

Fellowship briefs

Want to worship more? We are starting a worship home fellowship every 2nd & 4th Thursday of each month. We will begin in May. Our goals are:

- ▶ Carry on the regular functions of pastoring & evangelism.
- ▶ Provide a place for people who are especially interested in worship to fellowship around worship in a deeper way.
- ▶ Prepare others to help lead in worship.

Anyone who wants to come is welcome.

Want to be *Fit For the Kingdom*? That's what Bob is calling his fitness fellowship which begins meeting this Sunday at 9:00 a.m. They will gather at the water tower by U.K. for prayer and a discussion about their level of physical ability followed by a walk, run, or crawl around the parcourse.

Bob has become aware of the need for many of us to get our physical bodies in shape to sharpen our ability to function in the work God has called us to perform.

In the beginning, Bob is going to help each person develop a fitness program to suit their age and level of physical ability. The idea is to make it possible for those of all ages to meet together for worship and prayer and then set off on the course at their own pace-- anything from a power walk to a full out run.

Bob says, "The hardest thing is to get started. I want to help people get started and find someone their own level to be accountable to. I think it will make a big difference in the way we work and live if we will just do it."

In case of rain, meet at the Elizabeth Street Park Pavilion. Call Bob for more information 275-1683.

Desire Only You

We approach your throne,
Contrite of heart,
Crying out to you in repentance.
Overwhelm us now in your holiness
reignite the flame within us.

Chorus:

We seek cleansing and forgiveness,
For our hearts they turn away.
Restore us to the place where we desire
only you, desire only you.

Fill our hearts, oh Lord
with your righteousness.
Renew in us the joy of salvation.
Overwhelm us now in your holiness.
Reignite the flame within us.

Thanks, Cathy, for the work on this issue.--BH

LCF LEXINGTON CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

350 Elaine Drive
Lexington, KY 40504

Pastor's Brief

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The Church Organic or Organizational?

"With praise and thanksgiving they sang to the Lord: 'He is good; his love to Israel endures forever.' And all the people gave a great shout of praise to the Lord, because the foundation of the house of the Lord was laid. But many of the older priests and Levites and family heads, who had seen the former temple, wept aloud when they saw the foundation of this temple being laid, while many others shouted for joy."

Ezra 3:11-12

The occasion was the laying of the foundation of the temple after returning from 70 years of captivity. To those who had not seen Solomon's temple, it was stupendous. To those who had seen what was, it seemed as nothing.

I am so happy with what we have as a church. God has blessed us and I often rejoice. However, at the same time, I often weep because it seems like there should be more.

I often wonder what a person from the upper room in Acts 1-2 would do if they saw what we do today. Would they shout for joy or weep? I am sure they would say we've come a long way. The question would be, "Is it up or down?"

(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 Leitsch

Secretary

Jana Burton

Finances

Gregg Greer

Worship

Larry Williams

Bible School

Rick Starnes

Sunday School

Jimmy Leitsch
Kelly Henderson

Children's Church

Ron Schwartz

Letter**Love will lead to ministry;
let's not forget our children.**

Dear Friends,

Please join with me in receiving God's grace and peace for ourselves, our families, our church and city.

The leading article in the last Brief dealt with love. This issue's leading article is on ministry. One should lead to the other. If we are truly walking in love, then developing ministry should be a desire of our heart.

Sunday, April 25 I will be sharing on the cross and how it brings us to ministry. The following weeks will be a time of development of individuals in their ability to minister (serve) the body. Our hope is to raise up several new home fellowship leaders over the summer.

It seems as though this is a time that God is expanding us and using us to touch the lives of others. The fasting in February was significant and a good springboard into the year. In addition to prayer and love, we have been talking about grace and waiting on God during the first part of this year. All of these spiritual dynamics must be foundational to true ministry.

We are not leaving these, but building from them. We must love in our ministry; we must wait on God in ministry, and we must have God's grace for ministry.

