

The Bugle

Calling everyone to the service of Christ

Vol. 12, Number 1

Spring 2012

Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory
of the LORD is risen upon thee. (Isaiah 60:1)

02/1

Welcome to The Bugle

Contents:

Editor's Desk.....	3
Are you looking for a friend?.....	3
Leave The Controls Alone.....	4
Soldiers of Jesus.....	6
Mennoniting Your Way.....	9
Children of a Heavenly Father.....	10
Is Babylon of Revelation Old Jerusalem or Rome.....	11
Daniel's Timeline of 70 Weeks & Time of the End.....	12
Joy in Sorrow (poem).....	14
Heart and Home Harmony.....	15
Created to Grow Up and Give Love.....	16
"Kiss Me Mamma".....	20
The Children's Challenge.....	22
Praying For Wood.....	22

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 Boys' Bugle.

Send to:

The Bugle
156 Newton Rd.
Potsdam, N.Y. 13676
nathanielmartin@emypeople.net
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 & Barbara, Emily & Rob Hall, Dawn & Luke Rosenbarker, Joy & Charles Thonus, Melvin, Luray and Britanny, Nathaniel (24), Larisa (22), Jonathan (in heaven) and 20 grandchildren.

The editors are: Luke and Rachel. We publish as the Lord provides the means.

We live in the country and manage a number of projects such as: organic produce, honey, maple syrup, orchard, farming and logging with horses, sawmill, fryer-oil

for diesel fuel, a farm and garden supply store, printing, always something to keep us busy! Our children were homeschooled.

The Boy's Bugle was started in 2001 by Melvin and Luray to help fill the need for a Christian boys' magazine. In 2011 we changed the name to The Bugle. The boys have gone on to other projects.

Any comments, suggestions, submissions, or ideas you send us are greatly appreciated.

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

Let not mercy and truth forsake thee: bind them about thy neck; write them upon the table of thy heart: So shalt thou find favor and good understanding in the sight of God and man. (Proverbs 3:3-4)



Editor's Desk



Dear Readers

It has been quite awhile since you have heard from us through The Bugle, but we finally got enough time, energy and material to make it happen again.

This past year has been a struggle. Larisa got a very bad headache and felt as if something popped inside of her head. We took her to the hospital where the doctor said it is a sinus infection and gave her some Amoxicillin, and sent her home. Larisa experienced difficulty in breathing for a few hours and so stopped taking the Amoxicillin, and took golden seal instead.

In about a month she started experiencing various neurological symptoms sometimes hardly being able to walk. Some doctors were baffled; some said they think she has M. S.; some called it a complicated migraine; others said it is a psychological problem. She has improved after following a number of programs suggested by the various doctors.

Whether or not the various programs helped, we are thankful that God has allowed her to enjoy better health.

Another project that has occu-

ried a lot of time is that we are helping Timothy and Barbara build a house. There is sure a lot of work put in building a house.

Melvin is very busy working, trying to get caught up from all the lost time in recuperating from his accident. So Rachel and I, are now the main Bugle staff!

Our aim is to be an encouragement to you in your journey toward heaven. If you have some input to help us to this end we would appreciate it. Just send us your material, call us or come see us.

THANK YOU to all who sent letters and articles. If you keep it coming, hopefully we can go back to printing more often. Thanks also for the donations and encouragements and prayers on our behalf. It is all greatly appreciated and needed.

Sincerely,

Theme for next issue: Pride.

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 us so we can print it in The Bugle. Hopefully you will find a good friend.

Emma Martin 17, Edna Martin 16, and Anna Martin 13 are looking for friends and pen pals. They live on a farm in Ontario, Canada. Their address is: RR #4 Chesley, Ont. N0G1L0.

LEAVE THE CONTROLS ALONE

By Harald Boker

About 1988 I was deeply involved in organizing the local Ontar Bio Co-op. In addition to sizeable grain storage we needed spelt and oat cleaning and dehulling equipment.

We learned that this kind of machinery was built at a plant in Thief River Falls, Minnesota, as well as in Winnipeg, Manitoba.

So about early December 1988, I flew a young millwright to visit these plants. On our flight to Minnesota we encountered some snow squalls; we also had some problem with Canadian customs to get back into Canada. But that is another story for another time. However, finally back in Canada, we found a good grain cleaning machine. The dehuller came later from Germany.

On the way home the next day, we had only marginal VFR weather; we had to watch for icing signs. From Thunder Bay to Sault Ste. Marie it was night flying.

At Sault Ste. Marie we stopped for refueling and we had supper. We had access to visit the weather-station and received a good briefing. I phoned my wife, Anne to tell her to bring the truck to Midland airport since I had no landing lights on my own airstrip.

My passenger told me that he was now a brand new “Papa” of a little boy, Wow!!

It was another 2.5 hours flight to Midland; snow squalls could be encountered. After we were airborne the controller ordered me to steer south instead of east, in order

to avoid an incoming DC8; because of snow he could not see my aircraft.

