

*Letter*

## Worshipping God with His way

Dear Saints,

I really do hope you are experiencing the grace of God that brings peace to your life.

In this month's Brief, there is an article on God's ways. We have set aside the next few weeks or months to concentrate on learning about worship. I would have thought to write a brief article on worship, but it seems that walking with God is a precursor to worship. I am reminded of the scripture which condemns worshipping God with your mouth when your heart is far from Him.

So, as we move toward becoming worshippers, we begin by letting our lives become a reasonable worship, as it says in the NIV.

In these weeks, I want to ask you to come especially prepared to worship the Lord when you come on Sunday nights. The best preparation for corporate worship is personal worship. If we can become worshippers through the week, then coming together for worship of the Almighty God will be a culmination rather than a beginning. And that culmination will be a great beginning for the coming week.

Another thing that would help in promoting worship would be punctuality. I know that Jesus did not run by a clock when He had His meetings. However, Americans are geared that way and it just helps out a lot if we can stick to schedule. Of course, there will be times when you have to be late. That is understood. But, as much as possible, try to be at the building a few minutes before the worship time begins.

As a matter of fact, intercession is held from 4:00-5:00 pm before the Sunday night meetings. That would be a great way to begin your worship time.

God is so worthy and I believe we can grow in giving Him the worship due His name. Some projects seem more productive to the world. But worship of the Holy God and His Son Jesus is a wellspring from which all service must originate.

Let's learn to worship God together!!!

Bless You,

Billy

**Don't Miss  
The Review of the  
Journey!!!**

See page 3 for details

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### *Pastor's Brief*

*This newsletter is published by Billy Henderson for members and friends of LCF. It is intended to clarify the vision of this church, as well as encourage and instruct.*

## Book Table

### Book Review

The *Subversion of Christianity*, by Jacques Ellul, was the book of the year for me in 1988. This treasure house was introduced to me through our good bretheren at Christian Fellowship in Colombia.

Not being intellectuals, we can sometimes feel that we are just reacting out of youthful dissension. This book helps us see beyond our own ideas and feelings. Ellul, showing a mastery of Theology, Sociology, and Philosophy from a historical perspective, as well as history itself, makes the case that much of what is called mainline Christianity today is no less than a subversion of the message of Jesus Christ.

This book is highly recommended by Bob Stricker.

Two of the best tools available on the book table for addressing contemporary issues of life are the *Called Out* and *People of Destiny* magazines.

### CALLED OUT

*Called Out* is published by City Hill Publishing, a ministry of Christian Fellowship of Columbia. Everything that comes out in the magazine is usually pertinent to our vision and our direction in building. The current issue gives great insight into a subject that is dear to our heart...Can you guess what it is?

### PEOPLE OF DESTINY

The current *Destiny* magazine deals with the whole area of Christian character. As always, the articles are excellent applications of Biblical truth that are meat for living. Please pass your copy on for others to read.

## Don't wait for marriage Begin child training now

Singles have a special place in affecting the children of a church body.

I remember when my Aunt Brenda came to spend a couple of weeks with us at our home in Goreville, Ill. She was in her middle to late teens and it seemed that everything she did was totally intriguing. Everything she did and everything she was involved in, my older sister and I wanted to be a part of.

I was watching Matthew in our backyard the other day. He was peering over the fence at the new teenagers that have recently moved in. Later, I saw his attention glued to the same teens who had moved their activity across the street. All day, his own play was interrupted to watch them do whatever it was they were doing.

In young singles, you have a strange mix. They have the capacity to do many of the things that adults do and thus demand somewhat of an awe or respect. At the same time, however, they are kids who are not strapped with responsibility that keeps them from playing.

As a single, you have the opportunity to make the greatest impact you will ever have on anyone outside of your own family. If you would like to aggressively begin to sow seed into the lives of little disciples, here are some suggestions:

1. Choose a child that you would like to make your friend and then begin to greet them at church. Remember their birthdays and special times. Attend their ball games, recitals, etc.
2. Spend time letting the child get to know you. Tell them what is important to you. Give them reasons for your actions. Share your needs with them and let them pray with you about them.
3. Talk to the parents of the child and embrace their child training philosophy. Get specific and probe for what is important to the parents.
4. Remember the child when you are going on short errands or long trips. (I remember when I rode from Tennessee to Illinois with my Uncle Benny. It seemed like the adventure of a lifetime. I remember ordering breakfast for myself at a truck stop. I followed his lead and ordered country ham. I had never ordered country ham in my life.)
5. Communicate with the parents. Say to them, "I want to learn from you how to train and influence children. I am aware that your children are your dearest relations and you carry a special responsibility to guard them. I realize that I may have some values in my life that you do not want reinforced in your child. I want you to address those values in me as needed for me to best influence your child. I will not be offended if you say I am too loud, I do not listen to the best music, I am sloppy, or whatever. I want my life to grow to be a good example. I want to serve you in this. (There are many things that are unique to certain families that they want to maintain. For some it is a spirit of peace while others may major on hospitality. While you assimilate certain of the families qualities into your own life, you will also be sharing your strengths of character with them.) ■

