

# Oneness- God's secret

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*Letter*

## Still growing in grace

Dear Saints,

Grace to you and peace from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ (for a better understanding of this greeting, see page 4).

God is doing good things among us. Larry and Elizabeth just celebrated a year of marriage, Brent and Kelly are getting settled in, meeting in the new building is going great, God is revealing Himself to us in prayer and worship, and a hundred other good things are happening.

I want to share specifically with you that God is continuing to deal in my life in the area of grace. I shared before in a letter that He was dealing with me about being critical. I believe He is having some victories in that area, but is continuing to fine hone me.

Recently, I am learning to have more faith for people's lives and what God is able to do. I am learning to see the growth in people rather than areas of stagnation. That may not mean a lot to any one individual. For me, however, it is meaning a new freedom in God.

I am excited about the continual growth of the body. At the same time I am awed by the responsibility of giving pastoral direction for the lives of so many people. More than anything else, we need all of the strong saints to reach out to the new folks that are being added. Almost as important, we need newer people to press in and let us know where you want to fit in.

At the same time, specific hurts and needs are challenging us in the lives of brethren among us. Let's be sensitive to reach out to those needs.

Praise God, He really is doing great things.

Bless you,

Billy

P.S. In this issue of the Brief we've reprinted an article by Joe Tosini. Please take the time to read it.

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#### *Pastor's Brief*

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

## Those Very Moving Westwood Women

The Linden Walk women's house has a new address. You may now find them at 221 Westwood Court. Their new phone number is 278-8703.

The move itself proved to be a real blessing to the women who lived there, as well as those who pitched in.

The big move was on for Saturday with a few things to be moved on Friday. A couple of the guys who wanted to help realized they would be gone on Saturday so pushed ahead Friday night. About a dozen people got involved and by midnight, most of Saturday's work was finished.

We asked Cathy Perry for a comment and she said that one of her housemates had summed it up when she saw the drive packed with cars of movers. She quoted, "I gotta lump in my throat. It's just like family, it don't get any better than this."

People helped paint, dropped by refreshments, ran errands, and just stopped by to welcome them to the neighborhood.

The house is great with a large back yard and fabulous back porch.

Kyra said, "We really want our house to be a place where people can come and hang out. We want the house to be a house of refreshing (as soon as we get refreshed).

The women who live in that house are Laura Feeney, Kyra Fossett, Cathy Perry, Debbie McManis and Becky Barker. The total number of LCF members in the neighborhood is now 24 (not counting the John family a few blocks away).

From my perspective, the whole situation was really moving.

## Campus Evangelism Team Reaching the university

According to Wendell Smith, many of the great movements began with youth. Unfortunately, many of those movements died as they quit reaching out to youth.

At LCF we have gone through a good time of both numerical and spiritual growth. However, more and more we are finding it difficult to reach university students. Part of that is due to the increasing responsibility to marriages, children, jobs, and other important areas that come with growth.

However, we believe that our first mission is to the students at the University of Kentucky. Most of us found ourselves greatly deepened during our college years. For many of us, that deepening was due to someone making a sacrifice to reach out to us.

In remembering where God brought us from and with a desire to reach into the youth culture, several members of the body have committed themselves to being trained for a special outreach to be held this fall.

As of now, Jimmy, Curt, Bobby, Rennick, John, Laura, Kyra, Cathy, Leta, Dawn, and a couple more are committed to the training.

The training consists of mainly of learning how to relate the Kingdom of God to students where they are. As a special project, every member of the Campus Evangelism Team (CET) is preparing their testimony in tract form.

At the end of the training, the CET members will pair up and target a particular dorm, organization, or people group. They will then spend a time of reaching out to students in their chosen "field" with a view toward following them up.

Below is the CET Schedule.

Now-August 23- Training

August 23-September 8--Special outreach

September 9-October 13--Follow up Bible Studies

October 14-15--Retreat (White water rafting)

October 16-end of semester--Deepen follow up for new believers

Also, according to Smith, in major revivals, 85% of all converts are below the age of 30. Our church has mostly been forged from reaching people at the crossroads to adulthood. Please pray for these who are working toward stripping from hell the material from which the house of God is being built.

