

Fellowship briefs

Steve Youngblood's sanity has long been questioned by members of Lexington Christian Fellowship. The verdict is in after his escapade with a herd of young people from Covenant life...He's gotta be crazy!

This fully grown adult actually chose to spend a week on the road with 30 teenagers from the church. He even drug his family and some other adults along.

After a performance in Joplin on Wednesday night, the crew showed up in Lexington around 11:00 p.m. on Thursday.

They had performances Friday, Saturday, and Sunday nights. They spent Monday at the Horse Park. They headed out Tuesday morning and made it back safe and sound that night.

Actually, being with this group of kids for a week would be a great opportunity for anyone. Being exposed to the church life at Covenant Life has produced a love and servant's spirit in them that really ministers when you are around.

They stayed at Mike and Pam Krejci's house during the week and, according to Pam, were no problem. Can you imagine 30 teenagers not being a problem?

These guys came at an opportune time for us. We are just beginning to plan for this age group and were able to see some good things in their lives. The play was great but the real thing (their lives together) was even better.

Steve is a great pastor.
Thanks for coming.

It's amazing! Not only is there one couple getting engaged, but two.

Doug and Shayne announced their wedding in church a few weeks ago.

Curt and Debbie are due to announce theirs around the time this issue comes out.

Doug and Shayne have set their wedding date for the first week of November. Curt and Debbie are waiting until June of next year.

One of the goals Doug mentioned for this period of time was that they would be able to not focus on a wedding as much as a marriage. They both say they want to learn to use their relationship to serve others.

Curt and Debbie want to spend this year learning to minister together before marriage.

Desire Only You

We approach your throne,
Contrite of heart,

Crying out to you in repentance.
Overwhelm us now in your holiness
reignite the flame within us.

Chorus:

We seek cleansing and forgiveness,
For our hearts they turn away.
Restore us to the place where we desire
only you, desire only you.

Fill our hearts, oh Lord
with your righteousness.
Renew in us the joy of salvation.
Overwhelm us now in your holiness.
Reignite the flame within us.

Thanks, Claude, for the work on this issue.--BH

LCF LEXINGTON CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

350 Elaine Drive
Lexington, KY 40504

Pastor's Brief

Volume V, Number 3

June/July '92

HEALING

Practice makes perfect

We are in the middle of learning about healing during our Sunday evening meetings. This article sums up the points we have covered so far.

Authority and power

Then Jesus came to them and said, All AUTHORITY in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.

Matthew 28:18-20 (NIV)

But ye shall receive POWER, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

Acts 1:8 (KJV)

When I saw the blue lights in my rear view mirror, I knew I should pull over. When I stepped out of the car and started walking back to the police car and saw a nickel-plated .45 pointed at my chest and heard 'Stop right there!' I once again knew what to do...stop right there!

When I had pulled over, it was out of submission to the authority represented by the blue lights and the officer's badge. When I stopped

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Pastor's Brief

The *Pastor's Brief* is published by Lexington Christian Fellowship primarily for the local church. We also send a few copies to friends in other places.

Winkie Pratney believes that the most dynamic things in the kingdom happen as people sit around and talk about the things of God. We believe the same.

Most articles that appear in the *Brief* are summations of conversations that have gone on in homes, at the office, and wherever friends gather.

Although I can no longer sit at the table and chat with everybody, this is one way to keep our hearts focused and united as we build our lives together.--BH

Pastor

Billy Henderson

Home Fellowship Leaders

Gregg Greer
Larry Williams
Jimmy Leitsch

Secretary

Jana Burton

Finances

Gregg Greer

Worship

Larry Williams

Bible School

Rick Starnes

Sunday School

Jimmy Leitsch
Kelly Henderson

Children's Church

Ron Schwartz

Letter

Love will lead to ministry; let's not forget our children.

Dear Friends,

Please join with me in receiving God's grace and peace for ourselves, our families, our church and city.

