

"Forgive us as we forgive"

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Letter

We need to pray

Dear Brothers,

Praise God for all that HE is doing among us.

The Spirit of God continues to draw new visitors to the church (25-30 since we moved into the building) and UCF continues to deepen in God and also add some people. The work in Ayutla is moving along quickly. We now have around 100 families involved in the Lexington Christian Home School Support Group.

November 22-24 we are going to stop and acknowledge God for what He is doing (see page 5). November 18-20, we will be having prayer at the church in preparation for the weekend of thanks. I look forward to this time of fasting and prayer together.

We acknowledge what God is doing and we are going to thank Him for it. However, there is a great caution that I need to give you, as the pastor of this body. Our structural, numerical growth is exceeding our foundation of prayer.

It is not evident from the outside, but in the spiritual dynamics of the church we are running thin. I am running thin. We need a move of God in our personal lives and on our knees, to be able to keep up with what God wants to do.

This is like one of those things you put off until you have to do it. Folks, we have to do it. There are several weeks left in the year and I would like to use them to seek God's grace for prayer.

I am going to ask you to come prepared to pray on Sunday nights. I am not sure we need anymore teaching on the subject. All we need now is to "Just Do It."

The outreach to Mexico begins December 31. We need to have more prayer for the missions there. Next year is a time we are setting aside for developing our young people. We need God's anointing on that. People are being integrated into the church. We need God to grace that.

In all that is going on, we need prayer!

As you look through this issue, please pay special attention to the "Pray for" sections. Use this as a daily reminder of what you can pray for.

I would also like to remind you that the church is open for prayer every Thursday at 6:00 a.m. and Sunday at 4:00 p.m.

Praying with you,

Billy

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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:

New Students:

We have many new students attending University Christian Fellowship. Many of you have never met some of them since they do not attend church. However, there are some really sincere and motivated Christians among the students.

-pray that we can be faithful to equip them while they are at U.K.

-pray that they will become knit in with LCF or some other solid body of believers.

-pray for the families that are working with UCF.

-there are a lot of believers from different groups in Holmes Hall. Pray that they will walk in unity and holiness.

Add feet to your prayer:

In addition to praying for our new students, be sure to reach out to them as you meet them.

Greet them on Sunday nights, invite them over, and get to know them.

The single life

Paul the apostle advocated the single life

I was talking to a buddy of mine a few years ago and he was telling me how much he would like to be married. After his marriage went sour, he was continually talking about wanting out. After the divorce was final, he was back out looking for some female companionship and hoping for a remarriage.

Odd, isn't it? This marriage business I mean. Single's want to be married. People in difficult marriages want out. People who have gotten out of bad marriages want back in. It sounds fishy.

Actually, it is only indicative of a 'Corinthian' type culture such as ours. When a society becomes so self-centered, generations are trained to gratify their own needs. Paradoxically, this cannot ever be done. As a result, the self-centered approach to a single, married, or single again life produces discontent.

One of the most difficult tasks as a Christian, is to discern the difference between our discontent and the true leading of God in relations. Enough romance has permeated our culture to make us a people who move on feelings rather than principle. There is no place you can get in more trouble acting on feelings than in relationships.

That's why we must endeavor to see what the Bible says about relationships and do it.

I Corinthians 7 is full of advice about singles, those who are married, those who are widowed, and those who are divorced. However, coming up with a point by point exegesis is difficult for even the best.

On the other hand, you can pick

out some overall attitudes. One thing for sure is that Paul suggested the single life. He suggested it for the unmarried and the widows... "I say therefore to the unmarried and widows, it is good for them if they abide even as I (Paul was not married)." (v.8) He goes on to say that they have not sinned if they marry.

But Paul's heart, as he spoke by permission, was that people would esteem and enjoy the single life as an opportunity to serve God. You can see in Paul's heart a desire for this lustful, selfish culture to be free from the drive for someone to meet their needs so they could find themselves in God.

Obviously, you can go through the chapter and find the concessions Paul made in some situations... "if a virgin marry, she has not sinned." But you cannot get away from the fact that the high calling for these people was to pull away from burning in desire and lust.

I think the same is true for the generation in which we live. But even if everyone wanted to marry, some will not.

It is a sobering thought to realize that some men in our body will never marry. It is also sobering that some women in our body will never marry. This is in all likelihood the truth.

It is exciting to know that those who remain single are not failures. As a matter of fact, it is something to be hoped for as much or more than marriage and children.

