

# "Lead us not into temptation"

Volume IV, Number 6

December 1991

*Letter*

## Help take care of details

Dear friends,

I once again want to begin this letter by saying, "Praise God for all that He is doing among us."

As we come to the close of 1991, it seems to have flown by so fast. Yet at the same time, this year has been full of ministry and God's presence.

I will be leaving with the team for Mexico shortly and I want to give some specific advice before I leave.

First, as all of our members know, we have recently dealt with an issue of sin in the body. It involved open confession and our commitment to pray for the situation. I am reminding you to pray for this situation and not talk about it.

Secondly, with the death of Sarah Olliges so recent, I am asking you to surround the family members with your love and prayers (see article, page 5).

Third, when I am gone, my greatest responsibility that I leave behind is the care of my family and church. One of my most important functions in the body as a pastor is to know how everyone is doing and respond accordingly.

I am asking you to be especially sensitive to the needs around you. Not just your friends, but that person who has only been to meetings one or two times. Please open your eyes and hearts to help the home fellowship leaders care for the flock!

In the same way, those of you who are personal friends with Brenda, please support her and the children while I am gone.

Fourthly, as we move ahead, we need you to let God capture your heart with your part of the vision.

Finally, I want to encourage you to celebrate Jesus. He is our Lord, He has come to us, He has died for us, He has risen and sits in intercession for us. When the world would try to celebrate Christmas without any knowledge of Christ, we of all people should continue to cry out Glory to God in the highest and on earth, peace to men of good will.

Seeing the world's futile attempt at holiday cheer spurs me on to declare Emmanuel, God with us.

As He has given His life for the world, let us do the same... practically, daily, thoroughly.

Let us celebrate Jesus together,  
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:

As the holiday season comes, it is an opportunity for many people to visit with family.

For Students, it is a time to leave Lexington and the dorm. It is a time to go back to the place where they grew up or where their parents now live.

Please pray for all of our singles as they spend this time away from the body.

Pray that they will be able to represent the Kingdom through serving and caring for their families in a deeper way.

Also pray for safe travel and return.

Also pray that each single person will have a sense of family this season. For those with no parents, let's especially pray that God would give them deeper relationships.

Read the article on the facing page (Passing the Torch), and pray that God's purposes would continue.

## I JOHN FULL OF JOY

"One of the things I've picked up from the messages is from I John 1:9, which says, 'If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.'"

That scripture has been really good for me. If I find that I have sinned, and have separated myself from God in some way, I get before Him and confess what I've done. He will cleanse me of that sin. -- Ryan Korosec

Ryan was commenting on the study of I John the UCF has just finished.

The study, which covered I John in about 10 lessons, centered on the reasons John gave for writing the book, as well as three key words.

The reasons found in the text for it's writing are:

1. That you might have fellowship (1:3)
2. That your joy may be full (1:4)
3. That ye sin not (2:1)
4. That you might believe and know you have eternal life (5:13)

The three key words we noted were:

1. Know
2. Love
3. Fellowship

We noted from the beginning that this book was written to dispel the gnostic lie that you could live a spiritual life on one level, while continuing to live a life of sin on another.

Joshua Huffman said, "I think it was really neat [to hear] that John wrote the epistle, 'that you may not

sin.'" If you are a Christian, then God is in you and you are dead to sin."

Between Josh and Ryan's statements we can see the balance of John's first epistle. John wrote that they wouldn't sin, but gave remedy if they did.

Josh continued his recollection of what had been taught in the class, "Being dead to sin, we have nothing to live for, except God Himself. Obedience is a sign of knowing God and being gonia of His. The scripture says, '...whoever keeps His word, in him the love of God has truly been perfected. By this we know that we are in Him.'"

Ryan also remembered the verse, "No one who is born of God practices sin, because His seed abides in him; and he cannot sin, because he is born of God." (I John 3:9)

## Fellowship

The class emphasized that this freedom from sin was not in self effort but a knowing and fellowshiping with God. It is because God has birthed us into Himself and abides in us that a life can be lived without habitual sin.

As long as we walk in the light, according to the first chapter, we do not have to sin.