This summer is going to be a time of release into ministry. At the same time we are releasing into ministry, I will not forget our call to train our children. The wife of a famous evangelist was preparing a group to work a crusade in Japan. She saw a lot of young mothers in the group and shared with them: "I know you all want to serve God. But let me tell you something. My husband and I have seen thousands added into the Kingdom. However, our own children are dead and in Hell." Needless to say, some priorities changed.

Of course it is God who brings our children into the Kingdom. But we have the responsibility to bring them up in His way. I like ministry but my kids are one of my favorite ministries.

You pray that we will all maintain God's direction as we minister to our children in the church by including them in the work of the Kingdom.

One last quick note: If you have a need that is not being met, please contact your home fellowship leader. We try to grow in discernment but not mind reading.

Serving together,
Billy

Fellowship briefs

Beth Lozier gets to stay in town this summer! She missed CTS last summer but is living with the Williams this summer. Given a choice I would take the summer with the Williams!

As Bethany and Aaron Scale's smiling faces were projected on to the screen in front of the several hundred people gathered for the Courier Journal's award banquet, it hit me what had happened. This was the second year in a row that Aaron had won the Young Author's contest. Last year it was his own book, and this year he was the illustrator in a book produced with his sister.

On top of that, Eric Schwartz was the next face up on the screen. His book had also placed first in his category. Ninety thousand students had entered books from across the state. Only thirteen placed first in their division. Three of these, Aaron, Bethany and Eric were from our little church.

As they received their plaques and \$500.00 savings bonds, I began to wonder, "What does God have in store for their lives?" If they can be honored from across the state at this age, what will they do for this Kingdom's sake in years to come?"

Congratulations, Eric, Aaron & Bethany. Let's use it for the Kingdom's sake!

The Medical team is heading out May 20 for our 2nd medical trip of the year. Bill John will be heading the medical end while Laura Feeney is doing all the work. Call her if you have questions at 278-8703.

The National Day of Prayer is May 7th in Lexington, there will be a 7:00 a.m. prayer meeting at Christ Church Episcopal. John Meadows, Wayne Smith, Al Lutz and Wayne Holcomb and a few other pastors will lead us in prayer for our nation, state and city. Everyone is invited.

"On this National Day of Prayer, let us acknowledge with heartfelt remorse the many times we have failed to appreciate the Lord's gifts and to obey His Commandments. Giving humble thanks for His mercy, let us vow to fulfill not only our responsibilities but also our potential as one Nation under God. Most important, let us make our prayers pleasing to Him by the regular practice of public and private virtue and by a genuine renewal of America's moral heritage. As scripture says, 'righteousness exalteth a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people.'"

*President George Bush
1991 National Day of Prayer Proclamation*

Brent Henderson found Billy a left-handed bow (he shoots with his left hand). Dave found a bow last season (and about cut his finger off with it...ask him how). Ron is tempted to buy a bow. Kent still likes to fish (or should I say get a line wet).

Ryan, Josh and Chad are always camping. The young guys Mattie's age are up for a weekend trip. Would somebody please get creative and plan an outing for the men!?

Ryan Ward's answering machine gave me this message last week when I called: "At one time I was foolish, disobedient, deceived and enslaved by all kinds of passions and pleasures. I lived in malice and envy, being hated and hating, but when the kindness and love of God the Savior appeared, he saved me. Not because of righteous things I had done, but because of His mercy. I am a new creation, the old has gone; the new has come. All this is from God Who reconciled me to Himself through Christ and gave us all the ministry of reconciliation. That God is reconciling the world to Himself through Christ, not counting men's sins against them. For Christ's blood washes all sins away, we can be forgiven through Jesus. For He said, 'I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me, I am the gate. Whoever believes in me shall not perish but have eternal life. I tell you the truth, no one can see the Kingdom of God unless he is born again.'"

"There is an empty space in the middle of every man's heart, in the shape of a cross. If it is not filled the Jesus, it needs to be. To fill your heart with the Lord Jesus Christ you must repent and believe in Him, and His word. If you would like to be forgiven and live for eternity in God's infinite and perfect love, please accept Jesus into your heart (at the sound of the beep). Beep.

Ryan gets the Answering Machine Message of the Week Award.

