

Pastor's Brief

"Our daily bread"

Volume IV, Number 4

October 1991

Letter

Looking for a new season

Dear Friends,

Grace to you and peace from God our Father...really!

These last two months have been wonderful as far as church growth. Several new people are being knit into the body. The building is moving along nicely. Various people in the body are growing in ministry. Most of all, people seem to be getting to know God in deeper measures (the only sign of true church growth).

With everything falling into place so readily, it seems as though we are coming to the end of a season as a church and moving on to another. As the building is completed and people are in position for ministry we seem to have reached a new plateau of stability. I believe that from the last ten years of sowing seed, we are going to see an even greater harvest come into the church.

The more I think about it, the more I am amazed how God has raised up this church out of nothing. I think it would be good for us to have a time of thanksgiving and prayer to the Lord as we prepare for the next phase of the church. November 22-24, Friday-Saturday, we will be having a series of meetings to confirm what God has done and is doing in LCF. We will be inviting other pastor friends to come and be a part and expect this to be a special time.

Throughout the rest of the year, we will continue to emphasize letting the word and prayer become an integral part of your life. Be faithful to these channels of grace.

Pray about the coming medical mission to Ayutla and notice the announcement on page 2 about the special offering.

This is so much fun. Thank you Jesus.

Bless you,

Billy

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Pastor's Brief

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

Single briefs

Lexington Christian Fellowship began as a Bible study in a dorm room at the University of Kentucky.

We are now functioning as a complete local church serving people of all walks of life. However, we see the University as our primary missions outreach and are comitted to meeting the special needs of students and singles.

Pray for:

The University outreach

We have met many new students this year and have many opportunities for ministry. Pray especially for:

-The women's Bible study in Donovan. Brenda is teaching the study.

-The men's Bible study in Holmes. Jimmy and Curt are teaching this study.

-About 9,000 University Christian newspapers went out. Pray that they would continue to have an effect.

-Four families are getting involved with UCF: Henderson's, Schwartz', Pascucci's and Star-nes'.

Weekend retreat

-October 18-20

The Students

-We have a really wonderful group of students. Continue to pray that we will be faithful to equip and encourage them.

Early in the morning

Praying the day through beats just making it through the day

I had heard that Shayne was getting to work early to spend time with the Lord. I pecked on her door (she lives in the other side of the duplex) and asked her about it.

She said she had started doing it about a month ago when things were getting difficult at work. She goes early enough to spend at least 15 to 20 minutes "getting her mind on the Lord."

Here are some thoughts she shared with me:

"I am really not at the place of an hour of spiritual warfare every morning. I just spend time praying and maybe reading a portion of scripture. I used to feel condemned about not praying an hour every day, but that was just coming from legalism. Sometimes I'll have a whole half hour, other days its only 15-20 minutes.

"Now, after I get my mind set on the Lord in the morning, I can 'pray through the day' when things get difficult. I am still often physically and emotionally drained, but the spiritual strength carries me through."

"It is really nice to get to work and not have to jump right into carrying diapers around, vacuuming, and all the other activities of running the day care. I can just sit in peace and quiet and be with the Lord."

It is difficult to break into the habit of getting up early enough to spend time with the Lord in the morning. But if you think in terms of 15 to 20 minutes it seems manageable. Those few minutes can set the stage for the whole day.

It is a lot better to pray through the day than just make it through the day.

Just bein' together

Heading down to Tennessee

O.K., O.K.! Leta, so now we are finally going to Standing Stone for an official church retreat. Here's the details:

The singles will leave Friday, October 18, from the parking lot behind Jimmy's house. We will spend Friday and Saturday night at Standing Stone Park in Tennessee. We will return Sunday afternoon.

The park is on a lake with rowboats, room for softball, hiking, and tennis courts.

We have two large cabins reserved with fire places and room for about 30 or 35 people. You can also

camp if you want. The price for the weekend is \$26.00 and we will be car pooling.

There will be some teaching, but we want to make it a restful weekend together...emphasis on together.

Ryan Korosec mentioned that he especially enjoys retreats because he gets to spend time with people he usually doesn't have time for in the rush of daily routine. We want to facilitate that kind of time.

