

*Letter*

## Develop personal worship

Dear Saints,

Brenda and I recently returned from three weeks in Florida with our children. The first two weeks were spent in Ft. Lauderdale. We spent the third week in Destin with some members of the training team. There is an article inside on the training team.

The time away was very refreshing and we are ready to ease back into the labors of the Kingdom here. Notice I used the word "ease". I learned a lot about rest while away and I hope not to forget it.

I'm encouraged at how well the body functioned without me. Others are really maturing and taking over much of the ministry. I suppose every pastor's dream is to see others raised up to take over ministering to the local church. It is happening here in a very real way.

Having been away from the day to day problems of living together, I had a fresh perspective on each individual when we returned. I know everyone did not mature that much in three weeks. I think it is just easier to see people's growth when you are not concentrating on trouble areas.

At our home fellowship Tuesday, I just sat in amazement at the depth of relationship and spiritual maturity in those around me. I got a glimpse of God putting together a real team to reach the city.

As we continue to reach out to others, it is important that we also persevere in building relationships within the body. But even more important, we must each deepen our spiritual walks with God. More and more strength and grace will be needed as we are released for more ministry.

My hope over the next few weeks is to learn more how we can commune with the Lord Jesus Christ through Whom we have free access to the Father. My first Sunday back, I shared on coming into God's presence through worship. Please practice worshipping God in the privacy of your own home, car, office or work place. We plan to continue that theme on Sunday nights for a while.

I am thankful to be...

Laboring together,

Billy

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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.*

# YMCA Lock in

## Purpose

Our desire for the retreat this year is to deepen our relationships with the Lord as well as with each other. Through listening to the Word of God together and playing together we want to increase our sense of being a family.

We are Blessed to have Ken Dew as our speaker for the weekend. Ken will share in the three sessions during the retreat. He will also be joining us for service Sunday evening.

Most of the retreat will be hosted at the YMCA. Plenty of time for fellowship around games and sports will be provided.

## Schedule

### Saturday

3:00-5:00 Ken Dew (Woodland Church)

5:00-6:30 Supper (Western Sizzlin)

6:30-10:00 All Y facilities available

10:00-10:30 Ken Dew

10:30-11:00 Light food break

11:00- Tournaments & Games

### Sunday

8:00 Breakfast

9:00 Ken Dew

## Facilities

The retreat this year will be at the YMCA, located on High Street, four blocks from U.K.

During most of the evening, we will have access to Basketball courts, volleyball courts, racquetball courts, the running track, free weights, the swimming pool, as well as "Walleyball".

Sleeping will be in blankets or sleeping bags on mats in the gym or game rooms.

Everyone must bring their own sleeping bag or blankets. The showers will be available.

A continental breakfast will be served Sunday morning before the meeting.

Tournaments will be organized in a couple of sports including "Walleyball". Walleyball is an exciting court sport for both the athletic and the not so athletic.

"Bored" games will be provided for those who are bored with athletics.

There will also be a special basketball game at 8:30. LCF has challenged Maranatha to a game.

## *If you would like to come...*

This weekend is a combination singles retreat and church lock in. Singles are invited to all of the activities listed in the schedule. Others are invited to the Y on Saturday night from 6:30-10:00. We are trying to get an estimate of who is coming. If you could call Jimmy before the weekend, it would be helpful.

*Missions*

## Pray for Pedro

Pedro Basilio and his family need our prayer support.

Manuella, a woman in his area continues to stir up opposition to him and the work of the Kingdom.

In a letter we received last month, Pedro explained the growing opposition. At this point, this woman has stirred up the local witch doctor against Pedro. The latest rumor is that she has hired an assassin to murder Pedro.

Of course we know who we are fighting against and that it is not just flesh and blood. Also, we know in Whom the victory abides. Knowing this is not enough. We must enter the battle.

Pray! Pray that the witch doctor will be of no effect. Pray that Pedro's life is protected. Pray that Manuela's activity ceases. And go beyond stopping the works of darkness. Pray that the Kingdom will come mightily as proof of the greatness of our King.

Even so Lord, we pray, "Thy Kingdom come to southern Mexico."

Also, pray for the coming trip in December. Pray for the finances to come in needed to buy materials for the construction of Pedro's new house. Also, pray for the finances of individual team members who will be paying their own way.

It would be helpful if we would remember to pray that the spiritual as well as natural preparations will come together as we approach December 27, our day of departure. o buy materials for the construction of Pedro's new house. Also, pray for the finances of individual team members who will be paying their own way.

## *A Touch of Grace...*

now has a toll free number.

