

Fellowship briefs

Elizabeth Williams is now carrying her third child, making her the third woman in our church who is currently expecting (Catherine John and Trish Starns are our other two women who are with child).

Our church has been blessed with so many little children. Perhaps we should adopt the motto of a popular pizza chain: We deliver.

Or, with this being the Year of the Arrow, we could very well ask one another whether we get the point.

Pray for these women as they bless their families and our church with new little arrows that will be used by the Lord in a mighty way.

Get the point?

Rick Starnes (alias, Rabbi Rick) is teaching the Bible School course on I & II Kings this semester.

Rick helped teach the OT Survey last year and took NT Survey under David Redish.

The Bible School generally offers NT and OT surveys each year to give students a foundation for further study. (Billy is not teaching the OT course this semester. He wanted to take Rick's course.)

I & II Kings is the fifth course of the OT sequence of courses. Some people in the class have had, in addition to their OT survey, classes in Genesis, Exodus-Deuteronomy, Joshua, Ruth and I & II Samuel.

The next, and final course of the OT sequence is Ezra and Nehemiah.

There is also a sequence of classes in the New Testament.

Leta Hobdy, our prize student, will be the first to complete school after next year's classes. Over the past five years she has attended 10 different courses and at the end of next year will have all 14 courses completed.

It is not too late to enroll in the I & II Kings class which will be offered again in six years. It meets at the church on Monday nights from 7:00-9:00.

Joe Anfuso mentioned that he had sent an Asbury student our way sometime last year. I told him she had never shown up and forgot about it.

But lo and behold, here she is. Elizabeth Peterson is the daughter of the pastor of Gospel Outreach Church in Chicago. She never got around to looking us up last semester, but decided to give it a try when Asbury started back this year.

Elizabeth said she was glad to find a church where people were committed to being true disciples and that it was a lot like home.

Gospel Outreach Churches, first started by Jim Durkin, are also known as G-O (Go) churches--the first two letters of G-Ospel. G-O is also associated with the Verbo church we visit in Nicaragua.

Elizabeth is a delight and hard after the Lord. Be sure to welcome her and her friends she is inviting from Asbury.

Once again:

Thanks Cathy, for the hours of work on this issue.

LCF LEXINGTON CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

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Lexington, KY 40504

Pastor's Brief

In this issue:

Singles' briefs

Singularly successful servants pg. 3

Ayutla briefs

A Christian in every hut pg.4

Mixtec brothers give new meaning to hospitality pg. 4

"Patients" - fruits for the Spirit pg.5

'92 Medical Team pg. 5

The Basilio's House pg. 5

Teaching

It's the real thing pg.6

Love Defines a Man pg. 6-7

God's love broke through pg. 7

Family issues

Like arrows in the hand of a warrior pg. 8

Train up a child pg. 8

Suggested Books

Of making many books there is no end pg. 10

Fellowship briefs

Treen Acres pg. 11

More briefs pg. 12

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Love defines a man

"If I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but do not have love, I have become a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have the gift of prophecy, and know all mysteries and all knowledge; and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains but do not have love, I am nothing. And if I give all my possessions to feed the poor, and if I deliver my body to be burned, but do not have love, it profits me nothing."

I Corinthians 13:1-3

The point in these beginning verses is, "It don't matter what you know or what you can do. You ain't nothin' if you ain't got love."

Somehow, the members of this culture had come to define themselves by what they knew or what they could do. The smartest man was most exalted or the man with the most power received honor.

These were not pop philosophies in these cultures. It was the way of life. For centuries this foundation of knowing had shaped the way they had viewed every aspect of life.

But when God Himself determined to show the meaning of life through His Son, it was foolishness and a stumbling block to these cultures. How could death on a cross be wise or powerful. Little did they know...

(continued on p. 6)

Pastor's Brief

The *Pastor's Brief* is published by Lexington Christian Fellowship primarily for the body. We also send a few copies to friends in other places.

Winkie Pratney believes that the most dynamic things in the kingdom happen as people sit around and talk about the things of God. We believe the same.

Most articles that appear in the *Brief* are summations of conversations that have gone on in homes, at the office, and wherever friends gather.