For details on how to sign up, call Ryan or Jimmy.

(Thanks Leta, for getting the reservations.)

Dealing with temptation

Avoid the flow, give yourself to God

About once every four or five months, I get to sit down and watch TV for an evening. I usually flip through the channels and look for something half decent and never find it.

My last futile attempt came last week. At the end of an hour, having only watched a little of three different shows I had learned:

1. Although babies can't talk, they can think in terms of sex and passion (I learned this from a show called "Baby Talk").

2. Middle aged and even old women can be "hot to trot" (A bit of wisdom gained from a show named "Golden Girls").

3. Very young teenagers can be explicitly "sexual animals" and learn from having sex at this young age (I didn't really learn this from one show, but a review of several shows dealing with teenagers).

4. I also learned that it is a common occurrence for a man to cheat on his wife with the good looking, rational, well groomed women he works with (I don't know the name of the show. I only saw four minutes in the middle).

In less than one hour I learned that sex is for babies to think about, teenagers to explore, adults to exploit, and old people to give one more shot at.

This is a far cry from when I grew up. Dick Van Dyke could not even share the same bed with his TV wife. They had twin beds.

My point from these shows is that sexual thought and activity is epidemic in our culture. With everything pointing to sex, it is especially hard for single people to deal with the issue. I want to help you.

First, you must realize that it is the spirit of our age. It is the flow of our culture that can capture you when you are least expecting it. It is more than an attitude, it is a spiritual force dragging you to the bottom of the river.

Realizing that it is the spirit of the age, you must see how serious the problem is. It is not a fad, it is a deep rooted fatal disease that is killing millions. It is highly contagious and is transmitted through casual contact.

I can think of at least three ways to combat it:

Number one, you can stay away from people and situations that stir up lust. Next, if you are going to be in "an infected environment", you can wear protective clothing. Finally, you can just stay in the house (The house of God).

Scripture teaches that we should not be deceived into thinking we can hang around people with bad morals and not be affected. I have counseled with more than one person who was led into sexual sin by someone they thought they were going to help.

The Psalmist said, "I will set no wicked thing before my eyes," while Job said, "I will not look upon a maiden to lust." People and things that arouse lust should not be flirted with.

As far as protective clothing, the Word of God can become our spiritual armor to protect us from the darts of the enemy as we are interacting with the world. David said, "Thy word have I hid in my heart that I might not sin against thee." Paul kept the word of God as the prevailing thought in donning spiritual armor.

If we must interact in situations that can be potentially dangerous, we must "keep our minds stayed on Jesus" and not even allow one thought to enter. The scripture says to "Gird up the loins of our mind."

The safest bet is to stay at home. By that I don't mean we never get out, but that we always be actively, "Building the house of God." If our motivation is explicitly to build the Kingdom of God, then our minds will be focused on turning every situation into the Kingdom.

For example, if a young man is having an interaction with a beautiful young woman that would tend to arouse him sexually, he must discipline his mind to question the purpose of his time with her. He must ask if it is truly for building the Kingdom of God, or is he flirting with danger.

If, in the integrity of his heart he sees it as serving the purpose of God, he should continue. If there is wavering in his heart he should do like an older pastor once told me... "run."

Joseph is a good example. When his time with Potiphar's wife became a temptation, he felt concern for his master's house and ran from the temptation. She kept his coat, but he got away.

Let's get real. Sexual temptation is all around us. As single men and women, we can be especially pressured in this area. We must give ourselves wholly to the house of God, run from temptation, and clothe ourselves with God's word when we must face the battle.

Do this and live.

Ayutla briefs

These two pages are set aside for news from the bretheren in Ayutla.

Pedro Basilio is giving oversight to three small churches in the mountains of Ayutla de los Libres.

He is a great blessing to Lexington Christian Fellowship in allowing us to be a part of God's work in Mexico.

Pray for:

Mexican missions

The next medical mission is being planned for December. Begin to pray that God would send the right personel, the finances, and divine appointments.

Pray for finances for Pedro's house as it nears completion.

Pray for the churches in Tepango and San Martin. They would like to build a building in the mountains.

Pray for the Bible Study in Ayutla.