Laura Feeney

## Embarassing servanthood

We were on our way home when I realized that there had been something special about our vacation to Washington. There had been a special peace on this trip that Brenda and I had not enjoyed for a while. Then I realized what it was...or should I say who it was.

Laura Feeney had taken her vacation to coincide with ours so that she could visit the nations capital. Secretly, I always carry the preparation to put out that extra effort when someone else is around. So, I was prepared to make those extra stops, special accommodations, particular choices of food, and other things that are necessary when different lives and tastes are thrown together.

But here I was one week later. Instead of having felt that extra drain I found I had extra strength. The truth of the matter is that Laura had served Brenda and I along with the kids all week.

Now that I thought of it, Laura had spent a lot of time entertaining the kids while we were driving. When we were sight seeing, she had always had a hold of one of the little Hendersons' hands. She had not asked for any special trips and had molded completely to the plans we made.

But the most significant thing about it was that I didn't realize it until now. Often, you know when people are making those special efforts to serve. The reason you know is that their serving puts a drain on you. With every sacrificial action, they say, "Look at me, I am serving you." or "Boy, this sure is hard, but I am going to do it because I am suppose to be a servant."

But Laura seems to have come into the maturity of not only acting like a servant acts, but truly being a servant from the heart. One of the earmarks of true servanthood is that it does not draw attention to itself. It almost goes unnoticed in a conscious way. But unconsciously, those being served sense a special relief.

When I realized what a blessing she had been at such a late point in the trip, I was embarrassed. I thought frantically to find a way to bless her back. Then, in a rare moment, Laura made a special request and I knew this was my chance to bless her. She asked if she could take the van to be washed and cleaned when we got home. I was undone. I had been thoroughly outserved.

But more than just Laura's servanthood, I knew that the Father had served us in a special way on this trip. There were a lot of things that "clicked" that could have "bombed". And, I am becoming more aware of how often I don't realize the great effort that God puts forth on my behalf. The more I realize what He has done for me, the more I am humbled.

My family and I appreciated having Laura on the trip with us. But I especially am thankful for her ministry to us and the revelation of God it has brought into my life. ■

## Stand therefore

There will always be seasons in our walk with God that the enemy will try to resist the move of God in both our individual lives and also in our life as a corporate body. During this season, I believe we as a church are under an attack from Satan. I believe the Word of God specifically for our lives is to stand against the enemy.

Stand, here, means to be in an upright and active position-taking an offensive stand.

Lets all, "...my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.," Ephesians 6:10-13

## Don't Miss The Journey Review This Saturday

Saturday, June 10, is the day we have set aside to go through the teachings on the Journey.

Come prepared to share the highlights of the Journey teachings with one another. Rick Starnes will be on hand to answer any theological question you have.

We will begin sharing together at 9:30 in Billy's living room. Bring a sack lunch and drinks will be provided.

# Learning the well beaten paths of God

*"Shew me thy ways, O Lord; teach me thy paths."*

Psalm 25:4

Many times certain words lose their meaning when they become part of poetic literature. Because they are used so often, they become filler words rather than a means to relate a significant truth. The word "way" has suffered a bit from this fate and needs to be rediscovered for what it really signifies and then looked at in its many contexts.

Derek is the Hebrew word which is translated as way. It is also translated as road, journey, manner, or work. It is related to a word which means "to tread, trample". So, as a noun, we can see that it refers first to a path worn by constant walking. "Well beaten path" might be another way to say it.

Looking at Psalm 25:4 in this light, we can see that the Psalmist is saying "Shew me the well beaten paths, the manner in which you do things; teach me thy paths."

The whole idea of God's ways is very significant to the Christian. Recently, more emphasis has been put on what God can do for man rather than what He can teach man. God is not just wanting to give man an experience with Himself, He is wanting to teach man His ways.