Suggested Study Helps

Strong's Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible

I turn from my desk several times a day to grab a particular book. No, it is not a Bible. That stays on my desk. *Strong's Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible* has been my faithful companion in Bible study for many years. I have worn out a couple.

With this concordance, I can find any verse in the Bible by remembering one key word. For example, the verse that talks about our sins being like snow...or is it scarlet. Oh well let's look up snow and see what it says. There it is! Isaiah 1:18. They are like scarlet but can be made like snow. All in a quick turn and flip.

If you have not purchased an exhaustive concordance to the Bible yet, do it now! The *Strong's* lists every word (almost) that appears in the Bible and lists it for every time it appears. It is based on the King James Version of the Bible. There are similar concordances for other versions.

In addition to listing the words, *Strong's* includes a Greek and Hebrew dictionary in the back. For the student who doesn't read Greek or Hebrew, this tool is indispensable.

Another plus about *Strong's* is that many other helps use the numbering system in their works. If you know the number of the greek word in *Strong's*, you can look it up in Kittel, Thayer, or Wigram-Green. You can also use the Hebrew numbers for use with several Hebrew helps including Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament.

I will discuss one of these works in the next issue of the Pastor's Brief. ■

Strong's Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible

What to gain from Strong's

Look up the word *minister*.

It appears 100 times. Other related words are *ministry* (22 times), *ministers* (26), *ministered* (37), *ministereth* (2), *ministering* (9), *ministration* (7).

Of the 100 times the word appears, more than half are in the Old Testament and have a corresponding number for the Hebrew dictionary of 8334.

In the Hebrew

In the Hebrew and Chaldee Dictionary in the back of the *Strong's* I find word number 8334. It says the word is *sharath*. The explanation goes on- a prim. root; to attend as a menial or worshipper; fig. to contribute to:--minister (unto), (do) serve (-ant, -ice, -itor), wait on.

From this I know that the word is a root word that means to attend or worship.

I also know that the Hebrew word *sharath* is translated as: minister, serve, servant, service, servitor, or wait on (the words that appear in the dictionary after the colon are alternative ways the word is translated into English.)

Now, Exodus 24:13 says, "And Moses rose up, and his minister Joshua: and Moses went up into the mount of God." From the *Strong's*, I have learned that this word could just as easily have been translated servant. I also know that Joshua attended to Moses as a menial and waited on him.

I look at other verses where *minister* is listed and find that the Levites ministered to the Lord. What Joshua did for Moses, the Priests did unto the Lord. So, I understand that ministry can be both to man and to the Lord.

That makes sense when you read in the New Testament that Jesus said "When you have done it to the least of these my brethren, you have done it unto me."

This only begins what I can do with

my *Strong's*. Next, I look up the word *servant* to find where it has the number 8334 and there it is in Numbers 11:28. Joshua is called the servant of Moses.

If I look in the NIV Bible, I see that they used the word *aide* in both of these places.

So, the Hebrew word *sharath* is translated aide when it is used as a noun and *minister* or *serve* when translating a verb in the NIV.

I can now go back to the word *minister* in *Strong's* for other Hebrew words which are translated into this English word.

In the Greek

The most common Greek word translated as *minister* is number 1247 or 1249. Looking in the Greek Dictionary, I find that 1247 is *diakoneo* and comes from 1249 *diakonos*.

Diakoneo is explained: to be an attendant, i.e. wait upon (menially or as a host, friend or [fig.] teacher); techn. to act as a Chr. deacon:-- (ad-) minister (unto), serve, use the office of a deacon.

Diakonos is explained: (to run on errands); an attendant, i.e. (gen. a waiter) at table or in other menial duties; spec. a Chr. teacher and pastor (techn. a deacon or deaconess):-- deacon, minister, servant.

