

Thy kingdom come

Volume IV, Number 3

July 1991

Letter

I'm thankful for the team

Dear Friends,

Time and space are too short to mention all that's gone on since the last Pastor's Brief. People have been added to the church, CTS has begun, the Great Hot Dog Extravaganza has once again occurred, we are in the new building, etc.

I am thankful for all that has occurred, but how it has occurred is even more of a blessing to me.

Gregg did the final negotiations on renting the building while I was out of town. Dave and Bob put the wall up before I got back. All I did for the 4th of July celebrations was show up and enjoy. Bob did all the work.

In the area of ongoing ministries of the church, Ron has been running the children's church, Jimmy and Kelly have been working with the Sunday school, Rick is pitching in on the teaching, Bill is keeping the building clean, Sandy takes care of the tapes and book tables, Gregg keeps the church books, Larry covers worship and all I have to do is uh...is uh... Well, what is it I do now?

Seriously, I have been greatly blessed by the men and women who have begun to take their parts more seriously and serve in specific ways. Although the things I need to do increase as the church does, there is some sort of rest that comes over my system as I see others playing their part.

It is truly a joy to be part of a team where our hearts are joined together to see God's purposes accomplished in the earth.

The last time I sat with a group of men from the church we talked about having a sense of where we are going from here. Most agreed that we are maturing to the place that God might add some more people to the church over the next few months.

In the next few weeks, I hope to use Sunday nights as a time to prepare us for labouring in the harvest.

I only have one caution...As we play our part in the building of the church, as we do our part in harvesting the crops, all our activity must originate in daily prayer and relationship with the Father. The activities of the church are never meant to be an end in themselves. They must be from Him, by Him, and back to Him.

I am looking forward to moving ahead together...

In Him,

Billy

In this issue:

Singles issues Pg. 2-3

Camping

CTS

Campus outreach

Ayutla briefs Pg. 4-5

Foundation of faith

Rosie is in town

A Mixtec testimony

Teaching Pgs. 6-7

Thy Kingdom come

Issues Pg. 8-9

Genetic holiness

Christian Manhood

Worship briefs Pg. 10

The big picture

Fellowship briefs
Pg. 11-12

Pastor's Brief

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

Single briefs

Lexington Christian Fellowship began as a Bible study in a dorm room at the University of Kentucky.

We are now functioning as a complete local church serving people of all walks of life. However, we see the University as our primary missions outreach and are committed to meeting the special needs of students and singles.

Pray for:

The University outreach

Our primary mission outreach in the U.S. is to the University of Kentucky. This fall, we will have the best prepared group to reach out to these incoming students. Any amount of preparation without prayer, is useless. Pray that:

-The team will be led of the Spirit.

-Student's hearts will be prepared and soft.

-Leadership will have wisdom in directing our efforts.

-the fall publication of the University Christian.

CTS

Pray for:

-The students

-Billy, Ron, Jimmy, Brenda, Laura, and Debbie who are working with the school

-Upcoming teachers: Mark Harrel, Duncan Campbell, and Eric Miller.

Weekend retreat

-July 28-30

Camping

"Revenge of the old man"

Burnside Island State Park sits on an island in the Cumberland River, just outside Somerset, Kentucky. There are tennis courts, basketball courts, boat rentals, and July 28-30...us.

We'll leave Friday and set up camp. Mark Harrel, who will be sharing with us over the weekend, will speak the first night.

There will be plenty of time for hiking in the woods or swimming on Saturday. Mark will be sharing at 10:00 a.m. and after supper during the evening. We will be free Saturday morning to seek the Lord through prayer, reading, and fish-

ing. Saturday afternoon will also be free.

Billy will be doing a special seminar entitled "Revenge of the Old Man." It basically deals with how to get back at some young whipper snapper who has the gaul to beat up an old man in the parking lot (No names mentioned, RK).

Sunday, we will join Mark's congregation for worship.

Since everyone was so concerned about the possibility of missing LCF on Sunday, we will make special efforts to be back to Lexington in time for church.

To be a part of this weekend, please register with Debbie McManis.

Bringing in the sheaves

God produces His fruit by years of committed service

Two years ago, 14 people committed themselves for three years of service, reaching out to college students. One year later, not much had happened. Two years later, dozens of singles have been reached with several added into the church. As the group looks toward the third year, there is a great expectancy.