Although I can no longer sit at the table and chat with everybody, this is one way to keep our hearts focused and united as we build our lives together.—BH

Pastor

Billy Henderson

Home Fellowship Leaders

Gregg Greer
Larry Williams
Jimmy Lietsch

Secretary

Jana Burton

Finances

Greg Greer

Worship

Larry Williams

Bible School

Rick Starnes

Sunday School

Jimmy Lietsch
Kelly Henderson

Children's Church

Ron Schwartz

Letter

The church is healthy; let's stay on our knees.

Dear Friends:

Please get beyond the triteness of the way it sounds and receive my sincere wish for your grace and peace in the Lord.

I commend this issue of *Pastors Brief* to you and ask that you grab onto the themes of Love and Child Training. I also encourage you to let the article on page 10 affect you.

As far as touching base on where we are in the church, I would like to report that we are healthy.

Many people are grabbing on to areas of service and doing them. Leadership is developing and taking on more responsibility. New people are being added in. Friendships are maturing.

We are entering a time of fasting through the end of February and first of March. Bill Gothards seminar is the first week of March. Pedro will be with us during February.

There seems to be three general themes being emphasized in the church right now: 1) Grace/Love, 2) Children, and 3) Prayer/Intercession.

With all of this growth and necessary activity, I want you to know that I am still committed to basic priorities.

First, I want you to know God. The people who are getting involved in ministry things should do so out of a depth in God. I try to screen people as much as I can, but I sometimes make a mistake. PLEASE, do not get excited about numerical growth or ministry opportunities unless it is out of your relationship with the Lord. Fruit is the result, not the cause of a good relationship. Read your Bible and pray!

Secondly, include your family or friends in the things you do. The church should never destroy Christian families. It should help shape and form them as working units together.

Thirdly, remember that the work of the church should prepare us all to practically touch the world on our jobs, in our neighborhoods, at school and at home. It is not just what kind of meetings we have, it is how we live our lives through the week that furthers the kingdom as well.

We are beginning to experience what others would call success. In my mind, success is achieved on our knees before our God. Let us press on to know HIM.

Bless you,
Billy

Fellowship briefs

A very moving experience

Treen Acres is the place to be...

by Claude Hammond

Mike and Janet Treen, all their little Treenlets and their one Treenager moved to their small farm near Wilmington, Ohio on January 18.

Rob Scales, one of several members of the church who helped them move, called their spread "Treen Acres."

In what was both miracle and ministry, members of the church helped the Treens pack almost all of their belongings into only two U-Haul trucks the night of Friday, January 17.

"It was a lot of boxes," said Chris Shutt, one of the packers. "An awful lot of boxes. More boxes than I had ever seen before. We packed one of the trucks very tightly. It was almost solid boxes. The other truck was packed a little more loosely, and had a lot of furniture in it."

Brian Bosemer, Leta Hobdy, Judy Greer, Barkley Douglas and Doug Watts also aided in the packing.

The Treens stayed with the Greers the night before the move, and the sun came out to provide beautiful weather for the nomadic event. It soon warmed up to a toasty 16 degrees, so those aiding in the move could get tans and frostbite at the same time.

As morning broke over the north side of town, brothers and sisters of Lexington Christian Fellowship gathered in front of the Treen's Lexington home to help do a little last-minute packing and to join in the caravan.

Debbie McManis and Brenda Eadens brought their pickups and hauled bicycles and firewood up to Ohio. Bob Pascucci drove one of the U-Hauls, and Larry Williams drove another. Mattie Pascucci and Claude Hammond rode shotgun in the trucks.

Gregg Greer got the privilege of hauling cats, computers and Chris Treen in his Herald-Leader van. Rob Scales proved to be the muscle when heavy work needed to be done. Laura Feeney and Stephanie Boggs loaned a big hand when there was work to be done, as did Doug Watts.

The trip went without a single incident.

Well, almost.

Bob Pascucci had a little trouble finding first gear at a stop light on North Broadway, and threw the truck in reverse (Larry and Claude, in the truck behind him, yelled, but weren't heard). No wreck occurred, however.

Just across the bridge in Cincinnati, the car Janet Treen was driving overheated. Bob Pascucci's truck was hemmed in traffic, and he couldn't pull over to help. Larry and Claude were talking about which lane to be in and didn't even see her. Gregg didn't drive by... he missed the turnoff and was giving Chris Treen a tour of the Lower Price Hill neighborhood ("a short-cut to I-71," Greg insisted).

