

*Letter*

## Caring for one another

Dear Saints,

I really hope that you are beginning to understand more fully the grace and resulting peace which is extended to us from God the Father through our Lord Jesus Christ.

I have been involved in ministry these last two months that has taken me away from my ongoing routine of pastoring the church. As a result, I have not been able to spend time or make appointments with many of you who are friends or in need. This has been difficult for me but profitable at the same time.

It is difficult for me because I cherish my friendships. I sometimes fear my inability to respond to calls will be interpreted as personal dislike. That is not the case and I have been pretty inaccessible to most people (Brenda has gotten in an appointment or two).

It has been profitable because it has forced the rest of the body to respond to ministry needs and I have seen growth in many of you over this period.

You may not recall the last letter I wrote, but I mentioned in there the need for us to work more as a body to meet the needs of those God is adding as new Christians. It looks as if God has taken it upon Himself to make us learn those lessons.

He sort of sovereignly removed me from the scene for a couple of months. I was amazed at all the reports I got of the teachers who came while I was gone. Claude, Jimmy, and a couple of others told me that almost all of the speakers followed the same theme. That theme was getting involved and becoming a part of what God is doing.

I don't want to interrupt what the Lord is bringing us into. As I am praying these days, I am not tuning into present needs as much as how I can help you begin to move in what God has for you to do in building this body.

As a result, I believe the teaching on Sunday will continue to move us toward releasing more people in serving the body. It is a real blessing to me as I see honest care and compassion flowing between members of the body.

I have also enjoyed getting to visit with some of you this last week and am looking forward to spending more family time with the rest of the body.

Be sure to read through this issue of the Brief. We've started including a listing of important dates and events underneath the calendar on page Eight. This will refer you to important information and dates that you won't want to miss.

As we continue to grow together in ministry let's remember that in all we do we want to know Him.

Bless you,

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.*

## Serving: out of bounds

People of different marital status can really benefit from spending time with each other.

Too often we develop ministries for married couples, single parents, divorcees, or singles. These kinds of groups can lead people to be isolated from the ministry which can only be received from those of another status. We need to work at being friends with those who are not exactly "where we are."

I was talking to Laura Feeney about her friendship with the Greer family. She said, "It has helped in a lot of ways. The main thing is that they have really made me a part of their family. Their house feels like my house. Having that kind of situation lets me know I am loved." It would be great if every single person in the church could have a family in Lexington.

Cheryl Eadens has been an invaluable friend to Brenda and I. We are very busy with different appointments and meetings. Often, at the last minute, we need someone to come be with the kids while we are gone. Because Cheryl does not have her own family to care for, she can respond quickly. Janet or Catherine would have a hard time changing their schedules, although families do get together. Much of what we do as a couple is directly possible by the sacrificial friendship of Cheryl.

Another growing area in our church is single parents. I asked Martha Joseph if there was a significant way others could help in a single parent household. She said "Children in single parent households need the role model of an intact nuclear family. It's easy for a child to have misconceptions about marriage if they don't experience it from the inside. If married couples could find ways to include these children in their family life, it would be a very valuable thing."

This short article is only seed for thought. As a church family, we should realize that we are all given to each other to serve and receive in various ways. Let's be sensitive and create opportunities to serve across marital status boundaries.

# Loving being single

## Why Being Single Can Be a Blessing

Paul wrote about singleness in I Corinthians 7: "I wish that all men were as I am. But each man has his won gift from God; one has this gift, another has that." These are remarkable words for a single person. We usually hear the opposite. It is so important that we pay full attention to Paul's unexpected statement. How can he speak so positively about being single? Why is he not bitter? What is his secret?

The secret is in the word gift. God gives some the gift of being able to remain single.

We know that Paul was single when he wrote this. He saw his own position as a privilege; this was not a fanatical statement against marriage. He respected the institution and considered it as established by God. But the privilege he had was that of complete freedom to devote all his days as an apostle to the service of God. There were no human ties to prevent him from doing this.