## You Can Help Reach the Campus!

Age doesn't matter. We need prayer warriors, couples and established singles to offer their homes as crash pads, transportation, and people to lead worship, as well as those who want to do the actual evangelism and follow up.

If you would like to be involved, contact Curt Eiden at 277-1929.

*Home, home with the gang*

## Ever is heard an encouraging word

Following Bob Martin's teaching on encouragement, our home fellowship discussed some issues related to this topic. If you had been there...

You would have heard several answers to the question "What encourages you". Trish Starns answered first and said that a note in the middle of the week means a lot to her. Theresa, as well as Cheryl said that they enjoyed a phone call (It appears that Theresa answers the phone a lot and many times the call is for one of her roomies). Catherine John likes to know where she fits in. It builds her up to know her place as she relates to others. There was a lot of agreement when Cheryl said that she liked for others to let her know if she has grown. It seems that most of us need someone else to see our growth for us. It is easy to get bogged down in the battle and forget the previous victories.

It sounded funny to start with, but Mr. McGuire said that it really encouraged him when people rebuked him. He went on to explain that he felt it showed a real concern when people were vulnerable enough to speak the truth in love (You may have noticed an improvement in Brud's wardrobe since a few of the sister's have encouraged/rebuked him in regards to his tastes or lack thereof in attire. This is an ongoing project for our whole home fellowship).

Dawn had a great insight when she said that others experiencing "genuine joy in the Lord" was an encouragement to her.

Kelley Henderson, said that it really meant a lot to her for people to see Jesus in her. I believe that we all want that. It would do us good to acknowledge that in

others as we see it.

From a mothers point of view, Mary Jo said there were two things that encouraged her. The first was for people to say positive things to her about her kids. The second was similar, "It encourages me when people encourage my kids".

Mary's husband, Ron, said that encouraging words meant a lot to him and that it especially blessed him when people "wasted time" with him. It does mean a lot when people choose to just be around you. There was another thing that Ron said blessed him, but I cannot mention it in print. However, Mary got back at him

member. And, it really is true, we appreciate when others listen to what we say and share in our life by bringing it up again. One especially good way to do this is ask people about situations a day or two after they have asked for prayer about them.

We also asked the question, "How can we grow as encouragers". Here are some responses:

Elizabeth Ivey- Get to know people.

Ron Schwartz- Have the mentality of being ministers to each other.

Rick Starns- Don't sit and wonder why no one is coming to you. Be willing to reach out.

*Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.*

(Ephesians 4:29 NIV)

the following week by making sure everybody knew why they were late to church.

And finally, if this article is going to be encouraging to anybody, it will be encouraging to Elizabeth. She said that it encouraged her when people remembered what she talked with them about and then mentioned it again at a later time. Well, Elizabeth, I re-

Debbie McManis- Maintain your own security in God. Stay strong in Him and that prepares you to encourage others.

And Elizabeth came back for seconds- Respond to people when they encourage you. In other words, it encourages others when they know their encouragement has encouraged you.

Isn't that encouraging? ■

# Oneness- God's secret

*"Making known to us in all His wisdom and insight the secret of His purpose, according to His kind intention which He proposed in Christ, a plan: to be brought to completion when the time fully comes, to bring everything together in Christ, things in heaven and things on earth." Ephesians 1:9-10 (New Berkley Version)*

This verse lets us know that God is moving in a direction that will ultimately unite all things. Understanding God's direction helps see the way other themes mesh together and are related to God's overall desire to see things come together.

## Grace and Peace The Underlying Theme

The first truth that you can grab is that "grace and peace" is not just a pious sounding salutation. It is the declaration of the process of God to bring about His purposes.

We can understand grace in the term that has been popularized by evangelicals- "The unmerited favor of God". We will have a good working understanding of the word by saying, "Grace is God pouring all that He is into His people to bring them into what He has already prepared for them. He does this without regard to their ability or worthiness and even begins by He Himself making them worthy."

