He was a man who took the command to love God supremely very seriously. Though he wrote nearly three hundred years ago, his words seem very contemporary.

We have gleaned the following definitive statements from a nearly unknown book called *William Law on Christian Perfection*, by Bethany Publishers. Although this is not a book review, I highly recommend reading the whole book. In a day when fruit is sadly lacking in the professing church, and everyone is boldly claiming to have the true faith of Christ, it seems good to allow a divine fruit inspector to check the trees. Let us heed the words of the Apostle Paul, "examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves." -*The Editor*





1.

THE FRUIT OF A NEW NATURE

This is the sole end of Christianity: to lead us from all thoughts of rest and repose here, to separate us from worldly tempers, to deliver us from the folly of our passions, and to unite us to God, the true fountain of all good. The mighty change which Christianity aims at, then, is to put us into a new state, reform our whole natures, purify our souls and make them the inhabitants of heavenly and immortal bodies.

Christianity is not a school for teaching moral virtue, or polishing our manners, or forming us to live in the world with decency and gentility. It is deeper in its designs and much nobler in its ends.

“This is the sole end of Christianity: to lead us from all thoughts of rest and repose here, to separate us from worldly tempers, to deliver us from the folly of our passions, and to unite us to God, the true fountain of all good.”

It implies an entire change of life, a dedication of our souls and bodies unto God in the strictest and highest sense of the words.

Death is not more certainly a separation of our souls from our bodies than the Christian life is a separation of our souls from worldly dispositions, vain indulgences, and unnecessary cares.

Christianity...is a kingdom of heaven begun upon earth, and by being made members of it, we are entered into a new state of goods and evils.

Eternity alters the face of and nature of everything in this world. Life is only a trial. Prosperity becomes adversity, pleasures a mischief, and nothing a good but as it increases our hope, purifies our natures, and prepares us to receive higher degrees of happiness.

Christianity is, therefore, a course of holy discipline solely fitted to the cure and recovery of fallen spirits and intends such a change in our nature as may raise us to a nearer union with God and qualify us for such a higher degree of happiness. St. John tells us one sure mark of our new birth when he says, “whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world.” The new birth, or the Christian life, is considered as opposition to the world and all that is in it—its vain cares, its false glories, its proud designs, its sensual pleasures. If we have overcome these so as to be governed by other cares, other glories, other designs, and other pleasures, then we are born of God. Then is the wisdom of this world and the friendship of this world turned into the wisdom and friendship of God, which will forever keep us “heirs of God and joint-heirs with Christ.”



2.

THE FRUIT OF WORLDLY CARES

The Christian religion which aims to raise a new, spiritual, and as yet invisible world, and to place man in a certain order among thrones, principalities, and spiritual beings, is at entire enmity with this present, corrupt state of flesh and blood. It ranks the present world along with the flesh and the devil as an equal enemy to those glorious ends and that perfection of human nature which our redemption proposes.

The gospel lays its first foundation in the renunciation of the world as a state of false goods

and enjoyments which feed the vanity and corruption of our nature, fill our hearts with foolish and wicked passions, and keep us separate from God, the only source of happiness.

“My kingdom,” says the Lord, “is not of this world.” A further representation of the distinction that exists between this kingdom and the concerns of the world follows:

A certain man made a great supper, and bade many: and sent his servant at suppertime to say to them that were bidden, come, for all things are now ready. And they all with one consent began to make excuse. The first said, I have bought a piece of ground, and I must needs go and see it: I pray thee have me excused. Another said, I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to prove them: I pray thee have me excused. Another said, I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.

We find that the master of the house was angry and said, “None of those men which were bidden shall taste of my supper.” Our Savior a little afterwards applies it all in this manner, “Whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple.”

It is no more pardonable to be less affected by the things of religion for the sake of any worldly business than for the indulgence of our pride or any other passion. Christianity is a calling that puts an end to all other callings.

Men of serious business and management generally censure those who trifle away their time in idle and impertinent pleasures. But they don't consider that attention to business in which they are skilled may get hold of the heart and render man as vain and odious in the sight of God as any other gratification. Though they may call it an honest care, a creditable industry, or any other plausible name....

It is granted that some cares are made necessary by the necessities of nature; the same may also be observed of some pleasures. The pleasures of eating, drinking, and rest are equally necessary. But if religion and reason do not limit these pleasures, we fall from rational creatures into gluttons and epicures. In like manner, our care after some worldly things is necessary, but if this

care is not bounded by the just wants of nature, if it fills the mind with false desires and cravings, it is vain and irregular.

For this reason our Lord points His doctrines at the most common employments to teach us that they may occupy our minds inordinately and distract us far from our true good. He calls us from such cares to convince us that even the necessities of life must be sought with a kind of indifference. How much do Christians generally vary from this ideal!

Christianity commands us “to take no thought, saying What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink?” Yet Christians are restless till they can eat sumptuously. They are to be indifferent about raiment, but they are full of concern about fine array. They are to take no thought for the morrow, yet many of them think they have lived in vain if they are not able to leave large estates when they die.



3.

THE FRUIT OF A TRUE LOVE FOR GOD

Christians are to love God with all their hearts, with all their souls, with all their minds, and with all their strength, and their neighbors as themselves... A man who has his head and his heart taken up with worldly concerns can not love God with all his soul and with all his strength. This is like a man who will have his eyes on the ground, yet trying to look towards heaven with all the strength of his sight. This is impossible. If we are to love God with all our heart and with all our soul, it is absolutely necessary that we be first persuaded to have no happiness, but in Him alone. Also, that we are capable of no other good but what arises from our enjoyment of divine nature. We may be assured that we never truly believe this truth, until we resign or renounce all pretensions

to any other happiness. For to desire the happiness of riches at the same time that we know all happiness is in God is as impossible as to desire the happiness of sickness when we are sure that no bodily state is happy but that of health. We are as much obliged to renounce the world with all our heart and strength as we are to love God with all our heart and strength. It is as impossible to do one without the other as to exert all our strength in two different ways at the same time.

Let anyone deal faithfully with himself—consult his own experience, his inner feelings—and consider whether when his soul is taken up with the enjoyments of this life, he feels that his soul is loving God with all its forces and strength. Let any man say that he feels this strong tendency of his soul towards God while it tends towards earthly goods, and I may venture to depart from all that I have said.

Nothing can be more plain than this: if we are to fill our souls with a new love, we must empty it of all other affections. (Page 64-65)

If we know that loving God with all our heart and soul is so opposed to the tempers and infirmities of our nature, why do we not remove every hindrance, renounce every vain affection, and with double diligence practice all means of forming this divine temper?

He who has renounced the world as having nothing in it that can render him happy will find his heart at liberty to aspire to God in the highest degrees of love and desire. (Page 66-67)



4.

THE FRUIT OF DESIRING RICHES

It is not the desire of great riches; it is the desire of riches and a satisfaction in the pleasure of them that is the snare and temptation, that fills

men's minds with foolish and hurtful lusts and keeps them in the same state of worldly folly as those whose desires are greater.

You want to leave fortunes to your children that they may have their share of achievement in the world.

Suppose that you succeed in your intentions to leave your children rich. What must you say to them when you are dying? Will you then tell them that you have the same opinion of the greatness and value of riches as you ever had, and that you feel the pleasure of remembering how much thought and care you have taken to get them? Will you tell them that you have provided for their ease, indulgence, and station in the world and they can now do no better than to eat and drink and take their fill of such enjoyments as riches afford? This would be dying like an atheist.

On the other hand, if you will die like a good Christian, you will not endeavor to fill their minds with such thoughts. Will you not tell them that they will soon be in a state when the world will signify no more to them than it does to you, and that there is a deceitfulness, a vanity, a littleness in the things of life, which only dying men feel as they ought?

Will you not tell them that all your own failings, irregularities of life, defects in devotions, strengths of passions, and failure in Christian perfection have been owing to wrong opinions of the value of worldly things, and that if you had always seen the world in the same light as now, your life would have been more devoted to God and you would have lived more in all those heavenly affections in the which you now desire to die?

Will you not tell them that it is the enjoyment of the world that corrupts the hearts and blinds the minds of all people, and that the only way to know what good there is in devotion, what excellence in piety, what wisdom in holiness, what happiness in heavenly affection, what vanity in this life, and what greatness in eternity, is to die to the world and all worldly dispositions?

If you die in a spirit of piety, and you love them as Christ loved His disciples, you must tell them the truth. Your kindness will impel you to exhort them to renounce all self-enjoyments that are contrary to those holy tempers and heavenly affections which you now find to be the only good and happiness of human nature.



5.

THE FRUIT OF IDLENESS AND INDULGENCE

Ambition and worldly cares distract the mind and fill it with false concerns. However, even these are in a nearer state to religion than idleness and indulgence. Ambition and worldly cares, though they employ the mind wrongly, preserve some degree of activity in it, which by some means may take a right turn. But idleness and indulgence are the death and burial of the soul.

I have been more severe upon this disposition because it is so common and is even acknowledged without shame. People who would not be thought of as reprobates are not afraid to let you know that they do little but eat and drink and sleep and take such diversions as suit with their ease. Yet such a state of life nourishes the corruption of our nature and exposes us to the vanity of the world.

“Watch and pray,” said our Savior, “that ye fall not into temptation.” The devil’s advice is to be idle and indulge; then you will yield to every temptation. If watching and prayer have any tendency to prevent our falling into temptation, it is certain that idleness and indulgence must in an equal degree make us incapable of resisting them.

How is it that Christianity cures the corruption of our nature? It does it by teaching us to live and act by principles of reason and righteousness. These are: first, God is our only good—we cannot possibly be happy but in enjoyment of Him as He reveals Himself to us; second, our souls are immortal spirits that are here only in a state of trial and probation; third, we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ to receive the sentence of eternal life or eternal death.

Judging and thinking, choosing and avoiding, hoping and fearing, loving and hating according to these principles becomes a new creature left in the

world to prepare himself to live with God in everlasting happiness.

The happiness of true religion, which is a happiness in God alone, is a great contradiction to all our natural opinions, not only because it proposes a good which our senses cannot relish, but because it leads us from all those imaginary enjoyments to which our hearts have become attached.

Religion, therefore, has as much power over us as it has power over our natural tempers and the judgments of our senses. If it has made us deny ourselves and reject the opinions of mere flesh and blood, then it is the pure religion James talks about.

6.



THE FRUIT OF TRUE DEVOTION TO GOD

Whenever we are in the spirit of prayer, when our hearts are lifted up to God breathing out holy petitions to the throne of grace, we receive from that, the encouragement to be constant and fervent in it. We are then joining with an intercession at the right hand of God and doing for ourselves on earth what our blessed Savior is doing for us in heaven. Who can consider his redemption as now carrying on by an intercession in heaven without feeling himself agreeable to God when the constancy of his prayers bears some resemblance to the Lord’s constant activity? This shows us also that we are most of all to desire those prayers which are offered up at the altar where the body and blood of Christ are joined with them. Our prayers are only acceptable to God through the merits of Jesus Christ, so we may be sure that we are praying to God in the most prevailing way when we pray in the name of Christ and plead His merits in the highest manner we can.