## The World Clamors for Marriage

Paul was certainly out of step with what we hear around us. The world tries to convince us in a myriad of ways that an intimate relationship with the opposite sex is synonymous with happiness. We are bombarded daily with this on the radio and television, and in films, literature, and popular songs. Singles are given names with inferior connotations: spinster, old maid. No wonder so many young people, Christians included, think that life is bypassing them if they remain single for too long.

Perhaps even Christian couples unconsciously harbor the idea that marriage is the rule and that singleness is an exception or deficiency. This certainly causes single people to feel they are outside the norm of society. They often feel more tolerated than wanted.

Whereas the Roman Catholic church idealizes singleness by placing celibacy above marriage, in Protestant churches there is too little attention and appreciation for the single person. In his book Marriage Weighed, J. van Bruggen asks, "Why doesn't the church teach that the single Christian man or woman is not a subject of compassion, but a full-fledged and privileged fellow traveler on the way in which we are all called to please our God?"

## The Gift of Life

These wrong attitudes toward singleness can be changed by thinking scripturally. We then will see being married or single from the perspective of our whole reason for existence—to glorify God.

God gives us the gift of life. This life can be lived in either the married or single state. Both are equal gifts of God. You do not earn a gift; you receive it. Nor is a gift something to pride oneself on. Neither should we look down on someone else just because he has a different gift. All gifts are for the benefit of the body and all are handed out freely by the Giver (I Corinthians 12).

The gift of marriage does seem to be the rule and the gift of remaining single the exception. Yet they are equal and complete each other. That is how God has set up his kingdom! Neither can be left out of the larger picture. Marriage is essential for the propagation of the earth. On the other hand, single women can accomplish those tasks for which married women have no time or are incapable.

Think of how different the mission field would be if there had not been a multitude of single female missionaries, who through the years have performed tasks for which there were not others available. The special influence of the single woman is not restricted to the mission field, but can be found in every strata of society.

# Kentucky team shares Impressions of Nicaragua

*Twenty-three left Huston International Airport for Nicaragua and a life changing 10 days. The team from Kentucky had spent three days with the Arkansas team in Russelville before rendezvousing with the groups from Columbia and New Jersey.*

*Looking back and trying to choose the most significant aspect of the trip is almost impossible. It would be much easier for each person to choose the top ten most important things that happened while on the mission. Since we do not have room for all of the Kentucky team to share the many significant things that happened, we've asked each to choose one aspect.*

*Here are their quotes...*

## Steve Mazza

"What impressed me the most was the unity that God can give when everybody's mind is set on a single purpose. I saw it manifest in two ways. First, I saw it manifest with the Americans on the team that went there. The Americans were committed together and worked together in a real annointed manner.

"Secondly, I saw great unity in the Spirit at the church we visited. The Lord also did a great work of unity between the church and the team members, as well. I learned that when a group of Christians from America or wherever commit themselves to a common vision, God blesses that.

"All that country has been through, the people at Verbo (the Nicaraguan church we visited) have seen that God is their only hope.

"In me, I think that God has confirmed a lot of things. That He's real. He has reconfirmed that He is willing to move on the Earth, and that He's the same yesterday, today and forever. He revealed His greatness to me."

## Doug Watts

"It was really challenging to me to see the way the Christians in ministry really work down there. I've found that when I'm in situations up here where I used to just give up, I press on. I know I can do more. There's more of an intensity in my life since Nicaragua.

"The main thing for me has been to realize that a really fulfilled Christian life is when you're serving the Lord. Fulfillment comes when you see your talents and use them for the Lord. In putting this to work, I find myself doing more evangelism. It's not because I'm an evangelist, but because I like it.

"If you put your faith into practice on a daily basis, you

are a more fulfilled Christian. Do the things that you know the Lord wants you to do.