In the beginning, leadership asked for a three year commitment, knowing that the first year would be a training year. It is in the first year of outreach that a lot of things fall through. Discouragement ensues, and many people will "sense that God is not in it," and quit.

However, God is always into reaching the lost. It is foolish to read stories about missionaries who spend years in a country to only have one or two converts, and then get frustrated when our concentrated efforts of one year don't work out.

We cannot always predict results. Our only responsibility is to plant and water. It is God who gives the increase.

Although we have had a few casualties along the way, most of the original

team members are still involved. In addition, others from the church have added in, and the new people from campus are dynamically involved.

One group that has recently added into the outreach is part of Billy's home fellowship. He was doing a terrible job and his home fellowship fell apart. As a result, all of the qualified personnel from his group dispersed to other groups.

Three of his families ended up in the University Christian Fellowship (the campus name for the outreach group). The Schwartz, Pascucci, and Starnes families are now meeting with UCF and planning to give the kind of support families can give to University students.

All told, there are about 25 people who are working toward campus this year. Some will be finishing a three year commitment. God has graced them to be faithful and our hats are off to them.

Please pray for this group of missionaries as they move ahead to reach more students and singles with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Christian Training School

Students share about knowing God

Christian Training School (CTS) '91 has slowly grown to about a dozen students. Three or four new students have been added in since the May 26 orientation. Classes began the evening of the 26th and will continue until August 16.

As always, the theme of CTS is knowing God. The '91 group has just finished the first half of CTS which deals more with the repentance/brokenness/embracing the cross side of knowing God.

Beginning July 15, the second half of the school will deal with the faith/possessing the land/establish the kingdom part of knowing God.

Below are some comments from Laura Feeney, who is serving as the women's counselor for the summer, and three students.

Third time's a charm - Laura Feeney

Even though this is the third time I have been involved with CTS, I continue to learn about myself, and why I act in particular ways.

Each week of teaching deals with a different area -- knowing God, relationships, servanthood, and the Divine Plumbline have been what we've covered so far. Each of these series of teachings has brought home to me (for a third time!) one of the most essential teachings of Christian faith.

That essential teaching is on knowing God, which is what the first week's teaching focused on. Knowing the character of the Almighty, and that He loves me and is for me, has been a wonderful thing to realize.

The more I know that God loves me, the better I can relate to others and serve them. When I'm confident in God's love for me, I can function as a whole individual.

Knowing myself - Ryan Korosec

What's been happening is that there's been some real definite changes in my life and personality. I have come to a much better knowledge of myself. The Bible teaches us that God searches the heart.

It's my own heart that I've learned the most about. I've learned about the heart of man and how wicked it is. By walking in sin and selfishness in the past, we have deceived ourselves. The series of teachings entitled the Divine Plumbline deals with this.

The cure for this self-deception is to ask God to reveal our hearts to us. One night when we were in prayer, God revealed a lot of things in me that I needed to be set free of. These things weren't all sins, but things that had happened in my past that shaped me a certain way. I got with a brother afterward and we prayed about these things, and I have experienced a real

freedom and change in my personality. God has changed me.

I'm starting to realize that everything we see around us is a part of God's master plan. A lot of time things are different than what we perceive them to be. God is at work in our lives in ways that we do not always understand. Overall, I think I've got a better understanding of God and His kingdom as a result of what we've learned in CTS.

The highest calling - Shannon Kieth

CTS is going great! God's teaching me to truly trust Him. I have been learning that He loves me and to be confident of that.

At the beginning of the summer I really expected to find more direction in my life as far as what my major would be like in college, and what my future career would be. Instead, God has shown me what the highest calling in my life is -- and that's to know Him. It's more important that I learn to walk with Him.

With the Divine Plumbline I could really see where my plumbline was "off" as a result of things that had happened in my life. It was a humbling experience to share the fears and things that were wrong with me and my personality. The Lord has ministered to me, freeing me from the need to please people. I am confident in God's love for me, so now I don't have to strive to get the approval of other people.

The coming weeks, we'll be learning about Joshua taking the land, and how that teaching applies to our spiritual lives. I'm looking forward to that!

Confident in God's love - Jessica Scalf

Probably the biggest thing I've learned at CTS is that our decisions will bring either grief or glory to God -- so we have to seek Him in everything that we do!

CTS has changed the way I live my life. We are to be constantly seeking God, and being sensitive to the Holy Spirit.