The class also pointed out that fellowship is not just talk. It actually means, "a joint participation or partnership." That is, we must be participating in the life of God in order to enjoy freedom from sin. Sin is the unloving thing.

One doctrinal breakthrough for many in the class was scent the connection between love and sin.

In the second chapter, John explains how the laws against sin were just a description of what true love would not do. He said, "The commandments are the same, but they are new in that we understand we keep them by simply loving each other."

## How Can We Love

The earth shattering truth in this book is that we can find love only in being loved.

If we are to live in the love that will keep us from sinning, we will not find that kind of love in our own lives.

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**The earth shattering truth in this book is that we can find love only in being loved.**

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The statement most people know from this book is, "...God is love." (4:8) It is only as we have God in our life that we can have love in our life.

John explains, "We did not know love. God came to us with His love. He pours His love into us. As long as we walk with Him in our lives we will love -- we will not sin."

"We love because he first loved us."

## Knowing

So it is in knowing God that we know love. The Gnostics were enamored with knowledge. Yet they

never really knew eternal life.

John says that, "If you truly believe (that is, put your reliance on God and God alone) you will KNOW that you have eternal life." Then, you will not only know that you have the life because you have it, but you will also see it produce something through you.

## Full of Joy

Jessica Scalf's comment brings us to the other reason that John wrote: "What stayed with me the most from this past class is that God is my joy. John even told his readers that he wrote the letter, '...so that your joy may be made complete.'" 1:4

Knowing God is our true joy. Our only way to that joy is through

Jesus. To keep walking in joy, I keep focused on God, and do not let things come between us. I think that's the whole teaching behind the entire letter that John wrote."

Summed up simply, "We can live lives free from habitual sin by walking in fellowship (participation) with God. That participation is first in being won by His love for us and having His seed of love planted in us. It continues as we let Him live through us. Putting our trust in Jesus (both God and man), shows us how much God loves us and convinces us that we have life.

And, as Jessica says, "...this gives a kind of peace and joy that the world can't."

## Campus outreach

# Passing the Torch

The torch for the University of Kentucky is once again being passed on to a group of worthy soldiers.

A small group of students gathered around the fire in the Henderson's living room to discuss the responsibility that would become theirs in a few months.

At present, two generations of college folks are running side by side for a while before the younger of the groups takes the torch to go ahead through the mid '90s.

Those at the meeting, Ryan K., Chad, Joshua, Rod, Thomas, Beth, Shannon and Jessica, shared their hearts and hopes for the next few years at the University.

This meeting was similar to one three and a half years ago when another group of singles gathered and covenanted to give themselves to reach out to the campus for three years. That group has faithfully given themselves to reach out and disciple those God has brought our way.

For the next semester these groups will run together bearing the torch of the Gospel. As the summer comes, the younger group will begin to pull ahead to take the torch and light the way for younger students who will enter the race.

In addition to those who were able to make the meeting, we have a number of other young singles God has knit into the group He is preparing to be salt at U.K.

We are grateful for those who are finishing their commitment. We are hopeful for those who are beginning.

It is marvelous how God has preserved a beachhead on the campus to keep the light burning. Let us be faithful to pray for those who are being prepared to reach this generation.

# Ayutla briefs

*This page is set aside for news from the bretheren in Ayutla (as well as other mission news).*

*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:

The major thrust of prayer for this month in Autla is the medical teams.

You can pray:

- for health
- safe travel
- ministry of the gospel
- wisdom in medicine
- divine appointments

-You should especially pray for team members you know personally.

-Pray for Dow's time with Pedro.

-Also, read the article on Russia and keep this country in your prayers.

## Dow Robinson to accompany December 31 medical mission

Dow Robinson, the Missionary Statesman who serves in advising our work with Pedro has arranged to accompany us on our December 31 trip.

Brother Dow spoke to our mission minded folks during our celebration of thanks. We had approached him earlier about going, and found out on this weekend that he could make the trip.

This former translator with Wycliffe is especially concerned with training indigenous leaders. He plans to spend time this trip appraising the situation in regard to church expansion and leadership development.

His presence on the trip will also provide the opportunity for the team to be deepened in their understanding of cross cultural missions.

The team will also be carrying down the latest copy of the Mixtec scriptures which are still being translated by Bob Hills.