Our hats are off to those unmarried folk among us who are finding Jesus to be their Joy.

Marriage

Advice from where the grass looks greener

"The grass is always greener on the other side" (unless you're like my neighbor who is a retired Agriculture professor).

At any season you can tell which of my neighbors was the Ag teacher at U.K. At 5:30 a.m. the computerized watering system comes up out of the ground to water the "putting green" front yard. The stepped flower boxes provide blooms and greenery all summer. I fell to temptation one fall and knocked on his door to let him know that there were two leaves on his front lawn. In dead winter, his lawn (not mine) is as green as his neighbors are with envy.

His attitude is not that the grass is greener somewhere else. His attitude is, "This is my yard. I will do the best with what I have. If I see something somewhere else that I like, I will learn it and do it here."

He's the kind of guy who fertilizes, mulches, treats, rotates, waters, and ends up with what he wants.

There is a Christian truth here of finding contentment where you are and giving yourself wholly to the work at hand.

Single Christians often wish they were married. Married people often wish they had done something different when they were single. Since we have so many marriages that are progressing like my Ag neighbor's lawn, I thought I would ask them how they have fertilized, mulched, and landscaped to get the "yard of their marriage" to look so green in the winter.

I asked two questions of our couples: 1) As you look back on your single life, what is something you are glad you did. 2) Looking back from this point in your marriage, what do you wish you would have done that you didn't, before you married.

Building relationships

According to Bonita Scales, married for six years and mother of four, "One of the most valuable things that I learned as a single person was to serve. In my occupation as a waitress this was my job responsibility. We were trained to see needs and meet them before people asked. Now, as a wife and mother and daughter of God, this

is one of my greatest callings."

Elizabeth Williams, reflected back on her time before marriage, "One thing I'm glad I did when I was single was to live in the women's house on Linden Walk."

Elizabeth's husband, Larry, had similar thoughts, "One thing I'm glad I did as a single person is live with other Christian men in the houses or even just with 1 or 2 other men in apartments learning to relate to others and have other people involved in my life helping me to become stronger in the Lord. I also spent a lot of time with the Pascucci family before I was married and learned a lot about family life."

Bonita mentioned that living with a family was one of the things she wished she had done before marriage. In her words, "My advice to single women would be to find a family with a submissive wife and watch and learn the joy of submission. If you're 'strong' and distrusting you'll have troubles and your husband will never have the freedom to lead."

In all of these responses there was the underlying principle of "being trained" by "being around" the right people. It is easy to gravitate toward the people who accommodate our carefree lifestyle, and opposition to accountability. However, all of those things are faced in a marriage and choosing as a single person to face them by remaining in relationship with the right people is a mature decision that pays great dividends in the end.

Serving God

When I asked Larry if there was one thing he wished he had done, he said, "If I had the opportunity to go back and be single again I'd be much more fervent in seeking God and serving in the church. I didn't use my time very wisely for the Kingdom's sake when I had the extra time."

Some of my single friends have

told me they get tired of hearing how much they can serve God as a single. They get to the place that they are tired of hearing how much they can do as a single person and just want to get married.

The reality is that a step toward a healthy marriage is coming to the place that you use your free time to serve. Actually, that's a principle you move into through marriage. You are deciding to give your free time to serve a particular woman and eventually children. It's not about getting your needs met.

The important things

On a more practical vein in regard to the marriage relationship, Mike Treen reflected on things his father had taught him while at home, "My dad taught me several things that 'smooth' things over in a relationship. Always treat a woman like a lady, remember the 'special times' (anniversary, etc.). I also wish I had worked on the relationship more. Janet and I had known each other for several years, but I wasn't always serious about the relationship. Don't take someone for granted, nurture the relationship just like you would a great friendship."

In moving toward a marriage relationship, couples can major on the minors. They can go out and have fun together, they can talk about what things they want to buy, or dream dreams together. These things are important. However, on a deeper level, there should be a working out of serving one another, serving others together, and learning to relate to each other spiritually.

This is only a sampling of views from those on the married side of the fence. As they look back to the single side they can see a greenness that is not apparent to those who stand in the field alone.

Do yourself a favor. Walk over to the fence, talk to the people on the other side, and ask them how you can make your own field greener. Then when people walk through the neighborhood, they'll see the field of your life and glorify God.

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.