Other benefits

In addition to helping me understand what the word actually means, I have found associated English words as well as Greek words. I also have a list of every place the word appears that I can use in developing a more complete understanding of the concept of ministry. This can be done for any word from the Bible that you can remember. ■

Entering the Next Phase in UCF

"And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others." II Timothy 2:2

by Chad Grissom

I remember sitting around a fire at Billy's house over Christmas Break talking with the rest of the college students. We were brainstorming, trying to figure out what was going to happen with campus in the Spring semester. A lot of ideas were being tossed about at the time, but one thing that really stuck out to me was that I left there with a real sense of the future. It seemed as though we were moving into a new era, and it was exhilarating. We had purpose; we had vision, and it seemed like God was really taking us somewhere.

As the semester shaped up, Billy began teaching us on applying the Gospel in a real way to the society around us. The men's Bible study began addressing issues in our culture that stood against the Gospel. Joshua did an excellent job presenting a Christian response to evolution. The women's meeting examined the women of the Bible in order to develop their character as God would have them on campus. The students took turns teaching on issues such as feminism, Rock and Roll music, and philosophy on Wednesday nights.

In the midst of all that, we were

blessed with the addition of Cole Bennet Matt Petri, Elijah Humble and the Asbury Students.

There seemed to be a distinct direction we were moving in. "UCF is moving from boot camp to special forces training," Debbie observed. "Basic training is over, and it's time to get ready to receive orders and move out." Jimmy noticed that the older singles were no longer carrying UCF and the younger students were left holding the ball. "It was interesting to see the young folks stretched under the new responsibility." Among other things, Ryan began leading the meetings.

We are definitely at the new stage. It is time for the students to begin taking what we have learned and passing it on to others. Jessica, "We're taking the Gospel out of Church and into the classrooms. It's not irrelevant tradition, but the most relevant issue to the students as we grow in our responsibility."

Pray that God will anoint us and that we will keep level heads and pure hearts. On behalf of all the students I would like to say we are thankful for your support and involvement in our lives. ■

Another church

The Chicago connection

A couple of weeks ago, Stephanie Boggs went home with Elizabeth Peterson to Chicago. (Of course we all know this was a great sacrifice on Stephanie's part because she hates to travel so much.)

They called me from the "Windy City" and were having a great time. Stephanie was getting all of her questions answered by Elizabeth's father who is a pastor of Gospel Outreach.

Ryan, after seeing what miracles a trip to Chicago had wrought, decided that

it would do all the UCFers some good to be exposed to the Gospel Outreach lifestyle.

The results: Another road trip. Memorial Day weekend, the crew will set out together for the six hour trip (I thought it was eight). If you are interested, please talk with Ryan.

We are thankful to be making new friends and being able to draw from the life that is in them. Please add the church in Chicago to your prayer list. ■

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 Students

-As you can tell from the first article on this page, our young men and women are growing in the Lord and in responsibility.

Pray, as the article mentioned, that they would keep level heads and pure hearts.

Summer

-Most of the students are looking for summer jobs.

-The students are also planning to spend the summer preparing for outreach in the fall.

-Several students will be spending the summer with their families.

Fall

-Many of you received a letter in the mail about the outreach in the fall. Please pray about your involvement.

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 (Kirksville)
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

Letter from Barkley

Truckin' down to Mexico

When Barkley went to Ayutla on the winter mission trip, he was especially touched and saw a need. The following is a letter from him.

Dear Church Family,

We as Christians usually have many resources at our disposal to spread the gospel. Think of telephones, TV's, letters, cars, radios, plenty of Bibles, books, an abundance of churches and good jobs.

I have to stop and ask myself, Am I a good steward of what God has given me? I ask this because I have so much as an American, while others are not as equally blessed.

I think of friends I made in Mexico and how God loves them so much. God will have His way in Mexico. He will restore what the enemy has stolen and draw people to Himself. LCF has said, Use us Lord! I want to play my part in Mexico. If we are available, God will help us serve His will.

A small part we can play in Mexico is to find a truck, or should I dare to say many trucks? These trucks can be used to get to the villages, create jobs. Pedro can use a truck for work (they use trucks like taxis).

God has put it on my heart to raise the money (about \$4,000) for the first truck. If you have any ideas to help raise the money, please talk to me or Gregg Greer. The church is setting up a special account to hold the funds until we have enough to purchase the truck.