Probably what I've enjoyed the most out of the teachings has been the journeys of Israel. It's very important that we have faith and trust God in our lives. We need to do this in order for Jesus to live through us, so we can live a pure and holy life before God.

The other people in CTS are a fun group. They love God, and want to use this summer as a time to grow. When we were visited by the group from Kirksville, Missouri, I was blessed. It's neat to see how God is working in other churches.

As a result of CTS, I'm more confident in God's love for me. He designed me to be in His image. I don't have to worry about what's going on in this world, because God's living in me. He has the power and authority to change our lives.

Ayutla briefs

These two pages are set aside for news from the bretheren in Ayutla.

Pedro Basilio is giving oversight to three small churches in the mountains of Ayutla de los Libres.

He is a great blessing to Lexington Christian Fellowship in allowing us to be a part of God's work in Mexico.

**Pedro Basilio
Ayutla, GRO
Mexico**

June 30, 1991

Dear Saints:

We are praying for all of you, brothers, who look daily to serve God with all of your heart. Especially our dear brothers in Lexington Christian Fellowship, who are already well known by the Mixteco brothers and local political leaders.

And we hope that the Lord will open the doors so that the kingdom of God will be furthered in this region of Ayutla.

I am committing my daughter to you (June 30-Aug 12). I hope you all have a good time together while she is with you. Greetings to all the brothers of Lexington Christian Fellowship.

Moy and Juana are fine. He wants to know what type of papers (legal documents) he needs to get in order to visit you. He will call or write soon.

That is all for now.

Pedro Basilio

Teaching

Faith is the foundation

by Pedro Basilio

Faith as I understand it, is the trust that one person has for another. For Christians, it is total confidence in the name of Jesus Christ.

In the Old Testament the word faith is normally used in reference to God: His faithfulness (Dt. 7:9, Is 49:7), especially in keeping his promises. Man's faith means complete trust in God, like Job demonstrated. (Job 16:19; 19:25-27; Psalm 37:3).

We have another well known example in Abraham. He believed that he would have a son in spite of his advanced age (Gen. 15:4-6). He also left his home in Ur, without knowing where God was taking him (Heb. 11:8). And when God asked him to sacrifice his son, he did not oppose him (Ro. 4:16-18; Heb 11:17-19).

Faith contains all the new life of the Christian truths and hope (1 Peter 1:7).

On two consecutive occasions, I have touched on this theme with

the Mixteco brothers. I told them:

"Faith is the foundation of our existence as Christians, without it we are unable to please God (Heb. 11:6). Faith hears the Word of God (Rom. 10:14) with all of one's heart and does it, even when we cannot sense the presence of our Father God, the Son or the Holy Spirit. But with the simple deed of believing and having faith in what we believe (Heb 1:1) we can feel and manifest the works of God."

Jesus never had problems with faith. He always was, is and will continue throughout eternity. All that you ask of the Father, he grants it. Why?, because there is faith. Jesus and faith are inseparable.

Jesus tells his disciples: "If you all had faith as a grain of mustard seed, you could move mountains" (Mt. 17:20). Also, there is a song which says: "If we begin to pray (with faith), this world will tremble."

Conclusion: As a group of true Christians we ought to go on -- growing in this truth and have confidence. We are fighting and praying to God that He will grant us this gift of faith.

Interview

Rosie is in town!!!

Keren Henderson is especially excited about having Rosalba Basilio in her home this summer. They are sharing a bedroom and lots of play together.

Rosie is happy to see her friends as well as explore the city where she lived for a couple of years.

Many of Rosie's old friends attend Covenant Church, so she is attending there on Sunday mornings to be able to visit with them.

She will also spend a couple of weeks in the home of John Meadows.

In the afternoons, Rosie is working on her English while the Henderson kids work on Spanish.

Rosie says her favorite American food is pizza. She says it's fun living with the Henderson's and that she likes it.

However, when asked if she would like to stay, she said, "I want to see my dad and mom."

Testimony

Singing songs again

A young Mixtec boy's faith, as he faces death, leads his parents back into the fellowship of believers

Pedro Cresencio and his family had not been meeting with their fellow Mixtec believers. Their relative, an antagonist of the believers, had discouraged them from "singing God's songs."

