

Understanding God

Volume I Number 2

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Letter

Understanding the ways of God

Dear Saints:

Grace to you and peace from God the Father
and our Lord Jesus Christ.

I am writing this month's letter to encourage you to really give heart to the teaching that is going out on Sunday nights. I believe that this is a significant time for you to grow in your understanding of God and His ways. It is not enough for you to just hear and enjoy what God speaks to us through the teachings, you must search out the truth of the word as it applies to your own life.

God is looking for a people who will not try to form Him into their own way of thinking. Instead, He is looking for people who will grab on to the mind of God and cooperate with Him as He performs His mighty works in the earth.

We are in the midst of a study that deals with the exodus of Israel and their following journey which took them through the wilderness. The central theme of God that we are viewing is His sovereignty. That is, the fact that He never lets anything get out of control. Moreover, we are seeing that even in the midst of trying times God is still moving ahead with His plan to get glory for His name through His People.

I hope you are taking the time to look at your own life in light of the many truths that are being shared in this study. I would like to invite you to share with me through a letter any specific thing that has ministered to you. And with your permission I would like to share these examples with the rest of the body.

As we move through this teaching on Sunday night, God is maturing us to share the life of Christ with a dying world. Over the next two or three months you can come to a place of knowing God that you have never been in before, if you will.

And then....

"They that do know their God shall be strong and do exploits."
Daniel 11:32

Bless You,

Billy

Review

The Journey

Here is a quick review of the teaching on the Journey:

Introduction:

This is a study to show how God brings us out of Egypt (which is a type of the world under Satan's rule), takes Egypt out of us (which is a type of being freed from sin), and then uses us to establish the land (a type of establishing the Kingdom of God).

Teaching one:

This teaching dealt with the way God sovereignly preserved the people of Israel and Moses. He is sovereignly preserving you.

Teaching two:

This teaching was devoted to the preservation and preparation of Moses. Specifically, God stripped Moses of His self-sufficiency.

Teaching three:

The reason God had stripped Moses was that he might see God. You can only see God when emptied of self.

Teaching four:

The serpent is in the rod. Even when God lets Satan move, it ultimately serves God's purpose.

Teaching five:

When we command Satan to loose people, he won't. Instead he will hang onto them 'til God causes him to drive the people out of his kingdom of darkness with a strong hand.

*Foreign Missions***Pedro Basilio:
Bringing His People
To the King of Kings**

Pedro Basilio's work among His people, the Mixtec Indians in Tepango, Mexico, is continuing to flourish under the anointing of the Holy Spirit.

The work had been carried on from his home in Tepango, the market village, on a one on one basis, and in small groups. This was done to avoid suspicion from the local officials and witch doctors.

Just a couple of Sundays ago, the growing young flock held its first Sunday meeting on the land Lexington Christian Fellowship helped to purchase. Pedro expressed his joy in this next step of establishing the church.

Pedro has shared his growing vision to follow the apostolic pattern and establish churches in the surrounding villages. At Pedro's ordination service earlier this year God seemed to release him in this greater anointing.

The Church at Lexington has been honored to be a part of this mission through prayer and financial support.

Originally, we sent \$100.00 a month, in addition to the special gifts for purchasing the land. After a year, we decided to quit just sending a set amount and take up an offering each month.

It was felt that this would give people more of a feeling of personal involvement. And, praise the Lord, it has. The offerings each month have well exceeded the previously set amount.

Since the offering is taken in one of the home fellowships, you may not have had the opportunity to give. If you would like to help support Pedro, Make your check to LCF and give it to Leta Hobdy.

*Approaching Marriage***Marry From Strength, not Weakness**

Two individuals who choose to get married should do so out of Christian strength and love rather than mutual weakness.

For too many people, marriage is seen as an answer to problems. Individuals struggle with their weaknesses and never find the victory of a crucified life. In this state many will find a person who is in the same situation of failure and a mutual consoling and sympathy is exchanged. The relationship becomes romantic and the two become one.

The alternative case is when two people have yielded to God's grace and are living His call on their lives. They see in one another a partner in love and establishing the purposes of God in the earth. They marry and become a strong ministry team for God.

It is so sad to see people put their hope for happiness in marriage. That usually brings greater frustration. Marriage should be seen as the furtherance of the Kingdom. And, when that is the view, happiness comes.

