

# Serving People, Not Organizations

Volume II, Number 2

February 1988

*Letter*

## Growing in the Kingdom

Dear Friends,

The church goes through periods of time when it seems like God is bringing us all into a new level of faith and vision. We are going through a time like that now.

The basic area of growth relates to commitment, servanthood, and relationship. A lot of the challenge and inspiration to move forward in these areas has come as we have studied the book of Acts together. We are seeing a passion in the people of that first Christian church, with which we desire to live our life.

As a result of desiring to live life with a passion, we must ask what we are giving ourselves to passionately. Of course we know that we "need to be committed to the church". But what does that really mean?

We answered that question at home fellowship on Tuesday night. To give a feel for what went on, I can give you our acid test for commitment: "If every person in the church was asked if you were a faithful friend and co-laborer and asked to describe how you have given your time, energy, and support to serve them, how many would say you had?" Another way to say it would be "Who are you really a friend to?"

You can put your name on a role, you can attend meetings, you can be a part of a ministry. However, how you stand relationally to people identifies how much you are really flowing in the Kingdom of God.

We have come to this question before (only a couple of months ago). But now, it seems that there is a grace to take us further into understanding what God is doing with us. Blinders are coming off of our eyes and we are seeing the Kingdom clearer than ever before.

And as always, it is a joy to know that the reason we are seeing the Kingdom clearer, is because the King Himself is showing it to us.

Show us Lord Jesus.

## In this issue:

Single's issues Pg. 2  
Retreat update  
Single women  
serving sacrificially

Building the Vision Pg. 3  
We are not  
a Charismatic church

Teachings Pgs. 4-6  
Learning from  
being alone  
Expansion  
through serving

Family Pg. 7  
The servant father  
State to legislate  
home school control

Friends of LCF Pg. 8  
Missions update  
Short term mission  
opportunity

### *Pastor's Brief*

*This newsletter is published 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.*



## It snowed, we fellowshiped, teaching was great

At a planning meeting before the single's retreat that was held earlier this month, someone said, "Wouldn't it be great if it snowed while we were there." It did.

That seemed to be a small sign that everything else that was in the heart of the planners would come. It did.

We wanted to have a teacher in that would build the body.

After the weekend, Rennick said, "The teaching was the best part of the weekend for me. I learned that not sharing my problems with my brothers was a sign that I did not trust them. I have a tendency to try to work things out on my own. It was good for me."

Chris Shutt learned, "God's love is not contingent on my performance."

We also wanted the fellowship to be good.

Sandy Wieck retold an episode from a conversation this past weekend. "There were four of us riding back from Louisville. We were talking about how good the fellowship was at the retreat. For me the best part was just being together doing different things. It was good to be vulnerable with each other. All of us realized that we could easily put back on our religious masks and lose what we had begun. We really hope this doesn't happen."

Let's believe that God will be as faithful to the hopes of these four as He was to the planners of the retreat.

## Servanthood

# Single women sacrificing to serve

Several of the single women began training last year to serve the married women. At the heart of the training was a desire to take on the heart of a servant.

Out of a servant's heart the single women are trying to give themselves fully to facilitate the vision of child training and hospitality of older women in the body. In return, they are learning what it takes to run a household, and thus are preparing to administrate their own homes and families one day.

For those who have never put themselves in the place of being a servant, the word has shallow meaning. But as these women began to see that serving another meant forgoing many of the pleasures and leisure of other singles, the word servanthood began to disclose its true significance.

One good example was during a recent women's gathering. During the lunch break, all of the women were scheduled to go out to a restaurant. Brenda Henderson, who hosted the gathering at her home was not going to be able to go. Debbie McManis, who is serving Brenda, offered to skip the lunch, and stay home to watch Brenda's kids. Also, while all the women were gone, Debbie washed all the dishes from the morning snacks and fed the kids.

What is significant about this is that Debbie anticipated a need of Brenda's. Without being asked, she put herself in Brenda's place and saw her need. That is the heart of a servant. Seeing the need of another person and meeting it without being asked and without desiring reward.

