

Waiting on God

Volume II, Number 3

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Letter

Seeking more of Him

Dear Saints,

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

Several years ago, a truth came to my heart that drove me to seek Him as never before. That message, which simply stated was "WAIT", has been rekindled in my heart lately.

After I first learned to wait on God it brought me to a place in Him I had not known before. It was during that time the Lord spoke to me about His bride, knowing Him, and His desire that His family would walk in harmony. Since that time, I have seen the Lord work this truth into my life and the life of this body.

Now, as we sense the whole idea of waiting on God being rekindled, we are expecting a deeper understanding of Him and His ways. Unlike the last time when I learned to wait on God alone, there is a body now that is in the place to actively wait on God together.

As we are moving carefully into this time of waiting on God, I believe that we will be knit together in God and His direction for this body. I think that when God chooses to release us into a new phase of growth it will be clear to all in the Spirit. There will be a declaration and a hearty amen.

As we are waiting on God, I would like to give a few cautions:

1. Do not create false expectations. Just wait and see what the Lord will do.
2. Do not fabricate "moves" of God. He doesn't need us to make up anything to keep people interested. If people do not want to wait on God, let them go to the circus. We will not turn the church into a circus.
3. As we wait, it must be active. We must be zealously throwing ourselves into God.
4. Waiting is not being slothful. Waiting time is a preparation time.
5. Don't give God time limits. He generally goes just a little longer than the flesh can stand.
6. Remember that God abides in and with us. We are only waiting for more of Him.

Waiting with you,

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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.

Relating to the Opposite Sex

In his 10 hour video series, Dean Sherman gets to the root of society's problem--bad relationships. He centers in on the relationship between the sexes and gives practical, biblical guidelines for healing, and moving on to a purity in relating.

**This Series will be shown
on Mondays
from 7:00-9:00
Beginning
May 15**

for location call:
Leta at 299-0249

Summer housing needed

Beth has a friend who will be working at LAC this summer. If you would be interested in providing housing, call Beth at 252-6903. Beth would like her friend to be with Christians for support.

Relationships

LCF men are noticeably different

One of our great desires at LCF has been to promote good relationships between young men and women...emphasis on good. It has been a challenge to develop principles that would help young men and women of God relate properly.

Through our mistakes, God's Word and grace, and some help from Dean Sherman, we have found some principles that seem to be producing some real fruit.

One recent report brought great joy to my heart.

A couple of young women from a Bible school were acquainted with LCF. They had a week off and wanted to visit somewhere. They chose to be with us during that week. One of the reasons they shared for coming here was to get a break from the guys.

Now anyone with fair sight can see that we have plenty of young men around. What they were saying is that our young men know how to handle themselves and not fall all over the sisters. I've talked to more than one young lady that feels like the guys from her church are always "looking for a woman". I am thankful that we seem to be making some progress.

Another point of joy for me has been Jimmy's relationship with Laura. Several months ago, he shared with me that he was beginning a relationship with Laura and his goal was to be a good brother toward her. He has guarded his heart from over emotional involvement and has been a real strength in Laura's life. At the same time, Jimmy has maintained strong relationships with other men in serving together.

We are certainly not perfect in developing relationships, but we are growing. If you would be interested in seeing the videos on relationship, you can contact Jimmy at 276-1196. Also, be sure to read the articles on pages 4 and 5 of this Brief.

Sally Nicklow is growing at home

These are some excerpts from a letter from Sally Nicklow. The complete letter is on the book table at church.

"First, let me say tha the Lord has really changed my attitude toward my family. I came here wondering if I could do it- be a member of this family (I've never really been before), to really finding out how special each member of my family really is, and giving to them out of love and concern.

...I've found out that I'm too self-sufficient. I can't be everything, do everything, every time. I have in the past, and even with you all down in Lexington. (Sally goes on to explain how this happened.)

This brings me to you guys down in Lexington. I'm asking: "Please think about me, and act accordingly." I still need you all.

I apologize to those I'm close to who might've gotten the impression that I was glad to leave Lexington and their lives as well. That was just my self-sufficiency coming out. I love you all dearly. You have a special place in my heart...

Love, Sally

Relationships

Building by call not convenience

by Catherine John

Something to consider as we work on relationships is the "convenience factor." When we give time to relationships, it is easy to gravitate towards those that are around us naturally. For example, a Christian neighbor or co-worker may become an intimate friend because you spend time working together and because they know Christ. Those two factors make it easy to get close to another person. However, easy is not always best.

