

# The Bugle

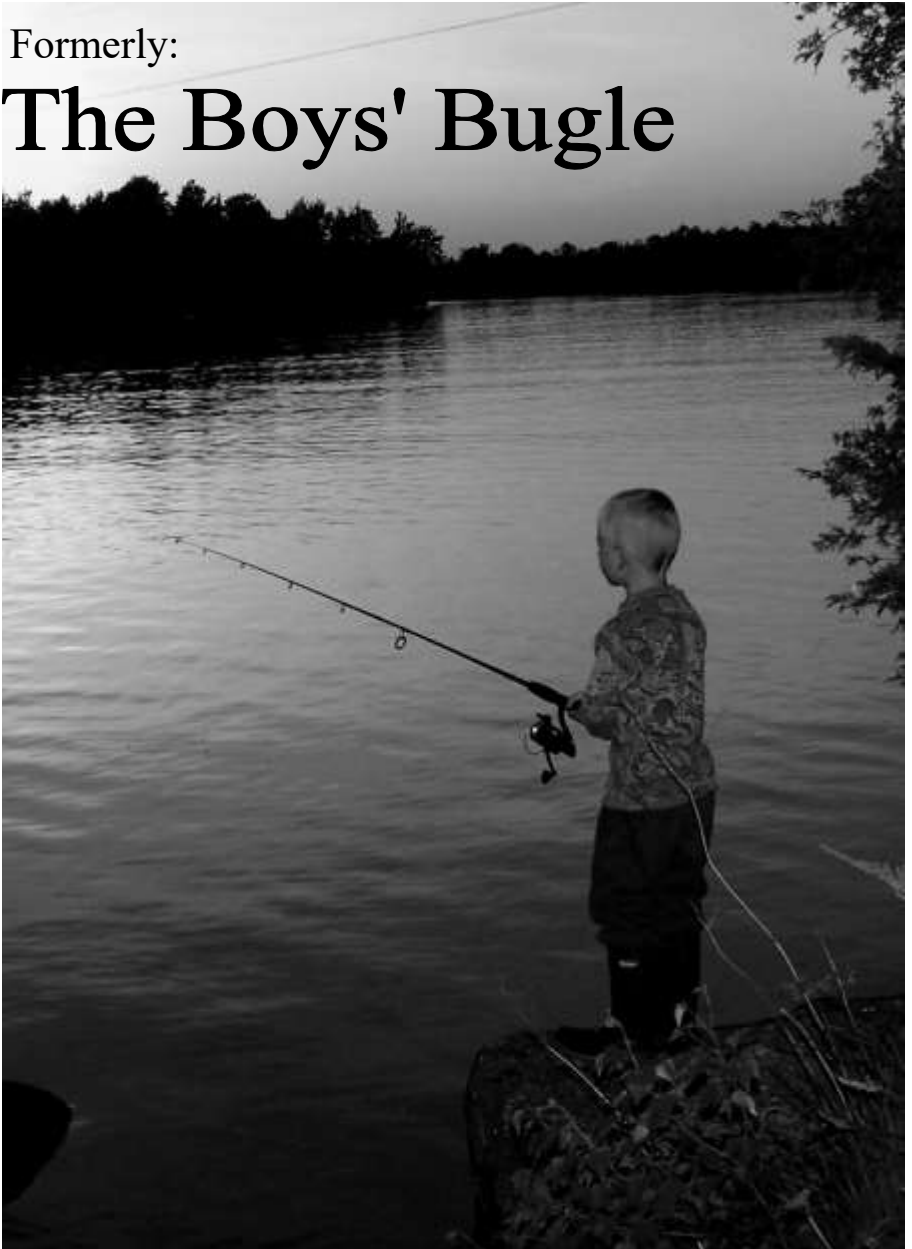
Calling everyone to the service of Christ

Vol. 11, Number 1

Spring 2011

Formerly:

## The Boys' Bugle



# Welcome to The Bugle

This issue's theme "What is Spiritual Life?"

## Contents:

Editor's Desk.....	3
Is Your Spirituality A Benefit?.....	4
A Spiritual Life?.....	6
What is Life?.....	7
The Injector Pump.....	8
Working Together.....	9
The Crank that Cranked off!.....	10
Proverbs 13 & 14.....	11
Who is Responsible for Man's	
Guilt and Condemnation?.....	12
Are you looking for a friend?.....	18
Reward Improvement!.....	19
Here in the North Country.....	20
The Little Whip of an Apple Tree...22	
Out of the Mouth of Babes.....	23

## Subscription Information:

Please let us know, at least every 4 years, that you want to continue to receive "The Bugle." Back issues available. Donations appreciated. Donations include articles, stories, poems, pictures, ideas, letters, and etc. We reserve the right to print anything you send us, unless you specify otherwise. Please make checks payable to The Bugle. Send to:

The Bugle  
156 Newton Rd.  
Potsdam, N.Y. 13676  
theboysbugle@yahoo.com  
315-265-0026  
theboysbugle.blogspot.com

## The Bugle & Heart and Home Harmony

are a ministry of the Parishville Christian Church.

The magazine is managed mostly by the Martin family: Luke and Rachel. Our children are: Daniel & Mendy, Ellen & Mike Atnip, Timothy, Emily & Rob Hall, Dawn & Luke Rosenbarker, Joy & Charles Thonus, Melvin, Luray and Britany, Nathaniel (23), Larisa (21), Jonathan (in heaven) and 17 grandchildren.

The editors are: Luke, Rachel, and Melvin. We publish issues when we have enough good material and we find time.

We live in the country and manage a number of projects such as: organic produce, honey, maple syrup, orchard, sawmill, blacksmithing, sheep, dogs, cows,

chickens, earth-moving, fryer-oil for diesel fuel, farm and garden supply store, carpentry, printing, always something to keep us busy! Our children were homeschooled.

The Bugle was started in 2001 to help fill the need for a Christian boys' magazine.

Any comments, suggestions, submissions, or ideas you may have are greatly appreciated. We need good articles.

If you are ever in the area, we would be delighted for you to stop in for a visit or to worship with us.

