

Heart and Home

Issue 3

Fall 2001

Here in the North Country

We Need Mercy

Hello everyone,

I'd like to share something that seems to have been missed in the discussions in the news media these last weeks, something I feel is very important at all times but especially in a time of tension and tragedy. We have heard much about bringing to justice those responsible for the terrorist attacks. But, as a "Christian nation," we need to be reminded that a Christian is a follower of Jesus Christ, who is the way, the truth, and the life.

In Matthew 5:38-39 Jesus says, "Ye have heard that it hath been said, An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth: But I say unto you, That ye resist not evil: but whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also."

In Matthew 5:43-45 He says, "Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbor, and hate thine enemy. But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and

persecute you; That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust.

Romans 12:17-21 says, "Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men. If it be possible as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men. Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but [rather] give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance [is] mine; I will repay, saith the Lord. Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head. Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good."

The Bible also says that whoever judges without mercy will get judgment without mercy. Jam. 2:13.

Likely there are people that feel that justice was done on Sept. 11 with the acts of terror to the U.S.A. Now people are saying we need to bring the terrorists to justice. When

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and how do we expect the cycle of hatred to end? As Christians, will we obey Jesus' teaching?

Every one of us needs mercy, on a personal level and on a national level. If we got justice, we would all be doomed. Folks, we need mercy, we better learn how to be merciful, and forgiving - we need to bless those who curse us. We need to return good for evil, if we really want to have God on our side.

If those who call themselves Christians would have lived up to their calling, we would not have had any world wars and none of the wars fought for this country since the arrival of the white race.

I thank God that there are some that are called Christian who do not take part in war: Hutterites, Quakers, Jehovah's Witnesses, Mennonite, Amish, Brethren and others. May God bless them and keep them strong in their obedience to Jesus. The Christian faith is a faith that works by Love.

My plea to all is that instead of fear and hatred, we put our trust in God, that we seek peace and goodwill with our fellow sojourners

on this earth. Remember all are created equal.

Are you conscientiously objected to war and want support? Please contact me.

Luke Martin
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Dear Readers,

Greetings in our Saviors name.

In September, we were at a 30th wedding anniversary fellowship dinner in the Finger Lakes Region in New York. The couples that got married in 1971 in the Weaverland Mennonite Conference were invited. There were 33 couples from five states and Canada that attended. It was a grand time - meeting many old friends that we hadn't seen for years, also some we had never met before.

Some of the couples that were invited were unable to attend for various reasons. However, none of those reasons were because separation or divorce had taken place. In fact, we know of no cases of divorce among the group and the many similar groups. It is encouraging that there are people

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**Heart and Home
Harmony**

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Heart and Home Harmony along with *The Boys Bugle* is published quarterly or as the Lord leads. Subscriptions free. Your

The War Prayer

To Dan Beard, who dropped in to see him, Clemens read the "War Prayer," Stating that he had read it to his daughter Jean, and others, who had told him he must not print it for it would be regarded as sacrilege.

"Still, you are going to publish it, are you not?"

Clemens, pacing up and down the room in his dressing gown and slippers, shook his head.

"No," he said, " I have told the whole truth in that, and only dead men can tell the truth in this world.

It can be published after I am dead."

Mark Twain was a confirmed agnostic till his death. His observations are uncanny for his time period and also quite accurate.

The War Prayer

By Mark Twain

It was a time of great and exalting excitement.

The country was up in arms, the war was on, in every breast burned the holy fire of patriotism. The drums were beating, the bands playing, the toy pistols popping, the bunched firecrackers hissing and sputtering; on every hand and far down the receding and fading spread of roofs and balconies a fluttering wilderness of flags flashed in the sun. Daily the young volunteers marched down the wide avenue gay and fine in their new uniforms, the proud fathers and mothers and sisters and sweethearts cheering them with voices choked with happy emotion as they swung by; nightly the packed mass meetings listened, panting, to patriot oratory which stirred the deepest deeps of their hearts and which they interrupted at briefest intervals with cyclones of applause, the tears running down their cheeks the while; in the churches the pastors preached devotion to flag and country and invoked the God of Battles, beseeching His aid in our good cause in outpouring of fervid

eloquence which moved every listener. It was indeed a glad and gracious time, and the half-dozen rash spirits that ventured to disapprove of the war and cast a doubt upon its righteousness straightway got such a stern and angry warning that for their personal safety's sake they quickly shrank out of sight and offended no more in that way.