Now a year later they were desperate. It was nearing midnight. Their 14-year-old son, Cipriano, was seriously ill. The clinic doctor had diagnosed acute appendicitis. His appendix was on the verge of rupturing. If Cipriano could live long enough to make a three-hour trip to Acapulco he might live. No buses were leaving until the next day.

They lacked money and transportation. They spoke only broken Spanish. Their relative, the antagonist, refused to help them.

Could they or should they go to Peter Basilio and the believers? Or should they go past his house to the witch doctor's house? Then they saw a bright light in the closed doorway of Peter's house. God had given them the encouragement they needed!

"Shcandi'il" (We are here!), they whispered at the closed metal door.

Only two men were awake in the house. They were part of a group visiting from the United States, and could not fall asleep on this, their last night. They woke up Peter, who invited the family into the house.

Peter and one of the guests went out into the night looking for someone to drive Cipriano to Acapulco. The visiting group of

believers prayed for the sick boy. The boy started to relax and be at peace. He was no longer feverish and clammy.

One of the men spoke to Cipriano.

"There is a good possibility that you will die tonight," he said.

"Where are you with God?"

Cipriano acknowledged that he expected he would die and that his soul was in the Lord's hands.

"My parents may have left the group of believers," he said, "But I still sing the songs of God in my heart."

Cipriano's mother was weeping quietly in the corner. Eventually she began calling out to the Lord and came over and joined the group as they continued to pray for her son.

The men returned with a vehicle. They took Cipriano to Acapulco where He was operated on for an intestinal blockage.

That evening, God brought His people together. Some helped financially, others prayed. All were blessed. The Mixtec family saw God's power and love in action. They have chosen to return to God's path and are again "singing His songs."

This article was reprinted from the newsletter of Bob Hills. Bob is the Wycliffe translator with whom Pedro worked in translating the New Testament. Bob has asked us to pray for him, his wife Marilou, and their two children as they move ahead to complete the translation

Pray for:

Mexican missions

Our primary mission, outside of the United States, is in serving Pedro Basilio. We are continuing to establish our support and relationship with Pedro.

The next medical mission is being planned for December. Begin to pray that God would send the right personnel, the finances, and divine appointments.

Pray for finances for Pedro's house as it nears completion.

Pray for the churches in Tepango and San Martin. They would like to build a building in the mountains.

Pray for the Bible Study in Ayutla.

Pray for Rosie's time while she is here in the USA.

The believers in Tepango are still experiencing some persecution. Pray that God would soften the hearts of their oppressors.

Pray for other churches that are interested in the establishment of the Kingdom in Ayutla: Lexington Covenant Church, Cornerstone Church, Covenant Life in Kirksville, Faith Fellowship in Mt. Sterling, Dow Robinson, and Bob Hills.

Also, pray for Sebastian Vasquez.

Nicaragua

Bob and Myra Trolese, along with their family, are still serving in Managua.

This is the church Billy, Doug, Steve, Shane, and Debbie visited. Laura returned later and worked with a medical mission to the church in Bluefields.

The work is growing and Bob has asked us to keep them in our prayers.

Also, remember their son, Ben, as he graduates and makes plans for college.

The University of Kentucky

Remember Joe Howard as he works with international students at the university.

Thy kingdom come

by Billy Henderson

"For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink: but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost." Romans 14:7

To pray, "Thy kingdom come," is to pray for righteousness in the earth and peace to men of good will, knowing that true joy will follow in the Holy Ghost.

Whatever other ideas people may get in their heads when those words are used, the Bible makes righteousness, peace and joy very clear as an understanding of the Kingdom we are praying for.

Righteousness

The word righteous is used by doctors to describe the relation of one bone to another. If an elbow is dislocated, it is said to be "unrighteous."

This understanding of the word can also be applied to the Kingdom. Since the Kingdom of God is a people, the kingdom has to do with how these various parts (people) fit together. The kingdom of darkness gets people all out of joint (unrighteous), and they cannot get along with each other.

Everyone has been affected by a broken relationship in one way or another. Hard feelings between the people who are supposed to be the closest (husbands and wives, parents and children, friends) is the source of much pain in the earth.

The inability of nations to cooperate increases the incidents of war, oppression, and poverty.

Where the kingdom of God comes, all joints are put into the right place. They compliment, rather than irritate one another.

Peace

The word "peace" is also a relational word. It actually means "to unite, or make one."

When things are made righteous, when people are relating to one another properly, they are united.