Pray for other churches that are interested in the establishment of the Kingdom in Ayutla: Lexington Covenant Church, Cornerstone Church, Covenant Life in Kirksville, Faith Fellowship in Mt. Sterling, Dow Robinson, and Bob Hills.

Pray for Sebastian Vasquez.

Nicaragua

Bob and Myra Trolese, along with their family, are still serving in Managua.

The University of Kentucky

Remember Joe Howard as he works with international students at the university.

Pedro Basilio

Apartado Postal #14

Ayutla de los Libres, GRO.

CP 39200 Mexico

September 19, 1991

Dear Brethren,

I praise the Lord for our safe return to Ayutla. We didn't have problems on the trip.

Rosalba is excited for having been able to visit you. She said she did have a good time with you all. A few days ago we visited Moy and Juana and we saw the video about Rosalba. We love it. Basically, we want to say "Thank You" to the whole church for showing your love to Rosie when she was there. We also thank Brenda for her attention to Rosie. May God bless your hearts.

Gladys E. Ortiz gave me her new address: Ejido esquina Calle 3 Num. 59, Colonia Vista Alegre, Acapulco, Gro. Mexico. She wants to know if you did receive her post card. She wants to continue to write. I suggest you write a letter or post card to her.

There is a woman who gave her life to Jesus in Tepango. Her name is Francisca. She has several children and one son is about 18 yrs. old and works in Sonora state. He met the Lord there. When he visited his parents he encouraged them to follow the Lord. As a result, three Sundays ago she came to the Lord. We need to pray for her husband Obdulio.

I appreciate your prayers and support to the ministry. I reconfirm that the Lord joined us for the expansion of His Kingdom in this area.

I pray that the Lord will allow us to see you here by the end of December as you are planning.

Thank you again, brethren.

Yours in Christ,

Pedro Basilio

Special offering to complete the Basilio's house

We are hoping to complete the Basilio's house before the end of the year. About \$4,000 dollars is still needed to complete the project.

Several people have asked how they can give toward the project. Beginning in October, we will take up a special missions offering the second Sunday of each month. These offerings will go to complete the house.

If you are interested in being a part, come with your special offering on October 13.

Teaching

We have an obligation as the Bride of Christ

(This teaching is transcribed from the Sunday morning teaching Pedro gave while in Lexington.)

We are Christians. Do we have an obligation or not? Are we saved and that's it, or are there other things we must do?

This thing we are involved in is like a marriage. The man and woman are committed to each other. They know their obligations.

Single people know some about marriage, but they have not lived it out. So it is with us. We must live it out. In Jeremiah it says that we should be faithful to the Lord because we are "His wife."

People in the world are like single people who know about marriage but have not experienced the commitment. However, we are all married to the Lord and are learning what it means to be faithful and fulfill our obligations.

Here are some of the things we do as the "wife of God."

Number one, we need to abstain from the pagan customs of the world around us. In Numbers 20:1-3 it tells us we should have no other god and should not make any graven image.

One time, I was an idol worshipper. In my region it is different than here. They have idols that have been made with hands. They bring flowers and bow down to worship these idols.

In my wife's village, they found a large rock and for some reason they thought it was an idol. They took it and placed it in the middle of the Catholic church. They would come to this rock and bow down to worship it.

However, we must make a complete 180 degree turn from these idols. If they can be seen out of the corner of our eye, they will catch our

attention and draw us to them. Remember Luke said that no man should put his hand to the plow and turn back. Don't forget Lot's wife who looked back and turned to salt.

In America, it is a little different. Idolatry is not with graven images. Satan has another way of making an idol for us to worship. Here it is in our mind. Materialism, Sexuality, and lust for power are idols that Satan has put in our mind.

In the same way, we must make a 180 degree turn from these ideas. We cannot even see them out of the corner of our eye. We must turn our back on them totally.

Secondly, we must not only turn from these idols in our mind, but we must destroy these idols. Acts 18:18-19 tells us how the new believers in Ephesus brought all their past idols and burned them. In the same way, we must destroy these idols in our mind so that we will not return to them.

How do we destroy these idols? This question brings us to our third obligation. We must pray. We must

pray that God will remove the strongholds from our mind, and we must pray for others who are still caught in this idolatry.