We are blessed to be able to see how the medical missions are working in conjunction with establishing the local church. Dow Robinson, the Missionary Statesman who serves in advising our work with Pedro has recently arranged to accompany us on our December 31 trip.

### Table talk

## Russians had hidden agenda

Russian Revival was part of a pastor's lunch conversation last week. Steve Humble shared some exciting insight he had gleaned from a brother who had been at the Kremlin near the time of the coup.

Among other things, Steve shared that the military in Russia was already greatly evangelized before the change in government. According to his source, several churches have been started in both Afghanistan and North Korea by the military.

It seems that many Russian soldiers shared the gospel while their country was inhabiting Afghanistan. The new believers there have taken over the work after the military exit.

North Korea, on the other hand, sent their troops to be trained in Russia. It seems the North Korean soldiers got trained to fight in more than one kind of army. Christianity is now being spread in their own country with their return.

(It seems as though communist governments are having a hard time finding a "good, wholesome, place" so send their boys. They seem to keep coming back polluted with this "Christianity stuff. Praise the Lord.)

In another development, Steve shared that there was a great number of believers gathering on the border of Iran, preparing to enter the country with the Gospel when the doors open.

Couple this with the fact that almost every major Christian group in America (including Campus Crusade, the Assemblies of God, Bill Gothard, Dr. Dobson, other major denominations and just about anybody who wants to go) is being petitioned by the Russian Government to come and spread their "News," and we are in for some exciting times.

# Hurting and hoping with our friends

Two days before we printed this month's issue of Pastor's Brief, we got news of the death of Sarah Olliges. Although we have had several people in the body lose family members, Sarah is the first person who is part of the body who has gone on to be with the Lord. We all sense personal loss and share in Joe, Lee, and their son's hurt. I thought it would be good to gather scriptures and give a few thoughts on death.

It is often difficult to know how to react when a close friend loses someone. Because of our own lack of familiarity with death, we don't know how to help others in their time of loss.

## Hurting with others

In the life of Jesus, we have recorded a situation that helps us know what to do. John 11:35 is the shortest verse in the Bible. It says, "Jesus wept."

The occasion of His weeping was encountering his friends, Mary and Martha, who had just lost their brother Lazarus. When He arrived they were all weeping and it says Jesus was, "deeply moved in spirit and troubled." Then He wept.

When we encounter our friends who have lost loved ones, we need to be sensitive to where they are. Romans 12:15 tells us that we are to rejoice with those that rejoice, and weep with those who weep. If we spend time with someone who is working through the death of a child or friend, we should be sensitive to where they are. We can feel their hurt with them.

Sure, we all know that death is victorious. But the truth is that for our own love's sake we hurt when someone dies.

## Ministering hope

After connecting with His friends through being deeply moved and weeping, Jesus carefully went on to share with them, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die."

Although Jesus was going on to raise Lazarus from the dead, Martha did not know it. Jesus wanted her to believe that he was the eternal resurrection. He wanted her to have hope, even in death.

Rejoicing in hope is the balance to hurting for a lost loved one. The scripture clearly states, "We are confident, I say, and would prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord." (1 Corinthians 5:8)

The apostle Paul was so sure of this that he said, "I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far, but it is more necessary for you that I remain in the body." (Philippians 1:23-24)

A quick study of death reveals that a Christian should look forward to departure with great hope. Some

In ministering this joy to those in grief, we must not impose it upon them but gently serve it to them. It is actually dependent on an individual as to how to mesh his hurt with hope.

In the beginning, the great hope breaks through the hurt at various points. In time, with God's grace, the hurt subsides and a person truly does see the death of a loved one as an investment on the other side.

When I was twelve years old, I lost my Grandmother Henderson. Since that time, I have carried a longing to see her "over there." Sometimes, when I'm out late at night, looking up at the stars, I think of the great cloud of witnesses and know she is among them. At other times, I know I am living out some of the prayers she prayed before she died.

This helps me realize I am part of an eternal Kingdom and extends beyond time and space.

Ultimately, the death of a loved one will pull us closer to God, make living for others more precious, and give life a whole new quality.