Sunday morning came - next day the battalions would leave for the front; the church was filled; the volunteers were there, their young faces alight with martial dreams - visions of stern advance, the gathering momentum, the rushing charge, the flashing sabers, the flight of the foe, the tumult, the enveloping smoke, the fierce pursuit, the surrender! - Then home from the war, bronzed heroes, welcomed, adored, and submerged in golden seas of glory! With the volunteers sat their dear ones, proud, happy, and envied by the neighbors and friends who had no sons and brothers to send forth to the field of honor, there to win for the flag or failing, die the noblest of noble deaths. The service proceeded; a war chapter from the Old Testament was read; the first prayer was said; it was followed by an organ burst that shook the building, and with one impulse the house rose, with glowing eyes and

beating hearts, and poured out that tremendous invocation-

God the all-terrible!
Thou who ordainest.
Thunder thy clarion
and lightning thy sword!

Then came the "long" prayer. None could remember the life of it for passionate pleading, moving, and beautiful language. The burden of it's supplication was that an ever-merciful; and kingly Father of us all would watch over our noble young soldiers and aid, comfort, and encourage them in their patriotic work; bless them, shield them in the day of battle and the hour of peril, bear them in His mighty hand, make them strong and confident, invincible in the bloody onset; help them to crush the foe, grant to them and to their flag and country imperishable honor and glory-

An aged stranger entered and moved with slow and noiseless step up the main aisle, his eyes fixed upon the minister, his long body clothed in a robe that reached to his feet, his head bare, his white hair descending to a frothy cataract to his shoulders, his seamy face unnaturally pale, pale even to ghastliness. With all eyes following him and wondering, he made his silent way, without pausing, he ascended to the preacher's side and stood there, waiting. With shut lids the preacher, unconscious of his presence, continued his moving prayer, and at last finished it with the words, uttered in fervent appeal,

"Bless our arms,
grant us victory.
O Lord our God,
Father and Protector
of our land and flag!"

The stranger touched his arm,

motioned him to step aside which the startled minister did - and took his place. During some moments he surveyed the spellbound audience with solemn eyes in which burned an uncanny light; then in a deep voice he said:

"I come from the throne - bearing a message from Almighty God!" The words smote the house with a shock; if the stranger perceived it, he gave no attention. "He has heard the prayer of His servant your shepherd and will grant it if such shall be your desire after I, His messenger, shall have explained to you its import - that is to say, its full import. For it is like unto many of the prayers of men, in that it asks for more than he who utters it is aware of - except he pause and think.

"God's servant and yours has prayed his prayer. Has he paused and taken thought? Is it one prayer? No, it is two - one uttered the other not. Both have reached the ear of Him Who heareth all supplications, the spoken and the unspoken. Ponder this - keep it in mind. If you would beseech a blessing upon yourself, beware! Lest without intent you invoke a curse upon a neighbor at the same time. If you pray for the blessing of rain upon your crop which needs it, by that act you are possibly praying for a curse upon some neighbor's crop which may not need rain and can be injured by it.

"You have heard your servant's prayer - the uttered part of it. In am commissioned of God to put into words the other part of it - that part which the pastor, and also you in you hearts, fervently prayed silently. And ignorantly and unthinkingly? God grant that it was so! You heard these words: 'grant us the victory, O Lord our God!' That is sufficient. The whole of the uttered prayer is compact into

these pregnant words. Elaborations were not necessary. When you have prayed for victory you have prayed for many unmentioned results which follow victory - must follow it, cannot help but follow it. Upon the listening Spirit of God the Father fell also the unspoken part of the prayer. He commandeth me to put it into words.

LISTEN!