For evening deliveries in the Lexington area call:

1 (800) 456-6209

P.S. Kyra always does a great job on flowers.

## Office Hours

### Having trouble getting in touch?

### We now have office hours.

Getting in touch with people can be hard sometimes. Getting in touch with Billy can be hard most of the time. Not anymore.

Cathy Perry is now keeping regular office hours in the church office. You can get through Monday-Thursday from 2:15 until 5:30 in the afternoon. Friday hours are 9:00 a.m.-12:30 and 3:15-5:00.

Whenever you need to get in touch with anyone leading a certain activity you can leave the message with her. Also, if you have questions about what is going on and cannot find an answer, Cathy has access to most of the information.

Thanks Cathy.

# Praise is for a Person not a magical formula

*"And when he had consulted with the people, he appointed singers unto the Lord, and that should praise the beauty of holiness, as they went out before the army, and to say, Praise the Lord; for his mercy endureth for ever." II Chronicles 20:21*

Praise and worship is a multifaceted study. It can be linked together with almost every other teaching in the Bible. When we decided to start our study on worship at the church, we began with the verse above. However, we soon found that this verse could not be studied alone. It had to be seen in context.

First, it was important to note that the king responsible for this action was Jehoshaphat. That name means "Jehova is judge". Of course judge in the Old Testament meant deliverer. So this king was one who knew that God was the deliverer.

We also know that the Lord was with Jehoshaphat because "he walked in the first ways of his father David." That means that he had a heart after God.

This heart in Jehoshaphat caused him to tear down the high places out of Judah. The high places, you will recall, are where the people would go to worship the local gods and goddesses. In our lives, these high places are represented by meditations on selfish lifestyles. Selfish lifestyles can range from sexual sin to an unhealthy desire for riches.

At any rate, Jehoshaphat took a stand against such things in his time. We, too, are to be "Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself

against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ." II Corinthians 10:5

Not only did Jehoshaphat tear down the high places, he also sent priests "And they taught in Judah, and had the book of the law of the Lord with them, and went about throughout all the cities of Judah, and taught the people."

This King knew that tearing down high places was not enough. He wanted to replace what they represented with the Word of the Lord.

In the same way, we must, "be not conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewing of [our] minds" according to the word of God.

As we move toward our original verse in II Chronicles 20, we see the presentation of a king who had a heart after God. That heart was not just an emotional feeling, but it was born out in the actions of this man. He wanted to remove those things from society which were contrary to God's ways and replace them with the patterns of society presented in the Scriptures.

That makes so much more sense when we come to Judah's battle with the children of Ammon, Moab, and others. This is not

a selfish King expanding his kingdom for His own glory. This is a man pursuing God's Kingdom. For him, praise is the only way to enter into battle.

From those people who would read our text verse, two ways of thinking can emerge. First, and unfortunately more prevalent, there are those who are living a "selfish Christian lifestyle", if there is such a thing.

The selfish Christian is using Christian methods to build his own kingdom. Praise in the beginning of the battle is a method to win. He sees praise as a way of getting what he wants for himself.

So, that which is meant to glorify God becomes one man's way of expressing his selfishness.

On the other hand, there are those who are excited about seeing the selfishness torn down from the high places. God's ways of love and giving are seen as the best replacement.

These people do not see the battle as their own. Since their life is for the Kingdom, whether they win or lose is wrapped up in God's purposes. They understand that when God said to Joshua "for the battle is not your's, but God's." He meant it.

When God has a person who is a part of His Kingdom and others come against that person's work, they are coming against God's Kingdom. Therefore, it is His battle for His Kingdom.

This distinction is very important. I remember about ten years ago when everybody and his brother was teaching on praise. The general crowd of Charismatic groupies were following them around, cassette recorder in hand, looking for some new teaching.

One brother was teaching that you could get whatever you wanted if you would begin to praise God for it. So, the general

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populace began to "praise God, praise God, praise God." It made me sick.

One guy decided that God wanted him to have a certain "beautiful" sister for his wife...Praise God, praise God, praise God...Gimnee, Gimnee, Gimnee. Of course God didn't and that was the end of that teaching. It was on to quoting scriptures or something else to get what you want.