For some of the others involved in the serving, it has meant giving up something they would like to do, so someone else can do it. For some of the mothers, attending the Monday night Bible classes is a thing of the past. Most of the people you would want to watch your kids would also want to go to the classes. To hire someone from outside the church would be cost restrictive. But when the single women open their eyes and see the needs of the mothers, a servant's heart makes a way.

Laura Feeney, who has always enjoyed the classes when she could attend, chose to skip this semester's course to watch the Greer Children, so Gregg and Judy could go to the class together.

These are just a few examples of how these women are learning to lay their lives down for others. Many of the acts of service will never be noticed by others, but God is being glorified as He is being served by serving others.

Other women involved in the class are Dawn Hughes, Cheryl Eadens, Sandy Wieck, Theresa D'Auria, and Kyra Fossett. All of these are learning to serve other women and are becoming mighty in the Spirit as they do.

To find how you can get involved in serving, see Laura Feeney.

## NEEDED:

Theresa D'Auria is serving the Treen's in the same way that Laura is serving the Greer's ( see story above). However, she is in need of transportation to their house on Monday nights. If you could let her use your car (You might ride to class with someone), or give her a ride, please call her soon, at 277-0915.

## Emphasis

## I am not a charismatic pastor; this is not a charismatic church

I am not a Charismatic pastor and this is not a Charismatic Church.

When I think of the word "charismatic" I think of an individual or church that is caught up in the so called gifts of the Spirit. Usually these people put a premium on speaking in tongues and prophesying with an occasional leg lengthening or two.

A service in a charismatic church (as I am defining it) usually involves the singing of some cute songs with some exciting yelling and hand clapping. If there is not a prophecy, the people will generally be let down and feel that God didn't move. If a prophecy is given, it is some variation of the "The Lord would say that I love you and have wonderful plans for you. I know your desires and am moving on your behalf to bring them to pass. I am among you and want to bless you."

The teaching is often entertaining and full of "new revelation". Each week is a new and exciting subject calculated to keep the energy level up.

That is not what I am all about. That is not what this church is all about.

We believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and that He died to redeem men back to the Father. We believe that those who are truly saved are delivered from a life of selfishness and begin to live their lives for others.

We also believe in the present reality of the Kingdom of God. By the Kingdom of God, we simply mean the people who are following Jesus as Lord over their life, and the subsequent community known as the church.

The Kingdom is also typified by a mutual laying down of lives for one another. The death of the cross is worked into the functioning of those who are called by His Name. Peace is not achieved by changing everything to coincide with our own wants. Peace is achieved by yielding to the purposes of God.

We do believe in the Holy Spirit and the present day manifestations of the Holy Spirit. But we do not see those gifts as a means to bless the carnal nature of man. We see them as tools of God to glorify His Son Jesus through the building up of the true body of Christ into the fullness of God.

The gifts were never intended to build individuals in their independence. Instead, they were meant to build people together in a common vision. The gifts were never meant to just bless people, although they do. The ultimate purpose of the Holy Spirit is to bring all people to Christ.

So, when someone asks if we are a charismatic church, I instinctively think they mean, "Are you guys big into the gifts?" My answer is no. We are big into Jesus and His purposes and glory in the earth.

We just happen to believe that the gifts of the Spirit, along with the Word, prayer, and other aspects of Christianity, play a part in establishing His Kingdom.

## Acts class is great

Anointed is a good word for the Acts class that about 20 members of LCF are attending in the Student Center on Mondays.

Gregg Greer says, "Looking how the early church lived together, has given me great hope for how we can live together and has shown me the price we are going to have to pay. Those that are not in the class are still going to feel the effects from those that are in the class."

## The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God the Father All-sovereign, maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible;

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, Begotten of the Father before all the ages, Light of Light, true God of true God, begotten not made, of one substance with the Father, through whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from the heavens, and was made flesh of the Holy spirit and the Virgin Mary, and became man, and was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate, and suffered and was buried, and rose again on the third day according to the Scriptures, and ascended into the heavens, and sits on the right hand of the Father, and comes again with glory to judge living and dead, of whose kingdom there shall be no end:

And in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and the Life-giver, that proceeds from the Father, who with Father and Son is worshipped together and glorified together, who spoke through the prophets:

In one holy catholic and apostolic church:

We acknowledge one baptism unto remission of sins. We look for a resurrection of the dead and the life of the age to come.