Finally, Laura and Stephanie pulled over to help, and Janet's car was restarted with the aid of some fresh Prestone.

The caravan approached Worthington, and Larry and Claude got lost, driving to the bucolic little village of Sligo, Ohio. There, Larry came close to hitting the satellite dish of some unfortunate business whose parking lot was not big enough to turn the truck around in.

Finally, the caravan found the new Treen homestead. A nice neighbor had gotten into their house and left a pot of chili cooking on the stove and makings for sandwiches in the refrigerator. Everyone dug in quickly before Rob got there.

The unloading process went well, with the Dave Toths (Senior and Junior) showing up for the more extensive work.

While Gregg had predicted the group would be home by the time that "Star Trek" would be on (7 p.m.), the group finally rolled in around 10:30 p.m.

Pray for the Treens, specifically that they find a new church family. Their involvement with us, they tell us, has been a "moving experience."

Suggested Books

There are plenty of good books to be read. Here are some that I think would be beneficial.

If you are interested in child training, *What the Bible Says About Child Training*, by Richard Fugate, and *The Obedient Child*, published by Servant Books are both excellent.

Two Watchman Nee books that I have passed around a lot are, *The Normal Christian Life*, and *Release of the Spirit*. I also enjoy his short study of Ephesians, called *Sit, Walk, Stand*.

Books on prayer abound. When I was younger, I gave away several copies of *Prevailing Prayer*, by D.L. Moody. *God's Chosen Fast*, by Arthur Wallis was also helpful in forming my devotional life. I am now encouraging friends to read, *Taking Our Cities for God*, by John Dawson, and *The Spirit of the Disciplines*, by Dallas Willard.

I have never been much on devotional books, choosing to do my own, but Oswald Chamber's, *My Utmost For His Highest* is good. Another little book that can be used as a devotional, which also encourages meditation is Cambell McCalpine's, *Alone With God*.

I love DeVern Fromke's books, *No Other Foundation* and *The Ultimate Intention*, as well as, *Unto Full Stature*.

Moving on to some more serious reading, *The Life and Times of Jesus the Messiah*, by Edersheim, was a staple in my life for a couple of years. *Knowing God*, by J.I. Packer helped me a lot, too.

If you haven't read, *Foxe's Book of Martyrs*, *From Jerusalem to Irian Jaya*, or *20th Century Martyrs*, I would suggest reading at least one.

Next month, I will give a list of study books you may want to make yours.

"The word of the wise are like goads, their collected sayings like firmly embedded nails--given by one Shepherd. Be warned, my son, of anything in addition to them..."

Of making many books there is no end,

and much study wearies the body."

Ecclesiastes 12:12

"Hey Juanita, what are you reading?"

"God's Purpose for Your Life."

"Who's it by?"

"I don't know?"

"Where did you get it?"

"It was on sale at the Family Bookstore. Only cost \$2.99!"

This conversation is a pastor's nightmare. Men who love the word of God and want to fill the minds of those they teach with truth, shudder at the possibilities of stupidity presented in much of modern "Christian" writing.

King Solomon noted that the writings of the wise are firmly embedded. That is, they are solid and something you can build with.

He went on to say that they have a unity about them. That is, they all come from one Shepherd (God).

However, many of the "hot" books are contrary to true Biblical teaching. Titles on inner healing, the economy, end times, trends, faith

and other current topics are often no more than Christianized philosophies. Solomon said there is no end to what can be written.

Let's face it, if you are going to invest from 5 to 20 hours in reading a book, you can't really afford to buy something just because it is on sale. That will only "weary" you.

To protect yourself consider:

There is little reason for book reading if personal Bible study is not going on.

If you don't know the author or his church background, why bother?

If you need a good book on a specific topic, what makes you think the kid with the earring in his ear who works at the bookstore is an expert on "good books" rather than "selling books?"

Why not ask your pastor or other leaders you are building with what would be good supplemental books for study, pleasure, or a particular perspective?

From:

TAKING OUR CITIES FOR GOD, PG. 79

"Ask yourself the question, Why is this city here? Is it merely a product of geography and commerce, or does God have a redemptive purpose in mind for it? Jonah was surprised at the way God looked at Nineveh. Your city is God's city. The people are made in His image. Satan is an invader and a usurper operating in our territory. God did not give demons authority over your city. Demons have infested the earth's atmosphere since before the creation of mankind, but they can only extend their authority into a town or an institution when people sin."