Grace then produces peace and that becomes the key word to understand. Without quoting reference works extensively, peace comes from a verb which means "to join". Through contextual studies we can understand this word in relation to the Christian as having these meanings:

1. The opposite of war.
2. Wholeness.
3. An order established by God as the God of peace.

4. Right relationship with God.

5. Wholeness both for men and the world which brings a newness to human relationships.

6. A power which can pervade the whole person.

(For the scripture references used to establish these meanings, begin with "The New International Dictionary of New Testament Theology, V. 2.)

So then we could read the phrase "Grace be to you, and peace" as, "may God freely pour of Himself into you to bring you into the wholeness of peace which produces in you an order, relationship with God, a newness to human relationships, and an end to all strife and division, making things one."

This introduction is actually a prelude to the major piece which will actually come out and say "He has lavished grace upon us...to the end that He might bring all things to Himself."

## Models Which Move Toward Unity

Having understood the workings of grace and peace, we are given a new context with which to view other themes in the book.

As we look at other themes, we can see how they actually portray the theme of grace and peace. In other words, as we understand that God wants to pour Himself into us to bring us together, we can see that explanations of what God is doing

are just different views of the same truth.

There are at least six or seven different pictures that Paul paints of the life of God's people. However, all of them point to His underlying motive to bring us together.

## FAMILY-

The idea of family is communicated at least 13 times in the book of Ephesians, and that does not include the 8 mentions of Father.

God instituted the earthly family and built within it dynamics which draw people together. He took those natural principles from the spiritual principle of Who He is as a Father.

As a Father, I see myself extending a lot of energy trying to get my children to do more than just get along. I want to see them work together as a team. If you ask my oldest son Matthew what makes his dad happy, he will tell you that I like for him to love his sister and be creative in blessing her. This is not a preference for me, it constitutes much of my joy.

In the same way, our Father desires for us to not just get along, but to be a team. The process of family then, is causing us to unify as Christian brothers, as well as natural families.

We can say that God is working through the natural families, as well as the family of God, to move things toward His final end. As we move toward the end of all things, we will see the people of

God flowing together as a family, both spiritually and naturally.

"Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord: And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse." Malachi 4:5-6

THE HUMAN BODY-

Another picture God uses to represent His people is that of a human body. This explanation presents another function of His children, but the theme of pulling them together is still there. We see this model predominately in chapter 4.

Verse 16 is well worn in my Bible as I have read over and over again how a joint supplying a need in a body connects it to the body and the body to it. "From whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by that which every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love."

It is then this holding together by each ligament that enables the body to become a full grown man in the stature of Christ.

This work of doing our part is to continue "till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ:" as it says in verse 13 of the same verse.

The process is likened unto a body being formed. The end time sign will be a people who are approaching the stature of Christ, through being knit together in love.

MARRIAGE-

There is probably no example of unity that is any more

clear than the one presented in Ephesians 5:20-23.

Paul goes into great detail about how the relationship between a man and his wife is to be carried on. These scriptures are well used to understand how a woman is to yield to the direction of her husband. That yielding, we see according to verse 28, comes as the man is laying his life down for the women.

Those two manners of living produce a wonderful circle of love with the women following the man as he gives to her as she follows him.

*"May God freely pour of Himself into you to bring you into the wholeness of peace which produces in you an order, relationship with God, a newness to human relationships, and an end to all strife and division, making things one."*

I have learned more about being together with people in my 10 years of marriage to Brenda than I learned in the first 23 years of my life. It has helped to work out selfishness, fear, pettiness, and infinitum. It was a wonderful thing God did when he gave man marriage.

But wham! verse 32 gives the deeper meaning. Marriage is just a picture of what God intends to do. He intends to marry His Son Jesus to a people who desire to live out this oneness with Him.

There are many other themes in this book which make their own point while adding to this guiding desire of God to bring us together as one. A building, a people called out, and the Christian as a soldier are just a few of the themes which serve God's purpose in this way.

Living Our Lives in View of God's Direction

So, practically, we can consider and live our lives in view of the goal of God in Christ. As we think about that final day, we can prepare for it by throwing ourselves into the picture God is painting.

There is no need to run and hide in the mountains now. There is every need to spend our time building both our natural and spiritual families. There is no need to buy gold and hoard it for hard times. There is every need to pour our finances into building the church (people not building) a habitation for the coming King. There are not eighty-eight reasons why Jesus will come last year, this year, or next. There are eighty-eight reasons why we should throw ourselves into the process of God to become what He wants for Himself!