Next thing, Bingo—I found myself in the thickest snow storm I ever saw. First I noticed that FHG became a big “snowflake.” (CF-FHG Cessna 172) Snow & ice stuck to the surface of my aircraft. She now reacted sluggish to my control. Some of the instruments became dysfunctional, no ADF, transponder or gyro compass etc.

The dancing magnetic compass was ok, but became all over the place (turbulence). In short soon I became disoriented. I had 3.5 hours of fuel aboard, I had time to think and pray. My passenger was not yet aware of our precarious situation. I did not want him to be worried.

Finally, I called on the radio, PAN- PAN- PAN—a lot of voices answered but they were mostly broken up.

I recognized that I was there alone, left to my own devices... I prayed earnestly—suddenly a voice in my headset “LEAVE THE CONTROLS ALONE.” I looked to my passenger. “Did you say that?” He answered “no.”

I applied full power and turned the carburetor heat on. With some instruments needles not moving I became increasingly concerned. Again this clear voice “LEAVE THE CONTROLS ALONE.” I thought this is all very strange, but I lifted my feet off of the rudder, and took my hands off the yoke.

Instantly the yoke moved toward me, the A-H (artificial hori-

zon) showed that we were climbing at about 50' per minute. I felt a strange relief; I was elated and I said THANK YOU LORD! The F.H.G. kept on climbing. I had no radio contact; I had no concrete idea what my heading was. The magnetic compass showed North-east but I was not sure. Finally we had attained an altitude of 7400'. I could see out of the side windows that we were under a starlit sky above an ocean of gray clouds. No geographical point in sight!

Suddenly a voice in the headset broke the silence, "This is the captain of Air Canada Flight #403?? to report an unidentified target on my monitor about 40 knots due east of Sudbury."

I looked up the Sudbury frequency # for the Sudbury approach. He asked me to "squawk ident" with my transponder, but it did not transmit. So the Sudbury controller ordered me to fly 15 degrees to my left and then 30 degrees to my right, whereupon he reported that he had radar contact with me established.

I told him that I would try to intercept his V.O.R. station and use his outbound signal to fly home to Midland; but he told me because of the weather a Coastguard helicopter enroute to Kingston had abandoned his flight and returned to Sudbury; and he had deicing equipment. So he suggested I should do the same and land at Sudbury and carry on the next day. I followed his good advice.

It so happened that we were perfectly lined up with the active

runway. He turned the runway light on full bright and I thanked the Lord all the way until the gear touched the runway.

I had to go up to the tower; the controller let me use the phone to call Anne's aunt in Sudbury. We got a ride into town with a small airline bus to spend the night with the Simpsons. The next morning the same bus picked us up again and we had a flight home with beautiful clear and sunny weather.

After I told the young man what actually happened, he told me he would never fly with me again.