Singularly successful servants

"...and whoever wishes to be first among you shall be slave of all."

Mark 10:44

"Now how did that coffee cart get painted blue? I know, Cathy Perry must have done it. She was the one who helped me set it up."

I remember trying to figure out how the rusty cart had been painted while I was away in Mexico. I called Cathy and found out she had gotten Barkley to do it (service in secret).

As I stop and consider the singles in the church I am awed at and taught by them.

Thursday night at 10:40 Kyra and Laura made the Nandino run. That's when I need to get a letter in the mail at the Nandino office by 11:00 p.m. (flexible).

Earlier that same night, Leta had stuffed the envelopes (willing).

Last night, Chad, Josh and Shannon orchestrated a night out for Brenda and I. Josh watched the kids, while the other two took us for a walk in the mall and supper at the Olive Branch (creative).

I was informed by Kent Pittard that he was going to build a platform to cover the wires in front of the church and raise the pulpit a little (initiative).

Curt and Barkley were my right hand servants in Mexico this last trip (servants).

Whenever I am with them, they minister life, vision, vitality and love.

I picked up Theresa on the way to work the other day and she sent me a thank you card (grateful).

The banner up front and breakfast for the monthly mens breakfast come from Angela (faithful and diligent).

Debbie was wondering where she should put her time and I let her know I needed her to stick with us in UCF until another worship leader came along. She readily agreed (loyal).

Another thing our singles do is adopt families. I often thought it would be good for families to adopt college students. As it is turning out, the singles in the church are really committing themselves to help young married couples and those with kids. (blow me away!)

There is another area in which I can't mention names. It has to do with taking correction. I have asked one man to adjust his relationships with women in a particular way. Rather than getting mad, he calls me to check in regularly (teachable).

I have strongly rebuked a single or two and they have received it graciously rather than storming off (commitment to change).

I could talk about our super single, Jimmy. I could talk about our Sunday school teachers, Sandy and the tape ministry, Chris and his humble service, Chrisy moving to town, baby sitters, or campus Bible Study workers.

I am enjoying Thomas adjusting so maturely to the way we operate. I could talk about Ryans service to both UCF and Jimmy. There is Brud's care for his mother, and Martha's example as a single mother.

There is the growing ministry of the University house, Shayne's ever readiness to pitch in and...Oh well, I'm running out of room. The others will have to remain unsung heroes.

I am really thankful for the quality of life our single people in the body live. They are not only a great help to me and the others they serve, but a challenge and inspiration to me personally. Whenever I am with them, they minister life, vision, vitality and love.

In addition to exemplifying what being "Spirit filled" is all about, these folks brings this scripture to mind:

"By this shall all men know you are my disciples, by your love one to another."

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

We have met many new students this year and have many opportunities for ministry. Pray especially for:

-The women's Bible study in Donovan. Brenda is teaching the study.

-The men's Bible study in Holmes. Jimmy and Curt are teaching this study.

-We are trying to get an issue of the University Christian out.

-The Wednesday night UCF meeting.

The Students

-We have a really wonderful group of students. Continue to pray that we will be faithful to equip and encourage them.

Asbury

-We are blessed to have some students from Asbury College visiting with us. Let's join them in praying for their campus.

Ayutla briefs

These two pages are set aside for news from the brethren 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:

Supporting churches:

Lexington Christian Fellowship
Cornerstone Church
Louisville Covenant Church
Lexington Covenant Church
Covenant Life (Kirkville)
The Ayutla churches

Supporting pastors:

Billy Henderson
Kim Carroll
Dow Robinson
Sebastian Vasquez
Pedro Basilio

Projects:

Medical missions
House
Truck
Church planting
Leadership development

The Basilio's:

Health
Protection
Wisdom
Friends

Growing Mixteco churches

A Christian in every hut

Every head of household in La Mesilla is a believer.

Last year, the five (biological) brothers who lived on the little plateau before you get to Candelaria applied to be recognized as their own village.

Since that time, they have named their village, and the brothers who were not Christians have accepted the Lord.

While we were there in January, we watched several be baptized and babies being dedicated. It was great.

I have often wondered what it

would be like to walk down the streets of Lexington and take for granted that the person you met was a Christian brother. Now I know.