# What to learn through being alone

The purpose of this article is to view the way Jesus dealt with being alone and feelings of loneliness so that we can follow His example in our own lives.

Loneliness, the state of feeling alone or separated from others, is widespread in the world today. This feeling can come as a result of being physically separated from others, or feeling emotionally separated when in a group. Just about every single's conference devotes a session to this topic.

As in all Biblical teaching, we must relate this topic of loneliness to the life of Jesus. At the time of His walk in the earth He was the only Begotten. No one really understood Him or His purpose. At the end, He was betrayed by a friend and on the cross He even cried out that God Himself had forsaken Him.

The way Jesus dealt with the times He was alone can be a great example for us as we face the same circumstances. Jesus not only found Himself physically separated from people and alone at times, but He also found that no one understood Him even when they were with Him.

As we look at His life, we will see that being alone was an ever growing theme in the life of Jesus. However, He always capitalized on the opportunity rather than feeling lonely and sad for Himself. And ultimately, His separation from all life is what brought Him the greatest fellowship with all life.

Rather than dwell on how to overcome loneliness, we will see how Jesus capitalized on times when He was alone and used them to further the Kingdom.

## BEGINNING ALONE

"Then was Jesus led up of

the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the Devil" (Matthew 4:1). This scene takes place near the beginning of Jesus' public ministry. From this verse, we can see an important principle on being alone.

First of all, Jesus was led into the wilderness. The word wilderness actually means solitary, lonely, desolate, and uninhabited. Also, we can see that He was led by the Spirit of God. In other words, God led Jesus into a solitary, lonely, desolate, uninhabited place.

Normally, people look at the state of being alone as the results of circumstances. This can be true. However, it can also be God's sovereign leading to bring you apart to do a work in your life.

In the wilderness, Jesus had to face the devil as He was tempted with fleshly desires. First, Jesus was tempted to turn the stone into bread. Second, He was tempted to spectacularly cast Himself off the temple. Finally, He was tempted to worship Satan in order to have the whole world given unto Him. In these three temptations we can see our own wilderness experience or our own temptations when we find ourself alone.

First, when we are alone we can be tempted to fill our bellies with the nearest hamburger, pizza, or ice cream. If not that, some other natural desire becomes distorted such as sexual drive.

Next comes the possibility of seeking something that is spectacular to our eyes. We want to go by something to make us feel

better about ourselves and next week we wonder why we bought it. Or, we want some kind of "action". Christian concerts, more meetings, anything to keep us from being alone.

Finally, we could even bow to Satan in order to get the glory of the world, to become the center of attention. Our bowing to Satan is not in a literal sense. It comes through living life his way to be popular and accepted in the eyes of others.

It is amazing what can come into our mind when we are alone and the feelings of loneliness begin to take over. But when that happens, we must follow the example of Jesus and stand in faith that God is with us.

Jesus always remembered the words of His Father when Satan tempted Him to gratify Himself apart from God. In His time alone, Jesus never went against the Father's desire for Him.

A good example of God leading His own into a wilderness for the purpose of drawing them close to Him, is seen in Deuteronomy 8:2-3. "And thou shalt remember all the way which the Lord led thee these forty years in the wilderness to humble thee, and to prove thee, to know what was in thine heart whether thou would keep his commandments or not. And he humbled thee, and suffered thee to hunger and fed thee with manna which thou newest not, neither did thy fathers know, that he might make thee know that man doth live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of the Lord doeth

man live."

In the same way, we must walk through this beginning principle of loneliness. If we find ourselves in a lonely place, perhaps God has led us there to make us see whether we submit to the temptations of the flesh, or press into Him and walk in His word.

### SEEKING TO BE ALONE

All of the four gospel writers record different accounts of Jesus departing into either a desert, mountain or solitary place at varying times throughout His ministry. Mark 1:35-37 says, "And in the morning rising up a great while before day, he went out and departed into a solitary place, and there prayed. And Simon and they that were with him followed after him. And when they had found him, they said unto Him, all men seek for thee."