A key to the success of any family, business, or church is their ability to stick together. Unfortunately, families, businesses, and, alas, even churches split and

go their separate ways.

One of the mysteries of the Godhead is their unity. Although they are Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, they are still one. This concept permeates the Kingdom.

Jesus prayed that we would be one as He and the Father are one.

The Kingdom of God, then, is a place where things, being put in right relationship, are at peace and are one.

Joy

Joy is an emotion. It is always used in the Bible in conjunction with something happening. It is the feeling one has when God does something good.

True joy is not the shallow pleasure that comes from lust. It is based in sensing true expression of love.

The other day I was sitting in my office and Susanna came in. She had a determined look upon her face as she pushed through the door. She marched over to the chair where I was sitting, climbed up in my lap and smiled at me. After sitting there for no more than two minutes, and saying nothing, she got down, walked to the door, turned and said "Bye daddy," and left.

She didn't give me anything. I didn't "get ahead in the world" through those two minutes. I'm no bigger in anybody's eyes because of it. However, there is nothing that compares to the joy of relationships.

In the Kingdom of God, where everything is in right relation, and all people are at one with each other, true joy abounds.

The Holy Ghost

Of course, the Kingdom is in the Holy Ghost. It is not something that can be seen. Instead, it is within or among us. (Luke 17:21) It is the working of the Holy Spirit which causes God's love to be shed abroad in our hearts, making us one with Him and each other.

It is the Holy Spirit that teaches us how to walk together in the light, and have true fellowship one with another.

(Continued on next page)

Thy will be done

Kingdom means there is a king. What a king wants, the king gets. In asking "Thy Kingdom come," we are yielding control of our own life to the will of God.

Fortunately (unfortunately?), that means our wills must yield to the will of God. If we are wanting His will to come, it must mean that our wills are standing in opposition to His.

This is altogether too true. Our wills are to get our own way. When people are together there are many wills. They all want to do what is right in their own eyes. If people agreed, there would be no divorce, fights, or wars.

The answer to this problem is for the King to rule and let his desire to have things in joint, at one with each other, and filled with joy. This is the Kingdom of God.

The bill of rights in God's constitution has only two points. First it says that we must love Him. Secondly, we must love our neighbors as ourselves.

It only makes sense, then, that His rulership would be characterized by the manifest presence of people in right relationship, walking as one, and experiencing the joy of His presence.

What this means to the Christian is that selfishness, greed, unforgiveness, and every other attitude that we "will to have", must be slain by the will of God. Our wills must bow to the sovereign Potentate.

Of course, since we are talking about prayer, we are talking about grace. We are not telling God what we will do, we are asking Him to do the impossible in us. James lets us know that God both hears and answers our prayers.

Scripture teaches that one day, "every knee shall bow" to the will of God. In that day, the lion shall rest with the lamb, there will be no more war, all things shall be gathered together in Him, and there will be great rejoicing around the throne.

Until that day, we pray for His kingdom to come, both in our lives and in the rest of God's elect.

This year I am writing short articles reviewing last year's teaching on this "disciple's prayer". Lord, teach us to pray, Our Father, and Hallowed be thy name are the first three. After this issue, there will be three more articles on prayer. You can get copies of the tape series from Sandy. Also, you can come practice the material on Thursday mornings at 6:00, and Sundays at 4:00 at the building.

A prayer for the will of God

Our Father, with whom we have access with boldness through Jesus Christ. We desire that you might make your name holy in your people.

Specifically, we ask that your Kingdom would come. That is, we ask that righteousness, peace and joy in your Holy Spirit would reign in the earth.

Father, let all broken relationships be mended. God, where there is unforgiveness, slay it by your will. Where there is bitterness that would defile, remove it. Where there is lust, replace it with love.

Then Lord, unite those who are called by your name. Let the peace to men of good will that was heralded at your son's coming be realized among your people. Let your people of all races, nationalities, and economic/ social levels walk together.

Please replace the shallow pleasures of materialism with the true joy that comes from being right with You, right with each other, and walking in the Holy Ghost.

We long for the day when all things are brought under your feet. Until that day we ask that your will would be done--in us.

Amen

Holy genetics

The power to live free from sin

By Karen Toth

When I first became a Christian, I struggled for a long time with an overwhelming desire to be holy. This was combined with a feeling of total helplessness to become that way because of sin. The more I tried to ignore the desire, the stronger the conviction came.