**On the Cover:** Robby Joe Hall fishing.



# Editor's Desk



Dear Readers,

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus.

It's been a long time since you heard from me. I am still here and alive. In fact, I am doing a lot better than I was. In the last Editor's Desk, I was pleased that I could easily lift 50 lbs. Now I can lift whatever I can lift, and not have to worry about my back. The other day I lifted on a desk that was frozen to the ground. In time past, when I'd lift and it wouldn't move, it really hurt my back. This time it didn't hurt at all. I still don't have much endurance, and I still have aches and pains. As I mentioned in the last Editor's Desk, my mind and eyes would tire easily. Now it's rarely a problem.

There have been some changes around here in the last year.

Daniel and Mendy built a new house 2 1/2 miles toward Potsdam on the corner of Needham Rd and 11B. They plan to have the produce market there this year. He plans to still grow some of the produce on the old farm.

The sawmill moved to my Dad's place. Nathaniel and Luray plan to be running it. That means I won't be selling lumber anymore. They also started to sell Everlast Metal Roofing.

Luray and Britany built a little house on some land they got from my Dad. They moved in on January 3, 2011. The sawmill is between Luray's

house and Dad's (Nathaniel's) house. Like this they won't have to go far to work.

I'm planning to move into Luray and Britany's old place within the next few months. I'll use his shop and warehouse for my farm supply business. I'm taking over the solar greenhouse. I plan to live in the upstairs of the print shop, which is just across the road, where Daniel and Mendy had lived.

The other morning I was reading in my Bible and I came across a verse that caught my attention. To start with,



*My 'new' skidloader I traded for a loader tractor and some other things I had.*

I'm not going to tell you where I was reading.

Abraham is my hero. Why? Because if we have faith like Abraham, we have right standing with God.

In Genesis 15, Abraham wonders who his heir will be, being he had no children. God answered that "**he that**

**shall come forth out of thine own bowels shall be thine heir. And he brought him forth abroad, and said, Look now toward heaven, and tell the stars, if thou be able to number them: and he said unto him, So shall thy seed be. And he believed in the LORD; and he counted it to him for righteousness.**" (Genesis 15:4-6)

The question is: Who is Abraham's seed going to be? What do you say? My answer is 'Isaac'.

Now let's look at the scripture that

*(Continued on page 11)*

# Is Your Spirituality A Benefit?

By the Martins

Your Creator gave you life—body, soul, and spirit. Your spirituality is defined by the characteristics of your spirit and other spirits that dwell within you. God does not make junk. You are His masterpiece. He designed us to live with His Spirit, in fellowship and communication with Him. The fruit of the Spirit is: love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, and temperance. (Gal. 5:22, 23)

However, if we sin, we begin to feel more like useless junk. **Now the works of the flesh are clearly revealed, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lustfulness, idolatry, sorcery, hatreds, fightings, jealousies, angers, rivalries, divisions, heresies, envyings, murders, drunkennesses, revelings, and things like these; of which I tell you before, as I also said before, that they who do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.** (Gal 5:19-21 MKJV)

Without God, we become like an empty vessel, open to many unclean spirits. (See Luke 11:24-26) Our spirit longs for the life and peace that only God can give. Only his Holy Spirit can fill the void—that spot that He created in us for His own self.

Without God's Spirit of love and peace, we are open to all kinds of proud, lying, fearful, hateful, and bitter spirits that enter and bind us. Our carnal minds look to ourselves, to pleasure or to religion. We tend to think we can direct our own life and become good again by doing good works. We may be trying to show love but at times the fears, and other such spirits, reveal their control over us and we end up hurting others as we grasp for control, perpetrating more fear.

The carnal mind will make up its own religion. This is done by those who do not believe in God, those who believe in other gods, and those who believe in God and also serve idols. Those who add to or take away from God's word are making their own religion.

Do you measure spirituality by any of the following?

- ◆ joining and obeying a church
- ◆ showing emotion
- ◆ casting out demons
- ◆ doing miracles
- ◆ having faith
- ◆ dreams, visions, hearing voices
- ◆ great preaching and prophesying
- ◆ understanding all mysteries and knowledge
- ◆ giving, helping, and sacrificing
- ◆ praying and studying the Bible
- ◆ being well spoken of or having an excellent reputation
- ◆ health, wealth and prosperity
- ◆ poverty or penance
- ◆ being in a popular, growing church
- ◆ being persecuted
- ◆ having a spiritual experience

◆ overcoming a problem or addiction

The only spirituality that gives life is to have the Spirit of Christ. This will be known by the fruit of the spirit in our lives. Any or all of the above can be caused by a Spirit filled life. However, any or all of the above can be empty and very misleading if it is mixed with pride and selfishness.

Sometimes healthy spirituality has periods that are characterized by a quiet life with very little glamour in it.

He made a way for us to be reconciled with Him by sending His Son to give Himself a sacrifice for our sin. If we turn from our sin and give our all to serve Him, he will give us his Holy Spirit. This is spiritual life.

Filled with God's Holy Spirit, we are humble, teachable, ever striving to be merciful and loving. We love Him with our whole heart, soul, mind, and strength and our neighbor as our self. We take our responsibility in His church seriously, caring for the brethren and spreading the good news of His salvation. We stand strong for truth, neither adding to nor taking away from His words in the Bible.

In other words, as we daily humble ourselves to God's control, He will continually work to heal us of the wounds left by sin and restore us to what we are meant to be, useful and free.