I know not by what methods rare,
But this I know God answers prayer.
I leave my prayers with him alone.
Whose will is wiser than my own.

~~~~~

God's answers to our prayers  
may exceed our expectations.

*Harald Boker lives at Wyevale,  
Ontario where he grows and mills  
organic spelt and other grains.*



**A wise man chooses his destination and accepts the way.  
A foolish man chooses his way and accepts the destination.**

# We are **Soldiers of Jesus** in a **Kingdom Superior to and Different Than All Others**

By Melvin Martin

What is our focus? What is our goal? What determines what decisions you make? Are your eyes on Jesus? Is He the king in your life?

I am prompted to write because I see some people saying this and others saying that, but the focus of neither is about Jesus. Then I see others who are saying what is right. I want to encourage all to do or continue to do what is right. I have the courage to write because I see many who want to live lives pleasing to their Lord and King.

In Daniel chapter 2 the king saw a vision of a great image. This great image represented the kingdoms of this world, specifically the Babylons, the Medes and the Persians, the Greeks, and the Romans. Then a stone came and smashed the image and the image was no more. And the stone became great and filled the earth. The stone was Jesus. **Jesus is the king of kings and the Lord of Lords.** In Revelation 19:11-16 Jesus has already defeated the kingdoms of the world and has set up his great kingdom that fills the whole earth.

Jesus is king, but **his kingdom is different** than the kingdoms of this world. The way Jesus fights his battles is different than the way the worldly kingdoms fight their battles. The kingdoms of the world kill their enemies with a gun and a bomb or their tongue. Jesus overcame his enemies by giving himself on the cross. Jesus' kingdom is not of this world. In the same way, we as Jesus' soldiers are not of this world and don't fight our battles like the world fights them. (John 18:35-37) Not only is Jesus king, but he has made us kings and

priests too. Revelation 5:9-10

The Christians are the **salt of the earth**. Christians make a big difference in this world just as a little salt brings the flavor out in food.

**What weapons do we have to fight with as soldiers of Jesus? And who are we fighting?** We are fighting the devil and the lust of the world/ flesh – not physical flesh and blood – but spiritual wickedness, principalities, powers, and rulers of darkness. And we fight with courage, God's power, truth, righteousness, the good news of peace, faith, salvation, the sword of the spirit, the word of God, and with prayer and supplication. Ephesians 6:10-18, Hebrews 4:12-16, 1 John 2:15-17

**Jesus is our example.** We should be like him. "It is to this you were called; For Christ also suffered on our behalf, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps, He who did no sin, nor was guile found in His mouth, who when He was reviled did not revile in return. When He suffered, He did not threaten, but gave Himself up to Him who judges righteously. He Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that dying to sins, we might live to righteousness; by whose stripes you were healed. For you were as sheep going astray, but now you are turned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls." 1 Peter 2:21-25

**Why did people get upset with Jesus and persecute him?** Wouldn't the perfect builder of the kingdom of peace be able to relate to people so there would be perfect peace and no

one would be upset with him? The answer is simple. Jesus is light, but some men love darkness because their deeds are evil. John 3:19-20 Take heart if people are upset with you too. Just because you were a failure doesn't mean God didn't answer your prayer for wisdom and strength.

Jesus is our **friend** if we do what He commands. John 15:12-15

Jesus says to love each other as he loved us. How did God love us? Jesus' life is a good example. **Be like Jesus and you will show true love.** Obeying Jesus, righteousness, and loving your brother are all the same. If you don't love your brother, you are not a child of God but of the devil. Romans 2:1-2, John 13:34-35, 1 John 3:10

The things we say now will be used at our judgment day. **God is the final judge.** Our judgment must be in line with God's judgment and commands or we have no right to judge. It's important that we ourselves live the judgment we place on others. Matt 7:1-5, 12:36-37, John 7:24, 1 Cor. 5:12-13, Matthew 18:18-20.

Our goal is to be like Christ. It's not just all about soldiers fighting in a kingdom, **it's about living in Christ**, being filled with righteousness, peace, and joy. Always remember Ephesians 4:32 "And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake has forgiven you."

**How are we to express our zeal? What are appropriate ways to fight in Jesus' kingdom?**

I think the best place to look is at the example of our great king – Jesus, and those who walked with Jesus and were the builders of the church – the apostles.

Jesus was a man who spoke the truth. In Matthew 21 we see that Jesus was telling stories about the chief

priests and Pharisees – exposing their evil – and they didn't like it and wanted to catch Jesus. In chapter 23 we see that Jesus had even more to say and he spoke to the people about the bad things the scribes and Pharisees were doing and he used the situation to teach the people. Jesus used some very strong language like hypocrites, fools, vipers and such. It's no wonder they wanted to kill him. Later they really did kill Him. What Jesus really wanted was for them to repent and turn to him and to have life. Jesus did not want to see them destroyed but what could He do.

Jesus was very zealous when he drove the cattle dealers and money changers out of the temple, though it doesn't indicate he did physical damage to them. (John 2:15)

Peter told a fellow he needs to repent because he is not right in the sight of God. (Acts 8:18-24)

Stephen used some pretty stiff words while being filled with the Spirit and the crowd killed him for it. (Acts 7:51-60)

**Is it ever okay to kill or injure another human being?**

The Holy Spirit through Peter killed Ananias and Sapphira. It was not a killing out of wrath and anger or selfish gain but because of a zeal for the truth. It's not a killing by the arm of the flesh but by the sword of the spirit.

Paul spoke for the Lord, causing a man physical harm by striking him blind. (Acts 13:6-12) But again, it wasn't by the arm of flesh or the end of a gun barrel, but by the spirit of God.