I became frustrated and angry with God, claiming, "How dare you demand something of me without making provision for it!" (I had misinterpreted I Peter 1:16, "Be holy because I am holy.")

But God said, "Ah, but here Karen is where you are wrong."

As days passed, I read a book entitled "Rebuilding the Real You" by Jack Hayford. While reading this book I was also studying genetics as part of my nursing program.

It was late one evening when God revealed to me that in fact He did make provision for me to be holy and

dren, we inherit the desire to be holy, a "dominant gene."

In genetics, a dominant gene always overwhelms non-dominant genes, and the trait that is dominant is evident. Physically, that trait could be blue eyes or brown hair, but when we are born again, our spirit gets a dominant, holy gene.

The non-dominant gene, which is our nature that desires to sin, is still present. Holiness, which is us walking in God's image, will prevail as long as the desire to sin remains non-dominant.

But there is a way to make sinful desire a dominant gene, and that's with unbelief in God and in His love for us. In that case, the gene that brings about holiness would not prevail.

"Whoever abides in Him does not sin. Whoever sins has neither seen Him or known Him, whoever has been born of God does not sin, for His seed remains in him and he cannot sin because he

has been born of God." (I John 3:6 & 9)

I thought that I must not be born of God because I couldn't stop sinning. But, the above scripture actually means,

"Whoever is born of God does not keep on sinning, the seed of His new life in me assures me that my destiny is to conquer sinning." It is God's life in me that makes me unhappy when I sin as I did in the past. When I do sin

I have His blood as a covering.

Remember, at the time of your salvation, you inherited a new genetic principle of behavior called holiness. It was not until I was able to understand my true inheritance (the incorruptable seed of holiness) that God could begin His work in me.

I have now realized that God has made provision for every believer to live a life of holiness. Furthermore I learned that it is my responsibility to allow that dominant gene (holiness) to manifest itself in every area of my life and to believe it can be manifested because I have inherited the ability to be holy.

"We shall be holy for He is holy. We shall be perfected just as our Father in Heaven is perfect -- Holiness - His holy nature is progressively going to fill my broken, weak, damaged parts. The character and constancy of my Father will grow in me -- His child." --Jack Hayford

I believe I can and will be holy. But, I do realize that it will not be accomplished rapidly and that God has sent His Holy Spirit to work completeness in me, even though it takes time.

Karen Toth is the mother of two children and is a nursing student at the University of Kentucky. With her husband Dave, she has been a member of Lexington Christian Fellowship for three years.

I became frustrated and angry with God, claiming, "How dare you demand something of me without making provision for it!"

that I had had His provision from the very hour I trusted in Him as my Savior.

There's an explanation from genetics for all of this. When we accept Jesus as our Lord, we are made children of the Living God. As His chil-

CHRISTIAN MANHOOD

What is it that separates the men from the boys?

This was the subject of discussion and prayer at the Men's Breakfast held July 6.

Billy Henderson read a few pages out of a book concerning Christian manhood. The book describes the rites of manhood as practiced in an African culture, and paralleled it to the lack of genuine manhood in current American culture.

In the African tribe described in the book, a boy lives with his mother in her hut, while his father lives apart from them in a hut of his own.

When the boy reaches about 11 or 12 years of age, the tribal elders, accompanied by the boy's father, gather outside the entrance to his mother's hut, and chant for him to come out and join them. It is a traumatic time for the boy's mother, who guards the entrance to the hut initially, but eventually allows the boy to come forward.

The boy is snatched from his mother, who is usually weeping with the emotion of the moment, and he is taken with other boys out into the forest where he undergoes the rites of manhood for about two weeks.

During that two weeks, the boy fasts, is circumcised, and is instructed in the ways of manhood -- farming, hunting and other responsibilities.

At the end of the two weeks, the boy is proclaimed a man, and is returned to the village, where he is given a hut that his father has built for him, along with a gun and a tract of land. He is then responsible as a man of the village.

The point of this extensive story is this: In America, there are virtually no rites of manhood. A boy can stay boyish and get away with it in America, even if that "boy" is 35 years old! In other countries, if a man declines his responsibilities, he will die, probably of starvation. Because of our prosperity, that is not the case.

There is a need for men to know that they are indeed men (in a lot of cases, they need to simply decide to be men in the first place). The men of our church chose to define manhood in the following terms:

-Responsibility: The ability of a man to take on a task and to do it well. The "task" could be a wide range of things; fatherhood, a job, a ministry, cleaning the church carpet, getting the house painted, or helping out a home group leader.