**For they that are according to the flesh, do mind the things of the flesh: but they that are according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace: Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. (Rom 8:5-7 Webster) Read chapter 8.**

**Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. (Eph 6:11-12 Webster)**

**For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones. (Isa 57:15 Webster)**

**Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but try the spirits to see if they are of God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God; and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the antichrist you heard is coming, and even now is already in the world. (1 John 4:1-3)**

**For false Christs, and false prophets will rise, and will show signs and wonders, to seduce, if it were possible, even the elect. (Mark 13:22)**

**For God hath not given us the spirit of fear, but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind. (2Ti 1:7 Webster)**

**... Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. But God hath revealed them to us by his Spirit; for the Spirit searcheth all things, even the deep things of God. For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God. Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is from God; that we may know the things that are freely given to us by God. Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Spirit teacheth; comparing spiritual things with**

**spiritual. But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness to him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. But he that is spiritual judgeth all things, yet he himself is judged by no man. For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ. (1Co 2:9-16 Webster)**



---

## A Spiritual Life?

*“Finally my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.” Ephesians 6:10-12*

Spiritual life means the inside of you... what is not physical body (like your arms or legs). Your thoughts, the prayers, the inside sins, your walk with God.

*“As ye also learned of Epaphras our dear fellowservant, who is for you a faithful minister of Christ; who also declared unto us your love in the Spirit. For this cause we also since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding;” Colossians 1:7-9*

Spiritual life is thanking God, asking for wisdom and other things we'd like/need, or it can be a battle field in our minds. Fighting Satan and his evil forces while trying to follow God. We each have different temptations, but all of them start in the mind... some could move into a physical action but it has to

start in the mind. We as Christians need to follow God in our minds.... putting on the whole armour of God so we can actually fight Satan. Truth, Righteousness, Preparation of the gospel of peace (be a witness for God), and above all have faith, salvation and the sword of the spirit.

*“Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;” Ephesians 6:18* Pray for yourself and pray for other Christians as well. Pray for help, for guidance, and peace, for ways to witness, pray thankfulness, pray praise.... but always, always pray. My main idea of spiritual life would be prayer. You can't have any other life in God, but praying to Him.

Can you spiritually die? I think that your spiritual walk with God can die—you can leave your walk with God to walk with the world and follow sin. God is still waiting for you to return to Him in your thoughts, to start praying again, to read your Bible again, to attend church, to witness, to fellowship with other Christians, to walk with God again. If you are in a situation where you have left walking with God, you can come back; your spiritual life can be renewed to walking with God

again.

To feed your spiritual life you need to do two or three main things.... Read your Bible (and listen to what it tells you. It doesn't do you any good if you don't listen and obey.), Pray (pray, pray, pray, you can never pray enough) and fellowship with other Christians (church, talk, sing, work with them). Praying and reading the Bible rank as equals in my thoughts, though I often get more praying done since I can pray while my hands are busy and I can't read my Bible. Every Sunday, God sends me something to work on, either through the sermon, maybe the Sunday school lesson, or just talking/listening to other Christians. We must always remember that we can't stand alone in the family of God. We need other Christians to help us stand strong, like in an army your buddies (friends) help protect you, intercede to God for you. You need other Christians to help in your spiritual life, each of them can give you a helping hand. Mostly through encouragement to continue in your walk with God and praying on your behalf.

One last thing... you need to watch your music. What you sing, what you play, what you listen to... it all has a huge impact on your spiritual life. Your need for encouragement can often be bolstered by singing (or listening to) a hymn or another gospel song. Your spiritual life needs music, gospel singing is like water to your body, very refreshing (and very needful), and it helps cleanse your mind from dark thoughts. If you've been having a rough day, spiritually and physically you need to either listen to or sing some gospel songs. You'll be

amazed at how refreshing they can be. Don't down play them, the mind needs music, but make it music that will feed and refresh your spirit.

Hannah Holter  
Endeavour, SK Canada

## What Is Life?

Life is a sojourn here on earth  
Which begins the day God gives us birth,  
We enter this world from the Great Unknown  
And God gives each spirit a form of its own  
And endows this form with a heart and a soul  
To spur man on to his ultimate goal—  
And through the senses of feeling and seeing,  
God makes man into a human being  
So he may experience a mortal life  
And through this period of smiles and strife  
Prepare himself to Return as he Came,  
For birth and death are in essence the same,  
For both are fashioned by God's mighty hand  
And, while we cannot understand,  
We know we are born to die and arise  
For beyond this world in beauty lies  
The purpose of living and the ultimate goal  
God gives at birth to each seeking soul—  
So enjoy your sojourn on earth and be glad  
That God gives you a Choice between Good  
Things and Bad,  
And only be sure that you Heed God's Voice  
Whenever life asks you to make a choice.

*Author unknown*

*Submitted by: Margret Gabor, —Canada*

# The Injector Pump

Written February 2010 by Melvin Martin.

I've been running vegetable oil in 6.2 L Chevy diesels for quite a few years already. The injector pump on those diesels is a rotary style pump, and is not very tough. Over the years I've ruined a few pumps by wearing them out or seizing them up. At first I concluded that bacteria was ruining the pumps and indeed it was. I also thought cold vegetable oil in the injectors was plugging the injectors and building extreme pressure and seizing the pump.

A few years ago I tried to rebuild a pump myself and it didn't work. I concluded they are too complicated and delicate for me. I resigned to finding used pumps. But they weren't lasting.

Last fall (2009) I seized the pump on the bus because of cold vegetable oil. I decided to get a rebuilt (new) pump because I expected it to last. I was very strict in making sure it was very warm before switching to vegetable oil.

Last Friday it was a cold morning. I needed to go to town to collect vegetable oil and other things. I got the bus warmed up and switched to vegetable oil. I had the engine running almost full throttle and high RPMs. I heard the terrible sound of the injector pump seize and the engine died. My new pump was dead. I was greatly disappointed and in a bad place. I needed a truck. I was finished with 6.2 L injector pumps for vegetable oil. It is unacceptable for the pump to seize like it did.

After a bit of thought, I decided to either take the engine out of the Isuzu and put it in the bus or fix the Isuzu up and put it on the road. The Isuzu has an inline injector pump, which is a lot tougher than the rotary style. I got the Isuzu from my place and looked it over. There was a problem. The engine wasn't running quite smooth. I thought

a lever on the injector pump was stuck, so I went looking for some penetrating oil. I thought I had some in the bus. While I was looking, I found a spare injector pump under the seat that was worn out but in good enough shape to get me home if it quite on me somewhere far away from home. I got an idea. Perhaps I could make a workable pump by taking the new vane pump out of the seized pump and putting it in the worn out pump. I couldn't lose anything by messing with it.