*Building the Church***Campus Outreach Going Strong**

Since UK began classes this fall, a group of LCF Christians have been giving themselves to reaching out on campus. Many students have been ministered to as a result and several have been added to the church.

During the early part of the semester, the outreach centered in information tables, two question test tables, special meetings, and a lot of one on one sharing. As the winter approaches, much of the activity is settling into Bible studies in the dorm. Although some great students (Sad, Rennick, Sally, etc.) have become a regular part of the church, there is a large number of students who are being ministered to through the dorm studies as well as one on one follow up.

Curt Eiden, who directed the fall outreach is working with the Bible studies in Haggin Hall as well as Kirwan I. Kyra Fossett is working with the women's Bible study. These groups are ministering in a way that the rest of the church may not notice. But at the same time, they are doing the work of a missionary to these people. It falls to this church to support through prayer and finances this great outreach.

Another exciting aspect of the outreach has been the preaching in the free speech area. Joe Olliges and Curt Eiden, along with Billy, have been preaching every Wednesday for about three to four hours. A large number of students have been stopping with sincere hearts to hear the Word go forth. Some are even making Wednesday a regular part of their schedule.

According to Billy, "this has been the best visible results we have ever had in the outdoor preaching. Several years ago, we believed God was telling us that preaching on the free speech area was a significant part of the coming revival. It is a joy to see some first fruits as the younger men are putting their hand to the plow in this field. The Spirit of God is truly moving."

Abortion**Operation Rescue; a call to action**

Over 120 babies are ruthlessly murdered every week in your city. You could have possibly prevented one of those deaths.

For many people the abortion issue has been an emotional experience without a way to get involved in solving the problem. Now, there is a way for every person to join the fight.

Operation Rescue offers many avenues of involvement for both the aggressive activist and the quiet prayer warrior. Here is what Operation Rescue is doing:

Prayer: for our struggle is not against flesh and blood but against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.

Praises: Singing praises to our God stifles the enemy and can draw a woman from the grip of death as well as support the efforts of the counselors and all involved.

Picketing: Educating our community about abortion and the fact that it actually occurs here in our city.

Direct Action: Non-violent civil disobedience—the breaking of a lower law to maintain a higher law. That law, protection of a human life, the life within the womb, as well as the life of the mother.

What can you do to stop this holocaust? What stand can you make in saving the lives of the innocent? What will you do?

Operation Rescue gathers every Saturday in front of Dr. Sheik's abortion mill in the Physicians Mall, 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon.

If you are interested in getting involved see Kyra or call at 252-6903.

Child Training**LCF fathers are committed to the best**

Fathers in Lexington Christian Fellowship are committed to giving their children the best possible education in the Bible. The LCF Children's Church is just one example of the effort they are putting forth.

Unlike most children churches, LCFCC, is not a baby sitting service. Every child who attends has a parent or other adult who comes and learns with the child.

The place of the church is to train the fathers to train the children. To promote this pattern, the weekly meeting is designed to introduce material which the fathers continue to teach throughout the week.

A side benefit is that all of us fathers are learning the Word more thoroughly than ever before. You are invited to come visit with us on Wednesday evenings at 7:30 to see the training of young overcomers.

Men who have children in the training are: Bob Pascucci, Dave Toth, Gregg Greer, Mike Treen, Ron Schwartz, and Billy Henderson.

Seasonal Instruction**Remember the brethren**

As the holiday season approaches, it is important to include the rest of the body in our own personal plans. Specifically, it is vital that we notice the singles in the body and consider if they have a place to spend these special days.

You may be going on a short trip during this time. You may be having a special gathering at your home. You might be going to some special event. In all of these, remember that there are some who have no place to go and no one to be with.

To have someone over for Thanksgiving dinner can be much more spiritual than prophesying over somebody on Sunday nights. And, it can be a much more significant step in building the Kingdom of God.

As we grow together as a church family, God wants us to have one another on our hearts as we do significant things (or even insignificant things). Remember that Jesus chose His disciples that they might be with Him. More than anything, Jesus lived out His Life among people, including them in on the things He did.

Drama**Team to hold workshop**

Living Parables, a Christian Drama team, will hold a workshop for Lexington Christian Fellowship this Tuesday, 7:00, at Woodland.

Wednesday, the 16th, they will present the gospel through drama on the free speech area of the student center at 11:50.