Over the last few weeks we have been talking about the church and how it should really function. We are using the house-to-house scripture from Acts 4 where it says they continued in:

- 1) The Apostle's doctrine.
- 2) Fellowship (jointly participating).
- 3) Prayer.
- 4) Breaking of bread house to house.

As we consider how we can be involved in the ministry of the church outside the building, we are asking God to teach us in these areas.

The area we have centered on for a while has been praying for one another. We have agreed to look for opportunities to pray for needs and give God the opportunity to show Himself strong. As a result, I have been getting all kinds of reports about answered prayer.

Healing, changing of hearts, opportunities to witness as well as other areas of need have been affected positively.

This issue of the *Pastor's Brief* recounts some of the teaching we have had on healing. After a couple more weeks of talking about prayer in the home and streets, we will be moving on to the other three areas mentioned in Acts.

Be a good disciple of the Word and practice what you are learning.

We are continuing to develop ministry for the children this summer. Be sure to see the schedule on page 8.

We continue to be blessed with visitors and opportunities to share the life of the Kingdom with new people. It is a fertile time for making disciples. Keep your heart open to opportunities to serve.

I am especially thankful for those who have taken on more responsibility in caring for others and ministering to the body. Jimmy and Ryan are doing a great job with UCF, Michelle has been fabulous at organizing activities for the kids this summer, Brenda is working on our co-operative classes for the fall, several people are working in the office and many are ministering in their homes and on the job.

We are blessed,
Billy

Fellowship briefs

We really miss folks during the summer while they are gone on vacation. It's kind of funny, but most of us can't wait to get back and see everybody. If you've wondered where some folks have been, here is a quick update on some summer vacations.

●The Schwartz family arrived at the campground on Lake Michigan last week, all prepared for their summer vacation. One flaw in the week was the fact that summer hadn't made it to the campground yet. The first night could have made ice if it had dropped three degrees (it was 35). The temperature never pushed the mercury past the 60 mark in the campground all week.

Of course Mary Jo had meticulously chosen and packed all the family's clothes for this SUMMER vacation. It was a good time for campfires.

They had a great time despite the weather.

The boys got to fish with their uncle on the lake and take a tour of a WWII submarine which has been docked and opened to the public.

●Brent Henderson left for a fishing trip in Canada with some of his fellow employees at Toyota. They dropped Kelly at an old friend's house in Indiana.

Those close to Brent are praying that he has a lot of good experiences on this trip. We are getting tired of hearing about last year's.

●Sandy Wieck survived the Green family reunion this year. She has been growing in Christian character and we understand the only prank she pulled was short sheeting-one bed. This is quite a growth from previous years when Sandy developed her reputation for being responsible for everything that went wrong.

●The Scales family just returned from Minnesota where they spent a couple weeks with Bonita's family. It has been two or three years since they have been able to go up. They are glad for the opportunity.

●The Hendersons are going down to surprise Billy's dad for his birthday at the beginning of July. They will also be camping the first week of July at Hillman's Ferry campground in Land Between the Lakes.

Billy and Brent spent weeks every summer camping there with the family while growing up. He is excited about taking his children down for the first time.

Eric and Janice Miller (from the church in St. Louis) were planning a camping trip for the same week and decided to meet the Hendersons at the campground.

Several more people are planning to wear themselves out on vacations this summer so they can get a good rest this fall. We will miss you while you're gone and wait for a good report on your return.

"O.K. boys, pay attention. Ya gotta wet the sponge, rub it down, then apply the Soft Scrub to the sponge and wipe it down again. After that, wash the sponge..."

I loved it. Here were Matt & Matt getting lessons on cleaning the church bathrooms. After we finished drying everything with paper towels to avoid water spots, I sent them to the ladies room to do the job in there.

The guys are getting to the age where they make real contributions to the body. At earlier ages it has taken more work to involve them in the work than what they contributed (which is still a good investment). However, as they begin with cleaning bathrooms and making them shine I'm seeing a whole new future for the church.