However, I have known men of God who have been given over to the desires of God. It is joyous and instructive to be around them when they are in the battle. They follow the same procedure Jehoshaphat did when adversity came:

II Chronicles 20

1. They seek God. v.3
2. Then they call the people to seek God. v.4
3. Together they exalt God. vv.5-8
4. They understand God's promise on the behalf of His people. vv. 9-11
5. They acknowledge their own inability. v.12
6. They wait for the prophetic word of God. In this they find out where God's heart really is. vv. 14-17
7. They break into worship and praise at the revelation of God's heart. vv. 18-19
8. They enter the battle with a true praise of God for getting Himself the victory. vv.20-21
9. They participate in God's victory.22-25
10. They worship God again for His Own victory. vv.26-28

To the one who knows that "God is judge" and that the battle truly is the Lord's, the only thing

left to do is to praise Him because of His greatness.

As we give ourselves to become better worshippers, let it

always be an expression of our heart after God. I pray that it will never become a means for us to get our own selfish way. ■

## Thanksgiving, Praise & Worship

To revere or worship with extended hands...An extension of the hand, adoration...to praise...Acknowledge or agree fully...a gracious manner or act...to be grateful, express gratitude, especially over a meal...to kneel, to bless God as an act of adoration...respond in praise...grateful language...an acclaim, a choir of singers...a celebration of thanksgiving for harvest...hymn, laudation...to be clear (originally of sound but usually of color), to shine, hence to make show, to boast, and thus to be clamorously foolish, to rave, to celebrate, also to stultify...to play a stringed instrument, to make music, to accompany with the voice, hence, to celebrate in song and music...to address in a loud tone...to adulate, to adore...fame...a story used in the sense of praise...glory...to applaud...a commendable thing...to sing an hymn or religious ode, to celebrate God in song...to depress, prostrate in homage to royalty or God...to carve, to fabricate or fashion...to kiss, like a dog licking its master's hand, to fawn or crouch to, do reverence to...to revere, adore...in the face of...to minister to God...to be pious toward, respect.

Learning to yield:

## Yours, mine, or His

Billy: We really need a place that just our family can stay. We have been so busy that we would need some time alone.

Gregg: Well, we need some place that is close. It would be hard for us to travel very long with the kids.

Bill John: It doesn't matter to me. Whatever we do is fine.

Billy: I know a good place in Destin, but the rooms may be a little small.

Bill John: We need a place with a lot of room. I don't think we would want to stay in a place where we were all on top of each other.

This is an actual conversation that happened a few weeks before we took our vacations together. Of course, by the end of the conversation, all three of us had made the necessary concessions. We were in agreement that whatever happened we would all enjoy it.

This example illustrates clearly that people have different desires and wants. But more importantly, it shows that we must sometimes lay down our preferences for a higher principle.

In this case, the principle was unity. We had chosen to spend this time together to deepen our friendships. When our desires in accommodations were compared to the importance of our friendships we knew that a tent in Alaska would do.

Unfortunately, most of America does not think this way. For many people, friendships can only last as long as common wants are the same. As a result, for few

real friendships develop. Society is fragmented because every man is doing what he wants to do.

The cushion of wealth we enjoy helps every person to have what they want how they want it. There is really no need for people to stick together.

But in the long run, independence begins to take its toll. God's design was for man to work together. As America has continued to build around the unbalanced principle of independence,

the fabric of society has deteriorated. To continue to live this way would ultimately destroy this nation.

Thankfully, God will not leave us without an answer. The Spirit of God is bringing an awakening among the people of God all over the world. As simple as it might sound, God is telling his church to be a family. He is telling them that their togetherness is more important than their activities.

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## Who needs leadership training?

Last October, nine men agreed to go through a year of training for service in the church. As that year ends we find ourselves having finished a completely different program.


Originally, the men chosen for the Leadership Training were men who were functioning in areas of ministry in the church. The training was an aggressive approach to training in a man's choice of three areas: 1) pastoral, 2) evangelistic or 3) as a deacon. Servanthood was to be the underlying teaching as we developed in our various areas.

After three months we found that we were not at the point to grow in areas of ministry. We needed to go back to the basics of deepening our personal relationship with the Lord and each other. So we dropped the name Leadership Training and just made it plain Training Team.

For the next 9 months we spent time praying, studying, and sharing our lives together. One of the most significant things we learned through this time was our need to deepen our relationships with each other. As the months passed, we all found real growth as we were just faithful to the basics.

Hopefully, we have broken through some walls and can continue to be knit together in love. We finished the year of training by spending a week in Florida together. We had a wonderful time just being together.

A new Training Team will be formed next year with different people. The emphasis will be prayer, the word, and relationship. As we continue to build as a church we believe that God will raise up men to serve the church as leaders. But we must always remember that true Christian leadership is based in first relating to God and secondarily, desiring to serve the people.

Maybe if we will just grow in these areas we won't need a Leadership Training Team. 