We also plan to send tools for Pedro to use in keeping the truck running. If you have any tools to donate, call me at 224-0815 or 885-3713.

To God be the Glory.

Barkley

GOALS

Over this year we are looking to establish the Ayutla mission on several levels. Here are some primary objectives:

- Raise monthly support from \$350 to \$600. That would mean an extra \$250 a month. If the missions offering continues like last month we will have reached this goal.
- Enlist more doctors who feel a definite call to be involved with coordinating and running the medical missions.
- Provide a truck that would help Pedro move toward establishing a job that would provide for his family.

We need people in the following categories:

- People committed to prayer
- People who are committed financially
- People who are committed to go
- Someone to commit for two years to establishing an English school.

a family are supposed to stand for. As of yet, he has not mentioned anything. But I am secure in knowing that he has an open door to approach me if he sees a contradiction.

I am looking forward to the next few years with my children. Sharing the Kingdom with them and beginning to watch what they do with it is already a joy. I suspect we will have some mighty warriors from among the church children in a few years. In the mean time, let's be faithful to what we have learned so we can pass on a good inheritance.

Spanish/Missions class

Habla usted Espanol?

At 4:00 pm most Friday afternoons, you will find a group of ten or so students at 350 Elaine Drive studying Spanish and learning about missions. The class is made up of children from the church ranging from Stephen Henderson's age, up to Mattie Pascucci. Billy teaches the class.

There are actually three areas of concentration. Learning the Spanish language is a primary objective. Missions, in general is the second objective. The third area of concentration is the outreach to Ayutla as a specific focus. The idea is to teach missions and Spanish, with a specific focus toward Ayutla.

The students are doing fabulous. In addition to memorizing scripture related to the great commission, they are familiarizing themselves with the culture in Ayutla. They are picking up Spanish amazingly fast.

I asked some of the students what they liked best about the class. Here are their responses:

Bekah Greer- "I like learning the Spanish so we can go down and help Pedro."

Abbey Greer- "I really like learning Spanish because it's fun."

Ryan Schwartz- "I like learning new Spanish words every day and having contests like we did last week. Learning about Pedro is real fun."

Stephen Henderson- "I like that my friends are there, mostly."

Matthew Henderson- "I think it's fun to learn Spanish. I also like learning about where all the churches are located, like San Martin."

Keren Henderson- "I think it is fun doing the class with your friends from the church. I like listening to the Spanish tapes, too."

Ruth John- "I like the papers we take home and fill out. I did mine with my mom and dad."

Eric Schwartz and Mattie Pascucci are also in the class. ■

Prayer

In everything by prayer and supplication...

The greatest emphasis of the Year of the Arrow is prayer for our children.

We can have all the programs, ideas, and principles we want. However, if God is not involved in a dynamic way, it is a waste.

Please continue to pray for all of our children and young people as this year progresses. We are believing God for a spiritual dynamic that propels our children into the next stage.

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 being a Father.

► 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. ■

"Year of the Arrow"

"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."

We are continuing to emphasize 1992 as the Year of the Arrow for Lexington Christian Fellowship.

Here are some updates:

► **Spanish/Missions class.** This class was started with a goal of planting missions in the hearts of our children. It is going great. See story.

► **State competitions.** Already this year, four of our children have placed first in state competitions in science or writing. An even larger number has placed first on county levels.

► **Involvement in serving.** Several of the children have begun to serve the body. Cristen is doing overheads, Matthew is taking care of the book table, and several others are helping to clean the church.

Here are some projections:

► **June 12-14** the young people from Covenant Life in Kirksville will be presenting a musical at 350 Elaine. We will use this as a time to encourage children to bring friends.

► **July 4th** we will be having the annual Independence Day Parade.

► **Your child and sports.** We will be having a special Sunday service around this theme. The idea is to bring friends from team sports to this gathering.

► **Bible Character Reviews.** As we end up our teaching of characters in the children's church, we will be having Saturday Pizza Reviews. The first one will be May 3, beginning at 11:00.

Child training**Growing with our children**

I was on my way to attend an awards banquet in Louisville, and did not want to waste the time going and coming, so Matt came along. The night before our trip I lay awake choosing what topics Matthew and I would discuss.