We should not feel like we have to have all the answers. The whys

***"But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."***

of the most crowning scripture is in 1 Corinthians 15:54-57 "...then the saying that is written will come true: 'Death has been swallowed up in victory. Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting? The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.'"

and why nots can never be answered. God is sovereign and no theology can contain the High and Lofty One who inhabits eternity.

However, we can hurt with those who hurt and share with them the Christian hope of eternal things. In this our lives, relationships, and service together will be greatly enriched.

# *“Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil...”*

We were not dragging a ten pointer, but in my mind my first deer hunting adventure was a success. I had learned a lot about the whole process and had enjoyed the company of my son, Matthew and my brother, Brent, as well as the trip to the area with David Redish and his son, Graham.

On the trek back to join David and Graham I headed in their direction only to be recalled by Brent, who has spent more time in the woods. He wanted to go a different direction. I accomodated, and to my surprise, ran into our traveling partners.

Somehow, as we had found our way into the woods by flashlight that morning, I had not had the right bearings. Believing Brent to have a better sense of this stuff, I thought it best to follow him.

This reminded me that, before Jesus can lead us, we must be willing to follow. To honestly pray the line of the prayer mentioned above, we must have a couple of things in our hearts.

First, we must want to be delivered from sin (get out of the woods). Secondly, we must believe that it is only God who can lead us out.

## **Desire for Deliverance**

Many people have mouthed the words, “*Lead us not into temptation,*” and ended up in the quagmire of not only temptatation, but actual sin itself. The initial blame is placed on God for not leading away from sin.

However, the problem is not that God will not lead. It is simply that we will not follow. Asking God to lead must have a desire to follow implied. Obviously, God does not lead people to sin. So our prayer is not that God would quit leading us to sin. It is, instead, a prayer that He would cause us to follow the lead He is already giving. The need is for a change in us. If we are prone to lust, lying or liscentiousness in any area it is because of our self leadership.

How then can we pray this prayer in sincerity? This is where an aspect of prayer other than speaking comes into play. It is the part of prayer that has to do with listenting and contemplation.

A man who asks a woman to marry him does not do so without a great amount of consideration. He

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## **Asking God to lead must have a desire to follow implied.**

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looks at his independence. He looks at what it will cost financially to care for a wife. He looks at how it will affect his future. He then contemplates the woman he is intent upon. In that process, something in his heart says, “All that would be lost cannot be compared to what will be gained through marriage to this woman.” And in true love, something says, “If all is lost for this woman, it is lost for a better cause.”

To come to this place takes more than just a day. It often takes weeks, months, and even years. It is not a simple statement made on the first date.

So it is with praying “*Lead us.*” These words should not come out of our mouth until we have done the listening part, the considering part, the contemplating part of prayer. It is in the presence of the Holy Spirit that we are challenged to look at our own life and say, “If all is lost for God, it is lost for a better cause.”

Two of the most piercing words Jesus ever spoke were, “*Follow me.*” These two words came to all of His disciples. The time Jesus spoke these words which is best remembered by many is when He spoke them to Matthew. In the middle of the day, Matthew responded by leaving one of the most profitable jobs

*(Continued on next page)*



in the city.

So it is with modern disciples, Jesus gives the call, "*Follow Me.*" That should make it obvious that we don't need to change God's desire to lead us. It only emphasizes that we are crying out to God to be strong in leading us because we know the evil that would ensnare us.

"*Lead me,*" is the Christian's response to Jesus' command, "*Follow Me.*"

### **Dependence on God**

In addition to wanting to be free from sin, we must also admit that we cannot do it ourselves. Crying out for God's leadership in our life is more than a promise on our part that we will try harder. It is acknowledging our need for Him. This is a key to the Christian's spirituality. Romans tells us in chapters seven and eight that a man cannot live free from evil by his own efforts.

The solution to the dilemma is also contained in these scriptures. Paul states, "*If we are led of the Spirit, we shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.*"

**Our Father which art in Heaven,  
hallowed be Thy Name,  
Thy kingdom come,  
Thy will be done  
on earth as it is in Heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread  
and forgive us our debts  
as we forgive our debtors.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For Thine is the kingdom, and the  
power, and the glory forever.  
Amen.**

When we decided to leave the woods, I could have been just as determined as ever to get out. But, because of my disorientation I would have only gone to a different part of the woods. On the other hand, as I trusted Brent to lead the way I only had to follow.