I've also noticed Cristen getting around to help some of the mother's with chores. I hear she spent a week helping at the John house, while Catherine was taking care of little Jeram.

I've heard all these stories about how difficult teenagers are. But if what I'm seeing is right, more than the bathrooms are going to shine.

Most of our children, save Sharon and Cristen, are pre-teen or younger. But as they are moving toward those teen years they hold a great hope for the Kingdom. This is getting fun!

Five children were publicly dedicated to the Lord in our June 28 gathering. After a teaching on giving your children to the Lord, the Shaw, Starns, and Henderson families dedicated children.

Gary and Agnes dedicated their first daughter while in the Philippines. Little Rosa was 24 days old Sunday night.

The Starns twins, Rhea and Cara (these are the correct spellings), are the first for Rick and Trish.

The Hendersons dedicated their youngest two, Stephen and Susanna.

After the second teaching on dedicating children, we will have several others to be dedicated.

Study helps

Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament

I would like to commend *Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament* to you. It is my favorite at this point for getting a better understanding of Old Testament words. I have found much insight by studying each word in a scripture using this book.

Theological Wordbook gives you the literal translation of the word as well as its development from Aramaic or Hebrew roots. The bulk of the entry for each word is a theological definition gained from comparing all the scriptures where the word appears.

The best way to introduce you is to give an example. Here is the beginning of the explanation for the word wait, from Isaiah 40 (They that wait upon the Lord...).

This root means to wait or to look for with eager expectation. It is used for the wicked who make an attempt to destroy the life of the righteous (Ps 56:6). Waiting with steadfast endurance is a great expression of faith. It means enduring patiently in confident hope that God will decisively act for the salvation of his people (Gen. 49:18). Waiting involves the very essence of a persons being, his soul (Ps. 130:5). Those who wait in true faith are renewed in strength so that they can continue to serve the Lord while looking for his saving work (Is. 40:31)...

Entry number 1994, page 791

If you are wanting a better understanding of O.T. words, this is the best companion to a Strongs you could get. The two-volume set is available through CBD for about \$35.00. It can also be ordered through the book table.□

Book Review

CHURCH WITHOUT WALLS

by JIM PETERSEN

MOVING BEYOND TRADITIONAL BOUNDARIES NAVPRESS

In the first chapter of the book, Jim Petersen lists six influences currently shaping America:

1. Our View of Truth is Becoming Increasingly Relativistic
2. Long-range Prospects of Scarcity and Downward Mobility
3. time Becomes a Most Precious Commodity
4. The Pursuit of Self-Fulfillment
5. The Redefining of the Family
6. Increase in Personally and Socially Destructive Behavior

After discussing these, he concludes the chapter with:

ENTER THE PEOPLE OF GOD

As we reflect upon these trends we come away with a picture of a nation in trouble, struggling with a potentially lethal mix of forces. This mix has already claimed millions of victims - people whose private worlds have been broken in one way or another. This society hurts.

Christians have dual citizenship, in God's Kingdom and in this nation in which we live. The inescapable question becomes, What is our responsibility here? The world is broken for us as well, and often coping with our own pain seems to be more than we can handle. Yet God calls on us to go beyond ourselves. He has purposely placed us in this world as salt, light and good seed. Jesus prayed to His Father, "As you have sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world." God's people are sent to cure, to enlighten, and to offer life. But how do we do that? To date, the solutions we have offered have been superficial and piecemeal.

We tend to lay our hands on whatever looks like it might help. For example, we have learned to utilize technology. The church has become skilled in media use, generating and moving information as deftly as anyone in the marketplace. This can be beneficial, but it has allowed us to slip into the notion that information dissemination is the ministry. If we can just get information out, we've done our job.

Another tendency is to think that additional personnel will be our solution. When confronted with a need, we tend to hire another pastor "to get something going in that area," and from then on it's his problem. We seem to think we can take care of any problem with personnel.