On the trip, we discussed three things. First, we talked about him growing in decision making. Then, we talked about some specific issues. Finally, we talked about values in general. This was an important conversation that I hope to refer back to often in our growing lives together.

Decision making vs. control

In the discussion on decision making, I explained to Matthew how I had adjusted control versus decision making in his life. I explained that early in his life I had pretty much caused him to do what I thought was right. As he had gotten older, I have tried to share values with him that would give him a foundation for making his own decisions. As he matures, I want him to make more and more decisions on his own.

I told him, "You are 10 now. By the time you're 18, I expect you to make all of your own decisions. I will be there to advise, but it will be you making the decisions."

It is amazing for me to consider being past the half-way mark. It surprised me when I said it. But I am happy with Matt and his growth.

"I will be there to advise, but it will be you making the decisions."

Friends, family, soccer and the Kingdom of God

We went on to talk about a specific decision coming up. Matt has an opportunity to try out for Select Soccer. His other two options include no soccer, or trying to get on Bob Pascucci's team.

Here is what we thought about. Matt said his friends were more important to him than Select Soccer. He said he would rather be on a team with Mattie and Ryan if possible.

The other option, no soccer, came from a desire to keep the family together. Matt said he was considering staying out of soccer for a year so we could do more as a family (camping and that sort of thing).

No final decision has been made, other than he is not trying out for Select. But to think through the issues and to see his values blessed me.

Our children can see what no one else can.

The final topic was about his ability to help me live up to my own values. I shared with Matt that he was in a place to see my life as well as anyone. He knows the values I speak of and want to live by. I know there are times when I compromise those, but can't see them.

I remember enough from being 10 years old to know that a young man that age is keenly aware of values and what choices say about those values. So, I gave Matthew an open door to question me about any actions that seemed to contradict what we as

Pedro Basilio**A Bible could do what a pistol could not**

Hermelinda heard a shot ring out from the rocks above the stream she had crossed 20 seconds earlier. She turned and saw what she feared. Her husband lay dying at the edge of the stream. She started toward him and he motioned her on. "Do not come to me," he said. "They will kill you too."

When Pedro, her 16 year old son found that his uncle had committed the murder, he vowed revenge in order to become sole heir to the family land.

He left his home village of Tepango, 3 hours south of Acapulco, and went to Mexico City, determined to make enough money to buy a pistol.

The only people in the big city that Pedro knew, were the Wycliffe translators he had worked with in translating the New Testament into his native Mixtec language.

When he found them, they offered him a place to stay. He looked for work, knowing he couldn't tell these Christians why he wanted the job.

Day after day, a missionary encouraged Pedro to read the Bible. Only after several weeks, Pedro finally started reading.

Alone in his room one day, just as suddenly as the shot rang out which killed his father, Pedro was apprehended for the Kingdom.

He went out to tell the translator and his wife what had happened. In no time at all, Pedro was on his way home with a Bible, instead of a pistol.

His new determination was not to bring a pistol back, but to work with the translators to bring the Bible back to his own people. What a pistol could not make right, Pedro knew a Bible could.

He encountered his uncle in the market place, he invited him over and handed him a free deed to the land. "This is your land now," Peter said. "You owe me nothing."

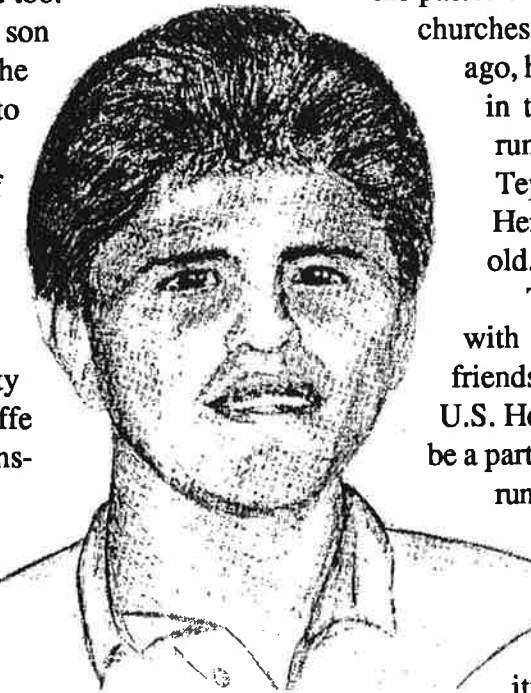
Several years later, Pedro Basilio became the pastor of a growing number of small churches in the mountains. Two years ago, he baptized the first Mixteco in the mountain stream which runs between Nyvii Da and Tepango. It was his mother, Hermelinda, now over 60 years old.