Sin is a deep woods with many confusing paths. The only way out is to trust in Jesus. That is why we do not trust our own promise to live free from sin. We trust His promise to free us from sin.

### **Direction and Purpose**

Finally, it would be good to mention that leading is not just away from sin. Leading has its positive side. It is being actively led in the purposes of God.

The person who wants to lay in bed and ask God to lead them away from sin, but is not willing to get up and actively serve the purposes of God is like the fool of Proverbs compared to a door on its hinges. They'll never get anywhere.

God has direction and purpose for every life. It is as we are on that road that we are kept free from temptation.

Phillipians paints the picture of a runner with eyes set intently on a mark. The Mark for a Christian is Jesus Christ. As we follow Him in daily life, as we see His purpose and make it ours, as we reach to see His life lived in our own, we do not waiver.

The "us" of "*lead us,*" reminds the Christian of the corporeity of our journey. We do not travel alone, but are concerned that "our people" make the trip safely as well as ourselves.

Just as we were reunited with David and Graham to continue the trek out, we, as believers, find ourselves joined on the same path as we follow the same Leader.

Back at the van, we had a shooting party, killed a robot (made from an old hoover we found in a junk pile), and jumped in for a warm ride home.

True desire, coupled with dependence, will release us into God's direction. God's direction brings us to the joyful experiences of life and assures us of "a pleasant ride home."

*This is the last article of the year and the last article on prayer. You can obtain a copy of the teaching tapes on this series from Sandy.*

## Great Things He Hath Done The weekend

God has done great things in establishing us as a church. Although we cannot reconstruct exactly where we came from, we can surely rejoice in where we are.

Both considering where God has brought us from and where He has us were themes of our weekend in November. These themes were to prepare us for what He is going to do.

### Prayer

For many, the greatest part was the preparation for the weekend. We fasted and prayed for three days prior to the weekend. We have not had a three day fast in a while. We are looking forward to more times of fasting.

### Sharing

For me, one of the most precious times was Friday night (See story on this page). It deepened our sense of family. We were blessed to have Kim Carroll and the Humble family with us for this evening.

### Teachings

Saturday morning, Dow and John joined to share with us on Missions. Kim and Steve Humble were at this meeting as well. John shared on our effort with Pedro while Dow ministered on the Kingdom.

Steve Humble shared Saturday night, on The Church, and Paul Prather was there to add some thoughts. Ernie shared on catching the vision Sunday night.

### Friends

Beyond the topics shared with us, just to have these men of God share their love by being with us was a great part of the weekend.

## Great Things He Hath Done!

# Sharing our lives together

A poster in the semblance of a block wall hangs on the bulletin board as you enter the building. Each block of the wall is designated for a year, beginning with 1974. You will see the names of LCF members on each block.

This poster is a holdover from the time in November we set aside to reflect on how God has knit us together and blessed us as a body. We spent three days of prayer and fasting leading up to the weekend and kicked the weekend off with a meal and everybody having a chance to share.

Billy is the only person left from the 1974 group. He shared how Kim Hay, Greg Telecsan, and he had begun with a Bible study in Haggin Hall.

Bill John and Brenda Raffensperger Henderson came along in 1975, the year Bill got saved. Brenda reflected on one of her earliest memories, "Billy was in the middle of a parking lot in his overalls jumping up and down. I went over and he said, 'I've been called to preach.'"

Our involvement with Calvary Assembly was interwoven with the sharing of the next few years. Larry shared about the 450 kids we got to the Vacation Bible School. Claude shared about the "slave labor mentality," toward using the college students. Several comments about the bus ministry (some of our most hilarious stories if you get old bus ministry people talking) came up.

Chris shared an aspect of the church many people didn't know about--our YWAM connection. We got to know Chris and Ron Schwartz

through our friendship with the Kentucky YWAM base around '78-80. Ron was a part of the leadership there and Chris had been involved with the base. Mary Jo eventually went to work with the base for a while.

Bill shared about Gregg's ear to ear grin when they prayed for Gregg to receive the Baptism in the Holy Spirit. Bill remembers Gregg saying, "This is the greatest day of my life."