This book is about God's people in the world. It is an attempt to call us away from the pragmatism that says, "We're okay as long as our numbers are up." It is a call to take a serious look at a changing world that is suffering profound, agonizing needs. It is a call for us to make a break with the inertia of our past and to return to the Scriptures for a fresh look at what it says God's people should be and do in times like these. I submit these thoughts to you with the prayer that God will lead us together into a more complete understanding of His will in the matters under discussion, and then on into doing His work in His way.

The rest of the book gives great advice on where the church is headed.□

On The job

We can't afford a vacation

As a church we have been looking for opportunities to serve the people around us. Here is how the Lord opened a door for one of our single women.

Angela Banchieri started working for the Department for Social Services last June.

Imagine the worst case you can think of involving kids. Physical and sexual abuse, imprisoned father, second-time offenders. That is the case Angela ended up with a couple of days into the job.

Without giving names, let's say Angela put some time in and the kids ended up with their mother. You can imagine the state the kids are in; Kids so disturbed that their mother is always running them to therapists and special schools.

Angela saw the mother becoming fatigued from all the stress and wanted to help. She came up with a typical middle class idea of, "Why don't you take a vacation."

The mother said they didn't have the money for a vacation.

Angela suggested camping.

The mother said they didn't

old girls had ever been camping. They swam, roasted marshmallows, cooked over a fire, slept in a sleeping bag in a tent, collected firewood, fished, swam, boated, and otherwise enjoyed themselves.

This was not just their first camping trip. It was their first family trip together. They all had a ball.

During camp talk, the man said, "I don't think you'll be doing social work in 10 years, but I know you'll be successful. I bet it will have to do with kids."

Angela responded, "I know where I'll be. I'll be lugging around five or six kids. I want to be a mother."

The typical response came, "You can do more than just that."

Angela explained her view of loving God and living her life according to His purpose.

The man interrupted and told Angela that she was different from

"If you weren't different," he said, "we wouldn't be here camping with you."

have any camping gear.

Angela wouldn't give up and suggested going together and she would make all the arrangements. The mother was surprised that her government social worker would go on vacation with her.

In short, Mom, boyfriend and the kids loaded up and went to Burnside Island for the weekend.

Angela said (you guessed it), "It was really nifty."

This is the first time the 11-year-old-boy and the 6- and 8-year-

other people. "If you weren't different," he said, "we wouldn't be here camping with you."

Then Angela went on to explain what it was like growing up knowing God. The discussion moved to the children and the rough road they have ahead. There was some talk about getting them involved with Christian people.

There was no big push for decisions over the weekend, but a sharing of the gospel of Jesus in a practical way.□

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 committed to meeting the special needs of students and singles.

Pray for:

Our Career singles

Our Students

Summer

-Most of the students are looking for summer jobs.

-The students are also planning to spend the summer preparing for outreach in the fall.

-Several students will be spending the summer with their families.

Fall

-Many of you received a letter in the mail about the outreach in the fall. Please pray about your involvement.

Ayutla briefs



These two pages are set aside for news from the brethren 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:

People groups:

Tlapanec
Mixtec
Mestizo
Nauat (spelling)

Projects:

Medical missions
House
Truck
Church planting
Leadership development

The Basilio's:

Health
Protection
Wisdom
Friends

Mauro

Long distance

Not quite like being there

Mauro is doing well and has a stronger witness since the baptism. Most standing around the meeting room had trouble understanding exactly what Pedro Basilio was talking about.

This was the first time the church had received an international phone call during a service and some minor technicalities made it difficult to hear clearly. The difficulty was compounded by Pedro's thick Spanish accent.

On top of the technical problems, the cross-cultural situation made the communication that much more incomplete.

This group of a hundred Americans was standing around in an air conditioned carpeted meeting room. Pedro was speaking from David Morales' phone which was in the back of his hardware store, an open front building which butts up to the sidewalk that runs to the open market.