As the realization of what God had done hit, a strange sensation came over me. I was getting to touch a unique occurrence in the history of the Kingdom of God. What one day would be true on streets of gold was true here and now on these dirt paths.

The Kingdom is coming in a special way among the 70 or 80 villages of Ayutla de los Libres. It is becoming one of God's greatest teaching tools in my life.

Hospitality further south

Mixtec brothers give new meaning to hospitality

As I walked past the pharmacy, I recognized one of the Mixteco brothers from up in the mountains. Later, Pedro told me they had made the trek down to Ayutla to buy chickens for our meal on Sunday.

The next day, when we were halfway up the mountain, the elder brother from La Mesilla was on his way down. I had hoped he would be there for the time of worship. I guessed he was headed into town for market day. I guessed wrong.

Twenty minutes after we arrived in La Mesilla (our traveling time up was an hour and a half), the same brother came sweating up the

trail with a case of 24, 16 ounce bottles of Coke strapped to his head.

After the service and baptism, the meal was served. As usual, it was their very best.

The whole time we ate, the men walked around with switches, swatting the dogs to keep them from bothering us.

Afterwards, we all washed our hands in the water the sisters had carried several hundred yards from the stream.

Somehow, the little effort I have to exert to offer hospitality seems to dim every time I spend a day with the Mixteco Church.

Pedro and Sebastian will be in town Wednesday, February 19. We will meet with them at the church at 6:30.

now determines how they will stand in the day of their own decision.

There are many creative ways to provide guide wires for our children. Here are four:

1. Our presence in both quantity as well as quality.
2. Choosing adult mentors.
3. Determining who can be their friends.
4. Choosing activities for them.

Our Presence

Nothing can substitute for a parent's active involvement in a child's life. A guide wire applied to a sapling for a day makes little difference. It is the constant pull of the wire that trains the tree.

Quality time with a child makes little difference if it is not consistent. We must daily choose to value our children and our time with them.

Other Adults

Choosing other adults to include in our children's lives is another way we can cultivate good character. There are certain things I want for my children that I cannot train them in. However, I have adult friends that can do almost anything.

Seeking out situations where my children work alongside my adult friends provides a great opportunity to "guide" them in the right direction.

Choosing Who Can Be Our Children's Friends

You cannot make your children be friends with anyone. However, you can limit their choices.

Ron Schwartz often quotes the scripture, "Foolishness is pent up in the heart of a fool." He then adds, "A lot of kids are full of foolishness and I don't want them training my kids." I agree.

Children will be trained by who they play with. As parents, we must monitor who that is at younger ages. Later on, our children will need to learn to labor in situations where there are bad influences. However, we should only release them into those situations as they prove themselves strong.

Choosing Activities

In the rush of life, it is often a relief when our children find something they can do without us monitoring them. Unfortunately, there are a lot of activities which children enjoy that bend them in the wrong direction.

Many of the "fun" things kids do promote laziness, self-centeredness, and lack of initiative. If our children are going to be spending a lot of time in an activity, we should know and approve of the values it promotes.

The bucket of guide wires sits unused in my garage. Although the guide wires for my children's lives are in place, I personally need to take some time to tighten them. Over this year I intend to:

1. Continue to spend quality time with my children, increasing the "special" occasions and longer projects.
2. Work more at involving them with Godly adults.
3. Get more involved with their circle of friends.
4. Get to know my children's various strengths and direct them in activities which promote the positive values associated with these strengths.

This plan of action is not copyrighted and is free to every parent who is willing to pay the price.

VBS

This year we will be hosting a VBS in the month of June. Covenant Life Church will be bringing their teenagers to Lexington for a week to do the school and outreach.

Home School

Over the summer, we will begin creating a Home School Resource Center. This will be a place to have computers, books, science equipment, etc. that will be used for home schoolers from our church.

We already have one cooperative class being taught (Spanish & Missions). We plan to develop a Friday afternoon coop for next school year.

God's Parenting

As we approach the Year of the Arrow, it is good to reconsider how God parents us.

-We were not an accident. God chose us as His children and has no regrets.

-God enjoys His Fatherhood.

-His family is central to his purposes.

-He includes His family in His daily life.

-He wants to pass the family business on to His kids.

-God is willing to (and does) put in the time to prepare His children to face the challenges of life.

-God has specific goals and desires for each of His children.

-God is willing to discipline His children consistently.