Pray for:

Pedro:

-Our last offering brought us within \$1600 of finishing the Basilio's house. Pray that the workers will be diligent and the house will be completed by our arrival on Dec. 31.

-One medical team leaves Dec. 31 and another on Jan. 6. Pray for provision, protection and ministry.

-There are churches operating in Tepango, La Mesilla, and San Martin.

-Also, remember to pray for Sebastian.

Mexico:

-In a recent article in a national missions journal, reports of growing violence against protestant churches in Mexico.

Numbers of believers have been run out of their home towns while some clergy have died.

According to the article, much of the opposition is coming from the Catholic church. Pray that believers in Mexico will be protected and the leaders of the opposition will have changed hearts.

Class is planting seeds to grow future missionaries

Adios! did you know that adios means goodbye in Spanish, but literally translated is, "to God?" Students in the missions preparation class learned this as well as a little more at their first class.

Billy Henderson is teaching a class for his children and any other students who would like to develop a heart for missions and learn a little Spanish at the same time.

The class centers in on the church planting in Ayutla, with Pedro. Billy says he wants to plant seeds in the hearts of the children so that they will grow up with a heart toward Pedro and the work down south.

He also plans to begin equipping them with the language so they will enjoy their first visit down.

In addition, the students will begin to learn how to pray for the area and do spiritual warfare.

Part of the first class was to read over and learn the names of the villages in the Ayutla area.

Can you pronounce Coapinola? (Ko - op - e - no - la)

Students range from first graders to mothers.

If you would like to join the class, it meets on Fridays, 3:00 - 4:00 p.m. Any member of LCF is welcome. There is no charge.

Medical missions

Two winter teams are planned

Ayutla, here we come. The Medical team leaving December 31 has 11 members. Laura Feeney, Curt Eiden, Barkley Douglas, and Billy Henderson will be going from LCF. Susan Richard, a pharmacist from Southland Christian, will be part of the team. Kim Carroll, Cheryl Davy, and Pattie Stanton from Cornerstone will also help make up the team. Two doctors from Kirksville, Wendall Nickerson and Frank Norton will provide the medical expertise. The eleventh person is Cathy Kuhn, Billy, Brent, and Sandy's cousin from Lansing, Michigan.

This team will return on the 8th of January, while another team will arrive in Ayutla on the 6th and remain until the 15th. Billy, Kim, and Patti will remain for both teams.

These teams will be doing medical clinics in mountain villages. The second team will actually backpack to more remote areas.

A few of the members will be assigned to evangelism during the trip. We are believing that God will touch both spirit and body.

Pray for these teams as they prepare for the trip.

GREAT THINGS HE HATH DONE!

When Israel crossed Jordan, God had them erect a pile of stones to remind them of how He had brought them through the river. Following that principle, we believe it is time for us to stop, acknowledge the great things God has done, and from that foundation prepare to move ahead. In the history of Lexington Christian Fellowship, we have seen God take nothing and make a small church out of it. With untrained leadership and young Christians, He has made a family. We are thankful for what we have and desire to offer it back up to Him as seed for the harvest. To that end, we have set aside:

November 22, 23 and 24

"...a time of reflection and thanks"

Friday

6:00 - 7:00 p.m. - Supper

7:30 - 9:00 p.m. - Worship

"Historical highlights of LCF" - Members of the body

Saturday

10:00 - 11:30 a.m. - "Our part in the outreach to Ayutla"

"Missions"

7:00 p.m. - "What is a church"

Sunday

5:00 p.m. - "This church in this city"

We are asking men of God who have stood with us during the beginnings of the church to be with us during these days to help us see what God has done for us and to offer thanks with us. Ernie Sacra, Bob Stricker, Dow Robinson, Kim Carroll, Steve Humble and John Meadows will share the ministry during this time. We are also asking God to give us special grace during this time to hear His heart in what He has done and desires to do with us. We will be fasting and praying November 18 - 20 in preparation for this time. The church will be open from 6:00 - 8:00 a.m. and 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. during these prayer days for families and individuals to pray.

Forgive us as we forgive

A few years ago, I was counseling with a college student who seemed to hold unforgiveness in his heart toward several people. I encouraged him to forgive. I shared scripture on forgiveness. I did everything I could. I was unsuccessful in helping him.

Looking back, I realize what the problem was. He was not a Christian. He prayed, he sang, and he read his Bible. However, he would not forgive. Therefore, it is evident that he had not been forgiven and was not a Christian.