By bedtime Friday night, I had the seized pump out of the bus engine. Over night I remembered I had a junk truck with an injector pump that I thought was bad. Saturday morning I got up early and got the pump off the junk truck. I figured the more pumps I had, the better my chances of getting one to work.

As I took the pumps apart, I took note of how tight the bolts were and how things were put together. To my delight, the pump off the junk truck was in good shape. I shouldn't have taken it apart. I called the fellow I had got the new pump from to tell him what I was doing. He thought I could do it and gave me some tips. I put a pump together using the best parts. I put fuel to it and turned it by hand. It pumped fuel and seemed to work good.

Now I had a problem. The bus engine was on vegetable oil and it was about 0 F outside and I don't have a shop big enough to put it in to warm it up. So I put plastic around the bottom of it, plugged it in, and put two heat lamps on it. By bedtime, I had the 'rebuilt' pump in the bus and running. It ran really nice, except it idled fast. On Monday I finished putting the pump on and adjusting it. I took it to Canton and it ran really nice, I think even nicer than before. It is lacking



power but I think it is just turned down.

I was really, really thankful. I had a truck again. I didn't spend any money. I fixed the pump myself; I now have the confidence to do it again. I have a body that held up to the work of fixing the pump, and I didn't hurt afterwards. And best of all, I have a God I can trust.

*Now almost a year later and after over 10,000 miles, that injector*

*pump is still running nicely. I am pleased. Praise God.*



---

## Working Together

Fall 2010. By Melvin Martin

The other day I had a good experience.

The wind was blowing really hard and it blew the plastic off my pile of straw and hay. I had wanted to move some of it into the barn anyway sometime as winter was coming. So I loaded a whole bunch of straw and hay on the trailer and backed it up to the barn. It was a bit muddy and I couldn't back up as far as I wished. Rob Brown was helping me. After we unloaded a bunch of the straw, I decided to try to back the trailer up farther because I figured there was less weight on the trailer and more on the bus. But Rob said it was fine and we could carry the straw. I decided to try to back up farther anyway. I pulled ahead a bit. Then some of the bales fell off the trailer and the bus quit because it was on a side hill and almost out of fuel and it got air. Now I was in trouble. The bus quit, some bales fell off, and the trailer was farther from the barn. I made a bad judgment. Rob could have said "I told you." He could have complained I was making lots of work. He could have walked off and left me to fix my troubles. And what could I have said, for his actions would have been true and just. Or he could have got mad at me and told me I was a fool. I could have gotten my

mess straightened out without his help, but it would have been hard.

So what did happen? We talked and thought about it a bit and came up with a plan. I got the tractor. Rob drove the tractor as I steered the bus, and we towed the rig back to where we started. We still had to carry the straw. With Rob's help, it wasn't long until the straw was unloaded. After we unloaded the straw, I coasted the bus to the bottom of the hill and pop started it. We worked together and it was good.

So what is the moral of this story? We were working together even though the 'boss' made a bad choice. It illustrates an important aspect of a good relationship. In a good relationship, they work together even if things don't go as planned or if someone makes a mistake. In fact, when someone makes a mistake, that is when it's really important to work together. God wants people who will stick with Him and be true to Him even till death. A friend that leaves you when you stumble is a useless friend.



# The Crank that Cranked off!

## Another Bus Story

by Melvin Martin

Last Wednesday (1-26-11) I made a delivery to Bombay with my bus, about 30 miles from here. On the way home, after I was finished with all my deliveries, about 1 ½ miles from home, suddenly the engine started to really rattle. I quickly put it out of gear. When it came to an idle, it was knocking with every revolution. So I shut it off and coasted to a stop. I got my dad to help and we towed it home. I was running on vegetable oil, so I wanted to fix it, so I could switch to diesel fuel before it got too cold. I thought it sounded like a broken connecting rod or bearing, though I never heard one. Then I thought of something. My clutch wasn't releasing right when it was hot for the last while. I hoped something had fallen apart in the clutch. So I (and Nathaniel and Tim) took the transmission out. The clutch needed help, but it wasn't the problem. I rocked the engine back and forth with the flywheel, and there was a "clunk" "clunk" in there. So I gave up on the idea of fixing it before it got cold. I knew I had serious problems but I was finished with all my deliveries and didn't need the bus for about a week. I was pleased.

The next day I took the oil pan off. I about couldn't believe it, the crankshaft was broken! It was broke in a way that the two halves were running together and it still ran fine, except for the terrible rattle. At first I thought I only need another crankshaft and it didn't look like too big a job to change it. But at a closer look, there was some cracks in the block at the main bearing bolts. So I needed another engine.

I decided to put the engine from my dad's old truck in it.

It's a big job to change an engine. There is a lot of things hooked to the

block.

Why did the crankshaft break? It may have just broke because, but I think there was a few different things working together. I hardly had enough power to pull a trailer. So I had it turned up as much as I dared. I had the timing advanced for less smoke, easier starts, and also to give the vegetable oil more time to burn (vegetable oil burns slower then diesel). I had the mufflers so they breathed easier. Being I hardly had enough power, I'd run it at high RPMs with the throttle mostly wide open for hours on end. I got a lot of use out of that crank before it quit.

There was nothing missing from the engine. It was still all there. But the crank had lost its integrity. Because one piece lost its integrity, so did the block, and the one main bearing, and the oil pump screen, and who knows what else. And the whole engine was useless. All because a piece of metal split in two and wasn't working together anymore. If someone in a family or any group loses their integrity and quits doing their job, it makes it much, much harder for everyone else, even to the point of ruining the whole thing. The damage can't be undone. And it may take a tremendous amount of work and expense to fix it. It is very, very important that we work together, with God.



*(Continued from page 3)*

caught my attention. Galatians 3:16  
“**Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made.**” Genesis 15 was the promise or one of the promises to Abraham. “**He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ.**” Christ is the seed, singular. That is Abraham’s seed, singular. Very specifically, Christ is Abraham’s seed. ...umm

“**And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.**” Galatians 3:29 ...Umm, if I am Christ’s, then I’m also Abraham’s seed and I get to be heir of the promise. So then I am one of Abraham’s seed that God promised to him when he promised his seed would be like the stars of heaven.