This period was not a time of rejection for Jesus. It was a time when everybody was looking for Him. Yet, in the midst of popularity, He chose to be alone in prayer. In the wilderness He had faced Satan and the temptations of His own flesh. However, the solitary place was also where He met with God.

Since Jesus had faced the lusts of His own flesh and had overcome them through the Word of God, He was now free to enjoy God in the place where no one else would bother Him. It is the same way with us. Until we choose God over our own lusts, we will never be able to be alone with Him.

As a result of fearing our own lusts and loneliness when we are alone, we can be driven to be around people all the time. We can be so quick to want to be together with people before we have been alone with the Father. We run to meet one another's needs before we have heard from God or what the true need is.

This is so unlike Jesus. In the account of Lazarus, John 11 says that Jesus tarried two days after He heard that Lazarus was sick. During this time He spent time in prayer seeking God's purpose in the matter. Most people would have been motivated by the need and would have rushed to be with this family, Mary, Martha, and Lazarus. But Jesus was not motivated by this need. So, He stayed and prayed. As a result He was chided by Martha and Mary that if He would have been with them, Lazarus would not have died.

However, as the account continues, we see that Jesus had been alone with the Father and had already talked to Him about raising Lazarus from the dead. Then He spoke, "Lazarus come forth," and Lazarus did.

### THE ULTIMATE IN BEING ALONE

The last few days in the life of Jesus is the classic example of being alone. It was during this week that almost all of His disciples left Him, Judas betrayed Him, two whole nations condemned Him, and He was separated from His Father.

It all began in the Garden of Gethsemane. It was there that His chosen disciples could not stay awake with Him as He faced His greatest need, and from there His disciples ran and later denied Him. It was there that He learned the greatest lesson in being alone. While in the garden, Jesus made the final choice to lay down His life for the rest of the world.

Earlier, He had been offered all of the kingdoms of the world by Satan. That offer still stood. He could rise up by force and not have to face the agony of the cross. However, the Father knew that force would not really deal with the whole problem of

loneliness in the world.

Here was Jesus, alone in a garden. The whole world would soon rise against Him because His life cried out against their selfishness. He was faced with saving His own life or laying it down for those who would take it. If there had been any other way to restore man to relationship with God and one another, Jesus would have chosen that way. However, since there was no other way, He said to the Father, "Thy will be done."

Then He submitted Himself, walked out of that last lonely garden, and gave His life to the world that it would no longer be segmented and lonely.

Just as Jesus gave Himself for others in a time of aloneness, we too are called to lay our lives down for others. One of the greatest keys to life is never looking inward trying to find someone to fill our loneliness. Through spending time alone with God and overcoming our own lusts, we can be brought to the place that we are not centered on ourselves.

Because Jesus centered on what would be good for the Father and good for others while He was alone in the garden, He was able to come out and serve others. We can do the same.

So, we can see progressive steps in making right choices when alone. First, we must choose to face our own lusts and overcome them by the word of God. Next, we must learn to spend time with God when we would have a tendency to feel lonely. Finally, in our times alone, we must be considering others, rather than our own needs.

If you have been experiencing loneliness, take time to seek God for how you might grow through it. Let Him make the right adjustments during your loneliness so that you will emerge as a man or woman who walks dead to the flesh, alive to God, and given to the lost and dying world.

## Servanthood causes growth in the church

"In those days when the number of disciples was increasing, the Grecian Jews among them complained against the Hebraic Jews because their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food." Acts 6:1

This verse is an excellent introduction to the development of the ministry of servanthood and evangelism during the formation of the church.

Back in Acts 2 and 4 we see the people selling all that they had and giving to the common cause. There was great excitement about this new move of God and the establishing of the Kingdom. However, by Acts 6 people were beginning to get second thoughts. Everybody was pitching in, but the question arose as to why it seemed like the widows of the Hellenistic Jews weren't getting their needs met. There had been ongoing hard feelings between the Hebraic Jews and the Hellenistic Jews. These old prejudices could have given rise to this dispute.

This is similar to the way murmuring begins in the modern church. A new church can form, or a new person can come to a church. It seems as though in this new beginning that God is all over the place. All can see the blessing and are willing to give to see something exciting happen.