"O Lord our father,
our young patriots, idols of our hearts,
go forth to battle - be Thou near them!
With them, in spirit, we also go forth
from the sweet peace of our beloved
firesides to smite the foe. O Lord our
God, help us to tear their soldiers to
bloody shreds with our shells; help us
to cover their smiling fields with the
pale forms of their patriot dead; help us
to drown the thunder of the guns with
the shrieks of their wounded, writhing
in pain; help us to lay waste their
humble homes with a hurricane of fire;
help us to wring the hearts of their
unoffending widows with unavailing
grief; help us to turn them out roofless

with their little children to wander
unfriended the wastes of their
desolated land in rags and hunger and
thirst, sports of the sun flames of
summer and the icy winds of winter,
broken in spirit, worn with travail,
imploing Thee for the refuge of the
grave and denied it- for our sakes who
adore thee, Lord, blast their hopes,
blight their lives, protect their bitter
pilgrimage, make heavy their steps,
water their way with their tears, stain
the white snow with the blood of their
wounded feet! We ask it in the spirit of
love, of Him Who is the Source of
Love, and Who is the ever-faithful
refuge and friend of all that are sore
beset and seek His aid with humble and
contrite hearts. Amen.

After a pause: "Ye have prayed it,
if ye still desire it, speak! The
messenger of the Most High waits."

It was believed afterward that the
man was a lunatic, because there was
no sense in what he said.

Then said Jesus unto him, Put up again thy sword
into his place: for all they that take the sword shall
perish with the sword. Matt. 26:52

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that hold to God's standard for
marriage. It proves that it is
possible to attain to His standard.

**And he answered and said
unto them, What did Moses
command you? And they said, Moses
suffered to write a bill of
divorcement, and to put her away.
And Jesus answered and said unto
them, For the hardness of your heart
he wrote you this precept. But from
the beginning of the creation God**

**made them male and female. For this
cause shall a man leave his father
and mother, and cleave to his wife;
And they twain shall be one flesh: so
then, they are no more twain, but
one flesh. What therefore God hath
joined together, let not man put
asunder. Mark 10:3-9.**

God has an answer for every
problem that mankind has.

After dinner, one of the ladies
shared a poem she wrote and gave to
her husband for their 30th anniversary,

Celebrating Love and “Loving the Enemy” of Darkness.

By Sandy Maine

A Psalm for our children:

And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season: his leaf also shall not wither and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper. Psalm 1:3

As a mother, I feel that it is my duty to give my children great hope for their futures. With the strength of God's love and hope in their hearts, it is my resolve that they shall prosper in ways that will be of good service to Gods Creation and Kingdom. When I look around it is easy to fall into the trap of fear and loathing of the darkness that surrounds modern life. It is easy to give up hope in exchange for despair. It is a much greater act to embrace the darkness with love, hope, and faith. When I hear of dark horrible events in the world, it is always my prayer that these events will assist in bringing people to greater capacities for compassion, love, and wisdom.

Jesus taught, and also, enables us to love our enemies. By embracing (loving) enemies who are slaves to greed, lies, destruction, violence and other abuses of Gods law we who administer love become more inspired and resolved to share and to heal with love. When we humans break one of the ten commandments (Gods simple laws meant to keep us on the good side of life) and can then feel and witness the unhappy results of ill behaviors... ideally, we are given a chance to become wiser and humbler, to grow in our faith of what is good and to become more compassionate for others in pain.

Spiritually oriented parents want their sons and daughters to be

nourished by the infinite river of God's Love. So, how can we parents help to offer our children this wonderful river of life? Let us look to Philippians 4:7&8 for our answer.

Paul sits in prison as he writes these words of freedom.

The peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

Whatsoever things are: true, noble, right and pure, lovely, admirable, excellent, and praiseworthy, think upon these things.

As we look around us we can just as easily see the Divine beauty in life as we can see the prisons of darkness. Paul tells us that feelings of hope, joy, and freedom are a direct result of the thoughts we allow ourselves to think.

By filling our bodies, minds, and hearts with the multi-faceted beauty of God's Creation and the strength of the Holy Spirit, we become nourished with His Light and are then able to nourish others.especially our children.

Imagine what would happen if the daily news reported on the true, the noble, the right and pure, the lovely, the admirable, the excellent and praiseworthy? Wouldn't people be challenged to Godliness? Wouldn't they aspire to become higher thinkers and doers, sharing their gifts and labors for the benefit of all just as Jesus did?