Wednesday night they will be having a special presentation at Woodland Baptist Church at 7:00.

If you are interested in performing drama you would benefit from the Tuesday workshop.

Election reveals need for intercession; next years could bring revival

The recent election sends an urgent message for all Christians to pray. The liberal media says that it was an election of personality rather than ideology. The truth is that it was indeed an election that revealed where Americans stand on the issues.

Most significant is that 46 out of every 100 voters cast their lot with a man who openly supports allowing women to murder their unborn children. Beyond that, a number of the 56 percent who voted for Bush did so on economic and defense issues. That means a number of them would have voted for Bush if he had been pro-abortion.

A pro-abortionist was elected on the state level in Kentucky's 75th district by 65% to 35% over a strong pro-life candidate. In addition, the man

elected has supported anti-family legislation.

In our own city a lesbian sits on the council. Observing these facts could have one of two affects. First, it could cause you to be disheartened. On the other hand, it could challenge you to open your eyes to the dire need for intercession.

For those who viewed the election with a sigh of relief, look deeper. In these next four years a large group of disciples of the modern educational system will come to voting age. Unless their minds and hearts are reached with the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ the numbers in the next election could spell hard times for Christianity in America.

Revival is the only solution: Live for it, believe for it, pray for it, work for it, die for it.

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER

Prayer 6-7 AM
Every Day

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
13 Worship & Teaching	14	15 drama workshop see article Jimmy's HF Billy's HF	16 Children's Church at Woodland	17	18 Gregg's HF	19 Operation Rescue
20 Worship & Teaching	21 C	22 Jimmy's HF Billy's HF	23 Children's Church	24 Thanksgiving	25	26 Operation Rescue
27 Worship & Teaching * Woodland Church	28	29 Home School Support Group	30 Children's Church	31	Gregg's HF	3 Operation Rescue
4 Worship & Teaching * SC Music room	5	6 Jimmys HF Billy's HF	7 Children's Church	8	9 Couples Seminar	10 Operation Rescue
11 Worship & Teaching * SC Music room	12	13 Billy's HF Jimmy's HF	14 Children's Church	15	16 Gregg's HF	17

Prophecy

Let the prophets speak; Let the others judge

"Let the prophets speak two or three, and let the other judge."

I Corinthians 14:30

"Quench not the Spirit. Despise not prophesying. Prove all things; hold fast that which is good."

I Thessalonians 5:19-20

Encouragement and Caution in Prophecy

These two New Testament scriptures speak of prophecy and its operation in the church. Each scripture shows both the encouragement to and caution in prophecy.

At our church, we need an encouragement to seek God for more quickened words of prophecy. Having seen a lot of weird things go on in the name of prophecy, we have had a tendency to shy away from stepping out in this gift.

Although different teachers explain the gift of prophecy in various ways we will define it simply for our discussion. Let's say a prophecy is a thought from God by the Spirit that lines up with the word. God can give you this thought to share with a body or an individual.

This is what we need more of. We need more people getting thoughts from God that He wants them to share with the body. Prophecy is given to "speak(s) to men for their upbuilding and constructive spiritual progress and encouragement and consolation." I Corinthians 14:3b

In one sense the teaching of the Word on Sunday nights is a prophecy. But the purpose of other individuals "prophesying"

during the meeting is to bring a greater focus on what God is communicating.

By the same token, personal prophecy (prophecy that is directed toward a single individual) is intended to bring into focus what God is explicitly speaking to that individual. This results in the benefits described in I Corinthians 14:3.

How to Receive Prophecy

Both scripture references cited caution that prophecy must be judged. There are several ways to judge prophecy. A few are listed here:

- Does it fall within the boundaries of scripture?
- Does it confirm what is already in your heart?
- What is the character of the person giving the prophecy?
- What does your pastor or another mature brother think of it?

It is important when you hear a prophecy that you do not automatically receive it into your spirit. First, put it through the tests listed above. Then see if your own spirit confirms it.

Then, receive it into your spirit and believe God to bring it to pass. Do not try to force a prophecy to come to pass. If it is of God, it will come.

One other caution: If you are not well seasoned in God, don't let someone get you off in a corner and prophecy over you. Make sure you have a mature brother standing with you.

How to Give Prophecy

Many people come to me after a service and say, "What you preached tonight was on my heart so strong when I came in." I grimace when I hear this. If the person had been sensitive, it could be that God had wanted the person to get up and give what was on his or her heart to prepare people for the preaching.