As you evaluate your relationships, consider the "convenience factor." A good question to ask yourself is, "Are my relationships at LCF as good or better than those relationships that develop solely from convenience?" When I looked at my relationships, I found that I would need to go out of my way to cultivate relationships that God had called me to. These were not necessarily convenient to my location or time but they were the ones God had designed for me.

God has handpicked us for LCF to create a certain blend of people. Surely there's a special purpose to each relationship He wants us to develop and nurture. We need to devote ourselves during this time to those folks to whom God has called us. We may truly miss an opportunity, if not careful, for the sake of convenience. God has given us to each other for our best. May I encourage everyone to be obedient and to enjoy all the relationships God has given you!

Friends for the Kingdom's sake

by Brenda Henderson

One day I was thinking about relationships and how they were suppose to function. My mind was drawn to consider the life of Paul.

Paul was one who had relationships. He had friendships in every city he visited. They were always sad to see him leave their city to go to another. He had an especially close friendship with Pricilla and Aquilla to name a couple.

But what was the purpose of these relationships? He certainly did not have friendship just to have friends or to kill time, or play around. He was a man who was dedicated to expanding and promoting the Kingdom of God. His friendships had that same purpose.

He was always working along with someone else building the kingdom. Those "fellow workers" were his friends.

I believe that was a key to the quality friendships that Paul had. So, I have decided to make that one of the guiding principles in developing my own friendships- friends with whom I can labor toward building the kingdom.

Don't Forget! Continue the journey

The last series of teachings we had was "The Journey". The Lord spoke deeply to folks as we went through that portion of scripture and we want to take the admonition of the writer of Deuteronomy and "REMEMBER".

In order to stir up what the Lord ministered into our lives during that time, we will be setting aside a particular Saturday for those interested to come together and refresh our memories of those teachings. Some may also have some added insights that have come since that time which will be shared.

As it looks now, we will come together on a Saturday morning and just have a time to recall those things that were most significant to us during the teaching. Then, individuals will be given the opportunity to add life giving truths that they have learned in relation to the teaching since it was given.

We will bring a sack lunch and eat together. After lunch, the diehards can go on and discuss the Word until late into the night if they wish. It would be nice if people could bring their Strong's and other references which might be used during this time of sharing together.

Rick Starns has volunteered to make the arrangements for us to come together. If you would be interested in a time like this, Please call him during this next week at his home (276-2347).

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

Men need to learn to relate to men

I asked Steve Humble if he had noticed that men have trouble relating to other men and tend to gravitate toward women. He said yes and wrote this short article to be passed on to you in the Pastor's Brief. Thanks Steve.

by Steve Humble

"As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another."

Pro 27:17

Iron sharpening iron is not a delicate image, is it? And yet that is the Scriptural picture of one benefit of relationship among men. This image of Godly manhood suggests that men are God's weapons of war and tools for building who need one another to keep their edge ready and effective.

Though many times Scripture uses the words "man" or "brother" in a generic, sexually inclusive sense, this Proverb is especially applicable to men. Men need men and need to learn to relate to men in brotherly and manly ways.

In modern American culture there is a strange phenomenon going on. Many men find it easier to relate with women than with other men. That does not seem strange to most of us, does it? However, throughout history the opposite was true. Look back within our own culture's history to the many church groups where

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women sat on one side of the building during services and men on the other. Or at Jewish culture where in the more conservative groups women and men are separated by a screen. While I am not recommending this type of segregation, I do raise the question of

whether our forbearers were simply old-fashioned or whether they had a wisdom about human nature that we have lost.

Stephen B. Clark, in his study *Man and Woman in Christ*, says "Man-woman companionship tends to increase with the development of technological society. This trend seems to be more apparent in socially unstructured Western society than in a more disciplined Communist society, but the observation is true in both cases. In particular, the trend is for men and women to pair off and spend a great deal of their leisure time with one individual of the opposite sex....One effect of this pattern seems to be the sexualization of personal relations....Rather than producing a special depth in relationship (other than, perhaps, a certain kind of affective depth), this sort of relationship produces a personal gratification focus in the lives and personal relationships of those for whom it is a primary form of relating. Those in such relationships tend to evaluate them primarily in terms of what they are getting out of them; consequently, the pairs they form will break up as the sexual-emotional affectivity departs. Rather than centering relationships around similarity of social role and task (as are relationships among men or among women) or around partnership in social task (as in the husband-wife relationship in scripture), the modern ideal of man-woman companionship centers relationships around mutuality of personal attraction. The effect is in good part not socially constructive. As discussed above (in the book), it

has the tendency to feminize males, to produce emotional dependency in females, and to weaken both sexes." pp.647-649

Marriage is a whole relationship involving oneness in spirit, in soul, and in body. "Intercourse" is more than a physical act. There is an intimacy that is never appropriate between the sexes outside of marriage and this intimacy involves more than the physical act of sexual intercourse. While we may not need to return to the segregation of our forbearers, we do need to rebuild some social and personal safeguards in our relationships as brothers and sisters.