Our fourth obligation can be seen in Moses' instruction to Joshua, "Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful." We must meditate and live the word of God. It will replace the idolatry of our mind.

Other responsibilities include not being connected with unbelievers (II Corinthians 6:14), serve the Lord with reverence (Hebrews 12:28), Serve the Lord with gratitude, serve God with obedience (I Peter 1:22), serve God with love (Matthew 22:37), serve him with joy (Psalm 100:2).

My brothers, we are called to serve the Lord as His wife. We must put the idolatry of this world behind us and give ourselves wholly and faithfully to Him.

Plan now to join the short term team to Ayutla, December 30 - January 8.

This team will have both an evangelistic group as well as a medical team. The medical team will be similar to the one earlier this year. The people involved with evangelism will be showing the movie, *Jesus*. They will also be passing out tracts and ministering in small meetings.

Cost: \$650

Registration Deadline: October 15

For more information: Laura Feeney at 278-8703

Our daily bread

Only eight words are used to ask God for physical needs in the prayer Jesus taught his disciples, *"Give us this day our daily bread."* The rest of the prayer has to do with the coming of the Kingdom and our conforming to that Kingdom. Asking for physical needs must not become the focus of our praying, but it must be a part. Jesus said, *"Seek the kingdom and what you need will be provided."* (Matthew 6:33 my paraphrase)

The context of the Kingdom

In this prayer, Jesus is revealing His ongoing heart toward the Father. He is sharing the issues He and the Father discuss. He is sharing the needs He feels as a man and what He is asking the Father for.

To discuss the impact of the petition for daily bread (daily bread means clothing, housing, food, and other provision), it must be seen in the context of the whole prayer. The tenor of the prayer is that of a man with a focused vision and desire. He has some view as to what God wants to do in the earth. He sees God bringing His rule to the earth and in the hearts of men. He sees God as Holy, and making His people holy (forgiven, forgiving, and not walking in temptation).

It is in the midst of this attitude toward life that Jesus deals with asking for physical provision. It is like a man going to war who trusts the officers to make provision for him.

It is amazing, but I very seldom think about

A man going to war trusts the officers to make provision for him.

personal financial needs. My prayers usually center around the furthering of the church and the lives of people I love. However, in my prayer for these things, there is an inherent trust that God will give provision to accomplish what I am asking for.

I probably adopted this attitude because of the

faithful and generous provision of my earthly parents.

The Christian is integral to what God is doing in the earth. God is well concerned with His people not only as a Father, but as a God who is making Himself known in the earth. Because of this, He is more than willing to bless His Own with physical blessing.

Our attitude toward finances should be further shaped by the greater context of this prayer as it appears in the Sermon on the Mount.

God already knows

"Your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask Him." (Matthew 6:8)

In this verse we realize that we are not enlightening God to our needs. He knows more than we do what we need. As we ask, we are acknowledging our dependency on Him.

One of the great heart breaks of parents is when their children do not recognize the labor of the parent to provide for the child. It is not that the parent should want a pat on the back. However, for a child to mature properly, he needs to acknowledge where provision comes from. Otherwise, he will not only complain about parents, but bosses, government, and church leaders as well.

A child who asks properly and gives thanks will stay tapped into the supply. As Christians, we must be as children tapped into our Father.

Don't worry, have faith

"Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed?...for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things." (Matthew 6:31,32)

"Take no thought." Don't worry about the provision. God is feeding the fowls and clothing the lilies. How much more shall He take care of you?

In verse 30 it calls those who fret about provision, *"ye of little faith."* We are not called to beg and plead and convince God. We are just called to acknowledge our dependency on Him for our provision

(Continued on next page)

and leave it with Him. If He is calling us to do something, it is up to Him to make provision. It is up to us to trust Him.

One day at a time

"Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof." (Matthew 6:34)

The sinful nature has two tendencies in regards to finances. On one hand it squanders money. On the other extreme, the sinful nature hoards and never gets enough because of fear of tomorrow.

The warning in this verse is to not get all worried about tomorrow's provision. Each day is governed by God and He sends provision. He can create a nation in a day or He can destroy a nation in a day.