Forgiveness is a topic to grapple with every day. It is included here in this prayer to remind us each day that we must walk in forgiveness. To not depend on God's forgiveness daily is to not know our true need. To not forgive is to prove that we are not Christians.

Several points are made as daily prayer topics in Matthew 6:9-13. After the amen in verse 13, the only point brought back up and elaborated is this deal on forgiveness.

"For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses." Matthew 6:14-15

It sounds hard to say that the college student I mentioned was not a Christian. But this hard saying is necessary to help sinners come to repentance.

The unforgiving servant

On over in chapter 18 of Matthew, Jesus uses the parable of a king and his servants to illustrate our need for being forgiven and forgiving.

"Therefore is the kingdom of heaven likened unto a certain king, which would take account of his servants. And when he had begun to reckon, one was brought unto him, which owed him ten thousand talents. But forasmuch as he had not to pay, his lord commanded him to be sold, and his wife, and children, and all that he had, and payment to be made. The servant therefore fell down, and worshipped him, saying, Lord, have patience with me, and I will pay thee all. Then the lord of that servant was moved with compassion, and loosed him, and forgave him the debt. But the same servant went out, and found one of his fellowservants, which owed him an hundred

pence: and he laid hands on him, and took him by the throat, saying, Pay me that thou owest. And his fellowservant fell down at his feet, and besought him, saying, Have patience with me, and I will pay thee all. and he would not: but went and cast him into prison, till he should pay the debt. So when his fellowservants saw what was done, they were very sorry, and came and told unto their Lord all that was done. Then his lord, after that he had called him, said unto him, O thou wicked servant, I forgave thee all that debt, because thou desiredst me: shouldst not thou also have had compassion on thy fellowservant, even as I had pity on thee? And his lord was wroth, and delivered him to the tormentors, till he should pay all

To not depend on God's forgiveness daily is to not know our true need. To not forgive is to prove that we are not Christians.

that was due unto him. So likewise shall my heavenly Father do also unto you, if ye from your hearts forgive not every one his brother their trespasses." Matthew 18:23-35

We see at once that the one servant was so in debt to his lord that there was no possible way he could pay. His only hope was that the king would forgive him.

Next we see the debt owed this servant by his fellowservant was minuscule. Unfortunately, even with such a great example of forgiveness which the king could offer, this man could not forgive the small debt of another.

As a result of being unforgiving (and unforgiven), this servant found himself under the wrath rather than compassion of the King.

The reality is that the unforgiving servant had not grasped the forgiveness of the King. If he had, he would have extended the same to his fellowservants.

(Continued on next page)

So it is with men and God. Those who have understood and received the forgiveness of God, flow in this same forgiveness to others. The true believer has seen the depth of his own depravity and is broken at the graciousness and mercy extended to him by the King. He cannot find it in his heart to hold another in bondage to unforgiveness when he has been made partaker of such magnificent forgiveness.

God's forgiveness

Praying *'forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us'* brings at least two things into focus. First, it makes us aware of our own need to receive forgiveness daily. This is on two levels. We must continue to rest in the finished work of the cross daily. Our relationship to God today, is based in his finished work on the cross, not our works. At the same time, when we sin, our relationship is not restored through some new work. We are restored to fellowship by the same forgiveness effected in the cross.

So, each day we center down into God and reaffirm our dependence on His mercy.

Forgiving others

Secondly, praying this phrase brings to mind our relationship to others. As we contemplate the magnificent forgiveness of God to us, we are compelled to extend the same grace and mercy in our relationship to our fellow servants.

Forgiveness is rooted in both the grace and mercy of God. As we pray, we are asking for that grace and mercy to flow through us toward others. This is really where prayer affects our relationship to the world.

The attitude of our flesh would be to hold everyone in debt to us. They owe us our place in traffic, they owe us our choice of food, they owe us good service. Pity the waitress who brings our food late, curse the man who doesn't let us in his lane when we need to turn left, and blast Krogers if they are out of the sale product we made a special trip to get.

On a deeper level, our flesh expects our parents to live their lives around us, our friends to accommodate our lifestyles, and our mates to do what we want when we want it.

The petty things we would hold others in bondage for are nothing compared to what we have done

against the holiness of God.

However, when we contemplate God's forgiveness, we realize that the man in the car owes us nothing. Even more, we realize that those close to us are really not in debt to us at all.

The experience of the college student I mentioned in the beginning is all too common. If we are true Christians, God will have us not only receive His forgiveness, but extend it to others.