Now what do we do with these scriptures? Genesis 12:7, 13:14-17, 15:3-4, 15:13-18, 17:1-10, 21:12, 22:15-18, 24:7, 26:2-5, 26:24, 28:4, 28:12-15, and 35:10-13.

Have you noticed something over the last few years? I have. I am almost always late in printing ‘The Boys’ Bugle’. This issue is a year late. My life is not like it was years ago. And it shows

in the amount of time I have for TBB. My health is doing a lot better. I am much stronger than I was. However, I don’t see that I will have any more time for TBB in the future than I’ve had in the last few years. However, Dad and Mom are hoping to put more time into The Bugle.

TBB has for many years been more of a family magazine than a boy’s magazine. Some folks thought we should change the name to closer match what is really inside. Therefore we decided to name it ‘The Bugle’.

In His Service,

---

## Proverbs 13 & 14

Hope deferred maketh the heart sick: but when the desire cometh, it is a tree of life. Whoever despiseth the word shall be destroyed: but he that feareth the commandment shall be rewarded. The law of the wise is a fountain of life, to depart from the snares of death. Good understanding giveth favor: but the way of transgressors is hard.

(Pro 13:12-15 Webster)

In the fear of the LORD is strong confidence: and his children shall have a place of refuge. The fear of the LORD is a fountain of life, to depart from the snares of death.

(Pro 14:26-27 Webster)

# Who is Responsible for Man's Guilt and Condemnation?

## The Consequence of Original Sin

In this two part article, we will critically examine popular Christianity's answer to two questions that are vital to our understanding of our position in the sight of God. Confidence in human theories and creeds and lack of simple faith in what the Bible literally states about these subjects has cost us dearly in a serious lack of conviction of sin and guilt. The obvious problem is that no one can be saved who does not know he is lost, and few will be thoroughly convicted if they are taught they are lost because of the sins of another. Likewise, few will be convicted of sins if they are taught that they have had no other choice but to sin. The two questions are:

1. *Who is responsible for our guilt and condemnation before God?*
2. *Who is responsible that we are sinners?*

These two questions are answered in the Word of God, but let's look first at what men have devised and taught for many centuries.

### **Part 1: Who is Responsible for our Guilt and Condemnation before God?**

Below is the definition of "Original Sin" from Encyclopedia Britannica, giving the human theory of our guilt and condemnation:

"In Christian doctrine, the condition

or state of sin into which each human being is born; also, the origin (i.e., the cause, or source) of this state. Traditionally, the origin has been ascribed to the sin of the first man, Adam, who disobeyed God in eating the forbidden fruit (of knowledge of good and evil) and, in consequence, transmitted his sin and guilt by heredity to his descendants.

The doctrine has its basis in the Bible. Although the human condition (suffering, death, and a universal tendency toward sin) is accounted for by the story of the Fall of Adam in the early chapters of the book of Genesis, the Old Testament says nothing about the transmission of hereditary sin to the entire human race. In the Gospels also there are no more than allusions to the notion of the Fall of Man and universal sin. The main scriptural affirmation of the doctrine is found in the writings of St. Paul and particularly in Romans 5:12–19, a difficult passage in which Paul establishes a parallelism between Adam and Christ, stating that whereas sin and death entered the world through Adam, grace and eternal life have come in greater abundance through Christ."

(Encyclopedia Britannica)

Notice, that according to this doctrine we are guilty, condemned sinners from the time of our birth, because of Adam's sin, whose guilt we inherited. This doctrine took

hold early in the Christian church, and is the original and current reason for the practice of infant baptism.

Martin Luther disagreed with this theory. He wrote: "That original sin was taken away through Christ, and since Christ's Advent it does no more condemn anyone. . . . there is also no sin can condemn infants if they die without baptism." (Martyr's Mirror P. 1015)

Martin Luther showed insight here, yet he did not go far enough in disposing of the human theories on the subject. He seemed to think that before Christ, man was guilty of and condemned by Adam's sin, but now he is not. What about the infants who died before Christ? Were they condemned and lost? Salvation is and was only through faith in God and His provision for sin. There is no other provision for infants and other *innocents* who cannot have faith. But wait! If they are innocent, they are not guilty! If they are not guilty, they are not under condemnation, and therefore do not need salvation from condemnation! So we see, that although *salvation* is only through faith in Christ, there will be two classes of people in heaven, those who were saved from their sins (the redeemed), and the innocent - those who were never under guilt and condemnation *because they don't know right from wrong*, or as God puts it in Jonah 4:11 "**persons that cannot discern between their right hand and their left hand**", and are therefore innocent.

Anabaptists, tended to avoid firm doctrines beyond what the Word of God directly stated. The

statements of the fall of man in the Dortrech Confession of Faith do not imply that the sin and guilt of Adam is transferred to the human race. However, we do know that the human race is greatly affected by the sin of Adam. Exactly how man is affected by the sin of Adam is stated in the Scriptures, which we will examine shortly. But first consider a few of the important questions whose answers will hinge on our understanding of original sin.

- \* What is sin? Can sin and guilt be transferred to other people?
- \* Is man *born* a sinner?
- \* Can sin enter heaven?
- \* Are infants who die, lost?
- \* Are adults condemned by their own sin, or were they already condemned by Adam's sin before they did one wrong?

### Original Sin: The Bible's Account

When God created man, He gave him just one command: "**Of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.**" (Genesis 2:17)

The serpent tempted Eve to eat of it, saying, "**in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.** And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, **she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat. And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked**" (Genesis 3:5-7).

Previously the Bible tells us they

were naked and they **“were not ashamed”** (Gen. 2:25). Now, **“the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked”**. They lost their innocence by disobeying and they received *the knowledge of good and evil*, (what we today call the innate “moral law”). They recognized sins against God. They recognized responsibilities they did not have before.