If something is in your spirit and you believe it is for the whole body, you should share it. Some people don't know how to get started when they feel like they have something. Here are some pointers on how to get it out:

- Go to the person leading the meeting and say, I have a word to share. Then, see if the person leading wants you to give it.
- Just stand up and share what the Lord put on your heart. You can let others decide for themselves if it is an exhortation or prophecy.

■ Stand up, say "The Lord would say", and then go ahead and say it. (If you use this approach you should be ready to have the prophecy judged publicly.)

■ Don't worry about coming up with spiritual sounding words. Just communicate what God gave you in your own words.

We are believing God for a greater refining of the prophetic gifts in our body. At the same time, we are assuring everyone that we will help discern the true word of prophecy.

Prayer Meeting Moved

The 6:00 a.m. prayer meeting has been moved for the winter. It is now held at Jimmy Leitsch's house on Waller Ave. The times and days are still 6:00-7:00, Monday through Friday.

Spiritual ministry _____

Wasting Bob Stricker's time

"Through wisdom is an house builded; and by understanding it is established: For by wise counsel thou shalt make thy war: and in multitude of counsellors there is safety."

Proverbs 24:3,6

The two and a half days Bob Stricker spent with us was worth more than shipping me off to Bible school for a whole year. He was of invaluable help in assisting us in our direction and vision.

Vision is one thing that people could never accuse us of not having. Zeal is another commodity that's in fair supply around Lexington Christian Fellowship. But, there is sometimes a shortage on the wisdom that comes from seasoned ministry. Bob helped fill that gap.

Enough with titles, Bob is simply a spiritual man. He has been around the move of the Spirit for a long time, has maintained a level head, has given himself fully to the things of God, and is willing to share himself and his depth of experience with younger ministry.

While with this younger ministry, he just spent time with us. He listened to me share our vision. He listened to others share their part in the vision. He took our spiritual pulse. He said we're O.K.

A lot of people could have said, "You're doing a great job." But, few people are qualified to give a real spiritual assessment. Bob is. For him to say we're O.K. means a lot more than flattery from some aspiring evangelist who is looking for a place to preach. Bob cares. That means he will be honest.

Beyond his overall appraisal of the church, Bob gave scores of practical advice. In referring to relationships he said, "The big concern in human relationships is accepting others in their faults." and, "Circumstances affect the expressions (manifestations) of friendship, but not the quality.

On relating to new people in the church, he cautioned, "It is easy to leave new people out by referring to things that happened in the past that they were not a part of."

Ask Gregg what Bob means when he says, "Sunny boys need to get a job."

And, in regard to building the church (universal), "The church is more than us now", is a phrase that sticks in my mind from our conversation.

For a young pastor who is pioneering a work in the Spirit, the advice of an older man is invaluable. The problem is, it is hard to find older ministry that is spiritual. I am thankful that the Lord brought Bob to us.

At a pastor's retreat last year, another seasoned ministry, Giovonni, shared this principle: "Building the kingdom is wasting time." By this he meant, as we spend time with one another, relationship is built and that is the kingdom. We are glad Bob wasted his time with us.

Sunday night series _____

Going through the wilderness with Dow Robinson

The ten trials in the wilderness will be taught by Dow Robinson, beginning in January.

Dow intends to teach four Sunday nights in a row dealing with the Journey of the Hebrews from Egypt through the wilderness.

Lexington Christian Fellowship has studied the first thirteen chapters of Exodus in preparation for the study of the journey. Originally, Billy had intended to cover the material.

However, while in a conversation with Dow concerning the structure of our Bible school, Dow mentioned that he would love to cover the ten temptations in the wilderness. Since the subject came up, Billy asked if he would be interested in teaching it for the church.

Dow graciously accepted.

Dow was a missionary to the Aztecs for twenty-five years, during which time he translated the New Testament into their language. He is now using his depth of ministry experience to establish a training program for young ministry.

His time of ministry among us will be rich. We view this as a special gift from the Lord.

To be good stewards of this time, it would be advisable to look back through your notes on the children in Egypt. To be prepared to learn better, read through the rest of Exodus and all of Numbers.

Pastor's Brief

This newsletter is produced by Billy Henderson for members and friends of LCF. It is intended to clarify the vision of this church, as well as encourage and instruct.