Since it is the heart only that is devout, I shall consider devotion chiefly as a state and attitude of

the heart, for it is in this sense only that Christians are called to a constant state of devotion. They are not to be always on their knees in acts of prayer, but they are to be always in the state and spirit of devotion.

There is but one way to arrive at a true state of devotion, and that is to get right notions about ourselves, and of the divine nature. Having a full view of the relation we bear to God, our souls may as constantly aspire after Him as they constantly aspire after happiness. This also shows us the absolute necessity of all those aforementioned doctrines of humility and renunciation of the world. If devotion is founded in a sense of the poverty, misery, and weakness of our nature, then nothing can more effectually destroy the spirit of devotion than pride, vanity, and indulgence of any kind. These stop the breath of prayer and extinguish the flame of devotion as water extinguishes common fire.

If prayer is also founded in right notions of God, in believing Him to be the sole cause of all

"If you would desire therefore to be in the state of devotion, you must practice all those ways of life that may humble you in your own sight... you must seek that way of life and accustom yourself to such practices as may best convince you of the vanity of the world and the littleness of everything but God."

our happiness, then everything that takes this truth out of our minds, or makes us less sensible to it, makes us far less capable of devotion. Hence worldly cares, false satisfactions, and vain pleasures are to be renounced that we may be able to pray effectually. The spirit of prayer has no further hold of us than so far as we see our wants and

imperfections, and likewise the infinite fullness and all-sufficiency of God. When we thoroughly

feel these two great truths, then are we in the spirit of true prayer.

If you would desire therefore to be in the state of devotion, you must practice all those ways of life that may humble you in your own sight. You must forbear all those indulgences and vanities which blind your heart and give you false notions of yourself; you must seek that way of life and accustom yourself to such practices as may best convince you of the vanity of the world and the littleness of everything but God. This is the only foundation of prayer. You can desire it only in such a degree as you feel you want it. It is certain, therefore, that whatever lessens or abates the feelings of your wants, lessens the spirit and fervor of your devotion.

Again, suppose you were to call a man from a joyful feast, from pleasures of songs, music and dancing, and tell him to go into the next room to grieve for half an hour and then to return to his mirth. You may tell him that to mourn is a very excellent thing and highly becoming to a rational creature. It is possible he might obey you as far as to go into the room appointed for mourning; he may sit still, look grave, sigh and hang his head and stay out his half hour. But you are sure he cannot really grieve for this reason: he is in a state of festival joy and hopes to return to the feast.

This is the state of great numbers of Christians. They are always at a feast; their lives are nothing but a succession of such pleasure and satisfactions as affect and hurry their minds like the festival joys of drinking, music, and dancing. When they go to devotions, they are just as capable of it as the man who is rejoicing at the feast is capable of mourning at the same time. Let not the readers think this is the case only of people of great means; it applies equally to those in lower stations of life.

Whoever, therefore, finds himself unable to relish strains of devotion may be certain that it is owing to the way of life he is in. He may also be assured that life is wanting in virtues of humility, self-denial, and renunciation of worldly good since these virtues as naturally prepare and dispose the soul to aspire after God as a sense of sickness disposes one to wish for health. □

Excerpts taken from William Law on Christian Perfection, edited and abridged by Erwin Rudolph.

Sharpened Words for Little Ones



Dear Parents,

Welcome to Sharpened Words. In Psalm 144, the Psalmist David likens our sons to “plants grown up in their youth.” The picture here is of a mature plant that has just reached the point of bearing fruit. It is still young and vibrant, not old, and it is bearing fruit. This surely is the goal of every sincere parent. There is nothing else quite like a godly young person who is full of holy, God-glorifying fruit. This stands out even more in the present state of our nation. Generation X has very little purpose. They stand for nothing. This is not entirely their fault. Very little has been put into them by their parents. The plants have not been nurtured.

There is much insight that we can glean from King David’s graphic words. Raising up a generation of children who bear godly fruit in their youth is just like raising up tender plants to the fruit-bearing stage. It requires much time and attention. If you neglect the basic principles of farming, guess what—you won’t get much of a crop! Our precious children are much the same, only the growing season is about twenty years instead of four months. We only have one opportunity. It is important that we read the grower’s manual often and follow its directives with care.

Teaching and training these little plants is like nurturing a small tomato plant. This process is likened unto watering, pruning, weeding, and fertilizing the children God has entrusted into our care. We desire to be a help and an encouragement to you as you seek to fulfill your calling with your children. Happy teaching. -The Editors

God bless you as you teach!

Vessels in God’s House

For this little meditation, you will need to gather a few different kinds of vessels from around the house, both inside and out. You are looking for a variety of vessels, each with a different purpose, so that the children can easily see that there are different kinds of uses for vessels. A good text for this lesson is II Tim 2:20-21. You want a couple of vessels that would be used for good things in your house. Maybe a nice glass goblet, or an ornate bowl for special occasions could be used. Then you also want to find a couple of regular, old vessels that have very little importance. Finally you want at least one vessel “unto dishonor.” At our house, we have a vessel that we use to hold our garbage. Read the verses, consider each of the vessels, and then ask the children, “Who would like to be the garbage vessel?” You will not get any volunteers for this one. Then explain that in God’s economy, the way to become a vessel of honor is through cleansing. At this point, you can lead the family into a little family revival.

The Gift of Time

You need a loud ticking clock in order to get the best use out of this illustration. While you are holding the clock in your hand and it is ticking, begin to talk about time. It would be helpful if you would hold the clock up to the children's ear from time to time while you are teaching. Time is a gift from God. The present, is a present handed to each one of us, every day. The Bible says we should redeem the time. In Ps. 90:12 the psalmist says, "Teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom." There are many points that can be made once you have established the main idea of the lesson:

1. Time is very valuable. Use it carefully.
2. Don't waste time, for God gives nothing that is waste worthy.
3. We never know how much more time we will be given. This puts a higher value on it.
4. As in Revelation, there will come a time when time shall be no more. This also happens to every one of us. The clock will stop ticking and that is it.
5. Once time has gone by, you can't get it back. What you have done with your time you have done, and there is no changing.

The Dangers of Pride

Go to the store and buy a few large balloons. Make sure you buy enough of them to be able to give one to each child when you are finished with the teaching. Start the lesson by blowing one of the balloons way up until it pops in their faces. By doing this slowly, you will gain the attention of everyone. Since the children don't know that you are going to pop it, they will breathe with you on every breath. When the balloon explodes, get another one and start blowing it up all over again. You will want to use this one for teaching purposes, so don't blow it up too far. We can learn many lessons about pride from the balloon. Remind them of the phrase "he popped his bubble," and explain that this is referring to pride in someone's life. There are many verses in the Bible that warn us about pride. Many of them have clear points that relate to the balloon:

1. Pride brings destruction. Just like the balloon popped very unexpectedly, so also pride brings trouble and many surprises. Often the person who is blowing the balloon up is feeling so proud. He blows the balloon larger and larger, but then, "Boom!", it's over.
2. Pride brings blindness. Just as the balloon was blown up with a blindness to the possibility of an explosion, so we are blind to the coming damage of pride.
3. Pride makes a person unstable and easy to blow every which way in life. Show them how easily the balloon is moved around, tossed about, etc.
4. Pride is often very hasty. You can take another balloon and blow it up really well. When it is full of air, just release it out of your mouth. It will fly everywhere with no real direction. This is how many youth make big mistakes.
5. Pride will always bring you down, just like the balloon that goes up in the air always comes back down.

The Lust for Flesh

Here is one the children will never forget. Pick a day when your wife is planning to have chicken for supper or lunch. Have your wife place a piece of raw chicken on small plates. As the children sit down for family devotions, tell them we are going to have a little snack. Then place this raw chicken before them and wait for the reactions. You know that their faces will contort with all kinds of reactions for you! After the dust settles, give them a couple of crackers to munch on and start explaining what gluttony is. Tell them the story of the Israelites who were so lustful that they ate quail before it was cooked. Tell them about the judgment that God placed upon many of them for their gluttony. Remind them that raw flesh is often the end of a gluttonous spirit. There are many people in this land we live in that eat raw flesh or almost raw. Many eat meat with the blood still oozing out of it. God calls us to moderation and temperance in the area of eating. Many of us are caught up in the spirit of the age in which we live. Much of that spirit is in eating way too much, way too often.

Godly Homes of the Martyrs

H o m e L i f e

by Denny Kenaston

A deep love and commitment to Jesus Christ brings an overflow of grace and power into a life. This grace and power brings influence on the world of souls around us. Sometimes this fragrance is sweet to the seeking heart, and sometimes it is a stench to the hard and impenitent. All who live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution. This suffering brings more grace, a deeper love for God, and more burdens for the lost. In time, this process makes a powerful, dynamic church, which is the body of Christ on the earth. The annals of church history are scattered with testimonies of this upflaming of God's people, fueled with the effects of persecution.

There was a precious group of people like this that lived in parts of Europe in the sixteenth century. Their persecutors named them Anabaptists because they believed in believer's baptism and renounced their infant baptism in the Church of Rome. Oh how they loved the Lord Jesus! Oh how



they loved the Word of God and wanted to obey it in every way! Persecution and martyrdom awaited these dear people everywhere they moved. From 1525 to around 1600, multitudes of them gave their lives for the cause of Christ. This covers the span of about three generations. I have thought for some time, "These little flocks were powerful people. They must have had some powerful homes."

There is only one problem. There is very little recorded about them, and very little mentioned about their homes.

Some time ago the suggestion was made to search through the records of the martyrs of that period of history. There is a large book called *The Martyrs Mirror* which sits on the shelves of nearly every home in the community where we live. It contains eleven hundred pages of letters and stories with vivid accounts of trials, confessions, and deaths. We have gone through this book and found a gold mine of inspiration and instruction. There are many letters written from prison. There are letters from a father or a mother to their children just before they were burned at the stake. There are letters from a husband to a wife and vice versa. There are also letters of young people written to their parents. I had to read between the lines as I searched for the gold, because nothing is given as direct teaching on the home. However, the gold is clearly there.

I have been teaching for some time now that a dedicated life which is truly lived, behind closed doors, will produce godly children. This principle has never been so clearly revealed as it has in this study of the Anabaptists and their children. Through persecution, grace has flown like a river from the parents to the children who lived with them. I want to look at several ways in which this took place. Forgive me for the lack of stories and interesting historical events, but there simply is no such record of these things. I think the authorities of the Roman Church and other state churches wanted to stamp out the very memory of these God fearing people. Instead, their lives produced another generation of vibrant Christians that frustrated and confounded these authorities. I believe that we and our children will face persecutions in the days to come. It will be good for us to see if we are on track with the parents who raised a generation of young people, willing to die for the faith once delivered to the saints. Come with me as we read between the lines, and let us see what we can find.