-Love: Making a genuine commitment, rather than acting out of emotion or fleshly desire.

-Confidence: A real man is confident in Jesus Christ as his Lord, and in himself as one of God's chosen. He is someone whom the Lord has given an ability and calling, knows it, and works to fulfill God's call.

-Accountability: A man should not only be accountable for what he has done, but challenges others to be accountable.

-Leadership: Leading by both word and example, a man needs this ability for his role in the family and in situations that God has placed him.

-Action Instead Of Acting: Rather than acting "macho," a real man takes action when he needs to, and is confident enough to not put on an act to prove himself.

-Doing What He Has To Do: A man does what he has to do -- that which he is responsible for -- whether he wants to or not. He is not guided by his desires, but by his knowledge of his God-given responsibilities.

-A Man Performs His Responsibilities Without Complaining.

-A Real Man Is Decisive.

-He is spiritual. A real man knows God.

God has called the men of our fellowship to be men in His image. We are able, in Him, to fulfill His calling and to challenge one another to meet the high standards of Christian manhood.

The men of LCF meet together for breakfast and sharing at 8:00 the first Saturday of every month. Plan to join them as they grow together in CHRISTIAN MANHOOD.



Worship briefs

The big picture

by Kim Carroll

Have you ever heard the saying, "I can't see the forest because the trees are in my way?" Sometimes in our everyday routines we can come to a place where we might relate to this saying. I personally have seen this true in many areas of my life at different times. I've been caught in the mundane trap. This is where everything begins to blend into one small boring event.

Yet, when I sit back and evaluate the situation, I realize it's not that terrible: It's just that my heart has drifted to the wrong place, or outlook. I need to bring it back into focus. My heart must center itself back on Jesus. This is reality. It's where truth begins to renew my mind and heart once again. It's when God reveals to me glimpses of His plans and His Kingdom coming. When I focus on these truths of His love, the mundane seems to slowly move away. The quality of life with Jesus become reality.

Now, There are many areas of our Christian walk in which the ever-lurking mundane spirit can catch us. I would like to examine one in particular, the worship of God. This is an area I've been examining in my own life; I've entitled it "the critic".

Have you ever sat in the Sunday morning praise and worship time wanting to lift up a rating card as they

do in athletic events? "Oh this Sunday was an eight, we seemed to have some life or, maybe a three, it just didn't get off the ground," might be the script.

This to me seems to be a tough attitude to guard against at times. But guard we must! Worship is a heart attitude and is formed out of relationship. Hence, true heart worship of God is relationally motivated. External props should not be needed to truly worship the Lord. Songs and instruments can help us focus our hearts upon God and they can be inspirational and encouraging, but they are only meant to be extensions and reflections of the heart. They cannot substitute for the heart attitude.

Another example is that I love my wife. Yet this love is from my heart. Because of what is in my heart I will do things for her, not to prove my love, but out of my love. When I'm gone from her I miss her. And while there are things I can do to show this love for my wife, it is still only a reflection and extension of my heart relationship.

In an entertainment-oriented society as ours, could it be that the attitude in worship has drifted from one of heart relationship to one of "entertain me". We're looking for

those things that are "happening" and for where the "action" might be. That is, we are trying to entertain or be amused and diverted.

The degree to which we are entertained can also be how we rate worship. The praise group can slip into performing for the church, and performing or entertaining for God. Our hearts slowly become reflections or extensions of what's happening. Action seems to become the criteria. The more action, the better our worship seems.

Let's look at a Heavenly scene of worship. In Revelations 4:5-11 we see all kinds of creatures, angels, elders, etc. worshipping God. As I read this I think it would be very entertaining hearing peals of thunder, seeing lightning, spirits and creatures with eyes everywhere. But all the

Have you ever sat in the Sunday morning praise and worship time wanting to lift up a rating card as they do in athletic events?

action is directed towards one purpose — the worship of God.

We see that the worship of God requires actions on our part. But as we also can see in the scriptures, all the action is out of hearts being consumed with the very act of the worship of God. There is nothing wrong with these things occurring in praise and worship as long as we understand that they are not for our amusements, but instead are reflections and extensions of our hearts.

Continued on next page

sions of our hearts. Furthermore, to guard our hearts, we must remind ourselves that it's not the external action that pleases God as much as the internal heart action that preceded the external.