Paul asked that a wicked fellow be put out of the church and gave some instructions on how and when we should excommunicate a member in 1 Cor. 5. One of the purposes of putting the fellow out of the church

was to give his flesh to Satan so his spirit could be saved.

Some folks argue it is good and right to kill the bad people, especially in self-defense or at the command of the government. Other people argue it's wrong to say a harsh word at any-time or to make a negative judgment about someone. Sometimes the same person argues both, even though the two views are so drastically different. I say both views are seriously wrong. It's not about being violent or not violent. It's not about being soft and nice or harsh and brutal. **It's about doing as God wants us to do**, about being truthful as God is truthful, about being up-building in God's kingdom of righteousness, peace, and joy, about leading people to heaven, and pulling them out of the pit of hell.

Make sure you are saying the truth, **with the goal of possible redemption to God**. Just because something is true, though, doesn't mean you should say it. Keep your mouth shut unless you have a reason to open it.

**This kingdom is real.** God is real. We are real. It's just as important to abide by the laws of the King in his real kingdom if you want to have life as it is to abide by the laws of the road while you are driving your car if you want to arrive safely to your destination.

The nice thing about being in Jesus' army is, if you get killed in action, **you then go to your eternal reward** that you can fully enjoy. But if you get killed in action in an earthy army, you're dead and don't get to even enjoy the honors your country gives you, if they even do honor you for your duty. We must think outside of the world we currently see with our physical eyes and look to the glorious kingdom that lasts for eternity.

The other great thing about this kingdom is that you can be **as simple**

**as a little child or as smart and great as Paul**, and Jesus has work for you. You can be anywhere and still join. All you need to do is repent, look to Jesus, trust in Him, and do what you know God wants you to do.

What a terrible life to live? To live for Jesus costs us everything we have so we can gain everything for eternity. **It's not a terrible life.** As the saying goes, "A man is no fool, to give what he can not keep, in order to gain what he can not lose." So always, always do what God commanded. It may cost you your life today, but you will live with God for eternity.

God is good. The commands God gives us are for our good. It's good for God when we follow His commands. It's good for you when I follow His commands. What's good for you is good for me. That's how we know what love is – by obeying Jesus. (1 John 5:2-3, 2 John 1:6.)

In the Old Testament, time and again, the people who sought after the Lord and trusted in Him were successful and victorious. Why? Because the Lord fought the battles for them. The Lord blessed them. The same is true today. If you trust in the Lord and seek after Him, **you will be successful, for God will fight for you.**

But what is success? Wealth, health, a big group, and prosperity? Or righteousness, peace, and joy? What we value as success may need to change.

Jesus is the king. We need to **listen and obey Him**. At the same time that He is our Lord, **we are also his friends.** ( John 15:13-15)

**Are you willing to join Jesus' army? Are you willing to abide by the commands of the king? Are you willing to live as the Bible instructs? Let's be with Jesus in his kingdom for eternity!**



Jesus unfairly bore it all for us.  
We need to lay our lives down for  
Him. (See Mark 8:35, Isaiah 9:6-7)



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## MENNONITING YOUR WAY

Our family went on a trip of 1100 miles one way, the last week of Oct., to Timothy and Barbara's wedding . We practiced what is termed by some as "Mennoniting your way." It is a custom practiced by most common travelers of earlier times.

We ate and slept in the houses of friends and family along the way. Some folks might feel like this would be imposing on others, However, I know a lot of people who consider it an honor to extend hospitality in such a way. It is an excellent way to gain more friends, and to keep old acquaintances up to date.

Someone might think that they aren't able to accommodate company in that way because of bedroom space. This might be a factor to consider, but with a little ingenuity you just might be able to do it. Ideas I have seen used for making more room, are sleeping on a sofa, or putting sleeping bags and blankets on the floor.

One place we spend the night at when our children were small, was in a 10 x 50 mobile home. The people

who invited us also had 6 or more children. We had 6 children along and a gentleman friend of theirs who hitched a ride with us from the last community we were at. When we dropped him off, his friend invited us to stay too. I asked, "Are you sure that you have room for us?" The father assured us that there was plenty of room for everyone to have a bed. A couple of their boys slept upstairs in a loft above their roadside market building. In the mobile home it was wall to wall people in beds, on the floor, and some even slept on the kitchen table! Yes there was room enough, and we will long remember that family and that night. God bless them for their hospitality . They didn't even know us before that evening , but 25 years later we are still friends.

Sincerely; Luke M. Martin

# Children of a Heavenly Father

**B**ehold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not. (1 John 3:1)

Indeed what manner of love it is that God would call us His sons and daughters.

In the first part of this chapter, John talks about knowing who the children of God are. He says it is those that do righteousness, and if we sin we are not born of God. Yet in 1 John 1 he says that if we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. So is he contradicting himself? We would believe he isn't.

Let's look at it this way; whosoever is born of God does not continually and knowingly commit sin. And then if we say that we never commit sin. (Hopefully you don't mind me paraphrasing these scriptures.) For truly we are all human and commit sin, yet if we continue on sinning and don't try to change there has obviously been no new birth. But even after we are born again the old man wants to rise up, but as Paul says; I die daily.