The "doing well and having a stronger witness," did not register with most of the Americans who heard the call. For them, doing well and having a stronger witness meant feeling great about serving God. Pedro was talking about something different.

Mauro is a Tlapanec Indian. He is one of the few believers from his tribe. As a result of becoming a Christian, he has been persecuted and ostracized by his neighbors. Last year, his crops did poorly and sabotage is a possibility since his neighbors crops on all sides did just fine.

For him to follow through with a public baptism meant that he was taking a thorough stand in identifying with Jesus Christ and

salvation through Him alone.

Doing well means that he is not backing off from sharing the gospel. It seems that God has put a special burden in Mauro's heart to share salvation through Jesus Christ.

With his Tlapanec language, he compliments Pedro's work in extending to the other major tribe in Ayutla de los Libres. It is not surprising that his persecution is similar to what Pedro has encountered since laying the foundation for the church in the area.

In these beginning stages, having a strong witness means being willing to risk crops, persecution, and even your life. These first brave believers are taking risks that we can hardly understand, 2,000 miles and a culture away.

In these beginning stages, having a strong witness means being willing to risk crops, persecution, and even your life.

Our challenges in serving God are just as real in the United States, but they are different. One of our greatest challenges is to realize the situation in the rest of the earth and become world Christians.

While others wrestle with hunger, physical danger, and the non-Christian majority, we must war self-centeredness and temptation to forget the rest of the world.

Contrary to the commercial, long distance is not just like being there. However, by keeping in touch, it helps us understand how to better serve our brothers in other parts of the world. □

THE KING'S TAPESTRY

"These muscles are the proof and that's the truth!" I was surprised to hear Matthew shouting. This is his most remembered line from The King's Tapestry, presented at the building a couple of weeks ago.

When I got up into the bedroom from whence came the shout about muscles, I found Stephen to have fully memorized the Jester's song. Keren was chanting Arman's rap.

After my complaint that they only remembered the characters songs from before conversion, they each

gave the repentant version as well.

The musical, for those of you who missed it, was a medieval cast of players who portrayed various character flaws. Through the evening, their encounters with one another and the King brought them to the place of surrendering full heart allegiance to the King.

The name, "The King's Tapestry," comes from an artist in the play named Arman, who is commissioned to create a tapestry depicting the King's subjects. Arman doesn't see much glory in weaving together a bunch of threads. But in the end, the tapestry representing the lives of the King's subjects' is His means of showing others the way.

As each citizen of the Kingdom becomes committed to the King, they join the blacksmith (one who had fought against the King in previous years but had found grace in His sight) in building the wall around the Kingdom.

A broad theme of the musical is, "As we discover our own character deficiencies and independence and then turn from them, we give ourselves more fully with others to the common goal of building the church and extending the Kingdom." □

"As we discover our own character deficiencies and independence and then turn from them, we give ourselves more fully with others to the common goal of building the church and extending the Kingdom."

Character studies
Questions for supper

In talking with the kids about The King's Tapestry, I found the favorite characters to be the Jester for both girls and boys. Sir Galalost was a hit with most of the boys (and some of the girls) while all of the girls liked either Lady Anna and/or her servant girl, Tuella.

Abbey Greer said she learned a lot from the play. Like her sister Becca, she learned to be joyful when she served like Tuella. Becca also learned to not be so concerned about herself.

David Toth (DT) learned a lot of things as well. One he mentioned was the importance the Jester plays.

In asking the kids about what they learned, it seems like there is a wealth of things that can be taught from the play.

Here are some questions to use around the supper table:

► What did each character represent?:

- Lady Anna
- Tuella (Lady Anna's servant)
- Sir Galalost
- Lancealittle
- Lancealot
- Arman
- The Blacksmith
- The Lord of Felon
- The Jester
- The King
- The other servant girl

► Which character are you most like?

► What does the wall represent?