Through his involvement with Wycliffe, Pedro has made friends with several churches in the U.S. He now invites them down to be a part of the work and helps them run medical, building, and evangelistic teams. Team members from the U.S. church always come away realizing both the simplicity and power of the Gospel in a new way.

Other leaders who have worked with Pedro sense a special anointing on him and his family. It is a unique situation where God has raised up a strong indigenous (Indian) leader to establish the Kingdom among his people.

The humility of the Mixtec believers and their simple way of life is a lesson to every American who visits. To be in Pedro's home, with his wife Guille and their five children is refreshing and enlightening.

The Kingdom is coming to this area in a dynamic way. We look forward to being involved as God uses Pedro and his family.



Misunderstood Ministry

One of the greatest areas of misunderstanding in the way we operate as a church has to do with relationships.

The fact is that many people are warped in their personalities. As a result, they seek out others with complementary warps, or they just stay away from everybody.

One of the principles we live by at LCF is that of helping people identify healthy relationships they can walk in. After identifying those relationships, we encourage them to be faithful in them.

Of course people with personality problems (sin problems) find it hard to remain in relationship with people who will not accommodate their particular quirks.

When they run from healthy relationships, it is not beyond the leaderships probability to bring it to their attention. The misunderstanding often occurs at this point.

Often, in the heat of dealing with emotions, a person can feel like he or she is being told who to be friends with. The reality is that they are often being encouraged to remain close to those with whom they have healthy relationships.

Here is a check list to help identify if you are growing from true friendship:

- Realize that all of us have quirks that need to be worked out.
- Identify people who will be able to see and be honest with you about your needs as well as encourage you.
- Commit to lasting friendships.
- Don't run when the heat gets turned up.

I am thankful for friends who have stuck with me over the years and have been honest with me.

(continued from p. 1)

We read about the early church and think we understand what it was like. Unfortunately, years and culture separate us. Our job, by the Holy Spirit, is to get a clear picture of what the Bible is presenting we should be.

In this scripture, the only ones who wept were the ones who had seen something else.

During the winter olympics they kept showing a public interest story about a veteran who had lost his legs in Viet Nam. The story centered around his previous experience as a skier. The bottom line, for those of you who didnt see it was that through public pressure the government had been forced to provide the guy with mechanical legs.

The highlight of the clip was the veteran skiing down the slope on his mechanical legs.

I am glad public pressure got this veteran some mechanical legs. However, there is no comparison to what he can do now and what he did before he lost his organic legs.

It reminds me of when the temple was restored in Israel. All the people who had not seen the former temple rejoiced. Those who saw what it had been before, wept.

I am of the opinion that the church is skiing on mechanical legs right now. Somewhere, in the war, we lost our organic structure and through public pressure have been given mechanical ones instead.

It is great to be able to ski at all. But God wants to give us our legs back so we can run and leap.

Restoration of Function

I believe an area God is restoring in the church is how we practically function. A lot of restoration has gone on in the area of doctrine, but much remains to be restored in

the structure.

One of my favorite verses, describing how the church should function, is Ephesians 4:16. *"From Him [Christ] the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work."*

This describes the church as an organism rather than an organization. People are not connected by artificial offices or roles. Their connection is true love and friendship.

As a church, we have been trying to move away from being too organizational. Many people who visit think we are extremely relational. Personally, I think that is because they have never seen what God intends us to be. For all the lip service I give to being relational, we still have a long way to go.