Two things are learned in this verse. First, there are many evils that we must contend with today in establishing the kingdom. Secondly, we can count on God to take care of us daily.

As I prepare the Pastor's Brief, I set aside a certain amount of time during the week. If that time get's interrupted, I have to put it off for another week. There have been times I have had to skip a complete issue because of continual interruptions.

It is the same with establishing the Kingdom. When finances get tight, we can worry so much about tomorrow's money, that we don't use our time to fight today's battles. I know Christians who get so caught up in worrying about tomorrow that they don't have time to go out and get a job today.

The scripture is clear..."Do not worry about tomorrow's provision. The God of today is the God of tomorrow."

So, then, we must acknowledge our daily need to our Father and simply trust Him to meet not only the needs we know of, but those He knows better than us. This must be done in the context of a people who are establishing the Kingdom of God. We are not to worry, but face today with hope, faith, and an attitude assured of Victory...

He'll take care of the rest.

This year I am writing short articles reviewing last year's teaching on this "disciple's prayer". You can get copies of the tape series from Sandy. Also, you can come practice the material on Thursday mornings at 6:00, and Sundays at 4:00 at the building.

A prayer for daily bread

Lord God, our Father, we intensely desire for your Kingdom to come.

As we give ourselves to the establishing of your purposes in our lives and the earth, we depend on you daily to feed, clothe, and house us. You know better than we do what our needs are.

As parents we desire to care for our children's food, clothing, education, and other financial needs. We want to see the work in Mexico prosper.

You know the need there.

We want to be good stewards who are prepared for the future, so we ask you to give us today what we need to save for future projects in our homes and the church.

Father, we are not concerned about tomorrow. We believe you will care for us in that day as you do today.

As you call us to minister to more areas, we simply ask You to provide financing. We thank you for our present homes, cars, and furnishings, as well as food each day. We thank you for the church meeting place at 350, Elaine.

We are happy with what you have given us and believe that you will continue to give us what we need to be what you have called us to be.

Amen

II Samuel 7:18-29

This "prayer of David" was part of the reading for Children's Church this month. It caught my heart and has become the prayer for my family. Let it catch your heart, too!-BH

"Lord God, why have you made me so important to you? Why have you made my family important? But that was not enough for you, Lord God. You have also said these kind things about my future family. I am your servant. Lord God, this is not the usual way you talk to people.

"What more can I say to you? Lord God, you love me, your servant, so much! You have done this wonderful thing because you said you would. You have done it because you wanted to. And you have decided to let me know all these great things. This is why you are great, Lord God! There is no one like you. There is no god except you. We have heard all this ourselves! And there are no others like your people, the Israelites. They are the one nation on earth that God chose to be his people. You used them to make your name well-known. You did great and wonderful miracles for them. You went ahead of them and forced other nations and their gods out of the land. You freed your people from slavery in Egypt. You made the people of Israel your very own people forever. And, Lord you became their God.

"Now, Lord God, keep the promise you made about my family and me, your servant. Do what you have promised. Then you will be honored forever. And people will say, 'The Lord of heaven's armies is God over Israel!' And the family of your servant David will continue before you.

Lord of heaven's armies, The God of Israel, you have shown things to me. You have said, 'I will make your family great.' So I, your servant, am brave enough to pray to you. Lord God, you are God, and your words are true. And you have promised these good things to me, your servant. Please, bless my family. Let it continue before you forever. Lord God, you have said these wonderful things. With your blessing let my family be blessed forever."

Child training

Teaching our children early to share their faults and pray

I had called another young woman into my office to help in counseling with a "certain sister." I didn't necessarily expect my helper to take an active role, but my policy is to never counsel women alone.

The one in need of counsel had called me and set the appointment herself. As the situation unraveled, the problem was not complicated or hard to identify. This young woman had difficulty with obedience to her parents.

Although she knew it was wrong, she would often refuse to cooperate when asked to do things by her parents. I asked her to describe how the problem affected her. She said, "When I am disobedient, it's like there is a dam inside of me that holds back everything. It doesn't feel good."

The young lady sitting in consoled her, "I know. Sometimes you know you should just obey, but there is something in you that won't let you." A smile came across the "certain sister's" face.

It seemed to relieve her that someone else might struggle at times with the same temptation.