As parents, we can report the good things in life to our children each day. By doing so we can help to nourish and empower them to manifest Gods Light in their earthly walk. The Light they manifest will allow them to appreciate the good and administer love to the darkness they happen upon.

With the gift of love in our hearts

and the Holy Spirit for spiritual strength, the "enemy" called darkness need never defeat us. In deed, just as Jesus taught us to use Love to transform our enemies, we must also offer this teaching to our children. Thinking of the "enemy" (which separates us from "the river of life") as *a form of misguided thought or action* (such as greed, lies, lust, hatred,

destruction, violence etc) rather than *the person* who exemplifies those thoughts and actions, makes it easier to love and thereby assist the lost away from destruction and toward life. Understanding and actively using this teaching of Love, is a way to generate hope and dissolve despair in our families and communities.



Clara Ruth Maine

Out of the Mouth of Babes

"We're going to have a really tiny new baby!" I explained to our little ones, for months as we anxiously awaited our fifth child, our first home birth!

Soon after the birth, I was thrilled when an assistant asked when the other children could come in. (To have them brought in so soon seemed about too good to be true.) We quickly and thoroughly heaped the blankets upon me and the baby in my arms, and auntie brought them in, all in shining "awe." Our one child happily

examined Karissa, our newborn's tiny, sweet face, sticking out amidst all the covers and shyly asked, "Is that all there is, a head"? (As if the rest could grow about later.)

Jim and Marilene Atnip

and in the mouth of babes:

Joy had just poured some milk into the kitty's dish. Then it was gone. "What happened to the kitty's milk?" she asked 2 year old Amanda. Then she saw the telltale milk mustache on her face.

Learning How to Love

Have you ever felt unloved? By Christian people?

It is very likely that you have, probably more than once. Why would someone following the God of love, make anyone feel unloved?

I believe most people do love. At least they would if anger, greed, alcohol, etc. etc. would not have them bound. However, Christ has set the Christian free.

Sometimes in our weakness we forget and fail, sometimes we do not know how to show love, and sometimes our love is misunderstood.

An incident this week was a loud reminder to me that an important way of showing love is to ----

Wait and Listen

We were still all at the breakfast table when, in the course of discussion, Larisa made a statement that started with, "I will never----." I quickly advised her that she should not talk like that. She was defensive and her siblings further rebuked her for her bad attitude. She looked sullen and then her older sisters gently rebuked her for that.

We began to disperse to our chores. I noticed the girls were still at the table and they were further questioning Larisa. She said, "I didn't get a chance to finish what I was saying. I was going to say, 'I will never----, unless----.'" "In that case," I said, "there was nothing wrong with what you said."

"Why didn't you tell us?" the girls asked.

"I tried to 3 times and every time someone cut me off."

"I am sorry," I, the mother

who should have been a good example, apologized, "I was the first one to cut you off [I had not realized it]. The same thing has happened to me several times. It made me feel very bad and I told myself, 'I will try to make sure that I never do that to anyone'."

"But then you did have a chance to talk. Why didn't you let us know what was happening?" they questioned.

I understood why. At that point in my experiences, I found it extremely difficult to talk. Then to be accused of sulking makes it harder yet.

I was thankful my girls had waited and sought to understand. Bless their hearts. Beside our mistakes being corrected, I learned another lesson that I want to remember: we do not always remember the lessons we learn.

Try to remember this the next time you feel unloved. The

offender does not know how to show his love, or has forgotten, and/or is bound by sin. Be patient and, if possible, help him see his mistake.

How much more harmonious would our homes be, if instead of being so quick to talk and accuse, husbands and wives, parents and children, brothers and sisters, would patiently wait and listen to each other and truly try to understand? We would all feel more loved.

God Wants To Feel Our Love Too

As important as it is that we wait and listen to each other, it is more important that we wait and listen to God. When we pray, do we talk and cut Him off or do we wait long enough to let Him tell us all that is on His heart.

Recently I found myself having an alarming struggle with personal victory. I prayed and tried --- and prayed and tried --- and begged Him to help. Finally, in desperation, I asked, "What am I doing wrong?"