Here are three emphasis in developing a church along relational lines that will help you understand the differences.

Ministry

In an organizational church, ministry is what the minister does. Furthermore, the minister is the guy who gets paid.

In a relational church, the ministers are everybody. The full time pastors are supposed to train the individuals in the body to minister to the rest of the body.

A pastor is not necessarily supposed to be the best minister. He is only called to equip the saints to do the work.

Leadership

Leadership is not based on charisma or talent in a relational church. It is based on character.

An organizational church can identify gifted people and get them moving in ministries which draw a lot of people. But because the char-

(continued on the next page)

acter is missing, the lives of the people drawn are not necessarily deepened in God.

Success

In an organizational church, the measure of success is the growth of the organization in numbers and finances.

In a relational church, the measure of success is the growth in God by the members. Ultimately, this produces numerical growth. However, success is measured by Knowing God.

There are other areas where the organic church differs from the organization, including emphasis on meetings, attitude toward other churches, and how close the people in the church are. However, these three give an idea of what I am trying to move us toward.

It is easier to fulfill qualifications for an organization than it is to knit our lives together in serving one another. However, God wants to move us into deeper relationship with Him and each other.

Although I weep at how far I have to go in understanding what it means to be relational, I take heart from Hag-gai 2:3-5: *"Who is left among you that saw this house in her first glory? and how do ye see it now? is it not in your eyes in comparison of it as nothing? Yet*

now be strong, O Zerubbabel, saith the LORD; and be strong, O Joshua, son of Josedech, the high priest; and be strong, all ye people of the land, saith the LORD, and work: for I am with you, saith the LORD of hosts: According to the word that I covenanted with you when ye came out of Egypt, so my spirit remaineth among you: fear ye not. For thus saith the LORD of hosts; Yet once, it is a little while,

and I will shake the heavens, and the earth, and the sea, and the dry land; And I will shake all nations, and the desire of all nations shall come: and I will fill this house with glory, saith the LORD of hosts. The silver is mine, and the gold is mine, saith the LORD of hosts. The glory of this latter house shall be greater than of the former, saith the LORD of hosts: and in this place will I give peace, saith the LORD of hosts."■

A STUDY IN CONTRASTS: THE NEW TESTAMENT/TODAY'S CHURCH

	NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH	THE CHURCH OF TODAY
LOCATION	Moved From House To House	Meets In Church Buildings
SIZE OF GROUPS	Small, Intimate Groups	Large, Impersonal Groups
ACTIVITIES	Daily Fellowship	Weekly Worship Services
SUPPORT SYSTEM	Building Up One Another	Problem? See the Pastor
RELATIONSHIPS	Intimate; Helping One Another	Remote; Little Transparency
DISCIPLING	Mouth to Ear, Modelling Personal Values Shaped	Classes, Notebooks; Little Modeling, Values not shaped
PRIMARY TASKS OF LEADERS	Every Believer Equipped To Do The Work Of The Ministry	Directing The "Program Base Design"
PRAYER LIFE	Hours Daily; Heavy Emphasis	Individual Choice; Limited
PASTOR'S DUTY	Model The Life Of A Believer	Preach Good Sermons
EXPECTATIONS OF MEMBERS	Ministering To Others; Total Servanthood And Stewardship	Attendance; Tithing; Work In The "Programs"
PERSPECTIVE	Cell Groups The Focal Point	Congregation The Focal Point
KEY WORDS	Go and Make Disciples"	Come Grow With Us
TEACHINGS	Apply The Scriptures to Needs And Relationships	Subscribe To The Distinctive Beliefs Of This Church
SPIRITUAL GIFTS	Regularly Exercised By All Believers To Build Up Others In The Cell Group Gatherings	Either Downplayed Or Often As A "Crowd Pleaser" In Public Services
COMMITMENT	To Increase The Kingdom; Unity, Body Life	To Enlarge The Institution; Uniformity
EVALUATION TEST	How You Serve	What You Know
SOURCE FOR SECURING STAFF	Servant Workers Developed Within; Tested Before They Are Set Apart For Ministry	Trained, Professional Clergy