# Choosing God's will instead of personal gain

In looking for material to strengthen the marriages in this body, it is often hard to find a book that I can recommend. Many so-called Christian marriage books are not really Christian at all. Instead, they are manuals on how to gratify the selfish desires of your mate so that you can get your own selfish desires met.

"The Marriage Builder" by Lawrence J. Crabb, Jr. is not a manual for the self centered. Instead, it is a Biblical view of marriage on three dimensions: 1)spirit 2)soul and 3)body. Happily, this "blueprint" goes beyond spiritual platitudes and gets into the meat of what can make a bad marriage good and a good marriage better.

This excerpt from the introduction will give a savor of what the book is about:

"Why are marriages so often filled with tension, bitterness, distance, shallow satisfactions, routineness, and short-lived moments of romance? Why do I sometimes face a problem within my own marriage and, after earnest prayer and brutal self-examination, remain unsure how to respond to my wife in a way that will deepen our oneness?

Are there real solutions that will develop true intimacy? Or must we resign ourselves to publicly reciting appropriate

phrases about how God designed marriage while privately wondering why these sacred principles don't really work?

I believe that part of the answer to these troubling questions lies in some dangerous underlying trends in our thinking about Christian marriage.

1. Perhaps the trend that concerns me most is the assumption that the Bible reduces complicated issues to a few easily solved problems. [Too many] expect a "one-two-three" formula for straightening out badly twisted relationships.

It is regrettable that many Christian psychologists talk more about such things as unconscious motivation and emotional damage than they do about sin and responsibility.

To emphasize obedience and to reject psychological thinking that understates the need for obedience is to reflect biblical truth accurately. But to concern ourselves with nothing more than chosen acts of obedience fails to take into account the complexity of human life as revealed in the Bible.

The cure for the selfishness and fear that control so much of what we do cannot be reduced to shallow solutions; we need to learn how our minds deceive us.

2. A second flaw in our view of Christian marriage (and the whole Christian life) is the appealing emphasis on becoming happy and fulfilled. Our peppy songs about joyful Christianity neglect the need to develop a holy, obedient walk with God no matter what personal suffering may be involved.

In the last decade or so, we have dignified the shallow appeal of "be happy, feel good" by substituting the more Christian-sounding invitation to find "a fulfilling life" and to become "self-actualized."

The route to fulfillment is not the one with the road sign reading "Pleasure Ahead" or "If it seems to meet your needs, keep going." The only sure path to real and lasting joy is the steep, rugged road marked "Obedience." 3 . A third trend that concerns me relates closely to the second. Psychological needs have taken over as the focus of our discussion of roles in marriage. As a result, the value of a plan is measured not in terms of its fidelity to Scripture, but in terms of its perceived effects on people's needs and emotions. To validate a plan of action by appealing to its potential for meeting needs is to replace the authority of an inerrant Bible with a humanistic value system.

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**God's will** *(continued from page 7)*

Four positions are reflected throughout my discussion of the marriage relationship:

1. Reading this book will not guarantee a dramatically and rapidly changed life. Christian growth is a long, often difficult process.

2. Sincerely trying to live by the Bible is sometimes hard, confusing, or disillusioning. Obedience to God will likely expose you to pain that could be avoided or at least numbed if your priority were "to feel good."

3. Commitment to living a godly life in no way guarantees that your marriage will work. Your spouse may simply refuse to cooperate.

4. In developing a comprehensive view of marriage, the Bible must be seen as the final authority in determining the principles on which to act."

We plan to have several discussions based from chapters in this book.

I would encourage you to purchase a copy of the book and read it to be prepared to join the discussions. You can contact the office and let Cathy know if you would like a copy. ■

**Learning to yield** *(continued from page 3)*

Part of the church believes the answer to the problem is to give every man what he wants in a church. But God's people are responding to the call to lay down their lives to be a part of what He is doing.

Man centered churches will finally be ripped to shreds as every man cries out for his own way. The Kingdom of God will continue to grow as each man lays down his will for another's.

It is interesting to note that the result of the conversation between Bill, Gregg and myself was total freedom for one of us to make a decision. We ended up at the nicest place I have ever stayed in for a vacation. The weather was perfect. The cost was more than reasonable. Of the twenty-five or so on the trip, I did not hear one single complaint.

As a matter of fact, almost everyone mentioned God had especially blessed our time together.

Could it be that when the Psalmist said "Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity...for there the Lord commanded the blessing, even life, for evermore," that he meant it? ■

**Pastor's Brief** *Lexington Christian Fellowship*  
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