In the key verse John says; the world knoweth not us. If our religion is so close to the world that we fit right in with its value system and blend into society, are we truly living to please God? If the world should not know us wouldn't it seem natural that the world would shake its head at some of our values? Many men think they need to become like the world to gain more converts, but that is not according to scripture. God is saving us OUT OF THE WORLD, not saving the world. As Jesus prayed we are in the world but not of the world.

God intends for us to be separate from the world, our own kingdom with our own kingdom values.

**And this is life eternal, that they may know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom thou hast sent.** (John 17:3)

Again, behold what manner of love that we could know God. That is part of the privilege of being God's children, that we can know him and have fellowship with him. We do this by reading his word and praying. Paul says in 1 Thessalonians 5 that we should pray without ceasing, now we don't think we should always be on our knees, but we can have a prayerful attitude. Thanking and praising God is one part of prayer so we can be doing that while we go about our daily tasks.

In Revelations 3: 20 Jesus tells that if we open the door of our heart, he will come into our heart and sup with us and us with Him. If Jesus comes into our hearts we can have daily communication with Him. And if we communicate with Him every day, we will begin to reflect His image, which is what we are called to. God has said: be ye perfect even as I am perfect. That is some of the requirements of being His sons and daughters, striving for perfection and striving to reflect His image.

Let's live in such a way that people say, truly they are the children of God!

*By Seth Denlinger, St. Ignatius, MT*

# IS BABYLON OF REVELATION OLD JERUSALEM OR ROME?

“And in her (Babylon) was found the blood of **prophets**, and of saints, and of **all that were slain upon the earth.**” (Rev 18:24)

Compare:

“That upon **you** may come **all the righteous blood shed upon the earth**, from the blood of righteous Abel unto the blood of Zacharias son of Barachias, whom ye slew between the temple and the altar.” (Mat 23:35)

“That the blood of **all the prophets**, which was shed from the foundation of the world, may be required of this generation;” (Luke 11:50)

“... for it cannot be that a **prophet** perish out of Jerusalem. O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, which **killst the prophets**, and stonest them that are sent unto thee...” (Luke 13:33-34)

“Which of the **prophets** have not your fathers persecuted? and they have slain them...” (Acts 7:52)

Rome was not the one who persecuted and killed the prophets but Jerusalem was.

\*\*\*\*\*

Babylon is called “the great whore.” (Revelation 17:1)

Compare:

Read Ezekiel 16:37, 39, 41 and Isaiah 1:21.

\*\*\*\*\*

Babylon is “that great city” (Revelation 17:18, 18:10, 21).

Compare:

“The great city” is identified as old Jerusalem—“... the great city, which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified.” (Rev 11:8) The Lord was not crucified at Rome but at Jerusalem.

\*\*\*\*\*

“... and I saw a woman sit upon a scarlet coloured beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns.” (Rev 17:3)

Compare:

“Babylon” sat on the Beast; she was not the Beast. Rome did not sit on Rome. Rome did not ride on Rome, but Jerusalem did. Jerusalem existed by the authority of Rome, and Palestine was a province of the Roman Empire at that time. Jerusalem rode on the Beast. She was carried by Rome.

\*\*\*\*\*

“And the ten horns which thou sawest upon the beast, these shall **hate the whore**, and shall make her **desolate** and naked, and shall eat her flesh, and **burn her with fire.**” (Rev 17:16)

Compare:

The ten nations (10 horns part of the Beast) subservient to Rome (of the Roman Empire) hated Jerusalem, and they helped make up the 85,000 soldiers who made her desolate and burned her with fire in A.D. 70. (Rome was not made desolate, nor was Rome burned with fire by these nations, but Jerusalem was.)

*(Continued on page 14)*





*(Continued from page 11)*

Jesus had prophesied of Jerusalem, “Behold, your house is left unto you **desolate**.” (Mat 23:38). Again, Rome was not made desolate, but Jerusalem was.

These things could not apply to Rome, nor to any other fulfillment of prophecy, way on down the road into later centuries or our own times either—for the prophecies were conditioned by the time factor given in the first chapter of Revelation:

“...things which must **shortly** come to pass” (verse 1),

“...for the time is at hand” (verse 3).

Conclusion:

Babylon in the book of Revelation was old Jerusalem, not Rome.

## **Joy in Sorrow**    Author unknown

I've found a joy in sorrow, a secret balm for pain,  
A beautiful tomorrow of sunshine after rain;  
I've found a branch of healing near every bitter spring,  
A whispered promise stealing o'er every broken string.

I've found a glad hosanna for every woe and wail,  
A handful of sweet manna when grapes of Eshcol fail;  
I've found a Rock of Ages when desert wells were dry;  
And, after weary stages, I've found an Elim nigh-

An Elim with its coolness, its fountains, and its shade;  
A blessing in its fullness when buds of promise fade;  
O'er tears of soft contrition I've seen a rainbow light;  
A glory and fruition so near!—yet out of sight.

My savior, thee possessing, I have the joy, the balm,  
The healing and the blessing, the sunshine and the psalm;  
The promise for the fearful, the Elim for the faint,  
The rainbow for the tearful, the glory for the saint!

# 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.



Timothy Martin and Barbara Yoder got married Oct. 29, 2011 at Lamasco, Kentucky. They are happily living near Potsdam, N.Y. in their tiny temporary house while building a bigger house.



Suzanna Joy Rosenbarker born May 30, 2011 to Luke and Dawn.



James Russell Hall born Sept. 26, 2011 to Robert and Emily.



Emma Nadeen Martin born Jan. 1, 2012 to Daniel and Mendy.

# Created to Grow Up to Give Love

Scripture texts taken from Webster translation

By the Martin's

Some secular scientists are discovering that, for a person to be happy, it is as important or more important to give love than to be loved.\* Does that agree with what God teaches in the Bible? Yes, it does, though that is not the whole story. We start our life here not concerned about anyone else's feelings, only crying out to make our own feelings known. But God is calling us to grow to willingness to lay our life down for the brethren—that our joy may be full.

And what will motivate born-selfish humans to love?