Love and Unity in Marriage

One of the most important foundation stones in a holy household is the love that flows between husband and wife. It is one of those silent, mysterious influences that shapes the inner strength and security of the children. When mom and dad love each other deeply, it seems the children can weather many trials and troubles.

So it was with the Anabaptists. I was inspired and challenged as I read letter after letter to and from the prisoners. There are a few principles that caught my attention as I read. First of all, I noticed that their fellowship with the Father and His Son was so sweet, that they called each other brother and sister in the Lord, though they were husband and wife. Secondly, I kept seeing the words “one,” “oneness,” and “one flesh,” as I was reading. Without question, they had a powerful oneness in their marriages, which was referred to over and over. I believe this was because they were living under the anointing of the Spirit. There is a unity that the Spirit gives. It cannot be manufactured simply by agreement. It is the fruit of two lives who walk with God together. Look at the heart in this godly marriage:

I, Martin van der Straten, your dear husband and brother in the Lord, wish you much grace and mercy from God our heavenly Father. Out of a fond heart permeated with love, my chosen love, I affectionately greet you. O my dearest love, whom I love with all my heart, in accordance with the Word of God, that a man shall leave father and mother, and cleave to his wife. For you, O my dear lamb, are flesh of my flesh and bone of my bones. My dearly beloved, whom I took by the hand with tears of joy, I hope and trust that you are also well in soul and body.



The True Faith

Oh to pass on a living, vibrant faith that is real and can be seen! This is the longing of every sincere parent. I have observed that there must be a vibrant faith in the parents if there will ever be the same in the children. A good church won't reach them. Good preaching is not enough either. The torch has to be burning in the heart and hand of one generation if you want it to be burning in the next generation. These martyrs were dying for their faith. It wasn't merely theological. The faith to them was in fact a faith on the inside, but it was practical too. That is why many of them died. Like begets like, as the proverb goes, and this is never truer than in the home. What does our faith look like? Will our children die for it? Or will their faith be like the faith of millions of professing Christians, that does not bring even a ripple of persecution? Listen to the heart of this godly father, as he writes his last words to his daughter:

My dearest daughter, diligently search the holy scriptures and you will find that we must follow Christ Jesus and obey Him unto the end. You will also find the little flock who follows Him. This is the sign: they lead a penitent life. They are not conformed to the world. They avoid that which is evil, and delight in doing what is good. They hunger and thirst after righteousness. They crucify their sinful flesh more and more every day, to die unto sin, which wars in their members. They strive and seek after that which is honest and of good report. They do evil to no one, and they pray for their enemies. They do not resist their enemies, and their word is their seal. They are sorry that they do not constantly live more holily, for which reason they often sigh and weep.



The Word of God

I don't think we American Christians have any idea about the powerful affect the Bible can have on our children. Some even think that too much Bible reading will make you mad. That is what one worldly magistrate said to the apostle Paul. Some say, "That's brain washing." Well, I think we could use some good washing of our brains in the polluted society in which we live. If we fill the child's mind full of the word of God, then he will be thinking about it all his formative years. And guess what? "Whatsoever he doeth shall prosper."

These Anabaptists were in love with the Bible. They had a New Testament with them at all times. It was open, and they read in it during all spare moments at work or at home. The fathers would encourage the children in their letters to read it every free chance they could get. It was read and taught diligently in the home. They had Bible in the morning, Bible at breakfast, and Bible at supper. They revered God's Word that much. The children were all taught to read and write at home. Why? One reason only—so that they could read and write from God's Word.

As you read the many letters and debates that are recorded in *The Martyrs Mirror*, you will notice one thing immediately: they read like the Bible. So many of their sentences are direct quotes from the Bible. The letters flow along like a letter, and yet they are writing verse after blessed verse from the scriptures. One thousand pages of this are enough to convince anyone that these people knew their Bibles. They must have had hundreds of verses committed to memory. I know for sure that they were not allowed to have a Bible in the prison. They simply wrote out the memory of their hearts. How did this happen? "From a child, thou hast known the Holy Scriptures, which is able to make thee wise unto salvation." The parents had to be placing the precious seed into their hearts. They had to be filling

the empty spaces of time with the water of the Word, not the newspaper and not the television. Wake up American Christians—wake up! Let us prepare ourselves, and prepare our children.



WANTED Humble Parents

Often parents come to me with many failures to confess. They often ask me, “What shall I do?” and “How do I relate my failures to my children?” I always give them the same counsel. I tell them to gather the family together for a meeting and humble themselves through confession. Many parents are reluctant to do this. They fear they will lose the respect of their children, and then their children won’t obey them. Nothing could be further from the truth. When you as a father or mother humble yourself before your children, they actually respect you much more, because you are being honest. They know when you haven’t done right. If you keep silent about it and play the hypocrite, you lose.

As I was searching through these letters, I noticed something interesting about most of the parents’ last thoughts and words. They spoke a lot about how they had failed the family many times. Now I could tell by the counsel they were giving that these were powerful Christian men and women. They could have just as easily mentioned many things that they had done right, but that didn’t fit the Sermon on the Mount. These people were poor in spirit and full of mourning up to the day of their death. If the strong ones who are an example to us can confess failure, how much more can we who are failing in many areas. Maybe it is time to have a good

old fashioned family revival, and then walk in humility before the family.



A Life of Devotion

Enoch walked with God, Noah walked with God, Abraham walked with God, and their children followed them and their God. There is a secret here. A simple secret here that we don’t want to miss. They saw Him who was invisible and lived to show the next generation the same. We have looked into many home histories, and have found this important key in every one of them. The dear Anabaptist martyrs are no exception. In fact, it is truer than in any other history I have studied. Whereas we usually find some parents here and some parents there who truly walked with God before their children, here we find a multitude who did. I know it wouldn’t be right to pray for persecution, but what an anemic bunch of Christians we are! We need some suffering and purifying.

I found prayer everywhere. They prayed in the morning when they arose from the night’s sleep.



They prayed before they ate a meal together, and then again at the close of the meal. They prayed before they went to bed at night, and prayed as they were going from place to place. It seems to me they were praying without ceasing. I know they had to pray, because they were not sure if someone would come in the night to take them away. Brethren, we have to pray also, but we just don't know how badly we need to do it.

Their lives seemed to flow with devotion to Christ. The fathers were encouraging the children to read and meditate at every free moment, and they did the same. This fosters an entire life of devotion to God, not just a mere segment of time at the start of the day. Many of us have fallen so low that we don't even have that. Can we expect to convince our children that God is a living God if we never have any communion with Him? I think not.



We Hate Sin and the World

To the Anabaptist martyrs and the Anabaptists who were still allowed to live, sin and the world were dangerous things. It seems every dying father or mother had something to say to the children about these twin sisters of destruction. Sin separates you from the Living God, and to them that was the greatest tragedy that could happen to a person. So they warned each child over and over to prepare them to stand in the evil day, "The world is the place where suffering and persecution come. Don't go out into it more than you have to." It was very clear to me as I read. The world is not a playground, but a battlefield where the forces of good and evil are fighting for the souls of men.

I wonder what we are teaching our children about sin and the world. By our words and by our example, we are teaching them something about these two evils. The world—what is it in the eyes of the children? A place to make lots of money? A fun place to play and laugh? Bright lights, fast cars, lots of music and movies? What about sin—how

do they see it? Do they think like modern Christianity, "Everybody sins most of the time, praise God for the Blood?" Dear parents, evil communications corrupt good manners (behavior). Listen to the words of a father who was going to be burned at the stake not many days hence:

My dearest only daughter; consider the wickedness of the world, the learned, and the magistrates, how they shed innocent blood, and are called spiritual Christians. I beseech you my dearest daughter, do not follow them. Read the scriptures and when you shall attain your years, pray the Lord that he will show you what is good and what is evil, what is lies and what is truth, the way of perdition and the narrow way that leads to eternal life. When you see pomp, boasting, dancing, lying, cheating, swearing, fighting and other wickedness, know my child, this is not the right way. Do not follow their ways, though they allure you in an inviting manner, and promise you fine things. Therefore my dear daughter; follow Christ and beware of sin, that you do not commit it, for you will be saved through Him.



Prevailing Love

The Law of the Kingdom is love—powerful, all prevailing love. Sometimes I think we pass over this word like it was "a," "the," "it," or some other small word. It is not. It is the most influential word in the Bible. I know that it has been watered down to a mere emotional experience these days. Nevertheless, let us draw it out of the lives of these Anabaptist martyrs and see what it looks like. It is understandable by now, that the persecution anointing they had filled them with the divine nature. Love is the dominant attribute of divine nature. These dear people had a double portion of agape love in their homes. I found this bonding glue oozing out all over the letters that I read. How can it be that they who were hated and

despised by most are the ones who are baptized in love? This is one of those divine paradoxes that only the suffering learn.

It is evident to me that love reigned at home. Love between all the members of the family. You know, you can go through just about anything, if you are loved and dwell in an atmosphere of love. In the letters, this love overflowed to the ones receiving the letter. It overflowed from husband to wife and vice versa. It went from parents to children, children to parents, and even children to children. It is a love that can be sensed deeply, and yet a love that does right and tells the truth in right counsel. This is what we need in our homes: a deep, sincere love that needs to show no pretense. A love that can look one in the eye and the heart and say, "I love you," and known to be true by the sincerity of the heart and the actions in the life. Listen to the heart of a son who is writing to his mother before he died:

My dear mother, I wish you the gracious, eternal, merciful Father, and the love of God, and the comfort of the Holy Ghost. My very dear and affectionately beloved mother who bore me in your own body, and brought me into the world with great pain. Yes, your breasts have nourished me and you have nourished and instructed me in all truth. You, dear mother, have kept me from all sinful companions; yea you have kept me from the whore of Babylon. You have brought me into the church of the living God. You have kept me from sin, according to your best ability.



Blessed Poverty

The last holy influence I would like to look at briefly is the effect that poverty had on the next generation of the Anabaptists. They were persecuted and chased from village to village. They never knew when they would suffer the spoiling of their goods again. They never knew when they would have to rise in the night and flee with only the few items that they could carry. So many of the fathers wrote with much sadness to their children,

"I have no money to leave you as I die." This left mother with the financial burden of the family. Many times a young son had to rise up and grow up quickly, because of the need. This had many blessed effects on the children:

- *They learned to work hard from a young age, and work became a way of life for them. They thought nothing of it. It was for the cause of Christ. Not much time for play.*
- *They learned to do without many things. This taught them the exercises of self-denial.*
- *They did not lay up many treasures on earth. Why should they? The thieves would come and break through and steal.*
- *Their poverty wrought poverty of spirit in the inner man. This caused them to lean upon the Lord continually.*

There are many more things we can learn from these dear people. I have only scratched the surface. Remember, the book has a thousand pages in it! I would encourage you to get a copy of *The Martyrs Mirror* and do some more reading between the lines. I have listed below the pages that we found on the home. Enjoy!