► What does the tapestry represent?

► What did you learn from the play?

► What does it mean for you to build the wall?

1992

The Year of the Arrow

"Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord; and the fruit of the womb is his reward. As arrows are in the hand of a mighty man; so are children of the youth. Happy is the man that hath his quiver full of them: they shall not be ashamed, but they shall speak with the enemies in the gate."

Psalms 127:3-5

Lexington Christian Fellowship has set 1992 apart as a time to center on our children in developing patterns for training and education.

Our goals for the year are:

►To develop co-operative classes for training our children in practical areas such as music, art, writing, etc.

►Further develop our Bible training for youth.

►Reaffirm child training principles in the body.

►Help our children understand their place in the vision of the church and begin to do their part.

►Develop creative ways for teens to take part in body life and outreach.

►Provide families with the tools they need to build strong families.

Young people

Growing together this summer

Many of the children in the church are getting to the age that we need to begin training them in practical areas and developing healthy "working relationships" between them. Michelle has pulled together a team of volunteers to provide constructive times together for the children.

In the midst of all the tennis lessons, bike stuff, outreaches, cooking, hammering, and whatever else we do, we believe that God is beginning to form our young people into a working unit for the Kingdom's sake. In addition to developing skills and having fun, we want to build character as well.

July

8-TENNIS Ages 5+ 6-7 pm
Lee Olliges Ages 5- 7-8pm

UK Courts

13-CRAFTS 9:30-11:00 am

Beth Lozier- William's house

15-COOKING 9:30-11:00 am

Beth Lozier- William's house

15-TENNIS Same as 8th

17-COOKING Same as 15th

18-SEWING Boys 9-11 am

Ages 5+ Girls 11-1 pm

Angela's house

21-Pizza/Checker Tournament

W/Parents @ church 4:30-7:00pm

24-Bike Safety 3:00-4:00pm

25-Bike Maintenance 3:00-4:00pm

26-Bike Trip 8:00 -1:00pm

27-Drama Practice 9:00-10:00 am

Kyra @ Church

28-Make Gifts(Crafts) 3:00-4:30pm

Judy Greer

29-Drama Practice (Same as 27)

30-Gifts to Nursing Home

(Same as 28th with Judy)

31-Drama Practice (Same as above)

31-Young ladies tea 1:00pm

Brenda & Michelle @ Church

August

1-Fishing 9:00-5:00pm

Kent \$2.00 cost

3,5,7-Drama Practice 9:00-10:00

8-Woodworking 9:00-12:00 noon

10,12,14-Drama practice 9:00-10:00

16-Drama Presentation during church

*We are also planning a trip to a Red's game and a three day camping trip.

Happy Father's Day

Guess who's kids need help?

Here I am standing by the door after church on Father's Day, like a good pastor should. It had been a fine meeting and I didn't even need to get Brenda to affirm me after the teaching. God had visited us.

Gregg and Dave walked out from teaching the young people and I asked them how it went. "Good," came the reply, "but we need to work with some of the fathers.

It was obvious that some of the kids had not been studying at home."

Hope against hope, this great pastor and child trainer asked, "Who was it?"

Silence. Then came knowing looks from both Gregg and Dave.

Every excuse ran through my mind. The last three weeks had been a whirl-

wind of Mexico, singles' weekend, soccer tournaments, and six days with "The King's Tapestry." In addition to the projects, there was the ongoing phone calls during supper, ministering to drunks, and preparing for meetings.

But, I knew what was true. Teaching the Bible to my own children had been shoved aside over the past weeks as I allowed my job to root out my family. Something I had planned NOT to do.

In the end I was thankful for the checks we had set up through our children's church to make us fathers accountable to one another for training our kids. I was also thankful for Gregg and Dave being there for me when I needed it.