Drawing our life from God should make us rejoice in our children and make them central in our life. It should help us have vision for what they can do in the earth. It will help us give the time necessary to prepare them for life and increase our consistency in discipline.

Like arrows in the hand of a warrior,

so are the children of thy youth.
Happy is the man who has his quiver full of them;

1992 is the "Year of the Arrow," for Lexington Christian Fellowship. Knowing that our children are offensive weapons for establishing the Kingdom, we are using this year to build some patterns into our lives that will help train LCF kids to become Godly men and women.

The emphasis is not on new teaching. It is on implementing lifestyles of greater involvement with our children. Here are some highlights of the year:

Sunday School

We are going through the classrooms and discarding all of the "junk" toys. Kelly and Shayne are working to establish "character based activity centers." By that, we mean toys, crafts, activities that build character such as hard work, corporateness, etc.

Children's Church

Ours is not the flashiest. It is not the most appealing to spoiled children. It is, in my opinion, the best way for us. Our Children's Church is taught by the fathers of the church. They all have a manual that they cover with their children during the week. Sunday is a time to go over the material together.

To help the fathers do a better job, we are planning "Saturday Reviews." As we finish a section of the manual, we will gather for a Saturday review session. This will be a day of eating pizza, looking at what we have learned, and sharing spiritual insight on how it applies to our lives.

Train up a child...

...in the way he should go and when he is old he will not depart from it.

Two years ago, I was driving down Nicholasville Road with my family. I whipped into Cumberland Bank's lot so I could run back a half a block to grab a bucket that was just sitting in the middle of the street.

Going through my treasures back home, I realized I had found a bucket of goodies for landscaping. There were several small hand tools for digging and making holes. However, the bottom was filled with those things you use for anchoring young saplings with guide wires. We rent our home and probably won't be planting any small trees. I was sure I would never use these, and to this day they sit in our garage.

Although the actual guide wires will never be used, this was a great reminder to me of an aspect of child training. God has given us a bucket with tools for planting and cultivating. In the bottom are the makings of "guide wires" we can attach to the lives of our children at an early age to keep them "straight" until maturity.

Train

The meaning of "train" is a lot more than just teach. It is the process by which we cause our children to act out specific values that we hold. The following definitions highlight this thought:

"2. to guide the growth of (a plant), as by tying, pruning, etc. 3. to guide the mental, moral, etc. development of; bring up; rear. 4. to instruct so as to make proficient or qualified: as, nurses are trained at this hospital. 5. to discipline or condition (animals)

to perform tricks. 6. to prepare or make fit for an athletic contest, etc. 7. to aim (a gun, binoculars, etc.) at something; bring to bear (usually with on). 8. [Colloq.], to condition (a child, puppy, etc.) to defecate and urinate in the proper place."

-Webster's New World Dictionary, c. 1968

"Train up, dedicate...rub palate of child with chewed dates...of midwife rub palate of new-born child with oil, etc. before it begins to suck...also make experienced, submissive, etc."

-The New Brown-Driver-Briggs-Gesenius Lexicon

"Although usually rendered 'dedicate' a more accurate translation is 'begin' or 'initiate'...Prov. 22:6 where the meaning is 'start'; c.f. NEB."

-Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament

"To narrow."

-Strong's Exhaustive Concordance

We can see that train generally has to do with discipline, narrowing, aiming, giving the right beginnings. This is done through personal involvement with the disciple. It is not just telling, it is showing.

For parents who are discipling young children, we must provide the guide wires that will keep them "straight" in the face of the winds of this world. How we stabilize them

'91-'92 Winter Medical Team

"Patients" -- fruits for the Spirit

One year after beginning medical missions in Ayutla, about 3,000 patients have been seen, some villages have had three visits, a staff of four doctors has assembled, an administrator for the project has come forth, and it is becoming the talk around the area and adjoining counties.

We began the medical missions like we do everything. It was small, deliberate, and open ended with options. We had grand hopes in our hearts but wanted to cooperate as God progressed things as He saw fit.

On this last trip, we saw several things come together.

First, Doctors Wendell Nickerson and Frank Norton (D.O.s), from the Kirksville church, made their maiden voyages to the area. After their initiatory week they're hooked.

Also, seeing a need for continuity in planning, Kim Carroll felt it would be good to commit himself as the administrator for the medical missions this year. (Kim has been on more of the medical missions to Ayutla than anyone else.)