The challenge that I would like to leave you with is this: What about our families? Are we ready to weather a strong dose of persecution? Have we prepared our children for such things? The Anabaptists knew that their children would probably face a burning fire. They trained them for it. There is a theology of martyrdom. It was a greatly prized honor to those of the early church. How do we look at it? It will not go away. We, the church, will not be shielded from martyrdom. Don't kid yourself. If the rapture was going to take care of everything, then why are people being martyred today? There are more martyrs now in the last one hundred years than in all the years preceding it.

Dear Father, wake us up. Before it is too late, wake us up. Give us the grit and the grace to raise a generation of children who would thrill at the opportunity to die for the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen. □

The Martyrs Mirror by Thieleman J. Van Braght
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Cold Door Evangelism

Evangelism is one of those doctrines that everyone believes but very few practice. It is a doctrine, by the way, and one of the main fundamentals of the faith. I have an exercise for you in this issue that will stretch you “real good.” You will need a partner for this workout. This exercise will help you deal with issues of pride and fear of man. In fact, aside from the reality that many of God’s people have no power to witness, fear of man is the greatest reason why so many do not ever go and tell the gospel.

Let me explain the title of the exercise. There are many different ways that we evangelize. There is tract evangelism, open air evangelism, street evangelism, and so on it goes. So what is cold door evangelism? It is when you go up to a door, where

you have never been before, and attempt to get inside to present the gospel. This may sound rather scary at first. It probably is to those who have never done it. Remember, this is supposed to take you out of your comfort zone. That is what exercise is all about.

What are some of the fruits of an activity like this? Imagine with me for a few moments. You walk up to a door and knock with a praying heart that says, “Lord, please help me!” As the door opens and you begin to explain why you are there, you see a look of dismay come over the person standing in front of you. They quickly invite you in and usher you to a seat. Then you begin to hear some of the most beautiful words a soul winner could hear, “*I have been praying for days that God would send someone to help me. I am in despair, and I don’t know how to find my way to God. God has sent you to me. Please help me find God.*” Surely you would agree that your heart would be doing flips inside listening to the cry of this seeking soul! This is not an unusual experience to those who consistently go knocking on doors. I had this experience happen to me several times when I was working in the ghetto of Chicago. We spent hours every Saturday knocking on cold doors. You may say, “I don’t want to spend hours of my time doing this.” Men spend hours seeking after a fish or a deer, and they come home carrying their trophy. Oh, brothers and sisters, have you ever won a soul to Christ? It makes fishing and hunting seem very trite.

Let’s look at the “how to” of the exercise. First, find a partner who is also willing to be stretched a bit. It would be helpful to have some literature and tapes along to give to the people you meet. But, don’t lean on the tracts too much. Remember your goal is to get inside that door, sit down in a living room, and share the gospel. Many will simply go door to door passing out literature to the people. I have no problem with this, praise God for everyone who goes and does something. But our goal is higher than that. We want to win a soul to Jesus Christ. You can console yourselves for years by giving out tracts, but never win a soul.

With this goal in mind, you can begin to meditate on what you will say when the door opens. As you read this, you may be thinking, "I know what I will say...nothing." Do not fear, God will help you. You may have the blessed experience of seeing the Lord fill your mouth with words that you know didn't come from you. It is good to ponder different ways to approach a cold door. There are many of them. You may want to say something like this:

Hello, my name is David. We are in the area visiting different houses, to talk about Jesus Christ. Do you have a few minutes to talk? Could we step in for a moment?

If they say no, then you want to offer them a gospel tape or a tract. Don't be too pushy, but don't be easy either. Many times the people will sit and talk to you, but they need a little bit of encouragement. You and your partner can take turns knock-

"The end result of an activity like this is very rewarding. You will slowly find that you are overcoming the fear of man. You will find that you spend more and more time in prayer as you prepare to go. You will develop the skills needed to be a soul winner. And, of course, you will also have the opportunity to win souls to Christ."

you prepare to go. You will develop the skills needed to be a soul winner. And, of course, you will also have the opportunity to win souls to Christ. □

ing on the doors and meeting the people. Once you get inside the house, you should take a few moments to simply converse with them about other things. This breaks the ice and opens their heart to hear the most important things which will come later. From there you have several options. If you are new at this, it is good to have some idea what you will say when the door opens. Give a testimony, share a story about someone else whose life was changed, or go through the plan of salvation with them. When you get more experience, you can simply walk through it as the Lord leads you.

The end result of an activity like this is very rewarding. You will slowly find that you are overcoming the fear of man. You will find that you spend more and more time in prayer as

continued from page ??, *Konkomba Villages Waiting for the Words of Life* by Daniel Kenaston

word. Let your heart meditate on the marvelous possibilities that are opened up by such hunger, and praise God for putting it in the hearts of the Konkomba tribe. I beg you to also pick up the burden that lies in the fact that we cannot fill all of the calls for teaching that come our way. Allow God to press upon your heart the reality of these hundreds of souls lost in darkness, now groping for the light. Think about the spiritual

warfare that absolutely must be raging for the hearts of this entire tribe! When this burden settles on your heart, PRAY! Oh, how we need your support in this way! While you pray, ask God what else you can do to push forward His redemptive plan for this tribe of dearly loved and dearly bought Konkombas. Maybe God will send you here to join in this work, which I described above as both exciting and challenging. Maybe the call

from Chabaatung or Damankudo or ??? is meant to be answered by you!?

*Thankful for praying friends and praying for more,
Daniel Kenaston and family*

□

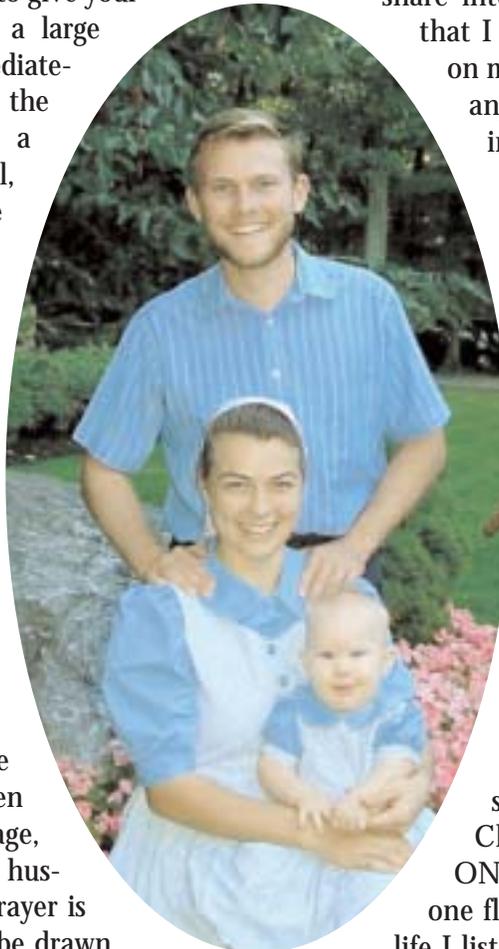
**Remember,
they are not just
waiting—they are
hungry and waiting!!**

My Lord, and My lord

by Christy Kenaston

When someone asks you to give your testimony in front of a large crowd, don't you immediately feel small and unworthy for the unspeakable honor it is to be a mouthpiece for God's glory? Well, that is how I feel now as I sit here writing. No, I am not standing in front of you, but I do know that what I write will be heard by many. It humbles me.

I write as a young woman who is in the Father's school and being taught many wonderful lessons. As an excited little child comes running home from school to tell her mother all the wonderful things she learned that day, I am also coming to tell you the beautiful things God is teaching me! I would like to share the sweet lessons that God has been teaching me in the area of marriage, most specifically the truths of my husband as my spiritual head. My prayer is that as you read your heart will be drawn,



as mine is, to know all that we can know of the beauty of Christ in our marriages.

My husband and I, along with our little daughter, live as missionaries in West Africa. We live such a blessed life here, and we are thrilled to be in the center of Christ's will. Life on a foreign field affords anyone who lives there many lessons, and not only lessons but tests too! Daniel and I have daily opportunities to die to our flesh. That is what we all want, right? Unfortunately, many times our flesh is weak. We have to live in constant connection with our Savior so we can live victoriously.

A few months ago I faced some tests and was being tempted to carry a downcast spirit. I felt my outlook on life becoming discouraged, so I went to my husband with my burdens. As I opened my heart and my feelings to my dear husband he looked at me in love and began to share into my life. He told me he thinks that I am carrying unnecessary burdens on my heart. If I have no conviction of any sin, I need to walk in joy knowing that I am free before God and my husband. While I don't claim to understand the awesomeness of a husband's authority in a wife's life, I can tell you that at that moment my cloud disappeared. I was clear, released.

Now I am not saying that our husbands can forgive sins, but at the same time they ARE our earthly lord. Our relationship with our husband is one and the same with God. I have found this to be so true in my own life. When my relationship is strained with my husband, my communion with the Lord has stopped flowing. I stand in awe at the beauty of it all! Christ has designed marriage to be a ONE PERSON relationship. We are one flesh. When Daniel speaks into my life I listen in the same way I would listen

if it were Jesus Christ talking to me. My dear husband IS Jesus speaking into my life!

Many woman have hypothetical situations they give wondering what a woman should or shouldn't do when her husband tells her to do something. I don't know the answer to these difficult questions, but what I do know is that God keeps blessing me and blessing me to no end as I keep casting my total trust upon my husband. I cannot even begin to tell you the Heaven I have tasted in my marriage. May God continue to reveal to us what we can have in our marriage if we keep following His principles for us as wives.

Here is another example that happened only a few weeks ago:

Some of the recent decisions we have been making as a missionary couple stem from a desire to live at a level where our lives will be the least hindrance to the souls to whom we are ministering. This involves sacrifice on our part. One of the decisions we prayerfully made was Daniel going from riding a motorcycle to using his bicycle for transportation as much as he can in all of his village ministry. This means that he is sometimes gone overnight because he is not able to make it back before dark on his bicycle. My heart sank when the realization settled down in my heart, "I won't have Daniel here as much as I used to because of this decision we are making." A sadness came upon my spirit as I struggled with counting the cost. Daniel took me on a special date that day, and we sat talking over this together. I opened myself to my dear husband as he again shared the exact words God would have spoken to me if He were sitting there. He lovingly guided me into a right outlook and reminded me of all that God has asked of us over the years. In turn God has always blessed us more than we had ever dreamed! It was all so true. I had to be honest to the Lord's faithfulness in the past. He has met every surrendered obedience with more joy and blessing than we could bear. Would it be true this time too?

Oh, my dear sisters, how can I relate the beauty that has come in our marriage these past weeks

as I put my whole trust in Daniel? I gave up 'my rights to have my husband' for the sake of Christ's Kingdom. My Daniel was right. We can't out-give God. I have had such a peace and happiness about our decision since that day. We have tasted a deeper sweetness as God has made each time we spend together an especially wonderful building time. Our times spent together are a concentrated sweetness that more than makes up for the time we are away from each other. Isn't the Lord good? What would it have been like if I had not trusted in my husband and rejected the words of wisdom he had from the Lord, not allowing Daniel to guide me? I cannot imagine. I sense God's blessings upon me for trusting in Him THROUGH my husband. The

truth that our husband is our earthly lord and its spiritual outworking is a mystery; but it is not 'mysterious' to me as it is a real experience I am living out day by day. I treasure Daniel's guidance in my life. It is my soul's connection with God. I pray that the Lord will always help me to keep that awesome hush over my spirit whenever my dear husband speaks into my life.