Unfortunately, it doesn't take long for the newness to wear off and people begin to see that some are going to have to make real sacrifices. And, because the sacrifices are not always out of love and toward God, people will compare what they are giving to what others are giving. Inevitably, this will lead to feelings of being short changed.

One of two things can happen at this point. First, the situation can get out of hand and

those who feel like they are not getting their needs met can leave. This is not God's way.

The second scenario involves an opportunity for the murmurers to come to a place of real growth and involvement in the work with right attitudes.

This is what the apostles did in the situation: They said, "it would not be right for us to neglect the ministry of the word of God in order to wait on tables. Brothers, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will turn this responsibility over to them and will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word." Acts 6:2-4

The wisdom in this manner of dealing with the situation could only have been from God.

First, it let the people see that the Apostles had no vested interest in how the food was distributed. The people saw that the leaders were not trying to funnel the funds toward their own Hebrew widows.

Second, it gave the murmurers the opportunity to become servants. Anybody can complain about what is wrong and demand that it be changed to suit their needs. But only sincere hearts will take the responsibility to follow the advice of the leadership and lay down their own lives to bring the situation into line.

Also, it gave the apostles the opportunity to define what was significant in carrying on the business of the Kingdom.

The business of the kingdom is not like that of the world. A worldly businessman cannot properly carry on the affairs of the Kingdom.

The qualifications for waiting tables in the Kingdom are spelled out clearly: "known to be

full of the Spirit and wisdom."

In modern times, we tend to be so program oriented that we try to move people into places of service as quickly as possible in order to get the job done. Actually, this is counterproductive for both the Kingdom and the individual.

It is bad for the Kingdom because you have an individual shaping the daily functionings of the church, who is not spiritual. For example, if a pastor chooses a person to be his secretary because of typing skills and organizational ability alone, he may end up with a person who has a bad attitude. That bad attitude may answer every phone call and greet every visitor to the office very efficiently. Unfortunately, the efficiency will be joined with a bad attitude. People will view the daily workings of that aspect of the church with question.

Putting a novice in a place of service can cause two problems for the individual. Explicitly spelled out in the Bible is that a novice given the place service can quickly fall into pride (1 Timothy 3:6). In addition to that, it can cause that individual to believe that his ability is more important than his love and devotion to God.

So, shaping the ongoing activity of the body must be done from the perspective of the Kingdom. The only way to have that perspective is to be spiritual.

It is amazing what happened as more people started serving and the murmuring was dealt with. Verse seven says, "So the word of God spread. The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased rapidly, and a large number of priests became obedient to the faith."

**Fatherhood****A list for servant fathers**

1. A servant father is more concerned with how he "sees" than with how he "looks." In other words, my primary role is not to be the boss and just look good but to be a servant leader who enables and enhances my family to be their best.
2. A servant father does not say, "Get going," but instead he says, "Let's go."
3. A servant father listens as much as he speaks.
4. A servant father is not a "Mr. Fix It." Instead of solving all his kids' problems for them, he works with them to help them learn how to solve their own problems.
5. A servant father recognizes that his children are a gift from God.
6. The servant father realizes that weakness is the prerequisite of power. Throughout Scripture, God is seen using the weak and the foolish to accomplish His purposes. Our very power as servant fathers comes not from our own abilities but from God.
7. A servant father has a sense of humor.
8. A servant father can also be led. He is not interested in having his own way but in finding the best way.
9. A servant father is a man who prays.

(Adapted from: What Kids Need Most In A Dad, by Tim Hansel)

**Home School****State seeking regulations**

The state legislature is taking definite steps to introduce new laws governing Home Schooling. This is of special interest to this body since some of our parents home school their children.

Along with other churches in the city, we are promoting a Christian home school support group. On March 17 we will be meeting to discuss the possibilities of this legislation. Then, on March 25, representatives from our home school association will join with others from support groups across the state. From this second meeting a group will be chosen to meet with Kentucky senators and representatives. This group will express our desires to the Kentucky officials.

Most of us in LCF (the Treens are the pioneers in this area) are new to home schooling. It would be important for the body to be praying that we would see the issues clearly and be able to offer wisdom at the various meetings. Also, please pray for other home schoolers in the state who will be taking the lead in this matter.