Rob recalled his first opinion of the "wimp" who preached on campus with Jed sometimes. He also shared about coming to the Lord. Rob's year, 1981, was also the year our first baby was born in the church. Rob wanted the child to be named after him.

Describing the next few years, people shared about changed lives (Cheryl's and Elizabeth's), concerts we have had (Silverwind, Michael Card, Mike Warnke, etc.), the weekly publication of a periodical called The Kentucky Journal, and Bob's war stories about sharing with Jimmy as a partner in Glad Tidings School of Evangelism. Bob also mentioned the servanthood he saw in the body.

An interesting tid-bit was the only mention of numbers. When Bonita married Rob and was knit into the body in 1983, we only had 16 adults. She was also aware of how these people sincerely loved God.

'84-85 was a big year for athletes. Through an FCA connection we ended up with Joe, Lee, Curt, Kyra, Steve, and a few others. Kyra especially remembered how much



people gathered around her when she first came and how she has developed friends for life.

Sandy, also a collegiant athlete, shared how she became a Christian, lived with the Henderson's, and got knit in during these years. She also noted the way God used some of the sisters to pursue her during this time and how she was impressed with the commitment to relationships.

"We should be a people recklessly abandoned to the purposes of God," was the phrase in a letter from Elizabeth to Debbie McManis, which caught her attention. It wasn't long before she moved from Texas to be a part of those recklessly abandoned people.

Cathy shared how she got to meet us through preaching on the free speech area in 1986. Cathy added that she thought we were "different" when she first came to the meeting. She got past the difference and said she really saw the love among us.

Rick Starnes said, "I don't know how we got here...where are we?" He did regain consciousness to share how God had sovereignly led he and Trish to be here.

Moving toward more recent History, Brian shared how his relationship with Gregg had formed the bridge for him to move to Lexington to become a part of the church. This was a good year for Gregg. Not only did this old college friend come to be with him, but his first son, John showed up as well. Gregg shared what a blessing it was to have a son with "his same temperament."

Some of the most exciting times of growth began during these years. The next few blocks are filled with names of fabulous new members that God has added in. About a third of the adults in the church have been added between 1989 and '91.

Only a few people shared from these years since it was getting late. Kelly, in addition to sharing how much she felt like God had brought them to Lexington and appreciated the body, said her first impression was that, "This is kind of like a bunch of '60s hippies."

Chad, after roasting Billy, said that, "It's hard to believe how much I've changed." Chrissy shared how she came to move to Lexington, Joshua gave thanks to the Lord for Ryan's faithfulness as a friend.

Thomas represented his year, 1991 by saying he wasn't real impressed with the preacher, the people were wild, and that He knew this is where God wanted him to be. His favorite first impression was Curt pulling him aside, befriending him during the meeting, and then having him over after church. He also said he felt like he's been here all his life.

As we moved into this more current history we realized that somehow God takes new people and knits them into the fabric of the body and makes us all one. I was especially blessed to see how the love of God moving through the body has worked to reach the hearts of people who need a deeper relationship with God. We all saw how that our base of friendships is increasing to give us greater capacity to love and reach out to others whose lives need to be redeemed through Jesus Christ.

I can only close by saying,

**Great  
Things  
He  
Hath  
Done!**

### ***Great Things He Hath Done!***

As we moved through the weekend, the various emphasis of the Church kept appearing.

### **Underlying truth**

First of all, the underlying truths that ripple through all of our activity surfaced in every aspect as a guiding force. God's grace, our knowledge of His love, the development of relationships and true friendship, love of the brethren, brokenness, a sense of Fatherhood and family, as well as servanthood are all outworkings of the Life of Jesus. These truths have long guided our church and are manifest in our life together.

### **Truth Lived Out**

In addition to the familiar themes recurring, several aspects of the church's ministry were highlighted.

It was interesting to note that each speaker made reference to our work with Pedro.

The idea of campus outreach is where we find our roots. It was exciting, in looking back, to see that is also where we have found much fruit.

We have always desired relations with other churches. Not only were several churches represented during the weekend, but others promised to visit in the future.