May we as wives learn what it is to be so utterly trusting of our husbands that we would never trust ourselves over them. We so need the strength and protection (physically, spiritually and emotionally), of GOD'S CHOSEN authority for our lives—our husband. As I said before God is teaching me many new and wonderful things. I desire to know all that Christ has hidden in this mystery of marriage.

I am seeing the gorgeous glitter and twinkle of a husband's authority shining off this diamond called marriage. This diamond of marriage has more shining, heavenly angles than we can fathom. I would love to learn what twinkle of beauty the Lord has shined upon your life! I am just your sister looking forward with anticipation to the many more wonders the Lord will show me.

*Deeply in love with my Lord and my lord,
Christy*

□



A Solemn Assembly

*Gird yourselves and lament, ye priests
Howl, ye ministers of the altar.
Come, lie all night in sackcloth.
Sanctify ye a fast, call a solemn assembly.
Gather the elders and all the inhabitants of the land
Into the house of the Lord,
and cry unto the Lord.*

Joel 1:13-14

Every year as November rolls around, we look forward to Youth Bible School. It is always a great spiritual blessing to all of the brothers and sisters here. Each Bible School has its own unique flavor because God works in so many different ways. This year was no exception. We noticed from the

Sunday before the classes began that there was revival in the air. The students arriving early were full of expectations in the Lord. I remember hearing some of the ministers say, "If it starts on this high note, where will it end?"

It was a joy to see 540 youth sitting in their seats on Monday morning, looking up like little

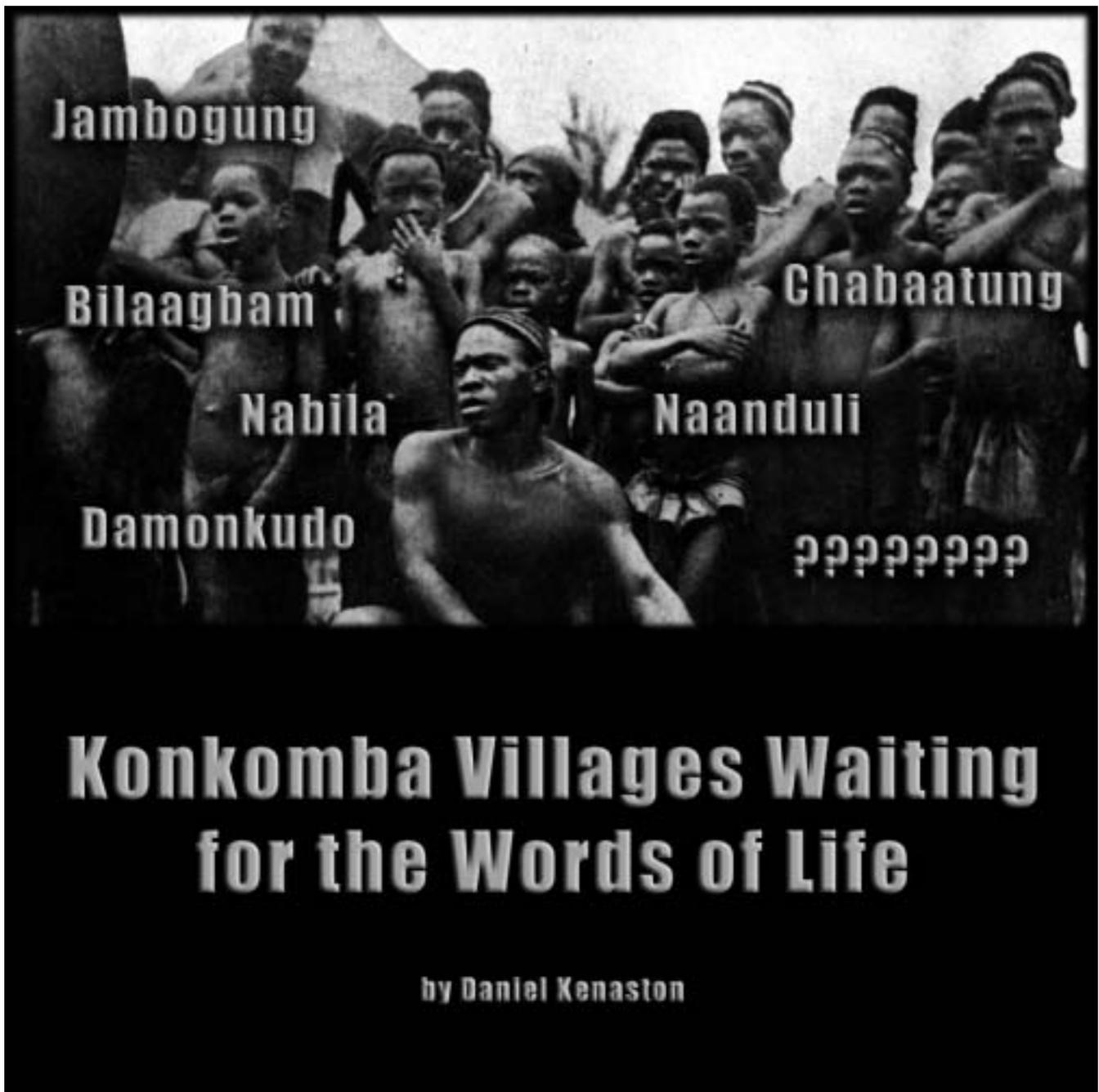
birds waiting to be fed. What a privilege to preach to such a hungry, responsive group of youth!

It seems the Lord ordered a well balanced diet of spiritual food, as well as spiritual exercises: lofty meditations from a book study of John's Gospel, practical issues of courtship, authority, and moral purity, and sixteen points on true discipleship. The youth began responding on Monday night. The songs of salvation started to ring after the service.

As the week progressed we were sensing the need for a real breaking among us. There were some beautiful open confessions in the youth prayer groups, but we felt God needed to go deeper. Wednesday morning, Mose received a cancellation call from the speaker who was scheduled to preach on Thursday night. We now had no speaker. We began to wonder what the Lord was trying to do. I found out that Gerhard Du Toit had been preaching in the Philadelphia area and that he was free on Thursday evening. Praise the Lord! This was the answer.

Brother Gerhard preached on prayer and brokenness. As the message progressed, a spirit of mourning settled down over the assembly. Gentle weeping was heard at times during the sermon. An invitation was given to break our hearts over our lack of prayer and the lack of brokenness that leads to prayer. The Spirit of God settled upon us as people began to respond. Soon the altar, all the front portion of the building, and much of the aisle was filled with people

continued on page 33



“...they are not just waiting—they are hungry and waiting.”

Greetings, dear brothers and sisters, in the name of Jesus, our Jesus. He is the one, and the only one who WILLINGLY gave up everything he had, because of his UNWILLINGNESS for one thing. He was not willing that any should perish! His position, rights, comforts, and very life were subservient to and were forfeited because of His desire that all would come to repentance. It is true that not every person alive then or now has been eager to accept Christ's offer to repent and be saved. We must

"...they are not just waiting—they are hungry and waiting."

know, though, that when Jesus gave his life, he gave it so that ALL would have the opportunity to repent and believe in Him, thus grasping hold of eternal life! It is true that God's foreknowledge comes into play here, and we respect the limits of our fallen humanity, but that in no way limits the fact that Christ died for all. It doesn't take away from the fact that when Jesus hung on the cross He looked down through the ages with a heart that encompassed all of humanity both present and future, and that heart was unwilling that any should perish. Oh, how He loved us! May we love Him more, and as we come closer to His heart may we pick up His heartbeat and make it our own—NOT WILLING, NOT WILLING, NOT WILLING that any should perish! May we join Him in His passion by abandoning everything that would hinder us and by pouring our lives out in the pursuit of what He died to achieve; an open path to God for all of mankind. *Oh, God, give me a holy stubbornness and a total unwillingness to see humanity rushing on toward hell when You gave Your life and by that gift totally purchased their redemption! I must do something, for my heart and conscience compel me. Only show me what to do and I will obey!*

***"Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for the Konkombas is, that they might be saved."
Romans 10:1 (personalized)***

Have I shocked or alarmed you with the strong words written above? My intention is not to shock but to share, not to inflame but to inform. My friends, you cannot walk the trails that I walk. You cannot see the things that I see. Therefore, somehow I must communicate enough of what I experience so that you will be able to share more fully in the burden I carry,

"You cannot see the things that I see. Therefore, somehow I must communicate enough of what I experience so that you will be able to share more fully in the burden I carry, because in many ways we are here on your behalf."

because in many ways we are here on your behalf. We feel keenly the fact that we are not here alone. Many of you are laboring with us in heart and in prayer. It is with a burden to keep you all engaged in soul-labor with us that we write to share our heart with you. We want to keep you connected to what we view as our shared ministry and out of that desire we share our visions, dreams and difficulties. The victories we exult in are ours together, so we wish for you to join in our praise. The resistance we encounter is against our shared offensive, and this makes us desire your support as we make our stand. We do not take your prayerful undergirding of this work for granted. We

thank you for taking the time and energy to care about us, and most importantly to care about the spiritual needs of the Konkomba people.

As I just mentioned, sometimes we share stories of success and other times accounts of difficulties we are facing. In this article I would like to take you into the burden that I have felt for our people in the last couple

of weeks. Our burden is not our ministry, but it is the passion that fuels our outreach. Although the burden is always present, from time to time God allows us a glimpse of the needs around us in such a way that it once again arrests our focus and drives us to action. The view of the needs around us in the last few weeks have pulled our hearts deeper into God's heart for our tribe. Our burden has grown until the above verse just rang in my heart this morning. Truly, brothers and sisters, this is our one desire that our people would be saved! We beg you to open your heart to share that desire as you read a bit about the needs with which we have been faced in recent days.

"...they are not just waiting—they are hungry and waiting."

"And there were certain Greeks among them that came up to worship at the feast: The same came therefore to Philip...and desired him saying, 'Sir, we would see Jesus'."
John 12:20-21

God has given us the privilege to stand for the Konkombas of this area, where Philip stood for the Greeks

ing to draw the Konkombas to Himself, and as their age-old darkness is pierced by the light of Jesus. It is an exciting, but challenging work!