"Another thing I learned in Nicaragua is to rely on Jesus. He's the only one who will give us help. Cry out to Him daily. If we don't get our strength from the Lord, the Devil will eat us alive."

## Debbie McManis

"The unity of God's people impressed me the most in Nicaragua. I'd never touched that being from a local church. Having been saved in 1984, my entire experience with Christianity has been with Lexington Christian Fellowship. At our church, people are at different levels of maturity, and a lot of us aren't willing to pay the price it takes to walk in the unity of the Lord.

"Also, the girls at the orphanage that worked there as teachers really exemplified the true heart of a servant. To them, they were only doing their duty. Their spirits were so sweet.

"Those girls got up at 4:30 in the morning and lots of times didn't get to bed until 11:30 at night, and that's seven days a week. They live like that. The thing is, they loved their work.

"I loved the field work. It was a very tangible thing we accomplished, and had spiritual overtones. When we were planting pineapples in the orphanage's field, it also represented to me what we were doing spiritually. We had planted some seeds through our evangelism and other work there that would also be bringing a harvest some day."

## Shayne Pittard

"The major thing that impressed me about our trip to Nicaragua was to see the difference in cultures and the faith that the Christians have in God despite their circumstances. They rely on the Lord for everything.

"The teachers at the orphanage work with the children from 4:30 in the morning to 11:00 at night, and they really love the children. The girls that work as teachers there are anywhere from 16 to 22 years old. I asked one of them if all the work bothered her, and she said, 'No, this is where the Lord has me.'

"Material things that used to be important are no longer important. What I learned at the orphanage has carried over to the way I handle things at the day care center where I work. I can see a destiny in the lives of the children I work with.

"The praise and worship at the church we visited there was wonderful. It was like being lifted up in the Heavens. The Spirit of God was so heavy there. I would love to go back."

# Knowing God is the intent of the Bible

Is the Bible a promise book, or is it a rule book? Is it a place where I come to get direction, or is it a place I come for rest and refreshing? Do I go to The Book looking for answers to life's problems or can I just sit and see what it says about life?

The answer to these questions is yes. It is all of the above and a whole lot more. And, if we are going to come into the fullness of God's desire for us, we are going to have to learn to relate to the Bible in all of these ways.

It is easy to fall into the trap of using the Bible as some type of manual for our direction or contract for us to make God keep. Many denominations or groups of churches show the earmark of narrowness by training their people to use the Book in one of these ways.

In order to avoid limiting what the Bible can do to and for us, it is important to see it as God's way of communicating to us. We must also realize that God wants to be more to us than an answer or a direction.

In order to help us see this broader role the Bible can play in our lives, I would like to compare it with my relationship to my wife, Brenda.

Most of all, in our communications, we are getting to know each other. The more we communicate and interact, the better we know and love one another. It is the same with the Bible. As it communicates the many aspects of God to us, it lets us know Him better. In other words, the great purpose of the Bible is that we would know Him.

## The Bible is multipurposed

When Brenda wants something, she tells me. When she wants to give me something, she lets me know. This is what God does for us through the Bible.

In the Word, we find God's gracious and just rules for living. At the same time, we find His loving desire to give us provision.

As we get a clear view of how God wants to give and receive from us, we understand our relationship to Him more fully. Unfortunately, we can get lopsided in our view of God by only seeing one side of this balance in the word.

It works the same way as my relationship to Brenda. There are times when all I zero in on are, "Fix the fence, the faucet is leaking, you need to spend more time with me," and the other things that I need to be doing for her. When I do this, I can begin to get a wrong view toward her.

On the other side, if I am only seeing what I can get from her, the view is just as wrong.

God has some things He requires of us. God has some things he desires for us. Both are revealed in the Bible.

Another area of balance in my relationship with Brenda is work verses rest.

Much of our interaction involves our working relationship as parents, pastor and wife, husband and wife, or directors of

this household. I can be task oriented and cover myself in "getting things done."