In praying, *'forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us,'* we are continually reminded why we can walk with God, and how we should walk with others.

This year I am writing short articles reviewing last year's teaching on the "disciple's prayer". You can get copies of the tape series from Sandy.

Father, as we have worked through this prayer, we have come to the place that we need your grace the most. First, we need grace to see our need for grace.

I pray that you would forgive me for thinking I could stand in my own works. Help me to see that I constantly stand in your presence based on what Jesus has done. Next, help me to have boldness in coming to you for forgiveness of any sin I would knowingly commit.

In the same way, Lord, help me to not hold any of my fellow servants in bondage to me. Let my heart be full of your grace and mercy.

In all honesty, O God, there is very little I need to forgive others for. Most of my unforgiveness is my own selfishness. Few people owe me anything. Help me to live free from this selfishness.

Forgive me Lord, as I forgive others...Amen.

Christian Women

"Many women do noble things, but you surpass them all. Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting; but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised. Give her the reward she has earned, and let her works bring her praise at the city gate."

*Proverbs
31:29-31*

Showing kindness to God by acts of love toward others

"...to be ready to every good work, to speak evil of no man, to be no brawlers, but gentle, shewing all meekness unto all men. For we ourselves also were sometimes foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving divers lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, and hating one another. But after that the kindness and love of God our Savior toward man appeared." Titus 3:1-4

by Brenda Henderson

Once we were selfish and hateful. We did foolish things, deceitful things only to serve our own wants. Then, the kindness of God came to us and set us free.

Now we are kind...right? Or do we still fall back into those attitudes.

One of the greatest ministries women can have is their kindness: kindness to their husband, kindness to their children, kindness in the church, and kindness to the lost.

Kindness is simply helping others, doing good, being friendly, and being gentle. Somehow, women have lost some of their kindness. They exhibit a tougher, more closed attitude. Sometimes this comes from wanting to get ahead or at times from being hurt.

It is no longer 'cool' to be kind. Instead, it is cool to be 'cool.' Why is it that only the little old ladies are kind anymore?

Kindness to your husband

The first place for us to start being kind is to our husbands. Are you always thinking about whether your husband is being kind to you, or are you thinking about being kind to him? The Bible says, *"be ready to every good work."* Being ready takes preparation.

You should think ahead before your husband hits the door. Prepare the kids to greet him properly. Don't 'take' from him with your first words. Let them simply be words of grace.

Kindness to your children

Next come the children. Are you ordering them around, rushing them here and there, teaching them this and that, disciplining, but not taking time out to speak a kind word to them? Kindness needs to permeate your home. Your children can go off the charts on the achievement tests, and know every event in history, but if they don't know kindness, you've missed the mark. They will be kind if they live in a kind home. *"in her tongue is the law of kindness."* Prov. 31.

If your child finds him or herself in an unkind situation, send them back to it with kindness.

I remember a time when one of Keren's friends (no one in our church) was very unkind. She was selfish, jealous, and wanted all the attention. I talked with Keren about this and we just smothered the girl in kindness. It not only helped Keren cope with the situation, but it helped her friend.

Kindness in the church

Of course kindness in the church should be a priority. That usually means thinking of others. Opportunities to show kindness do not usually fall in our lap. Most often we have to go out of our way to show kindness to each other. That means knowing what is going on in each others lives. *"Thou shalt not see thy brother's ox or his sheep go astray, and hide thyself from*

them: thou shalt in any case bring them again unto thy brother." Deuteronomy 22:1

Everyone needs kindness shown to them, not just the people that you think deserve kindness. Scripture teaches us that we are to be kind to the unthankful and evil people.

Forgiveness goes hand in hand with kindness. Someone who shows kindness probably has an ability to forgive, also, and not let the selfishness of others get in the way. *"And be ye kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another."* Ephesians 4:32

Kindness to the lost

"But the stranger that dwelleth with you shall be unto you as one

saved."

Let's not just say we are Christians, but show that we are. We can keep our kindness to ourselves or within our family, or we can just keep it within our church. However, we can spread it to the lost, as well.

"Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: For I was hungry, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and you visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me. Then shall the righteous answer him saying, Lord,

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born among you, and thou shalt love him as thyself: for ye were strangers in the land of Egypt: I am the Lord your God." Leviticus 19:34

That is like the heart of following up new people in the church. Just think of people who are new in church who need a friend.