**We love him, because he first loved us.** (1 John 4:19)

**If ye love me, keep my commandments.** (John 14:15)

**If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love.....that my joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full.** (John 15:10-11)

**This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you.** (John 15:12)

**By this we perceive the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.** (1 John 3:16)

God entrusts helpless babies to parents to first love them that they may learn to love and trust.

**Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.** (Pro 22:6)

The way the child is trained is how he will be when he is old—unless something retrains him, which is not a quick and easy task. How and in what way should parents love a child so that he will give love and be happy? And what will hinder a child's emotional development?

Love seeks the ultimate good and fellowship of another. True love doesn't always give a warm, fuzzy feeling at the moment. God's love makes us feel good but also may take us through much pain to gain more joy in the end. Even so, a child must feel good and know that any pain inflicted by the parents is for his good. The effect of punishment should be to remove the weight of guilt from the child for the breach he caused and to restore good standing and feelings.

If a child feels valued, his tender heart will soak up the feeling and he will have it to pass on. It's like when Jesus gives us the water of life: **He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. (But this he spoke of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive...)** (John 7:38-39)

If you are a parent, connect with your children's hearts. Acknowledge their feelings, encourage them to express their feelings, respond to their needs, and direct them to control their passions for the benefit of others and

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\* Cardio-energetics (*a field of study*) says that our capacity for and willingness to give love is at least [as important] if not more important than how much we are loved. It is not so much "feeling loved" as "loving others" that is the way of the healing heart. ...the brain...is sentimental, easily influenced by the neurohormones of our reactive physical senses, and the source of the popular psychology notion that we must first love ourselves before we can love someone else. ...but pioneering research from the field of psychoneuroimmunology shows that the cardio-energetic view of "giving love to others first" is the way to a physically and emotionally healthy self."

~~ Paul Pearsall, Ph.D., from "The Heart's Code" page 226



to feel for them. Thus respected and taught, they will learn that the world doesn't revolve around them, but rather they are useful members of the family team, also of the world beyond. Pray for help to protect them from other influences and predators that could bitter their hearts. Children whose heart and ways are trained in obedience and love will gradually grow from complete selfishness to thinking about others.

When they become aware of their guilt before God, then only Christ can make them feel good again. If they have been taught about Christ and have seen and experienced love working, there is a good chance they will choose to repent and trust Christ to take away their guilt of sin and allow the Holy Spirit to teach and guide them in God's way of love for the rest of their lives.

If a child is made to feel worthless or damaged, it will be hard to train that feeling out of him/her.

Continued emotional pain will turn to anger. **And, ye**

**fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.** (Eph 6:4)

If you see you have fallen short in training, immediately confess, apologize, and set out to retrain their hearts with the help of the Holy Spirit, whatever age they are. There is hope in God.

**For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he...** (Pro 23:7)

**For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts...** (Mat 15:19)

**For the word of God is living, and powerful... ..and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.** (Heb 4:12)

Scientists have discovered that the Bible is true where it speaks of the thoughts of the heart. Our hearts think and store our emotional memories and

belief systems. Our brains store facts. The heart, rather than the brain, is the control center of the body. What our heart has experienced can move us to act before our brain can rationalize a course of action. Our heart knows more about what is in our sub-conscious mind than our brain does. \*

**Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.** (Pro 4:23)

**... both the inward thought of every one of them, and the heart, is deep.** (Psa 64:6) The feelings that pour in and are stored there affect what we are and what we do.

A child's heart is fragile and easily broken. If his/her wounded heart finds no help, what can the innocent child do with feelings that are too confusing and bitter to bear? A few die from a broken heart. For many the feelings get buried alive in their hearts. With the pain closed off, he can survive. His heart becomes fragmented and frozen, cold and hard. With his own feelings numbed, he is

unfeeling toward others. If unresolved shame, fear, pain, and anger is harbored in the child's heart, he is predisposed to inflict the same onto others. His body matures but his heart remains more concerned about his own needs than anybody else's needs. Outwardly he puts on a good front. Inwardly he is driven to prove his worth. He will pull friends to him but if they get too close to his heart, he will push them away. His heart remembers what his mind has blocked.

In this sin cursed world, feelings are ignored and trampled on. Children and adults may be scorned, ridiculed, or criticized for expressing or showing

**Our hearts think and store our emotional memories and belief systems.**

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\* *These concepts are found in "The Heart Math Solutions" by Doc Childre & Howard Martin and "The Heart's Code" by Paul Pearsall.*

their feelings. Some children are beaten because they cannot stop crying—even for crying because of things like sorrow for a grandparent dying. No wonder they learn to repress their feelings.

But Jesus cares about our feelings. Isaiah prophesized about Jesus: **The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me; because the LORD hath anointed me to publish good tidings to the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound; To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all that mourn; To appoint to them that mourn in Zion, to give to them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they may be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he may be glorified.** (Isa 61:1-3)