An example of one of the well beaten paths on which God trods is the way of patience. The Holy Spirit was revealing one of God's ways when He had Peter write in his second epistle "The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness: but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance." I Peter 3:9

What we learn from this verse is that God is patient or longsuffering. Throughout the ages, God has desired to purge the earth and bring all things unto Himself. However, He has moved in patience, wanting as many as possible to come into the gather-

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**God is not wanting to just give man an experience with Himself, He is wanting to teach man God's ways.**

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ing. Out of His heart of compassion, He didn't just say, I've had it. He has patiently waited.

He is not like a man. A man would say that he has been hearing of the coming of judgement since he was a youth. Man would say that God is slack concerning His promises. However, God views creation from eternity. He can wait for a thousand years as easily as He can wait for one day. As a matter of fact, He has been waiting since Adam for the consummation of all things. He waited through the sin of Adam, He waited through the corruption of Noah's day, He was patient through the tower of Babel, through Egypt and the wandering in the wilderness. After being established in the land, God waited through the period of the Judges and Kings, captivity and restoration, and then the dispersion. He waited through 400 long years of silence, the Childhood of His Son, and the crucifixion of the Same. And still, 2,000 years later, He waits for His Bride.

God's way of patience is based in His view from eternity. He knows the beginning from the

end. This is why we should learn God's ways of doing things. He has the greater perspective. He has the greater knowledge. He has the greater capacity.

But patience is just one of God's ways. He is full of faith and is faithful. He always keeps His word. God is a giver. God is fatherly. God is kind. And, He can act this way because He is unlimited.

On the other hand, sinful man is limited. He only sees things from his limited ability and perspective. Therefore, the constant path he follows (his ways) are self serving and short sighted.

It remains then, for the Christian to learn the ways of the new Kingdom. So, we cry out, "God, teach me thy ways!"

## THE NEW CREATION AND GOD'S WAYS

As unbelievers in the world's system, we did that which was our nature to do. We were strongly enforced by the ways of the society around us which was based in the same selfish nature. But, by God's grace, we were

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**It remains then, for the Christian to learn the ways of the Kingdom. So, we cry out, "God teach me thy ways!"**

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chosen to have the life of His Son placed in us which causes us to cry out from within, "God, my Dear Daddy, Father!"

Having been brought to the place of faith, we are now new creature's, "And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him

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that created him:" Colossians 3:10 "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." II Corinthians 5:17

So, being newborn babes, we must learn a whole new set of "ways". "Therefore [in light of what God has done in us through Christ], I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God-- this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed

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**"But, by God's grace, we were chosen to have the life of His Son placed within us which causes us to cry out from within, "God, my dear Daddy, Father!"**

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by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will [way] is-- his good, pleasing and perfect will [way]." Romans 12:1-2 NIV [parenthesis added].

The world may be able to do some things that resemble God's ways. However, the newly created man has the very life within him that produced those ways in God. It is now up to the new man to develop God's ways in his own life.

**HIS WAYS BECOME OUR WAYS**

Understanding that ways are well beaten paths, we must set out to beat a path in God's ways. At first, God's ways seem peculiar and different to us. However, as we continue to choose His way, it becomes more and more the well beaten path of our own heart.

Our choices as God's people become our ways as God's people. In the beginning of the book of Haggai, the people had begun to give more attention to building their own homes than to building the temple of the Almighty God. Then, in verse seven, "Thus saith the Lord of hosts; Consider your ways", is the decree of God.

In other words, "Look at what you have been choosing to do with your time. You have chosen over and over to work on your own house while mine lies in waste. Now, it has become your way to serve your home rather than mine."

On the positive side, as we choose to seek out God's way and then do it, we have started a path in our own lives. And, the more times we walk that path, the easier it becomes.

When I was a boy growing up, my dad always kept a few cows on the small farm where we lived. When we would switch them to a new field, they would wander all over the field coming up to the watering trough only when they were thirsty or we brought grain out to feed them.

Invariably, the grass would begin to show the beginning of paths from various corners of the field. In a few weeks, there would be a dirt path leading through the field to the water. Why they chose the particular path in the beginning is up for conjecture. But the fact is that after a couple of months, you could expect the cows to come down the same path every day. That path had become their way.

That is the same way a path is formed in our lives. As new Christians, we have been brought into a new field. Now, we must learn to establish the paths of our own hearts. It is easy to look back to the way we chose our paths in the world and begin to wear the

grass in a certain direction in our new field. But in order to build the right "ways" into our lives, we must lay aside the old ways and seek out the path God has laid for us in this new field.

I remember when I got my first trail bike. I took it out into the field and lit out as fast as I could go. I had never realized that the field had so many bumps in it until I hit them at 20 and 30 miles an hour. I soon learned that the best route was the "way of the cow". This was their field and they knew the smoothest path.