Kind acts are the deeds that show our love.

Jesus showed us the connection between true love and acts in John 3:17, *"For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world: but that the world through him might be*

when saw we thee an hungered, and fed thee? or thirsty, and gave thee drink? When saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in? or naked, and clothed thee? Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee? And the King shall answer and say unto them, verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me." Matthew 25:34-40

God's kindness has appeared to us. Let us show it back to him by showing it to one another.

LCF women discuss kindness

What we need are kinder more gentler homes. No, President Bush has not been sharing with our ladies. Kindness in the home was the topic of the last women's gathering.

Brenda Henderson shared on how the woman of the house sets the mood of her home. Most of the women agreed that they wanted to work at being kinder. One lady even shared that it was life changing.

Brenda shared that the home should be where children learned kindness and then take it out into the world.

Several women shared specific acts of kindness that they used in their own homes to make their husbands and children feel loved.

By the way, have any of you husbands found any little notes in your lunches lately?

Beyond the teaching, there was a real sense of the presence of the Holy Spirit at this meeting.

God is blessing the women of this body as they have been so faithful to grow in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

As the pastor, Billy says that the women of this body understand and fulfill the role of women in the body of Christ as well as any group of women he has ever seen.

In his words, "They are not wimps. They are becoming strong women of God. These are the kind of women that have changed the world. Somehow, in their strength, they have been able to maintain that quiet and gentle spirit the Bible encourages. I can only attribute this to a special work of grace."



Worship briefs

Allowing our children to adjust our praise

And when the chief priests and scribes saw the wonderful things that he did, and the children crying in the temple, and saying, Hosanna to the son of David: they were sore displeased, and said unto him, Hearest thou what these say? And Jesus saith unto them, Yea: have ye never read, Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings thou hast perfected praise? Matthew 21:15-16

As the Greer family gathered around the table and viewed the wonderful meal mommy had prepared (including the three bean salad), little John Isaac was asked to give thanks.

"God, thank you for MOST of this food," he prayed, with an honest heart toward God. Some might argue that John needs to be thankful for all the food. However, his argument that we should be honest and real in prayer is a much higher lesson.

After bedtime prayers the other night, I invited the kids to join me in a song of worship. I kind of noticed Matthew thumbing through a book while he was singing and Keren looking at Stephen. I stopped the song and asked the kids if they really were worshipping God and not just singing a song. They said yes.

I volunteered the possibility that we might want to really think about the Lord as we sing. Keren asked, "Dad, do we have to look like we are worshipping (to illustrate, she twisted her mouth and wrinkled her

brow in a pensive expression) and do we have to do this (she raised her hands and waived them back and forth). Or, can we just be normal and worship God."

Once again, an argument could be made for the need to be reverent or to raise hands or some other pet peeve of worship. And, once again, the child's question, "Can't we just be normal and worship God?" hints at a greater principle.

The scripture above comes after Jesus has done some miracles. The children see Him and what he has done, and begin to exclaim Hosanna. This word actually ascribes salvation to God. In other words, they are excited about Jesus and cry out that this is from God, in childlike excitement.

The Pharisees, on the other hand, judged the children's praise and said it was improper. These "religious" men could not see Jesus for Who He was (because of their own self interest). This is like so many today who want to sit around and judge the praise offered by others.

In reality, these children were 'perfecting' praise. This word actually means 'to complete, repair, or adjust.' That means these children were restoring the right idea of what should be going on in the house of God. Rather than seeing it as a place to buy and sell, it was a place to acknowledge God for who He is and what He does.

What they did when they saw Jesus was an object lesson in praise.

We can learn so much from our own children. John was not about to offer up any hypocritical religious prayer. What he thanked God for came from His heart.

Keren wanted to just be normal and worship God. She wondered if she had to put on some kind of show or if she could just express her heart.

Maybe we could let our own children "complete, repair, or adjust our praise."

Why not just see God for Who He is, praise and worship Him from your heart, and don't try to make up anything else?



Fellowship briefs

Babies are on the way in the John and Starnes families. This development breaks a 5 week period in the church when we didn't have any babies on the way. We want to pray for these women as they carry their children to birth.

This is the note Bill John got from his wife to let him know the good news:

There once was a man named Bill John,
Who took a wife, Catherine, on.
God gave him a quiver,
Cause he was the giver,
So he took it and they walked on.