Thanks guys. □

May 1992 Medical Mission



Eight American Christians from three different churches joined with Pedro and local believers to run the fifth series of Medical clinics in villages surrounding Ayutla. (Middle of page)

The team visited seven villages and saw around 900 patients. Crowds gathered and waited most of the day at each village. The crowd at Coapinola, (upper right) brought eggs, rice, beans and other produce to express their thanks for the medical attention.

After the climb up the mountain to La Mesia for Sunday morning worship, Pedro performed the first Christian wedding among the believers (lower right). We also baptized seven believers, including Mauro (story on facing page).

Laura Feeney (above) made friends with one of the believer's babies while up on the mountain.

The next Medical Mission will be sponsored by Cornerstone. We will sponsor a team at the end of December.

For more information on trips, contact Laura Feeney.



Middle Picture:
Left to right (b)
Billy Henderson
Bill John
Doug Watts
Steve Schrom
Frank Norton
Left to right (f)
Jill Graffius
Pam Byron
Laura Feeney



Healing



"Why is everybody so loud?" Ryan Schwartz asked his parents.

The meeting in the student center was ending and everybody was gathered around the front singing a song. They had just prayed for several people and Ryan was one of them.

His parents, had taken him to the doctor and found the ear was so impacted that the ear drum wouldn't even vibrate. It had been going on for four or five months. According to the tests, Ryan could hear nothing with that ear.

Since Ryan was allergic to penicillin, they were spending \$40 or \$50 for every prescription they bought.

That night at church Ron, his father, and a few friends gathered around and asked God to heal Ryan.

As the people started singing, it seemed to be louder than normal to six-year-old Ryan.

Ron realized that God had touched Ryan's ears.

That night Ron whispered into the ear that had been infected while Ryan was laying with his good ear on a pillow. He heard it and turned over. When they went back to the doctor, it was entirely restored.

Although we don't know everything about healing, we do know that God heals. We are thankful when He does. □

(Continued from page 1)

in my steps, it was out of respect for (fear of) the power this officer had to make me drop if I didn't stop.

In this scenario I learned how authority and power work together. Authority is the right to do something, while power is the ability. One without the other is not very effective.

You might have the right to build a road, but if you don't have the power (ability) of a bulldozer or a lot of manual labor, it won't happen.

By the same token, you need the right to build the road by owning the land or having special rights to it.

Jesus understood the need for both Authority and Power when he sent his disciples into the world to establish his Kingdom. In the above scriptures we see Him sending them out in His authority with the power of the Holy Spirit.

In Mark's account of the commission Jesus gave to His disciples he quoted the Lord as saying, "You shall lay hands on the sick and they shall recover." This commission is under the authority of the King.

A simple study of scripture affirms that we, as ambassadors, have both the right and power to pray for the sick and see them healed.

Failure

According to our local sports expert, Steve Mazza, Babe Ruth struck out more than any other baseball player during his career. He also held the home run record at that same time.

One of the things that keeps people from stepping out and praying for the sick is fear of failure. However, we must learn that it is in trying and failing that we learn to do better.

A man had a demon-possessed son whom the disciples could not cure. After Jesus had cured him, the disciples asked, "Why could not we cast him out?"

Jesus replied, "Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible

unto you. Howbeit this kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting." Matt. 17:20-21.

These disciples had tried and failed. But they learned they needed more faith and "prayer and fasting."

Other things we may learn when our prayers are not answered as we expect are:

-We may be asking selfishly- James 4:3.

-God may have a different idea- II Cor. 12:8.

-We need to wait- Acts 1:4.

It is through practice that we begin to discern how God works in healing. There will always be unanswered questions. However, we can rest in the fact that God is hearing our prayers and training us through His responses to what we ask.

Dorcas resurrected

"Now there was at Joppa a certain disciple named Tabitha, which by interpretation is called Dorcas: this woman was full of good works and almsdeeds which she did."

"Your shall lay hands on the sick and they shall recover."