Brenda can put up with this for just so long. I can sense when I am overloading her with "stuff." (By the way, Brenda does not complain during these times.) So, when I come to my senses, I stop and talk about whatever comes up. Sometimes, I don't say anything. Brenda likes for me to be around without having some big project we are working on.

Guess Who's just the same.

God enjoys goals and work. However, He is also the God of the sabbath. He enjoys just being with His People.

The Bible provides just that kind of forum. It can be used

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to find direction and purpose for activity and life. At the same time, it can be used for times of refreshing and visiting with our Maker.

We can come to the Scripture to find God's objective. At the same time, we can come with God as the objective. Both are needed.

## Methods of Bible use

Depending on your view of the Bible, certain ways of study may develop. Limiting yourself to one method can cripple your approach to God.

When I can't find my car keys (about twice a day) I holler for Brenda's help. She seems to know where the little elf hides them every time. If all I ever did was holler for her when I needed to find something, it would indicate that I only viewed her as my little answer girl.

In the same way, if we only study the Bible for answers, we are only viewing God as the answer man. He is definitely the answer, but He is so much more.

Many people run to the Bible when they have a need. It is the best place to run. However, it should be visited without regard to answers at times.

A similar approach is to study through the Bible looking for the promises of God. This is also good, but God wants to be more than just a promise.

Another approach to the Bible is the diligent student approach. This approach follows well defined methods of Bible study. This is essential and needs to be learned by every

Christian.

However, constant dissection of the scripture with a view toward gaining knowledge can be detrimental to our walk with God.

If I always had an intense, probing, approach to Brenda, I would wear her out. We need to be precise and probing with each other to find out what the other person is about. But this intensity all the time would be becoming smothering.

The approach which balances out this type of study is devotional reading. Some people read through the Bible yearly, just letting it speak to them as they go. Another way is to use a devotional book written by some of the devotional fathers such as A.W. Tozer, Andrew Murray, or Oswald Chambers.

This approach parallels the personal relationship of just talking to see what's going on.

One other way Brenda and I communicate is to just be with each other quietly. As a means of using the Bible, this may sound awkward, but it is good to just be aware that it is there. Sometimes I notice there is not a Bible on my desk and I am compelled to pull one out and put it there. Often, when I get ready to leave, I'll grab a New Testament and place it in my pocket. This is not like using it as a mystical good luck object. It's just knowing the Word is available.

Memorizing scripture is another way to just have it with you.

I would never try to get people to have the same mix of communication that Brenda and I have. Some people need more quiet time together. Others like to be more aggressive in their work together. But I would suggest that any relationship not become stagnant and narrow because of inability to relate

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on several levels.

More importantly, I would not try to make everyone approach the Bible just like me all the time. At the same time, I would encourage everyone to practice a diligent study of the Bible, approaching it for answers and promises, as well as requirements and direction. To balance this we must also take time to just be with God in the word through study, meditation, memorization, and just reading, so that we can rest and enjoy His presence.

### Principles for reading

Although the various ways a person uses the Bible may legitimately differ to some degree, there are some underlying

principles which always apply.

In any relationship, love must be the foundation. No matter how Brenda and I are relating at the present, it must be in love. This love gives birth to vision, commitment, honesty, vulnerability, trust and forgiveness, as well as much more.

As we come to the Word of God, it must be out of love. If we come for rules, it must be because of love. If we come for promises, it must also be based in love.

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True love will give us vision for what God wants to be to, through and with us.

True love will cause us to commit ourselves to that which God has for us, and thereby make us faithful to open the Bible.

True love will let us be vulnerable as the Bible speaks to who we are and honest as we respond to God about how we view Him.

In love we will trust what the Scriptures say and know that God is forgiving and accepting as we come to Him.

In the ten years Brenda and I have been married our relationship has grown. It has not always been easy. Sometimes, it has been a real chore for us to communicate with each other.