In the same way, God's ways in His Kingdom are best. We must take time to find His ways if we are going to move safely.

Sometimes life in the Kingdom can seem confusing. But in all of the confusion, God's way is still there to be followed.

At times, back on the farm, we would be out in the fields at night playing tag or hide and seek. Sometimes, we would be out until 1 or 2:00 a.m. By that time you could have seen two or three falling stars because everything else was so dark-- including the ground.

We could see a light on

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**However, as we continue to choose His way, it becomes more and more the well beaten path of our own heart.**

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near the house, but everything between would be pitch black. As we would begin to walk toward the house through the tall grass, we would trip around until we found one of the "ways of the cow". Then, we would follow it to the small field next to the house, walk

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through the gate, and be safely home.

When we are in what seems like total darkness, God's way is near. We must find it and stick to it until we are safely home.

Remember, these paths took several weeks of choosing before they became easily trodden. In the same way, God's paths become ours after a time of continually choosing them. Then, they become easily followed because they have become a part of us.

#### ONE WAY AT A TIME

As we talk about God's ways becoming ours, we must understand that we cannot incorporate all of God's ways at once. A baby is designed to learn certain ways in proper sequence. They learn to focus their eyes before they learn to talk. Then, they learn to crawl before they learn to walk. And, surprisingly, there is a correlation between the development of eyesight and the way a baby moves around. If the child learned to walk before it crawled, it's eyesight would not be properly developed.

Well, God gives us certain areas to work on. And, He intends for us to learn those areas before we move on. Unfortunately, we tend to learn "about" an area and want to move on. God wants us to incorporate His ways into our lives in each area before we move on.

So then, we can say that God gives us a little knowledge of His way and then helps us walk in that "way". Then, after we have responded to His direction and help, that "way" is incorporated into our lives. But it is the daily treading of that "way" that incorporates it into our life style.

You may have noticed that the teaching at Lexington Christian Fellowship is often redundant. We may spend 5 to 10 weeks covering the same topic from a

different perspective. We discuss the teachings at our home fellowships and then we have projects that help us "do what we have heard". We have found this to be a better method of learning "God's ways" than a smattering of teachings throughout the year.

We spent a long time learning about the Fatherhood of God and how to walk in that. We spent countless weeks discovering God's "ways" in regard to servanthood. At times, this can seem boring. Many people are looking to "hear some new thing" every week. But one of God's "ways" is that He wants us to learn His "ways" instead of about His "ways".

#### GOD'S WAYS ARE UNFATHOMABLE GOD'S WAYS ARE NOT OUR WAYS

In talking about learning God's "ways" and making His "ways" our "ways", two verses must be considered. The first is: "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord." Isaiah 55:8

In context, this verse appears after the people of Israel had been trying to come to a place of fulfillment through their own ways. It was at this point that God said "Your ways are not my ways". God is not saying, "You will never know me and do things my way." Verse 6 says, "Seek ye the Lord while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near." God is calling them to realize that their present ways were not His and that they needed to change to His "ways".

The second verse that would come to mind would be, Romans 11:33 "O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out!"

This verse is at the end of a discussion of the sovereignty of

God. This is one of the highest and most lofty of God's ways. Although some men have an insight into this area, God's "ways" in regards to this topic are, as the New American Standard version puts it, unfathomable. We can understand some, but we will never know the depths until we see Him face to face.

This does not mean that we can not walk in many of His ways. It just means that we will be continually awed by the unending wisdom of His ways. This should encourage us to seek out all of the riches of His ways that we possibly can and begin to walk in them... "and yet shew I unto you a more excellent way." ■

**\*GOD CAN MAKE YOUR WAY PERFECT-** Psalm 18:32 says, "It is God that girdeth me with strength, and maketh my way perfect."

David declares in Psalm 25:8-9 "Good and upright is the Lord: therefore will he teach sinners in the way. The meek will he guide in judgement: and the meek will he teach his way."

**\*ENCOURAGEMENT TO KEEP GOD'S WAYS-** Psalm 37:5 says "Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in him: and he shall bring it to pass." He goes on to declare in verse 7, "Rest in the Lord, and wait patiently for him: fret not thyself because of him who prospereth in his way, because of the man who bringeth wicked devices to pass." If you ever wondered what step to take next, verse 23 says, "The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord: and he delighteth in his way."

**\*GOD'S WAYS CAUSES YOU TO INHERIT THE LAND-** Verse 34 tells us "Wait on the Lord, and keep his way, and he shall exalt thee to inherit the land: when the wicked are cut off, thou shalt see it."