This scene closes: **“And the LORD God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil: and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever: Therefore the LORD God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken.”**

According to *God’s* own statement, this is when man obtained this knowledge: **“man is become as one of us, to know good and evil”**, and this is the immediate result of the “original sin” of Adam and Eve, and the reason they were driven from the Garden.

In reference to this event, the apostle Paul wrote in Romans 5:12: **“Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned”**.

Notice that death passed upon all men, *for that all have sinned*. It is **not Adam’s sin** that is on our account - it is *our own sin* - it is because **“all have sinned”** that **“death passed upon all men.”** *Adam’s* disobedience brought sin into the world through bringing all men under the moral law. But it is *our own willful sin, against this law* that is on our account. In other words, if Adam had not disobeyed,

and brought us under the “knowledge of good and evil”, we would have no law to sin against. But now we have this moral law, and we are all guilty of sin against it.

Let’s look at other results of Adam’s sin: Because of man’s disobedience God also punished man with the curse. God put enmity between the seed of the woman and the seed of the serpent; He made the wife subject to her husband, and to bring forth children in sorrow; He cursed the ground for Adam’s sake, thorns and thistles would grow and Adam would eat with labor and sorrow until he would die and return to dust. It seems God changed the physical laws, perhaps putting into place the second law of thermodynamics: the law of entropy, causing His physical creation to run down, wear out and die. Romans 8:19-23 seems to refer to this, with the hopeful note that we, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, are **“waiting for . . . the redemption of our body”**.

May we remember, however, that although the curse dealt with the corruption of the physical earth and our physical bodies, the Scriptures say nothing about obtaining or inheriting a sinful nature through this, or inheriting the sin or guilt of Adam.

Each one of us was born innocent. An infant cannot sin, because he has been given no law to sin against. He knows nothing of right or wrong. His only responsibility is to make his own needs and desires known. But as he matures in age and intellect, he is given this moral law and becomes accountable to God for obedience to His law.

Every one of accountable age and intellect is guilty *of his own sins*. No one is condemned by the sin of another, or condemned before *he personally* committed sin. The Bible says nothing about Adam's sin and guilt being imputed on the human race by inheritance. Rather, it says, "**For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God**" (Rom. 3:23). Each one of us has known the will of God, and yet has chosen to reject God's government in our lives, rebel against Him and take our own way. Without Christ we are guilty rebels, *deserving* of hell fire.

## Part 2 Who is responsible that we sin?

Romans 3:23 and 5:12-13 as well as other Scriptures, state that we have all sinned. *Why* have we sinned? According to the Calvinist doctrine of total depravity, we have sinned because we had no other choice. A dictionary definition of "total depravity" is "a state of corruption due to original sin held in Calvinism to infect every part of man's nature and to make the natural man unable to know or obey God."

Christians who are not Calvinists generally do not believe in total depravity, yet, often hold to somewhat similar beliefs: that because of our sinful nature *which we inherited because of Adam's sin*, we are *unable* to obey God. In other words, sin is programed into us. Our *sinful nature that we are born with* makes us sin. This effectively frees us from responsibility and guilt for our sin, because we had no choice in the matter but to be sinners.

Let's examine whether this is logically sound, or Scriptural.

If we have been created with such a nature that we have no choice but to sin, then it is no fault of our own that we do sin. If someone built a robot and programmed it to do evil, it would not be a sin of the robot, (which had no choice) but of its builder. No just court would condemn someone for what he had no choice whatever in. In the same way, if God made us in such a way that we had no choice but to sin, because of a sinful nature that was an unrecorded part of the curse He gave in Eden, we are not responsible for our sin, but rather, God who placed the curse would be. But what does God say about that?

In Ecclesiastes 7:29, in considering the people of his time, the preacher observed: "**Lo, this only have I found, that God hath made man upright; but they have sought out many inventions.**"

It is not God's fault that we sin. "**God hath made man upright.**" God created us to holiness - to bring Him glory. He made us in His image that we might mirror His holiness and righteousness. But what happened? "**They have sought out many inventions** [schemes]". God gave man freedom of will, to serve Him or not, and man *chose to seek out* his own way *in violation* of God's will.

Why does man have a tendency to sin?

God created man with appetites and desires to fit him to live and flourish on the earth, as well as bring Him glory. Satan uses these

good desires to set men against the government of God.

Often when we talk about our sinful nature as justification for our sin, we are confusing these innocent, God-given appetites and desires of nature, (necessary for survival), with sin itself. Sin, or carnality, is *prohibited* indulgence. God has not given us a nature that is sinful, but He has given us good appetites and desires, that, unfortunately, we can sinfully indulge in opposition to His will, just as Eve did. As the apostle Paul wrote: **“But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.”** (2 Cor. 11:3).

Satan tempted Eve, taking advantage of the God-given desires for food and knowledge. Adam was enticed to join in eating the forbidden fruit, likely by his good desire to please his wife (Gen. 3:17 see also 1 Tim. 2:14). This submission to their own good, God-given desires was rebellion against the higher command of God given in Genesis 2:17.

This is also how disobedience and sin starts today. A parent’s rule, “No cookies before dinner”, and a child’s strong desire for food, finds his hand in the cookie jar when mother’s back is turned. The hunger for cookies is not wrong, but eating them when prohibited is.

If he continues indulging selfish desires in disobedience to higher authority, his very nature will become sinful, hardened (Heb. 3:13) and even depraved (Rom. 1:28). The first chapter of Romans, verses 18-28 explains the progression from the recognition of God to

rejection of His truths and government, and going into selfish sin to the point of a twisted, depraved nature. In the depraved nature, one has changed from a desire to fulfill his own natural, or “carnal”, appetites, to an unnatural appetite to desire what is wrong.