A key in our growth has been that we have not given up or even settled for mediocrity. Because of our individual flaws, we have both had to change to be able to grow in our friendship and working relationship.

The same dynamic should take place with all Christians and the Bible. As time passes we should be making effort to change in order to spend the right kind of time with God. In the beginning because of flaws, we may tend to be out of balance in the way we view God. Like young marriages, we may even get put out with God and not enjoy communicating at times because it challenges us too much.

Fortunately, our view of God does not change Him, and He is always there for us to conform to. As we grow in love and trust, we become open to knowing Him in some of the ways that are foreign to our way of thinking.

In all of this, we must realize that our awesome God wants most of all for us to know Him. As we grow to the place that we can seek promises as well as rules, as we search the Word for direction as well as just spend time with Him, it all works together to reveal Who He is and how we can live together with Him both now and in eternity.

Get to know your Bible and get to know Him.

## Book recommendation

**THE OBEDIENT CHILD**

by Ken Wilson

Several months ago, Steve Humble, commended The Obedient Child, by Ken Wilson to me. This past week, Paul Petrie reminded me of the book and I called Steve to see if I could get a copy. He gave me one as a gift.

Paul had told me that it helps parents understand how to develop attitudes as well as giving other practical hints. The subtitle reads, "A practical guide for training young children in: Confidence, Character, Love of God."

I've read through the introduction and first two chapters. I've also skimmed through the last eight chapters. This book seems to fill a gap in our teaching on child training. We use Richard Fugate's book in learning the training process, but it does not give a lot of help on developing attitudes of respect, confidence, etc. This book does.

I have personally felt a need to understand more clearly how to help my children develop the right attitudes. I believe this book will be a great help.

We have ordered several copies of the book to be on the book bench in the next couple of weeks. If you are interested in helping your children develop right attitudes the book will be helpful. If you are not interested you are headed for trouble.

The following rules are copied from chapter 4.

**Nine Rules for the Kids in the House**

1. Do whatever you are told, when you are told to do it, without fuss or resistance.
2. Temper tantrums are not allowed.
3. Obey your parents and other trustworthy adults.
4. Do no interrupt adult conversation.
5. Treat the physical environment of adults with respect. This means no jumping on furniture, no playing with light switches, no throwing of books, etc.
6. Do not yell around adults who are involved in adult activities.
7. Do not answer the phone until you've learned how to do it well.
8. Greet adults when you see them.
9. Respect the dignity of others. This means no biting, grabbing, kicking, or name calling.

Paul Petrie  
will speak on  
**Children**

Tuesday, August 14

7:00 pm

Woodland Avenue  
Baptist Church

Every Sunday night we have all the children come forward for prayer. At that time, we are reminded how God has given us a divine stewardship as parents, relatives and friends. We are to "train up a child in the way he should go." If we do that, we are given the promise that, "when he is old, he will not depart from it."

Although we hear the words "train up" often, it is difficult to know what that really means. It is more than teaching and it is more than instruction. It is a lifestyle. All that we do influences how our children will be when they grow up.

Paul Petrie will be with us for one evening sharing insight on how we can best give ourselves to training our children. Paul and his wife Becky are the successful parents of four children. Their oldest, Matthew, is 17. As with the other three, Matthew has a great desire for the Kingdom of God.

A man cannot commend himself on child training, only the lives of his children can. Paul has faithfully applied principles of child training with his children and seen God's grace in his family.

Most of the people in our body are still new at child training. Although Paul does not claim to be an expert, he has crossed some bridges we have yet to see.

This time of sharing should be most helpful.



Worship Team Brief

# In His presence

by Bob Pascucci

We're all familiar with the story of Abraham offering up his son Isaac as a sacrifice in the land of Moriah as told in Genesis 22.

Abraham, of course, passed the test. He named that place "The Lord will provide" (Jehovah Jireh). Then he added, "In the mountain of the Lord it will be provided."