The first arrow came as a surprise,
A girl with brown hair and blue eyes.
This arrow, Ruth,
To tell you the truth,
Was really a marvelous prize.

Then came along arrow number two,
With blond hair and those same eyes of blue.
"To add to your quiver,"
Said the generous Giver,
Rachel's giggles now through the air flew.

Arrows three and four came in time,
That quiver was getting so fine.
Susannah Rose, a great joy,
And little Joseph, a boy,
These arrows were blessings divine.

Then the man took time with his wife,
To seek the Giver on some issues of life.
They talked of the illusion,
That arrows are an intrusion,
On your time, wallet, and peace of mind.

So they prayed to the all wise Giver,
To have faith for their four arrowed quiver.
To train them up right,
And to sacrifice their own life,
Four strong arrows who bring life and not wither.

Now the Giver had a wonderful plan,
To bless Bill, a faithful, generous man.
Four arrows for war,
A mighty man would need more,
So to the quiver some day He would add.

Faith is the substance of things hoped for,
The evidence of things that aren't seen.
The two knew of God's giving,
For all of their living,
And all their needs He would meet.

And this is not the end of the story,
Cause God's plan is all filled with glory.
The quiver soon will hold five,
Little arrows all so fine,
But for now, baby arrow mom's storing.

Bill and Catherine hold on to their faith,
And walk in God's powerful grace.
They give thanks in their hearts,
For these arrows, His part,
This quiver of five they embrace.

So as we begin this new way,
We're sure heads will turn, mouths will play.
But we take up the honor,
Of raising another,
"God's blessed us!" we always will say.

Now come the month June '92,
The Giver's arrow will arrive all brand new.
For this arrow we pray,
To bring God's light to a future day,
Bearing Christ, many hearts He'll renew.

It takes faith to hold out your hand,
And receive the Giver's wonderful plan.
But with grace from above,
Those blessings arrive with His love,
The seed of our faithful father, Abraham.

The Russian government seems to be looking for answers in the right places. During November, Bill Gothard is in Moscow, meeting with both Yeltsin and Gorbachev, to lay ground work for teaching his Basic Life Principles to 5,000 Russian educators who will then incorporate these principles into their schools and teach them in the classrooms.

In addition, Campus Crusade for Christ is raising funds to respond to the Russian Department of education's request to place a copy of the *Jesus* movie in every

(Continued on next page)

Fellowship briefs

(continued)

government run school in the nation.

If a whole generation of Russians could be educated in Christian Principles through the public schools, their nation would be more Christian in practice than the U.S.

That's one arms race we don't mind them giving it all they got. We'll even gladly 'leak all our secrets.'

What happens when you put the summer Father - Son, camp out off until November? You better take along a heater, lots of firewood, and a heavy winter coat.

All summer long we tried to get away with the boys. It didn't materialize until the second weekend of November (the first weekend the temperature dropped below freezing and snow was predicted).

You would think it was a miserable time. But being with good friends and family make any situation a joy. The fire seemed that much warmer, the food tasted that much better, and

hiking was that much more enjoyable.

Ron's handy, dandy chain saw and some nearby trees, Mike's bottomless pot of hot chocolate and apple cider, foil meals, and the boys made for a warm weekend.

The fathers who went (Mike, Ron and Billy) had so much fun, they are planning another for the first of December.

If you would like to go, talk with Mike Treen.

You can sign up to help finish the building in time for the November 22-24 meetings.

There are several jobs that we need to finish. Gregg will have a sign up sheet of projects taped to the office door. You can also talk to Gregg after the meetings, or call him at home (254-7505).

If you would like to sign up, you can do it any time. However, the projects need to be finished by November 20th.

Pray for:

Churches:

- Woodland Baptist
- Lexington Covenant
- Kirksville, MO
- Poosy Ridge UMC
- Cornerstone
- St. Louis (Eric Miller)
- Jesus is the Word
- Us

People:

-John Joseph broke his foot on the camp out.

-Sarah Olliges is still scheduled for surgery as soon as she gets over her cold.

-Dick Hobdy's wife (Leta's mother) is recovering from a viral infection.

-Catherine John and Trish Starnes are with child.

Church leadership:

-As the church continues to grow, our home fellowship leaders, along with Billy, need special grace to be able to keep up.

The more people we reach, the more ministry that is needed.

Please take the time to pray for:

- Gregg
- Larry
- Jimmy
- Billy

-Also remember Judy, Elizabeth, and Brenda and their children.

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