As a pastor, I have come to identify several reasons that many

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brothers relate more easily with ladies than with men. One common reason is that some brothers never had a close relationship with their fathers or with older brothers. Rather than entering fully into the fellowship of shared roles and tasks with men, they stayed in more intimate communications with their mothers and sisters. This pattern then follows them into adulthood.

Another reason for men hanging around with women is to get emotional comfort. Iron sharpens

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iron. Men tend to be direct and even tough with one another. It is nicer to have sympathy than confrontation, but not as profitable.

A closely related reason is that some men tend to seek to meet their self esteem needs with acceptance from the ladies. This is an expression of insecurity.

A fourth reason, is for sexual pleasure. Rarely have I seen complete purity in close male-female relationships (outside of

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marriage). Almost always one or the other has a sexual attraction and quite often is self-deceived into thinking that the relationship is platonic. Even if it is, our standard for relationships is God-

liness, not platonism.

Bothers, we need to find our acceptance and self-esteem in the Lord. We need to love and accept one another as brothers in the Lord and give manly affirmation to one another along with exhortation and correction. We need to relate carefully to our sisters. (Study I It 5:1-2 and It 2:1-6) At the appropriate time and in the appropriate way, let each brother find his own wife and win her with pure motives and in all righteousness. ■

Paul's instruction

Treat younger women like sisters, in all purity

"[Treat] older women like mothers [and] younger women like sisters, in all purity." I Timothy 5:2

Paul obviously knew that establishing the Kingdom helped structure the way people related to each other. In this chapter of I Timothy, he is plainly stating the way a young man should relate to other members of the Christian community. Specifically, in verse two, Paul says that men should treat "younger women like sisters, in all purity." That is the topic of this article.

Since a lot of the relationships in Lexington Christian Fellowship involve young men relating to women, we have been quite outspoken in how we believe those kind of relationships should be structured. As a result, many have had fruitful experiences in relating (Unfortunately the result of our teaching does cause some to get upset, claiming that older Christians are only wanting to control their lives).

Our goal in teaching on the relationship between young men and women, is that they would have meaningful, pure, brother-

sister relationships. However, in order to bring people to this place, certain obstacles must be overcome.

Among the men, a considerable obstacle is the sexualization of their attitudes toward women. For many men, our society has thoroughly brainwashed them into sexual thought patterns toward most of the women they meet. Unfortunately, when those men become Christians their mind is not automatically renewed.

Our basic game plan in helping a young man come to the place that he can carry on pure relationships with the younger women is to ask him not to try to date any particular sister. Instead, we ask him to develop relationships with the brothers and allow them to know him and work with him in developing a pure mind.

Many say that it would be better to try to develop some close relationships with women and deal with any lustful thoughts as you go. Our experience has proven that this is similar to sending an alcoholic to the liquor store to buy matches. Don't expect to see your money or the matches.

As a man comes to the place that he can honestly say that he has pure motives in relating to the younger women, we encourage him to develop proper friendships with some of the women. We try to give boundaries to keep a young man from tripping back over into the wrong mindset.

Our general advice is to keep away from situations that would be misinterpreted as romantic. Also, we encourage them to keep the relationship public. That is, we ask that he not major on spending time alone with one particular sister. Developing relationships in group settings is advised.

For men who want to give themselves to building the Kingdom instead of a romance, this has been good advice. Some have found real healing and renewing in their minds. As a result, they are not continually plagued with fighting improper thoughts or desires toward women.

On the negative side, some do not see the need of a time of "drying out" their emotions by not getting into deep relationships

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Waiting on and becoming one with God

"And Samuel said to Saul, Thou hast done foolishly: thou hast not kept the commandment of the Lord thy God, which he commanded thee: for now would the Lord have established thy kingdom upon Israel for ever. But now thy kingdom shall not continue: the Lord hath sought him a man after his own heart, and the Lord hath commanded him to be captain over his people, because thou hast not kept that which the Lord commanded thee."