The counsel I came up with was nothing extraordinary. I simply suggested that she think of the areas that she was not obedient in and determine ahead of time to do it immediately when asked, although it would go against her initial instincts. I knew that obedience would produce joy afterwards.

She shared with me an area that was a trouble spot, and we agreed to meet again to see how it went.

I doubt this advice is going to be

quoted by Gary Smalley or Dr. Crabb as an example of insightfulness. However, there is something very unique about the scenario.

The "certain sister," was my good friend, Ruth John, age 7. The sister who sat in with us was my daughter, Keren, age 7.

My one lesson on obedience probably did not change Ruth much. But her parents encouraging her to call me provides a wealth of teaching for her at an early age.

First, it let her know that Bill and Catherine, her parents, do not think they are know it alls. It lets her see that they are aware that they need help at times in working out situations.

Second, it helped instill a sense in her of the church and elders and their care for the flock.

Third, it helped her be open about her needs with both authority and her friend. This is a key to overcoming faults that will carry her far if learned at an early age.

Fourth, and most important, Keren and Ruth prayed together about the situation and found strength in each other.

Although we as a church speak of openness and vulnerability, most of us are still adept at hiding what we don't want others to see.

Beginning early on to help our kids be honest with their faults, rather than lying, may spare them some of the grief we experience for living in the dark.

(Note: all counseling appointments are confidential. This article appears with permission from both Ruthie and Keren.)

CHRISTIAN MANHOOD

Men should know what to do

"And of the children of Issachar, which were men that had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do: "
I Chronicles 12:32

David had many mighty men who exhibited various traits of manhood. The sons of Issachar were men that understood their times and knew what they needed to do. The body of Christ needs such men today.

Understanding the times

In the Hebrew mind, time was not history repeating itself, but a moving ahead from where God had brought them to where He was taking them. To understand the times was to realize where they were and where they were going.

Foolish men have no idea where we are or where we are going. Here are some current ideas that men entertain as reality:

I am young and don't need to be tied down to a job, wife, or church.

The Soviet Union has fallen and revival is coming to America.

Jesus is coming back in 1988.

The economy is O.K.

The church is just fine.

The conservative trend in America is good for Christianity.

Peace! Peace!

On the other hand, a man of understanding realizes that the roots of humanism have eroded our government and made many branches hostile (in policy) to Christianity. The church has had no real affect on our society at large in the past 50 years. We are on the verge of a major recession. When you are a young man, it is the best time to give yourself to the church, a job, and a wife.

Knowing what to do

In another portion of scripture, II Samuel 23:9-10, we read, "...the men of

Israel retreated, but he (Eleazar) stood his ground and struck down the Philistines till his hand grew tired and froze to the sword. The Lord brought about a great victory that day. The troops returned to Eleazar, but only to strip the dead."

This man realized the situation and knew what to do. He grabbed his sword and stood in the middle of the field. Everybody else came back when the battle was over and took of the spoils. They could do that because one man knew what to do.

Men wander aimlessly today, not even realizing there is a battle raging. But God's champions realize there is a war and know what to do about it. They are grabbing a sword (the Bible) and walking out in the middle of the field of life and killing one Philistine at a time.

There is a vacuum of male leadership in America right now. What we as young men need to do is prepare ourselves to fill the vacuum. We prepare to fill that vacuum by going through the ranks. After building our own relationship with God through prayer and the word, we have a few basics to cover. First, we get a job and learn to do it as to the Lord. Second, we find our place in the church and give ourselves to it. Third, if we take a wife, we do so with a view toward serving her. When children come, we are a father to them.

The time is coming when society is going to cry out for moral leadership. The young man who understands the times is preparing himself to respond to that need. The foolish young man is playing around taking on as little responsibility as possible and will be of little use when we are called on to serve.

Our God answers prayer:

Below are the prayer requests from the last newsletter. Both Rob and Kyra have gained fabulous jobs, both babies were born without any complication, and UCF as well as our elementary and Jr. High students are doing great. God answers prayer.

Many times we offer up prayer to God but never stop to realize how faithfully He answers.