**We are warmed**

I wanted to take a small space in this month's Brief to express Brenda's and my thanks for the space heaters the body purchased for our home. When we added the bedrooms upstairs, duct work was run for only one room. The other rooms were dependent on the laws of physics to warm them. The laws held true, and we stayed chili last winter. The space heaters are doing a great job for us and we are very "warmed" because of your generosity.

**Your address needed**

We are preparing to print the new directory. Here are the last names of those who have turned in completed information slips to be in the directory. If your name does not appear and you would like to be in the directory, Gregg Greer needs your completed slip by March 6. If you know of another person who should be in the directory, please call Gregg.

Greer, Eiden, Treen, Arnold, Bowles, Carr, Carter, D'Auria, Eadens, Feeney, Hammond, Hartley, Henderson, Hobdy, Hughes, John, Leitsch, LeMaster, Mazza, McGuire, McManis, Pascucci, Perry, Ross, Scales, Schwartz, Shutt, Starns, Taylor, Toth, Watts, Wieck, Williams, Winston, Yann.

**Need Flowers? Call "A Touch of Grace".**

*It used to be difficult for me to decide what the right arrangement would be for different occasions. I always want to do what is appropriate and what will bless others. It really made decisions a lot easier when Kyra started working at "A Touch of Grace". Now, I just call her and tell her the occasion and my budget. She makes a better decision than I could. It's nice to have a florist who's taste you can trust.*

Phone

(502) 875-3903

After hours in Lexington  
252-6903

*Reaching the nations*

## Establishing churches among the Aztecas, Totonacos, Masatecos, and Mixtecos

Sebastian Vasquez is giving oversight to churches among the Aztecas, Totonacos, and Masatecos in the nation of Mexico. Pedro Basilio is in his second year of establishing a similar work among the Mixtecos and Spanish speaking people in and near Ayutla. For Lexington Christian Fellowship, it is an honor to be a part of what they are doing, and to have them be a part of what we are doing.

These men spent some time in Lexington, along with their wives, near the beginning of February. While here, they updated us on their work in Mexico.

### SEBASTIAN VAZQUEZ

We met Sebastian through Dow Robinson. Dow and Sebastian worked together to translate the New Testament into the language of the Aztec people. After 25 years among the Aztecs, Dow returned to the United States to begin another phase of his ministry. Sebastian, having become a mature man of God after having walked with Dow, took over the work among his people.

Now, Sebastian is the overseer of 13 different pastors from three different Indian groups. Besides the four Azteca pastors, Sebastian works with four Totonaco pastors, and 5 pastors who are Masatecos.

In addition to overseeing the churches, Sebastian has 4,900 students from all over the nation of Mexico, enrolled in a correspondence school of the Bible. This takes much time to grade the papers, and he has some assistance.

Sebastian is a strong man of God, and is being used mightily of God. Remember his wife Lupe,

along with their children, Naomi, Ruth, and Obed as you pray for him and his work.

### PEDRO BASILIO

Pedro has been a friend of Lexington Christian Fellowship for some years now. We rejoice in his life and the work God is doing through him.

While with us, he gave us an update on the work in Ayutla. Things are moving well and they are getting established among the people. The church has several committed members and is growing one by one.

Also, we are exploring the possibilities of spending two weeks working with Pedro in Ayutla from around December 26,

1989-January 7, 1990.

Although we have had good ministry in Monterrey each year, we have not developed relationship with the folks there in the way we would like. Rather than make the Monterrey trip next year, we are anticipating spending this time in Ayutla.

The cost would be around \$650 per person. You can begin to pray about this trip and start saving if you plan to go. If you start in February, you can save \$60 each month, and be ready to go in December.

We will give a more thorough update on Pedro's work in the next Brief. Continue to pray for the Basilio's.

## Short Term Mission with Pedro Basilio Dec. 26 - Jan. 6 Ayutla and Tepango, Mexico

We are planning a short term building and evangelistic mission for the end of this year and the beginning of 1990.

Begin to plan now to be a part of it. For details, see the article on this page.