As departed Abraham can attest, God's timing is His timing. Abraham went through several "false" comings of the son before Isaac finally showed up. And at that, Hebrews tells us that Abe never saw a city in the earth but a heavenly Kingdom.

Because Abraham didn't get caught up in false hopes, but remained both faithful and a friend of God, we have become part of that nation through his seed Christ. As we have been given a glimpse of. God's desire in the earth, let's be faithful friends of His so that in His time He might bring all things unto Himself.

# Called to be a Christian

by Joe Tosini

Susan was upset with the people in her church because they weren't making use of her ministry. She was unhappy about it.

"What should I do?" Susan asked her friend.

"If you have a calling in ministry," Jane replied, "you should go find a church where you can use your ministry."

These names are fictitious, but this conversation really took place. Why did Jane advise her friend to leave her church? Not because Susan didn't have an important part to play there, but because Susan didn't get the part she wanted.

Suppose Susan were to go to another church and find a ministry where she could "fulfill her calling." What would she do if, after a while, she wasn't getting the satisfaction she had hoped to receive from that ministry? Wouldn't it be time for Susan to move on again?

In this view, the first priority is to make sure you have the opportunity to use your talents and gifts. That moves your commitment to your fellow believers far down the priority list.

When we began our church in the 1970's we took a close look at this matter of one's calling in ministry, and we determined that a person's calling is not an ambition, not a desire he's waiting to fulfill. We decided that, ultimately, God's calling isn't even determined by our natural abilities or spiritual gifts. Our calling isn't to fill a certain niche in the body

of Christ; it's to pursue what's in God's heart: relationship. We all receive that calling; it's the call to be a Christian. It's the call to be rightly (righteously) related to God and to one another.

The Apostle Paul urges us in Ephesians to "live a life worthy of the calling you have received." (Eph. 4:1, NIV).

What follows are Paul's instructions on how to live as believers. What does he talk about? Relationships. Be humble, he says. Be patient. Bear with one another in love. Throughout the rest of the epistle, Paul offers more instruction on relationships: Speak truthfully to your neighbor. Don't sin out of anger. Get rid of bitterness. Be kind and forgiving. He sums up his teachings in this way:

Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God (Eph. 5:1-2, NIV).

Paul asks that we do what Christ has done for us: we are to lay down our lives for one another. This isn't a picture of someone hopping from place to place trying to find a satisfying ministry. It's a picture of commitment, loyalty, longsuffering.

Through the way we live together, we're to manifest a picture of the kind of relationship that God has with His church. This is the highest calling anyone can receive: to walk together in love with his brothers and sisters. This is our first calling. It lays the foundation on which everything else is accomplished in the church.

When we make devotion to the body of Christ our first priority, we can figure out how our own gifts and abilities contribute to that end.

If you seek a calling apart from the principle of relationship, you can waste years searching for a suitable "ministry." God does call people to serve in various capacities. But if you're looking for God's assignment, you need look no further than your own congregation. Do you reach out to people who aren't just like you? Do your relationships go beyond the superficial? Do you forgive people as Jesus forgave you? Are you patient? Caring? Accepting? Do you give to others a portion of what Jesus has given to you? Do you live in such a way that the unbelievers around you can see you have been called to be a Christian? If you don't, no matter how much "ministry" you accomplish, no matter how spiritually gifted you may be, you will have failed your calling.

The reality of Jesus and His kingdom is manifested when we interact as the family of God, when qualities such as kindness and faithfulness are evident among us. This kind of witness cannot be duplicated by a television broadcast, a radio ministry, or a special speaker. In a love-starved world, the most convincing evidence that the gospel works is Christians who love one another.

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## Guatemala and Nicaragua,

### Billy Heads South

Billy will be leaving for a trip to Guatemala and Nicaragua on July 18. He will return to Huston on the 27th.

The purpose of the trip is to "scout out the land" for people we would want to become involved with in the future as colaborers. Billy has always felt that he would be involved in some way in Central America and sees this as a step in that direction.