I Samuel 13:13-14

Saul and David

Earlier, Samuel had told Saul to wait for him and that he would return. However, Saul became anxious and offered up a burnt offering before Samuel's return. This anxious and unlawful sacrifice by one who was not a priest was the result of fear of the enemy, and fear of the people (See verses 8 and 12). Saul could not wait on God. He moved out in his own power.

Consequently, God found "a man after His own heart". That man was David.

"After"

That word "after" brings to light a quality that God wants in all of his men. According to the Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament, it literally means "to tarry, delay, or defer". When used as a verb, "It refers to situations of staying behind, delaying, waiting..."

God does not need folks who will run out ahead of Him and try to do His thing their way. He wants us to learn His ways by following Him. However, if we are

always motivated by fear, it would be easy for us to just try anything to relieve the situation.

David exhibited this heart to wait on God when the Philistines had gathered for the second time in the valley of Rephaim (II Samuel 5). Earlier, David had sought God when they gathered and God said go down and fight.

At this second gathering, David did not presumptuously go down and fight because he had won the first battle. He went back to God. This was fortunate for David, because God had a different plan for victory this time. David was to circle around and wait by the mulberry trees until he heard a wind moving in the tops of them. Then, he would be assured another victory. It worked.

The key here is that David did not move presumptuously the first time, and he didn't take God for granted as the second time rolled around.

I remember being tempted to "make something happen" in the church because I was afraid people would get bored.

A pastor's temptation is to try to make it seem like something is happening besides waiting. People don't like to wait and pastors like to keep people happy. I am sure I fell a few times in this area. Hopefully, I have matured enough not to try to make up anything to prove God is with us.

It is so much nicer to know that God is with us and be satisfied with more of Him. To wait for Him and then only follow His footsteps.

In daily life, we can become bored with ourselves and want some excitement. What we really need at that point is to get out of ourselves and get into God. Then, when we are engulfed in

Him, we will be thrust into the eternal purposes of God with God.

"Wait"

The word "wait" is used by David quite often in the Psalms he wrote. Psalm 37:9 says "...those that wait upon the Lord, they shall inherit the earth."

This word is more than just "hanging around". It is an active enmeshing with God. Literally translated, it means to twist together like the strands of a cord. This is the picture of how God wants us to wait for Him. We should become so much one with Him that when He moves we are pulled along with Him.

David also said of those that wait on God-- Let them not be ashamed (Ps. 25:3), that he waited on God all day (25:5), it can preserve you, He shall exhalt them to inherit the land (37:34), that God will be their defence (59:9), that he would wait only on God (62:5), and that He gives them their meat in due season (145:15).

Of course any commentary on the word wait would not be complete without mentioning Isa. 40:31 *"But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint."*

Waiting involves praying, being obedient to what you know, and seeking God through His word. When you are without direction, the best thing to do is to hurry up and wait. ■

The sabbath

A day filled with "meetings"

We don't meet on Sunday mornings. There are both pros and cons to not meeting twice on Sunday. I want to mention one of the positive factors in having only one meeting.

Generally speaking, meeting only once on Sunday gives the day more of a feeling of rest. Trying to pull together two public meetings in one day can make it hectic for all involved.

Some might say that it is a day to be set aside for the Lord and therefore you should have meetings all day. I agree. I just don't think they have to be public meetings. I aim at having three meetings every Sunday.

The first meeting is personal. I try to have a significant time of meeting with God each Sunday. Since I am to preach at the public meeting on that day, I often sit with the Father and consider what He would have me communicate. Since I have studied through the week, this is a good time for me to let the Lord, pull it together for me.

How wonderful it would be if everyone could schedule a meeting such as this on the Lord's day. How wonderful our public meeting would be if all who came had already met with the Father and were prepared to worship Him with the others who had gathered.

My second meeting I aim to have on Sundays is a meeting with my family. I always try to spend some restful time ministering to them by cooking breakfast or something else special. I try to communicate the Father's love to them in some distinctive way. We are working at keeping a special awareness of the Lord during our sabbath together. If anyone is interested in how we are trying to do that, I would be happy to share that with you.

Finally, at the end of our sabbath, I meet together with my church family. It is here that we corporately worship and sit at the feet of our Lord, Jesus Christ. We all come as ministers to one another. It is at this meeting that the Father speaks to us as a whole and gives us a corporate direction. What I learn from Him alone, adds to this meeting. What strength my family has gained through our time together is brought to this meeting.