Jesus came to heal our broken hearts, to straighten our inner confusion and tangled feelings and wrong ways of relating, to free us from being bound by fear, anger, shame, guilt, pride, sin, and selfishness. He wants us to open our hearts to Him and mourn for the pain that is there. By enduring the pain, the anger can melt away and Christ can replace our mourning with joy. **Looking to Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.** (Heb 12:2) By looking to Jesus, we can follow His steps and endure our cross, despise the shame, and be set down in a secure place with power and glory, free from fear.

We must allow God's truth to retrain our hearts by replacing the bitterness and false beliefs that were stored there with the reality of His love

and forgiveness and of our worth to Him. Heart surgery by the Great Physician will be painful and take time. He will not proceed faster than we can take it. Be patient if He reveals yet another room of infection that you must open and turn over to Him. But oh, the healing, the ability to forgive, to love deeper, and the joy that follows!

If we have unreasonable fear, shame, anger, contempt, self-contempt or touchiness cropping up in spite of our efforts, we have something to deal with. If, when we come to realize that bad feelings may be festering deep inside, we are not willing to look and face what is there, it will continue to spill out and we will continue to be offenders.

Jesus also came to proclaim a day of vengeance of our God. **But whoever shall cause one of these little ones who believe in me, to sin, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea.** (Mat 18:6) When Jesus said this, it sounds like He is angry with offenders of little ones.

This is serious. This also applies to babes in the faith. Let Christ be the head of the church and: **...receive ye one another, as Christ also received us to the glory of God.** (Romans 15:7)

Do not let pride or fear stop you. Through Christ we can overcome and be healed, whether our past was horrible or whether we would say it was happy. Many have survived abuse and went on to work in the Kingdom. They were willing to face the pain of their past and then give the pain to Jesus. He helped them through the process of forgiving. He can also help us through each step of our journey to victory.

God gave us all our feelings and desires for our good and for His glory and purposes. Feelings and desires move us. They are not wrong but we

are wrong if we allow them to move us in a wrong direction. God is love and made us for Love. Without His Spirit of Love flowing through us and moving us, the pain of loneliness and emptiness, and our selfishness and pride will drive us. Satan is ready to offer us all kinds of quick fixes to drown our pain, which only leads to more broken hearts and relationships.

We need to feel God's love and let our pain drive us to seek Him. We need strong passion to love Him with our whole heart, soul, mind, and strength and to be moved to compassion toward our neighbor. God wants us to live in loving relationships. We must hold our desires and passions and submit them to His will, so He can give us the best in His time.

Feelings are real but they may not be based on something real or caused by what we think they are. Therefore, feelings are not a safe guide. A display of emotions may not be real. They can be used to manipulate or impress others.

**The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it? I the LORD search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings.** (Jer 17:9-10)

How can we know what all is in our heart? We need the sanctifying grace and power of God. **Search me, O God, and know my heart; try me, and know my thoughts: And see if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.** (Psa 139:23-24)

**Behold, thou desirest truth in the inward parts: and in the hidden part thou shalt make me to know wisdom.** (Psa 51:6) The lack of full truth about what is in their hearts stunts the growth of many Christians, sometimes for a long time. First, we must realize there is a lack. If we seek truth and God reveals what our true

feelings are and the real cause of them, we will no longer be bound by them. With emotional honesty and freedom, feelings can serve us instead of control us.

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

**Love one another, as I have loved you.**

**There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth, is not made perfect in love.** (1Jn 4:18)

How perfect and unselfish is our love? We like to think of ourselves as being mature and good and loving. But how much do those around us feel love from us, especially when we must deal with all the others around us whose hearts need retraining? Can we grow some more?

Can I first love others? In any situation? How many more lessons must God put me through until I can love like He does? I do not know, but I know it will be worth it, even if the lessons are painful.

If we turn our heart to Christ, His Spirit will produce in us ...**love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance...** (Gal. 5:22, 23) We no longer will need to pull friends to us in an attempt to get the love and fellowship we need. God full-fills us and the river of life flowing from us will draw them. God first loved us. That is taken care of; therefore, we can concentrate on fulfilling what is now our greater need—the need to give love. ...**abide in my love....that your joy may be full.** Abiding in Christ is the way to keep growing.                   ✠

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## “Kiss Me, Mamma”

The child was so sensitive, so like that little shrinking plant that curls at the breath and shuts its heart from the light. The only beauties she possessed were an exceedingly transparent skin and the most mournful, large, blue eyes.

I had been trained by a very stern, strict, conscientious mother, but I was a hard plant, rebounding after every shock. Misfortune could not daunt, though discipline tamed me. I fancied, alas, that I must go through the same routine with this delicate creature. So one day, when she had displeased me exceedingly by repeating an offense, I was determined to punish her severely. I was very serious all day, and upon sending her to her little couch I said, “Now, my daughter, to punish you and show you how very, very naughty you have been, I shall not kiss you tonight.”