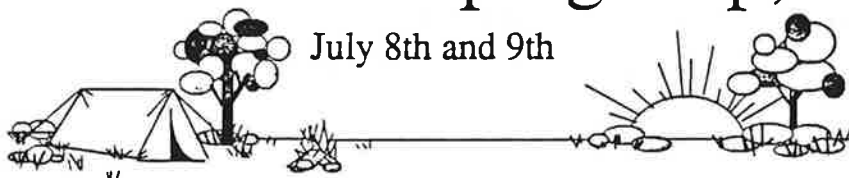
He will be going with Joe Anfuso and a team of other pastor's. Joe is the director of Forward Edge.

According to the fact sheet sent by Forward Edge, "While in Central America team members will: 1)attend a half-day church-growth seminar in Guatemala City featuring President Rios Mont and other national church leaders; 2)fly into Chajul in the exotic Guatemalan highlands where a powerful revival is taking place among native Ixil Indians; and 3)fly to Manaqua where they will be hosted by two of the last remaining missionaries in Nicaragua since the Sandinista takeover in 1979."

You can specifically pray for 1)Health (Billy has a tendency to get sick when he travels south) 2)That the Lord will guide us to the right people to know in Guatemala and Nicaragua 3)The Lord will annoint the ministry while in these countries and 4)Billy's family while He is gone.

## Men's Camping Trip,

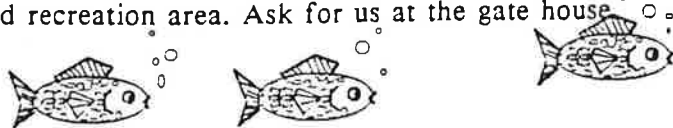
July 8th and 9th



Come for a good time of Fellowship. There will be camping, fishing, hiking (Ron says that there is a great hike up to the bluff overlooking the lake), swimming and more. We will be camping at Twin Knobs Recreational Area, in the Daniel Boone National Forrest, Cave Run Lake, Morehead, Ky.

We will leave around 9:00 a.m. Saturday morning after eating breakfast at Woodland Church. Breakfast will be served from 8:00-9:00. Please call Ron Schwartz if you plan on going so that we can get an estimated count.

From Lexington, drive 48 miles on I-64 East to Exit 123 Salt Lick/Cave Run Lake. Take US 60 East (right) to Salt Lick (6 1/2 miles). Follow US 60 through Salt Lick and proceed to Farmers. Turn right on Ky. 801 for approx. 5 or 6 miles (you will pass Scott Creek Marina on right) to the entrance of the camp and recreation area. Ask for us at the gate house.



## Celebrate!

the 4th of July

8:00 am Bluegrass 10K

10:00 am Breakfast at Shoney's on Nicholasville

2:30 pm Softball at Seaton Field---bring equipment, gloves bats, etc.

7:00 Festivities at the Pascuccis':

-Hotdog Extravaganza  
bring ice, drinks, potato chips, and hotdog buns

-Children's Parade  
open to all children (bring all necessary props/decorations)

-Fireworks  
any additional fireworks brought would be appreciated by all

All friends, relatives and guests are invited. For any additional information, contact Bob Pascucci, 252-2305.

# JULY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
30 5:00 pm Worship at Woodland	31					1
2 5:00 pm Worship at Woodland	3	4 8:00 am Bluegrass 10K 10:00 am Shoney's 2:30 pm Softball 7:00 pm Fireworks at Pascucci's	5	6 6:00 am prayer	7	8 8:00 Breakfast at Woodland <b>Camping</b>
9 5:00 pm Worship at Woodland <b>Camping</b>	10	11 Billy's HF 7:00	12	13 6:00 am prayer	14 Gregg's HF 7:00 Jimmy's HF 7:00	15
16 5:00 pm Worship at Woodland	17	18	19	20 6:00 am prayer	21	22
<b>Billy in Guatemala and Nicaragua</b>						
23 5:00 pm Worship at Woodland	24	25 Billy's HF 7:00	26	27 6:00 am prayer	28 Gregg's HF 7:00 Jimmy's HF 7:00	29
<b>Billy in Guatemala and Nicaragua</b>						

## *Pastor's Brief*

*Lexington Christian Fellowship*

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