The core of our church is Christians learning to live their lives out with Jesus. We are committed to being discipled by Him. When His life is manifest in us, then whether we are on the job, in class, at home, or in Mexico, what we are, because of Who He is, will bring the life of the Kingdom to that situation.

I am glad to be part of a church given to the Kingdom so we can give the Kingdom to the world.

### Pastor's Book Briefs

*I am recommending the following books in keeping with our continued emphasis on prayer (see article on page 11). Taking Our Cities for God is a primer on spiritual battle. However, before we can be solid intercessors, we must have our own lives disciplined by the character of God. That is why I am highly recommending The Spirit of the Disciplines, by Dallas Willard. These books are available in the back of the church.*

## TAKING OUR CITIES FOR GOD

*How to  
Break  
Spiritual  
Strongholds*

book because it maintains a view toward the greater body of Christ and maintains a balance of intercession with action.

This book is quite popular now. I heard Dawson's tape on the subject a couple of years ago. I'm finishing the book now and am greatly challenged and encouraged.

As the title suggests, this book is written to facilitate a church vision to take their city (Lexington) for the Kingdom of God. It presents the ministry of intercession as a key to the battle for our cities. It is not a political plan, but a plan that relies on God to move in the various strata of influence and communication in a city.

Dawson believes that God has special destinies and purpose for every city. He gives advice on how to determine the callings on a particular city.

He also believes that there are specific historical spiritual hindrances (demonic powers) that have cities bound. *Taking Our Cities for God* gives practical advice on how to identify and defeat those powers.

This book is not fiction. However, it is as exciting as Frank Perretti's books. The caution I would give as a pastor in this church is that the book does deal with subjective spiritual realities. It is easy for a person to begin discerning spiritual things and then act on them. Unfortunately, the discernment can be simply a product of imagination. Be sure to check you discernment with older Christians.

I encourage you to buy and read this book. It will motivate you to greater and more knowledgeable spiritual battle. I believe it will be a landmark book for LCF. As you get motivated, I also encourage you to allow your energies to be channeled by the vision of the church and specific directions announced from the leadership.

Some of the wierdest people I've ever met call themselves intercessors. For that reason, I highly recommend *Taking Our Cities For God* for a reason and with some caution.

The reason I recommend a book like this at present is our soon coming emphasis on intercession. I chose this specific

I am recommending *The Spirit of the Disciplines*, by Dallas Willard, for a specific reason.

Next year we will be moving our emphasis in prayer to intercession (see adjoining article). However, you cannot really be an intercessor without your own

disciplined lifestyle. Some people who "get off" on intercession get wierd due to their own lack of personal moderation.

*The Spirit of the Disciplines* is a manual for understanding how God works in our lives through spiritual disciplines. It is not so much a "how to" book, as it is a primer on the dynamics of true change in our lives.

Willard's basic premise is that we are in great need of a theology of transformation. He sees the trouble the church is having in areas of continence and relates it back to poor theology. In the first chapter he explains how American Christians have bought a view that believing the right things about Jesus is all that is needed for change.

While believing that Jesus is what is needed for change, Willard goes on in his second chapter, "Making Theology Practical," to share how Jesus wants to use disciplines in our lives to bring about a conformation to His nature.

He uses the next chapters to elaborate on how interacting with God through the disciplines works to conform us. He gives a clear presentation on how the process of sanctification occurs.

Through chapters 8-10, the author gives a broad list of what disciplines God uses. He gives enough information to help the reader see areas for discipline. The bibliography in the back has an extensive list which includes books that go into detail on specific disciplines.

Disciplines of Abstinence are listed in chapter 9 as: solitude, silence, fasting, frugality, chastity, secrecy and sacrifice. The authors list of Disciplines of Engagement are: study, worship, celebration, service, prayer, fellowship, confession and submission.

Willard is well read, causing this book not to be a pop writing on a hot topic. He draws from a wide scope of Christian greats in regard to theology and includes secular experts in terms of technique.

If you do not have a clear understanding of how God works to bring change in your life, or if you are not walking in specific disciplines, you must read this book!

## THE SPIRIT OF THE DISCIPLINES

# Fellowship briefs

**W**e had a good time of emphasizing prayer leading into our "Great Things He Hath Done" celebration. For many, the three days of prayer and fasting were more significant than the week-end itself.