Yes, I agree that this day should be filled with church meetings. I just keep in mind that I (as you are) am the church.

If you have not been able to arrive in good condition on Sunday nights, try this:

1. Begin your sabbath on Saturday night with family and/or friends. Eat a meal together and set the next 24 hours aside as a sabbath.
2. During the morning on Sunday, bless family and/or friends by just spending time together and talking about the Lord.
3. After lunch, set aside some time to prepare for the evening meeting and just be with the Lord.
4. Arrive early for the Sunday night meeting. You will have time to mesh in with what the Spirit is preparing for the evening.
5. After the meeting, spend time considering what the Lord has said to you during the day. You may want to do this with others at a restaurant, or in your home. Then, before you go to bed, you may want to just talk to Him about it.

If you try this for four weeks and you are not completely satisfied...try it four more weeks.

Let's pray Together!!!

Every church body needs a time that they come together for prayer. We began a few months ago praying every Thursday morning. As time went on, there were those who wanted to pray every morning. That was good for a season.

Now, it seems good to let people spend most of those early morning prayer times in personal prayer. So, we have returned to praying only one morning a week.

Prayer begins every Thursday morning at 6:00 a.m. at Jimmy's house. It lasts for one hour and is directed at intercession for ourselves as a church and the body of Christ in Lexington as a whole.

It would be worth your effort to be a part of our prayer time.

Learn to worship!!!

We will have a seminar on "personal worship", taught by Ben Ferrell, in May.

The Seminar will center on teaching the individual to worship God as a way of life.

The Schedule is as follows:

May 19- 7:30 p.m.

*May 20- 10:00-11:30 a.m.
12:30-2:00 p.m.*

May 21- 10:30 a.m. til finished

We will not have a service Sunday night, May 21!

*Reaching the nations***Missions are developing as our vision grows**

Most people do not realize that we were begun as a mission church. We were sent to a people who had no church. A new work had to be started. Those people could not support a pastor.

We had to be resourceful and persistent. We had to overcome cultural differences. We needed the grace of God in special measure.

And, by that grace which He surely did send, we are now a church. We are reaching the untouched peoples from the heathen culture of the University of Kentucky.

We are now looking to establish ourselves more in the community as we continue to keep our primary "missions" outreach

to the University of Kentucky.

However, as we continue to grow, we believe God will use us to reach other mission fields. One area that we believe God will use us in is the surrounding Universities. There are at least 100,000 college students within three hours of Lexington. As we become able financially, we hope to send missionaries to these other fields in need of God.

Also, God is laying the foundation for us to be involved in reaching out to Mexico, South Africa, recently England, and possibly China (We have contacts through Li Bei and his wife).

Our goal in sending missionaries is to birth them out of our own body and support them com-

pletely until they can be established indigenously. We are not really trying to support a lot of missionaries with a little. Instead, we want to support a few missionaries with a lot.

Also, we want to support men and women who have been birthed and sent from this body, or men that we have deep relationship with and can trust. This is in keeping with the basic Biblical pattern we have discovered in regards to basing ministry on relationship.

Right now, our growing mission concern is Pedro Basilio, in Southern Mexico. We are hoping to grow in our responsibility to him and his family (See article this page).

Building in Mexico with Pedro Basilio

On December 26, 1989, we hope to leave for Ayutla to spend some time with Pedro Basilio. While we are there, we hope to "build a church" building for Pedro while helping him "build the church proper".

In order to do that, we will need to raise about \$10,000.00. We are asking everyone to pray about how much money they would want to commit monthly until December. We will also be talking to some other churches about helping to finance the building.

You will get a card from your home fellowship pastor to fill out with 1. your name, 2. if and how much you plan to give, and 3. if you are planning on going on the trip.

Treating women

(continued from page 5)

with women. As a result, they are continually finding their emotions all stirred up and their thoughts directed away from establishing the Kingdom.

Proper relationship is so beautiful. As I continue to have my mind renewed, I appreciate the women of this fellowship more and more for who they are in Jesus. Unfortunately, those who do not work at having their minds renewed will miss out on the wonderful blessing of pure relationships.

If you have not understood the need for renewing your mind in this area it could be life changing for you to come to that understanding now. The best place to begin is to confess you fault to the Father. Next it would be good to be honest with other brothers who are growing in the same area. Then, spend time before God letting Him renew your mind and ask the brethren to pray with you. Most of all, be honest with yourself. ■