She stood looking at me, astonishment personified, with her great mournful eyes wide open—I suppose she had forgotten her misconduct till then. And I left her with big tears dropping down her cheeks and her little red lips quivering.

Presently I was sent for. “Oh, Mamma! You will kiss me! I can’t

go to sleep if you don’t!” she sobbed, every tone of her voice trembling, and she held out her little hands.

Now came the struggle between love and what I falsely termed duty. My heart said give her a kiss of peace; my stern nature urged me to persist in my correction, that I might impress the fault upon her mind. This was the way I had been trained till I was a most submissive child, and I remembered how I had often thanked my mother since for her straightforward course.

I knelt by the bedside. “Mother can’t kiss you, Ellen,” I whispered, though every word choked me. Her hand touched mine. It was very hot, but I attributed it to her excitement. She turned her little grieving face to the wall. I blamed myself as the fragile form shook with self-suppressed sobs. “Mother hopes little Ellen will learn to mind her after this,” I managed, and left the room for the night. Alas! In my desire to be severe I forgot to be forgiving.

It must have been twelve o’clock when I was awoken by my nurse. Apprehensive, I ran eagerly to the child’s chamber. I had had a fearful dream.

Ellen did not know me. She was sitting up, crimsoned from the forehead to the throat, her eyes so bright that I almost drew back aghast at their glances.

From that night a raging fever drank up her life. And what think you was the incessant plaint that poured into my anguished heart? "Oh! Kiss me, Mamma, do kiss me! I can't go to sleep. I won't be naughty if you'll only kiss me! Oh! Kiss me, dear Mamma! I can't go to sleep."

Little angel! She did go to sleep one gray morning, and she never woke again—never! Her hand was locked in mine, and all my veins grew icy with its gradual chill. Faintly the light faded out of the beautiful eyes. Whiter and whiter grew the tremulous lips. She never knew me, but with her last breath she whispered, "I will be good, Mamma, if you'll only kiss me."

Kiss her! God knows how passionate but unavailing were my kisses upon her cheek and lips after that fatal night. God knows how wild were my prayers that she might know, if but only once, that I kissed

her. God knows how I would have yielded up my very life could I have asked forgiveness of that sweet child.

Grief is unavailing now. She lies in her little tomb. There is a marble urn at the head, and a rosebush at her feet. There grow sweet summer flowers; there waves the grass; there birds sing their matins and their vespers; there the blue sky smiles down today; and there lies buried the freshness of my heart.

--*Ladies' Home Journal*

*This story was taken from, "Touching Incidents and Remarkable Answers to Prayer" first printed in 1897 and reprinted in 2007 by TGS International, PO Box 355, Berlin, Ohio 44610.*

**Paul warns Christians: ...that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind, Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness (or hardness, as some translations say) of their heart: Who being past feeling (or calloused) have given themselves over to lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness. (Eph 4:17-19)**

To our children, other relatives, friends, and brethren,

We want to confess that, while we did our best to show love, we now realize that we failed at times. We are sorry. If you remember any specific offenses that we should apologize for, let us know. We may not realize what we did and the effect it had on you. If you bring it to our attention, it may help all of us to learn more, to gain more victory, and to bring us closer.

Sincerely,

# The Children's Challenge

To Charity and Cheerfulness

## Praying for Wood

E. B. Slade tells an interesting instance of answered prayer. One cold winter he was forty miles away from home holding revival services when, in the midst of a terrible snowstorm during which travel was almost wholly impossible, his wife at home ran out of wood. To save the little that remained, she put her children to bed and wrapped them up in blankets. At last baking must be done and, making a fire of her last wood, she began to pray that help might come and persevered until her faith won the victory. She then went about her work in perfect peace of mind, assured that relief would come. In a few hours, her nearest neighbor, a lady, waded through the snow, saying that

she had been impressed that she must come over and see what was the matter. The facts were stated and relief promised. Hardly had she gone when another lady came in with the same statement, and the same offer was made. A little while later a gentleman came in expressing a similar feeling, and when he learned the facts he took them all to his home and cared for them until Mr. Slade returned home.

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Once a week some of my grandchildren come over for art and creative writing classes. For fun we wrote some forced rhyme, ending each line with the long o sound.

### Go, Go, Go!

By Jessica Hall, age 14

One day I decided to go  
On a ride through the deep, deep snow.  
My horse went so fast I had to say, "Whoa!  
Don't run over my brother Joe!"

Then my horse, he went so slow.  
I had to tell him, "get up and go!"  
My horse went so fast that I said, "no,"  
"I don't like riding in the snow,  
You go so fast or go so slow.  
The wind does blow and blow and blow."  
Then, inside I had to go,  
To melt off some frozen snow.  
Jane and I we had to go  
To the doctor for my sick friend Joe.  
The doctor he did quickly go  
To help my poor brother Joe.  
And he said. "Joe!  
Get up, get up, get up and go!  
You only have a sore big toe!"

## Oh!

By Rachel Martin

Ho, do you know!  
It's starting to snow!  
The cold winds blow.  
So South we go  
to escape the woe.  
Oh no! Oh no!  
It's not a foe.  
We'll knead the dough  
by the fire's glow,  
and sit and sew,  
till the warm wind's blow  
and the ground we hoe,  
in the garden row.  
The seeds we sow,  
so they can grow  
up, up so slow.  
Oh! Robby Joe,  
go scare the crow.  
The hay we mow

and lay it low,  
the wagon tow,  
the bales we throw  
in the mow to stow.  
A honey flow  
and food we stow.  
Go get the bow  
And tag a doe.  
Then back we go  
to the time of snow.  
Though cold winds blow,  
our heart's aglow,  
for this we know,  
God's works do show.  
He loves us so,  
To Him we owe  
our life below!

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By this shall all men  
know that ye are my  
disciples, if ye have  
love one to another.  
(John 13:35)