His answer was clear, "You

are not listening to Me." To my mind came the times lately that I didn't take the time to read His word, the hastily said prayers, *sometimes even forgetting to pray!*

With my focus back on Him, the tempter made a hasty retreat.

Since I have so much to learn and so desperately need his truth and mercy, I certainly cannot afford to not pay attention when He is trying to tell me something. At all cost I want to know His will, learn to live in His way of love, and to tell His true doctrine.

The more we wait and listen to God, the freer we will be to wait and listen to others. How many tears, misunderstandings, bleeding hearts, how many divorces, how many church divisions would be avoided if we would wait and listen to God and to one another.

A prayer of Christ is recorded in John 17. In verses 20 & 21 He says: **Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.**



Solid Rock

Oft upon the Rock I tremble,
Faint of heart and weak of knee.
But the solid "Rock of Ages"
Never trembles under me.

Author unknown

Here is a beautiful example of a mother showing love to her son ---

A Birthday Poem

For Benjamin Atnip, 12 yrs. old on Sept. 18, 1996

Who can tell the worth of a child?
The worth of a child not spoiled nor wild?
The worth of one whose not spoiled by school
Not saucy but sharing, doesn't act like a fool;
Obeys his own Mama without a big sigh,
Mature and too big for his own way to cry;
Helps daddy, unceasing, without pay each day,
Bakes bread for his family, instead of all play.

When no one is looking, he shares with his friend,
No peer pressure from others has need to depend.
Reads his own Bible without being told,
Shares wisdom with family, little brother will hold.
Contented, unselfish, not stingy nor cruel.
Remembers quite well to keep the golden rule,
Pure and obedient with peace on his soul,
Jesus blood washed his sins and Christ made him
whole.

Ah, who can say what he'd be worth in pay?
As he turns 12, and celebrates birthday today.
The cost, it was small, and God helped us decide
To home school and love him, by God's law abide.
The risk and uncertainty, yes, it was there
When people unfounded statements would share.
But now with respect can't help but admit
The excellent nature the world might have quit.
Ah thank you to laws, which have let, with respect
Us raise a fine boy, in our home, not neglect.
His worth, I can't tell you the joy it does bring
As we celebrate birthday joys and we all sing.

Happy Birthday to You!

Love, Mom (and Dad)

--- and of a wife to her husband.

An Anniversary Poem

March 25, 2001 - Thirty years have passed.
Since we stood before our Lord, our marriage vows to cast.
Our promise to each other was to cherish and to treasure,
To love as the Lord loved us, to give without measure.
There has been many a trial on our journey here below.
But love has always covered us and made our pathway
glow.
The blessings of our family, the children and our friends.
And then along came grandchildren - it seems there is no
end!
Oh, God has been so good you see, and I feel richly
blessed.

How often do we let our loved ones know that we love and appreciate them? Since feeling loved is so important to all of us, we must remember to continually show our love in many ways. People need to be physically touched in loving ways. We like to receive words

of love and appreciation. We feel loved when someone spends quality time with us or does acts of service for us. Many appreciate a gift, even if it didn't cost a penny. Think about your loved one and be creative. What would delight him or her?

*Earth is crammed with Heaven
And every common bush is
afire with God.*

Heart and Home Harmony
156 Newton Rd.
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Here is a treat that our family loves.

Chocolate Mint Pudding

1 cup sugar or 3/4 cup honey	Syrup:
6 cups whole grain flour	1 qt. fresh peppermint*
1 tablespoon soda	1 qt. boiling water
1/2 teaspoon salt	1 cup sugar
3 cup milk	4 tablespoons butter
1/2 cup cocoa	

Steep the mint in the water for 10 minutes. Strain, add sugar and butter. Pour syrup in buttered baking dish. Mix dry ingredients and add milk. Drop dough by spoonfuls on top of hot syrup. Bake at 350.

Variation: Omit cocoa, add 1 cup raisons or dates and nuts. In syrup, omit mint and for the sweetener, use maple syrup or brown sugar.

* If you are using dried peppermint, use 1/2 the amount, or flavor with extract to your taste.