A good exercise in thanksgiving would be to read back through the prayer requests in early *Pastor's Brief's*. Each time you come across a prayer request that was answered you could stop and give thanks.

Last months requests:

-Be praying for Billy and Brent Henderson's family. Their grandfather died in the first week in July.

-Rob Scales ... accounting firms haven't been hiring ... Pray that the Lord leads Rob to a good place of employment!

-Kyra Fossett is looking for a job ... Pray that the Lord places her at the job He has for her.

...two women in LCF that are currently with child -- Kelley Henderson and Mary Jo Schwartz.

...Remember the children in our church who will be going back to school, and for the students who attend UCF.

This month pray for:

-Woodland Avenue Baptist Church and Ernie Sacra.

-Lexington Covenant Church and David Redish and John Meadows.

-The Winchester church with Steve Humble.

-Cornerstone Church and Kim Carroll.

-Faith Church and Paul Prather.

-Covenant Life Church and Steve Youngblood.

-Christian Fellowship of Columbia and the elders.

-Joe Anuso

-Paul Petrie

-Joe Tosini



Worship briefs

Jesus is our joy! Let us rejoice

"Rejoice in the Lord alway: and again I say, Rejoice." Philippians 4:4

In prison, Paul writes to the church at Philippi. No less than twenty times, he tells them to have joy or to rejoice. This is not some charismatic pastor sitting on a stage. This is a man in jail facing death.

This gives a different mindset for joy (according to Strong's, the word joy means "cheerfulness or calm delight", and comes from the word translated "rejoice", which means "be cheerful, calmly happy, or well off"). Joy on stage and joy in jail are two entirely different things.

It is not wrong to have joy when things are going well, but if that joy quickly leaves when things around us change, the object of our joy may be wrong.

The Apostle John wrote his first letter so, "that your joy may be full." Theological Dictionary of the New Testament tells us that this phrase of John's does not mean that joy has climaxed in our lives, but that the object which truly brings joy has finally come. That Object is Jesus.

It is like we could never find joy, but now the thing that really brings joy has come. Now joy is no longer based in outward things but in a Person. John basically said, "I'm writing you to tell you about Jesus and

that's all you need in order to have a sense of well being and happiness."

Jesus used the word joy or rejoice in connection with both harvest (John 4) and marriage (John 5). The sense that we have when pay day (harvest) comes, as well as the excitement we have at the marriage of a friend are natural examples of joy. It is a sense of "good" that brings happiness to our hearts.

That same 'pay day' or 'wedding day' attitude can always be ours as we look to Jesus. All of our needs are met in Him. All of the love we need is found in Him.

Paul wrote to the Corinthians, "No one has ever seen, no one has ever heard, no one has even imagined what great things God has prepared for those who love Him."

When things look great, Jesus is our joy. When things look bleak, Jesus is our joy. So, as long as our eyes are on Jesus, the Object which brings us joy, we can always rejoice.

And again I say, Rejoice!



Fellowship briefs

Some thoughts on ***** at LCF

by Gregg Greer

"Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." II Corinthians 9:7

For the last several years that I have been taking care of the books for the body, I have been really blessed by the number of folks who are "first fruits" givers. these people have determined to make the first check that they write after getting paid be their tithe or offering check to their local church, in this case, LCF. The folks who get paid weekly give weekly, the monthly or bi-weekly folks give monthly or bi-weekly like clockwork. and the people who can't wait to get their bonuses so they can give have shown me II Corinthians 9:7 in a new light. In case I have never said anything to you personally, your faithfulness and joy in giving has really blessed me and the rest of the body.

Have you ever wondered what happens to the money that ends up in that basket in the back of the room? 93% of the money that the church receives comes in the form of tithes, offerings, and designated gifts to Pedro in Mexico. The remainder is rents, retreat, or trip money.

That money in turn is invested in the following ways:

30% of all money spent this year has gone into Missions outreach; the majority of it to our brother, Pedro.

28.5% of our expense this year has been for rent of space to meet in (or to fix up the space to meet in). This % will come down as the building is finished.

23.4% of our money has paid the salary of our pastor or gone to other folks who have brought the Word of God to us.

9% of our expense this year has been for outreach to your friends or training materials and opportunities for people in the body.