Through that time of prayer, we realized that we need to continue emphasizing prayer in the body. You may have noticed the front letter on the Pastor's Brief last month indicating that we need to deepen our base of prayer.

As we move toward 1992, we will continue the prayer emphasis. (This will not displace our theme "The Year of the Arrow.")

We will be attending the "Intercessors For America" conference being sponsored by Covenant Church, February 15-16. Gary Bergel, the director of IFA, will be at the conference.

Leading up to that conference, we will be emphasizing spiritual warfare in our Sunday meetings.

Covenant will begin a 21 day "Daniel's Fast" on February 17. We will also participate in that time.

Maintain your prayer through the holidays and let's begin next year on our knees.

**T**he church now has office hours. From 9:00 to 1:00, Monday through Friday you can stop by the church or reach someone by phone. Billy is not necessarily in at these times, but Jana, the church secretary is there most of the time.

If you need to get a message to Billy, you can always leave it with Jana and he will get it by the next day. Also, if you need information on what's happening, phone numbers, or other general information, call the office during these hours and you can probably get what you need.

**B**illy is making his yearly call for the return of all borrowed books. Presently missing is *Eerdman's History of Christianity*, a book on hermeneutics, some biographies, a couple books on the Holy Spirit, some Watchman Nee volumes, a Spanish Dictionary, and who knows what else.

If you have one of these books, kindly return them.

He is also making his yearly confession for missed appointments, articles he hasn't returned, money he forgot he borrowed when he was out to lunch with you, and any other unkept word.

He has asked that you do the favor of reminding him of anything he has forgotten. He would like to keep his word.

"Let your yes, be yes, and your no, no."

**U**S News & World Report had an interesting front cover two weeks ago. It showed the mass exit from public schools, and gave alternatives. Among the alternatives was home schooling.

For many in our church, home schooling was the choice, when the verdict was still out as to whether it was a viable option. By God's grace, it was not only viable, but optimal for some situations.

The article in U.S. News is evidence that large numbers of Americans are seeing the need to provide something different for their children in the area of education. According to the article, there are now over 300,000 home schooled children in the United States.

The article also stated that these students do as well or better on national tests, when compared with publicly educated children. It also stated that many children schooled at home are independent and inquisitive learners.

Although the article acknowledged that the great majority of home schoolers are Christians, it failed to realize what we know: Christian parenting provides the best foundation for success, whether the children are home schooled children or those educated in the public school.

My guess is that if you took the 300,000 students who were in home schools and put them in public schools, they would still do better than the rest. The reason would be parental involvement. That's why I can have faith for our children who are in the public

(Continued on next page)

# Fellowship briefs

(Continued)

system. I know their parents are in it with them.

If you would like a copy of the article, we have some in the office. what we know: Christian parenting, whether to home schooled children, or those in the public school, provides the best foundation for success.

**A** few years ago, a large portion of the church attended the Bill Gothard Institute in Basic Youth Conflicts now the Institute in Basic Life Principles. It is returning to Lexington March 2-7.

The brochure offers:

- Overcoming Feelings of Inferiority
- Resolving Family Conflicts
- Conquering Destructive Habits
- Building Genuine Friendships
- Gaining Financial Freedom
- Recognizing the Right Life Partner
- Discovering Life Purpose
- Overcoming Fear and Worry
- Conquering Bitterness and Anger
- Establishing Marriage harmony
- Discovering God's Will
- Understanding Genuine Love

Check with Bill John for registration. It is \$10.00 less if you sign up early.

## Pray for:

### Personal:

- The Olliges and McGuire families.
- Catherine John and Trish Star nes are with child.
- Traveling families

### LCF

- Leadership
- Mexico
- Campus
- Students (Homeschool, public & private)

### Church focus:

- Prayer
- The year of the Arrow (Children)

### Friends:

- Woodland Baptist
- Lexington Covenant
- Covenant Life, Kirksville
- Cornerstone
- St. Louis (Eric Miller)
- Jesus is the Word (Indianapolis)
- Winchester Covenant Fellowship
- Faith Fellowship (Mt. Sterling)

Cathy,

Thanks for sticking with this issue of the Brief. -- BH

## LCF LEXINGTON CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

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