We name it, we claim it, we sing about "Jehovah Jireh, my Provider," but according to the scripture it's only on the "mountain of the Lord it will be provided." It refers to a specific place.

In II Chron. 3:1 a few hundred years later we see Solomon beginning to build the house of the Lord on, of all places, Mt. Moriah. It is quite possible that it is the same place Abraham built his altar.

Abraham came to a specific place to worship God. He came to a mountain, where God met him.

Solomon's temple was a place of worship, a place where sacrifices were offered up to God, also on a mount.

I would like to suggest that the mountain refers to the presence of God or even a certain place "in" God where each of us needs to be.

Abraham was there, and God provided. Solomon was there and God let him build the temple.

Likewise, we need to get in God's presence and abide there and allow Him to build His temple in us. We need to quit wallowing around in the valley, or quit doing laps around the mountain, and actually ascend the mountain, press in to His presence, abide with Him.

Do you feel stagnant in your praise and worship? Come up to the mountain. Are you experiencing the joy of the Lord? Come up to the mountain, for in His presence is fullness of joy.

## Thanks be to God and His people!

I would like to thank the Lord Jesus Christ and the people of this church who supported me in prayer over the last year while I have been searching for a job. The Lord taught me a lot of things during that period, when I worked mostly as a janitor to make ends meet.

As awful as being a janitor sounds, it wasn't. God used that time to humble me, and to build me up. If there's anything I've learned, it's that our Lord is faithful, and while His ways are not always understandable, they are for the best. Those things are a lot easier to say than to learn.

Now that I have started a wonderful job as Director of Publications at Berea College, please continue to pray for me - that I will serve the Lord's purposes well there.

Claude Hammond

## A request for prayer and letters

Some of you know Gary Shaw, who was a member of our church until he joined the Navy about four years ago. Currently Gary is stationed at Subic Bay, in the Philippines. This is a dangerous assignment, because the communist guerrillas there like to make targets of American servicemen who are in their country. Pray for his safety and the safety of his wife Agnes and their daughter Catherine.

Right now, Gary and other servicemen at Subic Bay are not allowed to leave the naval base for their own safety. This means he cannot attend church on a regular basis. In a recent letter, Gary has said that he would appreciate letters from people in our church. He and his family will be in the Philippines until October. Write:

Gary C. Shaw  
 USS Sterett C6-31  
 C6 - Division  
 FPO San Francisco, CA  
 96678-1154

## WOMEN TOGETHER

Lexington Covenant Church  
 invites you to its annual Ladies' Retreat

- Dates:** Begins 7:30 p.m., August 17  
 Ends after lunch, August 19
- Place:** 4-H Camp, Carlisle, Kentucky
- Speakers:** Rebecca Petrie, Judy McCullough, and Catherine Rood
- Testimony:** Sandra Redish
- Cost:** \$30.00 - room, meals, pool

For registration information, contact Brenda Henderson, 277-2346.  
 Registration will close Sunday, August 5.

## July/August

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
22 5:00 pm Worship at Woodland	23 Billy's HF 7:00	24 HF at the John's House 7:00	25	26 6:00 am prayer  Jimmy's HF 7:00	27 Gregg's HF 7:00	28
29 5:00 pm Worship at Woodland	30	31	1	2 6:00 am prayer	3	4
5 5:00 pm Worship at Woodland	6	7	8	9 6:00 am prayer  Jimmy's HF 7:00	10 Gregg's HF 7:00	11
12 5:00 pm Worship at Woodland	13 Billy's HF 7:00	14 Paul Petrie Child Training 7:00 at Woodland	15	16 6:00 am prayer	17  <b>Women's Seminar</b>	18
19 5:00 pm Worship at Woodland	20	21 HF at the John's House 7:00	22	23 6:00 am prayer  Jimmy's HF 7:00	24 Gregg's HF 7:00	25

**Pastor's Brief**

*Lexington Christian Fellowship  
104 Dantzler Court, Lexington, Ky. 40503*