And it came to pass in those days, that she was sick, and died: whom when they had washed, they laid her in an upper chamber. And forasmuch as Lydda was nigh to Joppa, and the disciples had heard that Peter was there, they sent unto him two men, desiring him that he would not delay to come to them.

Then Peter arose and went with them. When he was come, they brought him into the upper chamber: and all the widows stood by him weeping, and showing the coats and garments which Dorcas made, while she was with them.

But Peter put them all forth, and kneeled down, and prayed; and turning him to the body said, Tabitha, arise. And she opened her eyes: and when she saw Peter, she sat up. And he gave her his hand, and lifted her up, and when he had (continued on the next page)

called the saints and widows, presented her alive.

And it was known throughout all Joppa; and many believed in the Lord." Acts 9:36-42

From this portion of scripture, we learn at least four principles of praying for others: 1) Just do it; 2) we can find God's will as we pray; 3) it works; and 4) people believe because of it.

Just do it

Peter arrived and the believers had everything prepared for the funeral. They had served and prepared as Christians should.

"BUT Peter...prayed." Peter was thankful for the invitation. He was glad to be with the brethren. However, he knew God wanted to do something and he needed to pray. So he did.

God's will revealed

Remember there are a lot of variables in God's will. He does not necessarily want to bring every person back from the dead right now.

But in prayer, Peter ascertained God's will. From that position of prayer he could say with confidence, "Tabitha arise."

Most of the major events recorded about the life of Jesus have times of prayer by the Lord recorded along with the events. Jesus followed the pattern of prayer about the situation before he made declarations.

It works

Dorcas sat up. When we pray in Jesus' name, He responds.

People believe

A net result from answered prayer is that people hear about it and believe.

Answered prayer goes beyond apologetics and good doctrine. It reveals the power and authority of God over areas that no mere man can control.

Philosophy can be argued. But when a true miracle takes place, it helps sincere seekers get beyond the philosophical questions.

Jesus answers our prayers

The doctors discovered that Gregg Greer had a Mitral Valve Prolapse when he was a child. The prognosis was that he would eventually need surgery.

A couple of years ago the aortic root in Gregg's heart began to dilate. The Doctor was concerned and ran

tests. It looked like it might be time to do a surgery. During the testing, Gregg, along with his family and friends began to pray.

It was decided that surgery was not needed at that time.

However, the enlarging continued. The root dilated from the normal 3.4 in 1988 to 4.6 in March of this year. The doctor had Gregg coming regularly for check ups to determine when the inevitable surgery would be needed.

In their regular prayer time together, Claude Hammond mentioned that he would like to specifically pray with Gregg about the situation. They began to bring it up regularly. Judy, as well as other friends, were continuing to pray.

When Gregg went in for a check-up in June, the doctor was amazed. The aortic root had gone back down to 3.8. The doctor had



been expecting it to be up to the 4.8 mark, which would indicate that it was time for surgery.

He asked Gregg what he had been doing.

I've been praying more, Gregg responded.

The doctor said to keep it up. He was amazed at the reversal. As a matter of fact, when he found Gregg may have to switch physicians because of an insurance change he said, "If your insurance changes, I would still like to see you. As a matter of fact, I'll see you for free. If you want to come in for an opinion, just call."

Gregg is not claiming to be an expert on healing prayer. We all know that we need to stand in the trenches with him. However, it is exciting to see both this victory for Gregg and the door it opened for him to share with his doctor. □

Once when a blind man was being theologically challenged because of his recent healing by Jesus, he responded, "All I know is that I was blind but now I see." Then the Bible records that he left his interrogators, went to find Jesus, and worshipped Him.

Miracles are effective in building of the Kingdom.

There is much to be said about healing. In this article we find that we have

been given both authority and power to pray for the sick in the name of Jesus.

If we take that commission seriously, we will step out and begin to practice what the Bible preaches. We do not have to worry about failure, but see it as part of our learning process.

As we take initiative and do it, we will see people touched by God in a way that both heals them and becomes a witness to others. □