Another 6.6% of our expense is used to provide housing for our pastor and his family.

The remaining 2.5% is used for communications (phone, postage), travel, or insurance.

Well, that is probably more than you ever wanted to know, but if anybody has any questions about how we make financial decisions or anything else about the finances in the body, I would be glad to talk to you.

***** is Money (something that Billy doesn't like to bring up)

As the fellowship grows, I realize that many people don't know the history of the church and it's fun to include everybody in on the stories. At the same time, as we grow, it's hard to keep up on current events. Here are some questions to test your knowledge in both areas. If you can't answer a question, ask the people involved. See if you can come up with answers to all of them.

Ancient History

What did we call the fellowship 15 years ago?
Where was Billy associate pastor for 3 1/2 years?
Where did Mary Jo find Ron?
Which KFC did Larry manage?
Where were Gregg and Judy married?
Did Jimmy ever work full time for the church?
How did we meet Pedro?
Who are the Fessler's?
Name eight buildings the fellowship has used for meetings.
What was the name of Bill's Golden Retriever?

Current Events

What did Mike and Kim Thomas name their daughter?
Who in the church lives near David Redish?
How many people in the church work at the same place?
What does Thomas' dad do for a living?
How many children are there in the church?
Which church kids play soccer?
What is Rick Starnes' hobby?
Who is in the quest program?
How old is our oldest member?
How many college sophomores do we have?

Steve Mazza is back in one of the classrooms sanding away, while I sit at my desk in the sanctuary. He and Barkley were here late last night sanding and priming so the crew could paint tonight. They didn't get it finished, so Steve wanted to come in today to make it happen.

Chad and Ryan were at the house last Saturday and my family was getting ready to spend the evening at the church. The kids were going to watch a video while I hung drywall. On the spur of the moment, Chad and Ryan volunteered to come help. By clean up time, several of the other students had arrived to pitch in.

A couple of weeks ago they were wanting to

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Fellowship briefs

put some drywall on a wall. The only problem was that the wall wasn't there yet. The next day, it mysteriously appeared. Dave had come and put it up the evening before.

It has been such a joy for me to see men say, "Hey, that wall needs to be painted, and I'm going to do it." This is the character quality the sons of Issachar had. They saw the situation and took care of it.

Many folks are pitching in as the building gets ready. These are only a few examples. The greatest blessing is that we'll never know who all did what, but that God will be served as a result of our labors.

This is fun!

Jake Henderson and Andrea Schwartz are the two youngest additions to the fellowship. Jake was born to Brent and Kelly Henderson. Andrea is the daughter of Ron and Mary Jo Schwartz.

Both babies are fine, with no complications.

Physical healing is always a need in every church. As we continue to grow in our understanding of how God heals, we want to keep the physical needs of this body in prayer.

As I sit and ponder healing, I am always blessed to remember how God supernaturally healed Catherine John from a "mass", discovered in X-rays (I especially remember how she was in the hospital and healed the very day BEFORE she went into surgery). I remember how God healed both Ryan

and Becca's ears when they were supposed to have tubes put in. I am reminded of my own injuries that God has faithfully healed.

At the same time, Jimmy comes to my mind. Every day I know that he is bound to a wheel chair. I think of Mrs. McGuire with Alzheimer's. I especially consider Sarah Olliges and Gregg, both who have heart disorders.

I don't despair over these conditions, I just hold them before God, asking Him for healing and understanding. I have always known that God wants physical healing to flow through this church. It is important that we keep our hearts tuned to Him in relation to ongoing physical needs and never put Him in a box.

As you pray, always remember the needs of the body, and ask God, with me, to help us grow in our understanding of healing.

Cornerstone Church rents our building on Sunday mornings. Kim Carrol, the pastor, participates in our medical teams to Ayutla and even runs his own team at a different time. When Pedro was in town, we joined our meeting with theirs and Pedro preached while I translated.

We are thankful for our relationship with Cornerstone and count them as true friends.

They organized as a church about a year ago and are slowly laying foundations and establishing themselves. Many of us remember when we "organized" as a church back in 1981. You can identify with the needs and situations that arise.

As we continue to build together in the city, let's remember these brethren as ourselves.

LCF LEXINGTON CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

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