Our God is definitely One of action and great and mighty deeds; but these great and mighty things start in our heart relationship with Him -- the King of Kings.

I started this article by talking about the ever lurking "mundane

trap". In worship I believe this is where we may drift from "I'm here to please God" to "let's make it happen". When the external events begins to speak louder than the internal heart attitude, praise and worship becomes a show to us, like something we would pay to see instead of reflections of loving and giving hearts.

James Kennedy puts it this way, "Most people think of the church as a drama, with the minister as the chief actor, God as the prompter and the

laity as the critic. What is actually the case is that the congregation is the chief actor, the minister is the prompter, and God is the Critic."

Let's guard to make sure that our times of worship are ones which initiate in our hearts, and everything that follows becomes a reflection or extension of that. Who knows maybe God is the one with the rating cards, and His scoring is based on how much action was in our hearts instead of what was going on around us!



Fellowship briefs

Welcome Danica

Danica Griggs, from the church at Kirksville, Mo., has joined in with CTS since visiting us with others from her church about three weeks ago. It's been fun having her here!

Softball game a real "hit"

The annual church softball game was a "hit," in more ways than one.

We're not giving the score of the ball game here, though -- Ryan Schwartz and Matthew Henderson have been sharing with us in church that playing sports is good for being with people that you love and for learning to work with them. That way we all turn out winners!

Hot dog!

Due to the threat of rain, this year's annual Hot Dog Extravaganza was held at the YMCA instead of at the Pascucci's house. The only fireworks seen this year were on the basketball court instead of in the sky! It was a "blast" anyway!

Women's Gathering

Saturday, July 20, 6:00 p.m.
350 Elaine Dr.

The women of LCF are gathering for a Salad dinner at the church building. The main purpose is just to be together. We may have a short presentation.

To come you must bring a salad of any kind. It can be an appetizer, desert, or meal type salad.

Everyone is invited. Bring a friend.

RSVP to Judy Greer: 254-7505

Father's Picnic

Saturday, July 20, 6:00 p.m.
Elizabeth Street Park

Since the mothers will be meeting with the rest of the women on this night, the fathers are taking the kids to the park.

Bring your own picnic lunch, as well as balls, frisbees and extra diapers.

Fellowship briefs

Oswald Chambers

"God not only gives me supernatural grace, but He is in me to will and to do of His good pleasure, and that means I can do all that God's will and my conscience indicate I should do."

-Oswald Chambers

Brud is blessed

Brud McGuire is praising God for two major blessings. The first is a new grandson, Stephen Hale Olliges.

The other reason for Brud's thankfulness is that his mother, who is bedridden, has recovered from some severe health problems she had been having.

One that got away

Recently, several of the young men went fishing. According to one account, Curt Eiden caught a 22 inch, 4.5 lb. Largemouth Bass. The report goes on to say that SOMEBODY, let the fish mysteriously escape. We have been praying that Curt

would find the grace to forgive SOMEBODY. Congratulations Curt on a great catch. We all believe you.

Full house

In the middle of the semester, Angela found her house empty. She was left with the mortgage payment at a time of the year when few people were looking for a place to live.

There were some hard times, but now her house is filled with people who are seeking the Lord. She even had Christy move into the apartment upstairs.

Thank you Lord!

Making friends

Patsy McConnel has become a great friend. After going on the last trip to Mexico with us, she visited Lexington with about 20 others from her church in Kirksville.

In August, she will be visiting with a friend and 5 young ladies who want to meet Rosie.

Now that's a friend.

Pray for:

Be praying for Billy and Brent Henderson's family. Their grandfather died in the first week in July. Particularly lift up their Mother and her sisters and brothers in prayer, that God will comfort them.

-Rob Scales received his degree in accounting in May, but accounting firms haven't been hiring due to the economy. Pray that the Lord leads Rob to a good place of employment!

-Kyra Fossett is looking for a job here in Lexington. Pray that the Lord places her at the job He has for her.

-Pray for the health of the two women in LCF that are currently with child -- Kelley Henderson and Mary Jo Schwartz.

-Pray for our church's families.

-Pray for the upcoming school year -- at UK and elsewhere. Remember the children in our church who will be going back to school, and for the students who attend UCF.

LCF LEXINGTON CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

104A Dantzler Ct.
Lexington, KY 40503