With this third visit to some of the villages, the people are beginning

to remember Pedro's face, as well as ours. They are realizing that we are not out on the "adventure of a lifetime," but that we really love them.

This team also visited a Tlapenec village for the first time. This is the other group of indigenous people who live in the area.

As this aspect of the mission continues to solidify, we expect it to strengthen Pedro's ability to present the Kingdom of God to the area.

People are seeing that Pedro is there. They have wondered and questioned his purpose. We are honored to love the people alongside him through serving medically. Hopefully we can help them understand what Pedro and the Kingdom are all about.

Loving in the name of Jesus is a way to sow seeds of the gospel in the culture. The core of believers continues to grow and be trained to reap those from the wider circle in the months and years to come.

God is blessing the medical missions. We suppose He knows what He is doing. Please pray for those involved.

Plan now to join the May '92 Medical Team

The next team will go down during the last half of May. If you are considering this trip, please contact Laura Feeney (278-8703) by May 1. We are expecting this team to fill quickly.

The price is still \$650.00.

Bill John, M.D. and Frank Norton, D.O. will be the physicians on this trip.

Project Report

The Basilio's House

The last team slept in the bedrooms of the new house while the masons were finishing the kitchen and dining rooms. We expect Pedro to let us know that he has completely moved in in a matter of weeks.

Medical Missions

Coming along nicely. See the article on this page.

Church Planting

The groups of believers in Tepango, San Martin, and La Mesilla are growing. Leadership is developing.

The village of Ayutla is still in a "pre-evangelism stage." Many here are interested.

Washing Machine

Some members of the last team saw Guille's need of a washing machine. They pitched together \$500.00 and the U.S. made Amana, fully automatic washer, with one year full warranty rode from Acapulco to surprise Guille on January 14.

Truck

The coming project is a truck. With a truck, the work of the medical missions would be greatly facilitated.

In addition, Pedro could use this truck as a means of income, hauling crops and people.

Monthly Support

It came to my attention while in Ayutla that Pedro lives on about half the average income in his village.

When the truck arrives, he will be able to supplement his income. Until then, it would be nice for his support to increase by about \$300.00 a month.

It's the real thing

If ever there was a culture that was more wrapped up in self centered lust than the U.S., it was Corinth at the time of Christ.

Having prospered through the previous decades due to their location on the Isthmus of Corinth they had been able to give themselves over to the pursuit of sensual pleasures. As a matter of fact, the Romans had a saying, "To live like a Corinthian." This saying meant to live in luxury and immorality.

Bursting into this decadent culture, Paul declares the answer to their pursuit of sexual fulfillment...REAL LOVE.

He didn't say argue with these people, he didn't say do more miracles than these people, he said LOVE these people with REAL LOVE.

Nothing helps people see the truth like the TRUTH.

I would say the verdict is still out on what it means to "live like an American." But for a big segment of our culture, we are approaching the reputation of Corinth.

Once again, the Word of God applies. If we are going to affect our culture, the Genuine Love is still the answer.

Just like the Corinthians, Americans have pursued wealth and sensual pleasure to its rational end. That end is frustration and emptiness.

It is quite probable that Americans are becoming desperate enough at this point to look for another answer.

We have it. Let us love one another and those who will let us.

Love defines a man

(Continued from page 1)

"For the Jews require a sign, and the Greeks seek after wisdom: But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumblingblock, and unto the Greeks foolishness; But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God."

It was this love that would change the world. In the cross, Love conquered the wisdom of this world and the power of this world. As the act of love broke through the cultural norm of the people, it changed their lives.

Those who believed could see a new wisdom and a new power. It was a new way of defining greatness and glory. They saw laying down power and amoral knowledge to serve another. In this, they chose God.

Having responded to God's love, these Corinthians had a long way to go. Both the Jews and the Gentiles in this church had different measures of truth than love. For that reason, when they began to form the church, much of their old culture infiltrated.

For those who had defined themselves by what they knew, "spiritual knowledge" became the measure of how "great" they were. Therefore teaching and gifts of wisdom were highly sought.

Those defining themselves by what they could do, sought gifts of miracles and healing.

Although they had been won by love, their minds had not yet been renewed by love. It had won but not possessed them.