If our nature is depraved it is because *we have made it so at the instigation of Satan*. Paul says: **“Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?”** (Rom. 6:16). We have *chosen sin* rather than righteousness, until sin and Satan have such a hold on us that it may seem that all we desire is sin. Sin will corrupt. It will take our nature on a downward spiral. The sinner possesses a disobedient, rebellious mind - *because of choices he made*—not because God made him that way. In every decision, we choose to serve and glorify God, or to serve our own selfish desires. As we corrupt our nature by sin, it becomes increasingly difficult to choose righteousness, because our mind is carnally focused, and: **“The carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.”** (Rom. 8:7)

It is important that we stop making excuses for the sin of man, so the Holy Spirit of God can powerfully convict each one of the seriousness of his crimes against the God of heaven. We need to understand that man is guilty, *deserving* of hell, and without a trace of an excuse for sin. We need Holy Spirit conviction, acknowledgment of sin, and repentance.



What is repentance? In effect it is to blame yourself and justify God. But you can neither blame yourself nor justify God if you believe you are guilty and condemned from birth by Adam's sin, and have no choice but to sin because God gave you a depraved nature in the curse.

Who has Sin Separated from God and How can they be reinstated? Jesus said of "little children": **"Suffer little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God."** (Luke 18:16). Little children are innocent of sin, and fit for the kingdom of God. They are *not* separated from God by sin.

On the other hand, Isaiah 59:2 says of adults: **"But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear."**

This verdict stands for every one of us of accountable age and intellect. The entire population of the earth through the centuries has proven that every man *will* rebel and sin against God. Sin separates God from us and us from God. Not only does God hide His face from us, but we also hide from God. We do not want to see Him. Our mind is "enmity against God", and we cannot please Him.

**"For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit. For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God,**

**neither indeed can be. So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God. But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his. And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness."** (Rom. 8:5-10)

God took pity on our lost condition, and, realizing that we have no possible means to ransom our souls and bring us back into fellowship with Him, Christ Himself, died on the cross to provide a ransom for our souls, **"that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish."**

The Spirit of God attempts to convict us of sin, and we must recognize the blackness and rebellion of our sin against God. We must realize that the blame is all our own, and repent and forsake our sin and go on to **"deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me"** (Mat. 16:24). When we come to the cross, we realize that means death of our carnal life. There can be no covering, excusing or defending. There can be no reserving of a right to indulge in carnality sometime.

But the cross that puts an end to the sinner, is the only way to bring resurrection to a new life in Christ. Without the death of the carnal sinner, there could be no rising to newness of life in the Spirit. In the degree that we allow Christ's Spirit to control our hearts, He gives us power to overcome all fleshly desire that war against the Spirit. Our point of reference in decisions is no more *my* reputation, or pleasure, but God's, as the apostle Paul says:

**“For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.” (Php. 2:13)**

We are enabled by the Holy Spirit to live holy lives and are accepted back into the family of God, as true children of God and joint heirs with Christ, from which we had, *by our own sin*, estranged ourselves.

*Reprinted with permission from:*

*The Way of Truth  
C/O Glenn M. Wenger  
2383 Quaker Run Road  
Richfield, PA 17086*

---

## Are you looking for a friend?

Write a description of yourself, your interests, work, hobbies, what you want for a friend, how old you are, what's it like where you live, etc. Include your name, address, phone #, email, or whatever contact info you want. Send it to me so I can print it in The Bugle.

\* Farmer/blacksmith wants friends and a wife. Interests: Biblical Christianity; high-brix farming; metal working; horse farming and logging; alternative energy; rural life skills; and healthy, sustainable lifestyle. Not enamored with the electronic age. Age 35. Timothy Martin 331 County Route 47, Potsdam, N.Y 13676

# Heart and Home Harmony

Aiming for hearts, homes, and lives in harmony with:  
God and His Church, and the rest of His creation through the Holy Spirit.

## Reward Improvement!

By Terri Bale

If at first they don't succeed...

Reward improvement!

If in word or if in deed

Reward improvement!

If straight A's they do not get

Know: there are things better yet:

To live to love, to will to do...

Reward improvement!

You, yourself, were once so small

That you could hardly "do" at all.

You couldn't speak, you couldn't crawl!

Reward improvement!

Someone somewhere observed your plight

And urged you on with praises bright

Assuring you t'was worth the fight.

Reward improvement!

So now you're in the praising zone

Do you forget how you have grown,

To be a man, to stand alone?

Reward improvement!

In learning how to praise and cheer

You could enable someone dear

To get beyond their pain and fear.

Reward improvement!

And others, too, might catch the trend,

Bring excess scolding to an end,

To be a true and hearty friend.

Reward improvement!

Dear Readers,

Greetings! To all you who have been asking and wondering what happened to the "Bugle": yes, we are still here, finally getting around to publishing another issue. We have been busy with many things and slowed down by many things. Six of our nearby children have been involved in major construction or relocation of residences or businesses.

Last Spring we had snow twice, several frosts, and a 22 degree freeze while the fruit trees were in bloom. We envisioned having little or no fruit to harvest. We were amazed to see tiny fruit growing. Even the cherries and plums gave a little. Some of the apples and pears gave a heavy crop, others a very light crop. Thanks to God for supplying all our needs.

We need to count our blessings. If we don't, we'll likely be counting our trials. With such a focus, we'll soon be feeling sorry for ourselves and think we cannot take it. But if we look to God, we see omnipotence against our weakness and helplessness. We see omniscience against our short-sighted foolishness. We see omnipresence against our fickleness and limitedness.

We must continue to look to Christ. Or our adversary, the devil and his spirits will hound us with those terrible failures of the past and other tricks to draw our attention away from God. We can overcome by the Holy Spirit. To be a spiritual giant, be aware how very small you are and look to Christ and learn and obey. **For consider, brethren, God's call to you. Not many who are wise with merely human wisdom, not many of position and influence, not many of noble birth have been called. But God has chosen the things which the world regards as foolish, in order to put its wise men to shame; and God has chosen the things which the world regards as destitute of influence, in order to put its powerful things to shame; and the things which**

**the world regards as base, and those which it sets utterly at nought--things that have no existence--God has chosen in order to reduce to nothing things that do exist; to prevent any mortal man from boasting in the presence of God. (1Co 1:26-29 WNT)**

This past summer Luke and Nathaniel filled one of the barns with loose hay. I thought that fresh loose hay would make a nice bed, so I invited the grandchildren for a sleep over in the hay mow. Luke and I, Larisa, Dawn and her two boys, most of the other grandchildren, and Toni had a great time. After playing in the hay, eating snacks, and listening to Grampa read stories, we all found a spot and settled down to sleep.