During this last month, we have come into contact with no less than six villages who have come to meet us with the specific purpose of asking us to come and give them the word of God. They have met us under many

"During this last month, we have come into contact with no less than six villages who have come to meet us with the specific purpose of asking us to come and give them the Word of God."

almost 2000 years ago. This is the place of being where people who are wanting to see Jesus come to inquire. We count it a real opportunity to be ministering to a group of villages that are not only open to hearing the gospel but are ACTIVE in looking for someone to come and teach them! As Christians, we are called not only to share with those that are seeking, but, also to carry the news of the gospel to every person alive. Certainly we would all recognize that there is an extra urgency and motivation that accompanies sharing the gospel with those who are, as the Greeks were, asking to see Jesus. It is in this place that we find ourselves, as God is work-

different circumstances and through many channels of contact. They are spread out over a large area, but they are united in their shared desire for a church in their village. Some have come to meet me in Bunbon as the market draws people from maybe forty-five villages around it every six days. Others have been introduced through a family member, who somehow came into contact with one of our groups in another village. Now they come as a representative of their village to beg me to come. One was even discovered by the latest youth team from America, who happened in on a particular village as they walked the trail to invite people to a Bible class in the evening.

They come bearing gifts, a chicken and a dozen yams is not an uncommon one. They recognize that before they ask me to do something for them cultural tradition demands that they must give me a gift. They sit on the logs in my compound, usually three of them at a time, explaining to me where their village is located, how many people live there, and why they want a church. I sit and explain to them that the only thing I have to offer them is the Word of God. I try to convey to them the fact that if they obey the words that I teach them they will become a church. Their words are stuck in my memory, hear them:

"We come to you from the village of Chabaatung. Please accept this fowl and these few yams from our people. If the harvest had been good we would have brought more. Please, we have seen that some of the villages around us are leaving the darkness of our forefathers and are following the path of God. The people of our village also want to have their eyes opened to see God's way and to know the way that we should live. We, the Konkombas, have been like small children who know nothing, but now we are starting to see what is the right path to follow to remove ourselves from the problems that we and our grandfathers have been facing. We have built our church (usually a cleared area with some log benches under a tree) so that anytime that someone comes to teach us the words of God we will be ready. We are trying to follow the church

"...they are not just waiting—they are hungry and waiting."

road but we do not know what is good for us and what God doesn't like because nobody ever comes to tell us the right thing. You must come soon as we are waiting, and while we wait for you we always gather at our 'church' on Sundays as we have seen some other villages do. But when we gather we do not know what we should do, so we only sing some songs and go home again. Please try to come to us soon, as we are like a blind man until we hear the words of God."

Dear ones, these are actual words pled with me. I have heard them not once but several times over the last weeks. The long names at the heading of this article are not ones I dreamed up. They are actual places, villages with maybe two hundred people who are hungry for God's word. I put the names there not to amuse you with their hard-to-pronounce sounds, but rather to help you to visualize in your minds the fact that they represent real people! We must face the truth that there are many villages where Konkomba people gather together hungry for God's Word. So hungry, in fact, that they will send out a delegation looking for someone who will teach them the Bible.

What a wonderful thing it is to be here ministering among a receptive people! We know that we have a rare opportunity. We pray that God will help us to use it to its fullest to build God's kingdom. Just the knowledge that there are so many villages who are waiting to hear a clear

presentation of the gospel for the first time should be enough to increase the burden on all of our hearts. But the thing that has really multiplied my own burden is the fact that I cannot take on all of these villages, so there they sit waiting for teaching. The fifteen villages where we are already working take up all of our time and energy and we honestly do not know what

villages? What would you do in our shoes? Can you understand why I say we are burdened? I must say that I feel almost frustrated today with my limited vocabulary as I try to communicate the need and our burden to you. It is not that I think that all of these people are 100% sincere or that I expect all of them to burn their idols immediately. We are aware that every soul is won

"We come to you from the village of Chabaatung... please, we have seen that some of the villages around us are leaving the darkness of our forefathers and are following the path of God. The people of our village also want to have their eyes opened to see God's way and to know the way that we should live."

to say to these many villages that are knocking at our door. Some of them we promise a one time visit to survey the situation. That only makes it worse as I sit in their village compounds, see the 'church' they built, and sense the hunger that they have to actually leave their idol worship and follow Jesus.

What should we do with our physical limitations? We are faced with being a Philip but not being able to answer the many queries we get of people seeking to see Jesus. What can we do to somehow answer all of these cries without endangering the work that we have already undertaken in so many other

through war. We have seen some of that conflict here, but it seems the chance of a lifetime to share with hungry hearts the good news of Jesus. It seems the ultimate shame to leave them sitting there hungry!

"And it shall come to pass, that in the place where it was said unto them, Ye are not my people; there shall they be called the children of the living God."
Romans 9:26 & Hosea 1:10

Dear fellow burden bearers, I am both excited and very burdened with what I see as I live and work here among our dear Konkomba people. God has

“...they are not just waiting—they are hungry and waiting.”

opened up a window of opportunity for us here, as the Konkomba villages come into contact with the light of the Gospel for the first time. The Gospel is always powerful, but I do not believe that anything can rival its first impact. It is this persuasion that makes us desire to move forward carefully, to maximize the initial influence to its highest potential. At the

development move into these super rural areas. This fact compels me to do everything possible to ensure that these dear simple people put their child-like faith in Christ before materialism, western ideas, and the television come in to distract and confuse them. Lastly, I am burdened with the thought that Christ-hungry villages are sitting and waiting. It is true that the Konkomba vil-

lages have waited for hundreds of years without the Gospel. That fact alone should motivate us to reach them, but the thought of Konkombas sitting, who have seen enough of the light to be hungry for it, is too much for my heart.

I am also excited for several reasons; The hunger that we are seeing among our people, demonstrated by their actively searching for someone to teach them, opens up incredible opportunities for the gospel to change the course of history for an entire tribe. This is a wonderful and rare chance for the Gospel to sweep rapidly through a large area of a tribe, with many coming to Christ and changing the moral climate of a people forever. I am also thrilled with the thoughts that flow out of the promise above when I apply it to our tribe. Though for centuries the Konkombas have undoubtedly not been God's people, God, in his redemptive plan, is working right now to bring this tribe to the place that they can, individually and collectively, be called the children of the living God! And you and I get to observe this marvelous reaching out of God's grace to a whole group of people. We not only are allowed to observe, we are called to labor here in work and in prayer, right now, to see that this wonderful plan of God is brought to completion! These thoughts awaken in my heart feelings of awe and wonder at God's goodness. This is coupled with a deep desire to know the power of God in such a real way in my own life that I will be able to labor unflinchingly to bring this people group out of the clutches of Satan and into the glorious liberty of the Sons of God!!

Dear friends, for the sake of Christ's name among the Gentiles, and for the sake of the souls of the many hungry Konkombas, pray that God will help you to pick up the burden of praying this vision into reality. We certainly know that God wills it. Remember, He is the one who willingly gave all because He was unwilling that any should perish! Pick up the excitement of dozens of villages filled with people who are beginning to hunger after God and His

continued on page 18

“We have built our church so that anytime that someone comes to teach us the words of God we will be ready... we always gather at our ‘church’ on Sundays as we have seen some other villages do. But when we gather we do not know what we should do....”

same time, the majority of the villages around us are without the teaching of God's word and are crying for it! This fact makes us desire to rush quickly through this open door.

I am burdened because I do not want this hunger that the Konkombas now feel to pass without a large portion of the tribe coming into contact with the Gospel. My heart is heavy because I do not know what to say to the many voices calling for Bible teaching, some of which are so far away as to make it difficult to go there regularly. I keenly feel the fact that in another ten years, and maybe even only five years from now, the situation will be much changed here as civilization and

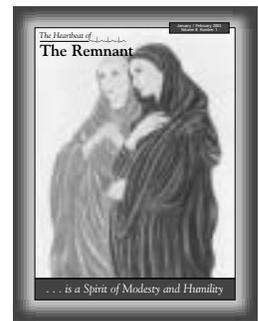
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Charity Gospel Tape Ministry & The Heartbeat of The Remnant

Year End Financial Report

January - December 2001



New Family Joins Charity Ministries

Three months ago, as we sat in the regular board meeting for *The Remnant* publication, and the Tape Ministry, some needs were laid on the table for discussion. The ministry had been growing and expanding, presenting us with several blessed challenges which demanded solutions. The practical sides of these challenges were discussed as follows:

- *We need more volunteer workers in the tape ministry.*
- *As the Remnant grows, we need help in the pre-publication process.*
- *The Web site is in need of much more development.*
- *We need a man who has management abilities to oversee and co-ordinate all of the new personnel.*
- *This manager needs to be an older man with authority so that young ladies can volunteer and all will work together appropriately.*
- *It would be nice to have an older sister who could take some of the many counseling calls from sisters who need advice.*

While all of these needs were on the table for consideration, someone mentioned the David Mong Family from the congregation in Bedford, PA. It was stated that Brother David had experience in management, and we all agreed that I should look into the possibility of him coming to help in the work.

So I sat together with the whole family and shared with them the needs we had in the ministry. I then asked Brother David if he had any leading to come and help us. The whole family sat as if in awe. David answered, "We have been earnestly praying as a family since April for God to use us in building His Kingdom." The answer had come.



Consider how the Lord took care of our many needs:

- *David can handle the management needs very well.*
- *David is an older man and can provide the proper authority and oversight to open the door for young ladies to help.*
- *David's wife, Elizabeth, has good computer skills, and she has a burden to counsel with sisters.*
- *Their two girls, Megan and Lauren, have computer, editing, and data entry skills.*
- *Alex has computer skills, and he can help in making tapes also.*
- *Lorraine Wurtz, who is currently living with them, can also help in the tape room and fill in at home with some of the domestic work.*

The Lord answered all the needs with one suggestion! We are grateful for the whole family and the many ways that they have all pitched in to strengthen and expand the work. They moved here from Bedford, PA about the time of Bible school, and they have been learning and serving ever since. The Remnant and Tape Ministry offices have taken on a beautiful family atmosphere.

We continue to function as a faith ministry, which has great challenges, but exciting blessings. You will find a financial statement for the year listed below. There are many opportunities that lie ahead of us, especially as we have funds to develop the new web site. All of us here thank all of you out there who have prayed for us and supported the ministry with your gifts. We have received so many letters informing us of the daily prayers that are lifted up for us. Thank you, and know this, that much thanksgiving is rising up before God because of your kind help.

The tapes continue to go out as usual—over one hundred fifty thousand of them this last year. The testimonies of changed lives because of them are more than we can share with you.

The Remnant publication has grown by one thousand five hundred copies through this last year. We have been so encouraged by the responses we received.

The new Charity Ministries web site is receiving three thousand solid visits per month, from all over the world. Many orders are being made through this new avenue, saving us much labor and phone costs.

New Tape Sets



Oh the unsearchable riches of Christ! He is a deep well of living treasures! Out of this living well, God has provided several more tape sets since the last catalog was printed. Below you will find a small description of each of them:

Set 110

THE WORD MADE FLESH

John D. Martin

This tape set contains a brief study of the Gospel of John. However hard it is to cover twenty-two chapters in five sessions, you can glean a lofty overview of the vision that the apostle John had of the record of Jesus Christ.

Set 111

YOUTH AT THE CROSSROADS

Rick Leibee

This set deals with practical issues facing youth in this generation. Music, human authority, courtship, moral purity, and death—some of the most critical crossroads for young people today—are closely examined. All of these messages are thought provoking and down to earth.