Our culture is not different. Our complete measure of greatness is contrary to love. There is a bumper sticker that says, "The person with the most toys at death is the winner." In the world, people are great because

of what they accomplish or what they know. You define a college professor by his Ph.D. You define an athlete by how fast he runs the 440.

Unfortunately, this way of knowing has permeated the church. When we measure the success of a particular movement we seldom touch on the fabric of the movement. The indicators are always what they have done and how big they are.

If I am reading I Corinthians correctly, we cannot "know" by how big or powerful an organization is. When we write our brochure, it cannot define who we really are. Only by touching the love in a church can you know that they have life.

To this point, I have been theo-

LOVE

Love is patient,

love is kind.

It does not envy,

it does not boast,

it is not proud.

It is not rude,

it is not self-seeking,

it is not easily angered,

it keeps no record of wrongs.

Love does not delight in evil

but rejoices with the truth.

It always protects,

always trusts,

always hopes,

always perseveres.

Love never fails.

God's love broke through

by Leta Hobby

As far as the love of God is concerned, it was when I realized that God accepted me in the midst of my junk that I could really change.

For a long time I wanted to live a Christian life, but never felt I was good enough for God. I always failed and that convinced me that there was no hope. I was believing a lie.

During this time I still hoped that one day God would love me. However, the more I got bound up in sin, the more I lost hope and began to doubt that it would ever happen.

I got so messed up and distraught that I couldn't face the things in my life. I didn't even want to get up in the mornings.

During the eight months before God's love broke through I was getting my hair done at a shop on Winchester Road. Every time I went, Lane Taylor, my hairdresser, would share with me about the Lord.

During that period I would drive back and forth to work. I usually listened to K-93 on the radio, but on one day I flipped to J-106 and heard a guy preaching who seemed real. I listened every day.

The week leading up to June 14, 1987, I knew I needed to make some sort of decision. Through a series of events I ended up at Lafayette Church of the Nazarene.

That day, the pastor shared about the Publican and the sinner. I realized that I was like the sinner and that was who God wanted. I went home, got down on my knees, and said, "God forgive me, a sinner."

That night, I went to LCF and Billy preached on the Good Samaritan. When he explained that the one beat up in the street with nothing to offer represents us and that we must allow Jesus to come to us in the same way, I identified.

After God convinced me that He loved me, it helped break the bondages and gave me the freedom not to do those things in my life.

That was the turning point in my life. I knew I could go to bed assured that God would still love me when I woke up in the morning.

Following that, when opportunity to sin came, I just didn't want to do it anymore because I knew that God loved me. I didn't have to prove myself to anybody because God loved me. ff

retical. But here is a practical approach.

Person A, comes into the Kingdom. This person excelled in college and can assimilate and reiterate knowledge in an impressing way. Knowing this, they look for a place to use this talent in the church. Before long, they are known for what they know.

This means nothing.

Person B comes into the church. This person is musically talented and is more subjective. This person begins to sing and play an instrument. He is used in worship and prophecy. Before long He is known for giving "words" and leading into praise.

This means nothing.

What does means something? Two things. The first is Christ. You cannot come to God through your own philosophy or power. God's knowledge and power comes to you in the form of the cross.

In the cross God is saying, you are not smart enough or powerful enough to come to me. But, I will become "weak and foolish" so man in his power and knowledge can kill me. However, in reality, it is a weak and foolish thing to kill me. On the other hand, because I know what my death will accomplish, it is smart and powerful from my perspective.

The second thing that means something is how much you let this love live through your life. You can go on trying to define yourself through how much you know or what you can do. Or, you can let love flow through you and your giftings.

There is a great difference between hearing a person speak to show what they know and one who speaks to serve. I find older men are convinced of who they are and only speak to serve. We younger men tend to let you know what we know.

In the same way, older men tend to move in spiritual gifting in a way

that serves, rather than drawing attention to themselves.

This is hard to understand. It is like a person who grew up speaking english and is thrown into a Russian culture. It strains us and it seems like we will never "think" in this new language. But as we experience life in this new culture and learn by being a part of it, our minds slowly change.

And then, one night, we dream in

Russian. It is like enough experiences have piled up that it connects in a way that makes sense.

We have always defined ourselves by what we know or do. God defines us by what He has done in us. Having this new definition, we no longer live to define ourselves. We are then free to be used of God in loving others so they, too, can have true wisdom and power. ff