## The normal Christian life

Normal, what does it mean to be normal? Lexington Christian Fellowship has a marvelous example of what normal Christianity is all about.

Jimmy Leitsch has been a part of this body for over eight years. Jimmy says that when he first visited as a freshman, he was basically nominal rather than normal. But it wasn't long until he got a greater vision for the Kingdom and began to build.

Jimmy has always been a joy to me as his pastor, and I have never seen him function in his relationships with others outside of true love.

Early on, Jimmy began to do the things that normal Christians do. He began an outreach to his dorm while a student. As a result people were added to the kingdom.

From that ministry in the dorm, Jimmy has gone on to establish a men's house geared toward mutual growth in the things of God. On top of that, Jimmy now takes responsibility for the pastoral care of one of the home fellowships.

Recently, this brother did something that is only natural for the kingdom minded. He changed his day off from Saturday to Wednesday. This was his reasoning: "If I take off on Wednesday, I will be able to work in the church office and be more productive than trying to do it on Saturday. Besides, I want to be there when you're in (speaking to me) so I can best serve you."

On another front, Jimmy has done what all normal Christians in our present situation should do...He went out and got a good job. He excelled on his job. He made a good name for himself through his job.

As a result of a good job, he has been blessed financially. And once again, in his normal way, Jimmy arranged his finances in such a way that the kingdom would be best served. Without going into detail, I can say that Jimmy has made all of his financial decisions in light of what would produce most for the kingdom.

Like all normal Christians, Jimmy has availed himself of the grace of God to live a holy life. Knowing that he has not reached complete maturity, Jimmy presses toward God every day to be more conformed to the image of Jesus.

You might ask how I know Jimmy presses toward God. My answer is simple-- it is by the questions he asks. He is always asking how he can live free from sin. He is always wanting to know better ways to study. He shares his struggles and looks for real answers. And, like a normal Christian, he implements the answers when they apply.

The list of things that Jimmy "does" that are normal is much longer than what could be listed in this short article. But the real key to acting normal is being normal.

Jimmy is normal because he has believed the love of God for his own life. Through his normal daily prayer and normal daily study of the Word, this man has been changed on the inside.

It is through God's grace that we all may become normal. We receive that grace from His word and Spirit. Our physical body functions normally when we breathe and eat properly. In the same way, our spirit needs to eat of the word and breathe of the Spirit in order to function like it was meant.

If you suffer from abnormality of spirit, read your Bible, pray, and ask Jimmy for a few pointers. ■

## A letter of thanks

5/23/89

Friends,

We want to thank everyone in the body for your loving support recently. Not being able to be with my family because of geographical situations made it difficult when my brother died. But the family of God surrounded us with prayers, comfort and compassion.

All of our daily practical needs were met by brothers and sisters and even during our trip north every provision and concern was looked after by members of the body. We also want to let all of you know that we appreciate the 'peace lily' plant and that it continues to minister and remind us of the love of the brethren in our home.

Bob and Michelle

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Don't look so down cast,  
Lift up your hands and  
praise the Lord,  
For He is good.  
He is your eternal Father  
Who loved you enough to  
come down and die in your  
place,  
A thief's death.  
So don't say He doesn't  
love you,  
For one who was nailed to  
a cross on Calvary out of  
His free will,  
Is not the one who hates  
you!

Chris Treen

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# JUNE

| SUNDAY                                   | MONDAY | TUESDAY                   | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY             | FRIDAY                                       | SATURDAY                                  |
|--|--------|---------------------------|-----------|----------------------|--|---|
|  |        |                           |           | 1<br>6:00 am prayer  | 2  | 3   |
| 4<br><br>5:00 pm Worship<br>at Woodland  | 5      | 6                         | 7         | 8<br>6:00 am prayer  | 9<br><br>Gregg's HF 7:00<br>Jimmy's HF 7:30  | 10<br><br>JOURNEY<br>REVIEW<br>See page 3 |
| 11<br><br>5:00 pm Worship<br>at Woodland | 12     | 13<br><br>Billy's HF 6:00 | 14        | 15<br>6:00 am prayer | 16   | 17  |
| 18<br><br>5:00 pm Worship<br>at Woodland | 19     | 20                        | 21        | 22<br>6:00 am prayer | 23<br><br>Gregg's HF 7:00<br>Jimmy's HF 7:30 | 23  |
| 24<br><br>5:00 pm Worship<br>at Woodland | 25     | 26<br><br>Billy's HF 6:00 | 27        | 28<br>6:00 am prayer | 29   | 30  |

## *Pastor's Brief*

*Lexington Christian Fellowship*

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