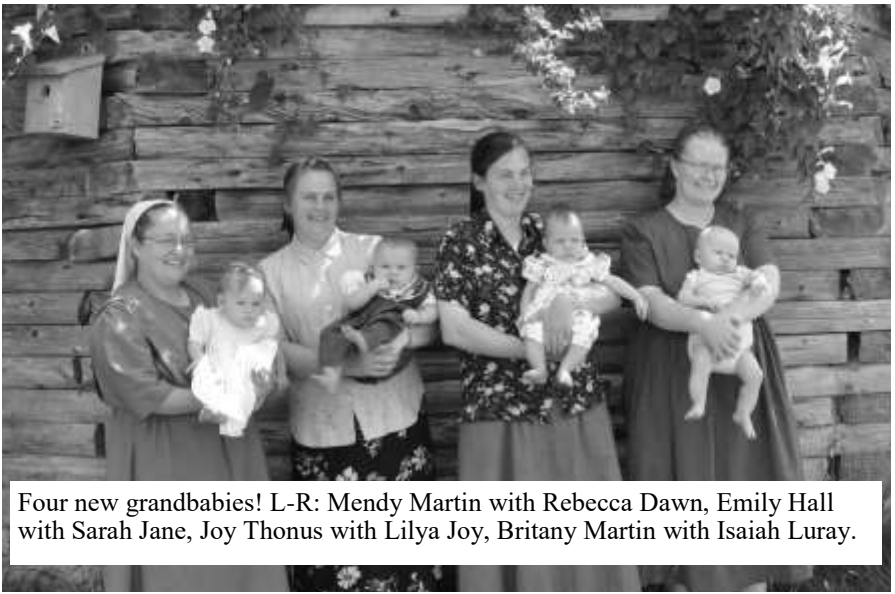
The improvement in my heart rate that I spoke of in the last issue, did not continue as much as I had hoped. At present, I am better than I was at times. I'm trying to go back to using only all natural, whole food supplements. My energy level is good, considering how low my heart rate is. I am thankful for what I can do.

Two issues back we had an article on reconciliation, of which part two was to be about a church reuniting after a division. We are sorry; we did not receive the second part. If anyone has such a story, send it to us.

We like to hear from our readers. Tell us about yourself, send pictures and writings on whatever subject the Lord leads you to write about or submit. Let us know if you do not want us to print you letter.

We are always looking for more fellowship. Call us at 315-265-0026 or come visit.

God bless you, Luke and Rachel Martin



Four new grandbabies! L-R: Mendy Martin with Rebecca Dawn, Emily Hall with Sarah Jane, Joy Thonus with Lilya Joy, Britany Martin with Isaiah Luray.



The 3 girls.  
Rebecca,  
Sarah, Lilya.

Below left:  
Lilya born  
April 9,  
2010.

R: Isaiah,  
born May 3,  
2010



The Bugle



Spring 2011

# The Children's Challenge

To Charity and Cheerfulness

## The Little Whip of an Apple Tree

A true story

by Rachel Martin

In an old apple orchard an apple seed sprouted and grew. No one had tended the orchard for a long time. By now there were many other trees and plants that had sprouted and were growing. So the little apple tree did not have much room to grow and spread its branches. It was just a little whip, growing straight up, reaching for light.

Then Luke bought the orchard. He didn't know it was an orchard; it was so thick he could hardly walk through it. But here and there he found big old apple trees with their branches spread out. He was sure it must have been an apple orchard. He liked to grow apples, so he decided to make it back into an orchard. It was a lot of work to cut out all the hawthorns and other plants that were crowding out the apples. "What should I do with all the young apple trees that have sprouted from seeds?" he asked.

An experienced apple grower told him, "Cut them down. It is better to buy grafted trees. Then you know you will get good apples."

Luke knew that trees from

seed could give apples that are not good to eat. When he came to the little whip, he asked himself, "Should I cut it down or let it grow?" He decided to let it grow.

Nineteen years later, as he was going through his orchard, he paused and gazed at what had been the little whip. Its spreading branches were loaded with beautiful red apples. It was one of the most beautiful apple trees and the heaviest loaded tree he had ever seen, and he had not sprayed it.

He brought his family and friends to the orchard to see the tree. They tasted the apples. They were sweet and had a good, mild flavor. When he picked them, he got approximately 25 bushels of apples from the little-whip-no-more.

He decided the apples needed a name. So we named them "Li'l Sweetie" apples.

*Sometimes people call a little boy or girl a "little whip." To all you "little whips" out there, bloom where you are planted. If you eat and drink*

*from what the Master Grower provides and allow Him to prune you, you too will become fruitful in God's Kingdom.*



## Li'l Sweetie Apples

---

### Out of the Mouth of Babes

My grandchildren like to grind course sea salt for me in my mortar and pestle. I suppose Christopher had not seen me use it for anything else, but this time I was grinding black pepper corns. He asked me what I was doing. I told him. He continued jabbering something about salt and I kept telling him, “No, I’m grinding pepper.”

Then Jasmine came along and asked, “Grandma, what are you doing?” Christopher quickly and confidently answered, “She’s grind-

ing pepper to make salt.”

Larisa was teaching Paula colors. “What color is this?” Just then Robby Joe asked if “mosquitoes” is possessive. Larisa said, “No, it’s many mosquitoes.” She had not heard Paula answer, “green,” so she asked her again. Looking confused, Paula answered, “many mosquitoes.”

PRESORT STD  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
POTSDAM, NY  
PERMIT NO. 32

The Bugle  
156 Newton Rd.  
Potsdam, N.Y. 13676

Address Service Requested



---

Jesus said:  
**It is the spirit that re-  
viveth; the flesh  
profiteth nothing: the  
words that I speak to  
you, they are spirit,  
and they are life.**

(John 6:63 Webster)