Set 112
I AM A DISCIPLE OF JESUS CHRIST
Denny Kenaston

This is an in-depth definition of true discipleship. Given in the form of a confession of faith, Brother Denny covers sixteen clear areas of discipleship. These are drawn from teachings of the Lord Jesus Christ and applied to our present day youth. He challenges youth to shake off the stigma of Generation X and be radical disciples of Jesus. This would be a good set to use in a youth Bible study group. It will inspire lots of discussion.

Set 113
YOUNG MEN WHO PLEASED GOD
Zac Poonen

Four godly youth in the Bible are studied in this set: Joseph, David, Daniel, and Paul. Brother Zac has many deep insights from the lives of these young men. He applies these insights in many practical ways to the youth of today.

Set 114
GOD'S PLAN OF SALVATION
Denny Kenaston

As a lengthy proclamation of the doctrine of salvation, this tape set covers a three-fold purpose in its presentation. It is a foundational doctrinal teaching on biblical salvation. It can be given to a seeking soul who needs to understand how to be saved. It is also instructional for soul winners, who want a clearer understanding of how to lead a soul through to saving faith in Jesus Christ.

Set 115
THE MAKING OF A PRINCESS
Dora Esh

This tape set is for mothers, girls, and young ladies. Sister Dora is a wife and a

mother of two children. She shares out of the lessons and experiences she went through as she was developing from girlhood into a young lady. This is very good, practical material for our daughters. It can provide good mother-daughter time to sit down and talk about modesty, boys, goals, and motives—things that most girls face as they mature.

Set 116
THE LIVING WORD SERIES
Keith Daniel

This is a tape set that we have wanted to put together for some time. It contains sermons by Brother Keith, which are mostly the word of God. He quotes scores of verses from the Bible, with preaching applications interspersed among them.



01/01/01 Beginning Balance	\$1,294.00
Receipts	
Tape Ministry Donations	\$210,851.86
Remnant Subscription Donations	\$28,589.00
Total Receipts	\$239,440.86
Disbursements	
UPS & Postage	\$23,256.57
Tapes & Albums	\$120,744.29
Computer/Equipment/Supplies	\$14,691.77
Equipment Maint & Repairs	\$1,325.35
Rent & Electric	\$3,192.21
Telephone	\$5,440.93
Miscellaneous	\$3,088.42
Payroll Expense	\$22,572.50
Books & Catalogs	\$3,875.67
Remnant Publishing & Mailing	\$40,276.17
Total Disbursements	\$238,463.88
12/31/01 Ending Balance	\$2,270.98
Difference	\$976.98

Book Review

by Andrew Weaver

Royal Insignia

by Edwin & Lillian Harvey

"Humility does not rest, in final count, upon bafflement and discouragement and self-disgust at our shabby lives, a browbeaten, dog-slinking attitude. It rests upon the disclosure of the consummate wonder of God, upon finding that only God counts, that all our own self-originated intentions are works of straw..."

Royal Insignia is the fruit of twenty years of gathering little gems from the writings and sermons of almost two hundred different people, most of them very godly men and women. These gems have been compiled into ninety-eight readings of two pages each on the subject of humility. *Royal Insignia* represents widely varied walks of life, periods of history, and persuasions of doctrine. The writers' common bond is their insight into the diabolical nature of pride and the heavenly beauty of humility.

The authors explain the book's title like this: *Man, God's highest creation, fell by pride, which has henceforth become the insignia of the kingdom of this world. Read any advertisement; listen to the media, and you will immediately recognize the insignia of the serpent. If this be true, then every born again child of God ought to wear the insignia of Christ in His humility, meekness, and lowliness.* Elsewhere they invite the reader to...*read how others have traveled this journey of descent. As they descended they discovered wings with which to soar into the heavenlies with Christ Jesus.*

Some of the first chapters of *Royal Insignia* take an unvarnished look at the route we must travel as we 'descend up' to God, Whose lofty habitation is with the lowly. *It isn't the big shot, the big man that God wants- it's the broken man. God uses the man whom he has crushed until he is nothing but a doormat for people to walk on in order that they might come to Jesus.* A quote from another person describes it thus: *Faith is dependence upon God. And this God-dependence only begins when self-dependence ends. And self-dependence only comes to its end, with some of us, when sorrow, suffering, affliction, broken plans and hopes bring us to that place of self-helplessness and defeat.*

Another chapter shows the great contrast between the carnal mind and God's mind as each interprets the circumstances of our lives. *Blessed day, when those things in which we trusted are snatched from us. We call it tragedy, God calls it blessedness...Blessed bereavement which casts me for companionship upon Jesus. Blessed bankruptcy which causes me to rest on Eternal Resources instead of the riches that have wings and fly away. Blessed ill health that flings me upon the mighty virtue and healing that comes from Jesus, the Great Physician. Blessed failure in my ministry which at last reveals to me that my own efforts are unavailing and my best works ephemeral. Blessed collapse of all self-confidence, for I now have the all-sufficient One, Who came to be my life, my wisdom, my sanctification, my redemption, and most of all, my righteousness.*

A chapter entitled "The God-Blinded Soul" includes these challenging words: *Humility does not rest, in final count, upon bafflement and discouragement and self-disgust at our shabby lives, a browbeaten, dog-slinking attitude. It rests upon the disclosure of the consummate wonder of God, upon finding that only God counts, that all our own self-originated intentions are works of straw...But the blinding God*

blots out this self and gives humility and true selfhood as wholly full of Him. For as He gives obedience so He graciously gives us what measure of humility we will accept. Even that is not our own, but His Who also gives obedience.

Another chapter emphasizes that both boasting and belittling of oneself are rooted in pride and preoccupation with self. *Boasting is an evidence that we are pleased with self, and belittling that we are disappointed in it. Either way we reveal that we have a high opinion of ourselves. The belittler is chagrined that one as obviously superior as he should not have done better, and he punishes himself by making uncomplimentary remarks about himself. That he does not really mean what he says may be proved quite easily. Let someone else say the same things. His eager defense of himself will reveal how he feels and has secretly felt all the time.*

Little children, with their utter lack of self-consciousness, often provide us with our best examples of unfeigned humility. A group of children once formed a club and the first rule they agreed upon expresses this truth with profound simplicity: *Nobody act big, nobody act small, every-*

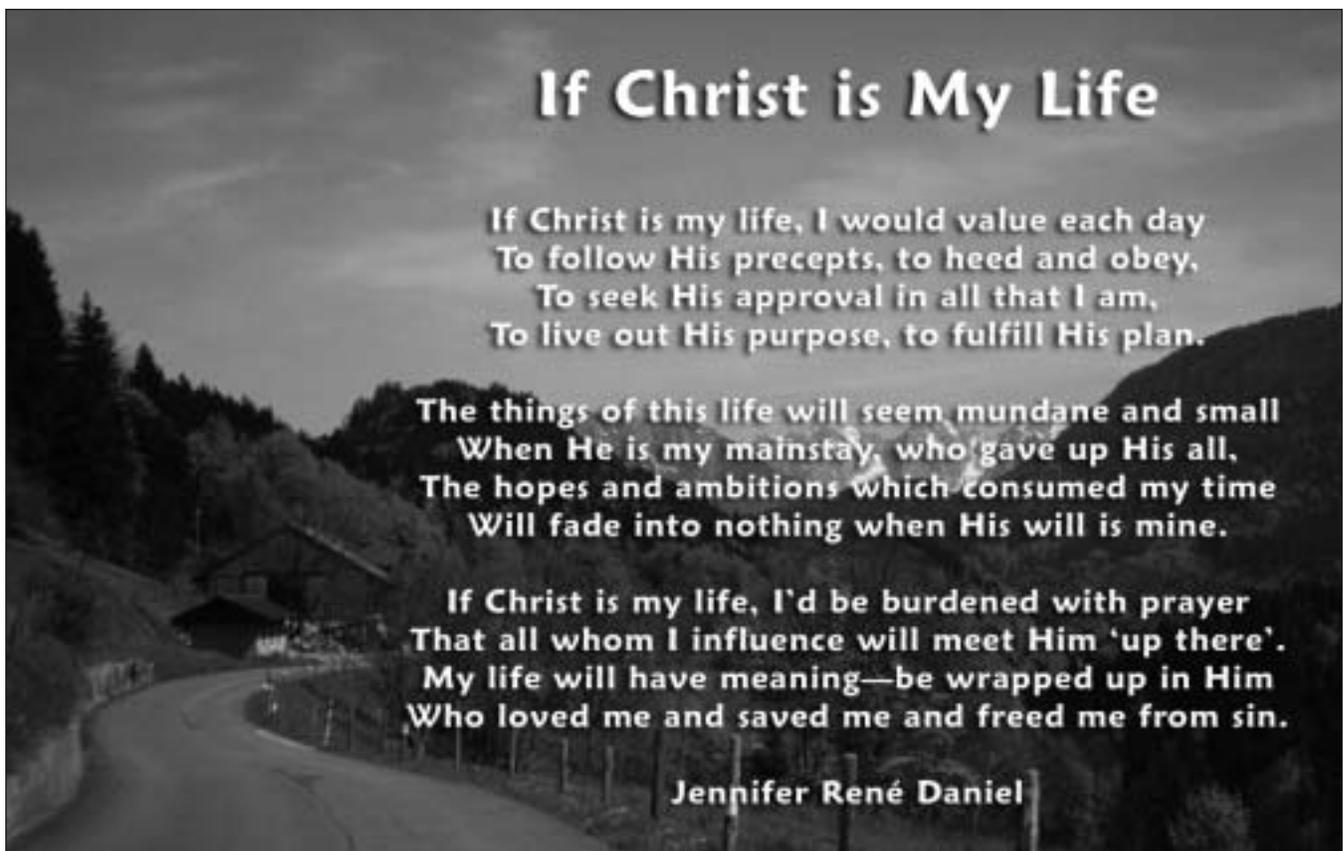
body act medium. They understood the hypocrisy of faked humility and proved once again that God's deep truths are hidden from the wise of this world and revealed unto babes.

Since this book is composed of ninety-eight separate readings, there is no need to read it from cover to cover to receive the challenge of its message. In fact, it is one that you will probably find yourself opening at random, reading a page or two, and then pondering deeply. We trust that God can use this book to lead you into the true humility in which you are unaware that your life is adorned with the *Royal Insignia*. □

This book is available
from the publisher:

Harvey Christian Publishers
3107 Hwy 321 • Hampton, TN 37658 USA

(423) 768-2297



If Christ is My Life

If Christ is my life, I would value each day
To follow His precepts, to heed and obey,
To seek His approval in all that I am,
To live out His purpose, to fulfill His plan.

The things of this life will seem mundane and small
When He is my mainstay, who gave up His all,
The hopes and ambitions which consumed my time
Will fade into nothing when His will is mine.

If Christ is my life, I'd be burdened with prayer
That all whom I influence will meet Him 'up there'.
My life will have meaning—be wrapped up in Him
Who loved me and saved me and freed me from sin.

Jennifer René Daniel

Fragments

by
Rachel
Weaver



Many, many of us mothers struggle with how to use the fragments of time that we have. We become discouraged because we do not have whole days or hours of time to offer God.

Our days are fragmented. Our quiet time and prayers are often interrupted along with our sleep. Often we become frustrated. We long for time to read our Bibles and pray without interruptions. We wonder when we will have a whole night's sleep again. We wish to be able to finish a sewing project or scrub a floor without having to stop, and yet this is seldom the case.

Desiring to have more to give to God, I was pondering over this the other day. I needed more time and more energy. It seemed I was only serving Him in little snatches. I was wondering if what I was giving was worth a thing. Then my phone

rang and God spoke through a dear, dear friend right into my heart. She said, "My life has been so fragmented. I felt useless as I was going through this sickness. But God has given me this priceless encouragement. Let me share it with you. *When your whole heart is to serve Him, God even uses your fragments to bring glory to His name.* Look at the feeding of the five thousand. God gave enough of food for the whole multitude. When they were done He said, 'Gather up the fragments.' I am sure He put those to use, or else He would have left them where they had dropped. Your fragments are His just as much as the whole meal. He wants to use them. You must allow Him."

As she said goodbye my heart leaped within me. My spirits lifted. My soul sang. Certainly, I had fragments to give! I lifted up my hands and

offered my fragments to God to use as He chose. There was a new hope in my heart. I can serve Him right where I am. Not only can I serve Him as a mother, but I can minister where I am, and He will use my fragments. He will take them and make them into perfect offerings.

What do you have that you can give Him? How can you serve when there are multitudes of things that demand your time and interrupt what you try to do?

- ✿ You can offer the sacrifice of praise. Amid your struggles, your toil, and your duties, stop a moment and lift up your heart and your voice in song. It will cheer you, inspire your children, and be a sweet savor to God.
- ✿ Take five minutes to call a struggling sister and pray for her. You need not stay on the line for an hour. Make it short, just long enough to tell her that you started your day with a prayer for her. Tell her you care. It will lift her heart and make her labors lighter.
- ✿ Stop and minister to the sister who comes to your door. Share Jesus with her in the warmth of your smile and the openness of your heart. Do not make the sister feel as if her need is a bother.
- ✿ Write a short note to someone who has blessed you and tell them how they were used of God to bless your

day. God often uses these little notes in bigger ways than we can ever dream. Your minister's wife could probably use an encouraging card today. Tell her how much you appreciate the hours she gives up her husband so that he can serve you. It will brighten her day and make her heart glad.

- ✿ All through your busy, busy day, make tiny fuel-up spots where you meet your Master. Talk with Him in little snatches. Worship Him in song, singing a verse here and there. Meditate on the verse taped on your cupboard door. Do not let the Devil tell you that you cannot be a child of God unless you have spent an hour at the beginning of the day. It is a blessing, a joy, and an oasis to do so, but many a mother can tell you that times of long feeding on the meat of the Word are difficult to find. Seek to avail yourself of every opportunity for extended worship, meditation and prayer. In the meantime, use every fragment that you can find.

- ✿ Share with your husband, your children, and those that God sends your way. God only asks us to point each person we meet to Him. We do not have to dream up any difficult service. As we serve, we only need to be so full of Him others will see Jesus in us. The lost will be convicted and pointed to the cross. The saved will be encouraged and cheered, to more firmly tread the straight and narrow way. This service starts at home.

Your fragments count. Let Him have each one. He gathers them up as they fall one by one and sees them as the whole basketful they will be. Our Lord understands. He once walked in a garb of human flesh. The demands on His time were also constant. He knows the struggle and the weakness. He walks with you, gathering up and delighting in the fragments you let fall from your busy life for His sake and His alone.

God bless you today in your role as wife and mother. May He

help you to put first things first:

- ✿ To find rest in doing His will.
- ✿ To take time with your children in work and in play.
- ✿ To perpetuate a spirit of joy and cheer in your home.
- ✿ To communicate with your dear husband.
- ✿ To be at peace with yourself and your fellow women and not worry about how they see your floors and windows.
- ✿ To use every chance you can to give God the fragments you hold in your hands.

Know that you are called of Him to fill your unique role. No one can pay you for the worth of what you do except your husband and your children. Their payments will not be monetary but of far greater worth. You will receive happy smiles, two little arms around your neck and a whispered, "I love you," in your ear. You will win your husband's deepest love and respect and share many special times with him. The rewards are too many to name. Lord, open our eyes! □

continued from page 21, *A Solemn Assembly*

seeking God. Over two hundred youth and many others were on their faces in brokenness. Weeping and wailing prevailed everywhere. We were in a solemn assembly.

No one moved for twenty minutes. The whole congregation was struck with grief. Mose dismissed the meeting for any

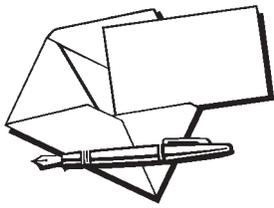
who wanted to leave. Those who left slipped out in total silence.

The solemn assembly continued for hours. People were getting right with God. Souls who needed to be saved began to break under the convicting power of the assembly. I don't know how many souls were saved that night, but I know

there were quite a few. This brought the Bible School to a deeper level, and many more people came through as the days went by. Many will never be the same after that whole week of cleansing and repenting.

-Brother Denny

□



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 is the way that we can pass 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* about a time when you found God's blessing in some area of obedience.
- An edifying question from which everyone will benefit.
- An area of spiritual growth obtained by one of the exercises suggested in the magazine.
- A word of encouragement or counsel about any section in *The Remnant*.

Waiting to hear...

-The Editors

Dear Gospel Tape Ministry,

We are the Rubio family and by means of this letter we desire to thank Charity Gospel Ministry for all the beautiful work and for the blessings you all are bringing to the families and each individual. Thank you for sharing the blessings of following Jesus through His word.

We are a homeschooling family of four members, that the grace of Elohim has pushed to start searching His truth and is constantly helping us to follow Him. We recognized that it is the Holy Spirit in us who has implanted that desire in our hearts.

I have prayed for a long time, "God, is there somewhere in the world people who are really following Your Word and living it? Please, Father, if it is so, let me see them. Make it possible for us to meet them. I want to become a daughter of Sarah, but where are these Godly women?"

In the year 1995 I saw for the first time a Mennonite couple in a homeschooling curriculum fair. I saw for the first time a woman with a veiling on. Since then God has used them in our lives intensively. We love them dearly. So we went through the same thing Brother Denny described in his first cassette of the *Godly Home*. Tears came to my eyes when I was with them one morning at their family devotions, while my husband was in the Persian Gulf on a military mission. It is impossible by words to explain all the work God has done in our lives. This family shared the first album of *The Godly Home* with us. They have been a solid food and spiritual guidance. I have cried during and after each one of them. I even forced myself to hear the cassette tape *The Hidden Woman* every day and night until I could almost repeat it by memory. I

have fallen in many areas of my life. It is my desire to please my Lord, but my child training was awful and my dear husband's too. The album has been the matches to start a big fire in our family. My husband has taken his position and I have taken mine. We shared the tapes with another family close to our house and the same thing has happened to them. Now both of our families are sharing it with other homeschooling families and even our families. To make this story or testimony short—by the Lord's grace and His powerful spirit we are applying what we are learning. Our Papas are taking their place and we are covering our heads and our children's hearts are turned more and more toward us.

I come from a second generation of "Divorced Pastoral Family" who has kept their "ministry" with their second marriage. I

Christianity for me has been a big conflict and struggle. Only God's Word has been a light in my path and people like you. I have recovered faith by seeing—through families that really follow God's principles—that His word never fails. Thank-you!

Corozal, Puerto Rica

To the Remnant,

I wanted to write you a short note to let you know *The Remnant* is not just being sent, but we are being tremendously blessed by it! When Mom sits down with it, I always sit down beside her and read with her! I would have a lot of other things to say but I'm sure you're busy. Although, I do have a suggestion. I've noticed that in almost every issue, you have something for women, staying at home with the children, teaching them godly values, and I guess many other subjects associated with motherhood. Well, could you have something to relate to us younger girls? Thank-you very much!

Minnesota

Dear Workers,

What a blessing this last *Remnant* was to me and I hope it will be to others I share it with. *The Death of a Nation* seems to fit this country too well for my comfort and peace. Now we have this tragedy that reminds us of God's mighty hand in judgement. Well, by God's grace, I will draw nigh

to the Lord Jesus Christ and pray much for this world.

I hope to be able to receive a few back issues of *The Remnant* to keep me between issues. Also, if possible, I'd like to get 3 instead of 1, so I can share one at home and one at work without giving my own copy away. Thank-you!

Pascagoula, MS

Dear Remnant,

A dear brother in Christ has been telling me about your magazine. He sent me some articles from it and I wish to receive my own copy. I started to think that there were very few who truly were searching a lifestyle that emulated that of our Lord and Savior. Reading the little I was sent, I see that there are more out there. I want to be connected. Thank-you for what you are doing and may our gracious and loving Father continue to keep and strengthen you in your ministry.

Warminster, PA

Dear Remnant Staff,

I have read your magazine, which my sister receives, and I would love to be on your mailing list. Your last issue featured a wonderful article highlighting Andrew Murray's home life. He is one of my heroes of faith and a favorite author. I was not aware of the standards of excellence by which he guided his home. Will you please begin my subscription with the issue featuring Andrew Murray? Thank-

you! The Lord bless you and meet your every need.

Troy, WV

Dear Editor and Staff,

Grace and peace of God our Father and His Son, Jesus Christ be with you all.

I am so grateful for your publication. It fills my heart with joy every time I receive it. The Word of God is in the house. What a treasure of a magazine. Thank you all.

The article, *The Death of a Nation*, hit the spot. It woke me up out of my lethargy for sure. Articles like this one hit home. We are reminded how easy it is to take bounty for granted. God's gifts are blessed, wonderful, and meant to be used. The fact that we have so much, though, does not give us license to abuse those gifts in carelessness or overindulgence. May we all be grateful for God's gifts and let us all pray for wisdom, discernment, and perspective. Kind editor, do not apologize, but keep up the good work. Thank you.

Also, I found very helpful the warning about C. S. Lewis. Sometimes we don't take the time to choose our readings conscientiously. Many times I've thought how wonderful it would be to have a list of suggested titles to have in a pocket when at the library or choosing a gift. Maybe in the future you and your staff could help us out on that one too?

May God bless and protect as you have trusted Him.

Italy

The Prayer of St. Francis

Lord, make me an instrument of thy peace

Where there is hatred...let me show love

Where there is injury...pardon

Where there is doubt...faith

Where there is despair...hope

Where there is darkness...light

Where there is sadness...joy

© Master, grant that I may not so much seek

To be consoled...as to console

To be understood...as to understand

To be loved...as to love

For it is in giving...that we receive

It is in pardoning...that we are pardoned

And it is in dying...that we are born to eternal life

Francis of Assisi



The Heartbeat of

The Remnant

Charity Christian Fellowship

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